



To All Members of The First Class CW Operators' Club

**2025 AGM
And
International Gala Dinner Weekend**



The Beautiful City of Edinburgh, Scotland

V1.22 : This document will be updated from time to time as the event gets closer, please check regularly for the latest version.

Location – The Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Background

Following the success of last year's FOC AGM and Dinner in Guernsey, Channel Islands, it was proposed that our 2025 AGM and Gala Dinner be held in Edinburgh, Scotland.

We are going all out to make this the largest and most memorable FOC event in decades! The Committee warmly encourages as many members and guests as possible to make a special effort to attend and enjoy a weekend of socialising, sightseeing, engaging presentations, exquisite dining, and—most importantly—fun!

The AGM and Gala Dinner weekend Itinerary

Members and guests should plan to arrive in Edinburgh on **Thursday 11th, or Friday, 12th September**, for a weekend of activities, socialising, and formal events.

For those arriving early on Thursday, we have our Partners Program, which includes a delightful afternoon tea in Edinburgh. The weekend will feature a social evening and informal dinner on Friday. We will have presentations and our FOC AGM on Saturday afternoon, and our weekend will culminate with our International Gala Dinner on Saturday evening.

Partners Program

FOC sincerely thanks Terry, MM3POI – XYL of Clive, GM3POI, for her invaluable support with the Partners Program, including organising social events and offering recommendations.

Terry is creating a group for wives and partners, “The Real YL's of FOC.” Those interested can contact her at +44 (0) 7719422175.

Itinerary

Thursday, 11th September 2025

For attendees arriving on Thursday, the Partners Program is arranging an elegant afternoon tea at the Fingal Hotel (<https://www.fingal.co.uk/>), a luxury floating hotel permanently berthed on Edinburgh's vibrant waterfront. Located just two miles from the city centre and 400 meters from the Royal Yacht Britannia, the Fingal Hotel offers a unique setting for this gathering.

The event will take place from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM, with last orders at 3:30 PM. As space may be limited, those interested should contact Terry, MM3POI as soon as possible to secure a spot.

Friday, 12th September 2025

An Evening at Your Leisure in Edinburgh

With so many attendees joining us for the weekend, organising a single group dinner on Friday night proved a little too ambitious! Instead, we're embracing the spirit of flexibility and encouraging everyone to enjoy Edinburgh at their own pace and style.

To help you make the most of your Friday evening, we've put together a list of recommended restaurants where many members are planning to gather in smaller groups. Whether you're in the mood for something hearty, elegant, or exotic, there's something here for everyone:

Dishoom – Indian Cuisine

A stylish take on Bombay comfort food, full of flavour and atmosphere.

<https://www.dishoom.com/edinburgh/>

The Witchery – Fine Dining & Steak

An iconic Edinburgh restaurant beside the castle, with opulent decor and rich Scottish flavours.

<https://www.thewitchery.com/>

Bar + Block – Modern Steakhouse

Relaxed, contemporary dining with a great grill menu and vibrant atmosphere.

<https://www.barandblock.co.uk/en-gb/locations/edinburgh>

Locanda de Gusti – Italian

Authentic, homestyle Neapolitan cooking from one of Edinburgh's most loved Italians.

<https://www.locandadegusti.com/>

The World's End Pub – Traditional Scottish Fare

A cosy, historic pub with hearty dishes and local ales—perfect for a true taste of Scotland.

<https://www.belhaven.co.uk/pubs/edinburgh/worlds-end>

We suggest forming informal groups with friends or fellow members and booking directly at your restaurant of choice. It's highly likely you'll bump into other FOC members out and about!

Prefer something off the beaten path? Edinburgh is full of culinary gems—TripAdvisor is a great resource, or you can simply explore and see where the evening takes you.

Whatever you choose, enjoy your evening—and we look forward to seeing everyone at the main event on Saturday evening

Saturday, 13th September 2025

Morning

Arrange your own tours of Edinburgh.

