

Oxford Labour Club

Termly General Meeting 03/25

11th of March 2025 / 6:00 PM / Okinaga Room, Wadham College

Returning Officers: Niamh Balroop and Tom Taborn

Order of Business:

Caucus Officer Elections

1. Women*’s Officer
2. BAME Officer
3. LGBTQ+ Officer
4. Class Officer
5. Disabilities Officer

Committee Reports

Co-Chair Election

Motions

1. Welfare Officer Role – Speech and Anonymous Feedback

Committee Elections

1. Treasurer Elect
2. Communications Officer
3. Secretary
4. Publications Officer
5. Membership and College Representatives Officer
6. Social Secretary
7. Campaigns and External Links Officer
8. Welfare Officer

Caucus Officer Elections

Women's Officer

- **Candidates**

Anisha Mohamed

- **Speeches:**

AM: Continue with Melodi's work. Incorporate WOC society.
Intersectionality in women's events.

- **Questions**

Mhairi: What Year and College?

AM: 1st Year Merton

- **Result**

Anisha elected with 100% of the vote (16 votes cast)

BAME Officer

- **Candidates**

Thrish Karthik

Zain Mohammed

- **Speeches**

TK: Am an international student. Resonated with the inclusivity of OLC. I chose PPE because I wanted to fight against hierarchical systems which create forms of oppression. I hope I can work towards making sure that OLC is inclusive of minorities. If anyone has any problems with fitting in, with comfort, I can empathise and help people.

ZM: Have been a part of OLC for about a year and a half. Seen a lot of changes in committee. OLC is one of the best student societies in Oxford, but it has its problem. Was privy to a racist comment in B&B

last year which put me off for nearly half a year. But I'm running because I feel a lot more confidence now in the culture and the vision of OLC. I am more confident as a PoC and religious minority to be regularly present at OULC. That's my motivation. I want to push more diversity through OULC and get more PoC coming. I want to collaborate with other societies, Isoc, other poc and other political societies. I was BAME rep at Trinity and ran multiple separate events, e.g. Diwali and Eid events. Empathy is really important. Empathy is really important to being a BAME rep and I have the experience for that. We are in a much better position to move forward as a more diverse society.

- **Questions**

- **Result**

Zain Mohamed elected with 75% of the vote, (12 votes cast)

LGBTQ+ Officer

- **Candidates**

Tess Cottin

- **Speeches**

Currently in the process of being elected to Labour District LGBT Rep.
Want to connect Labour Students with local Labour party

- **Questions**

- **Result**

Tess is elected with 96% of the vote (23 votes cast)

Class Officer

- **Candidates**

Guus Wjinne

Harry Aldridge

- **Speeches**

HA: Attended a state comp all my life, first person to come to Oxford from my school in 5-10 years. Know what it's like to be in institutions like this where you don't feel welcome, imposter syndrome. Want to do a pizza social as well. Want to get like-minded people in a room involved in politics. Want to organise a panel or speaker event. Want to represent people in this room and make sure they have a voice.

GW: Elected at a state school in Scotland. Have the double strange experience of being Scottish and from a state school in Oxford. Class can be a big hurdle in Oxford. Want to work to reduce that. Trinity term socials are great, get to do stuff outside in the sun. Agrees that doing something like Freya's panel would be great. Have experience in Shelter Scotland. Want to do a photography exhibition in Teddy Hall.

- **Questions**

Freya: How will you manage the responsibilities of being Class Officer?

GW: Have had a lot of responsibilities this term with Pubs.

HA: Likewise on responsibilities (OxStu, New JCR)

Tess: I'm care-experienced, how will you make sure the space is welcome to care-leavers?

HA: As pubs officer, we published an article about care-leavers to inform people about it. Want to make sure the caucus caters to everyone.

GW: Lots of care-leavers in my family so know what it's like. Want to make sure everyone is welcome.

Akseli: You were vague about your socials, give some concrete ideas!

GW: Because of the sun, picnics/spoons

HA: Pizza social in the garden. Maybe some joint socials like a trip to spoons like this term.

