

CAMPAIGN

Briefing

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CLPs sidelined: in our own Party!

Every effort is being made to stop CLPs ever changing the Party's rules. Just look at these examples.

●The "three year rule" states that once a rule proposal has been voted on, the same "part" of the constitution can't be changed for three years. The word "part" is being interpreted in an ever more elastic way which is unfair to CLPs. Obviously a long clause is made up of lots of parts, but at yesterday's NEC one official even tried to suggest that a "part" is larger than a "clause". This is nonsense!

●The *Delegates Report* (p12) sets out proposed rule changes from Bridgend CLP and Islington North CLP. These were submitted in Spring 2011 and timetabled for debate on Wednesday morning. The NEC has only just agreed the rule change in *Refounding Labour* which was endorsed yesterday afternoon.

Delegates can clearly see that the two sets of proposals cover different issues, but are quite compatible. But still the CAC has deleted the CLPs' rule changes from Wednesday's agenda.

Many CLPs have been prevented from having a say on the proposals they put forward. But the proposals from those two CLPs were found in order... and still they were gagged!

●Two CLPs, Leyton & Wanstead and Rochford & Southend East, suffered an even greater injustice. CAC has binned their rule change on the grounds that the same "issue" within the rules was amended within the last three years – but that previous amendment was to a whole different *chapter* in the Rule Book.

Chair does a "Nelson"

On Sunday morning we witnessed one of the **worst decisions by a Conference chair for many years**. Under the CAC Report, CLP delegate after CLP delegate went to the rostrum with justifiable complaints. Several moved "reference back".

The correct procedure is to vote on each reference back in turn. Instead the chair ignored the reference backs altogether and simply railroaded through the vote on the whole CAC Report.

Delegates were not impressed and most abstained. The CAC Report was clearly lost – but the chair ruled it had been "overwhelmingly carried." He then compounded his error by ignoring clear calls for a card vote (also against the correct procedure).

●Rachel Reeves and Seema Malhotra were elected onto the CAC as CLP reps on a pledge that they would defend the rights of constituencies. **Were they asleep?**

If you've been mandated, respect your CLP's wishes. Mandating is a longstanding, legitimate practice, and there's no rule against it.

These CLPs had their rule changes ruled out of order...

Bury North, Hemsworth, Ilford South, Caerphilly, New Forest East, Tiverton & Honiton, Cardiff Central, East Devon, Mid Beds, Woverhampton North East, Banbury, Dulwich & West Norwood, Harrogate & Knaresborough, Holborn & St Pancras, Kettering, Kingston & Surbiton, Nottingham South, Uxbridge & South Ruislip, City of Durham, Cardiff North, Newport West, Salford & Eccles, Stockport, New Forest West, Greenwich & Woolwich, East Lothian...

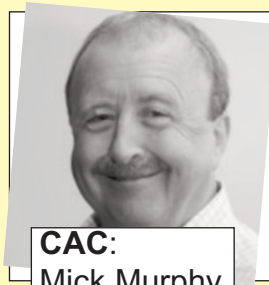
and 38% of CLPs' contemporary motions were also ruled out...

...denying your CLP a vote on fellow CLPs' proposals.

Vote for NCC and CAC candidates today!

See Delegates Report, p31 and 29, for candidates' statements.

Mark James received 81% of CLP nominations!



Akehurst shot down in flames

Charged with getting more working class candidates for public office, party staff wrote a rule change about under-represented "socio-economic groups". At the NEC, Ken Livingstone proposed this be replaced by "working class". Luke Akehurst objected, mumbling about other social groups such as "RAF pilots". Mary Turner said that her father was an RAF pilot *and* working class. Other trade unionists leapt to her support. The rule change now refers to "increasing working class representation".

