

**Candidate:** Glenn Ross

**Constituency:** Stanley

**Education:** Darwin Boarding School, Stanley Senior School, New College Durham and Southampton University.

**Profession:** Chartered Electrical Engineer or Tourist Guide

**POB:** Stanley, Falkland Islands

### **Introduction**

I am a Falkland Islander. I have lived and worked in the islands most of my life. One notable exception is that I spent seven years of my early childhood in Punta Arenas, Chile. I also took advantage of study opportunities that became available after the 1982 war. My work experience is limited to the public sector and working at the Power Station. I began work there as an apprentice in 1979 and retired to deliver the wind farm expansions in 2024. I quickly resigned from that role when it became clear that my vision for the projects did not align with others. I now keep busy as a tour guide and helping out my former colleagues with high voltage work as and when needed. My father was Scottish and arrived in the islands in 1947, he too worked at the Power Station and also worked as a diver. The arrival of my maternal ancestors (Biggs) dates back to January 1842 and our family make up is a common mix of parents with one probably just arrived and another going back many generations.

I am married to Janet, our two daughters are Kerri-Anne and Christine Aislinn and we are grandparents to Seth and Aimee. Our two cats, Lord Percy the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Toffee complete the family.

### **The Present**

I am really glad I grew up in the time I did, that is certain but we need to ensure the best years are ahead of us. We are plagued with Interim/Temporary/Extension, do fewer things but build it bold and build it excellent. I preferred our country when perhaps we felt it was totally ours. I felt it was my power station and my wind farm and took pride and ownership in the service.

On those rare sunny days, the Falklands returns to being the best place in the world.

I am very content in my retirement, I am of independent means and keep busy. I have thought long and hard over whether to stand or not. Being a MLA now looks quite different to when I served, bland and distant. I enjoyed my time and I trust those that served with me will vouch for my effectiveness in the role. Now it is a full time role (it always was) and I wonder if we have lost some essence of serving the community and replaced it with just another job.

### **The Future**

A return to focused training of our own and targeting students for essential roles. Doctors, Engineers, Skilled people. I fear our youngsters are choosing lightweight options and therefore wasting life changing great opportunities to learn skills at college and knowledge at Universities. I recall back in 2010 discussing a weighting system for overseas study, fully funding some courses but not others and this causing some outrage. That year, the UK turned out 46,000 graduates in Media Studies and the industry for their chosen degree offered 100 vacancies.

We need strong local companies that can delivery national projects. If locals are working for local companies it stands to reason that money generated here is more likely going to be staying here. If a

capital programme can be trusted then the private sector can equip to deliver. The nervous kicking the can down the road provides no confidence for anyone to invest in plant or staff.

A civil service full of our own talent with a clear mandate and vision facilitating and administrating their growing country. Independent of foreign expertise.

We need to reduce the amount of money leaving our economy. This could include helping local shops and producing more for ourselves. I never got much support on import substitution but it remains a worthwhile cause to grow our own food where possible.

One young farmer set up to grow vegetables and I asked him if he was getting any support from the various farming schemes. He replied that as he had less than one thousand sheep, he did not qualify for support. Good grief.

### **Immigration**

To leave your home country and move abroad takes determination and courage. Sometimes families are separated until the rest can join. Our culture is British, we are lawful and respectful and welcoming. Europe has descended into chaos after a decade of mass migration and countries everywhere around the world are reassessing their policies. We are also essentially a Christian country and have happily welcomed people of a range of other faiths. Within these foundations we have a lot to offer, in turn people coming here need to be of value to us. There is a need to ensure the pace and direction of immigration does not jeopardise what we have. My personal preference is for a trickle of immigrants with integration the objective.

From a distance I see a Great Britain that has for too long been apologising for its history. Taking the knee. Ashamed of its flags. Well, having endured three months in 1982 when the Union Jack could not be flown here, this flag, our flag, remains one of the most beautiful and powerful symbols. It signals to me, freedom, security, hope and strength. It shows nearly two hundred years of solidarity with Britain, our young men headed off to fight in two world wars. Spitfires flew over Britain with the Falklands Crest on them. Our culture is British and I am not sorry.

### **Stanley Airport**

I will support a phased upgrade of our airport. It will be interesting to learn the quality of what is already there. One of our expensive habits is to dig up dirty gravel and replace it with clean gravel. It was in my manifesto back in 2009 and the thought of departing internationally from our airport remains massively appealing.

Mount Pleasant Airport was built in an amazing period of around 18 months, including a Power Station, construction on the new one started in 2016, nine years so far. I recall the banner objective of this runway being for the “economic prosperity of the Falkland Islands and its people”. In the 40 years since it has become quite difficult to access and awkward to use. The main terminal is now tragic. For many, it is a lasting and depressing first impression of our islands.

