

Scotland Branch Newsletter

Issue 21



TACKLING THE CHALLENGES OF KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR MEMBERS



Statement from the Branch Officers

The Scotland Branch Extraordinary General Meeting was held from 1.30pm to 3pm on 4 September at The Griffin, Glasgow. In attendance were Acting Chair Michael Kirby, Administrator Christine McGiveron and Minutes Secretary Muriel Haig.

Apologies for absence were received from Treasurer Cherry Dolan and member Mary Wood. It was good to see 14 members in person, with three members participating via MS Teams.

Christine McGiveron read out her report. Then Michael Kirby read out his report in his capacity as Membership Secretary.

Michael then read out the branch constitution and necessary

amendments. It was understood by the members that these could not wait until the 2026 AGM in order that officers continue in their present positions to run the branch business.

They were advised of officers' meetings with HQ and discussions with Connect, whose services have been declined on grounds of cost.

Debate took place over how much notice should be given about any future EGM. It was agreed that this should be a minimum of two

The branch held a good EGM, with all matters discussed and agreed

months and should be advertised in a branch newsletter and in *The Pensioner* magazine.

There was some confusion over amendments to the constitution, but this was discussed and amendments unanimously agreed by all participating members.

Members also unanimously agreed to Michael Kirby being appointed Acting Branch Chair until the branch AGM in 2026 (possibly April). It was agreed that the Branch Chair position would be advertised in the newsletter, in *The Pensioner* and on the branch website (*see next page*).

Members were also given a report on this year's national AGM in October in Kenilworth, who had attended and in what capacity.

Before closing the EGM, dates and venues were announced for the next branch meeting and the Christmas lunch (*see next page*).

This was a good EGM, with all matters discussed and agreed. There was additional thanks from a member, who said that the officers have acted appropriately to keep the branch alive.

Scotland Branch Chair

This position is vacant due to the previous Chair stepping down earlier this year. Members attending the EGM agreed that the other branch officers should continue to deal with the day-to-day running of the branch (*see report previous page*).

Any member wishing to make an application for the position should email Branch Administrator Christine McGiveron – Christine.McGiveron@cspa.co.uk – giving a brief personal profile, and what you can contribute to the Scotland Branch.

Branch Chair: responsibilities

- The Chair of the Scotland Branch is a Trustee.
- In accordance with health and safety legislation and in compliance with the Scotland Branch risk management plan, the Chair owes a duty of care to all Scotland Branch members.

- This position requires competent IT skills as much of the work is carried out via email and the internet and done within given time constraints. The Chair will work with the branch officers for the benefit of the Scotland Branch membership.
- All work carried out by the Chair must be in compliance with the Scotland Branch and national constitutions, the Advice to Groups and Branch (Scotland) and the Data Protection Act 1998 and principles therein.
- Bring any succession planning and outreaching ideas/projects in accordance with the Scotland

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Branch risk management plan for discussion at branch officer meetings, and/or to be placed on the agenda for such meetings.

- Chair Scotland Branch officer meetings and annual general meetings. The Chair has a casting vote as and when required.
- Attend national Executive Council meetings three times a year in London, or via Microsoft Teams, and one prior to the national AGM at that venue if required.
- Attend the national AGM.
- Compile reports on all of the above, for delivery to Scotland Branch officers.
- Compile Scotland Branch Chair reports for officer meetings and newsletters, and any Branch Chair reports agreed by branch officers to be placed in *The Pensioner* magazine, working to the necessary deadlines.



Member meetings

The final meeting for 2025 was held in The Griffin, 266 Bath Street, Glasgow on Thursday 6 November. Representatives from the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity attended, updating us on their valuable work. They also brought their popular Christmas cards and gifts, which are not available in high-street shops.

Our meetings for 2026 will be held in the same venue on the first Thursdays of February, May, September and November. Please come to our meetings, or to attend virtually please contact Michael Kirby, Membership Secretary (*contact details at the foot of each page*).

Branch Christmas Lunch

Advance notice that this popular event will be held again at the Maldron Hotel, 50 Renfrew Street, Glasgow – a short walk from Buchanan Street bus station and a 10-minute walk from Central and Queen Street train stations – on 11 December at 12.30pm for 1pm.

This is mainly funded by the Branch Treasurer, but we ask attending members to pay £25 per head towards the cost. This should be paid on the day. Menu choices will be made on the day.

Please contact Michael Kirby to book your place – no later than Friday 28 November.

Any member who has special dietary requirements should also please inform Michael Kirby by this date.



Staying Safe on the Roads

As the nights draw in and the weather turns unpredictable, many of us find ourselves driving in conditions that can be difficult and dangerous. For drivers who may feel less confident in reduced visibility, or where health or eyesight changes play a part, slippery surfaces and darker conditions can increase the risk of road traffic accidents.

Driving after dark presents unique risks. Glare from oncoming headlights, reduced peripheral vision, and difficulty judging speed and distance can all contribute to accidents. Extra care is essential.