Here is a good website on things to do:

<<https://www.visitscotland.com/places-to-go/edinburgh>>

Additionally please see our suggestions “Edinburgh attractions” at the end of this document.

Back at the Hotel, the Caley Bar provides a comfortable lounge, and will be a popular spot for relaxing and catching up with friends during the day.

For those venturing out, be sure to return to the Caledonian Hotel in time for the afternoon Presentations and AGM starting at 14:00 in the Boardroom Suite

Afternoon.

Presentations

- **14:00** – John, G4IRN
 - Explains the creation and operation of his remote station for CW.
- **14:40** – Nigel, VP8TXF
 - Commonwealth Contest 2025 Expedition - Falklands
- **15:20** – Adrian, KO8SCA
 - SV1GA/A - Mt Athos DXpedition
 - 3Y0K - DXpedition Bouvet Island Feb 2026

16:00 - FOC AGM

Expected to conclude by **17:30**

We have our presentation rooms for the day and so there will be a seamless transition to all events.

FOC INTERNATIONAL GALA DINNER EVENING

19:30 – 20:00

19:30 assemble for our FOC celebratory drinks reception in the Castle Lounge

The **Castle Lounge** is a delightful setting to get the evening off to a great start. Everyone will be dressed to impress (no casual clothes please) and looking forward to a super evening.

We will have a bagpiper performing in the background for us whilst we meet fellow members and friends and of course there will be a photo opportunity.



This is Jim, our bagpiper who will be serenading our drinks reception for us!

20:00 - Dinner is Called and Please be Seated

The Castle Suite – FOC Gala Dinner

Please choose your meal choices (Starter/main/Sweet) on the home event webpage on the drop down boxes if you are just registering now.

Order of Events for our International Gala Dinner

Welcome - by FOC President Bob Beebe, GU4YOX

Toasts - by FOC President Bob Beebe GU4YOX

- His Majesty King Charles III
- The First Class CW Operators Club
- International Members and Guests and Absent Friends
 - Proposed: Mark Clark, W4CK
 - Reply: Rob Ferguson, GM3YTS

Presentations

- Al Slater G3FXB Award
- Unsung Hero
- Honoured Member

International Gala Dinner

- Be seated for dinner

Raffle

We have a small but exciting raffle with some wonderful radio and non-radio related prizes already donated. Details to follow (If you have any high or small value items you would like to donate for the Raffle event or auction, (funds to support FOC) please contact Bob GU4YOX – gu4yox@cwgsy.net)

Auction Item

We hope to have a single auction item that will be auctioned off for FOC funds supporting our activities.

Carriages at 11:30

The Venue

Caledonian Hotel Home Page:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ednchqq-the-caledonian-edinburgh/>

The Caledonian Hotel, affectionately known as “The Caley,” is a landmark of luxury and elegance in the heart of Edinburgh. Originally built in 1903 as part of the old Princes Street Railway Station, this iconic building has a rich history, blending Edwardian grandeur with modern sophistication.

Today, the Caledonian Hotel operates as a premium 5-star Waldorf Astoria property, operated by the Hilton group offering world-class hospitality while preserving its historic charm. Guests can still admire original architectural features, such as the grand sandstone facade, which hints at its railway heritage.

Nestled at the west end of Princes Street, the hotel boasts breathtaking views of Edinburgh Castle and offers convenient access to the city’s main attractions. From here, you can explore:

- **Princes Street Gardens**, a tranquil green space just steps away.
- **Edinburgh Castle**, perched high above the city and steeped in history.
- **The Royal Mile**, a bustling historic street leading to Holyrood Palace.

Inside the hotel, guests enjoy refined dining experiences, including. The Caledonian also features luxurious spa and leisure facilities, offering a serene retreat after a day of sightseeing.

The Caledonian Hotel is holding some rooms for FOC members until May 16th. Rates are £445 for a single and £470 for a double, inclusive of a full Scottish buffet breakfast, Wi-Fi, and access to leisure facilities.

