

**English Young Liberals  
Winter General Meeting 2023  
Motions**

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# Business Motions

## BM1: Celebrating EYL Members' Successes

**Submittor: James Green**

**Proposer: TBC**

**Summator: TBC**

The English Young Liberals General Meeting notes:

1. The recent election of EYL members, Kian Hearnshaw and Lucas North, as Vice Chairs of the Liberal Democrats in England.
2. The recent election of EYL members, Oliver Jones-Lyons and Lucas North, as members of the Regions and Parties Committee (RPC).
3. The recent election of EYL member, Joe Norris, to the English Finance and Administration Committee (EFAC).
4. The recent election of EYL members, Kian Hearnshaw, Oliver Jones-Lyons, Lucas North and Fergus Ustianowski, as directly elected members of the English Council Executive.
5. The recent election of EYL member, Seàn Bennett, as English Rep. to the Federal International Relations Committee (FIRC).
6. The recent election of EYL member, Darryl Smalley, as English Rep. to the Federal Conference Committee (FCC) and as an English Rep. to the G8 Committee.

The English Young Liberal General Meeting resolve:

- A. That the election of these EYL members is a massive success and should be celebrated;
- B. To congratulate Seàn Bennett, Kian Hearnshaw, Oliver Jones-Lyons, Joe Norris, Lucas North, Darryl Smalley and Fergus Ustianowski on their election;
- C. To thank them for their hard work and dedication;
- D. To recognise their fantastic work representing the English Young Liberals within the English Party.

# BM2: Election of an Honorary President

**Submittor: EYL Executive**

**Proposer: TBC**

**Summator: TBC**

The English Young Liberals General Meeting resolves:

1. To elect Louise Harris as Honorary President of the English Young Liberals for a term ending at the 2024 Summer General Meeting.

# Constitutional Amendments

## CA1: Standing Orders

**Submitter: EYL Executive**

**Proposer: TBC**

**Summator: TBC**

To take immediate effect:

In 10.n delete:

“rules of procedure and standing orders used at the ongoing or immediate past conference of the federal Young Liberals”

Insert in its place:

“standing orders attached in the appendices.”

Insert new appendix :

<appendix>

### **English Young Liberals General Meeting Standing Orders**

1. The English Young Liberals (EYL) Executive shall set the dates of General Meetings and shall arrange for the location, dates, registration procedures, and deadlines to be communicated to members, in line with the constitution.
  
2. General Meeting Agenda
  - 2.1. The EYL Executive shall set the agenda for General Meetings.
  - 2.2. The agenda for General Meetings shall be published:
    - 2.2.1. With selected business motions and constitutional amendments 10 days prior to the opening of the General Meeting; and
    - 2.2.2. With selected amendments to business motions and constitutional amendments 3 days prior to the opening of the General Meeting.
  - 2.3. The agenda for each General Meeting, save an Extraordinary General Meeting, shall include time for:
    - 2.3.1. An Executive scrutiny session;
    - 2.3.2. A business session, for the consideration and debate of business motions and constitutional amendments;
    - 2.3.3. Emergency business items; and
    - 2.3.4. Any other business which the EYL Executive deems appropriate, such as training sessions, consultations or speakers.
  - 2.4. Business items may be submitted by any individual member or in the name of the EYL Executive or a Regional Executive.
  - 2.5. Submission deadlines shall be as follows:

Business motions	14 days prior to the opening of the General Meeting
Constitutional amendments	14 days prior to the opening of the General Meeting
Amendments to business motions	7 days prior to the opening of the General Meeting
Amendments to constitutional amendments	7 days prior to the opening of the General Meeting
Emergency items	72hrs prior to the opening of the General Meeting
Amendments to emergency items	At the General Meeting, as agreed by the EYL Executive

- 2.6. Late submissions may be considered at the discretion of the EYL Executive.
- 2.7. The EYL Policy Representative, or the EYL Executive, shall offer drafting advice for submissions to the General Meeting. The Representative should open up submissions for drafting advice at least 7 days prior to the submission deadline, and may at their discretion set a drafting advice submission deadline.
- 2.8. In the case of motions on members of the EYL Executive, the submission may be made directly to the chair of the executive scrutiny session or, if announced in advance, to the EYL Executive.

