

## Chair – Tara Copeland

- Made YL executive admins of the FB page
- Informed executive about the updates to the Exec Regs regarding officer reports, and reminded them of their obligation to send apologies as risk of being considered resigned from their post as per the Exec Regs.
- Drafted and sent out type form asking for feedback on decisions being made by Federal Board
  - A rather mixed response but leans more on the negative feelings side
- Federal Board Meeting
  - Autumn Conference Decision to be reviewed and officially made in May
  - Furlough decided
  - FoP ruling kept as is at present
- Attended FBDC meeting
  - Deep dives in membership, diversity, and training to be arranged
  - Unfortunately missed the diversity deep dive due to a calendar clash, will be attending training and membership
- Held a meeting with Mark regarding the place of Young Liberals in the party
  - I made clear to him the unique nature of our SAO in it being the largest and most diverse group in the party. Emphasizing that we are the future (as well as the present in a lot of cases with staff, councillors, and parliamentary candidates, etc.) of the party and that our input into party decisions is critical and that I do not believe that it should be our voice which is removed from decision making processes.

He apologized for wording his answer poorly, he clarified that what he meant was that a lot of our decision making processes are done through creating new committees or adding new people in which is not necessarily always the best way to make decisions and that even when a large amount of people are having input in the decision making process it doesn't mean things will be uncontroversial or the correct decision.

We also talked briefly about the age range changes, to which he said he doesn't have any strong feelings about so if it's something we'd like to do we can try it. He mentioned working with Greg foster to try and trial the change a bit to see what that would look like in practice, but that the only potential roadblock that will really matter is conference as we're not sure what's happening with autumn and high as a result could mean there's a backlog of things to deal with at spring which could potentially mean we'd have to wait until autumn 2021.

We also talked about the party reviews panel, he said that his vision was to try and lift saos up a status more similar to party bodies, because he feels that sometimes that party focuses too much on party bodies (like local parties) and provides training and such for them and it's only when someone is reminded of the saos that it is then extended. This would actually increase not only our position but also the position of other saos. I explained the anxieties about having our status within the party being brought down and he reassured me that this would actually lift us up more along with other saos.

We also talked briefly about general party attitude towards YL, how a lot of members don't feel they are recognized always and in reality are somewhat infantilized. I used the leaflet fodder trope as an example. I explained that having our position at decision making tables as well as having positive words from people in positions of power, like himself, the board, and our MPs not only keeps our spirits up and make us feel respected but shows as well that other party members should be doing the same. Lead by example and all that. He seemed sympathetic and actually suggested that he and I have monthly meetings, which we think it would make sense to bring some exec members to as well to discuss specific projects, so that he knows what we are doing and so that he can keep us more in the loop about what is going on and provide better dialogue and feedback.

- Meeting with Kathy and Josh from ALDES about closer collaboration
- Did a small interview talking about what YL does with Callum Robertson for East of England webinars about the wider party

### Vice Chair – Charlie Murphy

Forum membership is growing at a modest rate, and we have instituted reminders for plain text descriptions of images, which seem to be working.

In the last 28 days activity is up 122%, likely boosted by everyone being locked indoors.

Recently there have been reported comments which have concerned exec members. Rightly, exec members of the admin team recused themselves from any decision or discussion on these comments. One remains without action or discussion which I'm aware of, and this may require a more formal setup being drawn up for issues regarding exec members in the Forum in the future.

We currently have a squeaky clean record with Facebook, with 0 community standards and fake news breaches. This should mean the group is in a perfectly safe standing with a well behaved membership as far as Facebook's rules go.

On a more individual note, I continue to have difficulty with Slack so any exec members wishing to bring me in on a discussion or ask anything, please flag it up directly. I will be making every effort to keep on top of the Slack, but without notifications things do slip through the net often.

Best wishes to you all, I hope you're all holding out well, I always welcome a chat!

Stay safe.

