



ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

EDINBURGH LOCAL GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 13 March 2007 (6.00 – 7.00 pm)

Non-members welcome

Refreshments available from 5.30 pm

Fair votes in theory and practice

PROFESSOR DENIS MOLLISON (Heriot-Watt University)

Abstract: In Scotland this year the Single Transferable Vote is being introduced for Council elections, while a hybrid proportional system continues in use for the Scottish Parliament. The talk will review the principles and details of STV, and compare it with alternatives, including the systems used to elect members of the Scottish and European parliaments. For these elections electronic counting is being introduced, yet the specific system of STV chosen still includes some of the historic compromises required for hand counting, with consequent flaws of discontinuity and some vulnerability to tactical voting. The talk will also show how the outcome of elections under STV can be estimated using voting or opinion poll information, together with a matrix of preference transfer data.

Venue: International Centre for Mathematical Sciences, 14 India Street, Edinburgh EH3 6EZ

Treasurer and secretary: Margaret MacDougall

E-mail: Margaret.MacDougall@ed.ac.uk

(Edinburgh Local Group Website:

<http://www.bioss.sari.ac.uk/staff/adam/rsse/>)