Rose Harris: Have struggled to get people to come to events as people don't feel they qualify. How will you resolve this?

HA: Work with the comms officer, be as welcoming as possible, friendly face at B&B, publicise it.

GW: Agree. Should also be expanded to other caucus roles, Advertise at B&B

- **Result**

16-16 tied on first-preferences

Candidates agreed to do it jointly. Co-Chair Elects preferred not.

Cointoss meant that Harry was elected with 50% of the vote.

Disabilities Officer

- **Candidates**

Isaac Gavaghan

- **Speeches**

Want to keep Labour Club accessible, make sure all events are friendly for people with all different types of disabilities. Run events for the disabilities caucus so there's a space for people with disabilities to get to know each other and create community from OLC. Disability Caucus is very linked to Labour values of inclusivity.

- **Questions**

- **Result**

Isaac elected with 100% of the vote (12 votes cast)

Committee Reports

(Not in order)

Women*'s: Freya Cushman

Three successful events: Ice Cream Social, OxWoC Society collab, Women in Politics panel.

BAME: Rowan Majeed

Not present

LGBTQ+: Henry Morris

Collab with BAME caucus for a G&Ds social, and then a bar crawl. Good term!

Class: Akseli

Class pizza social, Class x BAME spoons trip

Disabilities: Oisin Hart

Disabilities social organised, term went well.

Welfare Officer: Jimmy Sergi

Can't do specifics but have had complaints that have been handled well.

Welfare Mario Kart in 6th Week. Welfare talk at B&B (motion will soon mandate this).

Treasurer: Hattie Simpson

£300+ profit this term. Limiting spending on B&B and setting out a budget at the beginning of term has been great. Have continued with the Alumni Association reach-out. Have reached out to every co-chair since 1985

Secretary: Ami Rubiés

Rooms all booked in the term and went quite well. Had quite a few complaints but it's cooled down now and we should be fine.

Social Secretary: Kayla McKinnie

Pretty successful term at B&B. Four Motions. Lots of good attendance. Women have come up to me and said they have really felt the difference and felt more comfortable at B&B.

Membership and College Representatives Officer: Jack Leader

Over 15 new members this Hilary, and re-established the College Reps system so we have them in a majority of colleges. Reformed the Membership list and automated the mailing list (over 400 new contacts).

Campaigns and External Links Officer: Melodi Dogru

Canvassing sessions, 163 Hours. 1000+ leaflets distributed across different colleges. Set foundations to be able to organise away days in plenty of places.

Publications Officer: Guus Wjinne

Pubs has gone well. Set up the Look Left Committee and got the Instagram set up and rebranded. Have published 6 articles and more in the backlog.

Communications Officer: Joe Szemalikowski

Every post up on time and often early. B&B posts up on Tuesdays and Mondays, campaigning also done early. Well-attended caucus events due to advertising.

Co-Chairs: Joseph Thomas and Akshita Anand

JT+AA: You can put as much work in as you want as co-chair and will be shit unless you have a good committee. Every single member has been great. People are already on things, have new ideas, etc. People went above and beyond. Thank you all so much and it's been an honour.

Co-Chairs Elect: Mhairi Beken and Hattie Simpson

Over 500+ in the alumni list now. Contacted speakers. Started drafting a new reformed constitution

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Co-Chair Elections

- **Candidates**

Willow Parker and Jack Leader

Melodi Dogru and Tom Barrett

Kayla McKinnie and Joe Szemalikowski

- **Speeches**

WP: We've both loved getting involved in the club. Space for making new friends. Great nights out. Michaelmas is an important term for getting people involved. We want the club to be inclusive, progressive and accessible. Needs to be a space for diverse opinions. As a trans person I know what it's like to be marginalised. Have written an open letter to leadership.

Antiracism and antisemitism training

Barbara Castle Memorial Reception

Black and Trans History Month

Accessible events

Both members of GMB, want to organise joint campaigning sessions with unions.

