

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

Chairman's Report

AGM 7 June 2009

In the twelve months since taking up the Chair of the Council, I have been particularly impressed by its close relationship with the Scottish Parliament. I doubt that any other Jewish community has found itself so deeply involved with the day to day work of its country's government.

In addition to the parliamentary work, the Council is involved with local authorities and the numerous other bodies which make up the fabric of our civil society in Scotland. I would urge you to read the tabled *Current Activities Report* to get a feel of all that we do.

Within the Jewish community itself, the Council continues to provide a variety of services that are also described in the *Current Activities Report*. In addition, the Council has for several years taken the lead in bringing together Jewish people scattered around Scotland outside the main conurbations. This year we received government recognition for this work in the form of a large grant that will enable us to expand our endeavours.

Much of the activity of the Council is conducted by our Director, Ephraim Borowski, and our Public Affairs Officer, Leah Granat. They are both totally committed to their work and for this I must thank them very much. I would also like to thank our Honorary Treasurer, Daniel Clapham, who has had to stand down on account of ill health. Daniel has served us well for ten years in that role and I am delighted that he will remain on our Council as an active member. My predecessor in office, Kenneth Collins, has continued to offer his support and advice and I thank him, too. Likewise, I would like to thank our Honorary Solicitor, Derek Livingston, for his wise counsel and services to SCoJeC.

The Council has the good fortune to be able to freely obtain expert advice from its own members and from professionals within the community. This is particularly so when we respond to parliamentary consultations. To all those who have thus assisted us, I express my sincere thanks.

I have found my involvement with SCoJeC to be at different times interesting, challenging, irritating or enjoyable, depending on whom or what I am dealing with! Suffice it to say that I am prepared to serve the organisation for another year.

Walter Sneider
Chair