## Finance Officer – Finn Conway

Finance Officer Report 25/04

### To Do from 28/03:

1. Publicise Branch Development Fund (**n/a**)
2. Agree on timeline for Freshers Campaign (**n/a**)
3. Follow up on bank signatories with RBS and NatWest (**A**)
4. Get Online Banking access for RBS (**III**)
5. Make sure everything is cancelled for Summer Conference (**IV**)
6. Submit March PPERA Account Return (**B**)
7. Pay outstanding debts to individuals (**D**)

### Done since 28/03:

- A. Follow up on bank signatories with RBS and NatWest
- B. Submit March PPERA Account Return
- C. Submit Annual 2019 Accounts
- D. Pay outstanding debts to individuals<sup>1</sup>

### To Do before 27/06<sup>2</sup>:

- I. Write budget amendment for Zoom
- II. Write budget amendment for Canva Pro
- III. Get Online Banking access for RBS
- IV. Make sure everything is cancelled for Summer Conference
- V. Sort International Access Fund

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<sup>1</sup> If you think I still owe you money, please let me know - it's possible you've fallen through the cracks!

<sup>2</sup> This is assuming my absence from the 30/05 meeting due to exams.

## Communications Officer – Dan Schmeising

This is going to be a short and sweet report as most of what I've been doing this last month has been, well, my job. Comms are important in this crisis, and while we can't be physically together I want members to feel like our online community is there for them in lieu.

I can't take the credit for the fab webinars that have been organised but it's been really encouraging to see people getting involved in them - I want to bring that experience to as many Young Liberals as possible.

In the last month I have:

- Started up the Young Liberals Discord (accessible at <https://discordapp.com/invite/Sqprm36>). It's been particularly successful as a discussion space during webinars - I'll be looking to facilitate that during Ed's and all future discussions.
- Began the process of tidying up the website - I have removed the link to our Stop Brexit campaign from the front page as well as gathered pictures for, tidied up and updated the executive "about us" pages.
- I am working with the MemDev officer and chair to get copy out promoting our age change pilot when it goes live.
- My normal duties keeping you in the loop across email and social media.

As always, if you have any suggestions or feedback I'm keen to hear it - please let me know at [dan.schmeising@youngliberals.uk](mailto:dan.schmeising@youngliberals.uk).

## Campaigns Officer – Sophie Thornton

**No Report Submitted**

## Policy Officer – James Bliss

I am currently finishing up work on going through the Policy Book and removing old policies, as well as reorganising and making the Policy Book easier to understand. This should be finished in the next few days, and I will publish it to the membership and get it updated on the website by one of you.

I have also updated the constitution so that it includes previously missed amendments, as well as going through and looking at priority areas that need looking at.

I have obviously also attended the latest FPC meeting, beyond that I haven't had much to do in my portfolio.

**22/4 FPC Report**

### *World After Corona*

Ed Davey brought forward (from previous discussions in FPC), which will involve engaging members in a policy process, unlike normal policy making but instead with a member engagement focus. It will focus on 5 key policy areas engaging with members. It will be key and important that whatever form this eventually takes, that we try and get as many YL members as possible engaged with the process. A number of FPC members brought up times in the past where working groups (an example was on sex work) have engaged with Liberal Youth [sic], including a mention of chatbox. I am approaching Christian Moon to make clear that YL will be keen and happy to directly engage with these groups as part of the process, to ensure that YL gets its voice heard in this unique and new process.

### *Universal Basic Income*

There was a discussion on UBI with Ed Davey, who has signed a cross party letter in the Financial Times. There was some pushback from some members of FPC, including Christian Moon about cost and about UBI being rejected by conference and not being policy (which is obviously untrue). There was a feeling that in the future there will definitely be a push again to revisit the policy and possibly adopt it as party policy. Here is the article that Ed signed: <https://www.ft.com/content/6fdaf216-8324-11ea-b555-37a289098206>

### *Other Working Groups*

There were other discussions on other Working Groups, including an update from Daisy Cooper on the Nature of Public Debate working group, and what will end up happening with the Principles and Values Consultation.

### *General Election Review*

There was a long discussion in relation to the General Election review, and initial feedback given from the review in relation to criticisms about the policy process and forming the manifesto and how it can be improved. There was a long discussion about issues that went wrong with the election, criticisms of policies and the manifesto, with a lot of rehashed arguments.