Restoring start-of-term canvassing training.

JL: Build relationships across other university labour clubs, in socials. Will hold a social at this year's Labour Conference. Karaoke night with profits going to charity. B&B likewise. I come from a family of refugees. It was because of people welcoming my grandmother in that she was able to go to uni and I am here. This desire to be welcoming has motivated my college reps system rebuild.

Club can play an active role in the community.

Club has been so friendly to me.

If you want a club that's inclusive, progressive, friendly, vote for us.

TB: Volunteer with my local food bank at home, volunteer here as well. We will get involved with Turl Street Homeless action, Oxford Mutual Aid, etc. we should support this. Get our membership to engage with this.

Lots of international students think that OLC isn't a welcoming place for them. People feel isolated and there aren't many international students here. Want to do an international freshers drinks
Want to expand our university connections beyond Cambridge. E.g. Cardiff for the 2026 Welsh elections.

MD: I came to the UK five years ago. I am a first-gen immigrant. Being part of the Labour party and canvassing has felt amazing for feeling part of a community. Have power here that I wouldn't have back in Turkey, as a women, so caucuses are really important to me.

Extend B&B feedback form so there is a section that goes to the caucus officers.

Want to open up a Socialist Feminist Theory discussion group.

Canvassing Goals: 2025 Campaigning contacts in 2025. Expand Eli and Jimmy's maps so we can paint the UK red.

Strengthen the College Reps system so that there is a both personal and professional relationship.

Close with the CLP and want to strengthen our relationship with them

KM: OLC is the biggest left wing club in Oxford, which gives us a unique opportunity. We need to attract those who aren't interested, even those who might have negative opinions of OLC at the moment.

JS: We cannot rely on the Labour name for growth, we need to rely on labour ideals: Fairness, Equity, Camraderie. Promote openness and welcome people, avoid insularity and cliqueness

We don't have the most stacked CVs, but it's not about lines on a CV, our commitment has been to OLC and Oxford and labour values. We are a university society we are not the Labour party, which is good.

KM: Labour issues are class issues, and class issues are all the other caucus issues. Our movement is about securing rights. Equality for all or equality for none. We want to collaborate with lots of societies. Have exp femsoc

JS: We will bring back the const. mandated antisemitism training. Expand our canvassing

Every room will be booked long in advance, finances will be in check, and move committee to whatsapp.

KM: Labour movement is about doing what's right, not about party. Improving people's lives. We are oxford students and that gives us privelege that we should use.

Oxford Mutual Aid and Crisis.

JS: When my grandfather's whole family died after the German invasion of Poland. Kayla and I both attended state comps. Didn't consider Oxford a real place. So many state-comp educated students need a place of comfort that OLC can provide.

Other candidates would make fantastic co-chairs, so vote for the other candidates in the next TGM, or the one after that.

- **Questions**

Hattie: What do you think is your prospective co-chair partner's biggest weakness?

KM: Joe is not very good at speaking on his feet, I'm not very good at speaking prepared, so we complement each other.

JS: Kayla is very committed to her beliefs and sometimes is hard to compromise with her strong ideological committments on practicalities.

TB: Melodi can get a little stressed, she was shaking a leaf walking over.

MD: Tom can be quite honest sometimes. We're balanced, you can tell that he's quite factual.

Jl: Occasionally I throw an idea our and she'll just look at me like that and I realise what I said. But that look is a killer. Maybe that's a strength but it hurts me.

WP: Need to find a smoking area. Demands a lot from the people he works with

Freya: Why Michaelmas in particular?

WP: Really important term for OLC and such a great experience being

welcomed in, want the opportunity to be able to do that for the next set of freshers

MD: Set the canvassing goals early

TD: Set the culture for the year. Break cliqueness and get more members. Can be best done in Michaelmas. If we want to get more international students in, this is the ideal time for it.

KM: People's first opinion of OLC in freshers stick with them. As former Social Secs we brought in a lot of people - all these freshers that Joe brought in who are fantastic.

