

BLACK WATCH SOLDIER PRESENTS POPPY FOOTBALL SHIRT TO PRIME MINISTER

A Black Watch soldier from Fife today (14 October) presented a special poppy-emblazoned Raith Rovers football shirt to the Prime Minister on behalf of veterans' charity Poppyscotland.

Private Wayne Hardy, 23, from Methil, Fife, handed over the shirt on the doorstep of No 10 to Gordon Brown, who is a follower of the First Division team.

Raith Rovers and rival Dunfermline will be playing in the Fife derby on Poppy Saturday (7 Nov) and will both be wearing the famous red emblem on their shirts.

Poppyscotland, the charity behind the Scottish Poppy Appeal, is working with football clubs in Scotland to generate support for the November campaign. Last year all the Scottish Premier League Clubs wore the poppy on their shirts over Remembrance weekend and this year Poppyscotland hopes that some of the smaller clubs will follow suit.

The event at Downing Street also saw the Prime Minister receive his Scottish poppy, ahead of a Poppyscotland reception at the Scotland Office, where all Scottish MPs and Peers receive their unique, four-petalled, no-leaf poppy.

The Scottish poppies are hand-assembled by 37 veterans with disabilities in Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, Edinburgh. Each year over five million are distributed across Scotland and last year, thanks to the generosity of the public, a record £2 million was raised to provide vital support to veterans and their families living in Scotland.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

Poppy Week 2009 is from Monday 2nd to Sunday 8th November.

For more information about the work of Poppyscotland and the Scottish Poppy Appeal visit www.poppyscotland.org.uk