



# Notes

Oct 7, 2025

# Meeting Oct 7, 2025 at 18:15 BST

Meeting records  Transcript  Recording

## Summary

Ulysse Abbate chaired the hustings for the Young Liberals internal elections, featuring discussions for the Scottish Young Liberals and International Officers with opening statements, a Q&A session, and closing remarks. The candidates for Scottish Young Liberals convenor were Malcolm Heughan and Artie Khovanov, while Tom Jordan, Arthur Wu, and Christina Nowell ran for International Officer. The candidates discussed their motivations, priorities, strategies for membership engagement and fundraising, and their visions for their respective roles.

## Details

- **Hustings Overview and Structure** Ulysse Abbate, the chair, commenced the hustings for the Young Liberals internal elections, specifying that the event would feature discussions for the Scottish Young Liberals and International Officers. They outlined the format, including opening and closing statements, and a Q&A session, ensuring adherence to conduct and fairness regulations ([00:00:00](#)). Abbate also provided contact information for questions and announced the candidates for the Scottish Young Liberals convenor as Malcolm Heughan and Artie Khovanov ([00:00:54](#)).
- **Scottish Young Liberals Convenor Opening Statements** Artie Khovanov emphasized the crucial year ahead for Scottish Liberals, highlighting upcoming elections and the opportunity for the Scottish Lib Dems to grow. They underscored the need for the Scottish Young Liberals (SYL) to engage young voters, prioritize their interests, and build campaigning capacity by co-opting a full committee to organize events and content ([00:02:52](#)). Malcolm Heughan stressed the importance of the year for Scottish young liberal history, aiming to be a real alternative for young people ([00:04:07](#)). They drew on their experience as founder and chair of the Highland Young Liberals, where they successfully grew membership, and expressed a desire to apply

these methods across Scotland to engage young volunteers for the upcoming elections ([00:05:06](#)).

- **Role of SYL in 2026 Scottish Parliamentary Elections** Malcolm Heughan articulated that the Scottish Young Liberals would undertake significant efforts, with young people leading campaigning and vote-getting activities. They aimed to foster close collaboration between young Liberals and candidates, advocating for more young individuals to join campaign teams to enhance success in 2026 ([00:07:08](#)). Artie Khovanov highlighted SYL's role in providing organizing and door-to-door campaigning capacity by growing and engaging membership. They also emphasized the importance of the "air war" side, including communications and social media, to promote the party and secure earned media, particularly among university populations ([00:08:01](#)).
- **Ensuring Strong Results in 2026 Elections** Artie Khovanov stated their commitment to extensive campaigning, emphasizing that as SYL convenor, their primary role would be to build and shape a full committee. This involves identifying individual strengths within the team to ensure effective execution of on-the-ground campaigning, communications, and organizational tasks ([00:09:14](#)). Malcolm Heughan focused on increasing the number of active young Liberals, drawing on their experience in the Highlands where they encouraged young Liberals to plan and organize campaign and social events. They expressed a desire to implement similar initiatives across all branches as convenor, working closely to organize "Young Liberal takeovers" ([00:10:25](#)).
- **Growing SYL Membership and Supporting Branches** Malcolm Heughan discussed their plans to grow SYL membership, referencing their success in rapidly expanding the Highland branch despite geographical challenges ([00:10:25](#)). They aimed to create a nurturing, positive, and proactive environment where members understand their strengths and can contribute effectively. Artie Khovanov also stressed the importance of growing and engaging membership, acknowledging past efforts by Leo and the current SYL executive in addressing capacity issues ([00:11:32](#)). They highlighted the progress made in establishing active branches, including Edinburgh and the Highlands, and emphasized the need to co-opt executive members who can further drive membership growth ([00:12:29](#)).
- **Collaboration with Scottish HQ** Artie Khovanov underscored the importance of coordinating with Scottish HQ to leverage staff and resources effectively. They noted a current lack of coordination among branches, particularly university branches, and believe that working with HQ can significantly improve this aspect. Malcolm Heughan emphasized a reciprocal relationship where SYL supports HQ and HQ supports SYL, advocating for HQ to

understand how to best involve young people. They mentioned recent discussions with the membership officer on engaging young Liberals, highlighting the value of ongoing communication and cooperation ([00:13:52](#)).

- **Successes and Failures in Branch Leadership** Malcolm Heughan shared their pride in founding the Highland Young Liberals from scratch, noting that within a few months, young members equaled regular members in the branch ([00:14:55](#)). However, they identified a failure in the organization of their first "Young Liberal takeover" event, which experienced administrative issues despite ultimately working out. Artie Khovanov highlighted their success in organizing engaging events, including a significant event on Ukraine with local politicians, and achieving cross-party and cross-community engagement ([00:15:57](#)). They also noted the success of their cross-party statement on campus presence but identified a weakness when a previous president defected, emphasizing the need to ensure engaged and enthusiastic members remain with the party ([00:17:20](#)).
- **Winning Over Young SNP Members** Artie Khovanov proposed focusing on values to attract young SNP members, particularly as the SNP has seemingly retreated from its "progressive nationalist" strategy. They noted dissatisfaction among younger voters in Edinburgh with the SNP's perceived abandonment of values, such as trans rights and climate issues, suggesting that the Liberal Democrats can drive a wedge by offering an alternative ([00:18:46](#)). Malcolm Heughan argued that young people are astute enough to see the long-term stagnation in public services under the SNP government. They believe that young people recognize the SNP's unfulfilled promises and that the Liberal Democrats can position themselves as a viable alternative by engaging these voters ([00:20:01](#)).
- **Supporting Growth of University Clubs and Local Parties** Malcolm Heughan suggested that regular events and communications are crucial for establishing Young Liberal clubs in areas without a strong Liberal presence. They emphasized the significant role of social media posts and online campaigns in these efforts, particularly where more intensive work is required ([00:20:59](#)). Artie Khovanov highlighted the critical step of finding one or two liberal-minded students at a university to establish an official society, creating a "foothold" that attracts more members once a presence is established and officially registered with the student union ([00:22:07](#)). For areas with less Lib Dem representation, Artie Khovanov and Malcolm Heughan both stressed the importance of identifying and supporting committed individuals, emphasizing hard work, consistent campaigning, and organizing local events, even if it requires committee members to travel ([00:23:10](#)). Malcolm Heughan added

that maintaining engagement through simple phone calls and fostering a positive environment can help retain members in less strong areas ([00:24:12](#)).

- **Relationship with Federal Young Liberals** Malcolm Heughan stated that the relationship between the Scottish Young Liberals (SYL) and the Federal Young Liberals should mirror that with headquarters, with both entities working collaboratively while recognizing SYL's distinct identity. Artie Khovanov explained that as SYL convenor, they would serve as the primary link, sitting on the Federal Young Liberals' executive ([00:25:13](#)). They described this as an aspect of federalism, where SYL handles local campaigning and communications tailored to Scotland's context, while also pooling resources, such as fundraising, where it makes sense federally ([00:26:27](#)).
- **Reasons for Joining the Liberal Democrats** Artie Khovanov stated that they joined the Liberal Democrats approximately a year prior due to their core liberal values, including beliefs in freedom and equality, and a dissatisfaction with the Labour party's "petty authoritarian" actions ([00:27:26](#)). Malcolm Heughan shared that they had always been interested in politics and realized their alignment with Liberal Democrat values after work experience with local MP Jamie Stone. They subsequently became involved with and joined their local branch, expressing no regrets ([00:28:20](#)).
- **Policy Agreement and Disagreement** Malcolm Heughan expressed strong agreement with the Liberal Democrats' policies on young carer support, finding them highly important. They stated they were unsure about a policy they disagreed with. Artie Khovanov expressed strong support for the party's policies on LGBT rights, including trans self-ID. They stated their disagreement with the party's opposition to the "family farm tax," advocating for the land to be free ([00:29:16](#)).
- **Campaign Experience for Young Liberals Candidates** Artie Khovanov stated that they have never directly campaigned for a Young Liberal candidate, having primarily campaigned for older candidates like Ian Solom and Edinburgh councilors. Malcolm Heughan, who is a council candidate themselves, acknowledged campaigning for himself while out for Andrew Baxter, but noted it wasn't official canvassing ([00:30:30](#)). They mentioned campaigning for relatively young candidates like Neil Alexander and David Green, but agreed with Artie Khovanov that there are few explicitly Young Liberal candidates ([00:31:34](#)).
- **Quick-Fire Questions: Party Color and Liberal Ideology** In a quick-fire round, Malcolm Heughan stated a preference for the color orange for the Liberal Democrats, though they acknowledged their current decor featured yellow.

Artie Khovanov expressed appreciation for the party's new, bold, and assertive color rebrand. Both Artie Khovanov and Malcolm Heughan identified as social liberals ([00:33:44](#)).

- **Quick-Fire Questions: Favorite Affiliated Organization** When asked about their favorite affiliated organization (AO), Malcolm Heughan mentioned the International Liberals and the Liberal Democrats Women as doing good work. Artie Khovanov, being on the executive of LGBT+ Liberal Democrats, stated they had to choose them ([00:34:50](#)).
- **Closing Statements** Artie Khovanov reiterated their experience in building branches from scratch and transforming enthusiastic groups into effective, professional teams, citing their work with the Edinburgh University Liberal Democrats and LGBT+ Liberal Democrats ([00:35:50](#)). Malcolm Heughan emphasized their success in empowering young people, growing the Highland Young Liberals to nearly half of the local membership through consistent hard work, campaigns, and events ([00:37:01](#)). They expressed a desire to apply this energy and method
- **Opening Statements and Candidacy Motivations** Ulysse Abbate initiated the two-minute introductory statements for the candidates running for International Officer, starting with Tom Jordan, followed by Arthur Wu and Christina Nowell. Tom Jordan highlighted their long-standing involvement with Y, emphasizing a transformative experience at a seminar in Budapest, which inspired them to run again for International Officer to provide similar opportunities to members ([00:59:16](#)). Arthur Wu and Christina Nowell, running together, expressed their motivation to give back to the international community that empowered them, with Arthur noting their personal fight for liberal values as an openly gay person from Hong Kong and Christina as a transgender woman from America ([01:01:59](#)).
- **Candidate Priorities and Accomplishments** Tom Jordan emphasized their commitment to using their network to provide training and study opportunities, aiming to empower more first-time delegates and committee members ([01:01:06](#)). Arthur Wu, running with Christina Nowell, outlined their focus on empowering young liberals through international events and training both abroad and in the UK, stressing the need for increased funding to reduce financial barriers and improve accessibility. Arthur also highlighted their past achievements, including organizing international events and fundraising, to demonstrate their drive and teamwork ([01:02:56](#)).
- **Membership Engagement Strategies** Tom Jordan proposed creating a more formalized international team with structured roles and unofficial

departments to better promote international opportunities within the Young Liberals ([01:06:20](#)). Christina Nowell and Arthur Wu emphasized the need to make international opportunities more visible to members, particularly those who might not be aware of them. They also suggested one-on-one mentorship sessions to tailor opportunities to members' development goals ([01:05:11](#)).

