

Spring Conference 2024

Conference Agenda

18th & 19th May 2024 Hamilton Town House

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General Information

Provisional Timings:

Saturday: 09:30 - 18:30 (First Timers Session: 09:30 - 10:00)

- Evening Fringes: 17:30 - 18:30

- Drinks Reception: 18:45 - 19:45

- Conference Dinner: 8pm until Late

(Conference Dinner ticket holders only)

Sunday: 09:25 - 15:30 (AGM 09:25 - 09:55)

Accessibility:

The venue is fully accessible to disabled visitors, and has dedicated disabled parking bays.

Catering:

There is a bar/cafe available at the venue.

Transportation:

Hamilton Central (Bus and Train): 14 minute walk

Car Parking: Multiple parking locations including:

- Dazzle Car Park (1 minute walk)
- Church Street Car Park (4 minute walk)



Leader's Statement: Alex Cole-Hamilton



Welcome to Hamilton!

It's great to be back. We meet at such an important time for the liberal revival both in Scotland and across the UK. Recent election successes show us poised to tear down the blue wall of the Conservatives in the South, but we have our grappling hooks in the acid yellow wall of the SNP as well. The General Election cannot come soon enough and from Cupar to Cape Wrath, from Milngavie to Mallaig, only the Scottish Liberal Democrats can take on the SNP in huge swathes of Scotland.

We will also mark an important anniversary, after 25 years of devolution, I'm delighted that our friend, former leader and former Deputy First Minister of Scotland Lord Wallace will offer us a key note speech on that important milestone.

We've had such positive feedback from our November conference particularly about the spell-binding contribution from Nazanin Zaghari-Radcliffe and her husband Richard, and our experiment with mini-motions, it's really encouraging to know that our conferences are providing such an important foundation and inspiration for the work of our party.

This is a vital year and this conference will provide us a spring board for the campaign ahead. I look forward to seeing you and to hearing you from the platform over the coming weekend.

Alex



Our Conference Convener: Paul McGarry

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Welcome back to Hamilton!

It's fantastic to be here again, and this time feels especially exciting. This is our third visit to Hamilton, I remember when I first became Conference Convener and Sheila telling me she really enjoyed conferences in smaller towns and now I can really see why. We make a big impact in the community and economy, which is truly great. Sadly this will be our last visit for a while and I look forward to announcing the next venues soon.

We are thrilled to have Kellie Armstrong MLA joining us this year. Her presence is a testament to our ongoing collaboration with the Alliance Party, which I'm sure will lead to come fascinating discussions and valuable insights.

There's a real buzz in the air, not just across the UK, but especially here in Scotland. We're right in the centre of shaping the future and this makes this conference more important than ever. It's a fantastic opportunity for all of us to come together, share our ideas, and pave the way forward.

I have enjoyed how we have changed our platform over the years. The resilience, the stories of hope, the sparks of new ideas - these are the things that make us more than just a conference. We're a family, united by a common goal of making a positive difference.

As your Conference Convener, I can't wait to see you all and experience this year's gathering together. Let's make it a conference to remember, filled with inspiration, collaboration and forward-thinking ideas!

Paul



Saturday - What's Going On?

Start Time: 09:30

First Timers Session

Welcome

SC1: National Care Service

Emergency Motion Ballot

Mini Motions: Cost of Living and Justice

SPEECH: Kellie Armstrong MLA

LUNCH: 12:15 - 13:30

FRINGES: 12:30 - 13:30

SC2: Supporting Bereaved Children and Young People

SC3: North Sea Power Superhighway

SPEECH: Sir Ed Davey MP - Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Mark Pack: A President's Update

Liam McArthur MSP: Assisted Dying Bill Q&A

EM1: Emergency Motion

EVENING FRINGES: 17:30 - 18:30

Drinks Reception: 18:45 - 19:45



Sunday - What's Going On?

Start time: 09:25

AGM

SC4: A Fair Deal for Scottish Sport

Mini Motions: Pot Luck

SC5: Policy Committee Reference Back: 'Creating a

New Approach to Solving the Housing Crisis'

LUNCH: 12:00 - 13:15

FRINGES: 12:15 - 13:15

SC6: Supporting Scotland's Flood-Risk Communities

Lord Jim Wallace: 25 Years of Holyrood

SC7: Boosting Literacy to Lift Attainment

Thank yous and Awards

Financial Appeal

LEADER'S SPEECH: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP -

Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats



Training Saturday

Membership Training

Time: 10:00 - 11:00

Location: Cadzow Room

Come along to find out how to engage with the wider membership, usage of recruitment and retention software and ways in which to encourage those wanting to politically active to join us in whichever capacity they see fit as we head into a General Election year.

This session will be run by Les Tarr.

A Winning Plan for the General Election

Time: 11:00 - 12:00

Location: Cadzow Room

Identifying and delivering your realistic and ambitious goals and

objectives for your General Election Campaign.

This session is run by our Campaigns Team.



Training Saturday

Social Media/ Website Training

Time: 10:30 - 11:30

Location: Brandon Room

Come and learn how to use our new digital campaigning tools ahead of the General Election.

This session will be held by Luke Jeffery.

Are You Election Ready?

Time: 16:30 - 17:30

Location: Brandon Room

Are you ready for the General Election? Are you up to date with changes to election law? Come along and find out all the changes.

This session is hosted by Kerry Buist.



Training Sunday

Preparing for the General Election for Development and Start-Up seats

Time: 10:00 - 11:00

Location: Cadzow Room

The session will cover how candidates can make the most of the General Election in a non-target seat – and how they can use the GE as a springboard for the Holyrood and local elections.

This session is hosted by Desmond Bouse.

Media Training

Time: 11:00 - 12:00

Location: Cadzow Room

Want to know how to write a press release, get media coverage for your campaign or prepare for an interview? Want to know what resources are available to help your media campaign? Want to ask questions about how the press team operate?

