

Email from *Labour First* (<http://labourlist.org/>) to mailing list subscribers

Date: 2nd of June 2016

Subject: Labour First Update - June 2016

Dear XXX,

This is an update from Labour First. We hope this is a useful information service for Labour moderates. If you have news for us to circulate or additional contacts who should be added to our email list please let us know. People can also join our mailing list here: <http://eepurl.com/Nzh75>. Please feel free to forward this email.

NEC Elections Update

The last 24 hours has seen a lot of turmoil around the NEC elections.

Following Ken Livingstone's suspension from the party, groups on the left of the party Momentum and the Grassroots Alliance picked a new sixth candidate Rhea Wolfson. On Tuesday night Rhea's home CLP in Scotland, Eastwood, voted not to nominate her. The party rulebook requires that you receive your home CLP's nomination in order to go forward to the ballot. This is a matter between Rhea and her CLP which we are not involved in.

We are waiting to see whether Momentum and the Grassroots Alliance respond by picking a new candidate. At the moment they seem to be disputing the process in Eastwood CLP. The public reaction on the Left Futures website from Left NEC member Pete Willsman has been bad-tempered to say the least:



Peter Willsman

June 1, 2016 at 10:38 pm

Comrades need to understand what is going on. The Hard Right (Lab First, Sec Fixer-Luke Akehurst and the Blairites, with their 3 mill from Lord Sainsbury) are totally focused on getting control of the NEC, then JC will be a sitting duck and could be gone by Christmas. They know exactly what they are doing. The Blairite Murphy packed the All Members Meeting, he wasn't acting as an individual in the CLP, comrades need to wise up. The Right are, and have always been, utterly ruthless. We could have done exactly the same to Akehurst in Oxford and Wheeler in Salford. The week before Fixer-Luke got 3 votes for Trident and some 83 against, so O'ford is totally opposed to F-L's views. But comrades in O'ford and Salford took Lansperson's view ie that it's a matter for the general membership. We have a meeting in O'ford in a week or so and I am thinking of being a bit ruthless myself and asking the CLP to withdraw F-L's home nom. Thus treat the bastards like they've treated our Rhea. I would appreciate the views of comrades - lets have a survey on LFs like they have surveys on LabList.

Reply

There are still three weeks to go in the race for nominations and we remain ahead – demonstrating that active party members who attend CLP meetings remain on balance moderate - but it is clearly very competitive.

The officially logged nominations (a lower figure than the actual number as there is often a delay in registering them by CLP Secretaries) are as follows:

Ann Black (Left) 98 CLPs
Ellie Reeves (Moderate) 63
Bex Bailey (Moderate) 54
Christine Shawcroft (Left) 54
Luke Akehurst (Moderate) 48
Parmjit Dhanda (Moderate) 47
Johanna Baxter (Moderate) 45
Pete Willsman (Left) 41
Darren Williams (Left) 37
Claudia Webbe (Left) 34
Eddie Izzard (Independent) 24
John Gallagher (Independent) 11

Peter Wheeler (Moderate) has been nominated by his home CLP in Salford & Eccles and

will be on the ballot, but the nomination hasn't been registered yet hence he doesn't appear yet in the list above.

For the National Constitutional Committee Moderate candidate Maggie Cosin has 25 nominations and Left candidate Chris Williamson has 24 nominations.

If your CLP is meeting between now and the deadline of 24 June at 5pm, we need you to go to the meeting(s) in your CLP and propose your CLP nominates our recommended NEC and NCC candidates:

NEC:

Luke Akehurst

Bex Bailey

Johanna Baxter

Parmjit Dhanda

Ellie Reeves

Peter Wheeler

NCC:

Maggie Cosin

Their details are in this flyer, which you can print off and give to other attendees at the meeting:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/271f6fffa61efcfd965911e04/files/NEC_and_NCC_recommendations.pdf

We also need you to either stand to be an Annual Conference delegate yourself or vote for a moderate delegate(s) from your CLP. This will be vital to deciding both key policy questions like Trident and any rule changes either the left put forward or we do.

If you have any questions or need any advice about how this all works please do email me.

If you have not already done so, please find out from your CLP Secretary when your CLP is meeting to take these decisions, and email us at labourfirst@gmail.com to let us know the date as we are tracking them centrally. If the decisions have already been taken please let us know the results.

Party Unity

Labour First is committed to the unity of the Labour Party. Not in the sense of uniformity – we are very clear about our ideological and policy differences with the Hard Left and will fight our corner robustly, but in the sense of rallying together to fight for a Labour victory in every election after, and if necessary during, those internal debates about policy and candidates.

We therefore believe this article by Owen Jones, suggesting Labour should split in two in the context of a new proportional representation voting system, is fundamentally wrong: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/02/labour-party-may-divide-before-conquer> We belong in the same party. Every democratic socialist - in fact all progressives - should be in one united party, the Labour Party, whatever the disagreements we have and whatever the electoral system. Where would the dividing line be in such a split? We know how painful and ultimately pointless the SDP split was, with people with the same politics in two parties, and how it helped keep Thatcher in power. We don't want any talk of splits from either end of the Labour family. Please make sure you speak out for unity and against splits at your local party meetings and on social media.

Rule Changes

We previously circulated some proposed Labour Party rule changes you might want to submit via your CLP:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/271f6ffa61efcfd965911e04/files/Rule_changes.docx

There is also this additional proposal which has been drafted by the Jewish Labour Movement in response to the recent spate of cases of antisemitism in the party, and proposes stricter rules and sanctions to be placed upon members who have made racist, antisemitic or islamophobic statements:

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/jewishlabour/pages/1/attachments/original/1460532332/ProposedRuleChange-ConstitutionalAmendment.pdf?1460532332>

Each CLP is entitled to submit a rule change (known by the Labour Party as a

constitutional amendment) by the deadline of 24 June. Please note that CLPs can only submit one constitutional amendment now or one contemporary motion in September. If you want to be able to submit a policy motion in September your CLP should not submit a rule change now.

Best wishes,

Luke Akehurst
Secretary, Labour First