The Hotel has provided a page where you can directly book these rooms they have allocated for our event [Here](#)

For more budget-friendly options, there are plenty of alternatives nearby, particularly around Princes Street, where all the action is. Premier Inn for example offers rooms starting around £150 for a double, and there are also numerous AirBnB options available. Booking.com would be a good place to review potential options.

There are plenty of hotels, bed & breakfasts, and Airbnb options available for those who prefer to stay elsewhere in town. Several members have already booked at the Premier Inn Edinburgh, which is conveniently located nearby and offers competitive rates.

If you have any further questions on logistics on getting to Edinburgh and booking accommodation if unsure, please contact Bob – GU4YOX (gu4yox@cwgsy.net)

Edinburgh attractions

Edinburgh is a city of history, charm, and stunning views. Explore the iconic Edinburgh Castle, stroll the Royal Mile, visit the Palace of Holyroodhouse, or step aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia. For spectacular scenery, hike Arthur's Seat or wander the city's historic streets. A perfect blend of culture, heritage, and Scottish spirit awaits!

Note: Edinburgh is busy year-round, and most places typically require online booking in advance.



- Edinburgh Castle <<https://www.edinburghcastle.scot>> – Perched atop Castle Rock, this iconic fortress boasts breathtaking views and is home to the Scottish Crown Jewels. Visitors can experience the 1:00 PM gun salute and explore the site with an informative audio guide. Entry tickets start from £35 per person.
- Royal Mile – A historic street connecting the Castle to Holyrood Palace, filled with shops, pubs, and street performers.
- Holyrood Palace – <<https://www.rct.uk/visit/palace-of-holyroodhouse>> The official residence of HM King Charles in Scotland, this historic palace features stunning gardens and a rich heritage. Located at the end of the Royal Mile, entry starts from £18 per person.
- Arthur's Seat – A scenic hike up an extinct volcano providing panoramic views of the city.
- The Scotch Whisky Experience – Learn about Scotland's national drink and enjoy whisky tastings.

- The National Museum of Scotland – A free-entry museum showcasing Scottish history, culture, and science.
- Princes Street Gardens – A beautiful green space with views of the Castle, perfect for a relaxing stroll.
- Calton Hill – A short climb rewards visitors with some of the best cityscape views and famous monuments.
- The Royal Yacht Britannia <<https://www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk>> – Explore the former royal yacht of the late Queen Elizabeth II, now a fascinating floating museum. Enjoy a self-guided tour lasting approximately 2 hours, with entry from £20. Open daily from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM.
- Edinburgh's Underground Vaults & Ghost Tours – Experience the city's darker history with spooky guided tours.

Traveling Around Edinburgh

Edinburgh is a beautiful and compact city, making it easy for visitors to explore its historic streets, stunning landmarks, and vibrant neighbourhoods. Walking is one of the best ways to experience the city's charm, especially in areas like the Royal Mile, Princes Street, and the Old Town, where cobbled streets and hidden closes reveal centuries of history. Comfortable shoes are recommended, as some routes can be steep.

For longer distances, the city has an excellent public transport system. Lothian Buses operate frequently across Edinburgh, with contactless payments and day passes available for unlimited travel. The city's tram service provides a quick and scenic route from the airport to the city centre, stopping at key locations along the way. Taxis and ride-sharing services like Uber and Bolt are widely available for more convenient travel, especially at night.

For those who want a more guided experience, hop-on, hop-off sightseeing buses offer an easy way to visit Edinburgh's major attractions, including Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, and the Royal Yacht Britannia. Bike rentals are available for cycling enthusiasts, though Edinburgh's hills and cobbled streets can make some routes challenging.

Trains from Waverley Station connect Edinburgh to other parts of Scotland, making day trips to Glasgow, Stirling, or the Highlands easy. While renting

a car is a great option for exploring the countryside, it's not the most practical way to get around the city due to traffic and limited parking.