Activists of all levels of experience are invited to a media training session hosted by the party's Holyrood press team.



Future Leaders Saturday and Sunday

Location: Heiton Room

This weekend, we will be joined by former ITV News correspondent - now media trainer and academic - Gareth Owen.

Gareth will be putting members of this year's Future Leaders programme through their paces with a series of mock media interviews and in-depth, one-to-one feedback.

This is the culmination of ongoing interview training which began at the Future Leaders residential weekend in Falkirk in October.

It has been designed specifically for the needs of our Future Leaders and will equip new candidates with the tools to get noticed by the media, and to confidently engage with reporters.



Exhibitions

Saturday & Sunday

THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND

The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) is Scotland's largest teaching trade union with almost 65,000 members employed in nursery, primary, special, secondary, further and higher education. The EIS represents over 80% of all teachers and lecturers in Scotland and campaigns to protect and improve their pay and conditions of service as well as seeking to promote "sound learning" across all sectors.



UNISON

UNISON is the public services union, and we are the largest union in Scotland. Our members work in education, social care, local government, NHS, police staff, water and energy. They are employed in public, NDPBs, private and voluntary sectors.





Exhibitions Saturday & Sunday

SCOTTISH WATER



Scottish Water is publicly owned. With more than 60,000 miles of pipes and over 2,000 treatment works, we support communities and are innovating to achieve net zero by 2040. Vital to everyone's lives we look after this precious natural resource 365 days a year. Piped by us, owned by you.

ALDC



We're a membership organisation that provides advice, resources and training for Liberal Democrat councillors and campaigners.



Exhibitions

Saturday & Sunday

Liberal International British Group -Scottish Committee



Liberal International is the pre-eminent network for liberal parties and for the strengthening of liberal democracy around the world. Liberal International British Group (LIBG) works closely with our liberal sister parties around the world. In an age of turmoil, war, injustice and fear, Liberal International members shine as beacons of light and enlightenment in all four corners of the Earth, encouraging every country to adopt the principles of human rights, peace, freedom, democracy, and economic and social justice. Join us, help us, today.

RSPB & Scottish Environment Link





RSPB Scotland is part of the RSPB, the largest nature conservation charity in Europe, taking action for nature with a bird's eye view. We are proud to be a member of Scottish Environment LINK, a forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with over 40 member bodies sharing a common goal of a more environmentally sustainable society.



Fringe Events

Saturday Lunchtime

Marie Curie

Time: 12:30 - 13:30

Location: Cadzow Room

About Marie Curie



Marie Curie are the largest third sector provider of adult palliative care in Scotland. We offer care and support to those living with a terminal illness and their families in most parts of Scotland through our Hospices in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and our Hospice Care at Home service. We campaign to make sure no one faces dying, death and bereavement alone.

About our fringe

Too many people die in Scotland without the palliative care and support they need. Terminal illness can exacerbate existing inequity and the most vulnerable lose out.

With an ageing population, more people living with multi morbidities and less resource to go round, the number of people missing out on vital palliative support could increase.

Things have to change.

Join Marie Curie to discuss how we can do that by establishing a "Right to Palliative Care" in law to ensure everyone has access to appropriate palliative care support.



Fringe Events Saturday Lunchtime

Robert Gordon University

Time: 12:30 - 13:30

Location: Brandon Room

A Timetable for Change: The Role of Universities



Robert Gordon University (RGU) has an enviable track record for teaching quality, student satisfaction and for preparing graduates who are highly sought after by employers. Scotland's post-16 education and skills system is undergoing significant reform while institutions are experiencing cuts to their budgets. The event is an opportunity to engage panellists on key questions, including: what do we need from our universities?; how can we ensure that our universities are delivering the critical skills that Scotland needs now, and into the future?; and do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our universities can deliver what is expected of them?



Fringe Events Saturday Evening

Liberal International British Group - Scottish Committee

Time: 17:30 - 18:30

Location: Cadzow Room

International Affairs: The Big Issues



Lord Jeremy Purvis (Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs)

Irena von Wiese (Chair, Liberal International British Group)

David Chalmers (Chair, Federal International Relations Committee)

Join us as we relaunch LIBG's Scotland Committee as we explore the big issues affecting the world today, and why Liberal Democrats have never been more needed on the international stage. Led by Jeremy Purvis with contributions from Irena von Wiese and David Chalmers, followed by a Q&A.

Refreshments Provided.



Fringe Events Sunday Lunchtime

The Poverty Alliance With One Parent Families Scotland and Citizen's Advice Scotland



WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT POVERTY

Time: 12:15 - 13:15 Location: Cadzow Room

The Poverty Alliance is Scotland's anti-poverty network. Together with our members, we influence policy and practice, support communities to challenge poverty, provide evidence through research and build public support for the solutions to tackle poverty.

One Parent Families Scotland provides single parent tailored information, support and advice, and campaigns with single parents to make their voices heard to encourage positive policies for single parent families.

Scotland's Citizens Advice Network empowers people in every corner of Scotland through our network of 59 local bureaux and national services by providing free, confidential, and impartial advice and information. We are on the side of people in Scotland who need help, when and where they need it, changing lives for the better by using our extensive data and people's real-life experiences to influence national policy and drive positive change.

Minimum Income Guarantee: Short-term action towards a long-term ambition

In our wealthy nation, it's unjust that so many people don't have adequate incomes for a dignified life. The Scottish Government has committed to a Minimum Income Guarantee - an income floor below which people would not be allowed to fall. It's a simple, but potentially transformative idea, that would help give everyone a secure foundation to thrive and develop their potential.

Join us to explore the steps we can take together now across adequate incomes; public services; and fair work that would build a Minimum Income Guarantee that will bring us closer to a Scotland free from poverty.



