

Welcome to the  newsletter of



HRFCA's Ray Watt presented the award to Team Programme Coordinator Richard 'Taff' Teague.



BRONZE AWARD FOR INSPIRATIONAL CHARITY

HorseBack UK has received the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Bronze Award.

Highland RFCA's Regional Employer Engagement Director Ray Watt presented the award to Team Programme Coordinator Richard 'Taff' Teague at the Aboyne-based charity.

The award is in recognition of the support the charity gives to the Armed Forces.

HorseBack UK had previously signed the Armed Forces Covenant in May 2020.

It aims to inspire recovery, regain self-esteem and promote positive change in an individual. Using horsemanship and outdoor activities, it delivers nationally recognised and accredited personal development programmes that encourage participants to acquire new coping strategies, life skills and build lasting resilience.

The charity also works to empower service personnel and veterans suffering from life-changing injuries and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and to aid them on their road to recovery. In addition to providing courses and programmes for service personnel and veterans, HorseBack UK also employs several veterans.

A team from Highland RFCA was fortunate enough to visit HorseBack UK in Aboyne and was given an insight into all the valuable work the charity carries out.

For more on the Employer Recognition Scheme, click [HERE](#).

For more on HorseBack UK, click [HERE](#).

APRIL 2022

Newsletter highlights



HRFCA AAM returns
to Queen's Barracks



Refurbishment at
Aboyne ACF building



New flight simulator for
Robert Gordon's College





Association members listen to one of the presentations.

Members finally meet face-to-face

Around 50 members of Highland RFCA from across the Highlands and Islands gathered at Queen's Barracks in Perth for the Annual Association Meeting (AAM).

Chair, Captain Nick Dorman, opened the Business Meeting on 26 March by welcoming everyone and thanking those involved with HRFCA for all their hard work over the past year. This was the first face-to-face AAM since 2019, with the meeting having been delivered virtually in the interim due to COVID-19.

Chief Executive Brigadier Mark Dodson then delivered his Annual Report 21-22.

Following that it was the turn of the guest speakers to take to the floor. First was Major General Simon Lalor, Chair of the Council of RFCA's External Scrutiny Team. His presentation covered the implementation of the Future Reserves 2020 Programme, as well as the state of the UK's Reserve Forces and the Future Reserves Programme 2030.

NDPB

Major General Jamie Gordon, Chief Executive Council of RFCAs, followed. Maj Gen Gordon spoke on the recent history of RFCAs and their future as a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) and how that plan is progressing.

The morning's final speaker was Professor Simon Denny of the University of Northampton who updated the audience on the University's report into the social impact and return on investment of the cadet forces.

Following lunch the afternoon programme got under way with updates from Service leaders. Lieutenant Colonel Peter Kemp RM, Chief of Staff Naval Regional Command Scotland and Northern Ireland, delivered the Royal Navy update. He was followed for the Army by Colonel Tony Phillips, Deputy Commander of HQ 51 Infantry Brigade and HQ Scotland. Last, but not least, Air Vice Marshal Ross Paterson, Air Officer Scotland, delivered the RAF update.

Meeting slides can be found in the Members' Area of the HRFCA website: www.hrfca.co.uk, <https://www.hrfca.co.uk/members-area/members-news>.

REFURBISHMENT AT ABOYNE

Refurbishment of 2nd Battalion The Highlanders ACF building in Aboyne was finished recently.

Caledonia Contracts completed the works that started on January 10, with the building handed back to Highland RFCA on February 11.

The building was refurbished throughout, with the shooting range being converted into two classrooms and a drill hall. The installation of the classrooms will help meet the needs of the detachment's cadets in the Aberdeenshire village.

The works form part of Highland RFCA's ongoing commitment to improve cadet buildings and infrastructure across the Highlands and Islands.



A fresh new look for the kitchen and (right) the refurbished range building.

New flight simulator takes off

Robert Gordon's College Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is the proud owner of a new flight simulator in Aberdeen.

Staff and cadets are delighted that the state of the art equipment is now operational at Schoolhill.

The different available programs will allow cadets to gain valuable experience of simulated flight while at the controls of a variety of aircraft. These include light aircraft very similar to the Grob Tutor which will be flown by Royal Air Force Section cadets at Leuchars Station when Air Experience Flying resumes in the very near future after a break of two years.

In addition to honing their skills on the simulator itself, the equipment will greatly enhance time in the air at Leuchars as the cadets will have a far greater understanding of what to expect and what is happening at all stages of the flight.

Installation of the flight simulator was initially delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions, meaning that one-on-one instruction in a small space has not been possible.

The Contingent Commander of Robert Gordon's College CCF, Wing Commander Dan Montgomery, said: "We are extremely grateful to Highland RFCA for the very generous grant which has made this tremendous addition to the cadet experience possible."

