

Secretary's report

Meetings

Since our last Conference meeting we have met via Skype on the following occasions

9 Oct	13 Nov	11 Dec	15 Jan	25 Feb	
5 Mar	16 Apr	14 May	11 Jun	16 Jul	19 Aug

LICC Election

It was agreed to bring forward the LICC Election which would have started in March and been completed during April 2015 so that members could concentrate on the General Election Campaign. 10 candidates put themselves forward for election only 3 of whom were women (and therefore deemed elected in accordance with the rules). The new LICC took office on 20 Feb 2015. Suggestions, post result, from members included: ensuring all valid candidates were on the ballot paper & returning to 1 member per country limit.

General Election

Despite efforts to support several of the key seats during the General Election. Many candidates didn't respond to offers of campaign help. Brussels Labour ran several successful campaign weekends in London and Bristol. LI Costa Blanca had tried, unsuccessfully, to donate money to the Organiser Training Scheme. A lot of individual members also had difficulties making donations via the website. Many LI members went to the UK to work on election campaigns in their previous constituencies.

Although the Electoral Commission advised that the period for sending out postal votes to overseas voters had been increased, some 20+ members emailed to say they either didn't receive ballot papers, received them too late, or received their papers only after many phone calls to their ERO in the UK. A report was made to the Electoral Commission. EROs all seem to interpret the guidelines in different ways & many indicated that they didn't have sufficient funds for the airmail postage required for overseas voters.

Conference

It was decided that, with an EU referendum to come, this was an opportunity for Labour International to highlight its existence to the rest of the UK Labour Party by organising two events at Conference - the inaugural Harry Shindler Lecture & "Yes! the EU we want".

Votes for Life

Labour International has supported LI member Harry Shindler in his tireless campaign to remove the 15 year limitation of voting rights for British expatriates. LI was present at the 1 Dec 14 press conference with Harry, prior to a motion being put to the Commons on this issue.

Leadership Election

Some members wanted LI to make a supporting nomination for a candidate. After an indicative poll of members it was agreed not to do so.

LICC Meeting - 27 September 2015

336 members took part and Corbyn "won" the leadership on the 3rd round and Creasey the deputy leadership on the 4th round.

Surprisingly difficult to get the candidates to respond to specific LI questions & Co-Chair Dalvir spent many hours chasing responses to put up on the website for members.

National Policy Forum representative

International election just completed yesterday. 4 candidates - Jez Broome (Singapore), Jos Gallacher (Belgium), Sonia Klein (USA) and Nicky Wildy (France). Nicky Wildy elected.

Funds

The revised membership scheme has not been beneficial to Labour International to the extent that income is not sufficient to fund the minimum requirements set down in our Rules. Various meetings have been arranged with officers and MPs in an effort to resolve this.

Planned members meeting Alicante Oct/Nov.

With our growing membership it was agreed to have a first "all members" meeting. Alicante was proposed as a location as the LI Costa Blanca branch is active in the area and it coincides with their 21st anniversary. If successful this would be an annual event with different locations.

Membership

	Email	Postal	Total Active
Sep 2013	634	69	703
Sep 2014	659	80	739
Sep 2015	1433	69	1502

Current membership breaks down as 431 Female and 1071 Male - no change to the previous gender split.

2/3rds live in Europe

55% are 28-59 years old

28% are over 60

12% are under 27

5% don't provide a date of birth

We also have a further 260 Supporters - but many are now converting to full membership.

Lorraine Hardy
Secretary LICC
24 September 2015