Fringe Events Sunday Lunchtime

Scottish Liberal Democrats Women

Time: 12:15 - 13:15

Location: Brandon Room



Ending Violence against women and girls - holding both governments to account

Three years after SLDW's comprehensive motion on ending violence against women and girls in all its forms was passed, join Lib Dem Women President and Westminster Equalities spokesperson Christine Jardine MP and Deputy Leader Wendy Chamberlain MP for a discussion about what progress has been made and what we still need to do.



Breakfast Event

Saturday Morning: 09:00

Scottish Renewables

Time: 09:00-10:00 Location: Clyde Room



Scottish Renewables is the leading voice of Scotland's renewable energy industry. We work to grow Scotland's renewable energy sector and sustain its position at the forefront of the global clean energy industry. The sectors we represent deliver investment, jobs, social benefits and reduce the carbon emissions which cause climate change. Our nearly 400 members work across all renewable energy technologies in Scotland, the UK, Europe and around the world.

Ahead of the General Election, this breakfast will bring together Scottish Liberal Democrats elected representatives with leaders from Scotland's renewable energy industry to discuss how we can maximise the benefits of our clean energy transition and enable the scale of deployment we need to deliver for net-zero.

Please Note:

This event is for Parliamentarians and Councillors ONLY.



Drinks Reception Saturday Evening: 18:45

Invicta Public Affairs

Time: 18:45 - 19:45 Location: Cadzow Room



Since 2007, Invicta has been a leading UK public affairs consultancy, advertising businesses large and small on how to do business with government. Based in the heart of Glasgow, with clients throughout the United Kingdom and across Europe, we pride ourselves on the fact that no other company has the same level of understanding of how politics affects business across the nations and regions of the UK.

Join the team with our leader Alex Cole-Hamilton on Saturday evening.

The Invicta Public Affairs team will also be joining us at our Conference Dinner.

Please Note:

This event is for ALL members, Parliamentarians and Councillors.



Observers -

Who's joining us this weekend?

Asthma + Lung UK Scotland

At Asthma + Lung UK Scotland, we believe that every breath matters - and that the right to breathe freely applies to everybody, regardless of income, age, ethnicity, gender, or background. We campaign for better diagnosis, treatment, care and support for people living with lung conditions. We campaign to reduce levels of smoking and to combat air pollution. We campaign for the 1 in 5 living with a lung condition.

TSI Scotland Network

The TSI Scotland Network is a body of charities which support community & voluntary groups, volunteering organisations & social enterprises across Scotland. There is a Third Sector Interface (TSI) in every local authority area. TSIs offer advice, information and practical support to local charities and community groups to help them to survive and thrive. Find out more on the website – www.tsi.scot

VASLan

VASLan is South Lanarkshire's Third Sector Interface. As the local TSI, VASLAN is the single point of access for practical support and advice for the voluntary and community sector, for volunteering and social enterprise in South Lanarkshire. Find out more on the website -

About Us | Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (vaslan.org.uk)



Observers -

Who's joining us this weekend?

The Mental Health Foundation

The Mental Health Foundation is the UK's leading charity for everyone's mental health, with a dedicated presence in Scotland. Our vision is for a world with good mental health for all. With prevention at the heart of what we do, our work involves rigorous research and practical projects to identify what's most helpful, public information that empowers people to look after their mental health and influencing work to move policies in the right direction.

BMA Scotland

BMA Scotland is the trade union and professional association for doctors. We represent over 17,000 members from all branches of medicine across Scotland. The BMA is the voice of the medical profession – we look after doctors so they can look after you. BMA Scotland lobbies and campaigns on the issues impacting the medical profession, we publish and promote research and reports on a variety of health, scientific and ethical matters.



Motions - Saturday

SC1: National Care Service

Mover: Cllr Sally Pattle Summator: Jacquie Bell

1	Confere	ence notes that:
2	1.	The National Care Service (Scotland) Bill was introduced by the Scottish
3		Government in June 2022 with the intention of reforming how social care,
4		social work and community health services are delivered in Scotland.
5	2.	It has been described by the Scottish Government as the most significant
6		reform to public services since the creation of the NHS because it proposes
7		moving responsibility for children's services, justice social work and mental
8		health services, as well as adult social care, into a newly created National
9		Care Service, all of which will be overseen by Scottish Ministers.
10	3.	Plans to transfer up to 75,000 local authority workers into the National Care
11		Service have since been abandoned as too costly.
12	4.	The Bill is referred to as framework legislation because it proposes general
13		principles of the National Care Service, but leaves considerable detail to be
14		laid out in future secondary legislation.
15	5.	The Scottish Government is proposing that the National Care Service sits as
16		a directorate within their governance structure rather than becoming a
17		stand-alone body.
18	6.	Following repeated delays, the National Care Service is expected to be
19		implemented by 2028/9.
20	Confer	ence further notes that:
21	1.	Local Government (through COSLA), the NHS and the Scottish Government
22		reached an initial agreement regarding accountability for the National Care



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Service in summer 2023.

24	2.	When estimated costs of implementing the original scheme rose to £2.2bn,
25		the Scottish Government announced its intention to scale back the plans in
26		December 2023.
27	3.	Costs for the scaled back version of the National Care Service are still

- 3. Costs for the scaled back version of the National Care Service are still estimated to be in the region of £1bn.
- 4. It is still unclear from the Bill how the National Care Service will be governed and who will be represented on local care boards and special care boards.

Conference believes that:

- Introducing a new layer of centralised bureaucracy by wrenching away control of local services by Local Government will only impede service delivery on the frontline of care across Scotland.
- 2. Funnelling £1bn of public money towards a National Care Service is particularly unjustified in the face of rising inflation and wage costs and increased demand for Council services it is noteworthy that £1bn is also the size of the budget black hole that the SNP and Green Scottish Government has passed onto Councils.

Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

- Immediately dismantle, rather than simply delay, plans for the new
 National Care Service
- Give any money that was earmarked for the creation of a National Care
 Service directly to local authorities and Health and Social Care Partnerships,
 so that it can be invested into front line care, including improved pay and
 conditions for staff.