- **Supporting Online and New Delegates** Tom Jordan discussed their current efforts to support delegates by holding regular calls, maintaining an active WhatsApp community, and structuring a calendar for online participation in general assemblies ([01:07:54](#)). They aim to expand online opportunities and events, recognizing that not everyone can attend in-person events due to financial or travel constraints ([01:08:49](#)). Arthur Wu and Christina Nowell stressed the importance of fundraising to secure resources for in-person events and committed to offering more hybrid events to accommodate members who cannot travel ([01:09:47](#)).
- **Ensuring Inclusion of State Members** Tom Jordan acknowledged the financial challenges faced by state members when traveling abroad and proposed fundraising efforts to cover registration fees and offer alternative opportunities outside fixed conferences ([01:12:43](#)). They also expressed an intention to ring-fence spaces for Welsh and Scottish Young Liberals, and Lib Dems overseas within the international team ([01:13:36](#)). Christina Nowell and Arthur Wu recognized the high costs for international travel for state members, suggesting online delegate options as a fallback and reiterating that substantial fundraising could help specifically remedy this issue ([01:11:41](#)).
- **Experience in Leading Delegations and Member Empowerment** Tom Jordan cited their experience leading delegations and focused on bringing out the best in individuals, specifically mentioning how they empowered Sam Cumber to speak and take minutes in international forums ([01:14:22](#)). Arthur Wu highlighted their experience as an IMS in Limec, which is equivalent to an International Officer, and their role in supporting Y members at international events, providing mentorship, and leading delegations to various countries ([01:15:33](#)).
- **Value for Money and Benefits to Broader Membership** Tom Jordan asserted that while international initiatives already offer significant value for money, there is a need to improve communication regarding these benefits. They plan to enhance fundraising and organize more in-person events, such as visits to European institutions, to further increase value and justify the budget allocation ([01:19:23](#)). Christina Nowell and Arthur Wu emphasized that the value for money lies in increased member engagement and making

international opportunities more accessible through events in Britain and clear communication about their benefits ([01:17:33](#)).

- **Working with International Partners** Tom Jordan revealed a plan to establish an unofficial organization with Young Liberals of Canada and Young Democrats of America to facilitate the sharing of campaigning experience and best practices within the Anglosphere ([01:20:09](#)). Arthur Wu outlined their approach through preparation, presence, and partnership, including more international training in the UK, stable funding for delegates, and strengthening relationships with sister parties through exchanges ([01:21:02](#)).
- **Financial Plans and Fundraising** Tom Jordan stated that YEL should spend more on international initiatives, but clarified that this increased spending would come from dedicated fundraising efforts rather than the federal budget ([01:23:20](#)). They outlined plans for fundraising events, working with Friends of YEL and AOS, and collaborating with various Liberal Democrat groups to secure structural funding and support specific delegates ([01:24:23](#)) ([01:26:02](#)). Christina Nowell and Arthur Wu proposed diversifying fundraising methods, including engaging big and small donors, organizing social events, and demonstrating the real impact of donations through empowering young liberals with training and international opportunities ([01:22:03](#)) ([01:26:50](#)).
- **Balancing Workload for Limek and Ify** Christina Nowell suggested that having co-international officers would help balance the workload by allowing for a mix of focus and specialization between Limek and Ify ([01:27:52](#)). Tom Jordan countered that a larger committee and bigger team, with clearer portfolios, would be more effective than co-officers, as delegation is crucial for managing the demands of both organizations and preventing burnout ([01:28:54](#)).
- **Main International Topics and Distinctive Positions** Tom Jordan identified Israel and Palestine as the primary international topic for the next 12 months, noting their work on policy development and leadership in forming a coalition to advocate for a strong position on the issue within international youth organizations ([01:30:41](#)). Arthur Wu and Christina Nowell concurred that Israel and Palestine would remain a significant focus, with Christina also highlighting the continuing importance of supporting Ukraine ([01:31:36](#)). Christina Nowell stressed the importance of ensuring the Liberal Democrats maintain distinctive positions on foreign affairs and are willing to challenge the Federal Party when its stance is perceived as weak or needs strengthening ([01:32:34](#)). Tom Jordan provided examples of their willingness to push for distinctive policy, such as the trans and sex athlete ban, even when met with opposition from senior party members ([01:34:13](#)).

- Liberal Democrat Trivia** The candidates answered questions about why they joined the Liberal Democrats, their most and least agreed-upon policies, and their recent campaigning efforts for young liberal candidates . Tom Jordan and Arthur Wu cited proportional representation and Paddy Ashdown's stance on Hong Kong, respectively, as reasons for joining the party, while Christina Nowell joined after observing Labour's perceived abandonment of human rights ([01:36:03](#)). On policy, Christina Nowell agreed most with human rights and abortion representation, but disagreed with the policy to dissolve the House of Lords, preferring reform. Arthur Wu's favorite policy was on Hong Kong, and their least favorite was the Fixed-term Parliaments Act ([01:38:51](#)). Tom Jordan's favorite policy was abolishing the House of Lords, and their least favorite was the party's perceived lack of commitment to a European federal union ([01:39:48](#)). All candidates identified themselves as social liberals ([01:44:20](#)).
- Concluding Statements** Christina Nowell concluded by thanking Tom Jordan and Ulysse Abbate and reiterated their campaign's focus on bringing the international efforts "back to basics" by prioritizing membership engagement and involving young Liberals in international affairs ([01:46:15](#)). Tom Jordan stated their commitment to continuing hard work, emphasizing that engaging members and fundraising have always been their focus. They highlighted the success in making YEL the most respected party in the Liberal Youth family and stressed the need for a stronger committee and broader team to provide opportunities to all members ([01:48:15](#)).

## Suggested next steps

*No suggested next steps were found for this meeting.*

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# Transcript

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00:00:00

**Ulysse Abbate:** is starting. There's transcription and everything. Um, don't worry, we're not going to use it or anything or we are going to use it but only for internal purposes to make sure everyone can engage properly with the hustings if they can't make it. Um, so welcome everyone to the hustings for the Young Liberals internal elections. Tonight we're going to be having the Scottish Young Liberals um, uh, Hustings followed by the international officers um, Hustings. As a reminder, you can find all information on the internal elections online on the Young Liberals website. Um, I would also flag that we are of course going to be holding this um in uh conjunction with all the relevant uh regulations to do with um you know, conduct and fairness and all those lovely words that we care about a lot. That sounds sarcastic. I mean, genuinely. Um and so you can also find those online. So, um please make sure to to look at those if you're curious. But for today I will be your chair.

00:00:54

**Ulysse Abbate:** My name is Uliss. You are welcome to contact me about the organization or if the organization of these hustings or if you have questions at [uliss.abat@youngliberals.uk](mailto:uliss.abat@youngliberals.uk). Um I appreciate the spelling of that. It's a bit tough. So once I have a moment I'll put it in the chat but you can also find it online on the young liberals website under the executive under the policy officer. Um cool. So, we're going to start off kick off with the Scottish Young Liberals convenor um elections or sorry, Hustings. Um our candidates for today, and apologies for mispronunciation, are Malcolm Hagan and RT Kavanagh. Um Malcolm and RT, I hope you're both here, and welcome. Uh we're going to start off by giving um two minutes to uh each of the candidates to give opening statements. We'll then move on to a series of questions and answers, which will come from me. We will alternate between RT and Malcolm going first or second. Um and then finally we'll have 1 minute at the end for uh closing statements which would bring us neatly to 7:30 where we will kick off the next hustings.

00:01:58

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um if there are any questions please drop if there are any uh other kind of comments to be made beyond. So email is the best place to get in touch with me but if you have um other comments you are welcome to put them in the chats. I'll be trying to check it when I can. Um but as I'm both chairing and managing the tech do bear with me um and do flag um stuff um anyone else if it's kind of very urgent and needs to do that. Um cool. I think that's all in terms of housekeeping which means that we can kick off with two minutes. Um Arty we're going to start with you. You're going to have two minutes to do your opening statements then Malcolm will come to you and then we'll move on to questions. Um so with that being said um Arty I hand over to you.

**Artie Khovanov:** All right, thank you very much, Elise. Um, yeah, so this is an absolutely crucial year for the Scottish Liberals. We're coming into two years of elections, uh, with the Hollywood elections this May and the Scottish Council elections, uh, next May.

00:02:52

**Artie Khovanov:** Um, obviously Scottish Lib Dems have a huge opportunity. We're on the up. Most of the other parties are absolutely nowhere. Um, in all sorts of trouble. uh Scottish Scottish Lib Dems are growing and we as Scottish young liberals absolutely have to be a part of that. So in terms of campaigning capacity, in terms of being able to engage young voters um and in terms of making sure young people's interests are a priority within the party in terms of policy and stuff like that and communications. So, I mean, I am currently the president of the Edinburgh University Liberal Association, which was resurrected last year. Um, started it from scratch, not not on my own, but I've been leading on that. Um, I know what it takes to get a group of people who are maybe enthusiastic but not necessarily hugely experienced together uh and and turn them into a functioning committee that can organize things. I think that's the most important thing this year for Sy. We need to co-opt a full committee.

00:04:07

**Artie Khovanov:** We need to get going. We need to be sitting on all the internal

boards. We need to be outputting plenty of content. We need to be organizing plenty of events and campaigning and the convenor like my role in as the convenor is to make sure that that can all happen that we have the people and that we have the capacity.

**Ulysse Abbate:** seconds.

**Artie Khovanov:** Um, so yeah, that's my priority and thank you very much.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Arty. Um, Malcolm, over to you.

**Malcolm Heughan:** Uh, thank you.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Two minutes.

**Malcolm Heughan:** So, the year ahead has the potential to be one of the most important years in Scottish young liberal history and uh, with the threat posed by the far right, I don't think we can afford to miss a beat and we need to be there to be the real alternative for young people up and down Scotland. Uh, the work that has already been underway by the Scottish Young Liberal Executive has been fantastic. I've been on that team. It's amazing and I want to continue on with that work whilst putting my own spin on it.

**00:05:06**

**Malcolm Heughan:** Um, and if you're unaware, I am the founder and chair of the Highland Young Liberals, and I've seen my branch grow in a way I never would have imagined. Uh, when I first joined the party, I was the only active young liberal in the Highlands. Now, about a year later, a year on, young people are almost equal to regular members. And I can't tell you how much seeing that meant, seeing what happen meant to me. And I want to take my experience running a successful branch and apply it across Scotland. I want to use my methods that I've used to grow our membership in the Highlands and get our membership engaged and apply that across Scotland. And with the Scottish elections next year, we need to get as many young Liberals, as many young volunteers active as possible and we need to keep them engaged as and as volunteers manager for Neil Alexander's Hollywood campaign, I have the experience of keeping members active and happy um because we need to identify talent and we need to keep them engaged and we can do amazing in these elections and success in Hollywood can be a great base to build on our success the following year in the council elections.

**00:06:16**

**Malcolm Heughan:** We have to work hard for it all and I'm up for this challenge.

**Ulysse Abbate:** They're already unmuted.

**Malcolm Heughan:** I think I've proven myself to be a hard worker and I intend to work hard for the Scottish young liberals. Thank you.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, thank you, Malcolm. Um, in which case, we're going to move on now to a series of questions. A reminder, people can continue submitting those as the um, hustlings are going on, and you can find my email online. I'm going to actually drop into the chats, which might be useful. Um, you've both mentioned the elections in your opening statements and these next sets of questions relate to the upcoming 2026 Hollywood elections. Uh, so the first one, uh, what do you see the role of SIL being during the Scottish parliamentary elections next year? Malcolm, you're going to start responding on this one and then RT. And just as a reminder, you'll have one minute um, and I will be uh, once you reach that minute, I'll ask you to draw your remarks to a close.

**00:07:08**

**Ulysse Abbate:** will have a chance to make a one kind of sentence um conclusion if you don't manage to kind of reach all your points. Um Malcolm, over to you.

**Malcolm Heughan:** So I think the role of the Scottish young liberals and I don't want to put too much on the Scottish young liberals but I think we are going to be the ones who do a lot of the heavy lifting and I've sort of seen that in the highlands when it's be it's become a case where it's like mostly young people going out sometimes we doing the heavy lifting we're getting the votes And I want to work really closely with the candidates. I think candidates are great. We have a great slate of candidates, but we need young liberals working really closely with them. I want more young Liberals on like the campaign teams. I'm on I'm on one of the campaign teams and I think that's a great opportunity for a young person and I want to get more of that done because that's going to help us succeed in 2026.

**00:08:01**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you Malcolm and Arty.

**Artie Khovanov:** Um so I mean yeah uh one of the really important things that Sil will be able to do is pro capacity in both organizing and in terms of like literally going out on the doors. Uh and we absolutely need to grow and engage our membership across the country um to to ensure that we can provide that. But the other thing I'll say is um especially among um the more like university population uh where it's often much harder to engage people uh to sort of do the do the work in their

communities. Although that's very important, I think a really important role is the air war side of things, the comms, the social media side of things. sort of getting that up and running, making sure that we are promoting the party across all platforms um and and getting sort of earned earned media. I think that's really important as well. Thank

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Arty. Um, and another kind of similar question and you're welcome to kind of refer back to previous um, answers.

