



autumn conference conference final

birmingham 17th – 21st september 2011

Report back on the business of Wednesday 21st September including extracts from Nick Clegg's Leader's speech to conference.

report back for wednesday 21st september

F42	Party business	Interim Peer Election Regulations	Passed
F43	Party business	Federal Committee Election Regulations	Passed
F44	Policy motion	The Arab Awakening	Passed (Amendments One and Two passed)
F49	Party business	Party Awards: Albert Ingham Award Patsy Calton Award Penhaligon Award Belinda Eyre-Brook Award Harriet Smith President's Award	won by Anne Winstanley won by Kirsty Williams AM and Janet Morgan won by St Albans Liberal Democrats won by Jennifer Pack won by Henry Maddick won by Doris Ansari

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Our website contains all the conference information you need – registration and accommodation, motions and voting, participating in our fringe and exhibition, and much more – visit www.libdems.org.uk/conference.



your views are important to us!

Conference feedback questionnaires will no longer be available in hard copy. Instead, following conference, representatives will be emailed a link to an online questionnaire.

Please complete the questionnaire as your answers provide important information that helps us to improve conference.

Conference Final and other conference documents are available in plain text, large/clear print and as pdf files – go to www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers

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leader's speech

Extracts from the speech by Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister, to Liberal Democrat Autumn Conference, Wednesday 21st September 2011.

The central theme of Nick Clegg's speech to conference was that Liberal Democrats in Government are not doing the easy thing but the right thing. He said: "For liberals, the litmus test is always the national interest. Not doing the easy thing. Doing the right thing."

He acknowledged the challenges faced by the country at the moment, but reaffirmed his commitment to tackling the deficit. He said: "Right now, our biggest concern is of course the economy. The recovery is fragile. Every worker, every family knows that there is a long, hard road ahead. But we're not in politics just to repair the damage done by Labour to glue back the pieces of the old economy. We need to build a new economy. A new economy for the whole nation."

On social mobility and education, he said: "My passion is ensuring a fair start for every child. I have a simple, unquenchable belief: that every child can do good things, great things, if only we give them the opportunities they deserve. For liberals the only struggles worth having are the uphill ones. Allowing schools to put poorer children at the front of the queue for admissions. Making universities open their doors to everyone. Making firms work harder to get women on their boards. Breaking open internships."

"Because this will not be a liberal nation until every citizen can thrive and prosper, until birth is no longer destiny, until every child is free to rise."

On vested interests and party funding he said: "as Liberal Democrats we act for the whole nation. In our long, proud liberal history, we have never served the media moguls, the union barons or the bankers. We do not serve, and we will never serve, vested interests. We are in nobody's pocket. That's why we speak up, first and loudest, when the establishment lets the people down. In the last three years, we've seen establishment institutions exposed one by one. The City of London, shattered by the greed of bankers. The media, corrupted by phone hacking. Parliament, shamed by expenses."

"Of all the claims Ed Miliband has made the most risible is that his party is the enemy of vested interests. Today Labour is in hock to the trade union barons - after their government stipend, 95% of Labour's money comes from unions. Most of it from just four of them."

"Let me be clear: the values of trade unionism are as relevant as ever. Supporting workers. Fighting for fairness at work. But I don't think the unions should be able to buy themselves a political party. Ed Miliband says he wants to loosen the ties between his party and the union barons who helped him beat his brother. Let's see him put his money where his mouth is. Let's see if he'll support radical reform of party funding. Every previous attempt has been blocked by the vested interests in the other two parties."

"We are all stuck in a system that we know is wrong. We've all been damaged by it. But if we learned anything from the expenses scandal it is surely that if the system's broken we should not wait for the next scandal. We should fix it and fix it fast."

conference timetable spring 2012

9th – 11th March 2012 Gateshead

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00 Tuesday	3rd January 2012
Motions deadline	13.00 Wednesday	11th January 2012
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00 Tuesday	21st February 2012
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00 Tuesday	6th March 2012