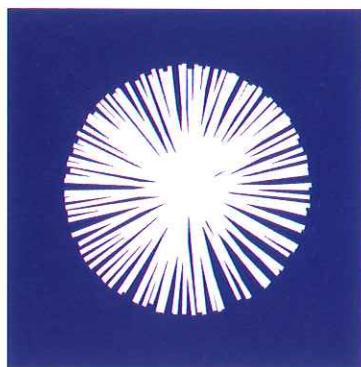


# Scottish Environment LINK



The voice of  
Scotland's  
environment  
movement



## Annual Report 2003

*Covering the year June 2002 to May 2003*

*Summary of Accounts for 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003*

## Publications

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- *LINK Newsletter* (quarterly) for Members, Associates, Supporters and Subscribers, carrying reviews of recent work and information on initiatives by Members and guest contributors;
- *Holyrood Highlighter*, regular digest of Scottish Parliamentary news relating to environment;
- *Reports* on a range of issues (see publications list at [www.scotlink.org](http://www.scotlink.org))

## Management Team

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Chairman	Rear Admiral Neil E Rankin CB CBE
Vice Chairman	Lloyd Austin
Treasurer	David Downie
Members	John Mayhew Ian McCall Lorna Main Joan Geddes Ian Findlay
Honorary Fellow	R Drennan Watson

## Staff

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Manager	Jen Anderson
Deputy	Alice Walsh
Parliamentary Officer	Jessica Pepper
Administration	Andy Colledge
Fundraising	Steven Gardner
Information & Policy Support	Rosalind Pearson
Parliamentary Administrator	Sam Murray
LEARN Project Officer	Gill Calder (to March 2003)
Policy Support	Betsy King (to July 2002)

## Further information

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Most LINK member bodies are signatories to the everyone campaign at <http://www.everyonecan.org>

LINK is recognised as a charity in Scotland, charity number 000296

## Chairman's Foreword



The beginning of the second term of Parliament is an appropriate time to take stock of Scottish Environment LINK's growing reputation as the accepted and strong voice for Scotland's environment.

This report illustrates the diverse fields within which LINK is bringing a powerful influence to bear and the many bodies with whom we engage but, undoubtedly, the high points of this past year have been the enactment of the Access legislation and the Water Environment legislation; LINK has put a huge amount of work into ensuring that the final legislation was as good as it could be. The Water Environment and Water Services Act — which transposed the Water Framework Directive into Scottish law — leads the field in Europe. The Land Reform Act also paves the way for access arrangements that should rival the best in Europe.

This effort, over many years, was appreciated by Parliamentarians and warmly acknowledged by Committees and in the debating chamber. LINK is well recognised and established as a credible source of information on the environmental dimensions of developing policy and a clear exponent of the public interest. This is a reputation on which we shall build with all the political parties who, thanks to LINK, featured the environment strongly in most of their manifestos — delivery will be the next challenge! The benefit to the public of an independent voice for the environment is unequivocal — LINK delivers excellent value for the small percentage of third sector funding that we receive.

No organisation is credible without its grass roots support and it is this strength in particular on which LINK's **everyone** campaign will draw in mobilising better our member bodies over the coming years. Actions since the launch, just two months ahead of the Holyrood elections, exceeded expectations and questions on the environment swelled the postbags of candidate MSPs. **everyone** represents LINK bodies working together on an entirely new level that subsumes individual agendas — from birds to bicycles — within the bigger picture, under the joint aspiration of raising the status of the environment in Scotland.

Another highlight of the year was the first LINK Members' Congress, which brought together people from across the membership for two dynamic days of creative planning and sociability. It brought home the enthusiasm and remarkable diversity of expertise that exists within LINK under the common banner of 'environment'.

Also, the task forces — largely unsung but so important to the work of LINK — deserve particular mention; they continue to punch well above their weight in the environmental ring and bring strong influences to bear, safeguarding the present and shaping our future. Our parliamentary business grows and I am pleased to report that the highly respected team provides a well-used and valuable service that is greatly appreciated by the members.

My three years chairing this remarkable organisation has come to an end and I am happy to leave it in a thriving condition and ready for the challenges that lie ahead. For my own part, I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure and, in particular, being associated with our enthusiastic membership from whom I have learned much; I have a vastly increased knowledge of the intricacies of environmental policy development and, as importantly, have also made some lasting friendships. My special thanks are due to Lloyd Austin, Jen Anderson and the headquarters staff, and the Management Team for their help and guidance throughout and with whom it has been such a pleasure to work — we are, indeed, all very fortunate to be so well served by such a competent, dedicated and loyal team. Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Rankin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rear Admiral Neil E Rankin CB CBE, Chairman

## Management Team Report

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With a commitment to making the environment a key issue for decision-makers in Scotland, resources this year have been invested mainly in dialogue, advocacy and the everyone campaign. This report reflects the considerable range of meetings and initiatives to be held under LINK auspices, many supported by LINK staff.

Given a growing programme of work, we have improved coordination and integration by task forces and staff. Encouraging greater understanding between member bodies has also been important theme and Congress 2002 was an excellent first in what will be an annual event, setting a high standard for future gatherings. The everyone campaign drew in new faces and skills from several member bodies, as well as involving Chief Executives of many member bodies in key decisions.

The Management Team has reviewed LINK's meetings schedule, overseen the metamorphosis to guarantee company status endorsed by the membership and approved modest expansion of the Perth office to provide a new meeting-room for task forces and member bodies.

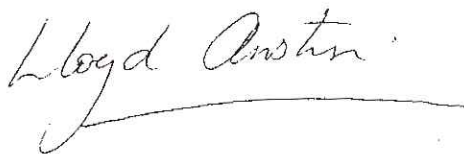
In early 2003, the Team's mid-term review of progress against strategic objectives involved individual interviews with representatives of the member bodies, contact which was widely appreciated. Conclusions demonstrate that Management's emphasis on focussing down and prioritising aspirations in the context of resources is absolutely supported by the membership. Members acknowledge the need for budget growth, to meet aspirations year-on-year, and deliver environmental gain.

There is broad support, in principle, for associated subscription growth, although difficulties were forecast by some bodies in meeting significantly higher fees. Clearly, a greater investment of core time will be needed for fundraising from other sources.

The review identified potential benefits of a 'Director' figure for the movement, agreeing that this is unaffordable in the short-term as well as posing other disbenefits. However, it was proposed that LINK should evolve remits of the existing staff and relationships between staff, management and members. Greater management responsibility will be delegated to the Chief Officer, with representational work and ambassadorial dimensions counting amongst key roles of Vice-Chairs and Chair.

May 2003 marks the end of Neil Rankin's tenure with LINK. Neil has chaired LINK since June 2000 and his unstinting commitment to the demands of the role over these three important years is widely appreciated. We wish Neil all the best in his future endeavours. The Chair Search Group at spring 2003 hopes to identify a similar individual for the remit which Neil has very successfully developed.

The overall message from the mid-term review is that LINK is worthwhile and that its purpose and *modus operandi* are valid — a positive accolade on the work of members, task forces, staff, team and officers.



Lloyd W Austin,  
Vice-Chair