### **The Civil Service**

The wage bill is unsustainable and with large swathes of that money going directly out of our economy. Some units have grown from one person in 2010 to sixteen now.

The morale for some of our local Civil Servants is at an all time low. I received a right bashing a few days ago.

The Hay Review is not recalled by anyone with any great fondness. The structure for pay, service and conditions is likely now beyond repair and needs a fresh look. Loyalty is rewarded by being stuck at the top of the grade. Local people with equal qualifications and vastly more experience are paid tens of thousands less than Contracted Officers. If we are to have a two-tier system then hired in people should be counting the days to ending their contract and taking the superior local terms.

Back in the day, we had some elegance in the system with on occasion a "personal to holder" status, valuing and understanding that someone with decades of experience brought something to the table that a new starter could not.

### **Tender Boards**

I have attended a fair few and with mixed outcomes. I hear from friends in the private sector that tendering is so complex now and totally off-putting. I recall times when the finance representative would state "I am not leaving until we have chosen the cheapest!". Ridiculous but true. Not everything is about first apparent cost. There are quality of completion differences, there are experienced contractors/suppliers you can leave pretty much to get on with it, the cheapest often need a lot of hand-holding and have erred with the price anyway and then more money is found. We don't conduct our lives like this so why govern like it? We don't choose the cheapest car, we choose the best we can afford. Years ago for technical projects a two envelope process was used. The first would be marked "Technical Proposal" and the second "Financial Proposal". All technical proposals would be opened and the contract awarded on the best technical solution. The successful financial proposal is then opened and the remainder returned unopened.

### **Sub-Standard Banking**

SCB give every impression of not wanting to be here. SCB offer Credit Cards in an impressive list of countries, not here. When they withdrew the SCB Credit Card here, many of us had other options. Since the change in UK regulations, effectively closing Barclaycard, Amex, Barclays, Lloyds, HSBC and others to us, it would have been great if SCB had stepped in and returned Credit Cards as an option. Hotels and Car Hire really want a Credit Card from you.

While on holiday in August, I had issues with my Debit Card and had to cancel it. At the time of writing it is over three months without a replacement. We need a bank that offers a full range of services. I want our people to walk the earth like princes, not paupers.

Note: Well, perhaps not like some princes but you get the idea.

### **Oil**

I am in favour of oil exploitation and if elected will do what I can to ensure and facilitate it is a success. Declaring an interest as I have shares that I have not properly checked on in years, likely worthless now but nonetheless I hold some.

### **The Police**

A return to a local community police force. I see a force that is more obsessed with being a nuisance than a help. The low hanging fruit of relentless speed gun patrols. In many cases our speed limits are now too low. The airport and MPA roads should be 55 mph and parts of Stanley 30 mph. Some streets are too narrow for the present 25 mph speed limit.

## **Post Code**

What a waste of time that was. Hard to believe that at one time, you could exchange your money for Postal Orders and send off to the UK and several months later an ill-fitting football kit would arrive. I wore it all the same.

Today, you have to pretend to have an address in Bristol for shopping, live in Hertfordshire for banking and until recently, roam from Chile for decent internet.

## **Pension**

One option now is to drawdown your occupational pension, a good piece of work by the previous government. The value of the annuity had totally collapsed. We have sadly adopted the UK tax rates of 25% tax free lump sum and then 26% tax. I think there is a good case for it all to be tax free. It is a community thing for me, this is someone plotting the final chapter of their life. I would have them bank the blooming lot as a thank you for decades of loyal service in either private or public sectors. This along with the UK Stamp and Inheritance taxes do not pass the smell test for me. Declaration of interest here too, as I have recently paid tax.

## **The Camp**

The Camp practically saved my life in 1975 and whenever issues affecting the Camp are aired I will listen with care and where I can, support our farmers.

## **Sport**

I am a supporter of sport that takes place locally. I would particularly support a field of dreams for the Ice Hockey clubs. Raised from nothing to a significant sport by one person, a champion. I would love to see an ice rink and Zamboni machine complete with music from a tuneless organ.

## **2033**

I had planned for us to be 100% renewable with Phase 3 and then Phase 4 by the time our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday came around.

We have some first class sporting venues now and more to come. I would start planning for sports events over a two week period. Allows time for weather and connections. There are many sports we could host and possibly even co-host an Island Games.

## **Summary**

The key priorities for me will always be ensuring security of potable water, power and food on the table. We have so much to be proud of, I enjoy showing off our town and our country. If there is a theme running through my manifesto is we need to return to being a community where we have ownership and we are not just a job title but we really belong, this is our country. Thank you for your time.

Glenn Ross  
**Stanley**

Contact: [kelper1964@yahoo.com](mailto:kelper1964@yahoo.com) Mobile: 51071