JS: We don't have that much time to run left. Freshers can. Very proud of the Michaelmas freshers we brought in and would like to do it again.

Joseph Thomas: If you have someone being abusive at an event, what would you do?

KM: The event at the start of this term was challenging to me. But I was proud of my ability to separate and make sure we had a good night and make sure it wasn't the only memory of the night. And that's something I'm proud of.

JS: Both former social secs. Sometimes this stuff happens at B&B and it has been dealt with quite well.

TB: Priority is de-escalation. Make sure that we have people there who are willing to be there and sort of be bouncers in these situations.

MD: Calm down things, calm-headedness is really important.

JL: Need to respond quickly. Involve security as soon as possible

WP: As a trans person, I have had to remain calm and de-escalate. I know how to remain calm in that situation.

Akshita: Can you commit to a balanced budget?

WP: Will have been treasurer, donating profits rather than revenues

JL: Work we've done with college reps means that we can get lots of people in in freshers fair

TB: We should use the money we have to fund campaigning. But membership income may or may not happen, so can e.g. cut back on away days in exchange for phonebanking

KM: Keeping B&B in check as it's the main income source, make sure freshers join. I know how to raise money, raised £1000 for femsoc last week.

JS: Yes very committed to finance. Am treasurer of Solidaritee the refugee charity, experienced managing budgets.

Chloe Pomfret: How would you change the culture so that it's welcoming for working-class, state-educated student.

KM: We are both state-comp educated and a big thing about making places inclusive is that sympathy can only get you so far, empathy is absolutely key.

TB: Lots of people come here seeing it as a place for a select group of people. Need to get people who are interested to progressive politics to coming on.

MD: embrace my immigrant identity openly. Being a face that represents state immigration is key.

WP: People should be represented by the events that they run, so we want to run BH event, trans day of remembrance, barbara castle reception for women. Commit now to having a class event.

Aaron: What is the single most important job of OLC, less than ten words from each person.

WP: Fighting for the Labour Movement

JL: and Inclusivity

MD: Action, as Campaigns Officer

TP: yeah campaigning and making a real difference, especially in our area

KM: Doing what's right and getting others to do so

JS: Getting people with progressive ideas involved in and aware of the labour movement.

Jimmy: How will you make the club safe for Jewish students?

KM: Acknowledging Labour's mistakes in the past. Making sure training happens. Not holding events on Friday nights. Making contacts over the summer to get training done.

TB: Am a member of Jewish soc myself, Strengthen connections with UJS.

WE have time to organise that and should use it.

JL: Antisemitism really matters to me, I've had direct experience of it. I know how it feels and why it matters. Bring back antisemitism training and at every B&B there will be members who know what to look out for, how to act, etc.

Eli Sluyter: What makes you different from the other partnerships?

JL: We talk about things and then how we will do it as well.

MD: The international element. We have speakers like the Turkish Worker's Party we want to bring in.

JS: More experience of OLC and of Oxford than the other candidates. We have brought a lot of people into the club and we are focussed on bringing people into the club.

Ami Rubiés: Will you commit to being on WhatsApp?

All pairs: yes

Isaac Gavaghan: As co-chairs will your priority be campaigning and affiliation with the party or left wing discussion and debate.

WP: I don't think there's a conflict between the two.

MD: The club has a dual appeal and we need to mix them.

TB: Campaigning works and it makes people's lives better.

KM: University is where people form the political opinions that stick with them for the rest of their lives, that's how you get people into campaigning..

• Result

After 2 rounds of transfers, Jack and Willow elected with 49 votes against 46 for Kayla and Joe. 34 Proxy Votes, 20 for Jack and Willow. 12 for Joe and Kayla, 2 for Tom and Melodi

Motions

Motion 1: Welfare Officer Role – Speech and Anonymous Feedback

- Proposer: Willow Parker
- Seconder: Jimmy Sergi

- **Speeches in Proposition:**

This motion should be relatively uncontroversial. B&B Welfare speech has been so important. Don't think this will be controversial.