### 3. Selection of motions and amendments

- 3.1. The EYL Executive shall select the motions to be debated and the order of debate from amongst those submitted.
  - 3.1.1. When choosing which motions to select or not, the EYL Executive should prioritise issues of particular relevance or importance to EYL.
- 3.2. Motions may only be outright rejected on the grounds that they:
  - 3.2.1. have been submitted late;
  - 3.2.2. conflict with the Constitution of EYL or the Young Liberals; or
  - 3.2.3. are incomprehensible, frivolous or ambiguous;
  - 3.2.4. in the case of an emergency motion, the lack of any matter of substance in the motion that arose after the non-emergency submission deadline; or
  - 3.2.5. the motion is on a matter that is already EYL, Young Liberals or Liberal Democrat policy and does not add or deal with any new or substantive matter.

- 3.3. If two conflicting motions on the same topic are received, the EYL Executive may liaise with the proposers to draft a composite motion or may select one motion and reject the other, inviting the proposer of the rejected motion to move an amendment.
- 3.4. The EYL Executive may reject amendments to business motions, and constitutional amendments on the grounds that they are:
  - 3.4.1. insubstantial;
  - 3.4.2. incomprehensible, frivolous or ambiguous; or
  - 3.4.3. outside the scope of the motion
- 3.5. Constitutional amendments may be rejected if they would conflict with the constitution of the English Young Liberals, Young Liberals, the Liberal Democrats or the law.
  - 3.5.1. Members whose amendments have been rejected under these grounds may appeal to the EYL Executive.
- 3.6. The EYL Executive may approve or make drafting amendments to motions, which will not be required to be passed by the General Meeting, in the run up to the debate so as to improve expression, remove inaccuracy or superfluity, take account of new developments or any such other amendment that does not fundamentally change the meaning or substance of a motion. The EYL Executive should consult with the author of the motion when doing so, and opportunity should be given to reverse any such drafting amendment if it is contentious.

#### **4. Extraordinary General Meeting**

- 4.1. The EYL Executive shall, as soon as practicable after the requisitioning of an extraordinary general meeting, fix a date for the meeting, draw up the agenda and, if appropriate, specify a date for the submission of amendments. The meeting shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition, unless other business is approved by the EYL Executive as set out in the Constitution.
- 4.2. In setting dates for the submission of motions and amendments and giving notice thereof of the Extraordinary General Meeting itself, the EYL Executive shall endeavour to follow the timescales laid down elsewhere in these standing orders but, where this is not practicable, the EYL Executive shall set such dates as it sees fit.

#### **5. Chair and conduct of debate**

- 5.1. The EYL Executive shall allocate a chair and aide to each session.
  - 5.1.1. The chair of the debate shall be responsible for the conduct of the debate.

- 5.1.2. The aide shall assist the chair of the debate and shall be responsible for recording the votes.
- 5.1.3. The chair of the debate and aide may vote only if the vote is held by secret ballot or electronic voting.
- 5.2. Debates on motions, except for executive scrutiny, shall be conducted in the following manner:
  - 5.2.1. The chair of the debate shall announce the time limits for speakers as determined by the EYL Executive.
  - 5.2.2. The proposer, or their nominee, shall introduce the motion.
  - 5.2.3. Each amendment shall be introduced by its proposer or their nominee.
  - 5.2.4. Members present shall debate the motion.
  - 5.2.5. The proposer of each amendment, or their nominee shall summate the debate on that amendment. If the amendment has not been opposed, the chair of the debate may decline to call for a summation on the amendment.
  - 5.2.6. The proposer of the motion, or their nominee, shall summate the debate on the motion. If the motion has not been opposed, the chair of the debate may decline to call for a summation on the motion.
  - 5.2.7. Members present shall vote on the amendments, and then on the motion as amended.

## **6. Voting at a General Meeting**

- 6.1. Votes shall be taken by such electronic means as decided by the EYL Executive, by secret ballot.
  - 6.1.1. Where it is not possible to implement a satisfactory form of electronic voting, the EYL Executive may by exception decide to hold votes through a show of voting cards or hands, unless a request for a vote by secret ballot has been approved.
- 6.2. Constitutional amendments shall require a two-thirds majority vote.
- 6.3. Motions of no confidence shall require a two-thirds majority vote.
- 6.4. All other motions shall require a simple majority vote.
- 6.5. Majorities shall be calculated by reference to those present and voting, excluding any abstentions.
- 6.6. A separate vote may be taken on a part of a motion or amendment:
  - 6.6.1. at the direction of the EYL Executive;
  - 6.6.2. at the discretion of the chair of the debate; or
  - 6.6.3. as a result of a procedural motion under standing orders.

