



Report of the Triennial Congress 2017

Congress opened with a short period of silence in memory of comrades lost since our last conference; Margaret Holderness, Derek Isaacs, Colin Muir.

In his opening address, **John Tyrrell** (President), praised the SLPs refusal to collude in the neo liberal consensus which he said raises it above the politically unconscious left parties. Their support for a 'reformed' European Union is coming under increasing attack from within the wider labour and trade union movement, identifying a clear political direction and future for the SLP.

Motion 1, submitted by the NEC, calling for a merger of the Eastern region with the South East, was carried unanimously, creating a new region called 'South and Eastern'.

In a world ruled by a globalized banking system, **Kim Bryan** (North West), moving the anti globalization Motion 2, argued that the core freedom protecting workers and the poor from a violent, money based new order is national sovereignty. As the natural territory of the left, we must not abandon the principle of national self determination she said to the class warriors of the right. Carried unopposed.

Motion 3, calling for the re-nationalisation of Royal Mail and support for the Communication Workers Union 'Four Pillars of Security' campaign was moved by **Bob English** (Wales). At every level of service he said, postal workers contracted hours, pension rights and legal protections are becoming compromised. A management obsessed with cost cutting ignores the input of workers. Carried unanimously.

With Congress re-assembling following an unscheduled fire alarm, **Ron Sinclair** (North West) moved motion 4 calling for greater regulation of the pharmaceutical industry. He outlined the widespread over use of potentially harmful drugs which are prescribed he said to 'well' people by medical professionals under pressure from drugs companies. With patients sometimes unable to access necessary drugs, SLP Leader, **Arthur Scargill** (Yorkshire & Humberside), said the wording of the resolution might 'muddy the waters'. The motion was carried 'with reservations', one dissenting from the reservations.



Ron Sinclair (above) moves Motion 4

Kathrine Jones (Wales), moving motion 5, reminded Congress of the scale of the destruction inflicted on sovereign states by the US/NATO bloc which she said will not end until hegemony is achieved. In light of the increasing normality of this brutal militarism, existing party policy, opposed to all forms of imperialism, must be re-asserted she said as a core political aim. **John McLeod** (South & Eastern) said the responsibility for tension in Korea lies with the centuries old attempts by foreign powers to dominate the peninsula. Carried unopposed.

In moving motion 6, **Rob J Hawkins** (South West) told Congress that media representations of old and young people as conflicted in values and aspirations was merely a current example of

an eternal strategy. As part of its commitment to the political unity of the working class, the party must address this modern ageism. Carried unopposed.

Motion 7, also moved by **Rob Hawkins**, proved more controversial. The scale of suffering inflicted on our world by capitalism identify it as a self evident evil he said. Capitalism consigns socialist ideas to the margins but it is capitalist values that should have no place in normal political discourse.

SLP Leader, **Arthur Scargill** (Yorkshire & Humberside) and **Peter Dean** (East Midlands) expressed reservations about the call to ban opinion, which they suggested conflicts with the principles for which, historically, socialists have fought. While he could not support restrictions on freedom of speech, **Ron Sinclair** (North West), reminded Congress of the scale of intervention in our thoughts, wishes and needs by the mass commercial marketing of goods for profit.

Explaining that the intent of the motion was to provoke debate on the nature of capitalism and its moulding of opinion, **Rob Hawkins** agreed that the motion be withdrawn.

Without opposition, Congress re-elected **Kim Bryan** as General Secretary, **John Tyrrell** as President and **Arthur Scargill** as Leader.

Neil Barrington was admitted unanimously as 'Treasurer Elect'. He will take office on 1st January 2018.

Peter Dean (East Midlands) thanked the regions of Yorkshire and the North East as well as the NEC for his nomination for the post of Vice President but explained that at this time he was withdrawing his candidacy. He called upon delegates to cast their votes for **Kathrine Jones** who was elected Vice President without opposition.

The following members were elected unanimously to serve on the National Executive Committee: **Barbara Bryan**, **Jim Flannery**, **Ron Sinclair** (North West); **Peter Dean** and **Paul Liversuch** (East Midlands); **Jim Berrington** (Scotland); **Rob J Hawkins** and **Rob O Hawkins** (South West); **Frank Harrison** (North East); **Terry Robinson** (Yorkshire & Humberside) and **Shangara Singh** (West Midlands).



