

# YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2015

SUNDAY 27.09.15

## Sunday's Priorities Ballot: CLPs should set the agenda... for Labour to win

In today's priorities ballot, CLPs and the unions can each choose four subjects for debate. The unions have already agreed to prioritise Austerity and Public Services, Employment Rights, Europe and Rail, so these issues will be discussed by conference.

The CLPs' vote will effectively select an additional four topics. The following subjects are the most important for Conference to discuss. Please vote for:

- *Britain's Defence Capacity (scrapping Trident)*
- *Housing*
- *Refugee Crisis*
- *NHS*

Trident, which the Tories are proposing to replace (at a cost of over £100 billion), is a Cold War nuclear weapon system, not relevant to Britain's current needs. The jobs associated with Trident should be redeployed to areas that benefit the economy and the public funds released can be used to build homes and protect public services. Labour MPs would benefit from Conference making a clear decision.

Syria should not be prioritised by CLPs – bombing can only exacerbate the situation, create more refugees and experience shows far from defeating terrorism, fuels it.

After the priorities ballot, compositing meetings on the successful topics will take place from 6.30-8.00pm in the Hilton Metropole. Delegates must attend and need to ensure the composites agreed establish clear policies setting us apart from the Tories.

## Sunday morning: Support CLPs; support reference backs

The Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) has ruled out nine different rule change proposals that were submitted to this Conference by no fewer than 17 CLPs. They have been removed from the agenda and, in effect, have disappeared without trace.

In at least some of the cases the CAC's action is totally unjustified. The CAC has quoted the "three year rule" as the reason for rejecting the rule changes. This stipulates that once a rule change has been voted on by Conference, the same rule change proposal (or one with a similar pri-

mary objective) cannot be discussed again for three years.

But in the case of some this year's debarred rule changes (for example those from Islington North and Mid Beds CLPs) it is well over ten years

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**CLPD**  
**Campaign for  
Labour Party  
Democracy**

A daily  
briefing for  
delegates  
published  
by  
CLPD

## Welcome to Conference!

### By **Christine Shawcroft, NEC**

We welcome all delegates to Annual Conference, whether it's your first time here or whether you have been trudging along, more in hope than expectation, for many years. For a long time, delegates have been squeezed out of our own Conference, but now we have a chance to make our voices heard again.

The unprecedented events over the summer mean we are now in an entirely different Labour Party – and a different Labour Party means a different Annual Conference.

Already we have seen changes – for the first time we have been promised that the rules about unions and CLPs each prioritising four topics for debate (giving us eight topics) will actually be enforced. The much-derided "sofa discussions" have been abolished, allowing more time for delegates to take part in debates – which is what Conference should be all about.

Unfortunately, we still have problems with Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) taking it upon itself to rule out of order constitutional amendments (rule changes) and contemporary resolutions from CLPs.

Delegates need to make this the year we take back our Conference. If CLPs protest that their amendment or resolution has been ruled out of order, we must support them. We must take a full part in policy debates and seminars so we can put together the anti-austerity platform which can win elections. Most of all, we must show our support for Jeremy Corbyn, whose stunning success has brought real party democracy within our grasp again.

## More say for members! Support Mid Beds CLP delegate's reference back!

This morning the delegate from Mid Beds will be seeking support for a reference back of the CAC report. Please support him.

Our rule change, which would allow CLPs, unions and other affiliates to submit both a rule change and a contemporary motion to conference, has been unfairly ruled out and will not be discussed at conference unless the reference back is successful.

After submitting the rule change last year, we were finally told this August (why the year's wait?) that it had been ruled out because it had breached the "three year rule".

The three year rule states:

"When Party Conference has made a decision on a constitutional amendment, no resolution to amend the constitution or rules of the Party having the same or similar primary objective shall appear on the agenda of the three following annual party conferences, except such resolutions to amend the constitution and rules that are in the opinion of the NEC of immediate importance."