## **7. Points of Order and Procedural Motions**



- 7.1. Any member may rise on a point of order which shall be taken immediately except that, during a vote, no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the conduct of the vote. The chair of the debate's decision on all points of order shall be final.
- 7.2. No confidence in the chair of the debate
  - 7.2.1. A voting General Meeting member may, during any session, move, in writing, a motion to have no confidence in the chair of the debate. The mover shall make the request known to the chair of the debate, the EYL Chair, and the EYL Vice-Chair.
  - 7.2.2. The debate on the business at hand shall halt, the chair of the debate shall temporarily hand over to their aide or a member of the EYL Executive, who shall conduct the vote on the procedural motion. Henceforth referred to as the "acting chair".
  - 7.2.3. The acting chair shall read the request and shall allow the mover to speak, and the chair of the debate to reply. The acting chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion of no confidence will be limited to two minutes.
  - 7.2.4. The motion shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current debate will temporarily adjourn until the EYL Executive selects a new chair of the debate and aide for the debate.
- 7.3. Overrule a decision of the chair of the debate
  - 7.3.1. A voting member may, during any session, move, in writing, a motion to overrule a decision or interpretation made by the chair of the debate.
  - 7.3.2. The chair of the debate may recuse themselves, in which case their aide shall take over as acting chair while the procedural motion is dealt with.
  - 7.3.3. The chair of the debate shall read the request and allow the mover to speak, and the chair of the debate may reply to defend their decision.
  - 7.3.4. The motion shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If the motion is carried, then the decision in question shall be reversed.
- 7.4. Suspend standing orders
  - 7.4.1. A voting member may, during any session, move, in writing, a motion for the suspension of standing orders.
  - 7.4.2. The chair of the debate may reject a request if it is deemed frivolous, unnecessary, ambiguous or too broad.
  - 7.4.3. The chair of the debate shall read the request and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, allow the mover to speak and a representative of the EYL Executive may reply. The chair of the debate shall have the discretion to allow

other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.

7.4.4. A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of those voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

7.5. Move to next business

7.5.1. A voting member may, during any session, submit, in writing, a request to move to the next business.

7.5.2. If more than one request is received the chair of the debate shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.

7.5.3. When the request is to be taken, the chair of the debate shall read the request, and the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair of the debate may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes.

7.5.4. The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair of the debate, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

7.6. Move straight to a vote;

7.6.1. A voting member may, during any session, submit, in writing, a request to move straight to a vote on the current agenda item.

7.6.2. If more than one request is received the chair of the debate shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.

7.6.3. When the request is to be taken, the chair of the debate shall read the request, and the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair of the debate may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes.

7.6.4. The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried then members shall move to vote on the current agenda item without any further debate or discussion.

7.7. Refer back (to the EYL Executive);

7.7.1. A voting member may submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.

- 7.7.2. When the request is to be taken, the chair of the debate shall read the request, and the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair of the debate may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes.
- 7.7.3. The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair of the debate, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- 7.7.4. If the substantive motion is referred to the Executive, the EYL Chair or the appropriate member of the EYL Executive shall, in their report to the next General Meeting, state what action it has taken on the reference.
  - 7.7.4.1. If elections take place before the next General Meeting, the incumbent officer shall endeavour to inform their successor of their responsibilities under this standing order.
- 7.8. Request a counted vote;
  - 7.8.1. Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, either immediately before or after a vote. If such a request is made after a vote then the vote shall be retaken with the aide recording the count of the vote.
- 7.9. Vote separately on a section / vote in parts;
  - 7.9.1. A voting member may request, in writing, that the chair of the debate take a separate vote on a part of a motion or amendment. The motion shall be carried if supported by a simple majority of members voting.
- 7.10. Secret ballot.
  - 7.10.1. Any voting member may move for a vote to be taken by secret ballot, should that not already be the case. The mover shall submit in writing to the chair of the debate the specifics of their request.
  - 7.10.2. The request may be taken for a specific vote, for multiple votes on the current item of business or for the remainder of that session.
  - 7.10.3. Requested secret votes shall be taken by passing out voting paper, with members indicating yes or no. The chair of the debate and aide shall be responsible for collecting and counting the votes.
    - 7.10.3.1. Votes that are illegible or unclear may be rejected by the chair of the debate as spoilt ballots, the decision of the chair of the debate shall be final.
  - 7.10.4. A motion to vote by secret ballot shall only be carried if supported by a simple majority of members voting.
- 7.11. Chair's Ruling

