

**LDER AGM - 2020/2021**  
**2nd November 2021: 7:30pm - 8:10pm, followed by discussion**

**Present:**

From the LDER executive: Wendy Chamberlain MP, (President); Denis Mollison (Chair); Keith Sharp (Secretary); Helen Parker (Membership Secretary); Richard Lawrie (Treasurer); executive members - Kathrine Santos, Hazel Fell-Rayner, Sarah Lewis, Crispin Allard.

56 members joined the meeting.

**Apologies:**

Julia Ewart; Peter Hirst; Cathy Davies

**Minutes of the AGM 2020:**

*Minutes approved.*

**Matters arising:**

*No matters arising.*

**Chair's report [held after Membership Report] (Denis Mollison, Chair):**

- Overall political context is bad - and increasingly bad e.g. Elections Bill - electoral reform in the wrong direction; so we have to work harder
- Exec strengthened by Kathrine Santos, Hazel F-R and Andrew H
- Focus on principal goal: PR for Westminster in programme for the next government
- Five workstreams:
  - Leadership engagement: Alistair, Wendy, Mark, Paul
  - Grassroots and members: Three Zoom meetings aside from regular ROB - latest with Paul Tyler and Hina Bokhari
  - Social media: Got going on Twitter - up to around 1000 followers with effective amplification (with thanks to Andrew Hyett)
  - Working with allies: Positive relations with MVM, ERS, Unlock Democracy and cross party incl. With Compass and on electoral reform in Wales
- Organisational level - party bodies: Changes are (positive) - better communications with party membership and other party bodies, and can now submit motions to conference in our own right.

Full Chair's report: <http://lder.org/d816f>

*Chair's report approved.*

**Treasurer's report (Richard Lawrie, Treasurer):**

- Approx. GBP300 better off than at the beginning of the year

- About GBP350 to come in further subscriptions before the end of the year
- Taken on a Zoom account and a more expensive website account
- Conferences expenses: helped by two allies (GBP800) for two fringe events
- Looks as though we are healthy but we will face further expenses (if we want to hold two fringe events next year) including a potential return to real world conferences - so fundraising imperative
- Stable with each of our banks, though since the delivery of the report much of the PayPal balance has moved to Lloyds
- PayPal is now redundant and we are taking subscriptions through Stripe
- Thanks to Dominic Mathon for examining and approving the accounts of LDER
- Standing down as Treasurer and looking for a replacement and available for full handover.

Question from Lawrie and Sheila Smithson:

- More people present than the number of people subscribing?
  - Treasurer: We have over 110 subscribers vs the 40 people on the Zoom. Clarified as per second page of financial report.

*Treasurer's report approved.*

**Membership report (Helen Parker, Membership Secretary):**

- Increase on last year: 117 paying members, out of the 950 who subscribe to newsletters and other information from LDER
- More active engagement through digital conferences and communications
- Autumn conference fringe events: Poll function on HopIn was effective in driving sign ups
- New website has also eased sign up process
- Let Helen know if any difficulties with membership-related functions: [info@lder.org](mailto:info@lder.org)

*Membership report approved.*

**Annual accounts:**

- Now signed off by the independent examiner

*Accounts approved (proposed: Denis Mollison; seconded: Keith Sharp).*

**Membership fees:**

- Fees to remain static at GBP10 / GBP5.

*Membership fees approved as stand (proposed: Denis Mollison; seconded: Hazel Fell-Rayner).*

**Officers**

- President: **Wendy Chamberlain** - approved (proposed: Denis Mollison; seconded: Kathrine Santos)
- Chair: **Keith Sharp** - approved (proposed: Denis Mollison; seconded: Hazel Fell-Rayner)
- Secretary: **Sarah Lewis** - approved (proposed: Keith Sharp; seconded Richard Lawrie)
- Treasurer: **Richard Lawrie** - approved (proposed: Denis Mollison; seconded: Crispin Allard). Note: Richard would like to handover. Contact Keith or Sarah at [info@lder.org](mailto:info@lder.org) to discuss
- Membership: **Helen Parker** (proposed: Denis Mollison, seconded: Sarah Lewis).

### Other Exec members

- **Crispin Allard, Hazel Fell-Rayner, Kathrine Santos, Peter Hirst** (re-elected to the Executive)
- **Richard Wood** (new member to the Exec) - approved (proposed: Denis Mollison; seconded Kathrine Santos)
- Keith Sharp extended thanks to Denis Mollison for his three year term as Chair and **Denis Mollison** approved as a co-optee and former chair onto the Executive (approved by LDER Executive).

*Action: Exec members to write a blurb on the website outlining their background.*

### Appointment of Examiner

- Propose reappoint Dominic Mathon as independent examiner.

*Appointment of Examiner approved (proposed: Keith Sharp; seconded: Denis Mollison).*

### Other business remaining

- Motion to amend our objectives:
  - Streamlining of wording
  - Dropping explicit mention of AV

*Amendment of objectives approved (proposed: Denis Mollison; seconded: Keith Sharp).*

### Discussion

Following the AGM, there was a debate on **How to get electoral reform this time - the crucial steps we need to take**; led by guest speakers **Wendy Chamberlain MP**, President LDER and **Lord Paul Tyler** CBE, who has announced his retirement from front-line politics after 65 years of activity.

You can watch the full discussion here:

<https://youtu.be/FqMAIo5wMFc>

Wendy thanked Paul for his great work, outlining his career and expressed her gratitude to him for the way he had supported her when, as a newly-elected MP, she took on the portfolio of political and constitutional reform.

Paul and Wendy then made several key points about the opportunity and the challenges we face:

- The need for cross-party campaigning; noting the progress Labour has made towards adopting PR and the work done by organisations such as Make Votes Matter
- Connect electoral reform/fair votes to ensuring peoples' voices are heard - we can and must make this a 'doorstep friendly' issue
- Voting is now subject to a 'big churn' - intentions could change dramatically over the coming 18 months
- We will need tactical voting at the next election to make sure first past the post is abolished
- In response to questions about electoral pacts or alliances: Paul and Wendy both advised caution - to win seats next time, we need to attract both Labour and Conservative votes; and 'we don't own our voters' - we cannot assume that, were we to stand down in a constituency, all our votes would go where we want them to go
- We are at the 'early stages of the end game' for changing the electoral system - the question is when, rather than if - but we have to target our resources appropriately.