Events Officer – Michael Chappell

**No Report Submitted**

Membership Development Officer – Alex Howarth

Since the last meeting I have worked with Greg Foster, Mark Pack, Chessie, and Dan, to put in place a temporary ‘pilot’ fix for the age-range changes. This will enable members of the party up to the age of 30 to opt into membership of the Young Liberals, albeit with some restrictions – including that they will have to sign up again after a year. With that said, this is the greatest progress that has been made in the eighteen months we have been trying to pass these reforms, and sets us up well with a case study for when we present a constitutional amendment at a future conference, as I hope we will.

Following a meeting of the English Young Liberals Exec, at which training was a key topic, I have held meetings with Chessie and Thom Campion of ALDC with a view to sorting out a series of training webinars for YL throughout the summer. Watch this space.

While it seems sensible to hold off for now on the ERASMUS campaign, I do intend to work closely with the Communications and Campaigns Officers to ensure that a digital campaign is ready to go once it is appropriate, and I am reluctant at this stage to give up the ghost of a physical campaign, although that is dependent on future COVID-related restrictions.

### Accessibility, Diversity, and Standards – Katharine Macy

This month I have

- Continued work on the YL Pandemic support guide (admittedly this is now much later than ideal)
- Attended all the YL webinars and the coffee morning
- Had a meeting with Josh from ALDES and supported Tara and Sophie in that discussion
- Provided feedback on the webinars
- Hosted a DC meeting where we agreed to:
  - CR & WT will organise and host an LGBT+ event
  - KM will email MK, AW and EH about their events

Disclaimer: Apologies for slow response to things, I am struggling to build a routine for myself with these drastic changes.

### BAME Officer – Chris Annous

**No Report Submitted**

### International Officer – Catriona McDougall

#### **LYMEC Congress**

On Saturday April 4th LYMEC held a digital Congress to enable them to have their elections alongside other business. I wrote a full 6 page report covering everything that happened and how Young Liberals voted for, which I emailed out to the executive already. Here is the summary from the report.

- **Young Swiss Green Liberals** were accepted as **Associate** Members of LYMEC
- **Uppreign** were accepted as **Full** Members of LYMEC - specifically citing their work on **trans rights** and that they were the first to sign LYMECs call to **save ERASMUS+ in the UK**
- All requests for reduced membership fees were approved
- All suspensions and disaffiliation of parties were approved
- **Antoaneta** was elected as the 4th consecutive female **LYMEC President**
- **Dan-Aria** was elected as **LYMEC Vice-President**

- A new **all female Bureau** members were elected **Laia, Ines, Marina, and Ida-Maria Benjamin** was elected as the **IFLRY** representative
- **Peter Banks**, our candidate for the **LYMEC Delegation to ALDE** unfortunately he missed out by 1 vote, and is LYMEC's first substitute for the delegation of ten.
- Young Liberals member **Huw James** was also present as a Delegate for LYMEC's Individual Member Section.

### **International Guide & Webinar**

I have been working on producing an international guide, based off of the poll in Forum and some personal editions. The plan is to have it published on the International page when it is complete.

I am also planning on holding a webinar on LYMEC and I can distribute the material in this as well. I may hold more after if this one is successful.

### **International Congress Delegate Committee**

On Thursday I had a meeting with the members of ICDC to discuss the webinar, guide and other ideas they would like to work on. Was only a sort meeting not much to report

### **Meeting with Bureau**

I attended a meeting of the new LYMEC Bureau (exec) on Friday afternoon.

Each of the Bureau members is assigned regional responsibilities. Laia Comerma of JNC (Catalonian Young Liberals) has been assigned as the Bureau member for the UK, however NI has been assigned to Ida-Maria. This is due to Young Liberals having a very close working relationship with JNC, and travel costs for the Bureau. So I will work directly with Laia for anything LYMEC related and she is there to help us if we need any assistance.

In LYMEC there are eight members of the Bureau, four of whom are elected with a portfolio, the president, vice-president, treasurer, and the LYMEC representative to IFLRY. The other four are assigned their portfolios after the elections, these are as follows:

Laia has been assigned Events and Training officer

Marina has been assigned Policy Officer

Ida-Maria has been assigned Communications Officer

Ines has been assigned Outreach and Cooperation Officer

### Non-Portfolio Officer – Guy Benson

Nothing to Report

## English Chair – Jack Worrall

### March ECE Meeting-

#### Points of interest for Young Liberals:

- There is no process for immediate expulsion or suspension in very serious disciplinary cases
- There will be new diversity criteria for candidates. This is because we now have more than ½ of our MPs as women.
- Within the English Party the Young Liberals went from myself last year to Myself and Kian on ECE, as well as Oliver Craven who sits as a rep to FPC, Callum Robertson on English Candidates Committee and Kian Hearnshaw on the Regional Parties Committee.

