



Helensburgh Branch

STRONGER FOR SCOTLAND

NOVEMBER 2017

Conference Special Autumn 2017

by Patrick Johnstone (Political Education Officer)

Welcome to the first edition of our SNP Helensburgh Branch's newsletter!

In September we held our Branch AGM at the Council Halls in Helensburgh, and our Constituency Association AGM on board the Maid of the Loch in Balloch.

The AGM on the Maid of the Loch was quickly followed by **Gordon MacIntyre-Kemp's** presentation on the important and influential role **Business for Scotland** played in the Independence campaign of 2014, and its ongoing campaign to make the economic case for Scottish Independence.

In October we have just had our **National Conference in the Yes city of Glasgow**, and just attended our Argyll & Bute Members Day at the Loch Fyne Hotel in Inveraray.

Much to the disappointment of the unionist media our conferences continue to be well

attended, as should be expected with the second largest party membership in the UK, and the largest party membership in Scotland.

Our Members Day in Inveraray perhaps caught us all by surprise. With an anticipated turnout of 30-40 members, the actual turnout on the day was nearer to 130-140!

If we can harness the enthusiasm of the members on that day, and engage just as positively, then future electoral success and our nation's independence will be assured.

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Nicola at the SECC Glasgow



Team Helensburgh SNP



Members Day in Inveraray

Your New Committee

by Kevin Johnstone (Convener)

At our Annual General Meeting of Thursday 14th September 2017, the following Branch Office Bearers were elected:

- **Convener:** Kevin Johnstone
- **Vice Convener:** Michelle Van der Stighelen
- **Secretary:** John Scullion
- **Treasurer:** Eleanor Hunter
- **Organiser:** Sandra McLaughlan
- **Membership Secretary:** Trudi Tompson
- **Political Education Officer:** Patrick Johnstone
- **Women's Officer:** Victoria Ferguson



- **Equalities Officer:** Julie Murphy
- **Social Media & IT:** John Scullion
- **Youth Officers:** Niamh O'Hara & Adam McCullagh
- **Ordinary Members:** Alex West & Eileen McCullagh

It was agreed at the AGM Branch Rule 8.3 "The quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be 6" will now be amended to "The quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be 50% of the Committee".

Looking Ahead

by Kevin Johnstone (Convener)

Firstly, can I say it is a honour and privilege to be selected as your Branch Convener. And secondly, I would like to thank all the outgoing committee for their exceptional contributions they had made in what must have been some of the most grueling elections at both Council and Westminster level in 2017.

Hopefully, the year ahead will prove to be less dramatic, though I suspect we cannot assume that will be the case. Both Brexit and the not so "strong and stable" Conservative government would

suggest that there may be trouble ahead with the possibility of a second snap General Election at some point next year.

And let us not forget that Indy Ref 2 is a distinct possibility too in the year ahead!

But until then we have a job to do, and time to relax as we prepare for whatever may come.

With Sandra as our new Organiser and our new committee, we hope to bring some well-deserved fun events over the coming year.



Members Day 15/10/17

by **Brendon O'Hara MP**

Not long back from our first Members Day in Inveraray. And what a day it was. As it was our first such venture, we had set ourselves a target of getting approximately 40 members along to kick-start the event.

Although I organised the event, this wasn't my day. I wasn't hosting it or leading the discussion. It was a day for the SNP members in Argyll & Bute to discuss, plan, organise and prepare for the future.

The meeting was due to start at 1300 and I couldn't believe it when we turned up at 1200 to set up the rooms, there were already a couple of dozen folk waiting. I knew then we were going to exceed the target. But folk just kept arriving until by 1300 there were far too many folk to fit in the room and we had to hurriedly organise a bigger room. Even then, there were folk left standing outside in the corridor.

We had Branch representatives from Oban, Mid-Argyll, Tarbert, Campbeltown, Islay, Strachur, Holy Loch, Dunoon, Bute, Lomond North and Helensburgh.

No one managed an accurate headcount but judging by the group photograph and the fact that not everyone joined in the photo, a conservative estimate put the figure of 140 SNP members. Astonishing!

I was delighted that Jim Mather, our former MSP could come along to facilitate the day and Mind Map the results.

Jim's work in this area is amazing and before the large group broke down into six smaller groups, he outlined the broad themes to be discussed.

The whole idea of the day was to give members the chance to discuss in small groups a variety of themes; why have we been successful in Argyll & Bute, what is our purpose, what are we good at, what do we need to get better at doing and how do we deliver Argyll & Bute at the next independence referendum.

Following lively and lengthy discussions, all the groups fed back into a plenary session. The results were fascinating and once Jim has tidied up his Mind Map, I will distribute it to every member of the party in the constituency. Ideally, this will lead to a more in-depth discussion at branches over the coming weeks with branches then feeding back their thoughts; thoughts that will inform the agenda for when we next meet.

The day was completed by the excellent Paul Kavanagh and his (not so) Wee Ginger Dug. Paul's hilarious and insightful talk was the perfect way to round off a fantastic day.

The folk who were there agreed to hold our next Members Day on

January 14th 2018, again in Inveraray.

