

# Cross Party Group on Fair Trade

Convenor Colin Smyth MSP

Vice Convenor: Gordon Lindhurst MSP

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2019**

Committee Room, Scottish Parliament

1. Minutes from the meetings held on 19 June 2019 were approved as accurate.
2. In attendance: Colin Smyth MSP, Rona Mackay MSP, Martin Rhodes (SFTF), Charles Sim (East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group), Karena Jarvie (Perth and Kinross Fair Trade Group), Russell Salton (Edinburgh Fair Trade Group), Liz Manson (Dumfries and Galloway Council), Scott Irwin (Green City Wholefoods) and Angus Coull (Bala Sport).  
Apologies: Ian Miller (Midlothian Fair Trade Group), Neil Bibby MSP, Gordon Lindhurst MSP, Angela Oakley (east Dunbartonshire Fair Trade Group), Anne Walsh (Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Fair Trade Group), Kirsty Connell (Scotmid) Carol Morton (Hadeel), Shirley Brown, Martin Meteyard, Alex Rowley MSP, Mark Ruskell MSP.
3. Guest speaker and discussion: Angus Coull of Bala Sport gave a presentation on Fairtrade sportsballs. He talked about the history and development of Bala Sport and its current trading situation. He highlighted the benefit of Fairtrade to factory workers making the balls and their communities through projects funded by the Fairtrade Premium. He told of the difficulties in building a market for Fairtrade balls because of the dominance in the market of a small number of major brands. He also outlined the difficulties in getting Fairtrade sportsballs into public procurement. There was discussion about the problem of getting Fairtrade sportsballs bought by public procurement and a suggestion from Rona Mackay that contact be made with Aileen Campbell as the Minister with responsibility for Local Government. It was noted that the Scottish Fair Trade Forum will be publishing a campaign pack around community sports early in 2020. It was suggested by Rona Mackay MSP that a reception for Bala Sport could be held in the Scottish Parliament in the run up to Fairtrade Fortnight 2020.
4. Any other business: No other business.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm