

Peter Willisman's

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009 GUIDE FOR CLP DELEGATES AND CLP SECRETARIES

*(Published by The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy
email – info@clpd.org.uk website - <http://www.clpd.org.uk/>)*

*(Also see www.grassrootslabour.net for a wide range of useful information about
Party matters, including NEC and NPF reports)*

The Conference Agenda

The following business will comprise the Conference timetable:

- The National Executive Committee (NEC) Report and possible late NEC statements that can be issued to delegates during conference.
- **Reports from the six policy commissions**, together with separate annex reports, which will cover the progress (or otherwise) that has been made at the relevant Policy Commission in relation to each of the Contemporary Issue subjects remitted at the 2008 Annual Conference.
- Contemporary Issue subjects and Emergency Motions that cover matters that would not otherwise appear on the conference agenda.
- A report of the recent review and consultation that has been carried out in relation to the changes to Conference procedures that were agreed at the 2007 Annual Conference (“Extending and Renewing Party Democracy”). These changes were controversial and Conference should have the opportunity to vote on a range of possible ways forward arising out of the review.
- Proposed rule changes from the NEC and from CLPs. (The rule change proposals from CLPs were submitted last year, but by convention are not tabled until this year. This convention does not apply to rule change proposals from the NEC).
- Elections for the Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) and National Constitutional Committee (NCC).

(Details of the last three items are set out in written reports from the CAC (ie the initial Delegates Report and daily CAC Reports). The CAC is in permanent session during Conference and acts as the Standing Orders Committee. Delegates have the right to present any queries directly to the CAC itself. Delegates who feel strongly about a point should insist on this right.)

Reports from the six Policy Commissions and Annex Reports

There are now six policy commissions, which draw up policy reports for discussion by the NPF. Each of these commissions reports to Conference.

The six policy commissions (each made up of 16-20 members representing the Government, the NEC and the NPF) are: Britain in the World; Creating Sustainable Communities; Crime, Justice, Citizenship and Equalities; Education and Skills; Health; Prosperity and Work.

At last year's Annual Conference, Contemporary Issues on the following subjects were remitted to the NPF – Remploy (remitted for the second time); Employment Rights; Energy Regulation; Housing; Tackling fuel poverty; Workers in the Global Economy. Subsequently each of these specific issues has been discussed at the relevant Policy Commission. In some cases, reps from organisations that submitted the issues were invited to the discussions. Thus, in addition to its annual report to Conference, each relevant Commission will also have to report back to Annual Conference explaining how the specific issue has been, or is being, dealt with. This report will be in an annex to the Policy Commission report and will be voted on separately from the Policy Commission report.

In reporting back to the Conference, the relevant Commission co-convenor will move the annex on Conference floor.

Once the annex has been moved, the organisation which proposed the original Contemporary Issue subject (at last year's Conference) will have the right to address Conference indicating their view of how the discussions have gone over the year, what progress has been made and the likelihood of resolution of any outstanding matters. They will also be able to indicate their view of how Conference should vote on the annex which might include indicating their approval of the outcome, advising conference that progress has been made but more work is needed or asking Conference to vote against the annex on the basis of their opposition to the outcomes.

When voting on the annex Conference can choose to:

- Accept the report and therefore indicate satisfaction with the resolution of the issue or satisfaction with the progress being made on resolving the issue.
- Vote against the report indicating dissatisfaction with progress being made on the issue.
- Remit back to the Commission for yet more discussion (this happened last year with Remploy)

Contemporary Issue subjects (CIs) from CLPs/affiliated organisations

The closing date for submission of a "contemporary issue" is 12 noon on 18th September. Emergency Resolutions cover an event that occurs after this date. Each CLP can send one CI provided that they have not already submitted a rule amendment in 2009. Head Office issued guidance on drafting CIs. The CI must be expressed in 10 words or less (usually with up to 250 words of back up). **CLPs need to ensure** that the subject has not been substantively addressed by the NPF or NEC. In the past this has meant that the CI must relate in some way to something occurring after the end of July. The CI must be on one subject only.

