

Campaign Briefing

Wednesday

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www.clpd.org.uk Tel. 07767 761338 Email: info@clpd.org.uk

Support these Rule changes from CLPs

South Ribble CLP: For a Labour Party Code of Ethics ✓

Provides for a Labour Party code to lay down principles and standards of behaviour to cover all party members, officers, employees, contractors and public representatives.

Hyndburn CLP: For a Charter of Members' Rights ✓

Establishes a wide range of rights to which members would be entitled: involvement in policy making, with clear audit trails and feed-back, and the right to complain to a Party Ombudsperson.

Dewsbury CLP: To end delays with rule change proposals ✓

Ending the year's delay in considering CLP/affiliate proposed rule changes. If Conference can approve a 100 page rule book on the day it receives it, the NEC and party officers can give full consideration to rule changes in 2 or 3 months.

Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale & Tweeddale CLP and Beverley & Holderness CLP To increase seats on the NEC for CLPs from 6 to 8 seats ✓

Two extra seats (one each for Scotland and Wales) making eight in total for CLPs.

Support Young Labour rule change from Rotherham, Sheffield Central and Wentworth & Dearne CLPs

This rule amendment would grant access to CLP membership lists to Young Labour Groups. This is a right enjoyed by all other party units and parliamentary representatives. It is seriously hampering the development and organisation of our Party's youth movement. If the rule change is carried, it would send a clear message that the Party is willing to put trust in its young members. It is vital that Conference supports this rule change in order to give our Party the vibrant and well organised youth movement it needs to engage truly with young people, both inside and outside the Party.

Dominic Curran, Youth delegate (Vauxhall CLP)

6pm tonight

CLPD's Assessment of Conference

Green Room, 78 Duke Street

Chair: Peter Willsman (CLPD Secretary)

Speakers:

Richard Ascough (GMB), Mohammed Azam,
Tony Benn, John Cryer MP,

Rhian Greaves (NPF youth representative),
Billy Hayes (CWU), Kelvin Hopkins MP,

Michael Meacher MP, Chris McLaughlin (Editor *Tribune*),
Christine Shawcroft (NEC), Cllr Barbara White (Musicians' Union).

Entry £2.00/50p

Labour now on right track

By Simon Weller

National Organiser ASLEF

Everyone likes democracy and that makes me wonder why Labour governments have been so reluctant to implement democratic decisions.

In 2004 Conference voted to take rail franchises back into public ownership as they came to an end. Cost to the public: nil. Gain for the public: a massively better funded railway where surpluses earned are reinvested into improving the industry instead of seeing fortunes leave the business to line the pockets of private investors, lawyers and accountants.

The Labour government ministers of the day acted promptly when the democratic decision was taken. They said they wouldn't do it.

Maria Eagle is now Labour's shadow transport minister and she spoke quite openly about the previous government's mistakes at an ASLEF fringe meeting this week.

That apart, she said quite clearly that she is 'not convinced that franchising is the right system'. It is heartening to see us at last daring to move away from the distortions of Major's rail privatisation. Breaking up the railway was a self-evident mistake, because it is precisely the unity of the system that makes it work.

Indeed the McNulty Report which will define the Tory attitude towards our industry also blames fragmentation as a major reason for rail's excessive costs. So what

Continued over

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For detailed and exclusive NEC and NPF reports, news and debates visit leftfutures.org and grassrootslabour.net

CLPs brushed aside

Yesterday Report 3 from the CAC stated that the important rule change from Amber Valley, Blackpool South, Caerphilly, Newcastle under Lyme, Newport West and Uxbridge and South Ruislip CLPs had been ruled out of order by the CAC on Monday. The rule change (printed on p16 of Delegates' Report) prevents last minute 'parachuting' of sharp-suited career politicians into safe Labour seats. It was submitted in Spring 2010. A few weeks ago the six CLPs wrote to the CAC to confirm they wanted to exercise their constitutional right to move their rule change. They understood it would be debated on Wednesday morning, along with other rule changes from CLPs.

Delegates will not be aware of this item of business since it is not listed in the printed Conference agenda - this omission in itself speaks volumes about the blinkered mindset of senior party officials, which took root under New Labour. Under that mindset CLP delegates are expected to know their place and dutifully do as they are told.

The issue of 'parachuting' was not covered by Refounding Labour, but on Monday the six CLPs were called up to be told that because of Sunday's vote their rule change had now been rejected under the 'three-year-rule'. Overnight the delegates from the six CLPs had time to read the Rule Book (p14). It was clear that the CAC's decision was unjustified.

Yesterday morning Martin Mitchell, the delegate from Blackpool South, mounted an authoritative challenge to CAC Report 3 presented by Harry Donaldson. Martin told Conference that his CLP had suspected that the rule change would somehow be linked to Refounding Labour. Blackpool South had therefore written to the CAC asking for the rule change to be taken alongside Refounding Labour. This democratically correct request was ignored. Martin appealed to Conference for fairness and justice. Delegates responded and the vote was very close. A request for a card vote was ignored.

Conference session Chairs – political bias?

Tight elections for the six CLP seats on the NEC are due in 2012. Surprise, surprise: the sole CLP representative whose profile is being boosted by chairing a Conference session is the very one who only just scraped onto the NEC from the right-wing slate last time. Conference has the right to expect the selection of chairs to be non-partisan. Centre-left NEC members from the alternative slate should also be chairing Conference. They all have larger mandates from the membership than Luke Akehurst, who is well known for his strident support for the invasion of Iraq and is allegedly the joint secretary of the hard-right (and shadowy) organisation, Labour First. The latter organisation puts together the right-wing slate. Luke Akehurst controversially opposes party officials acting in a politically neutral way. He believes they 'should give the left a kicking'. Unfortunately some officials seem to agree with this.

A free press?

Campaign Briefing is produced by volunteers, but we have yet to find anyone giving away paper and ink! *Campaign Briefing* will have a cover price of £2 for the week. If you missed our buckets today, we will be here again tomorrow. Please be generous.

Labour on the right track, continued

remedy has he suggested? Why - more fragmentation! McNulty favours letting local private train operators take over track maintenance and signalling. Precisely the two things taken back into public hands after 43 people died in the train crashes at Paddington, Potters Bar and Hatfield.

Maria said there must be no inflation-busting fares while transport companies have licences to print money - rejecting Andrew Adonis' 'RPI-plus' policy; she registered her opposition to track maintenance and signalling entering the profit arena; and she said she will oppose cuts to front line staff in ticket offices. It was music to the ears.

Memorial Event for Mary Rosser (former Chair Bournemouth CLPs)

6pm Thursday 3 November

Marx House, 37A Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU
Speakers include Prof David McLellan

Below the radar

New delegates may be surprised to learn that throughout Conference regional officials have been identifying 'suitable' CLP delegates. They then help the delegates with their speeches and arrange for them to be called. The official next to the chair has the job of passing over notes to ensure that 'suitable' delegates are called up. Also this year every single emergency motion from CLPs has been ruled out by the CAC. This is unusual. One or two are normally let through to keep up appearances.