I'm delighted to tell everyone that a booking has been made and we will have the next Members Day on Sunday January 14th 1300-1700 at the Inveraray Inn.

I'd like to put on record my thanks to the management and staff of the Loch Fyne Hotel. Without their enormous goodwill, cheerfulness and willingness to help, this afternoon could have been chaotic. We catered for 40...they got 140. Nothing was too much trouble for them and I am very, very grateful for all they did. But and I'm sure anyone who was there today will agree, if we get similar numbers in January, we will need a bigger room.

Finally, thank you to every single SNP Member in Argyll & Bute who came along this afternoon. I hope you enjoyed it and found it as useful as I did.

See you on January 14th...and why not bring a friend.

All the best

Brendan



Local Development Plan

by **Michelle Van der Stighelen** (Vice Convener & Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Brendan O'Hara MP)

For everyone at the grassroots, politics affects every part of our day-to-day life. Yet, so often, local issues are overlooked but are the first to be criticised when things go wrong. As a political group, we should be versed at all levels of the political spectrum. Right now, the local development plan for Argyll and Bute is under consultation and will dictate development in the whole constituency for the next 10 years and the vision for the next 20.

There are various proposals, some uncontroversial, some which perhaps need more scrutiny. One is the proposed number of **new houses** to be built and the other is the establishment of **a new national park** to the west of Argyll and Bute.

From a constituency perspective, one area that comes up time and time again is the lack of good quality accommodation, much of the existing stock is in a poor state of repair and the levels of homelessness continue unabated. We need more housing, we particularly need more family-friendly housing and we need to find an answer to the high number of single males in

temporary accommodation or even rough-sleeping.

The consultation is open now and will close on 11th December. If you are interested in local issues, want to help shape the future of Argyll and Bute or even if you're just concerned with Helensburgh and Lomond, we would urge you to go to the consultation page and have your say. At the next branch meeting, there may be time to discuss any areas which are a particular cause for concern.

The local development plan can be viewed at:

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/ldp2>

and there is a **drop-in session** for the Local Development plan (main issues report) on **Tuesday 21st November between 4pm and 6pm in the Victoria Halls**, a planning officer will be present.

Michelle



The SNP: Delivering the best deal in the UK for taxpayers

- ✓ Free prescriptions
- ✓ Tuition fees scrapped
- ✓ Free school meals
- ✓ Free childcare expanded
- ✓ Free personal care for our older people
- ✓ No Tory Bedroom Tax
- ✓ Bridge tolls scrapped

...and much more.



Film and TV production in Scotland has increased by 200 per cent since the SNP came to office in 2007



People getting help to find a job through Scotland's employment services will not face the threat of sanctions



91.1 per cent of 16 to 19 year olds are in education, training or work in Scotland – an increase on last year

83rd Annual National Conference

by www.snp.org

Election Results: National Office Bearers and Committees

Organisation Convener

[Fiona McLeod](#)

Political Education Convener

[Douglas Daniel](#)

TWO Ordinary Members of the National Executive Committee (from parliamentarians)

[Stewart McDonald](#)

[Tommy Sheppard](#)

SIX Ordinary Members of the National Executive Committee (from non-parliamentarians)

Grant Thoms

Josh Mennie

Kirsten Oswald

Margaret Ferrier

Mhairi Hunter

Roz Currie

FIFTEEN Members of National Council

Alex Orr

Alexander Kerr

Anne McLaughlin

Chris Hanlon

Danny Aston

Dot Jessiman

Elaine Wylie

Gerry Fisher

Graham Campbell

Greg McCarra

Jennifer Dunn

Malcolm Balfour

Owen Thompson

Ricky Taylor

Sandra White

NINE Members of Disciplinary Committee

Elaine Wylie

Gill Samarai

Kirsteen Currie

Lorna Finn

Malcolm Balfour

Munro Ross

Owen Thompson

Sandra Stevenson

Scott Blair

SIX Members of Standing Orders and Agenda Committee

Ivan McKee

Joan McAlpine

Lorraine Alexander

Patrick Grady

Rosemary Hunter

Stewart Stevenson



[Fiona McLeod](#)



[Douglas Daniel](#)



[Stewart McDonald](#)



[Tommy Sheppard](#)

REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS AND AGENDA COMMITTEE

Dr Angus MacLeod, National Secretary

This report is for approval at 14h20 on Sunday 8 October.

The Standing Orders and Agenda Committee (SOAC) met on Tuesday 1st August and considered 150 submitted resolutions. The initial meeting aimed to whittle that down into a long list for branches and delegates to consider. Those resolutions that were rejected can generally be classified into: those that were incorrectly drafted (members should remember to follow the guidance and look at past agendas for best practice); those that covered topics either already party policy or recently debated; or those that were rejected in favour of a similar resolution on the same topic.

SOAC subsequently met on September 7th to discuss amendments and the impact they would have on timing and our ability to ensure a full debate on the resolutions.

The long list presented to delegates as part of The Delegates' Choice process commenced with 41 resolutions and the agreed amendments being presented for ranking. From the long list, 33 out of the 41 resolutions to be considered had been submitted in whole or in part by local organisations or by affiliate organisations.

