

Lib/SDP



10 DOWNING STREET

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF WHIP

MR. ALISON

MR. HARRIS

Attached is a note on the  
Liberals/SDP which you might  
find useful and interesting.

S.

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

24.4.87

NOTE OF MEETING ON THE LIBERALS/SDP HELD BY THE PRIME MINISTER  
WITH VARIOUS MPs ON WEDNESDAY 22nd APRIL 1987

Main points arising for use or follow up

1. Examples of the action of hung county councils eg: in putting up rates. (Sherbourne)
2. If the SDP/Liberals are going to produce bogus polls during an election, what can we do to help our cause?
3. Identify Lib/SDP policy points which damage the self interest of potential Tory defectors. (Major and Sherbourne)
4. List of personal disagreements on policy between Steel and Owen which are on the record. (Ryder and Sherbourne)
5. What Liberal policies have been shed in formulating the latest Alliance document "The Time is Right". (Sherbourne)
6. How do we get information, when available on 3,4 and 5 above into the hands of TV interviewers and popular press. (Chief Whip and Sherbourne)
7. What more can be done to increase friction between Owen and Steel?
8. Do we have a list of all Alliance candidates who are CND? (Sherbourne)
9. Important to keep tone "civilised" in dealing with the Alliance.
10. Important for the Party to have one approach towards Lib/SDP during an election campaign and not to be seen with different strategies.

.... /

11. Powerful case to be deployed on a hung parliament:  
putting the Government of the country into the hands of  
extremists eg. Paisley and Ulster Unionists, Sinn Fein etc.
12. But if in the final week the Tories appear to have a  
commanding lead so that everyone believes that the Tories  
are bound to win, won't arrangements about hung parliament  
and Lib/SDP policies look irrelevant? How do we then  
persuade people who think that they can vote Alliance and  
still have a Conservative Government.
13. Perhaps the best answer to 12 is to remind people that the  
Lib/SDP are out to unseat Conservatives, not Socialists;  
and if the Alliance succeed Labour (who will hold their  
heartlands) could by accident be the biggest party.
14. We need a critique of the Lib/SDP tax benefit package.  
(Sherbourne)

S.S.

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

22.4.87





ALLIANCE VOTING RECORDS IN THE SESSION 1985-6

	WITH LABOUR	WITH GOVERNMENT	RATIO
ALTON	136	23	6:1
ASHDOWN	94	14	7:1
BEITH	108	18	6:1
BRUCE	102	14	7:1
CARLILE	104	18	6:1
FREUD	97	17	6:1
HOWELLS	109	25	4:1
HUGHES	113	14	8:1
JOHNSTON	64	15	4:1
KIRKWOOD	135	21	6:1
LIVSEY	106	23	5:1
MEADOWCROFT	117	16	7:1
ROSS	74	16	5:1
SMITH	44	2	22:1
STEEL	104	24	4:1
WALLACE	128	28	5:1
WAINWRIGHT	76	10	8:1
CARTWRIGHT	89	13	7:1
JENKINS	55	5	11:1
KENNEDY	112	20	6:1
MACLENNAN	58	7	8:1
WRIGGLESWORTH	91	9	10:1
HANCOCK	105	15	7:1
OWEN	67	9	7:1
SHIELDS	50	6	8:1



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

22nd April, 1987

*Dear Richard*

Following today's meeting at No. 10  
you very kindly offered to send the  
Prime Minister a note on those particular  
policy points where there is clear  
personal disagreement on the record  
between David Steel and David Owen.

*Yours  
Sincerely*

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

Richard Ryder, Esq OBE MP



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

22nd April, 1987

*Dear Tom*

Following today's meeting at No. 10  
you very kindly agreed to let the Prime  
Minister have a note on those  
particular Lib/SDP policies which would  
damage the self interest of potential  
Tory defectors eg. the charitable status  
of independent schools.

*Tom*  
*Sherr*

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

John Major, Esq MP





10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

15th April, 1987

*Dear Guy*

As you will appreciate we need to keep the most careful check on the precise words used by David Owen and David Steel about how they would behave in a hung parliament - see page 2 of the Times today (15th April). We do need the David Owen Weekend World interview and the best verbatim report of David Steel in Greenock. Can you let me and others at Central Office have them as soon as possible? But obviously you must continue keeping a very alert eye on such pronouncements.

I am copying this note to Robin Harris and Michael Dobbs.

*Yours  
Stephen*

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

Guy Black, Esq

PRIME MINISTER

Tomorrow at Noon you are having a drink here with a group of MPs to discuss the treatment of the SDP/Liberal Alliance.

I list below those who will be present:

Robert Jackson  
John Major  
Peter Morrison  
Gerry Neale  
Chris Patten  
Richard Ryder  
Chief Whip

Francis Maude has also been invited but has not yet confirmed whether or not he can attend.

Michael Alison and Stephen Sherbourne will also attend.  
(Please see Stephen's note to you which is attached.)  
I am arranging for this meeting to take place in the White Drawing Room.

*Shana.*

SHANA

21.4.87





10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

9th April, 1987

Dear Richard,

The Prime Minister would be delighted if you could join her for a drink, here at No 10, on Wednesday, 22nd April at Noon. She will hope to discuss informally one or two points of electoral strategy.

I should be most grateful if you could confirm whether or not you are able to attend.

Yours ever  
Michael

MICHAEL ALISON  
Parliamentary Private Secretary

Richard Ryder Esq MP

DRINKS WITH MPs

Wednesday, 22nd April, Noon

Alan Clark  
Robert Jackson  
John Major  
Francis Maude  
Peter Morrison  
Gerry Neale  
Chris Patten  
Richard Ryder  
John Wakeham

to do  
to do

① In a group, or individually.

↳ at Noon.



Chris Patten

R. Ryder

Francis Maude

Robt. Jackson

~~David Harris~~



10 DOWNING STREET

NW  
Rep. are to Chief  
Whip, suggestions for  
a drink.

C Patten

Ryder.

Mander

Jackson

Neale

Major

J. Wakeham

---

P Morrison.

Alan Clark