

**QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS
(Seaforth & Camerons)**



**THE HIGHLAND BRANCH
of the
Regimental Association**

AMALGAMATION DINNER

**SATURDAY
6th FEBRUARY 2010**

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

INVERNESS

A Report

Sixty members and their guests attended the Amalgamation Dinner at a new location for us, the Inverness Royal British Legion. 5 tables of 12 with each table being hosted by at least one member of our Committee enjoyed a thoroughly successful evening. Our Official Guests were:

Major (Retd) Maurice Gibson MBE Secretary Home HQ
Captain (Retd) Mick Low MBE Assistant Secretary Home HQ
Mr Peter Guthrie Museum Development Director
Mr Brian Matheson Chairman RBLs Club Inverness

It was especially good to see in attendance our remarkably sprightly member 92 year old Alex Mackenzie and Willie Wilkie who had made the journey up from the south.

Absent Friends were remembered in silence before we all sat down with the names of the following read out by Steven McIntosh our Secretary:

David Bathgate
Fid Evans
Jeffrey Petters
Andy Duncan
Dick Foss
John (Jim) Gardner
Arthur Nicol
Billy Baff
Bob Holmes
George Burns
Duncan Mackenzie
Nobby Clark
Geordie Brown
Susan Ridley
Rose Little
Margaret Topping

Our pre selected meal from a varied menu was most enjoyable and we were extremely well looked after by the Head Chef Brian Urquhart and his waiting staff led by Vera.

After the meal Toasts to the Queen and Regiment were proposed and this was followed by the First Set of Pipes. Our Pipers for the evening were Andy Venters the Association Pipe Major and Ronnie MacLean. They were resplendent in the recently acquired Association Pipe Band attire which included new Kilts, Lovat Hose and Ties. As always the standard of piping was one of the highlights of the evening.

1ST SET

<i>March</i>	<i>Cabar Feidh</i>
<i>Strathspey</i>	<i>Cabar Feidh</i>
<i>Reel</i>	<i>Cabar Feidh</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>The Mackenzie Highlanders</i>

Between sets Major Maurice Gibson gave us an update on recent and future events in The Highlanders (4 SCOTS). He informed all present that they are due to deploy to Afghanistan as part of 3 CDO Bde in early 2011. This update was much appreciated by all present.

A copy of the speech will be up on this website soon.

2nd SET

<i>Slow Air</i>	<i>The Fair Maid of Barra</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>Donald Cameron</i>
<i>Strathspey</i>	<i>Maggie Cameron</i>
<i>Reel</i>	<i>Sandy Cameron</i>
<i>Marches</i>	<i>The March of the Cameron Men</i>
	<i>Pibroch O Donald Dubh</i>

The Chairman asked all present to look at his suggestions for the Regimental Gathering which is due to take place in 2011. This is of course open to all Members of the Association not just Highland Branch. For your information the following ideas were highlighted:

Option 1

Similar to the 2006 event. Marquee Lunch and Beating of Retreat at Cameron Bks with a Ceilidh in Marquee in the evening. On the Sunday at Fort George a Church Service and Lunch followed by Beating Retreat by the Association Band

For: Worked in 2006

Against: No guarantee of Cameron Barracks being available.

Option 2

Move the full event to Fort George. Set up a Marquee on the vacant sports fields on the right closest to the Fort. Lunch and Association Band Display and Evening Ceilidh on the Saturday followed by a Church Service and Lunch followed by Beating Retreat by the Association Band on the Sunday.

**For: Moves everyone close to the Museum
Venue should be available**

Against: Transport to – from Ft George

Other options:

**Use the Northern Meeting Park
Use a venue in Inverness**

Best time of year to hold it June, July, August or September

ALL SUGGESTIONS/IDEAS WELCOME

The extremely well stocked Raffle with the prizes most generously donated by members and organised by John (Mav) Yarrick and his underdressed assistant (JJ) followed.

Before we adjourned to the very smart front upstairs Lounge of the Legion the Chairman, Brian Matheson thanked us for using and supporting the Legion which was something he was keen to see continue in the future.

Many familiar war stories were aired and listened to in the bar before the shutters came down and the call that the “Elgin bus was outside”.

A very successful and enjoyable evening came to an end. Thank you very much for your continued support.

Bob Towns Chairman Highland Branch