Motions - Saturday

SC2: Supporting Bereaved Children and Young People

Mover: Christine lardine MP Summator: Amanda Clark

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1	Conference	notes that:

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- 2 1. According to research from the Childhood Bereavement Network, every 3 three hours a child in Scotland will lose a parent, with 2,800 children bereaved each year. 4
 - 2. The impact of a bereavement during childhood is not confined to losing a parent, and many more children lose grandparents, siblings or friends.
- 3. Specialist charities such as Richmond's Hope, Winston's Wish, the Childhood Bereavement Network and Child Bereavement UK provide tailored support services, including phonelines, online resources, live webchats and email 10 support.
 - 4. The lack of official data on the number of children suffering bereavement creates challenges for charities, making it more difficult to plan or scale up service provision, and a petition organised by these charities to call for improved data collection earned over 11,000 signatures.
 - 5. Schools and colleges will often be the main point of contact for children after a bereavement, but 90% of teachers say they have received no bereavement support training, and it is not currently part of the curriculum for teacher training in Scotland.
 - 6. While teacher support is valuable, it is not always sufficient or appropriate for a child or family, whereas independent peer support is seen by many as the missing link, which is something national charities can offer.
 - 7. The biggest challenge is the lack of a protocol linking the charities with children and families who may want their help.
- 8. 24 Research from Winston's Wish shows that children in lower-income 25 households are at greater risk of losing a parent.



26 9. The Bereavement Support (Children and Young People) Bill, presented to 27 Parliament by Christine Jardine MP, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh West, on March 12th 2024. 28 29 Conference believes that: 30 1. Every child has the right to be offered specialist support upon the death of a 31 parent, close relative, or friend, with service providers ready and resourced 32 to deliver it. 33 2. A protocol is needed to ensure that every bereaved family is aware of the 34 support available and that it is offered to them. 35 3. Bereaved children and young people should be able to make an informed 36 decision on the most appropriate decision for them and should be informed 37 of available services. 38 4. Cuts to local government funding and service provision has had a negative impact on the ability of schools, social services and other local bodies to 39 40 provide the best possible support for bereaved children. 41 Conference reaffirms: 42 1. The Scottish Liberal Democrat commitment to improving access to mental 43 health and wellbeing services for children and young people as outlined in the policy "New Hope - A Blueprint for CAMHS & Psychological Therapies", 44 45 passed at Spring Conference 2023. 2. Support for the content of the mini motion "Childhood Bereavement", 46 47 passed at Scottish Liberal Democrat Autumn Conference 2023. 48 Conference calls for the Scottish Government to develop a protocol for the collation and dissemination of information to be eaved children about 49 50 relevant support services, that:

- 51 1. covers services that are provided by:
 - a. local authorities,
 - b. publicly funded bodies, including NHS regions,
 - c. charities and other third sector organisations.
 - 2. creates a new Duty to Inform to ensure that any dependent or affected



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56		childrer	n are made aware of these services, which would apply to individuals
57		such as	:
58		a.	registrars who are involved in the process of registering a death,
59		b.	teachers and other education professionals,
60		c.	social workers and relevant local government staff,
61		d.	GPs, nurses and other relevant healthcare workers,
62		e.	any other professional where appropriate.
63	3.	includes	s mandatory bereavement support training for anyone to whom a
64		new Du	ty to Inform applies, ensuring that bereaved children and young
65		people	are treated with appropriate care and respect.



Motions - Saturday

SC3: North Sea Power Superhighway: A Credible Plan for Offshore Wind Power Distribution

Mover: Michael Turvey

Summator: TBC

1	Conference	notes	that.
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- The UK Government has set out an ambition to deliver 50GW of offshore
 wind generation capacity by 2030. The Committee on Climate Change (CCC)
 has also indicated that to become a net zero economy could require 75GW
 of Offshore wind by 2050.
- The Scotwind and INTOG licensing rounds awarded licenses for approximately 32GW of offshore wind capacity. This award was three times the supply anticipated in the National Grid ESO's pathway to 2030 "Holistic Network Design". The award of these licenses has not been matched by a credible plan for the provision of grid connections. Grid connections are not available until the 2030s.
 - 3. In the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany an order for 14 offshore substations has been placed. This "energy Island" concept will simplify offshore wind developers' ability to tie into the network providing certainty and improved economics for offshore wind projects. Germany is burying three major transmission lines avoiding unnecessary local challenges.
 - In the UK the current holistic network design relies heavily on onshore substations and overhead line transmission failing to take advantage of Scotland's vast expertise in subsea and offshore technology.
 - 5. This onshore overhead line approach represents the path of maximum resistance for residents. Significant local resistance has arisen in Scotland on the Spittal to Beauly overhead line in the Highlands and the Kintore to Tealing overhead line in Aberdeenshire and Angus.



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- 24 6. Delays to the delivery of vital transmission infrastructure will be the
 25 inevitable consequence of these poor choices that fail to show respect for
 26 the environment, cultural history, health, wellbeing, livelihoods and property
 27 rights of local people.
 - 7. According to the Energy System Operator, their current Holistic Network design will deliver a saving of £2.18 per year on the average (currently approximately £2,000).

Conference believes that:

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- Investing more money in less invasive transmission techniques: offshore substations, subsea cables, and onshore buried cables will have less impact on the local environment and maintain the societal consensus needed for the energy transition and net zero.
- Delays to infrastructure delivery will have the effect of driving investment away from Scotland and the UK to more attractive locations and leave a long legacy of unwanted infrastructure in our countryside.
- 3. Power should be delivered via a subsea power superhighway direct to centres of demand in England. the Central Belt and continental interconnectors minimising onshore infrastructure. That onshore infrastructure should be buried where possible, minimising public opposition and maximising reliability by reducing storm damage.

