



## Oxford University Labour Club TGM Trinity 2018

11th June 2018, Mansfield College Oxford

Ex-Officio Officers Lizzy Diggins & Keir Mather presiding.  
Minutes by Sec. Owen Winter.

Owen Winter gave his report as Secretary, informing members that his focus this term was on organising and minuting exec and general meetings, publicising elections and setting up a history working group.

Jake Davies, in his role as publicity rep, mainly worked on the production of Look Left but also contributed to social media promotion of events and other aspects of the club's media presence.

Grace Davis, as Treasurer, handed out a financial report for the term but couldn't give details of a donation for Look Left because of Natwest. She asked that the club looked into moving to another account with online banking capability.

Milo Thursfield mainly worked on organising Dance Kapital, as social secretary, and also organised a number of drinks events.

Arya Tandon, as membership officer, reported that the club had 25 new members over Trinity term. This term he organised the details of new members and would like to work on a members database into next term.

Disabled members officer Patrick Storey informed members that he did not organise a social due to lack of interest and hoped that the next disabled members officer would.

As campaigns officer, Rida Vaquas ran weekly campaigning sessions, held three stalls each week for central wards in the run up to local elections, helped coordinate a climate justice stall and helped organise finalists' dinner.

Ruby Osman and Rosie Sourbut, as women's\* officers, organised two socials, including a 'pizza and policy' event, produced a statement in the lead up to 8th amendment and passed motions in women's\* caucus about abortion, the definition of women and donating to Refuge.

Anisha and Ray, as Co-Chairs, held events every week, collaborating with other societies and hosted speakers including Anneliese Dodds, Hilary Benn, Kate Osamor, Stephen Twigg, Nia Griffiths, Rupa Huq, Barry Gardiner. They were also involved with organising the Trinity Debate and Dance Kapital.

As BME officer, Sulamaan Rahim organised the BME caucus meeting at the beginning of term.

### **BME Caucus**

BME caucus reported that they would like to push for more BME freshers to join OULC in Michaelmas. Sulamaan Rahim was reelected as BAME Officer.

### **Election of Social Secretary**

Rida Vaquas stood for Social Secretary. She told the meeting that she has been on the executive for a long time, and has previously been social secretary.

Charlotte asked if Rida would like to work on a Christmas social and Rida responded that her Christmas social would include lots of food and puns. Alex Rostron asked Rida's opinions on joint socials and Rida responded that she opposes joint socials on the grounds that we are fundamentally opposed to the Conservatives.

Rida Vaquas was elected as social secretary.

### **Motion 1: Donation to Refuge**

#### **OULC notes:**

- £200 is set aside every term for spending by Liberation Caucuses
- This term the Women\*s Caucus has only spent £82
- Refuge does vital work in supporting survivors of domestic violence. They provide emergency temporary accommodation, legal support and serve as a first point of contact for victims of gender based violence
- 80% of Refuge's services have seen funding cuts since 2011
- At the same time, the roll-out of the Universal Credit welfare system has been widely acknowledged by policy experts as having the potential to facilitate further domestic abuse, both physical and financial

#### **OULC believes:**

- It is vital to show our solidarity with those who experience any form of domestic or gender-based abuse
- It is even more important to do so at a time when the protections and resources accessible to domestic abuse survivors are coming under renewed risk

#### **OULC resolves:**

- To donate the remaining £118 of the Women\*s Caucus budget to Refuge
- To donate a further £100 from the OULC's central budget

*Proposed by: Ruby Osman*

*Seconded by: Rosie Sourbut*

Ruby Osman spoke in proposition of the motion. She informed the meeting that women's\* caucus supported spending the remaining budget on a donation to Refuge, a crucial charity for women, as well as asking the club to contribute £100 from the general budget.

No questions to the proposer were raised.

Ray Williams spoke in opposition to the motion. Ray argued that if the caucuses did this every term it would be too expensive. OULC has the highest membership fee of any Oxford political society and spending money because it is 'left over' could be problematic for the club in future.

Owen Winter asked Ray if he thought the limit for caucus spending should be changed. He said possibly because it has become a target to spend, whereas previously it was on a needs basis. Lizzy pointed out that reviewing individual budgets should be brought to a different meeting.

Hannah Taylor said that she had previously brought a motion that each term the club would choose a charity to raise money for. She suggested that Charlotte and Fran agree to take on Refuge as their charity in order to raise money.

Rosie Sourbut pointed out that the women's\* caucus already agreed to donate the rest of their budget and so she thought we should stick with the motion. Ruby agreed.

