

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL LABOUR CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

*Odlum Room, Student's Union, Queen's Road.
15th March 2007, starting at 19:30*

Present were:

David, Rebecca, Madi, Dan, Emma, Bethan, Mat, Kate, Richard, Ryan, Ned, Alasdair, Fionnuala, Louise, Darren

Apologies and proxy-votes were given by:

Sayed, Alex, Elin, Rich

Agenda:

1. Officer Reports
2. Constitutional changes
3. Elections

1. Officer Reports

i. David (Chair)

The meeting began with a review of the year by David, as Chair.

- Campaigning
Phone canvassing for the May 2006 council elections. Should do more this year.
- Membership
58 members this year, up by 19.
Stressed the importance of keeping early members.
- Speaker events
Had Kerry McCarthy, Roger Berry, John McDonnell and Hilary Benn. Stressed the importance of keeping in touch with local MPs.
- Labour Students
Submitted motions, had members attending events. Could make more effort next year to get people to Labour Students events.
Did several stalls to get petitions signed for 'University Challenge'. About 400-500 signatures obtained.
- Policy debate.
Policy forum on House of Lords reform was interesting and successful.
- Website.
New website on-line which is a bit improvement on what has gone before, and provides a solid basis for updates/more content &c.
- Labour party in general.
An important time for Labour. New leader will soon be elected, could bring a freshness to the party.

Each officer from the 2006/07 committee was then invited to comment on how he/she felt the year had gone:

ii. Alasdair (Vice-Chair):

- Felt the speaking events had been good and more should be organised for next year.
- Reminded the AGM of the successful 'Yes to NUS' campaign in March 2006.
- Stressed the importance for the club's future of keeping up the membership and especially of getting fresher's active.

iii. Bethan (Treasurer):

- People should get some money back for conference expenses soon.
- Reported on the Labour Students conference in Glasgow this year. Said in particular that there had been good integration and co-operation between Young Labour and Labour Students.
- Mentioned the Dignity! Period campaign and UBLC's work for that.
- Stressed the need for dynamism in the club, the need to get more first years involved and have a good timetable of events.

iv. Mat (Secretary):

- Talked of his involvement in the club, the support he'd given the committee, events he'd attended &c.
- Talked in general about the rôle of Secretary.

v. Emma (Communications and Campaigns):

- Involved in general events.
- Encouraged more of a focus on PR for next year.

vi. Ned (Social secretary):

- 'I did nothing'

vii. Darren and Louise (Non-portfolio officers):

- General intro for new members.

2. Constitutional changes

- Proposal put forward to split the Vice-Chair into two positions.
- A new Vice-Chair to be created to focus on our work with Labour Students.
- Some questioning of whether the new post needed to be a Vice-Chair. Move defended as it stresses the importance of our work with Labour Students as well as creating another important committee position, allowing decisions to be taken more collectively.
- A vote taken on the motion:
Yes 13
No 2
- Motion passed.

3. Elections

i. Chair:

- Began with the election of Chair. This position was contested by:

Mat, Alasdair, Ryan.

- Each candidate gave a 2 minute speech.
- This was followed by a question and answer session.
- A vote taken:
Alasdair 11
Mat 8
Ryan 0
- Alasdair duly elected Chair 2007/08.

The remaining positions were elected uncontested.

ii. Vice-Chair (Local):

Rebecca

iii. Vice-Chair (Labour Students / National):

Bethan

iv. Treasurer:

Kate

v. Secretary:

Mat

vi. Women's Officer:

Kate

vii. Communications and Campaigns:

Ryan

viii. European/International Liason:

Emma

-----MEETING CLOSED-----