



Oxford University Labour Club General Meeting Trinity 2018

14th May 2018, Mansfield College Oxford

Ex Officio Co-Chairs Lizzy Diggins & Keir Mather presiding.

Minutes by Sec. Owen Winter.

AGENDA

1. Women's* Caucus
2. General Meeting Opens
3. Motion 1 (Voter ID)
4. BAME Caucus
5. Motion 2 (Pitman's Parliament)
6. LGBTIQ+ Caucus
7. Closing Remarks

MINUTES

Ray Williams opened the meeting.

Women's* officer Rosie Sourbut updated the meeting that the Women's* Officers had written a statement endorsing a Yes vote in Ireland's upcoming referendum on the 8th Amendment and requested that it be shared through OULC channels.

Ray Williams introduced Motion 1 (Voter ID)

Motion 1: OULC Condemns the Voter ID Pilots and Calls on the Government to Drop its ID Proposals

OULC notes that:

- Trials requiring voters to produce forms of identification in order to vote took place in five local authorities on 5th May - Bromley, Gosport, Swindon, Watford and Woking.

- As a result, around 4,000 people are predicted to have been turned away, with many not returning to vote.
- The Conservatives plan to extend voting requirements to English councils and General Elections.
- Figures from the Electoral Commission show there were just 28 allegations of impersonation in 2017 out of nearly 45 million votes in 2017 – or one case for every 1.6 million votes cast. Of these, only one resulted in a conviction.
- A number of studies have found that the introduction of voter ID requirements has reduced voter participation and several studies suggest that this is disproportionately high amongst racial and ethnic minority groups.
- The impact has also been shown to disproportionately affect those with lower educational qualifications and lower income populations.
- A report published by the Electoral Commission in December 2015 found that approximately 3.5m electors (7.5% of the electorate) do not have any photo ID.

OULC believes that:

- Whilst electoral integrity is important, requiring voters to produce ID in polling stations is a sledgehammer to crack a nut.
- That voter ID requirements will disproportionately affect those who are already least likely to participate in politics - young people, racial and ethnic minorities, and those from low income backgrounds.
- That the Government should drop its plans to extend voter ID requirements to other local authorities or Parliamentary elections.

OULC resolves to:

- Condemn the five voter ID trials that have already taken place.
- Oppose any introduction of voter ID requirements in Oxford and nationwide.
- Encourage Oxford's MPs to oppose any plans to extend voter ID requirements.

Proposed by: Owen Winter

Seconded by: Rosie Sourbut

Speech in PROPOSITION

Owen Winter: spoke in favour of the motion.

Charlotte Austin asked how OULC could turn this motion into a practical campaign.

Owen Winter responded that it is difficult to say until the Government announces its future plans for Voter ID regulations and that all OULC could practically do until then is to encourage Oxford's MPs to oppose any expansion of Voter ID requirements.

Speech in OPPOSITION
None heard

POD: A point of debate was raised, asking what the Government's justification for the plans was.

Response: Rosie Sourbut responded that the measures were supposed to prevent impersonation and tackle electoral fraud but were disproportionate and would particularly affect Labour voters.

Move to VOTE
Motion PASSED

BAME caucus met.

Ray Williams reported back from the BAME caucus meeting that members of the caucus had resolved to attend future caucus events.

LGBTQIA+ caucus met.

Keiron Haley reported back from the LGBTQIA+ caucus that the LGBTQIA+ social will be on Saturday (19th May) at 8pm and that discussions surrounding changing the definition of feminine will be taken forward by the Women's* caucus at the TGM.

Disabilities caucus met.

Patrick Storey reported back from the meeting that caucus members would like the caucus to be listed on the agenda in future and that the disabilities social has been postponed due to concerns about turnout.

Anisha Faruk introduced Motion 2 (Pitman's Parliament)

Motion 2: OULC Sponsors a Seat in the Pitman's Parliament

OULC notes that:

- People from the North East of England are one of the historically under-represented groups at Oxford University.
- 15% of Oxford offers 2010-2015 went to students in the North West, North East, Yorkshire and the Humber as opposed to 48% in London and the South East.

- The Durham Miners' Gala is an important event for the Labour movement and attracts up to 200,000 people from the local community every year.
- The Durham Miners' Association is raising money to support the refurbishment of the Durham Miners' Hall and keep the Durham Miners' Gala going by selling sponsorship of seats in their historic Pitman's Parliament.
- OULC has a large reserve in its treasury: this stood at over £2,000 at the last GM.

OULC Believes that:

- Events that are important for rallying labour movement solidarity are worth supporting.
- The Labour Party has a strong support in the North and therefore OULC could use these links to reach out to this area and emphasise that OULC is keen to welcome groups that are under-represented in Oxford University.

OULC resolves to:

- Donate £160 to the Friends of the Durham Miners' Gala in return for sponsorship of a seat in the Pitman's Parliament and a customised pit token.
- Explore the possibility of marching at the Durham Miners' Gala with our banner.

Proposed by: Charlotte Austin

Seconded by: Francesca Best

Amendment: Charlotte Austin accepted a friendly amendment to raise the amount to donate from £80 to £160.

Speech in PROPOSITION

Charlotte Austin spoke in proposition of the motion. She told the meeting that Durham Miners' Hall is deeply linked to working class organisation, with many meetings held there by working class and socialist organisations. She informed the meeting that the Hall requires urgent repairs to its roof and is offering sponsored seats and customised pit tokens for donations. She argued that the Hall gives a connection to working class history and should be made a site of cultural heritage.

OULC Secretary, Owen Winter, was nominated to act as Treasurer by Grace Davis, who could not attend the meeting.

Speech in OPPOSITION

None heard

Move to VOTE

Motion 2 PASSED with no abstentions.

Anisha Faruk closed the meeting and reminded the meeting of the Trinity Debate and invited them to attend and support OULC speakers. She also invited the meeting to the talk by Barry Gardiner on Friday (18th May) and the divestment stall on Sunday (20th May).