



**THE QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS**  
**REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Edinburgh Branch**

(Incorporating the Regimental Associations of the  
Seaforth Highlanders and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders)

***Chairman: Eddie Maley, Treasurer: John Meikle, Secretary: Jim Elliot***

**Amalgamation Dinner 2023 Report**

All members,

Edinburgh Branch held their Amalgamation Dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 at the Bainfield Bowling Club, Edinburgh.

This being our first Amalgamation Dinner since 2020 due to Corona Virus restrictions, it was fantastic to see a total of 76 members, wives/partners and friends attending and enjoying a great night.

Edinburgh Branch Chairman Eddie Maley started the evening by welcoming the Branch members and their guests to our Dinner, with special mentions to guests who had traveled long distances to be with us:

Colin Hughes from Southport

John Knowels from Bradford

Charlie Derbyshire from Buckingham

The Chairman even welcomed an Argyle and Sutherland Highlander – Sandy Henderson.

We also welcomed some other special guests:

Lt. Col. Peter Watson (Chairman of our Regimental Association)

Maj. Richard Barker (Treasurer of our Regimental Association and our guest speaker for the night)

Col. and Mrs. Mike White (Who have both supported the Edinburgh Branch for many years)

Mrs. Anne Blair (Wife of the late Col. Blair and a supporter of the Edinburgh Branch)

Pipe Major Andy Venters (Recently moved to Edinburgh and served with the Camerons and Queens Own Highlanders).

A special mention also went to our Brunei Rebellion Veterans to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queens Own Highlanders first operational tour. Present on the night were:

Lt. Col. Ritchie Turner  
Maj. Dougie Shepherd  
Jimmy Skinner  
Tom Nisbet  
Jake Dunn  
Rab Dall.

The Edinburgh Branch took this opportunity to thank two members who we believe to be unsung heroes of the Edinburgh Branch:

Danny Mullan and Thomas Graham.

Both these men served their time with the Queens Own Highlanders as members of our Regimental Band. For many years they have turned out without fail to help us send veterans off to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion by playing the Last Post and also parade every year to visit several resting places of veterans around Fife on Armistice Day.

As a thankyou and to show our appreciation for all the work they do for the Edinburgh Branch, the Edinburgh Branch Chairman Eddie Maley presented Danny Mullan with two pairs of silver cuff links (Thomas Graham being unable to attend the Dinner due to previous family arrangements).



Maj. Richard Barker, Mrs. Sharon Barker, Eddie Maley, Mrs. Anne Blair, Lt. Col. Peter Watson

Welcomes and special mentions done, Lt. Col. Ritchie Turner said grace before our three-course dinner was served. The committee and members would like to thank Mr. Stephen

McDonald and his staff for supplying a first-class meal and a service that was second to none. We have used Mr. McDonald's catering services in the past and would not hesitate in using them again. Stephen and his staff are professional and courteous at all time and deliver a 1<sup>st</sup> class service.

Following our meal, we fitted in a comfort break which was Jim Elliot and Ritchie Turner's cue to start selling the tickets for the World Famous Edinburgh Branch raffle.

Comfort break over, it was now time for some entertainment. This year, once again, we had the privilege of welcoming the Pipers and Drummers from the Edinburgh Academy who played the following selection of tunes:

2/4s

Corriechoillies Welcome to the Northern Meeting

The Weary Maid

Teribus

The High Road to Gairloch

6/8

The Glendaruel Highlanders

3/4

My Dream Boat

4/4s

Scotland The Brave

Bonnie Galloway

Rowan Tree

We were also treated to a solo performance from the Pipe Major playing 'Cabar Feidh'.



The Pipe Major plays Cabar Feidh



Edinburgh Academy Pipes and Drums

It was time for our Guest Speaker for the evening Maj. Richard Barker to address the members and guests. Maj. Barker gave a light hearted talk on his time with the Regiment giving special mention to Eddie Maley about when he dropped Eddie from the football team and to Brian Gibson when he used to order Maj. Barker about in his stores.

On completion of his address to the members and guests, Maj. Barker toasted the Regimental Family.

Other toast that were made were:

Bobby Costello	The Regimental Toast in Gaelic
Eddie Maley	The Loyal Toast.

Once again, the Branch would like to thank members and guests for donating many high quality raffle prizes. With a special thanks going to Cathy Munro (Niece of Eddie Maley) for donating a beautiful lantern which had 4 decorated glass panels. On one side was our Queens Own Highlanders badge, to the rear was our Regimental Collect and on either side was the Queens Own Highlanders toast, both in English and in Gaelic. Cathy also donated a silver stag on a plinth which was auctioned off after the raffle was held.

Thanks to the generosity of the members and guests, a total of £540.00 was raised through the World Famous Edinburgh Branch Raffle and the auction of the Stag.

The raffle was drawn by Bobby Costello and Eddie Maley (now known as the Chuckle Brothers) followed by the Auction of the Silver Stag by Lt. Col. Ritchie Turner.

On behalf of the committee and myself, I would like to thank everyone for their donations and for helping to raise money for the Branch funds.

The money raised will go towards offsetting the costs of our Summer Dance to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 at the Bainfield Bowling Club.



Mrs. Anne Blair, Bobby Costello, Eddie Maley



MBBVA Colours and Edinburgh Branch Colours flying over the Edinburgh Branch Bass Drum Decorated by the one and only Kelvin Hunter (Yonk)

Raffle and Auction over, it was now time to hit the floor to get some serious dancing done. Our entertainment for the rest of the evening was supplied by a local group called 'The Cover Notes'. A first class group who kept the dance floor full for the rest of the evening. We would like to thank The Cover Notes for their professionalism and their selection of music.



The Cover Notes



Members and guests enjoying the evening.



John Knowels, Colin Hughes, Evan Venters, Andy Venters



Rachel Shepherd, Dougie Shepherd, Anne White, Mike White



Charlie Derbyshire, John Meikle, George Givens,  
Sandy Henderson and Richard Barker



Nancy and Cecille Melville

Many more photos were taken on the night and have been posted on Facebook for anyone who wants to see them.

A good night being had by all, we cleared the Bainfield Bowling Club at midnight and made our weary way home.

Watch out for more news from the Edinburgh Branch which will be from Amalgamation Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February in Inverness.

Yours aye

Jim Elliot