Head office issues a special form for CIs and it is recommended that this is returned by recorded delivery. (The CI has to be sent by email to the Assistant CAC Secretary but

must be followed by a signed hard copy on the special form). (Alternatively membersnet can be used).

The time allowed for choosing a CI is very short. In many CLPs the EC, or the officers, are empowered to agree the CI, provided it is later ratified by the GC.

Before Conference the CAC makes its decision as to whether each CI is judged to be “contemporary”. Usually the CAC contracts the CLP Secretary with its decision a day or two before Conference opens. There is an appeal process on the Saturday on the eve of Conference. (See below)

The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy has prepared several draft CIs for consideration by CLPs. (Available from CLPD on 020 8854 7326).

Emergency Motions

Emergency resolutions may be submitted on matters that arise after the final date for submitting Contemporary Issues and, therefore, could not be the subject for a CI. To be valid the issues in an Emergency:

- Could not reasonably have been submitted through the Contemporary Issue process
- Should not appear elsewhere on the Conference agenda
- Should cover an issue of urgent and immediate importance to the discussions of the whole party at Annual Conference.

Unfortunately, there can be no guarantee that valid emergency resolutions will be debated at Conference. It is a matter for the CAC – delegates are encouraged to lobby the CAC as necessary.

There is apparently no special form for Emergency Motions. They have to be emailed to the CAC Assistant Secretary, followed by a hard copy signed by the secretary or authorised officer. The closing date for Emergencies is likely to be 12 noon on 24th September.

Review of “Extending and Renewing Party Democracy

In summer 2007, shortly after he became Leader, Gordon Brown submitted a document (“Extending and Renewing Party Democracy”) to the NEC recommending a number of changes to Annual Conference procedures. Both the NEC and later Annual Conference accepted these changes. The main thrust of these proposals was to replace “Contemporary Motions” by “Contemporary Issues”.

Before the advent of New Labour every CLP and Union could send motions and amendments to Conference and the whole agenda of Conference largely revolved around these motions. Tony Blair changed all that. Conference was downgraded to little more than a glorified rally, with only four motion subjects allowed onto the agenda for debate and vote. A further restriction was introduced in that these motions could only be “contemporary motions”, in other words they had to cover an issue arising after the end of July in each year.

Gordon Brown went even further. In 2007 Motions disappeared altogether. Their replacement, “Contemporary Issues”, cannot be voted on. They are debated and then remitted to the Policy Commissions of the NPF for further debate. The Policy

Commissions then report on the progress of their deliberations to the following Annual Conference. These reports can either be voted on or remitted again to the NPF for yet more discussion and then another report the next Conference. Perceptive readers will have concluded that these new arrangements are far from perfect. For this reason in 2007 the Unions insisted that in 2009 there would be a review. The 2009 Annual Conference should therefore be presented with a range of possible options and amendments to vote on.

A number of CLPs and Unions have made submissions to the review and the following are among the main changes they have proposed:

- That Conference must have the opportunity to express its clear view on matters of major political concern. This can only be done by voting on motions. Motions should therefore be reinstated.
- The artificial criteria of ‘contemporary’ (restrictively interpreted as August onwards) should be dropped. CLPs and Unions should have the right to submit a motion on any matter of major political concern.
- The spirit of the ‘4 plus 4’ rule for the Priorities Ballot at Conference should be properly honoured at every Conference – 4 subjects from the Unions and an additional 4 separate subjects from the CLPs.
- At Conference there should be provision for voting in parts in relation to the lengthy NPF documents, instead of the current undemocratic practice of conference having to vote on a whole document on an “all-or-nothing” basis.

Rule changes from the NEC

These are set out in the **Delegates Report** issued to delegates before Conference.