Charlotte argued that the women's\* caucus' views should be respected.

Ed Lawrence asked what money the motion affected and Lizzy Diggins clarified that the women's\* caucus had already spent the £118 but the motion would add £100.

Ray argued that this would be a large chunk of the budget, we should specifically raise money rather than spend leftover money. Grace Davis informed the meeting that £100 is 1/11th of the club's funds, this wouldn't be sustainable every term.

Rosie argued that we should alter donations at the next GM and that at past GMs we had donated larger amounts than this so we should consider this motion on its own merit.

Ray responded that it proves the point if we make it a precedent to donate money to charity and that because of the additional women's\* caucus money it would be closer to 1/5th of the total budget.

Fran made the point that it would be good to see a breakdown of the budget to clarify this. Fran argued that she joined OULC because it supports good causes and we could bring discussion about formal structures about donations into next term. We have enough to do what we want to do and costs are usually front loaded in the term.

Kieran Murray argued that this is a good way of helping people, and that's what OULC should be doing.

The motion passed.

### **Election of MT18 Publicity Officer**

Jay staker stood for publicity officer. He informed the meeting that he joined Labour at 16 and has done lots of campaigning. Jay thinks that the website needs a facelift and a home page. He would commission a broader range of articles in Look Left beyond comment pieces for example introducing interviews and asking speakers during the term if they can answer questions.

As OxStu profile editor, Jay has experience of interviews and InDesign. He would ask caucus officers to contribute to Look Left and would like to focus on trans rights. He would also consider investigations or even satire. He would look into working with one of the libraries to store Look Left for historical purposes.

No questions to Jay were raised.

Jay Staker was elected as Publicity Officer.

### **Election of MT18 Campaigns and External Links Officer**

Atticus stood for Campaigns and External links Officer. Atticus said that OULC had built up momentum this year around council elections and UCU strikes, which he would like to carry forward. He told the meeting that he has lots of experience with On Your Doorstep, coordinating campaigns nationally and locally for example Oxford Migrant Solidarity and against SWEP.

Atticus would like to continue door knocking especially in wards with new councillors. He would like to work with Oxford taxi drivers to improve conditions and organise collectively and strengthen ties with the Oxford Living Wage campaign. He would also like to promote student/staff solidarity

No questions were raised.

Atticus Stonestrom was elected as Campaigns and External links officer.

### **LGBTIQA+ Caucus**

Alex Rostron was elected as LGBTIQA+ officer.

**Motion 2: OULC condemns MP Chris Williamson's anti-Semitic statements, and calls for Party disciplinary action to be taken against him as a result**

**OULC notes:**

- The recent controversy over anti-Semitism in the Labour Party
- Mr. Williamson's dismissal of anti-Semitism in the Labour Party as "proxy wars and bullshit" in a 2017 Guardian interview
- That Chris Williamson MP has frequently shared platforms with noted anti-Semites such as Jackie Walker (claiming on the 19th March 2018, that it was a "real pleasure and privilege" to do so and expressing a desire for Ms. Walker's readmittance to the Party)
- Mr. Williamson's claim on the 19th March 2018 that the suspension of figures such as Ms. Walker and Ken Livingstone from the Labour Party was "grotesque and unfair"
- Mr. Williamson's statement on the 18th April 2018, that "I have seen evidence of right-wing trolls, who are setting themselves up as pro-Labour, pro-Jeremy Corbyn individuals, on social media, who claim to be Labour supporters, and have then used that platform to make anti-Semitic, horrible and abusive remarks", thereby implying that apparent anti-Semitism in the Labour Party was a targeted smear campaign against Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party, rather than a legitimate issue which might arise within the Party and its membership
- Mr. Williamson's criticism of the expulsion of Marc Wadsworth (expelled for abusively heckling Jewish MP Ruth Smeeth at the launch of the Chakrabarti Report into antisemitism in the Labour Party in 2016, accusing her of working "hand-in-hand" with right-wing newspapers) and subsequent attendance of a 'Justice for Marc' rally on the 30th of May 2018
- The Campaign Against Antisemitism's call for the removal of the Party whip from Mr. Williamson as a result of his defence of Marc Wadsworth and as the culmination of Mr. Williamson's previous statements on, or relating to, antisemitism in the Labour Party
- Existing calls by several fellow university Labour clubs, such as those of Hull and Chester, for disciplinary action against Chris Williamson

