



Delegate Meeting
Sat. 22 February 2020

InverYess Hub
Inverness

Meeting chair: Iain Bruce
Meeting minutes: Peadar Morgan
Network secretary: Alison Fraser

SEDERUNT – 18 present, 8 member groups

Badenoch & Strathspey: *apology*

Caithness: Ian Sinclair, Mary Sinclair

Elgin: Colin Watson

Forres: *apology*

InverYess: Alastair Macdonald, Alison Fraser, Dave Thompson, Irene Stacey

Loch Yes: Marjorie Wilson

Lochaber Aye2Aye: Eddie Morgan, Jim Ramsay

Nairn: Iain Bruce

North West Lochaber: *apology*

Ross Sutherland: Anne Searles, Erik Sullivan, Lorraine Carson, Peadar Morgan

Skye & Lochalsh: Carole Inglis

InverYess & Ross Sutherland: Janet Baker, Julie Christie

MINUTES 14 Sep. 2019 Highland Gathering

Approved on the proposal of Colin, seconded by Lorraine.

GROUP REPORTS

Caithness: led by Ian & Mary.

- Burns Night & 3-day per week pop-up Thurso shop held.
- Membership increased from 30 to 70, supported by monthly newsletter.

Elgin: led by Colin

- A-frame trailer positioned on the A96.
- Business for Scotland book & app quiz proving very effective.

InverYess: led by Irene

- Leafleting to recommence 14 March.
- Forthcoming John Drummond talk on the Constitutional Convention, 15 April Eden Court.

Lochaber Aye2Aye: led by Eddie

- Commemorative shindig on Brexit day in Fort William Parade.
- Forthcoming picnic party as part of the national Yestival, 20 June.

Loch Yes: led by Marjorie

- Leafleting to recommence soon.

Nairn: led by Iain.

- YesNairn pop-up café held in the Little Theatre, with music & fundraising.
- Talk by Steve McCabe, as part of the café, on the NHS in the Highlands.

North West Lochaber: via Eddie.

- Forthcoming beach party as part of the national Yestival.

Ross Sutherland: led by Lorraine

- Six field banners & A-frame trailer for local impact sites not prominent enough for It's Time.
- Forthcoming cèilidh in Evanton 21 March.

Skye & Lochalsh: led by Carole

- Tim Rideout talk.
- Visiting & encouraging those no longer active in Yes.

A greater willingness to report Yes events noted in the Lochaber News & John O' Groats Journal.

Action: Groups are encouraged to archive media coverage, incl. deposit in local archive centres.

SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE CONVENTION (SIC)

- Indy lacks the explicit support of the churches, media and Europe that existed in 1979.
- A need for dissent by civil obedience & civil disobedience, but without repelling support.
- It may be too soon to engage in door to door canvassing.
- Voices for Scotland (VfS) is becoming more active.

REPORT FROM YES HIGHLAND (YH) DELEGATE – Alasdair

- Most recent meeting demonstrated a return to a lack of any sense of urgency.
- SIC is focusing on VfS & the VfS app, and in raising £50,000 per month.
- Dave reported that funding was being sought from wealthy indy supporters.

NATIONAL YES REGISTRY (NYR) INDYAPP

- The IndyApp training weekend in Perth had been successful in motivating groups and identifying glitches; release of 3.0 to be held back until all technical issues are resolved.
- Take-up was slow but happening in some groups; finance of NYR was proving problematic.
- Yes Highland is part of a designated Highlands & Islands IndyApp group.

Action: IndyApp engagement meeting 7pm Wed. 4 March, in InverYess Hub & through the app.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Discussion centred on: 1) the possibility & suitability of SIC as an overarching voice of the indy movement, alongside a grassroots Yes confederation; and 2) the possibility of a one-off Yes electoral list alliance with manifesto & partner commitment limited to achieving indy, including support to an SNP Government in progressing this.

Action: Notify to SIC through Alasdair as delegate that it was felt that the convention should:

- Adopt a stronger brand than "SIC"
- Review SIC operational procedures
- Adopt & monitor clear action points at SIC business meetings
- Maintain two-way communication with all Yes local groups & regional networks
- Improve communications between the various SIC members
- Establish & develop a strong media presence for SIC

Action: Establish a working group for a Highland Gathering to discuss a Yes confederation.

Action: Public meeting in Spectrum to explore a Yes alliance; Maree Todd to be notified/invited.

COORDINATED CAMPAIGNING

Action: Highland Gathering to consider pros & possible cons of frequent local mini-marches.

Action: Support AUOB Elgin 4 July, incl. group stalls & (for a donation) commercial vans.

YES HIGHLAND NETWORK

- It was agreed that the current structure, procedures & meeting in Inverness worked well.

AOCB

- It was agreed to seek to minimise single-use plastic in YH activities and materials.
- It was agreed to continue with use of EU flags.

NEXT MEETING

Action: Book Green Drive Hall for a Highland Gathering, with Iain in the chair.