**00:09:14**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, how will you use your role to ensure that Scotland delivers strong results in the upcoming 2026 elections? So, I think that focus on that question a bit more on actually making sure we get um, people elected more than the SY role within that so to speak. Um, although obviously it will be the SL conveners. Um, over to you RT to start and then uh, to you Malcolm.

**Artie Khovanov:** Um well I mean obviously I expect to be doing plenty of campaigning um up up all the way through to May but I think in my role as SL convenor the really important thing will be building a team co-opting a full committee um and sort of shaping that that group of people like figuring out where people's strengths are and making sure that the work we need to do both in terms of on the ground campaigning in terms of communications in terms of organization gets done. So yeah, shaping and and building a team basically.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you RT and for you Malcolm.

**Malcolm Heughan:** Uh so something so I think the primary role is to get more active young liberals.

**00:10:25**

**Malcolm Heughan:** I think something I've been doing in the highlands quite a bit is uh I've been having young liberals plan and organize and get a sort of work experience in the campaign office organizing and action day and social events and stuff like that. I think more of that is something I'd be keen to get all the branches across Scotland doing. as convenor. I work closely with working closely with all the branches getting Young Liberal takeovers organized.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Malcolm. Um, our next series of questions are about branches and membership. Um, so we're going to start off with you, Malcolm, responding on this one and and the question is, do you have plans to grow the SYL membership? Over to you, one minute.

**Malcolm Heughan:** Uh yeah, I do. Yeah. Um it's something that I've always been quite proud of is how quickly I was able to grow the Highland branch, especially where the Highlands, the geography, is not easy to get people active in the Highlands. But it's really important that we grow our membership and we get young people involved.

**00:11:32**

**Malcolm Heughan:** And there's ways of doing it. Um I think the main thing I want to do is I want to be a nurturing sort of executive. If I want a positive, proactive environment where people know what their strengths is, they know what they can do, they know what they like, and they can go out and do that and help in any way that they can. And that's one what I want to get.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Malcolm. And over to you, Aussie.

**Artie Khovanov:** Yeah, I mean uh growing our membership and um engaging with our membership as well is super important. Uh Leo and uh the rest of the this year's SL exactly which I'm part of but um and as is Malcolm have been doing uh you know Leo especially been doing a lot of great work in Sy rather than in the branches. Um but but we do have we do have a capacity issue and that and that comes from a numbers issue. You know, I mean, at the start of last year, we had no active branches.

**00:12:29**

**Artie Khovanov:** Now, we have a few active branches. Yeah. Um, including uh Edinburgh and and in the Highlands. And uh it's it's absolutely critical that we get more members. Um and that we use uh the exec options to get people in who can then work to grow our membership.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Arty. Um, on a similar, so again on branches and membership. Um, and Art, we're going to start with you on this question. Um, how do you plan on working with a new fully staffed Scot fully staffed Scottish HQ to develop apologies sil talent and run into the general election? Do take a moment to Yeah, I can read that again if that's useful.

**Artie Khovanov:** How do I how do I plan working oh with HQ to develop talent? Um yeah no no no no.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Cool.

**Artie Khovanov:** Um so I mean what what we've got to do yeah we have to make use of the staff the resources. I mean, I guess the important thing is making sure that we're coordinating well between the branches and HQ so that basically everyone's

working in the same direction.

**00:13:52**

**Artie Khovanov:** Um, because at the moment we have a bunch of branches, but they're not that well coordinated. I mean, I don't know how it is like up in the Highlands, but I know that the various university branches aren't working that closely together. And I think yeah, working with HQ is definitely a way we can we can improve that that aspect of things.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, RT. And over to you, Malcolm.

**Malcolm Heughan:** Uh, I think it's important that we HQ is supporting us and we're supporting HQ. They like they all know what we're doing. We all know what they're doing. Um, and I think it's important that HQ gets an idea from us on how they can also help us get young people active. Um, a couple weeks ago I had a sit down from with uh the membership officer and interesting chats about how we can get young liberals active, how I've been doing it and I think more of that, more of communication, working together, cooperation.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Malcolm. Um, another question again on branches and membership.

**00:14:55**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, and we're going to start with you, Malcolm, on this one. Uh, you were both chairs or presidents of branches and associations in Scotland. What were your major successes and failures in these roles and how would you make sure this feeds into your role as Sil convenor? Um just because these are we're looking at successes and failures. Um I'm happy to give a bit more time if you want to focus um kind of on successes and failures. I appreciate that might be two questions in one. Um but I'll leave that up to you and I'll just give a bit of flexibility where needed. Um so Malcolm, over to you.

**Malcolm Heughan:** Okay. Um, my greatest success, well, it's something I'm very very proud of. Um, is so I I I started the Highland Young Liberals um from nothing basically in December. And by the time Neil Alexander launched his campaign in what it must have been March, January, February, March, maybe May, uh I was the only young active young liberal. But I'd been working hard getting our membership up and running.

00:15:57

**Malcolm Heughan:** And by his launch for his campaign, it was uh the young members. Something I noticed I picked up on was young members were actually just equal to our regular members. And I know just equal doesn't sound like much, but SEMA after about a couple months hard work is was really important to me, but uh a failure um I wasn't the first ever Young Liberal takeover I organized. I wasn't incredibly proud on how well organized it was. Some things went wrong. It It worked out fine in the end, but couple things, couple admin issues, it wasn't great. But, uh, you know, these things happen.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Malcolm. And over to you, Arty.

**Artie Khovanov:** Yeah, I' I'd say thank you. I'd say uh great success is probably getting some getting some good events together, getting engagement with um local uh politicians such as Alex Cole Hamilton who's uh who did um quite quite soon into um sort of last year's iteration of Liberal Association uh got an event organized an event on Ukraine which was a huge success um and and sort of getting that cross party engagement ment and cross community engagement.

00:17:20

**Artie Khovanov:** Um I think that's something we we've done really well on making our mark. Um also our cross party statement um about reforms presence on the campus. Um although that's more of a a comms thing than than an event but but essentially you know working working with other groups to to make our presence on the campus felt. In terms of uh the weakness, I think um we had a situation where last year's president um unfortunately um defected to another party uh Vault Europe. Um, I think making sure that when we have uh sort of really uh engaged and enthusiastic people uh sort of managing that and making sure that they they stay stay with us uh is something I I think I can definitely definitely improve on. Definitely some sort of lessons learned there also. Yeah. Thank you.

**Ulysse Abbate:** I think you are. Um, cool. So the next question um is on uh was is is the following again still on branches and membership and we're going to go back to a stringent one minute rule um which I note none of you are um breaking which is very good and which obviously is a sign of my um my amazing chairing too.

00:18:46

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um how would you try to win over young SMP members because of

the S&P's current domination over Scottish politics? Um Arty, we're going to start with you here for one minute and then over to you Malcolm.

**Artie Khovanov:** Thank you. Um, it's got to be about uh values. So, the SNP used to have this so-called progressive nationalist strategy which they've now rode back on somewhat. And I've had quite a few conversations on the doors um across Edinburgh with with some younger voters who sort of naturally go to the S&P or the or the Greens uh but but they're not happy with the S&P because they're they're seen as having gone back on some of their on some of their values. I mean obviously trans rights is one big flash point but there's others. Uh they're not great on on any like climate for example. uh we have to really drive that wedge and a lot of that can be via sort of uh social media and stuff like that but also I mean in terms of just working hard and making sure we're reaching those voters and and sort of giving them giving them the option but yeah it's got to be on it's got to be on values

**00:20:01**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you. Um and over to you. Malcolm

**Malcolm Heughan:** Uh, I think I think I think as young people are quite smart. I think they can see that this government's been in power, this party's been in power for what, nearly 20 years now. And it's when you're in when you're in your community, you can see it. Like when you're in your schools, you can see it's not getting better. When you're in hospitals, they're not getting better. Care, roads, transport, nothing's getting better after 20 years. I actually think it's getting worse. And I think young people can see this and they can see the S&P repeatedly putting out this, we'll do this, we'll do that, and then not doing it. So, I think young people see this and we will be there as an alternative, an alternative to the S&P, and they'll they'll come to us. We just need to engage them and they'll eventually come to us.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Malcolm. And the final question as part of our branches and membership section.

**00:20:59**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Of course, I would remind people that you can submit more questions. Um, just send them over to uh my email which I put into the chat um is on is the following. Um, how will you support the growth of Y clubs at universities without a strong liberal presence? And just for clarity, I think um while clubs is wild societies more generally as well. Um over to you Malcolm I think first and then

**Malcolm Heughan:** Um I think uh regular events, regular communications. Um I think

it's possible to get YL clubs in places without strong Y presences, but I think it you have to work harder for it. I think social media would be a massive benefit. I think social media posts, uh online campaigns, stuff like that. I think that would be a massive help.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Malcolm. And you are

**Artie Khovanov:** Um, so yeah, I've got a little bit of experience with this. What I found is uh there will be li uh liberal-minded students and even liberal democrat members who sort of disengage once they find out that there's not a society sort of ready and waiting for them.

**00:22:07**

**Artie Khovanov:** So what's absolutely critical is to find just one or two lib members who are at that university just one or two and get them to make the society by hook or by crook. And once you have that foothold, once you have that presence, folk come along and they're like, "Oh, I didn't know there was a Libd society here, etc., etc., etc." Once once you have that start and that sort of official registration with the student union where you get 20 of your friends to sign up, that's a massive boost. So the focus absolutely just has to be on getting your foot in the

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Arty. We've had actually one more question on B membership has just come in. Um, which reads as follows. Um, both of you represent areas where the party is strong. How will you support local parties and young members to get involved in areas with less libdem representation? So, similar to the first one, but I think more generally, um, areas in general, more necessarily, just focused on universities. Um, Arty, this one's going to go to you and then over to you, Malcolm, after

**00:23:10**

**Artie Khovanov:** Um, well, as Malcolm said earlier, you just have to work hard for it. Again, finding one or two people that are uh committed to going out and campaigning, maybe, you know, picking a ward uh to to run in, something like that is is really important because that sort of can start to build up your capacity quite quickly, although the effect is smaller than with university societies. Um, but yeah, it's just got to be hard work. It's got to be um making sure there's at least an event in the area even if you know one of us or someone on the committee has to take a trip down. Um and then yeah um social media can also help but uh I think that the really important thing is is having some people in the area campaigning some events in the

area. That's what's really going to engage people in the area. But no, it's it's hard work. There's no there's no there's no easy tricks.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Arty. Um, we're now going to move on to one question about uh federal relationships.

**00:24:12**

**Artie Khovanov:** You did ask Malcolm.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Oh, I'm so sorry, Malcolm. That is awful sharing for me. Apologies. Uh, oh, yes, Malcolm.

**Malcolm Heughan:** That's all right. That's all right. Um, so I think, uh, yeah, I think is similar to what Harry said, it's if you can identify, if you can identify a couple young liberals, um, identify the talent, you just have to keep them engaged. I think even what can be as simple as a simple phone call every now and then, catching up. If you keep them engaged, they'll be going out because I think we'll be having we'll have a positive environment for them to go out in. Even if even if the area they're in isn't strongly liberal Democrat, the Liberal Democrat uh branch or environment is usually quite positive, quite proactive. Anyway,

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Malcolm. And once again, my apologies um for missing you there. Um we now got a question about federal relationships, which reads as follows. Liberal Democrats and young liberals are unique in our federal structure.

**00:25:13**

**Ulysse Abbate:** How do you consider the relationship between Sy and the Federal Y? And how will you engage on that relationship? Um, we're going to start with you, Malcolm, and then over to you, Arty.

**Malcolm Heughan:** Um yeah, I think it would be really similar to the relationship we have with uh headquarters. I think I think Sil is its own thing and it has to be like visualized as its own thing, but we also have to be working hard with the UK young liberals. So we're all working together to actually succeed.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Malcolm and Arty.