Conference calls for:

- the UK Government and National Grid Energy System Operator to review, as a matter of urgency, their plans for network delivery taking full account of new wind licenses and learning from international best practice.
- the Scottish and UK Governments to encourage transmission owners to continue with upgrades to existing lines, but allow a pause on new lines while the review takes place.
- 3. the Scottish Government to embed in planning regulations the principle that impact of power distribution infrastructure on people, the environment and



54		and subterranean routes where possible.
55	4.	the Scottish Government to oppose the construction of the Spittal to Beauly
56		overhead line in the Highlands and the Kintore to Tealing overhead line in
57		the planning process, unless the current proposals are amended to the
8		satisfaction of residents.

landscape should be kept as low as reasonably possible favouring subsea



SC4: A Fair Deal for Scottish Sport

Submitted by:

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Mover: Neil Alexander Summator: Cllr Sally Pattle

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- Being active isn't just good for a person's physical health, it's also proven to
 have a positive mental health and wellbeing impact, as stated in SAMH's
 Mental Health Charter for Physical Activity and Sport.
 - Scotland has a rich and unique heritage of sport, which should be celebrated and any success built on to encourage participation.
 - 3. Anyone participating in sport, be it as a competitor or fan, should always feel like they are listened to, respected, safe and able to reach out for support wherever possible.

Conference notes with concern that:

- Scottish Government budget cuts and restrictions on how the money it provides can be spent, combined with the cost of living crisis, mean local authorities across the country are facing difficult decisions about where to allocate funding.
- As a consequence, some local authorities may end up closing sports facilities, meaning sports clubs and local communities are losing access to much needed facilities.
- The freeze in the Scottish Government's mental health budget has meant real-terms cuts to the funding available for mental health which can have an impact on access to support in the community, including through local sports clubs.
- Physical activity and sport is a massive gap in the new Scottish Government
 strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing



24 Conference calls for:

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- the Scottish Government to protect both the mental health and Sport
 Scotland budgets in real terms, such as protecting these budgets in line with
 inflation.
 - the Scottish Government to further support the partnership between SportScotland and SAMH as well as SAMH's Mental Health Charter for Physical Activity and Sport, by making more funding available for mental health first aid training for sports clubs and governing bodies.
 - Scottish local authorities to work in partnership with local sports clubs to explore, where possible, alternative models of ownership of community assets - particularly where publicly-owned facilities may be at risk of closure
 - 4. the Scottish Government to promote more widely their guidance on community asset transfers, and make this a more accessible process as possible so that local sports clubs know their options if the publicly-owned facility they use is at risk of closure.
 - the UK Government to conduct a review of the sporting events currently
 listed in the Ofcom Code on Sports and Other Listed and Designated Events,
 to discuss which sporting events are free-to-air nationally
 - 6. the governing bodies of Scottish sports to introduce appropriate misconduct policies to protect vulnerable groups, tackle misogyny, ensure clear protocols around sexual misconduct, and guarantee that there are cultures where everyone feels safe and supported to participate.
 - SportScotland to create a new funding stream specifically targeted at increasing participation in sport, which clubs could apply for to increase the number of people actively taking part in sport in Scotland.
 - 8. professional sport governing bodies to support fan-led reviews such as that proposed by the Scottish Football Alliance, and to accept recommendations where possible.



Motions - Sunday

SC5: Report of the Policy Committee on a Reference Back of 'Creating a New Approach to solving the Housing Crisis.

Mover: Neil Casey Summator: Neil Casey

1	Confe	rence notes that:
2	1.	There is currently a housing crisis in Scotland with Glasgow, Edinburgh, and
3		Argyll and Bute Councils all having declared housing emergencies and a
4		recent YouGov poll finding that 80% of adults in Scotland now think there is
5		a housing crisis.
6	2.	Housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable for young people in Scotland.
7		The median home in Scotland is now 5.3 times the typical household income
8		Young people in Scotland live in HMOs longer, remain living with their
9		parents, and buy their first home, later than ever.
10	3.	There are currently 30,000 people homeless in Scotland. Every 16 minutes, a
11		household becomes homeless in Scotland. In addition, 15,625 households
12		are in temporary accommodation in Scotland, including just under 10,000
13		children.
14	4.	In February 2024, the SNP Government reduced its budget for the supply of
15		affordable housing by £196 million.
16	5.	Year-on-year homebuilding declined in Scotland in 2023, with 6% fewer
17		homes completed and 24% fewer homes started in the year to end
18		September 2023. In Glasgow, new homes started in 2023 were 46% down on
19		2022. Demand for housing in Scotland continues to increase.
20	6.	Following a Reference back from the 2022 Autumn Conference on motion
21		SC8, the Policy Committee Working Group developed a report into the state
22		of the housing market in Scotland.



Conference believes that:

24	1.	The Scottish housing emergency requires radical, comprehensive, and
25		integrated solutions; there is no single panacea, nor any viable solution that
26		does not include multiple stakeholders being engaged and encouraged to
27		enact bold solutions.
28	2.	The UK and Scottish governments have not only failed to adequately address
29		the emergency, but continue to make matters worse. Both have failed to
30		meet their limited housebuilding targets. Furthermore, the Conservative
31		government's focus on demand-side reforms serve only to exacerbate the
32		problem. The SNP government's cut in funding for affordable housing will
33		further diminish the housing supply.
34	3.	The solution to the Scottish housing emergency should look primarily at
35		increasing the supply of homes. In addition, any meaningful policy must have

- The solution to the Scottish housing emergency should look primarily at increasing the supply of homes. In addition, any meaningful policy must have community building at its heart, rather than relying solely on housebuilding targets.
- 4. The 'Help to Build' model identified in the Policy Committee Report represents a plausible means of addressing the funding issues that drive small and medium size housebuilders out of the Scottish market, and places the burden of building new homes on the larger builders who have bank balances large enough to shoulder the risk.
- 5. Scotland is in dire need of a national housing plan that engages all relevant stakeholders and explores bold solutions to the challenges outlined in the report, ensuring community-building is prioritised alongside housebuilding targets. The Help to Build model can be the foundation stone of such a plan. Conference accepts the Policy Committee Housing Report as a response to the reference back.
 - Conference calls for the Scottish Liberal Democrats to develop a radical and multi-pronged National Housing Plan to truly address the housing emergency, with Help to Build playing a significant role alongside other key initiatives.