- 7.11.1. Any voting member may request for the chair of the debate to make a ruling on a matter which pertains to the item under debate, the conduct of the debate, or other such matter as may be relevant to the conduct of the General Meeting. The chair of the debate shall consult with the EYL Executive as needed in making such a ruling.
- 7.12. If no member present wishes to oppose a procedural motion, it shall pass without a vote.
- 7.13. Valid procedural motions shall be dealt with immediately upon receipt by the chair of the debate, except that a member speaking at the time shall not be interrupted before the end of their time.
  - 7.13.1. The chair of the debate, with the agreement of the EYL Executive, may reject all procedural motions with the exception of those to express no confidence in the chair of the debate, to overrule the decision of the chair and to request a secret ballot or a counted vote, if they believe that the use of procedural motions is vexatious.
  - 7.13.2. Any procedural motion under 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.9, 7.10 or 7.11 may be requested in advance, in writing, to the EYL Executive or, if announced in advance, the chair of the relevant session. The chair of the relevant session in consultation with the EYL Executive shall decide the timing of when the request shall be taken during the debate.
- 7.14. No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

## **8. Executive Scrutiny Session**

- 8.1. There shall be an executive scrutiny session, to which members of the EYL Executive shall submit reports, members may ask questions to members of the EYL Executive and during which motions on EYL Executive members shall be debated.
- 8.2. The chair of this session shall be the EYL Chair, with the exception of items of business relating to themselves, in which case another member of the EYL Executive may be delegated to be chair, as agreed by the EYL Executive.
- 8.3. Any voting member may submit questions to any member of the EYL Executive, taken after they have completed presenting their report.
- 8.4. Members present shall vote to accept or reject each report, with a simple majority required to accept the report.
- 8.5. The following motions on members of the EYL Executive may be debated:
  - 8.5.1. Motion of no confidence (which shall have the effect of removing the subject from office, as set out in the Constitution);
  - 8.5.2. Motion of censure;

- 8.5.3. Motion of commendation.
  - 8.5.3.1. The submission of a motion of commendation shall only be accepted by the chair of the session if it is co-signed by 3 or more members in addition to the submitter of the motion.
- 8.6. Motions on members of the EYL Executive shall be moved by the proposer, or their nominee.
- 8.7. The individual to whom the motion relates may respond.
- 8.8. Other speakers may be taken at the discretion of the chair of the session, provided that the officer or officers to which the motion relates are given a fair right of reply to any points raised.
- 8.9. Motions on each individual shall be debated in the order set out in 8.5 and if there are multiple submissions of the same type of motion they shall be debated and voted on as one motion.
  - 8.9.1. At the discretion of the chair of the session, motions may be debated separately if it can be demonstrated that there are multiple unrelated reasons for a motion that cannot be reasonably considered in one debate.
  
- 9.** All motions shall be effective immediately, except for constitutional amendments (including amendments to these Standing Orders) which shall take effect from the close of the General Meeting.
  
- 10.** Ambiguities in these regulations shall be settled by the ruling of the chair of the session.
  
- 11.** These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members voting in a General Meeting.

</appendix>

## CA2: Co-Options and By-Elections

**Submitter: James Bliss**

**Proposer: TBC**

**Summator: TBC**

Add new 11.n.iii

"Any person who has placed lower than Re-Open Nominations (RON) in a previous election shall be ineligible to nominate for either a co-option or by-election to fill a vacancy in the same role until the next regular election to that position."

Amendment 1

**Submitter: Harry Marston**

**Proposer: Harry Marston**

**Summator: Harry Marston**

After "(RON)" insert

"in the most recent election, by a margin greater than 15 percent of the total number of votes cast"

## CA3: Representatives

**Submitter: James Bliss**

**Proposer: TBC**

**Summator: TBC**

To take effect immediately:

In 7.c. replace "and" with ", " and add "and Representatives to Committees"

Replace 7.r.i with

"Representatives to committees of the Federal Young Liberals who are not otherwise members of the executive shall be full members of the English Young Liberals executive in their own right."