

2012 Executive Reports



Steve Bradley - Chair

My main objective over the last 12mths has been to work closely with Executive colleagues to ensure GLD develops greater influence within the party.

I began by holding ongoing meetings with key Party individuals to understand how GLD is perceived and what we should do to push the sustainability agenda internally. Their feedback has framed the changes I've proposed for the organisation since.

In particular, I've brought a lot of innovation to GLD this year. To develop the organisation I've helped pioneer new and better ways of functioning (e.g. Skype meetings, Working Groups), as well as new fund-raising projects such as the 50-50 competition.

To build greater influence on policy and the Party I've ensured that we have a regular presence at relevant Backbench Committees, Policy Working Groups, and in key Lib Dem publications for the first time. I've pioneered the introduction of our new Policy Forum, and built links with green companies/NGOs which are already bearing fruit via fringes, policy initiatives and the Sustainability Hub.

The first year as Chair of a voluntary organisation is always the hardest. There remains a lot more to do to ensure we become a major force within the Liberal Democrat Party.

(modified on request of author, 25/9/2012)

Mia Hadfield-Spoor - Vice Chair (Political) , Membership Secretary (until June)

This year I became Vice-Chair Political for the first time. I wanted to get involved in campaigning as well as policy work. While I have not managed to take part in many campaigns I have managed to pursue the policy side of my role.

I began by contributing to our submission on the National Planning Policy Framework and followed by organising and submitting a response on the Government's Water White Paper. I am currently looking at the Draft Energy Bill. Aside from general correspondence on behalf of GLD, I have contributed to our website development and management. I have attended several exec meetings and helped organise our presence at Federal Party Conferences, including spending time on our stall.

Since Spring Conference I have been developing a GLD Regional Rep network as well as laying foundations for a GLD Policy Forum/Panel. I helped organise and run the GLD conference in July. On behalf of GLD, I have attended meetings with Chris Huhne, Ed Davey and Liberal Youth as well as taking up the opportunity to attend several of our party's backbench DEFRA/DECC committee meetings.

Simon Oliver - Vice Chair (Organisation)

I participated in all the Executive meetings, producing and distributing the agendas, taking notes and recordings and writing minutes from them. I chaired half of one meeting when the Chair was late, as well as several Events subgroup meetings. The minutes

format I introduced last year was developed and improved, and the agenda given timings, leading to smoother meetings.

I introduced meetings via Skype and pressed for a Birmingham meeting (the best attended meeting all year) to allow fuller participation of members beyond London.

I organised and ran the GLD Conference in Birmingham, the first for over two years. Everyone attending told us they enjoyed the venue and programme, and my flapjacks and shortbread disappeared rapidly.

I wrote articles for Challenge and Libdem Voice. I manage our online presence, on the website, Facebook and Twitter (1100 followers and counting). I introduced online document sharing between exec members and continued to improve our membership data tools.

I organised the stall and fringes at each of the federal conferences, running it last September and helping out extensively in the Spring. I store and manage the stock between events. I set out procedures for members to run mini-stalls at regional events.

Susan Heinrich - Honorary Treasurer

This is the first time I have ever taken on this type of role and being an Honorary Treasurer has definitely been, and is, an interesting learning curve.

I managed to produce a draft Budget for the beginning of the Executive year, which by default, has also been used for the calendar year; the year that we need to prepare the Accounts for. The Accounts themselves for 2011 are currently being finalised as I write this report.

I am also still in the processing of get used to using the database for some of the record keeping which has taken longer to get used to than I expected, but is an important part of this role.

Finally, although we do have a Financial Procedure in place, which I instigated as Chair, we need to have a written guide in place to assist future GLD Treasurers about the role, which I would like to produce for next year based on the experience I have gained this year.

Christian Vassie - Challenge Editor

Over the past year I have continued to edit and design Challenge magazine. We continue to secure contributions from MPs, Ministers, and MEPs, alongside other independent writers from the UK and abroad. I am keen this year to finally make progress on attracting advertisers and expanding circulation of the magazine.

Matthew Hulbert - Membership Secretary (since June)

I've only been Membership Officer for a few months, but was very proud to join the Green Lib Dems' Executive and to work with a group of people so dedicated to the environment and to ensuring that our group remains the green conscience of the Liberal Democrats.

Since joining the Executive, as well as undertaking my duties in terms of Membership, I've also enjoyed participating in the ongoing discussions about the future direction of GLD.

I must thank Simon Oliver for all of his help, in terms of helping me with the Membership

role and Steve Bradley for his encouragement.

Finally, I very much enjoyed attending this year's Green Liberal Democrats conference and thank the people involved in organising it.

Report received late

Steve Bolter - Ordinary Member

Attended the GLD Conference and 100% of Executive meetings.

Combined helping to man the GLD stall and speaking as a Local Party Delegate, on green and other matters, at my Regional and both National Conferences.

Wrote the GLD guides to the national Conferences.

Volunteered for Challenge, communications and policy work groups. Policy panel is not yet fully formed, but am contributing to policy development and communication.

Member of Lib Dem Zero Carbon UK 2050 working group. Attendance 100% and have submitted comments and content for its Consultation Document.

Contributed to GLD responses to Government consultations on Water for Life and the Planning Policy Framework.

Shortly after last year's report, contribution to a debate on nuclear energy published in Challenge. This year, wrote a paper on A Physicist's Economics for the journal Challenge and was somewhat embarrassed to have it published under the title "The Merkel Method", surrounded by inappropriate graphics.

Other contributions to communicating our message include: a visit to Aldeburgh Local Party to introduce the GLD and talk about the positive contribution renewable energy makes to the economy; and one day taking the lead letter slot in the Guardian supporting Ed Davey and Lib dem policy.

Alec Dauncey - Ordinary Member

Seeking to fly the flag for GLD in Wales. Distributed GLD leaflets at Welsh Conference. Unable to attend GLD conference as a result of the flooding in Aberystwyth.

Mary Page – Ordinary Member

No report received

Karen Wilkinson – Ordinary Member

No report received

Peter Chivall – Ordinary Member

Since joining the Executive in September 2011 I have concentrated on assisting Simon with running the Conference Stall, including arranging display stands and display materials for the Gateshead Spring Conference and the GLD Conference in Birmingham. I have also produced a lightweight Conference display which can be used by Regional Reps and others to promote GLD at Regional Conferences. Together with the Vice-Chair (Political) I am producing display materials on this year's stand theme, 'Feeding the Future'.

(received late)

Jonathan Coles – Ordinary Member

No report received

Paolo Adragna – Ordinary Member

No report received

Jane Brophy – Ordinary Member

No report received