

# YES Highland na Gàidhealtachd

Business Meeting  
Sat. 14 April 2018

InverYESs Hub  
Inverness

Sederunt – 14 reps + 1 guest

**Forres:** Jim Farquharson

**Inverness:** Alastair MacDonald, Alison Fraser, Irene Stacey, Stuart MacDonald

**Loch Ness:** Marjorie Wilson

**Yes Lochaber:** Iain MacEacharn, Sharon Trish

**Yes Nairn:** Ian Bruce

**Ross & Sutherland:** Anne Searles, Graham Bell, Lorraine Carson, Peadar Morgan

Guest in personal capacity: Maree Todd MSP

Group apology: **Skye & Lochalsh; YesHighland.net**

Meeting chair: Graham

Network secretary: Alison

Meeting minutes: Peadar

Minutes 2 December 2017

Approved on the proposal of Alison, seconded by Jim.

Forres report – led by Jim Farquharson

- More a reality in terms of funds than of activity; members are dormant but poised.
- Moray Common Weal remains strong and active.

Inverness report – led by Alison Fraser

- Regular street stalls on the High St, and now too Grant St.
- Series of talks in the Hub.
- Dr Craig Dalzell, Common Weal, to present a talk 2pm 21 April, Spectrum Centre.

Loch Ness report – led by Marjorie Wilson

- Potential activity restricted by small membership & funds, & lack of an urban focus.
- But strong activity online.

Lochaber report – led by Iain MacEacharn

- Hub open over the winter, though quiet; traffic now picking up.
- Conference going ahead, but hit by an unfortunate last minute loss of key speakers.

Nairnshire report – led by Ian Bruce

- Leaflet on BBC bias distributed.
- Membership increasing, banner acquired and hi-vis vests being purchased.

Ross & Sutherland report – led by Graham Bell

- Leaflets on Scotland the brand, power grab, media blanking & pensions distributed.
- Positive response to pensions leaflet, from targeted 4<sup>th</sup> leaflet drop & media stushie.

- Online crowdfunder a success in raising £800.
- Nairn (& soon Ullapool?) now a subgroup, to access constitution, banking & funds.

Skye & Lochalsh report – submitted by Carole Inglis

- Scotland the brand leaflet distributed to food outlets.
- Stall under consideration for Portree.

#### Doorstep activity

- Impact not really seen before a third knock-in of leaflets.
- Diffidence in local & workplace campaigning needs sympathetic management.
- Opposition to independence needs to be clearly branded by Yes as 'the Union'.
- Messaging needs direct slogans, seeking to control the narrative.

#### National Yes structure

- Local groups had attended the national Yes activists assembly.
- A regional structure, with e.g. central media-response unit, has been proposed.
- Two gender-balanced reps per group, as a non-profit co. (not a charitable trust).

Agreed: **Participate as the core of a H&I group, including Moray &, by invite, the archipelagos.**

Agreed: **Support funding to be raised & distributed both as top-down & from bottom-up.**

Agreed: **Graham to investigate no-cost Yes crowdfunder account.**

Agreed: **Geographical branding to be flexible, Sco. down; 'Yes' to be retained, 'Yes2' avoided.**

Agreed: **Graham to seek access to the Yes Highland brand from YesHighland.net.**

#### Scottish Independence Convention

- Planning monthly meetings in Edinburgh & Glasgow.
- Alastair & Maree can offer overnight accommodation for reps.

Agreed: **Alastair & Marjorie as reps to SIC, with Maree as first substitute rep.**

#### Intra-Yes H&I communication

- WhatsApp has proven useful for reception, pic/doc sharing, openness, encryption.
- But a warning was given that screen grabs get round the encryption.
- Phone & email addresses for those delegates present were collected.

Agreed: **Establish email group for Yes Highland delegates.**

Agreed: **Establish WhatsApp groups as needed for top level down to team level conversations.**

Agreed: **Stuart to investigate the ramifications of the new data protection legislation.**

#### IndyApp Gathering

- 'Gathering' of 2 reps per Yes groups organised by IndyApp team for Stirling 27 May.
- IndyApp 2.0 to be launched soon, with accompanying training tour.

Agreed: **Inverness training session for Yes Highland delegates, Hub 10.30–12.00 Sat. 12 May.**

#### Next Meeting

Agreed: **Hub 10.30am Sat. 16 June.**