Scottish Leisure Network Group

Annual Conference 2026

Thursday 19th November | Westerwood Spa & Golf Resort, Glasgow G68 0EW

Day Agenda

8:45 - 9:15	**Arrival, registration and networking**
9:15 - 9:25	**Welcome from Alan Cunnigham	SLNG chair**
9:30 - 10:15	**Deaglan O'Hagan	Assistant Director	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council** **Matt McDowell	Director of People	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council** Modernisation and transformation of public sector in Northern Ireland
10:20 - 11:05	**Amy Finn	Head of Business Development & Compliance	Active Stirling** Commercial by Design, Social by Purpose Making money and making a difference aren't competing priorities in public leisure
11:10 - 11:30	**Refreshments - sponsored by Sports Labs**
11:30 - 12:30 Panel A Panel B	**Specialist Panels - sponsored by Right Directions** Health and Wellbeing: From GP to Gym: Transforming health through community leisure Commercialisation of services: Modern leisure provision
12:30 - 13:15	**Lunch – sponsored by HireBOB**
13:15 - 14:00	**Duncan Jefford	Managing Director	Everyone Active** Where does Public Leisure go from here?
14:05 - 14:20	**Refreshments - sponsored by Sports Labs**
14:25 - 15:25 Panel A Panel B	**Specialist Panels sponsored by Right Directions** Digital Innovators: AI, automation and the member experience: The next digital frontier Leadership/workforce development: Building a workforce for the future
15:30 - 16:15	**Paul McNeill MBE	Head of Community Development	Scottish Football Association** From the Housing Scheme to the Honours List: The power of belief, sport and support
16:15 - 16:30	**Alan Cunningham	SLNG	Chair** End of day round up - Thank you and close
16:30 - 17:30	**Open Networking**

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Key Speakers

Amy Finn | Head of Business Development & Compliance
Active Stirling

Amy Finn has worked in the leisure sector for more than 20 years. Throughout her career, Amy has gained broad experience across leisure operations, health and fitness, commercial development and service improvement. Amy brings a practical, people-focused approach to business development and is always interested in challenging how things have traditionally been done, learning from what works — and what doesn't — and exploring what comes next for the sector.

Deaglan O'Hagan | Assistant Director | Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Deaglan O'Hagan is Head of Leisure Operations at Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, leading a £20 million leisure portfolio serving over 146,000 residents. He specialises in service transformation, operational leadership and health improvement through physical activity. Over five years, he has grown participation and membership while strengthening financial sustainability and community impact. He is Secretary of the Chief Leisure Officers Association (CLOA) and was shortlisted for the 2026 ukactive Outstanding Individual Leadership Award.

Duncan Jefford | Managing Director | Everyone Active

With more than 25 years' experience across public and private leisure, I have built a career around combining commercial performance with customer experience and community impact. As Managing Director of Everyone Active, the UK's largest leisure operator, I lead more than 260 leisure and cultural facilities nationwide. Since joining in 2005, I have helped transform the business into one of the sector's most successful operators, championing a model that blends private-sector innovation and customer focus with the accessibility and social value of public leisure.

Paul McNeill MBE | Head of Community Development
Scottish Football Association

Paul is Head of Community Football at the Scottish FA, a Director of St Mirren Football Club, and an Ambassador for Dyslexia Scotland, as well as the creator of the Mission Dyslexia initiative. He has also served as Secretary to the Cross-Party Group on Dyslexia in the Scottish Parliament. Earlier this year, Paul was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours for services to young people with dyslexia.

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Evening Agenda & Awards

18:20	**Welcome Drink - sponsored by Active Insight**
18:25	**Award Ceremony** Rising Star Award sponsored by Reid Smart Solutions Facility of the Year Award sponsored by The Sports Consultancy Campaign of the Year Award sponsored by Gladstone Impact and Innovation Award sponsored by Technogym Team of the Year Award sponsored by Indigo Exceptional Contribution to Our Communities sponsored by Orbit4 Bobby Kerr Award sponsored by Alliance
19:15- 20:15	**Dinner - sponsored by PAF**
20:15- 21:15	**Quiz - sponsored by Collab**

The Scottish Leisure Network Group would like to extend our thanks to all our business partners and sponsors for their generous support of the 2026 Conference and Awards.

CIMSPA

Community Leisure UK

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