**Artie Khovanov:** Yeah, I mean as S Y convenor, I'll be the link, the main link because I'll be sitting on the executive of the Young Liberals of the Federal Young Liberals. Um, but yeah, I mean, it's just how federalism generally works. You do what makes sense within Sy within Sy, like organizing a lot of the campaigning to and a lot of the communications. It's a very different context up here than it is in England. Um, but

you pull resources um where where that makes sense as well.

**00:26:27**

**Artie Khovanov:** For example, I think federally we have a lot more power to fund raise. Yeah. Thank you very much.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Arty. Um, we're now going to move on to a few questions on Liberal Democrats trivia. This is my own what I'm calling these sections. Don't worry, no one's um actually just emailed with a bunch of um of uh young liberals. Um, sorry, Liberal Democrat trivia. Um, question for both of you, starting with Arty. Uh, why did you join the Liberal Democrats? Oh, actually, hold on. I'm also going to quickly um if we can try and keep the chat free um just so that all communication can flow through the ever generous and ever um um genius chair um which is the official title. I'm just saying. Um no, that would be great. um please drop me an email just so that we don't clutter the inbox so that we can make sure to keep the um the hustings um as fair as possible. That would be much appreciated.

**00:27:26**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um yes. So, Liberal Democrat trivia, why did you join the Liberal Democrats? RT

**Artie Khovanov:** Thanks Tom for the correction in the chat. Uh I joined the Liberal Democrats because I'm a liberal because I have liberal values because I believe in like freedom and equality and that. Um about just over a year ago Labour got in. Uh they immediately started acting like petty authoritarians. I didn't have high hopes but they they failed to meet them. Uh and that that's when I became a member. So yeah, simple as that.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Aussie. And for you, Malcolm

**Malcolm Heughan:** Um I think for for a long like um I knew I wanted to get I wanted to be involved in like politics that sort of side of things um from quite a young age. Um when I won the youth philanthropy initiative and it was like I was able to help a lot of people and I was like I want to be in politics. Uh I had no idea what party I would have belonged to.

**00:28:20**

**Malcolm Heughan:** Uh no idea on that sort of thing. Um, but I'd done some work

experience for my local MP who was uh Jamie Stone. And uh in like conversation sessions with him, I kind of realized that actually I kind of share a lot of the same values that the Liberal Democrats share. So it only kind of made sense. I got involved in well I met the local branch, got involved in the local branch and eventually became a member and I've never regretted it once.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you Malcolm. Um the next question is the most important question and only because it relates to policy. Um what is the one policy you this we'll start with Malcolm then over to Arty. What is the one policy you agree with the most and agree with the least with the Liberal Democrats? And of course for the devolved uh policy issues that's for the Scottish Liberal Democrats. Um you can choose whichever one you want just the one policy you agree with the most and agree with the least.

00:29:16

**Ulysse Abbate:** Malcolm Oh,

**Malcolm Heughan:** I think the most would be the young carer support uh policies. I quite like them. I think that's really important. Um least to be honest, I don't think I could say. I I'm not sure.

**Ulysse Abbate:** that's okay. Sorry. Thought you cut out. Apologies. Um, all good. Fine. We we endorse complete agreement and that is that is okay. Um, Arty. Um, over to you.

**Artie Khovanov:** Uh yeah. So policy I agree with the most? I mean I'm a big fan of our policies on LGBT rights, trans self ID, stuff like that. Uh what I agree with the least um family farm tax uh opposition uh so-called family farm tax opposition. Sorry. Uh the the land must be the land must be free. Uh yeah, there you go.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Arty. Um, and then the final question that we have so far, uh, between before, um, we jump into the summing comments, I might leave a few minutes in case people have a last minute questions because I appreciate we're running a bit ahead of time.

00:30:30

**Ulysse Abbate:** When was the last time that you campaigned, including clerical or other support, for a young Liberals candidate in an election? Uh we're going to start with you then over to you Malcolm.

**Artie Khovanov:** Young Liberals candidate. Don't think I've ever campaigned for a Young Liberal actually. Um I've I mean I've not been in the party a hugely long time. I

campaigned for Ian Solom. Uh I think he's a bit old. Um and I campaigned a lot for for the counselors around Edinburgh who are also on the older end. So no, I don't think I've actually ever campaigned for a young Liberal candidate. It's a good

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Ar. I promise you we won't tell Ian you said that. Um, and Malcolm

**Malcolm Heughan:** Um, well, well, well, I'm I'm actually I'm a counselor council candidate, so I usually do a bit of uh when I'm out and about in my ward campaigning for Andrew Baxter, I usually campaign a little bit for myself. Um, but I don't think that would count just yet because it's not proper canvassing.

**00:31:34**

**Malcolm Heughan:** I'd say Neil Neil Alexander's quite young. David Green's quite young. I've been out with them. I was out with Neil last week. I was out with David last last month. Uh, but I don't think Yeah, I think same as Arty, I don't think there's many young Liberal candidates about

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Malcolm. Um, that now brings us to the end of the uh presubmitted questions. Again, I remind everyone that uh through my email in the chat, you can email me and I'm happy to take questions um at the end of the concluding statements if they're really really good, but they have to be really good. Um that is my caveat. Um but I will wait for a few minutes in case people have um final questions because from a formatting point of view, it's always good to finish on the concluding statements. Um but um what's a good question to ask in the meantime? Um what's a classic libdem question to ask? Oh, actually I might hold on.

**00:32:38**

**Ulysse Abbate:** I will I will add some some joviality into the joviality. Who am I? Um some some humor into the um the chats and or these hustings. Um if we are waiting for um more questions and just whilst we have the time um to I'm going to have to ask that all questions go through the presubmitted channels. Um, it's awful. I know. Um, but I'm a procedure man myself. Um, where was it? It was this just for just for just for context. I'm looking for the quick fire questions uh that we asked Ed Davey at the um at the uh Young Liberals conference which I'm sure everyone on this chat attended. Um Ed Davey questions. Okay. Well, now I can't find it, which is always convenient. Luckily, um I remember one of the questions, so or a few of the questions, so I'll start with that. Um uh FAA61A, um gold or orange, obviously referring to the what color is the Liberal Democrats. I don't actually know the new hex

code.

**00:33:44**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um but if you know it, um bonus points, I guess. Um so, uh who was first? I think it was Malcolm to go first.

**Malcolm Heughan:** Um um I I think I I prefer the orange, but I have a yellow diamond up on my wall, so I should probably update that.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Very nice, Mark. Over to you.

**Artie Khovanov:** Uh, I'm a big fan of the um I'm a big fan of the new color. I think it's it's bold and and assertive. I think I think I'm a fan of the rebrand. And I know a lot of people don't like it.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Arty. Um, and another quick fire question. Malcolm, uh, classical liberal. Oh, sorry, no, Arty, over to you first. Um, classical liberal or social liberal.

**Artie Khovanov:** Sasha lipro.

**Ulysse Abbate:** And Malcolm, no differentiation here.

**Malcolm Heughan:** social liberal

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, what's another one? What's another one which was good? Oh, hopefully a simple one. Uh, who's your favorite AO?

**00:34:50**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Uh, sorry. Malcolm AO affiliated organization like Yeah.

**Malcolm Heughan:** Uh, what's an ale? Um, I quite like the international liberals.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Sorry.

**Malcolm Heughan:** I think they do good stuff. Is that Is that an A li them women live them women do good work as well.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Uh, count close enough. That's that is one for sure. Thank you. an arty and no one says young liberals.

**Artie Khovanov:** Well, I'm on the exec of LGBT plus Libd Dem, so I have to say them. Well, I assumed you weren't allowed to say young liberals.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um I would never comment on such things. It's up to the candidates to respond how they see fit. Um no cool. Both both very good answers. Um, no, I think those are all the quick fire questions and I think it's given enough time for those who want to submit last minute questions um to put those in. Uh, we have not received any last minute questions and so we'll move on to final comments.

00:35:50

**Ulysse Abbate:** As a reminder, that's one minute each. Um, and yeah, so with that being said, Arty, I think we'll start with you and then move over to you, Malcolm.

**Artie Khovanov:** Yeah. Well, I mean, I guess we've heard today a lot about what the priorities should be. Uh if you want someone who's made a branch from scratch, who's um got a lot of experience sort of organizing and uh turning uh groups of enthusiastic people into groups of professional people who will actually get things done uh both both in the Eden University Liberal Democrats and um in my experience at at the conferences with the LGBT plus Lib Dems. Um, yeah. I'm I'm I'm the person you want. Thank you very much.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Arty. And over to you, Malcolm.

**Malcolm Heughan:** Um thank you. Um I've seen what's possible when we empower uh young people and when I founded the Highland Young Liberals was only active member in Highlands. Now young people make up almost half our local membership uh or active local membership and that growth didn't happen that growth didn't happen by accident.

00:37:01

**Malcolm Heughan:** It came from campaigns, events, consistent hard work. And as as we add into the Scottish elections, as we add into Hollywood, local government, um I want to take that same energy and apply it up and down Scotland, helping every branch to grow and engage young people and make our party stronger than ever and the Scottish Young Liberals stronger than ever. Um I've proven over the last year I' I can build teams. I can motivate members and deliver results. And Highland Highland Young Liberals voted uh or awarded uh best UK branch last uh UK Young Liberal Conference. And now I want to apply the work I've been doing to the Highlands across Scotland. I'm ready to work hard and to lead and to make the Scottish Young Liberals louder, prouder, and unstoppable. Thank you.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Malcolm. Um, lovely. Well, that draws these hustings to a close. Um, Arty and Malcolm, thank you very much for joining and for answering those questions. And of course, thank you for standing in the elections.

00:38:06

**Artie Khovanov:** Thank

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, pleasure, pleasure.

**Malcolm Heughan:** Thank you.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, the Yes, moving forward. So, in 20 minutes, we will have our international officer hustlings. Um, but we will get on to those. Uh I'll start those about 5 minutes or start those five minutes early. I will I will I will begin the process of starting that 5 minutes early um so that people can join the I I'm supposed to say something and now I've remembered um in terms of voting for the um for the elections as a reminder you should have received emails about um about voting in the whole process and you will continue to re to receive those um from our illustrious staffer um Tom the Tom Hughes that is um The timetable is as follows or the the future time table is as follows. Voting will open on the 10th of October. That's in 3 days time. It will then close one week later on the 17th of October with results announced soon after hopefully on the 18th. And the federal executive on those elected will be invited to a handover meeting at the Liberal Democrats HQ in London on October the 25th.

00:39:12

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, thank you once again for our candidates in the Scottish Young and Liberals convenor hustings um and campaign more generally. Uh, we'll now move to a short break um until we move on to our international offices. Um, whilst I appreciate there are people with who are clearly eager and so have put their cameras on. Um, nothing will be happening in this chat for the next 15 minutes um even though I need to quickly down and get some water. So, if something does happen, um I will I will expect self-regulation of this chat um so that we don't use it as an unfair opportunity for any sort of campaigning. Um that's right. I'm being very processy as always. Um but yes, um that's enough spiel from me. Thank you everyone for joining us. Um we'll be back very soon. Right. Hello. Nope. Go. There we go. Lovely. Right. Hello everyone. Uh we are 3 minutes away from starting.

00:54:41

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um these are the international officer hustlings. Um but we're not actually starting. I'm just vamping for 3 minutes straight, which of course as someone who loves the sound of his own voice, he'll take any opportunity to vamp.

Um, don't worry, I won't actually speak for three minutes straight. Um, I'm glad someone found that funny. Um, yeah, no. Um, just reminding everyone, um, to get back to your screens. Um, prepare for a thrilling hustlings. Um, get your questions in. We have received quite a few. Um, so yeah, get your questions in early. As they say in libm campaign speak, vote early and vote often. Is that it? I'm not sure that quite works actually because you can't vote often. You can only vote once. So unless Liberal Democrats have started advocating for illegal practices at the voting booth, then there you go. This is me vamping now. I'm now going to shut up for about a minute. In fact, why not?

