

Peter Willsman's

News from the NEC

A report by Peter Willsman of some of the issues at the November NEC meeting. Peter is a CLP rep on the NEC, supported by the Centre-Left Grassroots Alliance. Visit www.clpd.org.uk for NEC Reports etc.

- **Annual Conference 2009 Brighton 27th September – 1st October**

The closing date for CLP nominations for the CAC, and NCC and for rule change proposals from CLPs, is 12 June. The closing date for Contemporary Issues is 18 September (12 noon) and for Emergency Motions 24 September (12 noon).

- **Membership and recruitment**

Current membership is 168,059. Reactivation of lapsed and resigned members is the single most successful and cost effective recruitment activity. Over 30,000 members regularly log in to Membersnet.

- **UK's opt out from Working Time Directive**

Mike Griffiths raised the Emergency Motion, opposing the opt out, that had been near unanimously carried at Annual Conference in September. In reply Minister, Pat McFadden, drew attention to an obscure sentence in the voluminous NPF documents which, he argued, took precedence over the Emergency. Peter Willsman pointed out that the Rule Book refers to the 'Rolling Programme', and this should be taken as covering all decisions of Conference. The Emergency was, therefore, an amendment to the NPF docs and specifically to Pat's obscure sentence. It was also reported that regional officials were taking groups of CLP delegates out from Conference to be lobbied by Pat about the wonders of the opt out. This is yet another undemocratic practice that has been introduced by New Labour.

- **A second stage to Warwick II**

Mike Griffiths, on behalf of the TU Section of the NEC, drew attention to the commitment given to the Unions at Warwick II. It was agreed that the Joint Policy Committee will give the NPF an opportunity to further update the Party's policy programme as close as possible to the General Election.

- **2009 Review of Partnership in Power (PiP) process**

The NEC will lead a review of the changes set out in the "Extending and Renewing Party Democracy" document, which were agreed by the 2007 Annual conference. The NEC will report to annual Conference 2009 with its conclusions and recommendations. Conference will then vote on whether to further reform the Contemporary Issue process or revert to the previous arrangement of Contemporary Motions.