Officers: (from left) Kim Bryan (General Secretary)
John Tyrrell (President), Arthur Scargill (Leader)
Kathrine Jones (Vice President)

A written statement of accounts for year 2017 submitted by outgoing Treasurer, **Ken Capstick**, and showing a positive balance was accepted unanimously by the delegates present.

At the close of the morning session, delegates remained to hear a report by **Ian Scott** (Birmingham TUC) on CETA, an agreement permitting tariff free trade between Canada and the EU.

In moving Motion 8, **Ron Sinclair** (North West) said the disaster at Grenfell Tower was the direct result of lack of care at every level of government; cost cutting, institutional prejudice and a casual attitude to the safety and security of tenants combined he said to create horrendous suffering and loss of life. If criminal culpability is suspected those involved must face the courts. Seconding, **Peter Dean** (East Midlands), said it was incredible that lives were lost because no one was 'available' to operate tall ladders. Motion carried unopposed.

Motion 9 calling for a co-ordinated social care system was moved formally by **Peter Dean** (East Midlands) and carried unanimously.

In moving the first of two emergency motions, calling for an end to racially motivated treatment in the criminal justice system, **John Tyrrell** (West Midlands) suggested that the casual marginalization of black people and their concerns will not change without radical policy action; he outlined a case known to him involving a woman seriously injured by Police who cannot get redress in spite of the admission of Police culpability. Carried unopposed.



Peter Dean

John Tyrrell moved a second emergency motion submitted by West Midlands, and the final motion of the day, calling for an end to the online and TV marketing of non NHS treatments. While they copy the style of the NHS, 'services' like 'Push Doctor' are commercial, charging for appointments and the prescription of drugs he said. While they enable queue jumping, they also put their unsuspecting patients at risk. Carried unopposed.



Delegates and visitors enjoy their post Congress meal

In a rousing closing address, SLP Leader, **Arthur Scargill**, compared the manifesto of the Labour Party, committed he said to 'fairness', to the manifesto of the SLP, committed to justice.

Labour plans to increase income tax on the top 5%. The SLP will re-structure levels of tax from top to bottom. Which, he asked, is a policy for re-distributing wealth.

Our public services, like our energy provisions, he said, should be built on the needs of the people first not 'sound finances'. The SLP would replace private providers not compete with them.

What socialist, he asked, 'recognises the role played by the private sector' in education and in housing and commits to protect the interests of investors.

While it says it will respect the outcome of the referendum, Labour wants to retain the 'benefits' of EU membership including the 'free movement' that undermines the collective power of workers. Labour is committed said the SLP Leader to all Britain's 'alliances', military and economic.

For this reason he said, it cannot scrap Britain's WMD and stop its foreign wars any more than a party with 'small businesses at the centre' can return to the people the fruits of their labour.

Amidst applause, SLP President, **John Tyrrell**, called the Congress to a conclusion. He thanked the conference organising team for their work and all delegates and visitors for their attendance and contributions.

In Attendance

Neil Barrington (West Midlands)
Jim Berrington (Scotland)
Amber Bhatti (West Midlands)
Barbara Bryan (North West)
Kim Bryan (North West)
Peter Dean (East Midlands)
Bob English (Wales)
Jim Flannery (North West)
Rob J Hawkins (South West)
Dafydd Jones (Wales)
Heulwen Jones (Guest)
Kathrine Jones (Wales)
John McLeod (South East)
Teresa Roberts (Guest)
Terry Robinson (Yorkshire)
Arthur Scargill (Yorkshire)
Ian Scott (Guest)
Ron Sinclair (North West)
Bhagwant Singh (West Midlands)
Shangara Singh (West Midlands)
John Tyrrell (West Midlands)

Visitors: three

Apologies: Bill Ball, Ken Capstick, Frank Harrison, Rob O Hawkins, Susan Hawkins, Paul Liversuch, Louise McDaid, Jim McDaid, Nusret Sen, Kenny Spain



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