**OULC believes:**

- That antisemitism, anti-Semites, and those who excuse or absolve them, have no place in the Labour Party
- That Chris Williamson, as an elected Member of Parliament representing the Labour Party, should be expected to uphold the values of the Party
- That Mr. Williamson's statements and actions represent clear examples of propagating or excusing anti-Semitism
- That Mr. Williamson has therefore failed to uphold the anti-racist views of the Labour Party and has therefore failed to respect and represent the diversity of its membership and electorate
- That given the events of the last few months and years (including OULC's own antisemitism scandal in 2016) it is imperative that the Labour Party sends a clear message of solidarity to the Jewish community, especially given that

representative bodies of the Jewish community in Britain have called for disciplinary action to be taken against Mr. Williamson

**OULC resolves:**

- To condemn Chris Williamson's statements and actions regarding antisemitism, as detailed above
- To mandate the Co-Chairs to write to Jennie Formby (General Secretary of the Labour Party), Nick Brown (Labour Chief Whip) and John Cryer (Chair of the Parliamentary Labour Party), call for an enquiry to be opened into Chris Williamson's actions
- To release an official statement as a Club relating to the contents of this motion, publicly condemning Chris Williamson and repeating the call for active and swift disciplinary action to be taken against him
- To mandate the Co-Chairs, Co-Chairs Elect, and future Co-Chairs (as well as the holders or future holders of any other relevant Committee positions) to explicitly avoid involving Chris Williamson in any activities, campaigns or publications of the Club

*Proposed by: Charlotte Sellers*

*Seconded by: Patrick Storey*

Charlotte Sellers proposed the motion.

She argued that there has been lots of controversy over antisemitism, including in OULC and that OULC should call for Chris Williamson to be disciplined.

Charlotte Austin spoke in opposition to the motion. She made it clear that her opposition was not about Chris Williamson's actions. Charlotte argued that the motion went against the principle of natural justice and that the resolution makes the co-chairs call for a specific action rather than an enquiry. She argued that the motion should take issue with Chakrabarti report not specific MPs.

Owen asked if Charlotte would support an amendment to make it clear that the co-chairs did not necessarily support the motion in the event that they had to carry out the resolutions.

Iris Kaye-Smith made the point that the co-chairs are meant to represent members, and that they could resign if they couldn't carry through the resolutions of the motion. Francesca Best argued that they would carry out the action but took issue with it as individuals.

Sulamaan asked if the specific resolution (writing to general secretary) was withdrawn, they would support the motion. Charlotte said she would support this amendment.

The motion passed.

## **Election of HT19 Co-Chairs**

Owen Winter and Rosie Sourbut stood to be co-chairs of the club for Hillary 2018.

Owen said he wanted to be Co-Chair with Rosie because they have some great ideas and are committed to the Club's success. He told the meeting how he co-founded Make Votes Matter and has worked with MPs and organised events. As Secretary he said he had seen how the Club works and how it can improve.

Rosie told the meeting how she has been a Liberation officer for two terms and involved in the Labour Party since 14. Rosie said how her and Owen could make the Club a forum for discussion and vibrant campaigning force. They want to empower caucuses, working with the womens caucus to make another term card.

Owen said how they want to prepare for the centenary of the club, having already started the history working group, and would like to produce a special look left issue.

Rosie said how they would host a campaigning workshop, introducing new members to campaigning, and work with the CLP and Brookes on campaigning and joint socials.

Owen told the meeting how they would like to invite an exciting and diverse groups of speakers, both politically and in terms of caucuses. They want to build on what the club has already done, for example the successful womens' caucus pizza and policy. They want to look into a OULC book club.

Rosie said how to promote events they would improve communications and outreach with prompt Facebook events and a weekly email bulletin. They would like to give out stickers and badges.

Owen described how they would alter the way the club is run, as too much responsibility falls on the Co-Chairs. They would formalise the college rep system, briefing reps in a meeting at the beginning of term and establishing who they are. In terms of finances they would like to formalise how does work.

Ed Lawrence asked if he could have a commitment to vegan pizza at pizza and policy.

Rosie responded yes, at womens' pizza and policy all pizzas were vegetarian and half were vegan.

Ed asked what will you do to ensure there's a large enough pool of candidates so there can be more contested elections in future.

Owen responded that we need to advertise TGMs more widely, using role descriptions, a broader range of events throughout the term and making it the responsibility of committee members to nurture possible successors. Rosie added that it falls on all of us to encourage people to get involved in the club.

Jacob Armstrong said that Labour Student Conference springs up issues of access and asked how Rosie and Owen would work with the national body to increase accessibility for those wanting to become delegates.