**00:56:16**

**Ulysse Abbate:** We'll do a quick sound check. Uh Christina, can you speak quickly?

**Christina Nowell:** Hello. C can you hear me properly?

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely.

**Christina Nowell:** And am I am I echoing it right?

**Ulysse Abbate:** Perfect. Uh no, you're all good. Um for me at least.

**Christina Nowell:** Let's go.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um Tom, can you speak quickly?

**Tom Jordan:** Um, I can and I'm going to have to apologize if there's any background noise because I'm having to take this call in the lobby of my gym.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Well, it all sounds good um so far. Um Arthur, can you speak quickly?

**Arthur Wu:** Hello. Can you hear me?

**Ulysse Abbate:** Yep, perfect. Thank you. Cool. Right, it's 29. Um on the basis that there's a bit more explanation on this one, um I will start now. or let me just get up the exit regulations. Um, cool. So, welcome everyone. I'm going to repeat what I said earlier, so apologies for those who were in the Sy uh Hustings 2. Um, but welcome to the Young Liberals Hustings for the role of the Federal International um officer or officers.

**00:57:19**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, the this hustings is going to last one hour. It's going to start with two minutes introductory statements um from each of our um candidates. Um the and then we're going to go into a Q&A uh chaired by myself and then one minute um at the end one minute closing statements at the end um if anyone has any questions um you should have I think that you should be able to see the chats but I'm not actually sure if if um Google Meets allows people when they've um come back into

anyway there's an email in my I put the my email into the the chat so you can submit questions through that email. I'll be making doing my best to um look at those questions. So, please do send those in. Um and just to also flag on the basis that we have um for full transparency and on the basis that we have a co- officership uh co-officer candidacy. Um I'll just read out the following. Candidates for job shares will be invited to participate in the hustings together if they so wish.

**00:58:17**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Job shared candidates cannot be allowed more speaking time between them than single candidates. Um whilst most questions should be able to be answered by a single individual of a job share, if a chair feels there are questions which should be answered by all individual candidates, it is a discretion to allow job share candidates to do so. Um so to make that clear and just to kind of um say it out loud here in the open. Um Arthur and Christine, I will alternate or I will do my best to remember who I'm alternating between in terms of answering questions. But of course if uh you feel that one of you may be more or less um qualified to answer certain questions perhaps but because of the way you're splitting up the role um then do just let me know at the very beginning I'll reset your timer um and we can kind of go from there but otherwise um for the questions where you have one minute answer that'll be one minute between you both um so whoever speaking I'll kind of let you both work between you in terms of responding whoever's speaking at the one minute I will ask you to close uh to to yeah I will ask you to send your response.

**00:59:16**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um I hope that is clear to everyone. Um is there any other housekeeping? I don't think so. In which case we are going to go straight into the twominut in uh introductory statements. Um I'm going to start with Tom and then we're going to go into Arthur and Christina. Um Tom over to you.

**Tom Jordan:** Hi everyone. So, I thought about this for a while. I want to go off script and discuss the first ever Y event I attended and why it's caused me to run for IO before and why I'm rerunning yet again. In September 2023, after graduating university, big up Royal Hol decided on a whim to get more involved with Y. I'd been a member for a few years since I was 17, but I frankly didn't have the confidence after co to get a bit more involved. But with no job and a lot of time on my hands, I decided to take a chance. I put my name forward for regional chair big up east of England.

01:00:14

**Tom Jordan:** And then I saw a chance to attend a seminar in Budapest on youth engagement in democracies around Europe. It was run by an organization called Ify. I didn't know what this was, but I knew I cared about youth apathy and democracy. And I knew that for the first time in my life, I wanted to be able to travel alone. I messaged someone called Kai Pishk about it. I've never met him before. I signed up and with Kai's help well the rest is history. You might know me now as a confident ever president Wella a staff member seems to be absolutely everywhere. But it was that weekend Budapest that made me who I am today. It empowered me, it challenged me and it inspired me. And in the end, thanks to European taxpayer, I didn't have to pay a penny. I know I wouldn't be where I am today without that seminar, without Yel International. And that's why I want to stay as your IO. I want to continue to provide incredible opportunities to empower you, our members, in any way I can.

01:01:06

**Tom Jordan:** I want to use every trick in the book, every friendship, and every favor I have from the last two years to get you on training, to get you to study sessions, to empower you, and to give you more opportunities. I want to see more first-time delegates become stalwarts like they have this year. I want to see more committee members become leaders. I want to be the international officer solo, the committee chair who empowers you. Rowan, myself and our committee have achieved a lot this year from passing policy at limek and ify to getting new members, new delegates and new committee members involved in every step of ify and lime.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Please remark to close.

**Tom Jordan:** But there's still a long way to go. My friends, if you give me another year, you won't regret it. Thank you.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Tom. Um, Christina and Arthur, I'll start with you, Christina, uh, to respond and you'll have two minutes again, um, as a whole. Um, so feel free to fill that up however you want.

01:01:59

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, over to you. Two minutes.

**Christina Nowell:** I'm gonna I'm gonna throw this to Arthur because I know that he prepared the opening one and then I can sum it up with a response if needed.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Cool. Over to you then, Alpha.

**Arthur Wu:** Okay. Hello my liberal friends. I'm running because just like Tom, why has given me so much and this is the last year I can stand. I want to give something back. I want to help other people find the same confidence and empower the international communities that give me. I'm running with Christina because we both know what it means to fight for liberal values around the world. I'm gay now with diversion and from Hong Kong, a place that still struggles to accept people like me for who I am. And where my compet still face uh oppression for Beijing. Christina is a transgender woman from America. We all know what happened to trans community in the US in both what is mean to stand up for who we are and we want to help other young to do the same.

**01:02:56**

**Arthur Wu:** International has opened doors. I never thought possible. I've got diversion. I've got problem with um public speaking. I I find it quite difficult to do writing policies. I feel like I can't believe that man I've done these all things. I've organized one of the international events like lime German election night as I met. Um I also organized one fundraising event that fund raised 2,000 pounds profit for NLC. Um so that kind of drive and teamwork is exactly what international community needs more of and we want to empower more young liberals to get involved not just through E3 EGAS and L conferences abroad but through more international events and training here in the UK all year round to make that possible we need more money to send people abroad we need more money for training we need more money for organizing our events and we need more money to reduce the financial barriers and prove accessibility of these events so we keep the diversity involved so to make sure that F1 feels represented and supported and ultimately Christina and I want every Y members to have the skills knowledge and confidence to stand for liberal values through retention opportunities because we know what happens when too few people are empowered to do that.

**01:04:12**

**Arthur Wu:** Thank you.

**Christina Nowell:** And right at the end.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Arthur. Um, oh, Christina, you have elapsed your two

minutes, so I'm I'm afraid I'm going to have to be very harsh. Um, I know it's it's awful of me. Um but yes, I'm going to have to be stringent on the time limits to make sure that we are fair. Um cool. We're going to move on therefore to a set of questions. Uh we're going to start with Arthur and Christina and then we'll go to Tom then we'll alternate who goes first and second. Um the first set of questions relates to membership engagement and the first question is as follows. as international officers or officer, how do you plan to continue to encourage our members to join the many wonderful opportunities that if Limeck have to offer like liberal hacks, seminars and trainings? Um, over to you Christina Arthur.

**Christina Nowell:** Um, I I would say that we have a pretty good I I I'll compliment Tom on this. We have a pretty good existing way of reaching out to members.

**01:05:11**

**Christina Nowell:** I think that as as is in any organization, there's more to be done. There's there's room to grow. There is more abilities to get knowledge out there to be able to get more membership engagement. And I think that one thing to expand on with that is to make international a kind of more big thing to immediately notice. I know that for a solid bit of time whenever I was in the young liberals with slightly getting involved especially locally I did not know about the fantastic international opportunities that were happening and that I was missing out on. And what I would want to make as a big priority is to make sure that people are not missing out on those to be able to put prioritization.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Well, jumping.

**Arthur Wu:** Do you have do you have time left?

**Ulysse Abbate:** Yeah.

**Arthur Wu:** So how do I let more people know about it opportunities? First of all, uh we have one-on-one sessions with uh mentorship. We provide mentorship to our members. So we know what what they want to develop through intentional opportunities.

**01:06:20**

**Ulysse Abbate:** And now I'm going to ask you to draw a m close.

**Arthur Wu:** So through that

**Ulysse Abbate:** Very quick, I know. Learn a little. Um, by the way, when I ask people to draw a m close, you're allowed to have um I'll give you kind of one more sentence to conclude. Um, but yes, I appreciate um that is that is me being stringent on the

times. Um Tom, over to you.

**Tom Jordan:** Um, thanks chair. I think this is a really great question and I would like to thank Christina for her kind remarks. Uh, she's right. It has been pretty good this year. It doesn't mean we can't do better. So, one thing I really want to look at and I'm sure some of you will have read my fan so I doubt all of you will be looking at creating a more formalized international team. So, right now international is much more than a committee and much more than co-officers. It involves dozens of people from delegates to members of working groups to people who simply help us out writing policy.

**01:07:07**

**Tom Jordan:** I would like to create a bit more structure for them outside the constitution at first and if it works later we can put it into constitution with structure where international committee members are empowering providing roles for the international team with unofficial departments inside. I want to be able to not only consult our members and working groups our program managers such as Roberto in Latin America but also give them a role within the young liberals. I want it to be more promoted. One of the issues international has is that we're not state. We're not federal. We don't simply have the ability to send out emails. But I think by now I have a pretty good relationship with the majority of the people who can send out an email. We've had international promoted a bit more in regional newsletters in Yel's emails.

**Ulysse Abbate:** and please draw close.

**Tom Jordan:** And I'd like to continue that. So I'm going to use forum. I'm going to use WhatsApp. I'm going to use every tool we have to continue this great work.

**01:07:54**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Tom. Um the next question is still on membership engagement um with and we'll start with Tom on this one. With Y's financial situation making in-person attendance for events tougher, how do you plan to support online and in particular new delegates? Over to you, Tom. Oh, Tom, I think you're muted.

**Tom Jordan:** Thanks Elisa. So another really great question, one I'm already working on with us not being present in Lima. So I want to talk a little bit what I'm doing with my delegation there. So I'm having more regular calls with them and I'm ensuring that our WhatsApp chat community is more active. I'm encouraging members to take on an active role in each area with international committee members having ownership of a certain part of that general assembly. I've even structuring a calendar

for shifts for us to be watching and participating in the general assembly hour by hour. Look, we have to be realistic. We can't afford to send six or three people to every event.

**01:08:49**

**Tom Jordan:** But what we can do is create opportunities online and in person. I've worked very hard with this year to ensure that we have an online exclusive calendar for our delegates to participate in. And that's only going to get better. We have to acknowledge that not everyone can fly and we have to acknowledge that we can't pay for every participation fee. There'll be more opportunities to get involved in seminars which are paid for. There'll be more online events. And for delegates online, there'll be even more structure and even more fun.

**Ulysse Abbate:** perfect timing. Um, thank you Tom. Um, and on to Arthur and Christina. Um, whoever would like to answer, I will start the time whenever you talk.

**Arthur Wu:** So I think one of the thing is like in person defense I understand is fairly limited for if we got like six five to six and for L it free and I absolutely understand that um but I think that if we have secure a fundraising so at least we can make sure that we have the resources to do that.

**01:09:47**

**Arthur Wu:** So I think the fundraising is very important to make sure it happens. So I will focus on fundraising. In terms of online events, uh we will uh continue make sure that we got our events be more more inerson events and hybrid events. So for those who can't travel who can't travel more, they can come to our inerson events in the UK, but also a hybrid one for those who can travel to the location we host in the UK.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you. You have 15 seconds if Christina you like to use it.

**Christina Nowell:** Um, I would also I would also like to echo Arthur's comments on that and I would like to say that fundraising is one of the key basics to a lot of the work that can be done internationally and that one of the keys to being able to do work internationally is to also keep those good relationships that we have. I know that recently also we um are going to be able to do a lot more with lime and I hope that we can continue to do that in the future.

