

28th June 2016, *Redbox - The Times*

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/redbox/topic/corbys-labour/new-labour-membership-two-thirds-did-not-help-out-on-the-doorstep>

New Labour membership; two thirds did not help out on the doorstep

New Labour membership; two thirds did not help out on the doorstep

Jeremy Corbyn has just lost a vote of confidence in his leadership. 172 Labour MPs voted against him, 40 backed him, there were 4 spoilt ballots and 13 MPs did not vote, but he is refusing to resign.

It is likely now that a fresh leadership election is upon us, and Corbyn could face a challenge.

Whoever decides to run against him will have a hard job on their hands to win over Corbyn's hardcore supporters.

But who are these Labour members, and what do they really think?

Academics Professor Tim Bale and Dr Monica Poletti (Queen Mary University of London) and Professor Paul Webb (University of Sussex) have teamed up with YouGov and ECSR to find out more about Labour's new membership.

Over 2,000 members and registered supporters of the Labour Party who joined after the May 2015 election were surveyed. This included 876 people who joined as full members, 280 who initially joined as £3 registered supporters but converted to become full members, and then 870 people who are still registered supporters. They are all eligible to vote in an upcoming leadership election.

Here's what they found about the supporters:

- Contrary to popular opinion, overall, Labour's new members are not, on average, much younger than they were before. The average age is still 51.
- Six out of ten of them have degrees – around the same as those surveyed last year.
- 14 per cent of the new members come from the capital – it's not all north London liberal Guardianistas. That's actually a one per cent drop from last year's study. They were more likely to come from the South East of England (34 per cent of members) compared to before (30 per cent).
- A quarter of them belong to trade unions – that's less than the 39 per cent of last year's survey. Ten per cent of them belong to Momentum (but that's around the same number who belong to the National Trust).
- 17 per cent of new members voted for the Green Party at the 2015 general election. That figure rises to 28 per cent if you just count those who joined the party after Corbyn was elected.