Scotland's weather can be unforgiving, especially in winter. Rain, snow and ice increase stopping distances, while fog and heavy rain reduce visibility. Even familiar routes can become hazardous.

Planning ahead, allowing extra time for journeys, and reducing speed are all simple but effective steps that can make a real difference to safety.

David Adams (pictured), Partner and



Head of the Road Traffic Accident team at Thompsons Scotland, highlights the risks: "Driving in the dark or poor weather conditions can be daunting and carries increased risks. We always encourage motorists to take simple precautions such as slowing down, keeping headlights clean, and maintaining safe distances to help prevent accidents. But if the worst happens, it's important to know that specialist support is available."

Why CSPA members can trust Thompsons Scotland

If you are unfortunate enough to be involved in a road traffic accident, many insurers may push you towards their own panel solicitors. However, there are significant advantages in seeking advice from a specialist personal injury firm such as Thompsons Scotland:

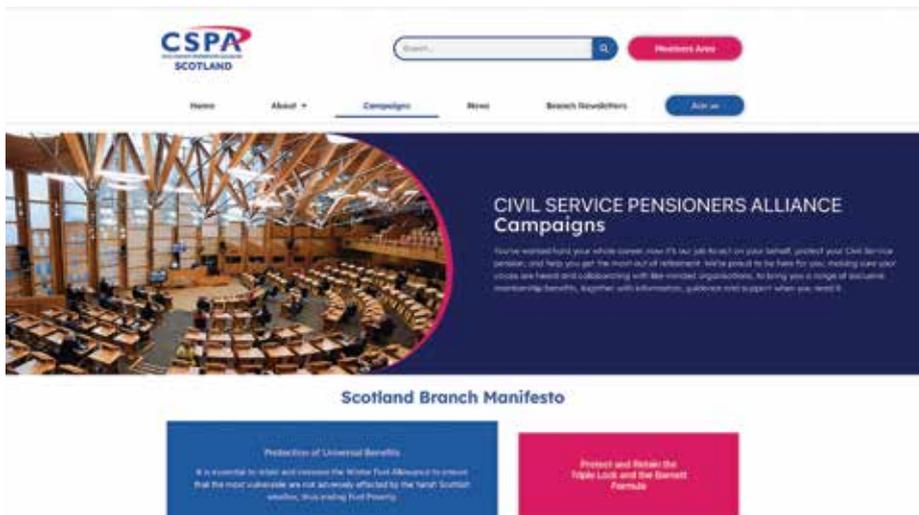
- **Dedicated expertise** Our solicitors specialise in accident compensation claims, ensuring your case is handled

by people who understand the complexities involved.

- **Independent advice** Unlike insurers' panel firms, we act solely in your best interests, not the insurer's.
- **Proven results** Thompsons Scotland has a strong record of securing fair compensation for clients, often achieving better outcomes than through insurers.
- **Support throughout** We provide clear guidance, updates and practical advice at every stage of the process.
- **Exclusive benefit for CSPA members** Members and their partners/spouses keep 100% of their compensation with Thompsons. Other solicitors may deduct up to 20%, but with Thompsons you keep every penny.

At Thompsons Scotland, we pride ourselves on being approachable, supportive and determined to achieve the best possible outcome for our clients.

Call us on **0131 473 6445** or visit **TalkToThompsons.com**



Re-opening groups

Sadly, there are no groups operating in Scotland. Should any members wish to consider re-opening either the Glasgow or Edinburgh group, please contact Branch Administrator Christine McGiveron by emailing Christine.McGiveron@cspa.co.uk or telephoning 07506 315826.



Branch website

The website is solely for Scotland Branch members and is regularly updated by me with news and items relevant to Scotland. It also includes a link to the national CSPA website, which will also enable non-members to join the CSPA.

The new Scotland Branch website has been created to present a more corporate image, and it is now identical to the national website.

The branch officers hope you like it and I encourage everyone to have a look and see what you think.

It is easy to navigate and there is a facility to provide feedback.

To access the website, just enter www.cspascotland.org.uk in your browser to get to the home page.

Michael Kirby, Membership Secretary and Branch Webmaster

Keeping your details up to date



Membership Secretary Michael Kirby (*details at the bottom of this page*) is the man to contact for any alterations to your personal data held on the Scotland Branch section of the CSPA database (such as change of address, email or telephone number) or any other membership matters. Should any branch members prefer to receive future newsletters by email, please contact Michael Kirby with your email address.

SP Energy Networks Priority Services Register

In the event of a power cut, our teams work around the clock to restore your electricity as quickly as possible.

To enquire about being placed on this register – phone 0330 1010 167

Any feedback regarding this newsletter would be very much appreciated.



Remember: do not leave *The Pensioner* magazine in doctors' or dentists' surgeries or any public places as it contains names and addresses of CSPA officers.

The CSPA is committed to ensuring that your information and privacy are protected.