01:10:34

**Ulysse Abbate:** Please draw a mark to close. Thank you. Um and the next question, it's a similar one um or on a similar theme. It's still on membership engagements. How do you plan on ensuring that state members who often face higher rates when traveling abroad when compared to members in the southeast are fairly included in the next international delegations? Christina and Arthur, we'll start with you and I will ask someone speaking.

**Christina Nowell:** I think Arthur forgot to unmute.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Ah, fair. Arthur, are you responding? You're still very clear.

**Arthur Wu:** writing down the question again. So, Christina, can you help me? Um, so can we repeat the question again, please? Julies.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Sure. How do you plan on ensuring the state members who often face higher rates when traveling abroad when compared to members to the in the southeast are fairly included in the next international delegations?

**Arthur Wu:** Ah, okay.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, who will be?

**Arthur Wu:** So how to so basically the question is for those who are not from the southeast they have to pay more to offer.

01:11:41

**Christina Nowell:** I I yeah I I I can say on in terms of in terms of having representation on our delegations I know that we don't just have the inerson delegations but we also have online delegates that we have that

**Ulysse Abbate:** Yes.

**Christina Nowell:** we have had to several events we have them to lime at the upcoming conference in Zreb we have online delegates if that is needed um I would hope that that is not but that is a fallback that is a desperate defense. I think also that one of the benefits that can be done on that is our is just the fact that already international can be quite expensive for members and it is one of the big negatives of it. But I know that there can be in terms of if there is substantial fundraising, there obviously can be some ways to specifically remedy that. But it is one of the key issues of international is the flight expenses. And it's it's it's something that I I don't think needs to be hidden is the fact that there are actual ways that need to be discussed around this.

01:12:43

**Christina Nowell:** And if there is any way to remedy it, then obviously be done with fundraising. And if it can be done, absolutely do it.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Please remark close.

**Christina Nowell:** And thank

**Ulysse Abbate:** Cool. Thank you, Christine. And over to you, Tom.

**Tom Jordan:** Thanks, chair. I mean, obviously this is the million pound question or after checking my bank account, the £350 question to see how much I'm paying to go to the next lime congress. Um, I'm going to tell you what my answer I would like to be. We're going to fund raise for your flights. We're going to help afford your flights. Look, that's not going to be the case this year. Yel has a serious cash flow issue. We have a serious budgetary issue. We are not going to be able to subsidize flights this year like we should be able to. However, what we can do is fund raise to ensure that your registration fees are paid for. We can offer opportunities outside of those fixed bits and gas and congresses for you.

01:13:36

**Tom Jordan:** We can train you up. What I would love to see is for the Welsh international officer to be cooped this year and I'd love to work with them. Constitutionally, I can't as an equal, but as a friend and as colleague. When we talk about the international team, I have an intention to ring fence spaces for Welsh Yale, for Scottish Yel, and indeed for Lib Dems overseas, who I've had a big big call with recently to talk about getting a YEIL branch for them in Europe.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Please draw your rem.

**Tom Jordan:** And I know I've done a pretty good job getting a Mexican YEIL member involved. So, more opportunities. The fundraising isn't there, but we're going to work on

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Tom. Uh, the next question and the final what is it? The final is the final one on membership engagements. Oh, no, sorry, I lied. That was the final question on membership engagement. We are now moving on to uh questions uh under the category of working abroad.

01:14:22

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um what is uh what is actually let's maybe not hold on that was an interesting name. Where are they? Sorry just one sec. No interesting. Okay.

Everything seems fine. Um, yes, apologies for that. Uh, work abroad. What is your experience in chairing or leading a delegation? Can you give any examples of where you've been able to bring the best out of someone in YEL? Uh, Tom, you'll start.

**Tom Jordan:** Um, thanks Elise. This is a bit of a hard one for me because I hope I've done this quite a few times when I've led delegations in Talin and in SVO for I'm going to use the example I'm going to use his name Sam Cumber. It was his first time representing YEIL in Sievo. Um, he had only been to one international event before in person which was in Norway in Oslo which I encouraged him to apply for and he visited their congress. I encouraged him to be a minute taker at the general assembly when they didn't have anyone because I knew his professional skills as a counselor would allow him to take excellent minutes.

**01:15:33**

**Tom Jordan:** Do you know what he did? I encouraged him to speak in the Bosnian Parliament because I knew his experience as a counselor meant that he'd make excellent speeches arguing on behalf of our policy and arguing on behalf of our stances on other policies. And do you know what he did? I knew he might be nervous on his first time, but I knew he could smash it. So I figured out where he would excel and I tried to make sure that he had the opportunity to do so. I think I did a bloody brilliant job as well because he's running for international committee this time and I think he's going to win.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Tom. Um, and Arthur and Christina

**Arthur Wu:** Um I would say that in lime I I got elected as IMS. So IMS according to constitution is equivalent to the intention officer because we've got our own right to vote. We got stuff. So we work with different a uh memorizations on different uh motions. Uh we negotiate on different how we're going to vote.

**01:16:23**

**Arthur Wu:** So we use our road to do that. In terms of like supporting our delegates, I I travel with uh the wild delegations. also uh at the SVO although as not as Y as uh Asia program I've been supporting Y memberships at W gates through the the trip so I always help make sure they are they are feel welcome they do feel free I always provide mentorship when they need it and um yes and also I've leaded the w delegation to Norway and UV uh Norwegian sister party uh Liberal party um so I have got experience

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you. Uh on the basically you have five seconds left. I'll move

on um to the next question. Um how will you make sure that the role of international officer and committee is good value for money and benefits the broader while membership? Um Christina and Arthur will start with either of you.

**Arthur Wu:** to go to start or

**Christina Nowell:** Um, could you repeat the end of the question because my mic cut might go out.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Yeah, of course.

**01:17:33**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Yeah. Yeah, with pleasure. Um, how will you make sure that the role of the international officer and committee is good value for money and benefits the broader Y membership?

**Christina Nowell:** Yeah, I I think that this can be done with a much bigger focus on members. Um, as we were talking with membership engagement, getting the word out that even international exists is already quite a a struggle, especially since we don't have access to those emails. But I know that being able to make it have good value for the money that it costs is down to how members engage with it. the job of the committee and the and the international officer doesn't only focus with with how we have ties with other international branches, but it's how our members can engage with them. And I think that a much bigger focus on those members can make it a much bigger benefit to all of Yen's membership. I think that bringing the focus kind of zooming out a bit can be massively helpful and more focus on bringing members directly towards it can be very beneficial.

**01:18:39**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Christina. Um, you have 5 seconds left, so I'm sorry. I will have to move on unless you can make it in literally one one word, but and please draw remarks to close.

**Christina Nowell:** Almost.

**Arthur Wu:** Well, more training is in UK to justify donation we ask for. So to be more donors donating for us because we justified why did you donate

**Ulysse Abbate:** There we go. I I'll allow that.

**Christina Nowell:** That was a lot of one words.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, cool. And Tom, over to you.

**Tom Jordan:** It's a huge question. I've only got a minute. So, going to split in two parts. First of all, fundraising. Um, we need to make sure that we are aiming to bring

in as much money as we spend every year. Our federal stipend is just over £1,000. I'm currently working on a deal to get us £1,000 in. Um, then moving on to value for money. I think international is very value for money. It's just how we communicate it.

**01:19:23**

**Tom Jordan:** I actually worked out on a spreadsheet how much each training session that we sent while our members to over the last 12 years was worth to them and to us as an organization. The flights, the meals, the training, um it was triple what we had spent in international budget. While international is already value for money, we're just bad at communicating it. I'm going to work on making it more value for money with better fundraising. I'm going to make it worth more value money with more in-person events. I organized a trip to Europe House in my first month as international officer. For our trip to Sievo, I organized a visit to the British Embassy and to the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. Uh, I'm going to make it more value for money. I'm going to give more fundraising, but most importantly, I'm going to communicate better what we do so you know why it's worth keeping. So you know why it's worth keeping that £1,000 in the budget at a time of financial hardship.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Tom.

**01:20:09**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, the next question is once again on the work abroad. What are the key opportunities? And we'll start with Tom on this one. Uh, what are the key opportunities for YEIL to work with our international partners in a way that benefits while as an organization or the Liberal Democrats more widely?

**Tom Jordan:** I'm going to let you all into a little secret. So, in the last 12 months, I've been cooking something up with the Young Liberals of Canada and the Young Democrats. So, obviously, we share one thing in common, our language, and we share another thing in common, first past the post. Um, I'm working on an unofficial organization in order for campaigners across Young Democrats America and Young Liberals of Canada to share campaigning experience. Um, it's still in the works and it's a bit early books. In fact, we've already been outflanked secretly by the Irish Labor Party who's trying to pull them into the social democrat atmosphere. I pushed against that. I've made sure Young Liberals of Canada are staying Liberal.

01:21:02

**Tom Jordan:** However, what I want is a network of Anglosphere Liberal campaigners sharing experience, sharing, you know, best practice and just sharing a laugh sometimes to ensure that we have a more liberal Anglosphere, more importantly, a more liberal Britain. It's in the works, but it's happening. I'm really bloody excited for it.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Tom. And over to Arthur Christina.

**Arthur Wu:** Let me answer this. Our international inference depends on preparation, presence and partnership. First, I want more international training and events for wider membership not just during w conference. That means that every wire member can develop real understanding of global politics and when our people stand for elections and if we lack they will seen as more capital and more professional and more credible. Secondly, we need stable funding for our decades. So our deates can see uh attend these events in person. Without funding, we don't have a vote, without visibility, without voice. So sustainability funding is not just about money. It's about keeping Y comparative and respected on the international stage.

01:22:03

**Arthur Wu:** Finally, we'll build on our strong relationship with sister parties through more exchanges with visitors, the visit iss partners to share values that strengthen our communication and trust and keep Y recognized as a serious international player.

**Ulysse Abbate:** lovely. Thank you, Arthur. Um, you have 10 seconds left, Christina. Um, do you wave that?

**Christina Nowell:** I wave there.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Um, cool. We're going to move on to a discussion uh to a question, sorry, about uh finance now. Um, we're going to start with Christina and Arthur. The question is, broadly speaking, what are your financial plans? Should Yel be spending more or less or the same on international

**Christina Nowell:** I I think that I think the focus is not as much on should uh Yel be spending more or less or roughly the same. It also should be focused on how can international get back for Yel. How can Yel not need to spend as much because what we need to do is meet that fundraising gap as well. I think that one of the big things is bringing as we mentioned um as Arthur mentioned in our opening speech the ability to bring more events here at home to make it more accessible to members making more events that are in Britain.

01:23:20

**Christina Nowell:** I think that we've discussed karaoke to um raffle ones. I know that there have been successful instances of that. Bringing kinds of those events here at home can gain more fundraising opportunities and can make Y while not need as much reliance on the level of funding that come our way.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Christina. You have 10 seconds if you'd like to wave that, Arthur. Or very quickly.

**Arthur Wu:** Uh, too short.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely.

**Arthur Wu:** I was

**Ulysse Abbate:** I'll take that as I will take that as waved.

**Christina Nowell:** Yeah, that was 10

**Ulysse Abbate:** Uh Tom, over to you.

**Tom Jordan:** That is me giving you a peak behind the curtain. So the answer is more. Um, and it's not because I want more of Federal's budget. It's not because I want more of the English grants. It's because we do need more money in Y International because it's already bloody worth it. So what I'm doing right now is I'm talking with the National Liberal Club about organizing a fundraising event based around a panel which to borrow a phrase from Boris Johnson is oven ready on youth mobility and the future of the EU UK relationship.

01:24:23

**Tom Jordan:** Hopefully that will bring in money. But just for federal bank accounts, but also to spend on while international. Look, money right now in YEL is going to be tighter than it has been for the last half decade. That means that we need to bring in cash flow. We need to bring in money. We do need to spend more on international. That's not going to come from the budget. It's going to come from realistic fundraising attempts, from standing orders being increased, from fundraising events being increased. Fundraising is part of my job. I do a pretty good job of it. I just got five grand in for my local party. There are going to be more fundraising events. There's going to be more money coming into international within this month. And there's going to be more opportunities for everyone because it's already value for money. It's already worth the money. Hell, it's worth twice as much. But that doesn't mean we're not going to raise a bit more.