- **Speeches in Opposition:**

- **Questions and Amendments:**

POI from Jimmy: This didn't used to happen. It's relatively new.

- **Result:**

Passes with 82% of the vote (39 votes cast)

Committee Elections

Treasurer Elect

- **Candidates**

Tess Cottin

- **Speeches**

I'm a second year med student at Brasenose. Was elected Women*'s rep last Trinity but then hospitalised. Rusticated but now getting back into things. Worked with Sadiq Khan to make TfL fares cheaper for care-leavers. Managed a £25,000 budget for a charities on kids in shelters. I am now Head of Finance for the UN Youth Platform. Extensive budgeting experience. It's your money as members.

- **Questions**

Joe Thomas: Would you commit to charging committee at B&B and using shot measures?

TC: Very fair to make committee pay.

Henry Morris: Will you keep Access Pricing at same level?

TC: Absolutely. This is really important to me, OUCA doesn't do it.

Eli: How should the club spend its money?

TC: Spend it on non-alcoholic events. Have friends who don't come because there's so much drinking.

- **Result**

Tess wins with 94% of the vote (31 votes cast)

Communications Officer

- **Candidates**

Aidan Powley

Seth Olner

- **Speeches**

AP: First year PPEist at Lincoln. Was lost when I arrived at the club the beginning of this term.

Weekly newsletters advertising events by email. Direct people towards Instagram rather than facebook straight up

S0: First year law at New. I came to uni wanting to join because I am chronically online, on left wing labour twitter. We don't operate in a vacuum, but in a broad student society. We have 2.5K Twitter followers that we're not utilising properly. I didn't grow up in the Labour movement. When I realised I was gay I owned a signed autobiography of Thatcher. As Comms officer I'd work with campaigns and membership to reach out. Non-digital comms as well, e.g. placards and signs.

- **Questions**

Guus Wjinne: We don't have a lot of Look Left followers, how will you help.

S0: Drive people to Look Left via Comms

AP: Know LL has had some issues this term. Agree

Hattie: Would platforms like Bluesky or TikTok be a good place for OLC?

S0: Not that familiar with Bluesky but open to it. TikTok would be the forum for video stuff.

AP: Case to be made for having a presence on places like twitter and also other places.

Jimmy: What does your ideal graphic look like?

AP: Replicate the local stuff around us. Use the labour red.

S0: Agree. The local skyline combined with the Labour red, which is my favourite colour..

- **Result**

Aidan elected with 23 votes to 19.

Secretary

- **Candidates**

Freya Cushman

- **Speeches**

I'm experienced and organised, my college's history society committee. Delivered on Women's Panel. I want to streamline the room-booking so everyone on committee knows where things are. Minutes will be completed promptly.

- **Questions**

Ami Rubiés: Room Booking is hard. How will you be on top of it

FC: Have organised an event this term with co-chairs. Booked 3 rooms this term. Think I can handle it.

Mhairi: Hilda's room-booking rules for drinking?

FC: Really good basically. The dean let us book the pavilion for welcome drinks.

- **Result**

100% of the vote (33 votes cast)

Publications Officer (Section done by Tom Taborn, Co-Chair Ex-Officio)

- **Candidates**

Ami Rubiés

Tom Barrett

Hassan Akram

- **Speeches**

AR: PPEist at Wadham. Experienced in this across multiple committees. Enjoyed being secretary, despite a bad job. Wants everyone possible writing for look left. Wants to collaborate with other societies. Special event articles. Possibly other parties involved. Keep the look left committee set up by Guus.

TB: Written for look left and oxford blue. Wants to get everyone in the club to submit their ideas. Look left blog would be good to get back,

with a digest of recent news. Wider amount of people writing, while sticking within the labour-y progressive left.

HA: ///Just finishing term as deputy EIC of Cherwell, so very experienced. Look Left has a lot of potential - personal writes for it. Also has been editor of history society journal. Members should be approached much more actively. Commissions would be a good idea. Promote look left through main OULC channels. Would help out with executive type stuff.