Rule changes from CLPs (submitted in 2008, but debated in 2009)

Conference will have the opportunity to debate and vote on the following important rule change proposals. These were submitted in 2007, but under the Party’s procedures are not timetabled until 2009. (This procedure is formally called the ‘1968 Ruling’, but it is not really working as it was intended in 1968). But they are not timetabled unless a request has been made to the CAC by the CLP/delegate (the closing time for making this request is likely to be 5.30pm on Sunday 27th September). The safest way is for the CLP Secretary to write to the CAC (c/o Head Office) well before conference. Invariably the platform opposes all rule changes from CLPs which devalues the whole process.

The following are the most important rule changes coming before Conference (full details will be given in the **Delegates Report**).

- **From Bedford, Bristol East, Castle Point, City of Durham, Greenwich and Woolwich, Haltenprice and Howden, Hereford and South Herefordshire, Hertford and Stortford, Islington North, Mid Bedfordshire and Nottingham South.**

This rule change proposal concerns the election of the 55 CLP reps on the National Policy Forum (NPF). At present all these reps are elected at Annual Conference by Conference delegates from their respective regions. Bedford et al are proposing that instead the election should involve every party member and be by one-member-one-vote on a regional basis. Most party members have no idea who their existing NPF reps are and, indeed, only have the haziest idea of the work of the NPF. All this would change if every member had a vote. The NPF has taken over all of the NEC’s powers in relation to policy formulation and it is therefore a key party body. It is

vital that every party member should have a direct link to the NPF. Under the Bedford et al proposals the NPF would have a much higher profile. This would generate much greater interest in the NPF and a wider range of members would put their names forward for election. The NPF would therefore become more representative of the whole party membership and its decisions would accordingly carry more weight. The Scottish Policy Forum already elects its CLP reps by one-member-one-vote.

- **From Hendon CLP and Hyndburn CLP**

This rule change proposal provides for a Charter for Members' Rights and would establish the post of an independent Party Ombudsperson to ensure that the rights in the Charter were upheld. This would fill a gap in the Rule Book by clearly spelling out the range of rights that a paid up member should be entitled to. This would include the right of members to transparency in the policy-making process; the right to participate in local party governance and the right to freedom of expression.

- **From South Ribble CLP**

This rule change proposal provides for a Labour Party Code of Ethics, which would lay down principles and standards of behaviour to be followed by all party members and elected party officers, all party employees, all contractors employed by the Party and by all party members elected to public office. This rule change would also fill a gap in the Party's Constitution and after the scandal of Parliamentary expenses it cannot come too soon!

- **Beverley and Holderness**

This rule change proposal would create an extra seat on the NEC specifically for a constituency rep. from Scotland and a further seat specifically for a constituency rep. from Wales.

At Annual Conference there is an equal balance of voting between the industrial wing (the unions) and the political wing (the CLPs). But on the NEC, whereas the unions have 12 seats, the CLPs only have 6 (before the advent of 'Partnership in Power' the CLPs had 7 seats). Beverley and Holderness want to increase the CLPs to 8 seats, with the constituency members in Scotland and Wales each electing their own rep. Given that Scotland and Wales are separate from England, having their own governments, to also have their own constituency reps. on the NEC is eminently reasonable.

- **From Northampton South CLP**

This rule change proposal would institute a cap on expenditure by nominees in party selection. Evidence is mounting of the often large disparities in spending between party members seeking selection as Parliamentary candidates. The recent deputy leadership election also saw huge sums being spent by some of the nominees. A cap on spending is long overdue.

Rule changes from CLPs (submitted in 2008, but ruled out of order by the CAC).