Rosie and Owen responded that they would need to speak to people with more experience of the process and would look at funding travel for delegates to removing barriers to participation. Kieron Haley made a point of interest that there may be the opportunity to apply for Labour Students funding.

Milo Thursfield asked who Rosie and Owen's favourite Labour MPs are.

Rosie said she joined under Ed Miliband and whilst Corbyn is great, Ed is her favourite leader. She said that there are many good Labour MPs at the moment and personal favourites were Dawn Butler and Stella Creasy.

Owen chose Lisa Nandy, saying that he lives in a town and she has a whole center for towns which speaks to him.

Rosie and Owen were elected as co-chairs for Hillary 2018.

### **Election of MT18 Membership and Alumni Officer**

Ed Lawrence and Ayra Tandon stood for Membership and Alumni Officer.

Ayra said how he has been involved in OULC since Michaelmas and was previously BME officer and Membership Officer. He said he really enjoyed his time in these positions and would like to continue his plans including a blueprint for an online database and search form to help with transparency. He would like to arrange better contact with previous members and potentially organise an event. He said the Club could possibly use data better, using mailing list to pull people into campaigning.

Ed introduced himself as a first year PPE-ist Jesus. He thanked Ayra for his work as Membership Officer but said he thinks there are some things the club could do better. Ed said he wanted to make membership an accurate representation of University society. He said how many people had fallen off the mailing list and that he would cross check the mailing list with the membership list. He would work to automate the online signup form and record degree length. He said he would look into moving ex-members to an alumni list and look into subsidising membership of the national party. He would also work to create a declaration of values for the

club. Ed said that his involvement in Jesus College's JCR, IRSoc and OxStu gave him experience he could use as Membership Officer.

Owen Winter asked whether the candidates knew if the club was GDPR compliant and whether an online database would be.

Elliot Jones asked if the candidates have any technical skills which would be useful as Membership Officer.

Ed said he doesn't know if we're compliant with GDPR and that the online database could be an additional barrier to membership. He said he has some IT experience with IRSoc and runs his own blog.

As Membership Officer, Arya combined membership data to reduce extra info to be compliant with GDPR. He said the club could produce a secure piece of info to make sure members can only see their own data.

Fran asked what new method there would be for engaging freshers in Michaelmas.

Arya said he would continue to use freshers fair and work with publicity officers to see if we can get in JCR pages.

Ed said he would give a bigger focus to diverse groups, make sure caucus officers are visible and present, diversity group specific events and make it clear we're aware we are the most expensive club. He would also ensure confidentiality and accessibility.

Joseph Hettrick asked about subsidised national party membership, suggesting that national party membership is already very inexpensive.

Ed said that it's about getting members involved with the national party.

Arya said OULC should consider reducing it's membership fees.

Ed clarified that he would like to remove barriers to national party membership, other than simply the expense.

Ed Lawrence was elected as Membership and Alumni Officer.

### **Disabilities Caucus**

Grace Davis was elected as Disabilities Officer.

### **Election of MT18 Secretary**

Grace stood for Secretary.

Grace said she was previously assistant secretary in CLP so had experience minuting, reports, agendas. She said she has shown she can be organised as Treasurer.

No questions were put to Grace.

Grace Davis was elected as Secretary.

### **Election of MT18 Freshers' Rep**

Arya Tandon stood for Freshers' Rep.

He said he would organise freshers fair and freshers dinner with a particular focus on caucuses and social media.

Fran Best asked if Arya would support a freshers dinner given that paying for the dinner was complicated last year.

Arya thought the dinner was positive despite being complicated. He suggest people could possibly pay in advance or look into other solutions.

Arya was elected as Freshers' Rep.

### **Election of MT18 Treasurer**

Caitlin French stood for Treasurer.

She said she wanted to make the club finances really transparent, perhaps with a public Google doc. She wants to make sure we know what proportion of budget donations to other organisations might be and deal with budgets for caucuses. She said she would work with committee on stash. Caitlin is currently ACAF officer at college and OU Chorus secretary. Grace Davis asked about problems with online banking and whether Caitlin would consider going to a new bank which does online banking.

Caitlin said she would be open to it.

Caitlin was elected as Treasurer.

### **Any Other Business**

Anisha Faruk said she would like to thank current committee with particular thanks for Luke's support. She said she was sad not to be co-chair next term but thanked the club very much for having her. Anisha congratulated Owen and Rosie on their election.

Charlotte and Fran gave Anisha and Ray a gift and Fran asked the new exec to stay back at the end of the meeting.

The meeting sang the Red Flag.