

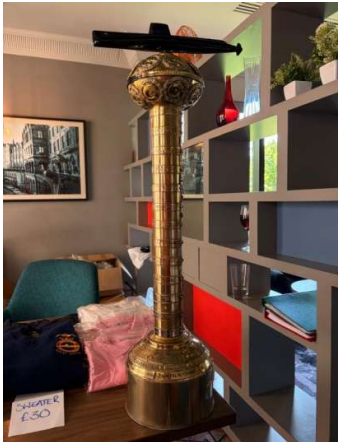


International Submariners Congress Edinburgh 2026 **(25th May until 29th May 2026)**

This year 2026 is an important year for the International Submariners Association GB (ISA GB) as we were the chosen country to organise the annual ISA congress. Two years ago in Dublin our proposal for holding the 2026 Congress in Edinburgh was unanimously accepted and with the support of ISA GB an organising committee was appointed to put the show on the road.

Two years of work lay ahead and tasks were divided among the organising team, a new website was created. Locations for hotel and trips researched and financial preparations put in place. Choices made for a new logo, tee shirts and various gifts for Heads of Delegation (HOD's) and all other guests.

The International Submariners Congress explained:



The congress started in 1961 and has since been an international gathering promoting the Submariners ethos of respect, friendship and peace amongst us. We remember, we learn and have lots of fun together and in this way hopefully achieve to set an example for peace and respect for each other regardless of nationality, religion or ethnic background.

5-day program:

May 25th Monday:

Although some guests had already arrived on previous days, team members assisted with the arrival of guests from 16 different nations at Edinburgh Airport.

After
at the



of the

started and welcome packs were handed over with the welcome gifts and other information for the week ahead.

With the meet & greet in full motion a busy day had started and the first purchases in our SLOPS SHOP started to keep our ladies very busy.



checking in
hotel the
registration
guests



I can assure you all that quite a bit of fun was had with the attempted exchange of money in all the different languages during the registration and shop purchases!!

In the afternoon the first HOD meeting took place with the opportunity for the hosts to present the program for the week ahead.

In the evening the congress was officially opened and a warm welcome extended to all our guests. During the opening ceremony all enjoyed a welcome buffet with an opportunity to exchange gifts from the visiting nations to the host nation.

To complete the evening a presentation was given by Mr. Gavin Don about the search for HMS Triumph and an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of his book.

May 26th Tuesday:

Armed with pre- purchased Tram tickets almost all our guests boarded the Edinburgh Tram next to the hotel. First for a planned visit to the Yacht Britannia after which everybody was free to visit the sites in Edinburgh aided by the day ticket for the tram.



The day turned out to be a successful experience for all with no doubt many experiencing a big dent in their credit card accounts. Edinburgh of course has a lot to offer and certainly lived up to the expectations of all our foreign guests. Fine Whisky, beautiful Tartans, good food and many very interesting sites to visit made for a great day out.

May 27th Wednesday:

A more culturally type of day ahead. Coaches ready at the entrance of the hotel at 08.30 to take everybody to the sites that we had chosen for our visits today.



Alternative visits planned to Stirling



Castle and the Falkirk Wheel including a visit to the now well known Kelpies was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Lunch was organised at the Birds & Bees restaurant in Stirling and after a busy day we finished off with a wonderful dinner at the Hilcroft hotel in Whitburn. All of us arrived back at our hotel in Edinburgh around 21.00 for a wee and well deserved rest

May 28th Thursday:

Arguably the most important day of the whole congress because on this day we will have our Memorial Service at the Submariners Monument in Dundee City.



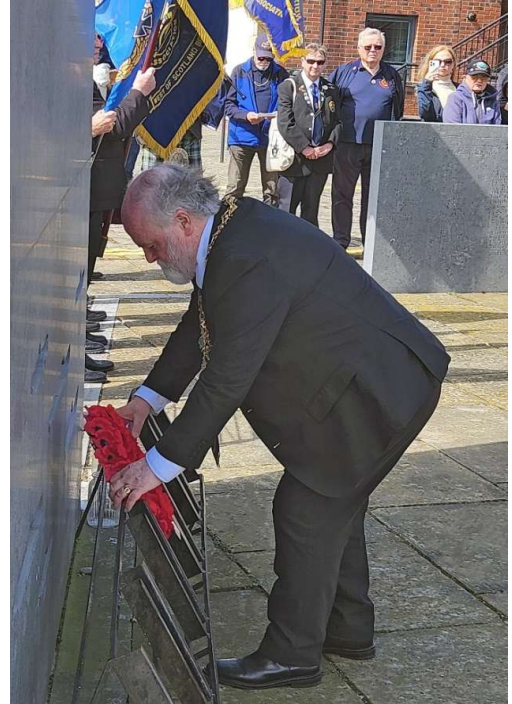
Our coaches left the hotel to arrive at the monument in time for the Memorial Service conducted by the Chief Chaplain of the Fleet Rev. Mark Davidson followed by all the Heads of Delegation of each participating country with their own 2 minute address to all guests. A big "Thank you" to the lord Provost of Dundee City and his Staff for making us all feel so welcome in Dundee and enjoy the splendour of the Monument and its surroundings.



Some of the Heads of Delegation addressing the Association Members at the Memorial Ceremony in Dundee.

**Chief Chaplin of the Fleet Rev. Mark Davidson
With Ron Rietveld of ISA GB**

Lord Provost of Dundee Bill Campbell



After the pipers Lament and marching off from the Standards we all went to the newly constructed 4J Studios next door to enjoy the buffet and coffees and teas so well presented and served by our fantastic supportive Ladies who all worked so hard throughout the whole week and during the preparations for this entire event. It is true behind every successful man you find a strong and clever but also daft woman mad enough to put up with us!! Thank you so much to all "The Girls"

Last but not least we had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Andrew Jeffrey to give us a presentation on the history of Dundee as an important Navy and home base for Submarines from many different countries. Well done Andrew!

