



Socialist Labour Bulletin

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Socialist Labour - Who We Are

Socialist Labour is a bulletin issued by a wide range of Labour Party socialists and trade union militants who want to see the working-class take power in society and create a socialist Britain and world. We welcome any socialists to our discussion groups and open editorial board. We have no political or organisational affiliation to the Socialist Labour Party, led by Arthur Scargill. If you would like to join the discussion group or find out more about Socialist Labour contact:

Facebook: Socialist Labour

Twitter: @SocialistLab1

Text/phone: 07866 616 492 07792 966 910

P+P SL PO Box 59188, London, NW2 9LJ



Jeremy Corbyn after winning the right to be included on the ballot paper by 18 votes to 14: “And we will be campaigning on all the things that matter - the inequality and poverty that exist in this country, the need to end the privatisation of our National Health Service, the need to give to real hope and opportunity to young people all across this country.” Theresa May’s Tory one nation hypocrisy or Corbyn’s Socialism?

Blairite coup defeated by socialist rank and file: CAMPAIGN AND VOTE: CORBYN FOR LEADER!

By Socialist Labour Editorial Board

THE COUP ORGANISED by the Iraq war supporter Hilary ‘Bomber’ Benn has failed. It is a tribute to the thousands of rank and file activists who campaigned, rallied and pressurised our trade union leaders that the NEC voted 18-14 to ensure Jeremy Corbyn is on the ballot.

This is the beginning, not the end, of our struggle to put popular policies including social housing, nationalisation, trade union rights, opposition to imperial US wars etc. at the next election. The servants of neo-liberal capitalism and war in our ranks have been exposed in the 172 MP rebels against Jeremy.

They can never be forgiven - from the far right such as John Mann to the so-called soft left Lisa Nandy. They must be replaced by socialist candidates for Labour - in this sense the failed coupists have done us a service, indicating clearly that they are unfit to hold the honour of being Labour candidates. From Ed Miliband to Owen Smith us Party members who fund and campaign for them must force them to stand down.

Of course the battle is not yet over. The Blairites are launching a legal challenge and the NEC also imposed outrageous charges and deadlines to prevent some recent Party joiners voting. Here we show how to join UNITE for £2 to keep your vote. We urge all Corbyn supporters to do so, and Party members must vote for the left slate of NEC candidates this month to ensure this never happens again.

The coup failed because the 172 MPs are not stronger than the trade union movement and the Party membership of over half a million. The coupists fear us making policy and campaigning on socialist policies, we will never listen to the PLP majority again they wail. They are right. They hold our mem-

bership and our Party in contempt, we will make our policy.

We must build ever larger Momentum groups in local areas - already huge ward and CLP meetings of hundreds are backing Corbyn - from Hull, Bristol, Tyneside and London and across the country Blairite MPs are seeing their worse fears realised. We must attend Corbyn phone banks, pass resolutions in our trade union branches, hold public meetings, campaign on the street.

Socialist Labour supports Jeremy Corbyn against the Blairite threat. We have the opportunity of a lifetime to build a mass Party - already the biggest in Europe - to represent our class. We can smash the UKIP racism by offering trade union rights, guarantee employment contracts and abolish the appalling Zero Hours contracts.

We must discuss more radical measures - our current proposal, for example, to nationalise 20% of railways over five years, is far too weak. We need to challenge capitalist profit taking immediately, by demanding nationalisation of companies such as Southern trains without any payment to shareholders.

We will wage these and many other struggles alongside our campaign for Jeremy Corbyn to remain Leader. We will see off the warmongers and welfare benefit abstainers, Angela Eagle and Owen Smith, and any other Blairite candidates who stands.

The Corbyn campaign is inspiring socialists around the world, we welcome the fundraising of the left-wing of the Australian Labour Party and others to enable Corbyn supporters to fight the right wing. These are our sisters and brothers and we need to forge new international links of all who oppose neo-liberalism and austerity.

A powerful fight against the imposition of austerity by Labour Councils is absolutely necessary now

By Gerry Downing

WE MUST DEMAND that leftist councillors ally with the local anti-cuts campaigns and others to fight the imposition of austerity. The borough wide trades councils are vital here to bring the council unions on board and counter possible opposition by regional and national union officials to coordinated struggle, particularly strikes and occupations. And the local ward Labour Parties and General Committees must pressurise those council leadership who have made only token opposition to cuts to begin a serious fight.

Indeed, some Labour council leaders do not do even that, and these will likely go with any SDP-type split. Vital here also is the national struggle against the 'legal budget' stance of Corbyn and McDonnell backed up by the Momentum leadership – these instructions must be rescinded.