Unfortunately, a considerable number of rule change proposals submitted by CLPs in 2008 have been ruled out of order by the CAC. When making its decision the CAC has employed a very controversial and catch-all interpretation of the '3-year-rule'. The rule states that when a Conference decision has been made on a rule change proposal, no further amendment to that "part" of the rules will be permitted for 3 years. The key word here, of course, is "part". In other words, if a CLP amends a completely different "part" of a long clause in the Rule Book, compared to other parts that may have

been recently amended, then that is in order. The CAC has ignored the significance of the word “part” and applied a catch-all interpretation. This is unacceptable and any challenge from ruled out CLPs, insisting that the Rule Book is correctly interpreted, should be given full support. It is difficult enough for CLPs to have their voice heard in this Party, without the CAC gagging them.

Aggrieved delegates may go to the rostrum and seek redress by challenging the chair of the CAC. Every delegate in the hall should do their best to support these challenges and oppose the gagging. It could be your CLP next!

The following rule change is one of those that has been ruled out. NE Beds are pressing for it to be reinstated.

- **From North East Bedfordshire CLP**

At present, in any one year, a CLP can submit to Annual Conference either a Contemporary Issue or a rule change proposal. NE Beds are proposing that in future CLPs should have the right to submit both each year. Rule changes relate to long term concerns about internal party organisation and democracy, whereas Contemporary Issues simply cover policy matters that arise in the weeks leading up to Annual Conference each year. There is no link between the two and no reason why CLPs shouldn't have the right to submit both. CLPs have little enough influence within our Party and their right to amend the Rule Book is an important democratic right. There should be no restriction on this right.

Voting for the Conference Arrangement Committee (CAC) and National Constitutional Committee (NCC)

The CAC has seven members. There are five general section seats (of which two must be women) and two CLP section seats (of whom one must be a woman). In 2009 only the CLP section is up for election – each CLP has 2 votes in this section.

Biographies of the CAC candidates and information about obtaining the ballot papers at conference are usually issued to CLP secretaries and/or delegates in early September. [The biogs. are usually printed in the Delegates Report]. GCs should then decide how the vote is to be cast. (The votes for the CAC are recorded and published).

Delegates will also vote for their representative on the NCC. It is important that delegates are fully mandated by their CLPs. The candidates' biographies are likely to be sent out in early September and may be sent direct to delegates rather than to the CLP (the biogs are usually printed in the Delegates Report). An application form for obtaining a ballot paper at conference is also sent.

Only one application form for ballot paper per CLP is issued. It is usually sent to the first named delegate. The CAC will report on the timing, etc. of all these elections, but the likely times are given below.

The NEC has issued a Code of Conduct for internal elections which includes the following:

- Candidates are allowed to canvass delegates but must not distribute literature inside the conference hall. Contact with delegates must not be carried out in a manner likely to cause offence or be seen to be applying pressure to delegates.
- If one candidate is allowed to distribute literature at an official Labour Party event then that facility must be available to all candidates.

- Labour Party staff employed by the NEC shall not canvass or distribute literature on behalf of any candidate. **(Please immediately inform NEC members of any infringements or possible infringements of the Code).**

CLPD and the Centre-Left Grassroots Alliance are supporting candidates in the CAC and NCC elections (details from CLPD on 020 8854 7326). Details will also be given to delegates in our daily Campaign Briefing, distributed outside the Conference Centre.

In early/mid September Head Office issues delegates' credentials, rail tickets, card vote booklets and application forms for obtaining ballot papers at Conference for the Priorities Ballot and other ballots. These were always sent to CLPs, but recently they have gone to regional offices for distribution to delegates at the Pre-Conference Regional Briefing meetings (see below). Conference documents are usually sent to delegates around mid September.

Late Accreditation (eg for replacement delegates)

CLPs can apply to the CAC at Head Office if a replacement delegate becomes necessary.

CLPs should advise the Conference Unit in writing and (unless an emergency) well in advance of Conference of any change of delegate giving the reasons. The Conference Unit is in Newcastle and can be contacted by the Head Office switchboard. Due to the tight security arrangements all late registrations at Conference itself involve a long wait. New delegates are therefore advised to attend the Late Accreditation office on the Saturday before the start of Conference (the office usually opens at 9am and is open throughout Conference). New delegates need to have a letter of authority from the CLP Secretary, personal identification and their Party membership card (delegates must have been a member for at least 12 months). They also need a passport-style photo and full payment (recently it was around £100).