Motions - Sunday

SC6: Supporting Scotland's Flood-Risk Communities

Mover:	Willie	Rennie	MSP
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Summator: Wendy Chamberlain MP

I	Conte	rence notes that:
2	1.	The changing climate of Scotland has meant the frequency of severe storms
3		has increased, meaning more and more areas are at high risk of flooding.
4	2.	It is estimated that 284,000 homes and premises are already at risk of
5		flooding in Scotland, with an additional 110,000 properties at risk by 2080.
6	3.	Communities like Cupar and Brechin have already been severely impacted
7		by flooding events caused by Storm Babet and Storm Gerritt. These
8		communities have had to evacuate homes and close their businesses with
9		no real timescales of when they can return.
10	4.	The Bellwin Scheme can provide local authorities extra funding for
11		emergency situations, such as flooding or storm damage, but despite it bein
12		activated by the Scottish Government 17 times over the last four years, it ha
13		only provided local authorities with funding twice.
14	Confe	rence believes that:
15	1.	More and more communities are at risk of being severely impacted by flood
16		and it is vital that both local and national governments have strategies in
17		place for when these incidents occur.
18	2.	Local government cannot shoulder the financial burden of protecting our
19		communities alone. The Scottish Government must do much more to ensure
20		there is adequate funding in place should it be needed.
21	3.	Landowners and farmers can also play a role, as they can often be best
22		placed to understand what is needed to manage the burns and rivers on
23		their land.
24	Confe	rence calls for the Scottish Government to:
25	1.	conduct an immediate audit of the Bellwin Scheme, to ensure it is fit for



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purpose.

27	2.	ensure the availability of additional grants and other forms of funding, which
28		would be payable directly to homeowners and business owners in weather
29		events beyond those classified as Amber by the Met Office.

 create river catchment plans in partnership with landowners and farmers, that would combine their knowledge of burns and rivers with the tools to help them manage them.



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Motions - Sunday

SC7: Boosting Literacy to Lift Attainment

Mover: Kirsten Herbst-Taylor Summator: Kirsten Herbst-Taylor

1	Conference notes with concern that:		
2	1.	The final Scottish Survey of Literacy showed declining performance in	
3		reading and writing and no improvement in listening and talking, after which	
4		the abrupt abolition of the survey by the SNP Government in 2016 created	
5		gaps, inadequacies and inconsistencies in the measurement of progress in	
6		Scottish education.	
7	2.	The Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels statistics,	
8		published by the Scottish Government in December 2023, showed that:	
9		a. the poverty-related attainment gap for P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined	
10		has narrowed by just 1.6% in literacy since 2016/17.	
11		b. the poverty-related attainment gap for S3 pupils achieving at least third	
12		level literacy is actually 0.1% worse than it was in 2016/17.	
13	3.	Scotland recorded its worst ever score in reading in the recent PISA	
14		international comparison of countries' education systems, published in	
15		December 2023.	
16	4.	That first and foremost, schools are measured on reading and writing to the	
17		neglect of listening and talking.	
18	Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:		
19	1.	High-quality education from early years to apprenticeships, colleges and	
20		universities.	
21	2.	Promoting play-based learning until age 7 to give our children a flying start,	
22		based on the Nordic model.	
23	3.	Ensuring that young children starting school are not held back by	
24		communication barriers, providing effective early intervention and support.	
25	4.	Raising attainment and closing the poverty-related attainment gap.	



26	5.	Making sure young people with additional support needs and those who
27		require the help of speech and language therapists get the help they need.

- 6. Extending the Pupil Equity Fund which has been the subject of SNP stealth cuts worth more than £200 for every Scottish child from a poorer background.
- Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:
- 1. create a National Literacy Taskforce:
 - made up of a group of early years, primary and secondary classroom practitioners empowered to continually inform and shape national strategy and a common approach to teaching all aspects of literacy in line with age and stage.
 - that will explore a teacher-led R.O.L.E. (Reading Out Loud Everyday)
 initiative for early learning settings, primary and secondary schools, and
 for the government to act upon any such recommendation.
- properly support the implementation of a national literacy programme of work in Scottish early years settings/a kindergarten stage, primary and secondary schools, recognising and repairing the harm that has been done to literacy by the cuts SNP ministers have overseen to in-class and specialist support.
- liaise with universities and teacher training providers to ensure comprehensive training for all primary and secondary teachers on delivering all aspects of learning and teaching literacy based on linguistic approaches and the scientific nature of language.
- 4. fund an early intervention programme for pupils whose literacy knowledge and skills fall below age and stage expectations.



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Standing Orders

Scottish Liberal Democrats - Standing Orders

In the event the Scottish Executive determines it is impossible to hold a conference under the normal rules, and instead summons a special meeting of the conference to be held remotely, or the Committee otherwise directs that a conference shall be conducted remotely, these Standing Orders shall apply.

A remote conference shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders that apply to a conference not conducted remotely ('the original Standing Orders'), save that:

All references in the original Standing Orders to votes, whether by ballot, show of hands or show of voting cards, shall instead be conducted via an online poll or alternative secure method of online voting, designated by the Committee. Similarly all references to speakers cards shall be taken to mean electronic speakers' cards.

Any communications with the Chair must be made via an online channel designated by the Committee for that purpose and advertised to voting members prior to the commencement of a debate.

Voting (Section 7) – all voting will be carried out electronically by members registered for conference and eligible to vote, thus removing the requirement for a counted vote.

