

Campaign Briefing

SUNDAY

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Priorities Ballot: How best to use your vote

CLPs are allowed to pick four issues for debate, and the Trade Unions another four. The Trade Unions' priorities will get on to the agenda, so CLPs should not waste their votes on the same topics, but ensure that other important issues also get discussed.

As Campaign Briefing went to press it was unclear what the exact subject titles of issues will be, but CLPs are urged to support key issues of concern. With house building collapsed, a programme of investment in **Housing** needs to be urgently discussed. Across the party we need to improve our campaigning against fascism given the **BNP's** election of two MEPs in June. The party needs to discuss how to defend the **Royal Mail** from the threat of

privatisation. With pressure on public finances it is now time to cancel the **Trident** replacement programme.

CLPs are urged to vote for

- Housing
- Beating the BNP
- Royal Mail
- Disarmament / Trident

CLPs should not waste their votes on

- Manufacturing
- Finance and the Banking Sector
- Childrens Services / Free School Meals
- Public Services / NHS

as the unions will ensure these issues are discussed

The way to win

By Michael Meacher

This could well turn out to be our best Conference for years. Power is shifting in our Party. The Government has been forced to retreat on the part-privatisation of the Royal Mail, to start building Council houses again, and to impose modest tax increases on the rich. As a result of firm union support, the right of members to have contemporary motions debated and voted on is likely to be restored next year.

That would make Conference a decision-making forum, not a leadership rally – essential for re-founding a democratic socialist Labour Party. If, as seems possible, we can win OMOV for electing NPF members, we can further strengthen our Party's internal democracy.

But we need a lot more:

We need the banks to be made to repay the £60bn of taxpayers' money used to bail them out, so that it can be ploughed back into job creation in the real economy.

We need a massive public investment programme in housing, infrastructure and public services to reduce the budget deficit by getting people off benefits and into work, not by a

NEC Report 26 September "Extending and renewing party democracy"

Yesterday the NEC finally decided what to do on the promised review of the changes to Conference procedures introduced at the 2007 Conference. The key change was to replace "contemporary motions" which were voted on, with "contemporary issues" which are not. Many CLPs and

unions have been pressing for the return of voting on motions. The party establishment have resisted any decision this year, wanting a "unity" conference. Lengthy negotiations have taken place with the unions, and a more in-depth review of

Continued over

Continued over

NEC Report continued

the Partnership in Power process has been agreed. This has been accepted by the NEC and should come to Conference as an NEC Statement. All decisions arising out of this review will be taken at the 2010 Conference—motions are likely to be re-instated.

Discussion of CLP property

Jack Dromey, the Party's Treasurer, dismissed rumours that the NEC was threatening to change the legal position of property held by CLPs. He added that there was a case for dialogue with CLPs over ways of using the Party's property assets more effectively.

For running conference news and gossip from Tribune point your browser at www.tribunemagazine.co.uk/conference.

The way to win *continued*

cuts competition with the opposition parties which would turn recession into slump.

- We need a clear signal that the deregulation and privatisation, which caused this current crisis, is being ended, and that the role of the state is expanded where the market has clearly failed, not only in health and education, but in housing, pensions, energy, transport, and banking (including Postbank).
- And we should cut the budget deficit by abandoning ineffective, wasteful and unnecessary public expenditure programmes such as Trident and ID cards. Bankers and the super-rich should pay their fair share in taxes to reduce the scandal of inequality which is shamefully now even greater than under Thatcher.

That would really kick-start an effective Labour campaign for a fourth term.

NEC's Democratic Deficit

A comparison of this year's NEC Report with those of fifteen or more years ago reveals just how bland and superficial this document has become. In the past the whole of the party's national and regional organisation was reported on in detail, together with all major issues discussed by the NEC and the NEC's considered views on all rule changes submitted by CLPs and affiliated organisations. Each day at Conference sections of the NEC Report would be presented and delegates could speak to them and as appropriate move reference back. This is yet another important mechanism of accountability that has been jettisoned by "New" Labour.

Sinn Fein

Irish unity—

Opening the debate

6pm Sandringham Suite,
Queens Hotel

Speakers:

Mitchel McLaughlin MLA,
Sinn Fein

Sean Oliver, Sinn Fein
Free

CAC Ballot (Monday)

In *Delegates' Report* (page 24) Murray Rowlands (Surrey Heath CLP) is listed as standing for the CAC. Murray has withdrawn in favour of Gary Heather and Gaye Johnston.

National Policy Forum – Radical Shake-up needed

The NPF Report will be presented by its Chair - Pat McFadden - this afternoon. He is the Minister who pressed for the privatisation of Royal Mail, saying that the manifesto commitment to keep it public was just an "aspiration". The good news is we are promised that a reconvened NPF Warwick conference will take place by Christmas. Not before time. It has been a year since the start of the greatest economic crisis in almost a century. Finally the party may have a chance to revise its policies – the last opportunity before the manifesto is agreed for the wider party to shift the party towards policies to invest in full employment and renew manufacturing, and away from cuts in public services.

The NEC is proposing a review of the way the NPF works. It needs a radical shake up. OMOV for electing CLP representatives will help to make the NPF more representative of the Party's membership. But the way it works needs root and branch changes too – multiple late night meetings agreeing things that few have the opportunity to discuss make the old compositing meetings look very attractive.