All delegates registered by September 8th were invited to score each resolution out of 10 in

terms of how important they were to have a debate on. The average ranking for each resolution was presented to SOAC to inform their final decisions on the agenda. Whilst not bound in any constitutional way by the survey results, it was extremely useful for seeing exactly what the surveyed delegates wished to see on the agenda and helped improve our decision-making process. Over 500 delegates took part in the exercise, allowing for a broad range of opinion which reflected the views of those who will be attending Conference. In the end, the 20 resolutions appearing on the Agenda include 13 which were submitted in whole or part by local branches or affiliate organisations.

Can I take the opportunity to remind all delegates that the preliminary agenda is confidential to members and members should not be campaigning on what resolutions they want to see on the final agenda outwith party meetings? This will help ensure a level playing field so that resolutions are judged on their merits. Only Conference itself has the authority to vote on a resolution, and decide whether it becomes policy or not.

As with last year, we will operate the "Delegates' Choice" initiative for selection of Topical Resolutions for the session on October 8th, with delegates voting on a list of submissions in order to choose what will be debated on that day.

Finally, can I thank all members of the committee for their hard work over the last year, and those who took part in the survey.



Dr Angus MacLeod

COMMENT

Given that the 150 resolutions submitted were reduced to 41 for the long list, then there not only is a good chance of a branch resolution making it to conference, but an even better chance if we do not fall foul of the three main reasons for rejection:

1. *already discussed in conference*
2. *a similar resolution proposed*
3. *or poorly drafted.*

I can confirm that our new Political Education Convener has already indicated that he is willing to review prospective resolutions before submission to SOAC to recommend any changes if required.

I look forward to hearing from members with any ideas they may have for any future resolutions for conference.

Patrick Johnstone

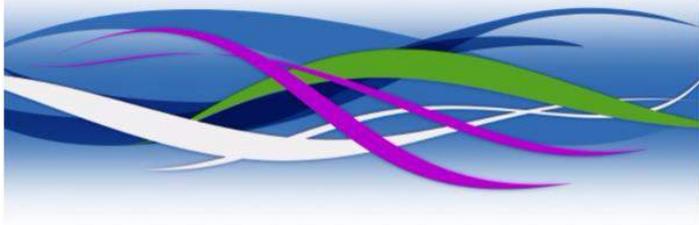
Political Education Officer

Conference Photos



SCOTLAND THE BRIEF

Business for Scotland



Did you know...

Edinburgh's festivals and Fringe attracts approximately 4.5 million visitors a year.



That's 23% more than the combined number of spectators at the 64 games played at the last Fifa World Cup.

Source: EdinburghFestival.com (2015) and FIFA Scotland The Brief © Business for Scotland 2017

Business for Scotland

Did you know...

Glasgow builds more satellites than any other European city - at more than 70 just this year.



Scotland punches above its weight in the space industry - currently employing 18% of the UK's space sector with only 8.2% of the population.

Source: Glasgow City Council and Scottish Employment (unpublished) Scotland The Brief © Business for Scotland 2017

Business for Scotland

Did you know...

Scotland was the only region in the UK which exported more than it imported in the last reported year.



That means, Scotland's trade balance was positive (£2 billion) whilst Wales, Northern Ireland and England all ran trade deficits.

Source: HM Revenue & Customs (International Exports) Figures for financial year 2016/17. Scotland The Brief © Business for Scotland 2017

Business for Scotland

Did you know...



Scotland produces 70% of all gin made in the UK.

That's 98 million bottles which are exported to 139 countries - an increase of 37% in the past five years.

Source: The Wine and Spirit Trade Association (WSTA). Scotland The Brief © Business for Scotland 2017

Business for Scotland

Did you know...

Scotland has the largest community of animal health and aquaculture researchers in Europe.



60 life science companies spun-out of Scottish universities over a six year period - more than any other part of the UK.

Source: Life Sciences in Scotland (www.lifesciencescotland.com) Scotland The Brief © Business for Scotland 2017

Business for Scotland

USEFUL LINKS

SNP Sites

<https://www.snp.org/>

<http://www.helensburghsnp.scot/>

<http://www.brendanoharamp.scot/>

Parliamentary Sites

<http://www.parliament.scot/>

<http://www.gov.scot/Home#slide/2>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/commons/>

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

Independence Sites

<http://www.businessforscotland.com/>

<http://www.businessforscotland.com/scotland-the-brief/>

<http://bellacaledonia.org.uk>

<https://wingoverscotland.com/>

<http://www.independentscotland.org>

News Media Sites

<http://www.thenational.scot/>

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/>

<http://www.helensburghadvertiser.co.uk/opinion/>

Council Sites

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/home>

https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/councillor_list

<http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/>

Community Council Sites

<http://www.helensburghcommunitycouncil.co.uk/>

<http://www.rhuandshandoncommunity.org/>

Causes

<http://www.allofusfirst.org/>

<http://www.banthebomb.org/>

Other Sites

<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request>

<http://whatscotlandthinks.org/ssa>

<http://scotcen.org.uk/>

<http://www.un.org/en/index.html>

FEEDBACK & COMMENTS

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