



# ENGLISH YOUNG LIBERALS

## EYL Executive 2023 Meeting - 8th January 2023 - Minutes

### Members Present:

<i>JG</i> James Green (Chairing)	he/him	<a href="mailto:james.green@youngliberals.uk">james.green@youngliberals.uk</a>
<i>JN</i> Joe Norris (Minuting)	he/him	<a href="mailto:joe.norris@youngliberals.uk">joe.norris@youngliberals.uk</a>
<i>NE</i> Nathan Eve	he/him	South Central Chair
<i>TH</i> Toby Hawkins	he/him	Western Counties Chair
<i>JW</i> Jack Worrall	he/him	Yorkshire and the Humber Co-Chair
<i>NOW</i> Nicholas Orford-Williams	he/him	London Chair
<i>RF</i> Roben Franklin	he/him	South East Chair
<i>WT</i> William Tennison	he/him	East of England Chair, Co-Comms Rep

### Reps Present:

<i>HJ</i> Huw James	he/him	Events Rep
<i>JB</i> James Bliss	he/him	Policy Rep

### Apologies:

Charlie Moore	they/she	West Midlands Chair
Tom Sutton	he/him	North West Chair
Miguel Smith	he/him	Vice-Chair
Noah Allerton	he/him	Campaigns Rep
Sean Bennett	he/him	Co-Comms Rep

### Absent:

Patrick Gilbert	he/him	Yorkshire and the Humber Co-Chair
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Agenda: [📅 Agenda Jan 23](#)

Meeting opened at 5:00pm.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies received from Charlie Moore, Tom Sutton, Miguel Smith, Noah Allerton, and Sean Bennett.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

No corrections to minutes were raised. Minutes were passed unanimously by vote.

### **3. Action Points from Last Meeting**

JG reads through action points from the December meeting. WT to share leaflet handout design from EoE Regional Conference.

### **4. Co-Option of RCs**

#### Co-options Timetable Jan 23

JG presents a timetable plan for co-opting the vacant chair positions in Devon & Cornwall, East Midlands and North East.

JW enquires about whether the D&C Regional Secretary would be able to send out an advert for the co-option when it opens. JG says he has been in contact with them and believes they would be willing to do so.

JG proposes scheduling a meeting to discuss the co-options when the time comes, organised by Doodle Poll.

Exec votes unanimously to approve the co-option schedule.

### **5. Planning for EYL GM**

#### **a. Important Dates**

##### Winter GM Dates

JG introduces key dates for planning the first EYL GM by sharing the document.

JG asks JB whether he, as Policy Rep, is ok with the proposed drafting advice timetable. JB agrees to the proposed schedule.

JW asks if there is any business that needs to happen. JG explains that we need to appoint Honorary Officers and adopt Standing Orders.

It is voted unanimously to call a General Meeting at YL Winter Conference to the proposed timetable.

**b. Business: CA to Adopt Standing Orders**

JG has proposed a text for the constitutional amendment to adopt the agreed up Standing Orders for EYL.

JB supports the wording of the CA.

JG shall move the CA as a member at the GM.

**c. Honorary Officers**

JB explains the purpose and thinking behind introducing Honorary Officers to EYL. Highlights that Honorary Vice Presidents are optional.

JG invites Exec Members to suggest ideas for who should be approached for the position of Honorary President.

HJ asks what qualities we would want in a candidate. JG and JB explain that ideally the candidate would be semi involved with the English Party, and who would ideally not be a YLer to be an advocate for EYL in the larger party.

JW raises the point that if their role is to be solely constitutional interpretations, the candidate requirements would be different from someone we're looking for to be an advocate of EYL.

The Exec discusses possible candidates.

HJ and JG suggest going away and trying to come up with candidate ideas for the next exec meeting in February.

**6. Emails Plan**

JG explains the email plan that has been achieved with WT, SB and Harvey Jones (Federal Comms). Raises that technical struggles have been experienced with the existing Nation Builder system. The delay in producing an accurate list of English members has caused delays to the plan for the monthly email bulletin.

JG summarises the email plan: Harvey Jones to organise regional opt-outs in a federally organised series of emails (to be circulated in the 3rd week of the

month; see slack for deadlines); JG/JN/WT/SB to coordinate an England-wide email bulletin (to be circulated with members in the 1st week of the month; deadline 2 days before the end of the month). JG stresses the importance of RCs submitting content for the bulletins and that it need not be regionally organised events; branch/society events should be included too.

JW advocates for EC reports from the Chairs to be emailed out separately due to the importance of EC to our funding. JG said that he and JN committed to writing a report from each EC meeting, and will make sure it is a separate email to the membership.

## **7. Update on EYL Style Guide**

JN explains that EYL has been using its own visual style. JG explains that Federal are cooperating with the desires of EYL, and that SYL and WYL will adapt the same style to suit their states. EYL shall produce a style guide for EYL and regions to use.

