

# YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2013

TUESDAY 24.09.13

# ASLEF

the train drivers' union

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## Why CAC election result is not safe

It is with deep regret that we learned yesterday that the oversight of the CAC elections has fallen short of the "open, transparent and trusted" political practice which Ed Miliband and Iain McNicol rightly expect. Unlike in Falkirk, incontrovertible evidence has been found of misconduct and machine politics, for which the responsibility lies not with trade unions, but elsewhere in the party.

Evidence has been provided to the Party's General Secretary that one young delegate was called to a meeting with a party official in his region and, within earshot of two witnesses, told "we are supporting" the two candidates who are also Labour whips. Other delegates have also been identified in the same region that were similarly entreated by the same official, in contravention of the staff code of conduct that expressly forbids party staff from canvassing.

We recognise that Iain McNicol, the Party's General Secretary, has taken action to prevent party staff being parti-

san in internal elections and we welcome his commitment to investigate this new evidence. However, it is clear to us that this is very unlikely to be the only example of misconduct in this election, and that therefore the result of the election is unsafe and a wider investigation is needed.

Katy Clark and Peter Willsman stood to be the CLP representatives on the CAC precisely to ensure that delegates have a free and fair conference, that Labour is true to its principles and members' rights are respected.

Delegates can help this investigation. If any party officer spoke to you about the candidates in the CAC election or about how you should cast your vote, please approach us in confidence. Ring 07710 541410.

Together we can make this a party to be proud of.

# CLPD

## Campaign for Labour Party Democracy

### Support reference backs

TSSA is calling on CLP delegates to support a TSSA "reference back" on their Emergency Motion on East Coast and Rail privatisation, and the campaign to keep it in public hands. TSSA will call for a Card Vote on the reference back and we ask all supporting CLP and Trade Union delegates to STAND UP for a card vote! Dozens of CLPs found their rail Contemporary Motions knocked back by the CAC alongside TSSA's, despite being irrefutably contemporary.

A concerted campaign from the party machine to keep this urgent debate off of the conference floor led one party bureaucrat to state: "The CAC has resolved to make no decision tonight," - despite having had 5 days to consider the emergency!

TSSA General Secretary Manuel Cortes said, "Do passengers have to die, on the tracks of our private rail system, for the Labour CAC to support an emergency motion! Support public ownership of rail, support the TSSA reference back, call for a card vote!"

### OMOV for CAC

Islington North CLP submitted a rule change to extend party democracy by introducing OMOV for CAC elections. It has been ruled out unfairly, through an incorrect application of the 3 year rule. Support Islington North when they move reference back.

### Voting on NPF documents in parts

14 CLPs submitted a rule change seeking to end the undemocratic practice of Conference having no choice but to vote on whole NPF documents on a take it or leave it basis. These were all ruled out by the CAC. Support Islington South CLP when they move reference back.

### Bedroom Tax

A genuine emergency motion, about the United Nations special investigator calling for the bedroom tax to be abolished, has been ruled out of order. Support Tower Hamlets Party when their delegate asks Conference to rule it in.

We have been told another genuine emergency (Fire Service cuts/defending Firefighters' pensions) has also been ruled out unfairly.

**Delegates should demand a card vote if necessary.**

## It's popular; it's cheaper; it's policy: Bring rail back into public ownership!

We welcome what we have heard this week from Maria Eagle, Shadow Transport Secretary, about the future of Britain's railways. We welcome, at last, some integrated thinking about our railways. We welcome the opportunity, under a Labour Government, to build a better railway for Britain.

This is because we know that privatisation has proved to be a disaster for this country. Even Margaret Thatcher described the privatisation of the railway as 'a privatisation too far'. It was a foolish, ideologically-driven, policy by John Major which has failed.

The result has been soaring fares, rising each year way beyond inflation. Hard-pressed passengers are forced to pay more, and still more, money for their fares, when wages are standing still or falling, so the privatised train operating companies can make a handsome profit.

Taxpayer subsidies have risen, too. As Maria Eagle said at the Campaign for Better Transport fringe meeting on Sunday night, we are now putting billions more into our railways and billions more into our buses. At the same time, the priva-

by Mick Whelan  
General  
Secretary  
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the train  
drivers' union



tised train and bus companies make a private profit at public expense - often moving their money offshore.

The result of privatisation has been soaring fares, greater public subsidies, older rolling stock, and more overcrowded trains.

That's why we want to bring our railways back into public ownership - and it needn't cost a penny. As the franchises run out, we should replicate the success of the East Coast, which brings money back to the Treasury.

That is a policy which appeals to passengers who have had enough of soaring fares and privatisation. It's a policy which will appeal particularly to commuters in the south-east of England, giving Labour the opportunity to win back some of the seats in the south, and east, which the Party needs if it is to form a new government in 2015.

## Kicking out Carillion

"Making tomorrow a better place". This is the slogan for the construction firm Carillion - a company with a history of blacklisting. They didn't create a "better place" for the workers and their families, whose lives have been ruined, who have been denied a living, unable to find work in the construction industry.

But "making tomorrow a better place" on stall 106 are UCATT, the construction union, and the Shrewsbury 24 Campaign. UCATT's representative on the Party's National Executive objected to Carillion's presence at Labour Party conference and got them kicked off the stall.

I'm immensely proud that my union did this, not only for moral reasons but also personally, as Carillion's poor employment practices impacted on my family. My brother, Keir, was employed by Carillion as an apprentice painter and

by Lachlan Morrison, UCATT

decorator. Paid only £80 a week for three years, Keir had to work long days, often on his own. UCATT did manage to get a representative to speak to the apprentices, but Carillion advised the young apprentices "not to bother" and told them "it's a waste of money".

Luckily, Keir and I grew up learning about politics and unions around our dinner table and joined the union anyway. I hope the Labour Party carefully considers who they allow into our conference.



Ellie Reeves, introducing "Britain's Global Role", said she was proud of Labour's role in fighting fascism in Spain. In fact the Party actually opposed any foreign intervention in the conflict in Spain.

## Composite carve up

Delegates were persuaded to drop key elements of their CLPs' housing resolutions at Sunday's compositing meeting. The party officer in charge left the CLPs' crucial points out of his suggested composite (and distributed it late).

Then Shadow Housing Minister Jack Dromey weighed in, asking delegates to drop calls for rent controls and scrapping the "right to buy". He offered a promise that a Labour Government would have a massive house-building programme and regulate private landlords instead - which sealed the deal with most delegates.

This is contrary to CAC's official procedures, which state that Shadow Ministers should speak in an advisory capacity before delegates formulate the composite.

### CLPD: Conference Review & Assessment of the Week

Ann Black, John Cryer MP,  
Keith Ewing, Bryan Gould,  
Billy Hayes, Kelvin Hopkins MP,  
Conrad Landin,  
Kate Osamor, Mark Seddon,  
Christine Shawcroft,  
Salma Yaqoob  
Chair: Peter Willsman

6pm, Tuesday, 24 Sept.

Royal Albion Hotel

### A free press?

*Campaign Briefing* is produced by volunteers - who are out today with our buckets. Please be generous. *Campaign Briefing* has a cover price of £2 for the week.

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