### EYL Meeting-

#### Points of interest:

- A long discussion around training with Tara, Alex, the Regional Chairs and the Vice Chair for Regional Development Alison Rouse took place.
- Minutes of the details of everything discussed are on the website

### April ECE Meeting-

#### Points of interest:

- Ed Davey came to give a talk. I put in the chat that we should be shouting about UBI right now. And Ed Davey responded by saying “I have the old fashioned belief that the Party should decide policy and not the leader.” Although, he was personally supportive. He also said that after the crisis that “we cannot go back to austerity”
- The Young Liberals inserted a few points into the English Party strategy that basically recognised us.

### Final Point:

The new disciplinary processes are failing as a party. There is no standards officer in place as the Standards Officer is off ill. There is a concern of a lack of resources within the system. The quote at the last ECE was “this new system will fall over and it will result in cases not being done in time and just falling off the system” to which the person who sits on the Federal Board Committee overseeing the new systems seemed to agree.

At this moment, our Party Pastoral Officer is very keen on getting involved with the Young Liberals and keeping us safe within the party. Like everyone, I am grateful for this concern. However, I cannot help feel that we are wasting an opportunity with Amanda. I was invited to a meeting to discuss mental health within the Young Liberals and ideas at what we should do now. Why doesn't the folk who have been elected to go to that meeting instead focus it on the new disciplinary systems and what support is being given to young members who submit complaints?

## Welsh Chair – Chloe Hutchinson

There are 2 main updates since the last report: finances and the website.

### **Finances**

In trying to get statements for the accounts it emerged that there was an issue where the mandate forms from last year's exec had not been processed by HSBC. Since the statements were first requested we have been working on sorting this out and the change of mandate form has been completed on the HSBC website and I (as of the 21st) am awaiting a final form in the post from our Treasurer (the second one to be posted as the initial one has not arrived) to complete this process. Finn has requested a number of measures that we are happy to accept in order to prevent future complications, and are in the process of establishing. This should be in place by the next meeting.

### **Website**

I have been updating our website, to ensure that the exec details are now up to date and generally tidying the site so we can make better use of it in the future. The main development has been the addition of an "Our Achievements" section, where we will highlight past campaigns and policy we have passed at Welsh conferences to build some institutional memory. So far there are 10 sub pages to this section in development.

We also plan to revive the "News" page, to highlight the work of our societies and members. We plan on sharing work from members in Nation.Cymru, Lib Dem Voice, student papers and other publications, as well as press releases from local parties about young candidates.

I am also fixing broken links where possible and one area that requires quite a bit of work moving forward is our Google Drive.

### **Societies**

We are in the process of reminding societies that they need to hold elections for next year, and supporting them where needed. So far, only Cardiff have held their elections and have elected a new committee. We plan to work closely with the societies to plan for next Freshers, encouraging more joint events in the future to spread the workload and ensure some activity for members across Wales.

### **Scottish Chair – Christopher Wilson & Andrew Reynolds**

- The Scottish Young Liberals released a joint statement with SNP Students and the Scottish Young Greens which called for all universities and colleges to implement a No Detriment policy (meaning that exams/assessments will only improve the grades of students). This position has already been taken by Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Strathclyde Universities, with the Scottish exec optimistic that other institutions will follow their lead.
- SYL's website and social media have since been championing the No Detriment Policy, with the Scottish Party's press team currently working on a press release on it as well as a comment by Willie Rennie
- D66's Youth have had to cancel their trip to visit us as a result of the current pandemic

- Our AGM has been postponed as a result of the cancellation of Scottish Conference, a new date for an online AGM will be set for next month
- Given the current pandemic the Scottish executive are considering extending our current terms to be in alignment with the Federal YL, rather than holding an election for a new exec in the midst of the current crisis