A big "Thank You" to the Management & Staff from 4J Studios for their hospitality and assistance.



Lunch Buffet at 4J Studios!



Travel back to Edinburgh for the preparations for the Gala Night.

The Gala night is probably the pinnacle of the Congress during which we can all let our hair down and language suddenly does not seem to matter anymore. Photo opportunities and welcome drinks started off the night.

It was time for the first part of the entertainment of the night. March in the Pipes and Drums from the Dunoon Pipers Band. Accompanied by two Highland Dancers the band gave us a real flavour of our Scottish



traditional heritage and stole the show with many pictures taken and videos recorded.

Sitting down for a wonderful Gala dinner we enjoyed a glass or two which brought us to the point of handing over the ISA Column to our next hosts South Korea by our President Mr Ian Vickers. Gracefully accepted by the Head of Delegation from South Korea Il Choi with an invitation to all of us to join them in Gimhae in 2027 I am sure many of us will be keen to do so.

One last speech was reserved for a wee surprise. We were made aware of a happy occasion of two of our guests getting engaged during the Kelpies visit on the day before.

Mr. Stef van der Velden and his lovely partner Mirsada Alicic got engaged and to mark the occasion were presented with a bottle of bubbly and engagement card. Their happiness is adding so much to the fantastic memories of the 61st Congress in Edinburgh in 2026. As the Chairman of the organising committee, I wish them both all the happiness for the future!

Bring on the Music!! Introducing the Band for the night SOUL VIBRATIONS. Dancing the night away to many well known tunes the band finished a fantastic night with Loch Lomond to join us all together in a wonderful finale of the Gala night. BZ to the Band.



THE MAGIC TEAM THAT MADE IT ALL WORK!!

29th May Friday:

The finishing line of the 61st Congress has been reached. Many of our guests are preparing to continue their visit to Scotland or other countries or just go back home. It has been a blast and we are all a bit apprehensive to say our goodbyes after enjoying everybody's company during the last 4 days.

However we are looking forward to meet again in South Korea or perhaps any other occasion We hope that all our guests had a great time and encouraged them all our to join us again at future congresses.

From all of us at ISA GB and on behalf of the organising Committee I wish you all Good Health and a safe journey back

HASTE YE BACK

Our sincere thanks to all our SPONSORS:



GREENWICH HOSPITAL

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY SINCE 1694

Some replies from Heads Of Delegation's

Hello Ian

Thank you for the update on the HoD meeting and the perfectly organized conference. All of us in the Hellenic team are completely satisfied. Please send our thanks to the rest of your organizing team as well!

We hope to see you in Korea next year.

Στάλθηκε από το iPhone μου

Dear Ian,

Thank you very much for your mail and summary of the HOD meeting.

All German's were very happy with the 61. ISC and asked me to explain their deep felt gratitude for you and your team.

See you all in Korea, or whoever visits Germany in my home country, if possible.

All the best, Michael

Hello

Thank you Ian, and thanks again for a well and perfect organized congress! All in the Swedish team are more than satisfied! Send our thanks to the rest of your organization!

Hope to see you in Korea next year.

If you have your way to Sweden SE please inform me!

Lars

From: Marga Braun

Subject: My Visit to ISA GB 2026 Congress 61 Edinburgh

A big hug and lots of kisses to Ian and all of his terrific team,

I had the best time again and this would not have been, had you not cared for it. Meeting again many I got to know in Greece, made it like a "family get together".

All was perfectly planned and executed, the warm reception, the well thought out gifts, pocket mirror and the Whisky -flask - both utmost useful for a good equipped lady's hand bag-especially for an aged widow...

You arranged wonderful outings to the Britannia and the easy access and return to the hotel- thanks to the famous tram. The typical pub, the German had chosen was simply stunning. Again, the Haggis delicious.

The trip to the Kelpies, the nice luncheon there and the good times with the Americans smoking cigars, and drinking excellent whisky and where I was able to get rid of my porn jokes.

The Ceremony in Dundee very touchy and in the evening the great Gala night with excellent dinner and wines and a wonderful music and singers made this evening again perfect..

You surely did all what it took to make this Edinburgh Trip for me and certainly for all unforgettable.
Please pass this to all of your team and I thank you and all of them for this effort to make this event magnificent.

Love and kisses and hugs
from Marga

From: Per Kvennefors
Subject: Isc 61

Thank you ALL for a fantastic time
So well-organized but most of all you wonderful people behind
The best isc I have been to
Please pass this mail to everyone in your group
Kindest Regards
Per Kvennefors

From: sidsaawa
Sent:
Subject: ISC EDINBURGH

Ian, From Lynn, Krys and me, I want to thank you and your organising committee for the wonderful International Submariners Congress. The venue was great and handy to the airport and the tram. Like all events there is always room for improvement such as long presentations to Geriatrics after lunch.

A very big thanks from Down Under and many more to the Submariners Veterans and their very supportive ladies who were excellent.

We left very early this morning and didn't get a chance to say goodbye to everyone.

A big BZ to all.

See you later mates.

All the best from the Aussies, see you in South Korea

Dear Ian
On behalf of the Turkish delegation, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to you and your organizing committee for the outstanding arrangements and warm hospitality extended throughout the 61st Submariners Congress

Please convey our thanks and appreciation to all members of the organizing committee and everyone who worked behind the scenes to make the congress such a success.

With our sincere thanks and best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Engin Baykal
Head of Delegation, Türkiye