

YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2023 **MONDAY 09.10.23**



ASLEF
the train drivers' union

This bulletin is sponsored by ASLEF

Bad news for Britain

That Rishi Sunak chose to announce, in Manchester, that his government is killing off the dream of HS2, turning his back on the north, and is no longer interested in levelling up, is, almost, beyond parody. He is, yet again, selling Britain short. This is bad news not just for the railway, and the economy, but for Britain. The sooner he takes his helicopter home – the last chopper out of Saigon – the better for Britain.

Mr Sunak talks about moving the money to other projects – some of which have already been built, which

“I want a Labour government that is going to make real change to people’s lives. And I think at the moment Labour have been too timid.

“I want to say really clearly they need to put a better offer on the table for workers.”

Sharon Graham, General Secretary Unite, 8th October 2023

by **Mick Whelan,**
General Secretary of ASLEF
The train drivers’ union

he did not appear to know! – but we’ll believe that when we see it. Because, although these other projects – which many of us have been calling for – should have already been given the green light by this government, many observers think they won’t, when it comes to it, get the go-ahead.

It’s interesting, too, that Mr Sunak chose to explain his decision to cancel HS2 by saying costs have spiralled. Well, whose fault is that? The Tories have been in power for 13 years! What did Mr Sunak do while Chancellor of the Exchequer? Did he not bother to read the reports? Could he not add up the figures?

HS2 was never about shaving a few minutes off the time it takes to travel from Birmingham to London. It was



about freeing up pathways, on the east and west coast main lines, for passenger services and our vital freight trains which move so many goods around this country. We can see that the railway, in Britain, under the Conservatives, is now officially in managed decline.

Members matter: we need a democratic conference

This conference is an important opportunity for the Shadow Cabinet to hear from grassroots members and trade unionists, and for us to come together and make policy.

Labour’s policy is improved by having an inclusive discussion and listening to a range of experiences. Arranging a democratic conference means ensuring members are empowered, that they recognise this is our conference.

Facilitating a democratic and interactive conference has always been my priority as a member of the Women’s Conference Arrangements Committee. I

by **Jean Crocker**

have pushed for more time for policy-making, spaces and opportunities for delegates to network and learn from each other. I have tried to instigate clearer and more timely communications so the process is demystified for ordinary members. And there should be more time for members to speak and less time for platform speakers – they always have a platform, ordinary members don’t.

I have supported many delegates through compositing, making it clear that, though there are advisors there, composites must be in the hands of CLP and affiliate members.

Accessibility is fundamental to a democratic conference. I have advocated for a hybrid Women’s Conference because of the multiple barriers women face when attending an in-person conference, particularly disabled women and care-givers. A conference cannot be

democratic unless it is genuinely accessible to all. In 2019 I visited the conference venue with Disability Labour, who were immensely helpful in increasing accessibility.

These issues should not be a divide between left and right but basic principles of an inclusive and democratic conference and everyone should continue to push for them. I feel ready to bring the experience and knowledge I have gained on Women’s CAC to a new role on the Labour Party Conference Arrangements Committee.

Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) CLP Section

Vote for:

Jean Crocker

Chris Saltmarsh

Ballot 9am-4pm TODAY (Monday)

Daily briefing for Conference delegates published by:



CAMPAIGN for LABOUR PARTY DEMOCRACY

Today in Conference

●We need to focus on tackling Britain's huge problems, not war

Today there will be composite motions on **Defence and Ukraine**. As we go to print *Yellow Pages* has not seen the text of the composites, so we make no recommendation. However, faced with a huge cost of living crisis and crumbling public services, we urge delegates to consider whether decisions to commit immense sums to the military should be made today, when we don't know how poor the state of public finances will be when a Labour government is formed. Labour in government should focus on addressing Britain's many severe social problems, not on war.

●**Stop Press:** It is believed support for AUKUS is included in both composites. 2021 Annual Conference decisively opposed supporting AUKUS, because the supply of weapons grade enriched uranium to Australia (a non-nuclear weapons state) breaches the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). Conference should continue to support the NPT. So we **cannot recommend support for these composites**.

●Composite on Critical Infrastructure

The Unite, ASLEF & TSSA composite needs to become party policy. To deliver economic growth a Labour government will need to invest in infrastructure and restore key parts of our infrastructure to public ownership. Rail investment, including the full HS2, and the public ownership of energy will stimulate growth. It is vital Labour in government succeeds. So delegates should support the composite.

Yesterday in Conference

●Labour's more socialist affiliated unions have been put on the "naughty step" in the conference hall. Those TUs providing a constructive critique of party policies have been placed at the back in a dark recess between the balcony seats, which is usually reserved for the PLP. Trying to find their way in the dark are delegates from Unite, CWU and ASLEF. They are flanked by the FBU and TSSA. Less chance of the Chair choosing any speakers from amongst the gloom.

●Claims of this being Labour's "largest ever conference" need to be put into perspective: there's only 1,109 voting delegates, but 15,000 visitors and exhibitors.

● Democracy in action: Only three speakers (all in favour) on the NPF report after four years of work before a card vote.

¡Viva la solidaridad!

Latin America Shows a Better World Is Possible

Solidarity reception and meeting

6.30 pm Today (Mon 9 Oct)

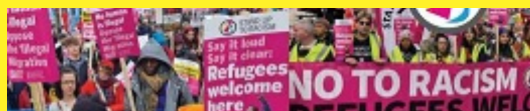
Hard Days Night Hotel (Zygmant Suite), North John Street L2 6RR

Speakers: Julia Felmanas, Brazilian Workers' Party; John McDonnell MP; Claudia Turbet-Delof, Wiphalas Across the World, Bolivia; Richard Burgon; Jess Barnard, Labour NEC; Dr. Francisco Dominguez; Mohammad Suhail, Young Labour

Refreshments provided

Hosted by Labour Friends of Progressive Latin America

Stand Up to Racism Fighting the Tories' racist offensive



12.45pm, Monday, 9th October

Revolucion de Cuba,

Unit 17, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AF

Room: Upstairs Bar (Refreshments provided)

Speakers:

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP; Richard Burgon MP; Mish Rahman, Labour NEC (personal capacity); Cllr Carralyn Parks, Mayor of Portland; Chair: Sabby Dhau, Stand Up to Racism



"Now is the time to kick-start a national conversation about taxing wealth."

Paul Nowak, TUC General Secretary, September 2023

(Following the opinion poll that found 61% of people think the wealthy should pay more tax than they do now, including 53% of those who voted Tory in the 2019 general election.)

"The 2-child-benefits cap should be scrapped immediately. Doing so would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight."

Jeremy Corbyn MP, October 2023

CLPD Conference assessment

Tuesday 10 October,
6.30pm

Quaker Meeting House,
Liverpool L1 3BT

National Constitutional
Committee: Vote
Annabelle Harle,
Jabran Hussain, Dave Levy,
Marion Roberts, Harry Stratton

In CLPD's 50th anniversary year read *Campaign Briefing*

The latest edition of CLPD's magazine has articles by Jeremy Corbyn MP, Diane Abbott MP, Katy Clark, Jon Trickett MP, Mick Whelan, Ann Black and others

Download it from:

<https://bit.ly/CampaignBriefing83>

The *Yellow Pages* is produced as a service to delegates by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD). To receive the *Yellow Pages* by email, visit: <https://bit.ly/CLPD-delegates>



Scan this QR code to sign up for updates from CLPD this conference.

The form can also be found on:

- our Twitter page @CLPD_Labour
- our website clpd.org.uk