01:25:06

**Ulysse Abbate:** Please draw remarks closed. Lovely. Thank you, Tom. Um, and again on financing and I appreciate these have been covered um previously, but I think we have time to go over these questions in detail. Um, and so we'll start Tom with you on this one. Um, and again, yes, we have had these questions. So, you know, uh, referring people to your previous questions, previous answers is fine. fundraising clearly is a key part of enabling uh continued participation in international. What practical steps would you take to improve fundraising and Tom over to you

**Tom Jordan:** Um, so I think I've already just went over one practical step in fundraising events. I want to have at least one a year for international. I want to get the ball rolling. We haven't been doing big fundraising events in YEL for a long time. Um, I also want to talk about using Friends of Yel. Friends of Yel, of course, has been brought back quite recently and it's still in our infancy as an emailing list.

01:26:02

**Tom Jordan:** However, there are a lot of alumni of YEIL who got started in politics and started as an adult through YEL and especially through YEL International. I want to work with them to establish a healthy standing order network. I also want to work with AOS. Uh myself and Rowan have reached out to a few AOS and we're working on packages in order to get structural funding for Y International that benefits both ourselves and the AOS. We want to reach out to Libden Women to look at how we can get funding to empower women delegates. We want to reach out to LIIBG to make sure that we have our free fees paid for to sustain our influence in LII. We want to work with LDEG to make sure that Europe is at the forefront of our issues and that our members have a chance to engage with European politics. There are a lot of revenue streams already open to it's just about cracking on with it. I'm really bloody ready to do that. I'm going to be delegating more responsibility to my committee so I have more time to do that.

01:26:50

**Tom Jordan:** I'm really excited to work hopefully if he returns to Josh Lucas Mitti. He's got a lot of good ideas on this. I'm ready to get the money coming in. Let's go.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Tom. And off Christina.

**Arthur Wu:** First of all, we should not put all eggs in one basket. We should diversify

how we fund raise our money. So, not just one-off event, but a mixture of different big donors, partnerships, small donors and fun social like karaoke, uh fundraising concept and quiz nights that brings members together. Secondly, we'll show donors real impact. So every pump race will empower young liberals through training and intentional events. For example, bringing decades to attending for NMAC or take part in my intention workshop that bring skills they would use across a party. And finally, we we organize more training events in UK to justify the donation we ask for. Um I've already raised £2,000 through uh NOC concert. I'm the chair of just concept and organizing successful events. So I know how to deliver this result community spirit at the same time.

01:27:52

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Arthur. You have 10 seconds left. Christina, would you like to wave that or waved? Lovely. Thank you. Um, we'll then move on to uh other questions. I couldn't think of a creative name to tidy all these into one category, so apologies. Um, but it keeps the mystery in the suspense until we ask a question. So the first question which will go to Christina and to Arthur first. International covers both Limek and Ifery two big organizations which demand a lot of time. How will you balance the work of both organizations which can often take much time? Christine and Arthur.

**Christina Nowell:** I mean I think I think that that can be somewhat answered with a co- international officership. I think that there can be a kind of mix of focus of course with massive collaborative efforts because it'd be a co being co- officers you have to work together intensely as I know that um Tom especially can know on this and not just that need of collaboration but also specialization.

01:28:54

**Christina Nowell:** So being able to focus on one or the other can be massively beneficial in any campaign um especially as ski officers. And so being able to have one person who is much more focused on linebackery will be genuinely massively helpful to any actual work in that field rather than being cut between two.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Hey Christine, you have 15 seconds after if you'd like to wave that or not. I'll take that as waved. Lovely. Um and uh Tom

**Tom Jordan:** Yeah. So, I'm going to push back on that as someone who's actually been a co-officer. The answer isn't co-officers. The answer is a better committee and a bigger team. One person can't do this and two people can't do this. Co- officers are

a bit of a fool's errands. They encourage you to split the workload more so within two people than six or 10 people. It means that you feel more comfortable taking on all the responsibility in one organization rather than sharing the loads. Delegation is tough.

**01:29:51**

**Tom Jordan:** doesn't come natural to most of us. Um, so what I want to do is I want to make clearer portfolios. I want to make clearer teams. My role this year will not be just as the international officer. It'll be as the international chair. I want my committee to take on more responsibilities. I have been able to represent Y very well at times in Rowan and Limek. However, it's burned us out and it's almost killed us. What we need is we need a stronger pity and a bigger team. So that's what I'm going to give to you because it's not just a one-man team. It can't just be a twoperson team. It's got to be a team effort. So what we need is a larger committee and a larger

**Ulysse Abbate:** close. Thank you, Tom. Um, the next question is as follows. What do you see the main international topics being over the next 12 months and what will your approach to them be?

**01:30:41**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Uh, Tom, we'll start with you and then we'll go to Arthur and Christina.

**Tom Jordan:** I mean if I could predict that I would be a lot richer man when it comes to betting right. Um so for the last two months or two years in international strategizing my term the big one has always been Israel and Palestine. However with peace talks hopefully on horizon probably will still remain the case but who knows. Um so I can reveal you right now I'm working on a policy with our fantastic lime policy officer and while member Sorca um it's going to be addressing lime's policy on Israel and Palestine. And again, I have a feeling this will remain the largest one. While has taken an incredible leading position on this, I've been the go-between between camps of both those who are most infected to Israel and Palestine. But and more importantly, I have in the shadows led a very strong coalition, a coalition of a willing, if you will, of IO's and member organizations who are very, very happy to stand up for Palestine and if it's led to having its strongest position on Palestine and Israel in years.

01:31:36

**Tom Jordan:** And this November is going to lead to lime having a very strong position on a two-state solution. I would love to say that conflict will end this year. I don't think it will. I think the next 12 months it's still going to remain our biggest challenge.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Please. Thank you, Tom. And often Christina

**Arthur Wu:** Yeah, I will answer this one and I agree with Tom. Gaza would be the motion because I just actually I just got contact by uh our sister party to work with them on this motion with uh without the sister party. So, this is definitely something that we'll definitely work on and yeah, I'll give some time for Chris to answer it.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Christina. You have 40 seconds.

**Christina Nowell:** Yeah. Um I also I also broadly agree with that that Israel Palestine will be a massive thing that continues to be brought up for the next year. I know that peace talks are happening but I don't I I sadly cannot say that I feel optimistic about every peace talk that goes on in the area as none of them have solved it in the past.

01:32:34

**Christina Nowell:** And of course though uh nobody can predict the future towards international events but I know that I think Israel Palestine and continuing support for Ukraine will be massive.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Christina. Um, cool. And the last question out of these other questions, um, section, how will you ensure that Y maintains distinctive positions on foreign affairs? Um, this part of the same question. Um, how will you manage any disagreement with the Federal Party when you feel the Liberals ought to take a different position or strengthen its current rhetoric? Christina and Arthur, we're going to start with you both for this one.

**Christina Nowell:** Yeah, I I've gotten I've gotten a bit of experience in whenever I see the federal party taking a somewhat weak position as as somebody who is now on the plus executive and been able to go through the conference rigomearroll and discussions I've seen whenever the party can sometimes take a bit of a knee on even even what makes core issues to us as liberals and I've seen what happens whenever they whenever people don't correctly correct the issues that go on and so knowing these massive issues I would be very comfortable with bringing up any issues that I might find with the federal part stance and bringing up any softening of existing stances that we need to clarify even further and make sure is at the forefront of Liberal policy to be able to make sure the Liberal Democrats Say liberal.

01:34:13

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Christina. Uh, you had 5 seconds, so I'll take that as waved. Um, Tom, over to you.

**Tom Jordan:** First of all, I'd like to point out that I literally wrote our very distinctive policy on Israel, Palestine, and Gaza, which I'm sure most of you enjoy this conference of Cambridge. It's a little bit of an open secret. Um, I'm going to use an example, and it's one that I'm very proud of. Um, in in SVO, we wrote a policy in conjunction with the diversity committee in the Young Democrats of America on a trans and sex athlete ban for Trump regime and worldwide. Um, I had a call from a very senior Liberal Democrat once that was submitted who told me, "Frankly, Tom, you can't submit this. This will ruin our relationships with our partners in Africa." So, after 20 minutes on the phone with him, I listened. I understood. I simply said one word, "No, this is being submitted. I went to the general assembly. I did the work of our partners in Africa."

01:35:04

**Tom Jordan:** Luckily, I'm very good friends of the chair of the African Liberal Youth. It wasn't an issue at all. I'm very comfortable saying no. I have experience saying no. I will fight for you. I'll fight for our opinions. I've already helped shape our opinions on international policy and I won't stop today. I'm going to fight to make this party as liberal as possible at home and away like I have been doing for the last 15 months.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Please join us. Thank you. Um and we're now going to move on to the very fun lib dem trivia. uh for those who are here earlier um you will you will be familiar with the questions um and so yes uh we're going to start with the first one I'm also going to push for the co officers I I'd love to have a response from all of them so I will try and roughly hold 30 seconds um and you know perhaps some flexibility if needs be um but I I am going to try and really push you all on 30 seconds make sure we can get an answer from all of our candidates um so the first question why did you join the Liberal Democrats Tom we'll start with you and And then we'll move on to Christina and Arthur.

01:36:03

**Tom Jordan:** Um, so I had this question in a job application recently. Um, if you have any good jobs, hit me up. Um, basically I don't quite remember. I know I was online at the time when I was 15 or 16. I know I wanted proportional representation. I know I

wanted a hashtag exit from Brexit. So I remember joining through the r/dem server, one of the worst discord servers out there, which I do technically still own. Um, and I had a call from my local party chair who took me canvassing very quickly. Look, I'm pretty sure I joined because I am a liberal. I now know I'm a liberal. Pretty sure I joined because I wanted proportional representation. I now know I would literally die for representation. I joined because I'm a liberal Democrat and that's why I'm staying here.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Tom. Um, Arthur and Christina

**Arthur Wu:** Well, I'm glad that Tom and I we share the same political hero. My photo is Pau because of his courage, decency, and political instinct.

**01:36:54**

**Arthur Wu:** He never give up on Hong Kong and when we were betrayed by toys and labor in 1980s. Patty is the one who stood up for my people who believe in democracy and freedom. He fought tirelessly in Parliament for Britain to honor his moral duty for my fellow countrymen, arguing that our promises of rights and freedom could not be forgotten. For me as someone from Hong Kong his courage is not just political it was personal. He showed that liberalism mean standing bio principles is inconvenient and unpopular.

**Ulysse Abbate:** 30 seconds.

**Christina Nowell:** Okay.

**Arthur Wu:** So Patty believes the global believer um so uh to continue to fight forism compassion and delivery.

**Christina Nowell:** No, I Okay, I was going to say I lived in America whenever I I believe joined the party as a registered supporter because I couldn't join as a full member at the time.

**Ulysse Abbate:** 30 seconds off and over to Christina.

**Arthur Wu:** Okay.

**Christina Nowell:** And one of the reasons why is because I got to watch as as Labour copied the exact issues that the American Democrats were doing where they kind of took a knee on my own human rights.

**01:37:56**

**Christina Nowell:** And so after watching Labour do that, I had researched more, found the Liberal Democrats, looked at our policies, looked at our amazing record, and went to the party for me.

**Ulysse Abbate:** and please start my drawing remarks to a close. Oh, lovely.

**Christina Nowell:** There you go.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Perfect timing. Thank you. Um, lovely. Thanks. And, uh, what is one policy that you So, we'll start with Christina and Arthur on this one. What is one policy you agree with the most and agree with the least with the Liberal Democrats? Um, like I did in the previous hustings. Um, because this is two policies. Um, I'll offer a bit more flexibility than one minute. Also, we have a lot of time. Um, so I'm I'm happy to kind of show a bit of flexibility, but I of course ask that you meet me in the middle and try and keep your answers short and succinct. Um, we'll start with Christina and Arthur.