At no point in the past three years has a constitutional amendment with the

same or similar primary objective as ours been debated. Apparently because Refounding Labour: Real Change for Partnership into Power was debated and the associated rule changes passed within the last three years, this rules ours out. But the only mention in this document of either constitutional amendments or the contemporary motions process is that "there will be no change to the existing Contemporary Resolutions process."

Ruling out even a discussion about a small improvement in the ability of constituencies and unions to influence Conference is not the sort of new politics that hundreds of thousands of our members and supporters have just voted for.

The primary objective of our rule change is to allow CLPs and affiliates to submit both a rule change and a contemporary motion. That issue has not been discussed in the last three years and ruling our rule change out of order therefore does not make sense. We ask conference to support reference back.

Rachel Garnham, Mid Beds CLP Secretary

## Sunday morning: Support CLPs; support reference backs

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since the same (or similar) rule changes were voted on. Regretfully this unfair and undemocratic treatment of CLPs by the CAC has become all too common in recent years. It is therefore hardly surprising that fewer and fewer CLPs are bothering to send delegates to

Conference. The election of Jeremy, with his mandate to invigorate party democracy, provides the opportunity to reverse this trend.

On Sunday morning several delegates are likely to challenge the unfair treatment that has been meted out to their CLPs. Please give them your support: vote to refer back the CAC decisions.

## CLPD opens a historic conference

Opening a packed CLPD conference rally and delegates' briefing last night, CLPD Chair **Lizzy Ali** said: "I've been doing politics and trade unionism since I led a school strike at 15, a few years before Jeremy was first elected an MP, and his victory is the most important development in my political life."

Brighton Pavilion General Election candidate **Nancy Platts**, who halved the Tory majority, welcomed delegates to Brighton, saying, "We just had the most democratic election in party history – a huge democratic mandate that everyone in the Party has to respect."

**Rida Vaquas**, Young Labour Under-19 Officer, noted the huge difference in the mood between today and last year's conference. "Never write off the labour movement. It will surprise you," she said, before declaring that the fight for democracy is absolutely central.

**Kate Osamor**, newly elected MP for Edmonton, thanked CLPD for all its support in her rapid rise from the NEC to Parliament. Members must be listened to, with what we say reflected in the manifesto. "We have to ensure that Jeremy doesn't work alone," she said.

ASLEF president **Tosh MacDonald** hailed "the re-birth of democracy within the Labour Party," saying: "Before Jeremy threw his hat in the ring, the ASLEF Executive couldn't find any candidate to support. All we saw were the same policies that lost us 5 million votes." He went on: "In the 80s we lost the argument on privatisation. Now we're winning it."

NEC member **Ann Black** echoed Tosh: other candidates had failed to ignite the enthusiasm of the membership. "We're going to have debate like never before," she said.

Assistant General Secretary of Unite **Diana Holland** said that the times offer a fantastic opportunity to do politics in a new way and take many more people with us. "Labour must be properly representative of its roots," she said. She warned of the threat to historic trade union rights in the current Trade Union Bill, saying: "We need to oppose it with every bit of unity we can find."

**Don't Bomb Syria**  
5pm, Sunday 27th  
Gresham Suite  
Old Ship Hotel, Kings Road  
Speakers:  
Diane Abbott MP  
Andrew Murray, Unite  
Heather Wakefield, Unison  
Lindsey German,  
Stop the War Coalition  
Organised by:  
Stop the War Coalition

**Sinn Fein's Fringe Event**  
*Good Friday Agreement under threat – equality not austerity*  
Sunday 27th, 6.30pm  
Best Western Brighton Hotel,  
143 Kings Road  
Speakers:  
Jennifer McCann MLA, Sinn Fein  
Paul Maskey MP, Sinn Fein  
Vernon Coaker MP, Labour  
Shadow Secretary of State  
Chair: Kevin Maguire, Associate Editor, the *Mirror*

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Ring our Conference Team on: 07977-566 519



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