# Scottish Tartan Army takes over Munich ahead of UEFA Euro 2024 opener



Thousands of Scotland football fans brought Munich’s Marienplatz to a standstill today, ahead of the opening match of the 2024 UEFA European Championship. Steve Clarke’s Scottish team will face Germany tomorrow night in the first game of the tournament.

Scottish supporters, famously known as the Tartan Army, gathered in the Bavarian capital's central square, creating a festive atmosphere characterized by the sound of bagpipes, Scottish flags, kilts, and steins of lager. The fans, full of hope for their team’s success, have taken over local bars and public spaces, engaging in various revelries.

The Marienplatz turned into a sea of blue and white as fans sang along to “Flower of Scotland,” played by a bagpiper. Despite the predominantly good-natured environment, some incidents occurred, including a bagpiper who fell off a table while entertaining a crowd and a brief altercation that led to two Scottish supporters being arrested.

This appearance marks Scotland’s second major tournament participation since the 1998 World Cup, previously competing in the COVID-19 delayed Euro 2020 finals. Notable among the attending fans is Ally Brown from Haddington, East Lothian. Brown, 41, received a life-saving bone marrow transplant from a German donor 25 years ago. Expressing excitement for the game, Brown shared his emotional connection to Germany due to his donor, whom he still keeps in touch with through social media.

In addition to Brown's remarkable story, a local publican from Inverness, Don Lawson, chartered a plane for 150 Tartan Army fans, ensuring an abundant beer supply for the journey. Packages for flights, including match tickets and accommodation, were made available, starting from £399.

Craig Ferguson, a 20-year-old fan from Paisley, also made headlines after walking over 1,000 miles to Munich in 41 days, raising £50,000 for the mental health charity Brothers in Arms. He was warmly welcomed by other Scottish fans upon his arrival.

The anticipation for tomorrow’s game against Germany is palpable as both the team and supporters prepare for what promises to be a spirited start to the tournament.