Points of Order and Procedural Motion (Section 8) – will be submitted electronically to the chair within the timescales laid out in the Standing Orders.



Standing Orders for a Conference

1. The Conference Committee

- 1.1. The Conference Committee shall be constituted as specified in Section E10 of the Constitution. The annual election of members by the conference shall be by Single Transferable Vote in a ballot of all members of the Party registered to attend Conference ('Conference Representatives').
- 1.2. The Conference Convener shall be the Chair of the Conference Committee. At its first meeting after a new election under Section E10 of the Constitution, the Conference Committee may elect one or more Vice-Conveners.

2. The Timetable and Agenda

- 2.1 The Conference Committee may choose to hold a conference as either a digital or in person conference. The conference committee will as far as practicable make accommodations for a 'hybrid' conference when an 'in-person' conference is held.
- 2.1. The Agenda for a hybrid meeting of Conference shall include time for one or more of the following items:

Motions;

Emergency motions;

Topical motions;

A business session or sessions; and any other business deemed appropriate by the Conference Committee. The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of business shall be decided by the Conference Committee.

- 2.2. The Conference Committee shall, before each meeting of the Conference, prepare a timetable which includes:
- 2.2.1. The closing date for the receipt of motions (other than Emergency or Topical motions), which shall not normally be less than six weeks before the start of the meeting;
- 2.2.2. The due date for the publication of the Agenda, which shall not normally be less than four weeks before the start of the meeting;



- 2.2.3. The closing date for the receipt of Topical Motions, which shall not normally be less than two working days before the start of the meeting; and
- 2.2.4. The closing date for receipt of amendments which shall not normally be less than two working days before the start of the meeting.
- 2.2.5. The Conference Committee may, in special circumstances, specify dates later than the normal dates under this Standing Order. It shall report to the Conference its reasons for doing so.
- 2.3. Submitting organisations shall detail at the time of submission the name and contact details of a person authorised to agree any redrafting of a motion or amendment and the name of the mover and summator of the motion or amendment, should it be selected for debate at Conference.
- 2.4. The Conference Committee shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included within the Agenda. The proposers of the motions selected for debate shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The Agenda shall be circulated to Local Parties and other bodies entitled to submit motions and amendments under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution so that amendments can be tabled to these motions by such bodies. Copies of motions not selected for inclusion in the Agenda shall be available for inspection.
- 2.5. The Conference Committee shall meet within one week of the deadline for submission of amendments to motions on the Agenda and shall decide which amendments should be accepted and those rejected. The proposers of the amendments selected for debate shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision.
- 2.6. The Conference Committee shall also meet as soon as practicable after the closing date for the receipt of topical motions and shall decide which of the topical motions duly submitted shall be debated, and the proposers of topical motions selected shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The text of any topical motions selected for debate shall be circulated to Conference



Representatives, Local Parties and bodies authorised to submit motions.

- 2.7. The Conference Committee shall also prepare an agenda for the business session of each meeting of Conference. The Committee shall circulate this, with the text of proposed amendments to the Constitution in accordance with Section L of the Constitution, amendments to Standing Orders, and other party business motions, with the Agenda as per Section 2.4
- 2.8. The Party's Principal Committees may submit holding motions, which shall identify the issues to be dealt with within the motion but which may be amended and expanded upon later. Standing Orders 2 and 3 shall apply to holding motions as they would apply to ordinary motions, except that:
- 2.8.1. the final version of the motion shall be submitted not less than two weeks before the start of the meeting of Conference;
- 2.8.2. The text of the final version shall be circulated to Conference Representatives, Local Parties and other bodies authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution, who may submit amendments no later than two working days before the start of the meeting of Conference; and
- 2.8.3. The Committee shall make available to Conference Representatives the text of the final version and any amendments chosen for debate, either by their publication in the Conference Daily Bulletin or by any other means the Committee considers most appropriate
- 2.9. The Conference Committee may, if the circumstances require, propose to Conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the Agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.
- 3. Submission of Motions and Amendments
- 3.1. The Conference Committee may refuse to select a motion for the amendment of the Constitution or Standing Orders if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate at the same meeting of Conference. All



other motions in these categories shall be circulated with the Agenda.

- 3.2. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Conference Committee, it is insubstantial, outside the legitimate scope of the motion or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.
- 3.3. The movers of any motion or amendment that has not been selected shall be notified as soon as is practicable and may appeal to the Conference Committee in accordance with directions given by the Committee. If an appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment notwithstanding that it does not comply with Standing Order 5.
- 3.4. This Standing Order and Standing Order 2 do not apply to procedural motions under Standing Order 8.
- 3.5. No Topical Motion may be selected for debate at Conference unless the Conference Committee is satisfied that the content of the motion is such that it could not have been submitted in time for the deadline as set out in Section 2.2 for ordinary motions. No Topical Motion can be a holding motion from a Party Committee.

4. The Agenda - Special Conferences

- 4.1. Special Conferences shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition, save that the Conference Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for business which is formal or, in the opinion of the Committee, uncontentious.
- 4.2. The Conference Committee shall draw up an Agenda and circulate in line with Section 2.4. If the Committee deems it necessary the Agenda can be circulated with amendments to be submitted as Emergency Amendments.
- 4.3. The provisions of Standing Orders 2 and 3 shall, so far as they are not inconsistent with Standing Orders 4.1 and 4.2, apply to special meetings of the Conference.



