

YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2014

TUESDAY 23.09.14



ASLEF
the train drivers' union

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First thing today: support CLP rule changes!

The rule changes from CLPs on the agenda this morning were submitted over a year ago and have at last made it to Conference. In addition to the three rule changes highlighted below there were a further eight submitted by a total of 14 CLPs. All were ruled out of order, in some cases on rather dubious and obscure grounds. Nevertheless in recent years CLPs have achieved victories on several key rule changes that have improved party democracy. Submitting a rule change is the only way a CLP can guarantee its voice is heard and improve the way our Party is run. The following three rule changes are on today's agenda (see Delegates' Report pages 9 & 10).

●From East Devon CLP and City of Durham CLP

These CLPs are seeking to create a fair "three-year-rule" for rule changes at Conference. The current three year rule says that you can't amend a "part" of the rule book which has been amended within the last three years – but it doesn't define what a "part" is. If CAC doesn't like a CLP's proposal, it declares it out of order on the basis that it relates to a part of the rule book which has been amended in the last three years. This allows CAC to rule out any CLP rule change it wants to. The proposal before us today is that only rule changes which are similar to ones voted on in the last three years would be out of order. It would clarify the rule book and give CAC less scope to stop debate unfairly.

The NEC has accepted the spirit of the E Devon proposal but is putting forward its own version (Delegates' Report, p8). We understand the two CLPs will be remitting their proposal in favour of the one from the NEC.

●From Leyton and Wanstead CLP and Beverley and Holderness CLP

These CLPs are proposing that in future the Conference Arrangements Committee (CLP Section) should be elected by OMOV. OMOV gives the grassroots membership some rights and influence within our own party. This is particularly important given the counter-trend under New Labour of more power accruing to the centre and the party machine. The CLP Sections of both the NEC and the National Policy Forum (NPF) are already elected by OMOV. A considerable number of CLPs no longer send delegates to conference and, therefore, they and their members are totally disenfranchised from the CAC election. This reform would effectively enfranchise every member in every CLP.

Vote for this rule change.

●From Burnley CLP

This CLP is proposing that government ministers should be ineligible to serve on the Conference Arrangements Committee (CLP Section). For many years the two CLP seats on CAC were occupied by rank and file members, but in recent years they have often been filled by front benchers. To operate as it should, CAC must always be independent. Controversial policy issues at Conference can put front benchers in an impossible position. They cannot serve two masters.

Vote for this rule change.

Austerity-max: a recipe for defeat

Tony Blair offered new hope in 1997 after the ravages of Thatcherism. New Labour squandered that victory. Five million votes were lost between 1997 and 2010 by taking our core voters for granted. Since then, working class voters have defected in droves to UKIP. And most recently, in Scotland, to "Yes" and the SNP.

Ed Balls seems determined that trend will continue. With benefit caps and pay freezes, Austerity-lite was bad enough, but at least investment spending provided some wiggle room. Now, a commitment to no new spending funded by borrowing takes austerity to Tory levels. Investment for growth has been sacrificed to make up for Balls's own complicity in the errors of New Labour. It is a disastrous error.

The *only* daily
briefing for
delegates at 2014
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**Campaign for
Labour Party
Democracy**

Building a better railway to build a better Britain



By Mick Whelan
General Secretary, ASLEF,
the train drivers' union

The next General Election will be the most important to be held in this country for more than 50 years – since the elections in 1945 and 1950, in fact, that led to the great socialist governments of Clement Attlee which transformed the fortunes of the people in this country after the ravages of the Second World War.

They are so important because the policies of this Coalition Government – and the Liberal Democrats have been as culpable as the Conservatives – are ruinous for Britain, with an ever more brutal free market in labour and housing, creeping marketisation (an awful euphemism for the privatisation of a great public service) of the NHS and punitive “reforms” – for which read “destruction” – of the welfare state.

We desperately need a change of

government next year. We can't afford another Tory government committed to exploiting the poor for the benefit of the rich. We need a government committed to building a fairer – and better – Britain.

That must include bringing back into public ownership those key parts at the heart of the British economy which belong to the British people. We can all see that privatisation hasn't worked. On every measure put forward by John Major 20 years ago, rail privatisation has failed. Fares, and public subsidies, have soared – we now have the highest fares in Europe – while trains have become more crowded.

It's outrageous that companies can, at no risk, take a private profit, made at public expense, for shareholders. Money is moved offshore. Millions of

pounds leak every day from our industry which could be used to bring down fares, be ploughed back in investment or returned – like the East Coast – to the Treasury to pay for schools or hospitals or housing.

We need a Labour government committed to putting our fragmented, privatised railway back together as a modern, integrated, and publicly-owned railway fit for the 21st century.

**Vote for Composite 6 on rail,
to be moved by TSSA!**

Support reference back for the rights of CLPs and Palestinians

Yesterday morning several CLP delegates questioned the Chair of CAC over the Gaza composite. They quoted the rule book and pointed out that the CAC has flexibility on this issue and could timetable Gaza. One delegate followed up by moving reference back. But not only did the CAC Chair not properly answer the question raised, but the Conference Chair, Keith Vaz, failed to follow the correct rules of procedure and did not put the reference back to the vote.

Since the Chair failed to put the reference back of yesterday's CAC Report to the vote, CLP delegates will move reference back again today.

Support reference back of CAC Report so we can debate Gaza! Two thousand Palestinians – and thousands more BAME voters in the UK – are waiting to see what Labour thinks about the devastation in Gaza.

● Another CLP delegate raised her emergency motion on the Ukraine. The Conference Chair reassured her that he would most certainly call her in the debate. Surprise, surprise, the delegate was not called, despite frantic waving.



Lizzy Ali, BAME Officer, Leyton and Wanstead CLP, (speaking to *Yellow Pages*): “Recent polling has shown that Labour is more than ever dependent on black, Asian and other minority voters. Yet the Party, while cultivating conservative ‘community leaders’ (for which read ‘business people’), has shown by its repeated interventions in selections that it distrusts local parties with high BAME memberships.”

“Andy Burnham has pledged to restore the Secretary of State's responsibility for service provision, make the NHS the preferred provider, repeal the Health and Social Care Act, and exempt the NHS from TTIP.”

Dr. Anthony Isaacs,
The Guardian, 10.09.2014

Rida Vaquas, Young Labour Under-19s Officer (speaking at Saturday's CLPD fringe meeting), “Young Labour is the only political organisation that doesn't allow proper political discussions.”

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 £3 for the week.

CLPD: Conference Review & Assessment of the Week

7.30pm, Tuesday, 23rd Sept
Jury's Inn,

56 Great Bridgwater St
Entry £3 (conc £1).

Chair: Peter Willsman
(CLPD Secretary)

Speakers:

Martin Mayer (Unite),
Michael Meacher MP,
Steve Murphy (UCATT),
Kate Osamor (NEC), Cllr Alice Perry (NEC), Max Shanly (Young Labour National Committee),
Christine Shawcroft (NEC)

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