**Christina Nowell:** Yeah, I I will say the one that I agree with the most is obviously that I get human rights.

**01:38:51**

**Christina Nowell:** That's quite a good one. Um, but other than that, I will say that I do very much love abortion representation. I think it's a needed one. And I'm gonna sound controversial whenever I say that. One thing I get repeatedly bit crossed with is our policy on the House of Lords. I believe that one of our policies has been repeatedly pushing in the in Parliament to dissolve it. And I think that it is quite important to instead focus on reforming it. I know that is a controversial that I will immediately be shouted down

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Christina. And Arthur, you have 30 seconds.

**Arthur Wu:** Well, my favorite policy is the Hong Kong one. As a of course exact member of Le Hong Kong, we love the Hong Kong motion. Our party is the best one. Um, the least favorite one I would argue I use the old uh policy that we had fixed term parliamentary act. I think it's a terrible idea. So, so um

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, offer.

**01:39:48**

**Ulysse Abbate:** And thank you both for syncness. That's a word. We'll go with it. Uh Tom

**Tom Jordan:** I had one, but I'm going to pivot now. My favorite policy is abolishing the House of Lords. Um, my father's family grew up as tenant farmers on the Lord of the Manners estate. My mom's family were miners in South Wales in a forest of Dean. Nobody is born better than anyone else in this country is how it should be. The reality is right now we have an aristocracy entrenched. One policy I disagree with the

most is a tough one for me because where do I begin? I'm going to say our lack of commitment to a European federal union. I was born a European citizen and frankly when I die I think that's the only citizenship I'd like to hold. Very proud to be English. I'm very proud to be British but I believe in a new direction for humanity and a new direction for Europe. We should be bolder on Europe and we haven't been for a long long

**01:40:43**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Tom. Um, cool. And, uh, another question, uh, when, again, libm trivia, um, when was the last time you campaigned, including clerical or other support for a young liberal candidate in an election? Tom, we'll start with you.

**Tom Jordan:** Today I'm running a bi-election campaign for a young Liberal candidate which hasn't been announced yet in Oldfield Maiden Head. She's a fantastic candidate. She used to work in HQ for the events team before she lost her job and now she works as a case worker in our office. Please come to Maiden Head over in the next few months. We have a lot of orphan deliveries. We have a lot of doors to knock. Um outside of that, I was over in Suffukk supporting a fantastic candidate who's hopefully going to be taking over from a stalwart counselor. Um contact McKenzie for more details on that. Um, I also campaign a lot for an MP called Joshua Reynolds. He's 26 and I've heard he's quite good. Apparently, he's a young Liberal.

**01:41:34**

**Tom Jordan:** Um, the majority of my time in life, it feels like is spent campaigning for young Liberals. I'm going to be calling some local parties in the next few months arguing for local young liberals to get on their ballots. I've been reaching out to other local parties, see if there's opportunities for young Liberals to get selected. This is one of my number one passions in life. Um, frankly, I do a bit too much of it, I think.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Tom.

**Arthur Wu:** So the last one, sorry.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Go off. No, no, please. Off to you.

**Arthur Wu:** So the last one is two weeks ago I helped a bio candidate and uh and the next one I would go to is next Thursday is the McKenzie's uh polling day. So I'm going to help them. So yeah. Can you see

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you all and over to you Christina.

**Christina Nowell:** I I I will say that because I can get to Maiden Head much more

easily than I can to get to McKenzie, I know where I will be going in the future because thank you for bringing me on to that one, Tom, on mentioning that because now I know where I have to send myself once that gets announced.

**01:42:30**

**Christina Nowell:** Um, but the last one that I was on, I I I will say that my brain is in enough of a of it's enough of a thick slurry after conference that I do not have the memory to recall the last local candidate that I had specifically campaigned for doing clar work. And I apologize that I cannot answer this because I'm just tired.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Christina. Uh, and two more questions. These are very quick fire, so I'm expecting short bullet point answers. Um, first question, uh, FAA61A. Um, again, bonus points if anyone in the chat has managed to remind me of the actual hex code of the new orange. Um, but FAA 61A, new orange, old, well, FA 61A is the old orange. Um, gold, yellow, amber. How do you describe the lib dem color or what it should be or whatever? Um, I'll leave the answers to you, Christina and Arthur. We'll start with you both.

**Arthur Wu:** Go, go, go. It was the old color of the Liberal Party.

**01:43:30**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Gold. Thank you, Arthur. Christina.

**Christina Nowell:** It's It's gold. Although, I will say that because I'm a nerd and I know and I and I memorized the old style guide whenever I liked it and that's how I figured out that we were going to have a rebrand is because they took down the style guide from the website. Um, but officially under our style guide, it was described as yellow and I think that's wrong. It's gold.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you Christ. See you Tom.

**Tom Jordan:** So the color of the Liberal Democrats is Democrat orange. Um it's digital. It's #f640 and it looks bloody beautiful on a two color riso. Um yeah, I really love the new color. I think it took way too long for them to debate in HQ from what I've heard. Look, I think we always knew we were orange all along. Voters thought we were orange. I'm glad we've owned up to it. Um I like orange. I think it looks f\*\*\*\*\* fetching.

01:44:20

**Tom Jordan:** Um I like it on a Young Liberal website as well.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you. And can I remind candidates the need for inclusive language um in in our in our hustings. Um this is not the time to emulate Robert GMI as much as his impassioned um criticism of whatever it was. I forgot. Um, yes, I will remind kindly the uh the candidates for for inclusive language only. Um, and finally, perhaps the most um as much as I love the the reactions. That wasn't that funny of a joke, I promise, but I am flattered. The um no, the last one, the most important question, of course, we asked it to Ed. We'll ask it to all of you as well. Um, social liberal or classical liberal? We'll start with you, Tom.

**Tom Jordan:** really easy to me. Social liberal. Um I believe in the markets. I believe in free markets. I believe in free trade. However, right now I literally lead an unofficial caucus social liberals around if um I will be looking to continue our strong bonds with uh young Democrat in the Netherlands.

01:45:20

**Tom Jordan:** My favorite manifesto ever written is a D66 manifesto they're using for this election. If you haven't read it, it's absolutely fantastic. Look, I love markets. I love free trade. I would call myself a big Liberal first and foremost. If you're going to make me choose, I'm going to choose social liberal. I say this even though I'm in a little group chat on Twitter with a few friends called the market liberals of Yel, but oh well. I'm sorry about that, guys.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you. Tom author Christina.

**Arthur Wu:** My answer I think is it would be very boring. Same as social liberal. Yeah. Uh I know that I'm always center left. So uh I'm social liberal. Christina.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you Christine.

**Christina Nowell:** I I I I hate to invite the trifactor, but as a social liberal myself, I must invoke that I think that we all agree on this, that social liberalism is just clearly better. Although I would agree with I would agree more with Tom that I use the label of being a liberal without any clarifying ones normally.

01:46:15

**Ulysse Abbate:** Well, a big win for social liberalism at these Hustings. I think both of our previous candidates in the Sy Hustings were also social liberals. Um, lovely. Thank you all. We're now going to move on to the concluding statements. Um I can't

see any more questions in my inbox. Um we will or both of the candidacies will have um one minutes to do concluding statements. Can someone remind me who went first at the beginning? I've now lost track of who I think Tom.

**Christina Nowell:** I do.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Perfect. And and that that's perfect timing in which case Christine I think you mentioned you will be um delivering the concluding statements. Lovely.

**Christina Nowell:** Yes.

**Ulysse Abbate:** In which case you have one minute whenever you're ready to start.

**Christina Nowell:** Yes. Um I would first like to say uh thank you to Tom and Uliss for both showing to this and sharing this. And I would like to say hopefully that hopefully you will vote for us in this upcoming election.

**01:47:10**

**Christina Nowell:** It can be very big for fundraising, for helping YO. And as we said in our manifesto, we want to bring this back to basic was the term that we used. And I think that what that is is we want to bring it back to focusing on membership to zooming out from the closer picture, focusing on the number one goal of bringing young Liberals and involving them significantly in the international community to be able to focus on our international partners to work more. But not just for us to be working us in international positions, not for just the committee, just the officers, but to focus on you, the members of the young liberals, to being able to be involved more in how we do our international affairs and focus more on how we do work.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Please draw your remarks to a close.

**Christina Nowell:** Thank

**Ulysse Abbate:** Lovely. Thank you, Christina. Um, and Tom over to you.

**Tom Jordan:** Thank you, chair. Um, so I didn't write anything for this. Um, but I first of all, I wanted to say whether I'm your IO for the next 12 months, the next 12 days, I will continue to work hard for you.

**01:48:15**

**Tom Jordan:** So, in terms of going back to basics, engaging members, and getting some money in, I want to say that's never not been my focus this year. Alongside ensuring that Yel is the most respected party in the Liberal Youth family, which we are, we had a an official poll of IO's in Yel scored number one. that as my focus. If you look at my endorsements, we have a smattering of first-time delegates I've brought with me to ify this year. Cormarmac, Tom, they have all attested that what

we have done this year has been empowering for them and I want to continue that work. I want more people to get involved in my international. I want to do for them what Kai did for me two years ago. What I've continued to do for myself over the past few years. We've had events in person and I will continue them such as our visit to p house. Of course, it hasn't always been perfect and I think part of that is down to structure. Co-op isn't ideal.

**01:49:05**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Please remot.

**Tom Jordan:** What we need is structure. Two people shouldn't have to do the role of one person. We need a broader church around them to ensure that every member has the opportunities that they deserve. Thank you everyone.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Thank you, Tom. And thank you all candidates and all um attendees for joining us today. Just to do a bit of housekeeping to conclude before I thank everyone and leave you all to your Tuesdays. The timetable following these hustings um were the voting will open in 3 days time on the 10th of October. Voting will close one week later on the 17th. Results announced very soon after. You should be receiving emails from our fabulous staffer Tom Hughes. Um if you aren't, please get in touch with one of the executive or in fact get in touch with Tom directly. You can find his details on the Young Liberals website under the executive page. If you scroll down, you'll see his contact information or a page linking to his contact information there.

**01:50:00**

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um, beyond that, this was our international uh officers hustlings. Thank you Christina, Arthur and Tom all for standing and for joining us today and being held accountable by the membership. Um, it is very important and um I'm sure on behalf of the membership we thank we all appreciative um of you all coming today. Um, with all that being said, uh, and finishing 8 minutes ahead of time. Look at us go. Incredible. Um, I will leave you. See, even even the chat is going wild. Um, as you should be. Um, yes. Uh, that was that was officer Hustings. Is there any other housekeeping? I don't think there is. In which case, thank you all. Um, I'm going to end this call. So, please all leave. Um, and I will see you all in the next one. Sorry, Tom. Was that quite a very good point and in fact um I will follow that point up with a link to the uh hustlings uh information.

01:50:45

**Tom Jordan:** There's more hustlings throughout the week and we still need questions especially for the Red Hustings which is going to be on Thursday I believe.

**Ulysse Abbate:** We are having hustings across the week. Um you're all welcome to join to submit questions etc. Um that's all. Uh I don't think the red wall hostings has been confirmed. best to get in touch with Tom about that. Um I I I the deadline for submissions of Q&A.

**Tom Jordan:** Hang on.

**Christina Nowell:** Yeah.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um we will we will close these to just to prevent us from giving false information. Um and just because I don't want to say anything and then get told off by Tom Hughes um told off. Um he's obviously very nice. He would never he would never do such a thing. But um no. Yes. Um everyone please u check your emails and check online.

**Tom Jordan:** There's not going to be a hustings, but the questions can be sent in um and before the opening vote, but tomorrow comm's officer.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Yes, I thought so. Um quite that's correct.

**Tom Jordan:** No, tomorrow is chair and on Thursday it's comms and policy.

**Ulysse Abbate:** Um you can see all those details in the link attached which I'm sure Tom will update if there's any changes. Thank you all for joining us once again and uh enjoy your Fridays. Thank you all.

**Transcription ended after 01:52:29**

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