

We are delighted to announce that Emma Henderson MBE will be our Chieftain for our Junior Highland Games at Gordonstoun on 30th April 2022.

Did you know that there are (far) more endangered Bengal tigers in the world than there are female airline captains. About four times as many. Until September 2020, Emma Henderson was a member of this rare and special flying club, over a career that spans 30 years.

Emma's career started with the RAF and finished as Captain at EasyJet and along the way, she learned firsthand valuable lessons about the importance of prioritising her own well-being as she faced a life-threatening illness and failed her first attempt at command.

As the world began to stop in March 2020, Emma knew she would not be flying again for some time. With her deep understanding of, as well as loyalty and appreciation to, her industry Emma sought an opportunity to support the NHS when they were going to need it most whilst giving her colleagues a much-needed sense of purpose.

Thus, the latest chapter of Emma's journey was begun as she founded Project Wingman - uniting the airline industry to provide well-being support to NHS frontline staff at the coalface of the pandemic.

Since then, thanks to Emma's leadership, determination and generous heart Project Wingman's volunteer base swelled to over 6000 aircrew, drawn from all airlines, right across the UK and even into the United States, serving over 100 NHS trusts across the UK.

Such is Emma's inspiration she is continually acknowledged by her peers and the wider public for her outstanding contributions to the social good, with multiple awards and nominations to her name including an MBE which she was awarded in January 2021, a Points of Light Award, Captain of the Year and most recently inspirational Woman of the Year, all of which she navigates with the humility of a true leader.

Emma's story is one of self-reliance, resilience and determination, with a deeper understanding than many of the significance of prioritising her own health and well-being as well as that of those around her. Calling on her experiences as a source of learning whilst recounting them with her typical compassionate, anecdotal style and wry sense of humour result in a fascinating, emotive experience from a powerful role model.

