

By **Eck Spence-Fiddler** our Westminster Correspondent



In a shocking new development, leading Conservative MSP Murdurr Fraser has become the first politician to announce his intention to stand for leadership of the Labour Party's branch office in Scotlandshire, a post left open by Johann La Mont's sudden resignation last Friday.

Fraser first came to the public attention when he contested the leadership of the Scottish Conservative party following the 2011 Scottish elections, standing on a platform of separating off the Scottish party from London to form a new independent right wing-party to be known as the *Scottish Monetarist and Unionist Group* (SMUG). He was narrowly defeated by current Tory head girl, Ruth Davidson.

If successful in his leadership bid, this would be the first time the Labour party has been run by a genuine true blue Tory in almost twenty years, not since Tony Blair took over as UK Labour leader making the party suddenly electable in Southern England – a comparison which will not be lost on the current party leadership.

I asked Murdurr why he had taken the decision to stand for the leadership of what is, after all, a completely different party from his own. "We're not so different when you boil it down", he explained, "there is actually far more which unites us than divides us nowadays.

"Over recent years, differences in policy and political stance have been eroded to the point where there is now no discernible gap between our two parties. You could describe our relationship as truly symbiotic – one hand washing the other, so to speak. The Scottish parties in particular have now moved to the point where we truly are *Better Together*.



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