Pre-Conference Regional Briefings

Before Conference delegates are usually called to at least one briefing meeting in their region. In the last few years the practice has developed of handing delegates who attend these meetings their Conference credentials and other conference material (eg card vote booklets and applications for ballot papers). Any delegates unable to attend these briefings must contact their regional office to make alternative arrangements for obtaining their credentials – any delegate without a credential is denied entry to Conference.

Delegates should be aware that sometimes in the past Regional Briefing meetings have been used, illegitimately, to pressure delegates to follow the platform line on the contentious issues coming before Conference. If delegates encounter this sort of behaviour by party officials they should formally complain at the meeting and to the Chair of the NEC (and inform CLPD).

In recent years a further platform-inspired tactic has developed of regional officials calling groups of delegates out of the hall during Conference sessions to be pressurised by Ministers. Delegates are, of course, at Conference to represent the views of their CLP and are accountable to their own CLP and not to ministers or regional officials. They should stand firm and not be bamboozled. Regional officials may need reminding that they are Party Civil Servants and should, therefore, be impartial.

Conference Times

Delegates should arrive early each day, as the security arrangements involve long delays. Any delegate who misplaces documentation will need to report to the CAC for replacements. (Before Conference opens the Secretary of the CAC can be contacted at the NEC hotel). Delegates need to be in Conference from the start of each session since this is when the CAC gives its very important reports.

The Conference sessions will **probably** be:

Sunday:

Doors open 12.00 noon

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| 14.00 – 17.30 Conference Session | 13.30 – 16.00 Contemporary Issues ballot (ie Priorities Ballot) |
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Monday:

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| 9.30 – 12.45 Conference Session | Likely CAC ballot (CLP Section) |
| 14.15 – 16.00 Conference Session | (Probably 10.00 – 16.00) |
| 16.15 – 17.30 Policy seminars | |

Tuesday:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 9.30 – 12.45 Conference Session | The Leader's speech is likely to be Tuesday pm) |
| 14.15 – 16.00 Conference Session | |
| 16.15 - 17.30 Policy Seminars | |

Wednesday:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 9.30 – 12.45 Conference Session | Likely NCC ballot (CLP Section) |
| 14.15 – 16.00 Conference Session | (Probably 10.00 – 16.00) |
| 16.15 – 17.30 Policy Seminars | The Rule changes from CLPs are likely to be first thing Wednesday morning. |

Thursday:

9.30 – 12.45 Conference Session

During the debates there will be a platform introductory speech and a platform reply. And during policy debates members of Policy Commissions will move reports. Ordinary delegates often feel they are not given a fair chance to speak. Platform speakers usually make lengthy speeches but ordinary delegates, if they are lucky enough to be called, are strictly limited to three minutes.

Daily Business

Saturday

In the last few years the CAC has adopted the practice of being in session on the eve of Conference. This is in order to receive appeals from CLPs and affiliates that have had their contemporary issue motions ruled as not “contemporary” and, therefore, not appropriate for the Priorities Ballot. Written appeals will be considered and there is the possibility of a telephone conference. It has to be said that major unions have had much more success than CLPs at getting the CAC to reverse its decisions. Nevertheless, it is always worth a try. The CAC meeting is likely to be within the secure area and so delegates going to the CAC must have their Conference credentials. Contemporary Issues that are ruled out, are not published and are referred to the NPF or NEC, whichever is appropriate. In effect they disappear without trace.

Sunday

CAC Report No 1 (and the Delegates Report) moved by the Chair of the CAC. Delegates who feel the CAC has acted unfairly should challenge the CAC's position by moving “reference back”. It is likely that CLPs, who have had their rule amendments ruled out unfairly under the 3-year-rule, will challenge the CAC on Sunday. In the

interests of party democracy they should be given full support. Each day there is at least one report from the CAC. All of these can be challenged if a delegate is not satisfied with what is being said.