Central also are the housing campaigns, anti-deportations struggles and other justice campaigns; once we get a real movement going we can integrate all these campaigns with the anti-cuts campaigns, the local TUCs, the Labour ward branches, the Labour CLP General Committees and Momentum. Of course all individual campaigns should continue to fight their own issues but the need is now to coordinate all campaigns, to ensure that as many activists as possible participate in at least the most important mobilisations of all campaigns and direct their struggles at local councils, and at national government, by pressurising local, regional and national union, Labour party and government structures so the effect is understood in the wider context.

And there are clear indications that some leftist forces within Labour, the LRC and Momentum, and outside Labour, some in Left Unity and elsewhere, understand what has happened have moved leftwards and are seeking to work out what is to be done. We must now fight to unite those forces and thereby widen the political debate and discussion inside and outside Labour.

Since the 2008 crisis broke the trade union and Labour party bureaucracies have sought at every turn to impose wage cuts and redundancies, have collaborated in the destruction of the welfare state with only the most feeble and tokenistic opposition. At the half a million strong TUC demonstration

against austerity in March 2011 Len McCluskey, the 'left' leader of Unite the union, the biggest in Britain, sent his stewards out with high visibility vests bearing the slogan, "cuts too far, too fast"; in other words, the "austerity lite" programme of Labour leader Ed Miliband that cost us the 2010 election.

Now is our chance to reverse that disastrous course, this is why those comrades flooded in to vote for Corbyn in September 2015 and this is why they are flooding in now, swelling its membership to 600,000 some reports assert.

The result of selling out strikes and accepting Cameron's hypocritical slogan, "we're all in this together" was that there was a massive transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich; the share of the wealth held by the richest 1,000 people in the country more than doubled since the crisis of 2008 to £519 billion by May 2014, equivalent to a staggering one third of the country's GDP, as it must do when the TU leaders abandon the class struggle to help capitalism out of its difficulties.

It's great to see Len McCluskey and other trade union leaders championing the rights of the rank and file by backing Corbyn. But we understand that this is fundamentally driven by great pressure from below. We all know that the working class must advance on both fronts, on the political and industrial if they are to develop the necessary class consciousness to create socialism. To that industrial front of class struggle we must now turn the new Labour membership.

Strike struggles by junior hospital doctors, by teachers over pay and conditions and by the RMT on the railways over safety and guards' jobs are ongoing. Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) members in the National Museum Wales took all-out strike from late April to late June, when they won big concessions but not the protection of their weekend payments, their central demand in the dispute.

Nevertheless, the huge national and some international support for the strikers and the reinstatement of the indefinite strike weapon, almost eliminated from the arsenal of the trade unions since the defeat of the miners and printers in the middle 80s, is a harbinger of a new turn in industrial relations which some of the TU bureaucracy are desperate to forestall. Their efforts will be in vain, we confidently predict.

Australian International Solidarity with British youth

Australian socialist Casey Thompson, from South Turrumurra, New South Wales, began an online fundraiser for those who cannot afford the £25 fee to vote for Corbyn. In 22 hours from 13 July she raised \$830 from 19 people towards the \$5,000 goal. What an inspiring example of internationalist socialism! This is her message:

Jeremy Corbyn has been a leading light for socialism, fairness and democracy around the world as the leader of the British Labour Party. Corbyn is committed to delivering housing affordability, combating austerity, introducing justice for immigrants, upholding workers rights and promoting gender equality in Britain.

Despite Corbyn enjoying overwhelming support from party members and supporters, Blairites of the British Labour Party are threatened by his progressive agenda and trying to carry out a coup against Corbyn. They have substantially increased the price of supporter registration (a requirement of voting in the leadership election for non-members) from £3 to £25. This is an attempt to prevent the less well off and young people of Britain, Corbyn's key support bases, from participating in the election.

Let's crowdfund to help return a progressive and democratic leader. The current exchange rate is £25 = \$43.53 (AUD). All donations will go to prospective registered supporters. Help spread the word! <https://www.gofundme.com/keepcorbyn>

How to vote for Corbyn (if you weren't a LP member before Jan 12th) for cheaper than registered supporter status:

- Students or unemployed: Join Unite Community branch £2.17 a month
- Black, Asian or Ethnic Minority: Join BAME Labour £5 for 2 years
- LGBT Labour: join for £8 a year (or join as an ally/'solidarity member')
- Scientists for Labour £5 a year concession rate
- Labour Campaign for International Development £5 a year
- Disability Labour £15/10 per year