5. Emergency Motions

- 5.1. An emergency motion or amendment must relate to significant developments which have occurred since the relevant closing date or so shortly before that date as to make it impracticable to submit a motion, Topical Motion or amendment in due time. It must be brief and specific.
- 5.2. An emergency motion or amendment may be submitted by five Conference Representatives or by any persons or bodies authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution.
- 5.3. The Conference Committee may, for each day of the meeting of Conference, set aside time convenient for the debate of Emergency Motions. In such an event, proposed Emergency Motions must be submitted to the Conference Committee, duly signed, by 5pm the day before they are to be debated. Emergency Amendments to motions already on the Agenda for that meeting of Conference must be submitted by 5pm the day before the motion is to be debated.
- 5.4. The Conference Committee may refuse to select an emergency motion or amendment if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate at the relevant meeting of Conference.
- 5.5. The Conference Committee will choose the emergency motions or amendments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are most relevant to the concerns of the Conference and can be debated within the time available. The Committee shall make available the text of all emergency motions and amendments chosen for debate either by publication in the Conference Daily Bulletin or any other means the Committee finds most appropriate.
- 5.6. Amendments shall not normally be taken to the text of an Emergency Motion. However Conference Committee may consider amendments duly signed by 5 Conference Representatives or by any body authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution. These amendments must be brief, suitable for debate and of a similar emergency nature. The deadline for submitting amendments to an Emergency Motion will be listed in the Conference Daily Bulletin alongside the text of the Emergency



Motion. The movers of the Emergency Motion must be given the opportunity to agree that the text of the amendment be accepted without debate or vote, and the text must be circulated to voting representatives before the start of the debate.

- 6. Conduct of Debate
- 6.1. Length of Speeches
- 6.1.1. The Conference Committee shall decide the time to be allocated for each debate. The Conference Committee shall determine the times allocated to speakers in debates.
- 6.1.2. Movers of motions shall normally be allocated not more than 12 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of amendments shall normally be allocated not more than 8 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of emergency and topical motions shall normally be allocated 5 minutes to move the motion. Speakers from the floor shall normally be allocated 3 minutes but this may be varied at the discretion of the chair of the debate.
- 6.1.3. The allocation of the time between moving and summating shall be at the discretion of the mover subject only to notification of the Chair of the debate before the start of the debate. In the absence of such notification the Chair shall be entitled to limit speeches to three quarters of the time allocation for moving and one quarter for summation.
- 6.2. Order of Debate
- 6.2.1. The Conference Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments (or their nominees) shall have the right to summate in the same order, after which the mover of the motion (or their nominee) shall have the right to summate.
- 6.2.2. Votes will be taken on amendments in the order in which they have been moved and finally, a vote shall be taken on the substantive motion.



- 6.3. The Conference Committee may direct that parts of any motion or amendment or group of amendments may be the subject of a separate debate the Conference Committee may also direct that a debate may comprise of more than one substantive motion. In this case it shall be up to the discretion of the Chair as to the allotment of speakers, save that the rights of movers of motions or amendments shall not be infringed.
- 6.4. The Committee may authorise members of other State or Regional Parties to speak. The Committee may also, invite any necessary to satisfy them the result is certain.
- 7.3. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair will ask for the vote to be run a second time. If this still results in a tied vote, the debate will be decided on the casting vote of the Chair of the debate.
- 8. Points of Order and Procedural Motions
- 8.1. Any member eligible to vote in the debate may raise a point of order electronically with the Chair (details of how to do this will be shared with members at the start of the virtual conference). A point of order shall be taken immediately, except that, during a vote no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the vote itself. The decision of the Chair of the session on all points of order shall be final.
- 8.2. References Back
- 8.2.1. A voting member may, at any time before the end of speeches in reply to the debate, submit electronically a motion to refer back the motion under debate. Such a submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred (e.g. Scottish Policy Committee; Scottish Executive) and shall include a short statement of the reasons.
- 8.2.2. The Chair may decide either to take the motion to refer back immediately or defer it until the end of debate. If more than one request for a reference back is received, the Chair shall have the discretion as to which to take but shall give consideration to the appropriateness of the bodies to which the motion is being referred, the degree to which the stated reasons for reference back reflect views expressed in the debate and the order in which the requests were submitted, before exercising the rights of discretion. No more than one reference back shall be taken to any motion.

- 8.2.3. The Chair shall, upon taking the motion to refer back, read it and the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to debate the motion. If the conference decides not to debate the reference back, the reference back automatically falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those voting to debate the reference back the mover of that motion may speak and the mover of the substantive motion or their nominee may reply. The Chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the motion.
- 8.2.4. The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If the substantive motion is referred to the Executive, Policy Committee or Conference Committee that body shall report to the next meeting of conference stating the action it has taken on the reference back.
- 8.3. Suspension of Standing Orders
- 8.3.1. A voting member may, during any session of a conference, move for the suspension of Standing Orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 100 words, to the Chair who shall read them to the Conference.
- 8.3.2. No motion to suspend Standing Orders may suspend any requirement of the Constitution, nor Standing Orders 2 and 3.
- 8.3.3. No motion to suspend Standing Orders to introduce a motion or amendment onto the Agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Conference Committee in accordance with the published timetable and any right of appeal has been exercised.
- 8.3.4. The Chair shall read the statement of purpose and if the suspension is allowable, ask Conference whether it wishes to debate the request to suspend Standing Orders. If the Conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the Conference decides to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Conference may reply. The Chair has the discretion to call other speakers and all speeches will be limited to two minutes.



- 8.3.5. A motion to suspend Standing Orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two thirds of voting members taking part in the vote. If the procedural motion is carried all Standing Orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.
- 8.4. Separate Votes
- 8.4.1. A Separate Vote shall be taken on a part of a motion or amendment.
- 8.4.2. At the direction of the Conference Committee; or
- 8.4.3. At the discretion of the Chair, when requested to do so by a voting representative. Any voting representative may submit a request for a separate vote to the Chair of a debate. Such a request must be in writing and received before the commencement of the speeches in reply to the debate. The Chair has complete discretion in such a case on whether to take a separate vote.
- 8.5. These Standing Orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of Conference Representatives present and voting on a motion duly submitted under the terms of Standing Order 3. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from Conference to Conference.