The Party produces a conference newspaper, which is usually available inside entry points to the centre every morning. The paper contains the very important daily Record of Decisions. Delegates should keep these for reporting back purposes.

In 2009, ballot and card vote results may be published in the daily CAC Reports.

The Priorities Ballot

Those Contemporary Issues that slip through the CAC's nets and reach Conference will be grouped into subjects. These subject headings then go into the Priorities Ballot, which will be held on Sunday, probably between 1.30pm and 4.00pm. The Ballot opens before Conference opens, and therefore delegates are prevented from overturning any controversial decisions by the CAC in relation to what are, and what are not, valid Contemporary Issues. Thus, for the first time ever, the CAC is not accountable to Conference in respect of a major part of its decision-making powers.

Don't Waste your Vote

Following pressure from the rank and file, and a successful rule change from several CLPs, the procedure used to calculate the result of the Priorities Ballot has been changed. It has now been agreed to adopt a '4 and 4' formula. This guarantees that the top four issues voted on by the unions and the top four issues voted on by the CLPs, will be debated. So, for example, if the CLPs and affiliates both vote for three of the same issues, with a fourth issue that is different, then there would be five debates on contemporary issues. Thus, if CLP delegates want to make maximum use of this rare opportunity to control what conference debates, they should seek to ensure that eight issues are chosen (four by the Unions and four different ones by the CLPs). This means that CLP delegates must **not** vote for any of the four issues that are favoured by the Unions, since to do so is to waste your vote. The four subjects that the Unions will choose are known well in advance of the Priorities Ballot (the Unions vote as a block to ensure they get the four they want). On the Sunday morning, before the Priorities Ballot takes place, CLPD will give CLP delegates advice about the four issues the Unions have chosen. This advice will be given at CLPD's rally on Sunday morning in the Umi Brighton Hotel and in the Sunday edition of CLPD's **Campaign Briefing** handed to delegates outside the conference centre.

Sunday evening – CI meetings

The delegates involved with the successful CIs emerging from the Priority Ballot, will be requested to attend meetings, probably on Sunday evening. Every delegate must attend, unless they are given permission by the CAC to be absent. At these meetings delegates will meet the relevant NEC Policy Commission co-convenor and minister to discuss how the subject could be taken forward. Speakers to propose and second the subject on the Conference floor will also be chosen. After debate at Conference the subject is remitted to the Policy Commission for deliberation over the next 12 months. Reps from those organisations involved with the subject should be invited to these deliberations.

Monday and Wednesday – voting for the CAC and NCC

The votes for the CAC and NCC are likely to be on Monday (CAC) and Wednesday (NCC).

Referring Back sections of the CAC reports and NEC reports

A delegate who wishes formally to challenge any recommendation by the CAC goes to the rostrum immediately after the Chair of the CAC has made a report and moves “reference back” of the relevant section of the CAC report. This is the established procedural convention, which ensures a vote on the point raised, and, if carried, is effectively a defeat for the platform.

Delegates also have the right to force a vote on any point in the NEC report by formally moving “reference back”. Delegates should have the same democratic right in relation to NPF/Policy Commission documents and NEC statements but this has not yet been granted. Instead delegates, who may only object to one or two sentences, are forced to move reference back of the whole document. This, of course, suits the platform but is out of line with the basic democracy that operates elsewhere in the Party.

The platform is invariably very unsympathetic to the right of “reference back”. Nevertheless delegates should stand firm and insist on their democratic rights.

Voting at Conference

Voting at Conference is normally by hand unless a card vote is requested by a delegate or by the chair (voting on rule changes is always by card, although they may sometimes be unhelpfully grouped together – delegates need to keep their wits about them. Quite often the platform gets in a muddle, which makes the situation doubly confusing).

Making a Speech

Note – Speakers from the floor are usually only allowed 3 minutes.

