



Because a radical democratic Scotland needs
a radical democratic Scottish Labour Party

March 2014

Conference Special BULLETIN

Collins Review mitigates damage

Probably the best that can be said about the outcome of the special UK Labour Party conference is that Ray Collins managed to mitigate the damage caused by the leadership's panic over Falkirk.

With some skill he managed to come up with proposals that kept most people relatively happy. Maintaining the collective relationship that the trade unions have with the party while at least opening up the prospect of some wider engagement. How the new forms of membership will work, even assuming there is any significant interest in them, remains open to doubt. The newly formed NEC implementation committee will work up the detail.

BUILDING A ONE NATION LABOUR PARTY

THE COLLINS REVIEW INTO LABOUR PARTY REFORM

Ray Collins
February 2014

While the membership reforms will be implemented through changes to the UK Labour Party rules, the Scottish leadership election rules are a matter for the Scottish Labour Party. The SEC has wisely decided not to rush into any changes; hence there will be no equivalent rule changes presented to this year's Scottish Labour Party conference. Some thought is needed on how they might be adopted in Scotland and that should properly be the subject of consultation with all sections of the party here.

One aspect of the changes that has little or no traction in Scotland is the concept of primaries. Ray Collins was left in little doubt by CLPs and affiliates that there was no support for the principle and huge difficulties with the practice.

One-Minute Pitch for Socialism!

Something a little different at this year's Revitalise fringe. As the Scottish Policy Forum starts its work towards the 2016 manifesto we want to encourage new, or maybe not so new, radical ideas. So, no talking heads - you can come along and pitch your idea for a fairer socialist Scotland. But you have just one-minute to explain your idea! Concise socialism in action. Our panel of two parliamentarians and two past party chairs will respond.

Revitalise/Red Paper Conference Fringe Meeting

Your ideas for a Fairer Socialist Scotland

Panel: Katy Clark MP, Neil Findlay MSP, Richard Leonard (GMB) and Dave Watson (UNISON)

Chair: Pauline Bryan

Saturday 22 March 12:30-2pm
Royal George Hotel, Tay St, Perth

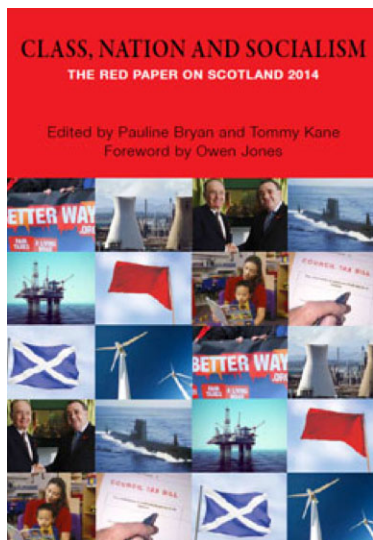
Revitalise is an informal network of Scottish Labour Party activists drawn from CLPs, trade unions and socialist societies who support the strengthening of democracy within the Scottish Labour Party. The network seeks to stimulate debate and action on ways to re-empower the party. Building a strong campaigning organisation that respects its members by giving them a meaningful role.

The network has no affiliation with any groups and contributions have been made by a wide spectrum of opinion within the Scottish Labour Party. Whilst contributors to the network may not always agree on policy or even individual reforms – they have common cause on the need to make democracy and accountability the hallmark of our Party. Constructive dialogue not oppositionalism is the aim.

www.revitalisescottishlabour.org

Red Paper on Scotland

Our comrades at the Red Paper Collective (www.redpaper.net) have been very busy this year. Just as well given what passes for debate in the referendum campaign!



The main output this year has been the book, '*Class, Nation and Socialism: The Red Paper on Scotland 2014*'. This book challenges those who look to constitutional change rather than political change. Posing nation against class is a blind alley, which will only reinforce Scotland's exposure to the power of multinational capitalism.

There is plenty of vision and ideas that have a reach well beyond the referendum. However, its vision is laced with a pragmatic view of the possible, not fantasy politics. It also seeks to do what is often missing in the current national dialogue – putting the debate in a UK context. In the introduction, Owen Jones sets out why the outcome of the current debate in Scottish politics has clear ramifications in Britain and elsewhere.

The key messages were popularised in a series of articles in *The Herald* and there is a longer summary in *Scottish Left Review*. If you haven't read it yet, copies will be available at conference.

The Red Paper Collective has also published booklets this year on social attitudes, a critique of the *White Paper – Scotland's Future* and a submission to Scottish Labour's Devolution Commission. Some key contributions to last year's conference debate were published in '*Labour Voices on Scotland's Future*'. All can be downloaded from their website.

Proposed Rule Change

There should be some internal rules debate at this year's conference on a motion from Kelvin CLP that aims to require Policy Commissions to consider amendments from CLPs and affiliates to policy documents. Policy options would be also required to be placed before the Scottish Policy Forum for consideration and those options, which have at least 25% support at the Scottish Policy Forum would be debated at Conference.

This is similar to a Revitalise proposal that was considered at the 2004 conference.

On the conference fringe

Friday 12:30: UNISON – **People and Justice** – Graeme Pearson, Pat McGuire, George McIrvine
Friday 5:30: CLPD – **Party Democracy after Collins**. John Lansman, Katy Cark, Maria Fyfe
Friday 5:30: UNISON/SHA Scotland: **Time to Care**. Neil Findlay, Stephen Smellie
Friday 6pm: Unite – **Industrial Democracy**
Jackson Cullinane, Pauline Bryan, Neil Findlay
Friday 6:45: Keir Hardie Society – **Hardie and Home Rule** – Owen Smith and Cathy Jamieson
Sat 5:30: GMB – **Safety under attack** Ian Murray, Harry Donaldson

2016 Vision

The Scottish Policy Forum has held its first meeting and challenge papers for the first year consultation will be presented to conference. Four policy commissions have been established.

The affiliated trade unions, through STULP, have published '**Bringing Scotland Together**'. This short paper sets out some initial ideas for a radical manifesto in 2016. A manifesto that puts tackling inequality at the heart of Labour's programme.

On the revitalise blog Dave Watson warns against 'steady as she goes' policy in the wake of recent by-election victories. Scottish Labour needs to do more than attract disaffected LibDems if we are to form a government in 2016. That requires a radical vision that captures the imagination of a majority of Scots.

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