WT asks if the style guide has been shared. JG explains that the style guide hasn't been created yet, but shall be. Expresses the desire for JN, WT, SB and himself to sit down and review it before it is implemented. JG agrees that the style guide should be brought to the executive as well.

## **8. Feedback from Members Consultation (The Future of EYL)**

JG presents anonymised feedback from the members' consultation that went out in the week prior. The consultation received 42 responses, with answers coming from every region.

The Exec would like to express their thanks to everyone who took part in the survey.

JG shared the results of the consultation with the executive. Key learnings included: lack of identification with EYL among the membership; lack of awareness of goings on within the regions; want for more campaigning and social events to be organised. JG to anonymise and share results with the executive.

HJ asks for how JG would synthesise, what we would learn from it. JG of the opinion that there is some sort of need for structural change. Notes we're not getting the engagement at a regional level. Wants to put effort into events and campaigning opportunities, and making EYL accessible.

WT observes that communication was a big part of the feedback, in particular that regions struggle to communicate events. Believes that solving the communication problem could relieve a lot of other issues that were raised.

JW says that the survey quantifies information that has been known informally for a while. Believes that since the removal of the directly elected Vice-Chair, the functions they performed had not been filled, causing stagnation as a state. Hopes that the return of the Vice-Chair this year will be positive. Adds that although the standard of Regional Chair has been improving, a lack of direction and oversight has caused their regions to suffer.

JG agrees, but argues that a lot is left at the regions, where EYL could step up, e.g. by organising events in regions. Thinks that there is a gap for England to be organising more things and communicating them, but that it is not allowed by the current structure (shared by the Co-Chairs and the VC). WT believes there could be real benefit in England stepping in, but thinks that micromanaging of the regions could be detrimental. Wants England to find a way to support what the regions want to do.

JG wants to shift the focus away from regions doing things supported by England, to England doing things supported by regions. Points out that no regional exec has more than 4 people, but England has the people and reach to support things properly. HJ says that YL is too small and inactive to thrive on a regional level, and points out that people don't want to engage on an England basis due to lack of identity.

JG says that EYL holds a lot of power and influence through its place in the party in England. JW agrees and adds that the EYL officer team can prompt regions to hold action days as appropriate.

**a. Forming a Working Group**

JG says that himself, MS and JN are interested in creating a working group to review any structural changes that can be made by being informed from the consultation. The working group would be open to anyone interested.

JB and WT express interest in joining the working group.

HJ advocates for a representative from the Federal Exec to join the working group, as well as individuals from underrepresented genders.

It is decided that JG, JN, MS, JB and WT will form the initial working group. JG will reach out to other stakeholders and representatives to receive applicants from outside the EYL Exec.

**b. Consultation at Conference**

JG to prepare to undertake further consultation at winter conference.

**9. EYL Speaker Event**

JN introduces the idea of an EYL speaker event featuring a speaker that is not a party member. Explains that while it is appropriate that YL holds speaker events with party figures, EYL has the prerogative to host external speakers.

JN gives the example that Warwick Uni Lib Dems hosted Ian Dunt, the political commentator, as a speaker over lock down, and that was a successful and interesting event.

HJ suggests speakers from affiliated think tanks, and suggests some specific names.

RF supports the idea to get people interested and get people's foot in the door of EYL.

JN to go away and explore interest, with the Exec to consider ideas.

**10. Regional Inventory**

JG shares the regional inventory, a collection of information from each of the regions.

JG requests that regional chairs fill in the information for the regions.

HJ asks if some of the information is available to Federal through the branch accreditation scheme. JG expresses that we want to know which branches we are currently in contact with, not that just exist in theory. HJ suggests doing some filtering thing that JG agrees with.

## 11. Matters Arising from Reports

### January 2023 EYL Reports

RF queries the situation with SEYL. JG explains that RF is the only person on his exec. JG to talk with RF about organising for the SEYL.

There were no other matters arising from reports.

## 12. AOB

No additional business was raised.

## Action Points

- WT to share leaflet handout.
- JG/JN to get the Secretaries of the regions with co-options to promote them.
- JG to organise a co-option discussion meeting by Doodle Poll.
- JN to share Decembers' Minutes on YLF.
- Executive to consider possible candidates for Honorary Officer positions and to bring ideas to the next Exec meeting.
- JN to create a style guide for EYL.
- JG, JN, MS, JB and WT to form a working group to review the structure of EYL.
- JG to reach out to other stakeholders to recruit applicants to the working group.
- JG to anonymise and share the consultation results with the executive.
- JG to prepare to undertake further consultation at winter conference.
- JN to explore potential speakers
- Exec to consider ideas for speakers.
- Regional Chairs to complete the regional checklist.

Next meeting will be the 5th of February at 5:00pm.

Meeting closed at 6:18pm.

**E&OE**