The four central points Labour should now be demanding on the economy

● **F**irst, Labour should recognise that cutting less far, less fast is not an adequate response to the depths of this prolonged recession. It is impoverishing large sections of the population, it is failing in its own right: growth is negative, demand is shrinking, and – to cap it all – the deficit is still growing. A wholly different policy is needed. The best way to cut the deficit is not through endless cuts, which are self-defeating, but via a jobs and growth strategy which is the only way to turn around an economy in deep recession when the private sector is flat on its back.

How should that be financed? There are 3 alternatives. Instead of offering the current £50bn quantitative easing (printing money) to the banks which won't lend on, it should be put directly into an investment fund to create jobs in major projects the nation needs such as house-building, infrastructure, and foundations for a green economy.

Or the 1,000 richest citizens, who according to the Sunday Times increased their wealth by £155bn over the last 3 years of austerity, should be subject to capital gains tax on these gains which would raise £40bn, enough to generate over 1 million jobs in the next 2-3 years. Or with base rate as low as 0.5%, a £30bn job investment fund could be raised for just £150m, a sum which through higher tax receipts could rapidly be repaid three times over.

● **S**econd, the banks are overweight within an economy the size of Britain's, scandal-ridden, poorly managed, and not performing their real role which is to service industry. The really essential point, which is never discussed, is that the banks very largely focus on property (mortgages), overseas speculation, and elaborate artificial tax avoidance. Only 8% of total bank lending currently goes towards productive investment in the UK. We need to break up the big banks which are too big to fail, and replace them by a series of smaller specialist banks focusing on regional industry, infrastructure, SMEs, science and tech-

by Michael Meacher MP



nology sectors, green economy, etc. Above all the money supply which the banks have steadily privatised to serve their own interests, not the national interest, over the last 40 years should be brought under public control, as has been the case with all the most successful economies since the Second World War.

● **T**hird, Labour should make the massive revival of manufacturing a central objective of economic policy. The market free-for-all which Thatcher launched in the 1980s has decimated our manufacturing base to the point where in 2010 the balance of trade in goods reached the staggering deficit of £100bn a year or nearly 7% of GDP. This is unsustainable since financial services now cover less than half this deficit. We urgently need a concentrated and sustained national effort to improve manufacturing productivity, vocational and skills training, restoring broken supply chains, protecting key companies and sectors against takeovers that damage the national interest, and instilling incentives to boost long-term market share as opposed to short-term profiteering.

● **F**ourth, ballooning inequality has reached obscene levels not seen since the Edwardian era a century ago. Not only is this deeply unjust, it undermines the level of aggregate demand for the economy as a whole, which is a major downside. What is needed are Enterprise Councils in all large companies, composed of representatives of all the main employment grades from boardroom to cleaners, which should meet at least annually to receive reports on the state of the company, to scrutinise funding, and to examine bids for improved pay from each section of the workforce which would have to be justified to gain general consent.

Fringe Listings – Monday

Morning Star Rally

“For a People’s Britain Not a Banker’s Britain”
12 noon, Manchester Central Exchange Auditorium
Len McCluskey, Katy Clark MP, Richard Bagley, Paul Kenny, Matt Wrack, Billy Hayes, Carolyn Jones

Labour Land Campaign

“The Economics of Education and the Education of Economists”
12.45, free entry, refreshments
Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street
Kelvin Hopkins MP
Martin Johnson (ATL)
Eleanor Firman
William Dixon

Winning Labour

7pm, free entry, Manchester 235, the Live Event Suite
Len McCluskey, Jon Trickett MP, Christine Blower (NUT), Michael Meacher MP, Kate Osamor.

Conference Assessment and the way forward for Labour

6 pm, Wednesday, 3rd October
Purity Bar (formerly Bar 38: downstairs), Peter Street (adjacent to the secure area).

Entry £2 (conc 50p)

Chair: Peter Willsman (CLPD)
Tony Benn; Ann Black (NEC); John Cryer MP; Billy Hayes CWU; Kelvin Hopkins MP; Martin Mayer (NEC); Michael Meacher MP; Kate Osamor (CLPD); Christine Shawcroft (NEC); Cat Smith (Next Generation Labour)

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