

Alasdair Tudhope



WHO AM I?

I'm a 2nd year studying Physics and Philosophy. For the past year I have been Vice-Chair of the club. This year I've been involved in the day-to-day running of the club, particularly in organising speaker events. I've also been involved in a lot of campaigning, both for the local party and for Labour Students, and recruiting at Freshers' Fayre.

I'm from London, where I've helped campaign for Labour both in the mayoral/GLA elections and in the 2005 general election for Andy Slaughter and Rudi Vis.

I've also held positions of responsibility outside Labour. I was involved in the Stop the War Coalition, serving on the National Steering Committee of School Students Against War in 2003/04, where I was a consistent voice for moderation. As Treasurer of my local branch of StWC in Ealing I not only managed the finances but also helped organise many stalls and speaker events.

Outside politics, I am Vice-President of the Philosophy Society and am interested in music—playing guitar and piano.

WHY DO I WANT TO BE CHAIR?

I've greatly enjoyed the past year as Vice-Chair and I want to step up my involvement in the club. I can give the necessary commitment and think I have a real contribution to make. The club is going from strength to strength and there are fascinating debates taking places in the party, making this a great time to be involved. I believe my ideas will take the club forward, and I hope you will support them. Furthermore, I think I have both the enthusiasm and experience to implement them effectively.

WHAT WILL I DO?

My priorities would be to increase people's involvement, and to increase the amount of people involved in, the club:

1. Better organisation

- i. I'll introduce a clear timetable of events. Weekly meetings are a successful focal point for the group and these should be kept. I will also make sure we have fortnightly socials, with weekly socials in the first term—every other week in Stoke Bishop to encourage 1st years to get involved. Finally, policy debates/forums once a month would be both stimulating and keep people informed of issues and debates within the party.
- ii. I'm interested in expanding and improving the club's website. A .org.uk address can be purchased very cheaply and quickly. I will set up a sub-committee early on to work on the site, which will go on-line before Freshers' Fayre 2007.
- iii. I'd like to organise a 'library' service, to collect and co-ordinate borrowing of various left and centre-left pamphlets, magazines, books &c. giving members more access to political ideas and material.

2. Better campaigning

- i. Affiliation to both the Bristol West and Bristol North West constituencies will allow us to participate further in local politics.
- ii. I support the creation of a new Vice-Chair focussing on our relations with Labour Students, we should organise more stalls on Labour Students campaigns like the successful ones we've done for World AIDS Day and the Dignity! Period campaign this year.
- iii. We should reach out to work more closely with other campaigning bodies in the union, as well as with local charities, on issues where we have shared aims.
- iv. We could adopt a campaigning theme for next year (e.g. International development, climate change, child poverty) to provide a focus to our campaigns, speaking events and also policy forums.
- v. As suggested by recent Labour Students resolutions, I will work to forge stronger links with local trade union and Co-operative Party organisations.

3. Better policy debate

- i. Monthly policy forums can provide a focus for discussion and debate on various issues. My experience of the Philosophy Society's successful discussion groups—which have seen issues discussed broadly and deeply—provide a useful model for this.
- ii. Co-operation with other social and environmental campaigning organisations and charities could make for interesting joint-discussions and joint-speaker events.
- iii. I've been heavily involved in organising the speaker events we have had this year and will do my utmost to get more speakers to the club next year. These need not only be politicians but can also be campaigners/experts in various areas.