The makings of a good speech:

Thorough preparation. Set out your aims and plan the structure. Assemble a few choice facts but don’t overdo it – speeches that are a list of facts turn the listeners off.

Write the speech out in bold clear writing; always use short punchy sentences and shorter words rather than longer.

Try to find a startling beginning or try working backwards from a stunning conclusion.

Develop an easy and logical progression of ideas.

Brief personal anecdotes can be helpful for illustrating a point.

Properly rehearse the speech several times in front of friends.

Time the speech to the precise minute.

Remember everyone is nervous before giving a speech to Annual Conference. This is natural.

At the outset say who you are and give your organisation. Indicate which resolution(s) you are speaking in favour of/against.

Stand easily. Avoid making distracting gestures. Don't move about – the microphone has a short range.

Often a major argument is built up or emphasised by rhetorically asking three short questions/making three bullet points and raising the voice as you do this.

Vary the pitch.

Pauses for effect are a useful tool.

Clarity of speech, so the audience understands each word.

The knack is speaking to listeners and not at them.

Conclude with a flourish

Always remember:

- Matter, Manner and Method
- Preparation, Practice, Pace, Pauses, Pitch and Punch.

Finally some Don'ts

Learn your speech by heart and then recite it.

Speak so quickly that your listeners can't follow.

Speak in a monotone.

Harangue or shout.

Give lengthy statistics.

Patronise your listeners.

Over-use slang expressions.

Use jargon.

Contrive to introduce humour or tell off-colour jokes. If a joke falls flat, ignore it and continue.

Be apologetic.

Name dropping should be avoided.

Movers and seconders of rule changes should get together and aim to make their speeches complement each other, rather than repeating the same points. But vital points are worth repeating in both speeches. Votes on rule changes are always by card vote. At other times delegates have the right to demand a card vote and this right is set out in the CAC's advice booklet issued to delegates.

Having difficulty? Consult CLPD

CLPD are always available to give advice. Before Conference we can be contacted by phone – 020 8854 7326. At Conference we can be found outside in the street distributing our daily Campaign Briefing – a must for all delegates and visitors! Indeed, Michael White of The Guardian has been on record to describe Campaign Briefing as “indispensable”.

CLPD's website, together with www.grassrootslabour.net contain a wealth of both up-to-date and archive material about all aspects of Party activity.

After Conference – Decisions Booklet

Several months after Conference a Record of Decisions booklet is published. This gives full details of each day's business. It also gives a breakdown of the election results.

HAVE A GOOD CONFERENCE !

Peter Willsman (phone 020 8854 7326)

Peter Willsman has uniquely represented CLPs on all four of the Party's national bodies: CAC (1981 - 94); NCC (1995 – 98); NEC (1998 – 99 and 2005-9); NPF (1998 – 99 and 2002-2009).

As necessary, please photocopy this Guide for other members. It can be downloaded at www.clpd.org.uk

Regular and full NEC and NPF reports are available at www.grassrootslabour.net

CLPD sponsored events at Conference 2009

Saturday 26 September

Grassroots Umbrella Network reception for delegates. Welcoming event for delegates and visitors – plenty of 'movers and shakers' to chat to. 4.30pm Umi Brighton Hotel – on the Front very near to Conference Centre.

Saturday 27 September (10.15am Umi Brighton Hotel)

CLPD Rally and detailed briefing for delegates of the key issues coming up at Conference. (Speakers – Tony Benn, Ann Black, Keith Ewing, Kelvin Hopkins, Peter Kenyon, Alan Ritchie, Christine Shawcroft, Cat Smith, Gavin Strang, Peter Willsman).

Wednesday 30 September (6pm Umi Brighton Hotel)

Assessment of Conference and discussion of the way forward for Labour. (Speakers – Richard Ascough, Ann Black, Kelvin Hopkins, Peter Kenyon, Christine Shawcroft, Cat Smith, Peter Willsman).