

Apologies: Jos Gallacher, Matthew Hogarth, Isobel Findlay, Maggie Coulthard

1. Minutes & action points of the last meeting and matters arising: minutes agreed.

2. Reports from officers and correspondence

- a. **Chair:** There had been a good discussion at the meeting of the 17 December on the two resolutions put forward. It was regretted that the Labour Party had chosen to vote for the UK-EU agreement and indicated they would not push to reopen negotiations, despite the thinness of the deal which had been struck. The UK would still be connected to the EU through the new Partnership Council and the working committees, as well as a proposed Parliamentary Assembly between the European Parliament and UK MPs – It was agreed to follow developments and suggest ways in which the Branch could support the Labour Party's participation and EU policy development.
- b. **Secretary:** Nothing to report not covered elsewhere.
- c. **Treasurer:** No Treasurer's report due to absence.
- d. **Membership secretary:** The Membership Secretary reported she is still having problems connecting to membersnet and will contact LI again.

4. Branch meetings and other events in 2020/21

27 January: It was proposed to follow up on the 2020 meeting with Democrats abroad and invite them to speak on the aftermath of the US elections and what could be expected from a Biden Presidency.

John Fitzmaurice Lecture: Alastair Campbell will be contacted to ask if he is willing to be the guest speaker at the lecture, and the date will be fixed according to his availability

10 February: It was proposed to organise another quiz, following the success of the quiz in November and Committee members would once again prepare questions. It was confirmed that David Earnshaw would be happy to host.

5. LI:

The motion on the US-UK trade deal had been forwarded to the LI ahead of the next LI GC. The Secretary will check it has been received, given the recent resignation of the LI Secretary. It was suggested to publicise the upcoming elections and encourage BL members to stand, as soon as information is available

6. Sister parties

The Vice-Chair will follow "I vote where I live," and for the moment will continue to be the BL representative – it was agreed to ask the Branch if anyone would be interested in following and supporting. The PD have advised that they plan to keep renting the Circolo for as long as possible, and it was agreed that BL would continue to support. The Chair and Vice-Chair will follow up on the contract. They are planning an event on vaccines rollout, which will be publicised as soon as more information is available.

7. Communications

The survey will be finalised and sent around for final comments. It was noted that Jackie Jones, former Labour MEP, is standing for election in the Welsh Assembly – it was agreed to support her where possible on social media.

8. Next meeting 3rd February 2021