- **Questions**

Hattie: What would alumni like to hear about in the newsletter?

HA: Alumni want to hear about the active campaigns of members.

TB: They want to hear about our canvassing / campaigning.

AR: They want to know what we're doing as students and members. Want to remember their time here.

Rose: How can we push people to write for look left and engage with members?

AR: Push it through our other channels and at BnB.

TB: Look-left like most political societies as a newsletter. More opiniony, to educate people and express ideas.

HA: Look-left should be kept small, but collaborating with other student publications like Cherwell would be beneficial.

Guus: I always shoehorn look left articles in. Can you provide incentives or more forceful means to get people to write?

HA: I think we shouldn't be too forceful, but should recommend to committee.

TB: Might be a good idea. Shouldn't be forced, but we should try to create a culture of that.

AR: Can provide incentives, like if you book a room you get a free BnB (happened with him as secretary). Mostly about creating an environment.

FC: Did any of you submit a manifesto?

AR: I did.

TB: I did (but for co-chair).

HA: No, first election.

JL: what's your vision for the look-left instagram?

AR: Putting out articles as fast possible and on main instagram.
Specific commissions.

TB: Main instagram, blogs, inspiration from comms officers and
collaboration. Greater synergy.

HA: Expand range by creating a larger backlog and a regular schedule of
posts.

Q: How can we get away from look-left appealing to the posh Oxford
student?

AR: Doesn't have to just appeal to them, but to people broadly on the
left. Not propaganda, but left-leaning.

TB: About a billboard on which people in the club can express
themselves. It's up to the writers, not editorial discretion.

HA: Depends entirely on the commissions and what we get. Most important
is that we produce good, thoughtful, entertaining content.

- **Result**

Ami Rubiés wins with 25 first pref votes, 8 for Tom, 7 for Hassan (40
votes cast)

Membership and College Representatives Officer

- **Candidates**

Akseli Kuukkanen
Isaac Hole

- **Speeches**

AK: Want to use this role to build on what's happened this term. Automated list is good. College Reps has been successful. Continue the Hawkishness of the previous membership officer to crack down on B&B. Lots of new members around tonight, we want even more. Want to keep on leafletting.

IH: Excellent groundwork from Jack. Want a rep at every undergraduate college. Believe in the personal touch. Aim to ensure all reps are really reaching out. Every new member I see, I'll give a really good membership speech. Make sure they feel welcome and are retained.

- **Questions**

Joe Thomas: What do you see the role of the membership officer wrt getting alumni involved?

IH: Creating a good first impression is good for retention.

AK: Agree. Making sure we get the memories good. We have the membership list.

Jack Leader: How do we get more college reps?

AK: Member of lots of societies, on dipsoc committee. These people are sympathetic to Labour and we can get them into the club.

IH: agree with that. Meet people who want to get involved.

Guus Wjinne: How do you catch people coming in, and will you give yourself privilege of sitting on a chair?

AK: Stay by the door. Yes.

IH: Depends on the venue.

- **Result**

Akseli wins with 18 to 13 votes for Isaac

Social Secretary

- **Candidates**

Emily Young

- **Speeches**

Don't drink so will save us money. Friendly face. Am a queer woman.
Attend femsoc. Want to be a friendly face.

- **Questions**

AR: Will you maintain the glazing ban?

Emily: Yes. glazing at this meeting after jack and willow won has already been getting out of hand

- **Result**

Emily wins with 100% with 26 votes cast

Campaigns and External Links

- **Candidates**

Melodi Dogru

- **Speeches**

Phonebanking isn't very popular but leafleting I want to keep up. Have some work in Barnet and Wales

- **Questions**

WP: Sunday mornings can be hard, not necessarily accessible. I need to go to church. Can we do more afternoons?

MD: Can increase afternoons one. I send links to the gc.

- **Result**

Melodi wins with 100% of the vote (27 votes cast)

Welfare Officer

- **Candidates**

Guus Wjinne

- **Speeches**

Welfare officers are a great tradition. Jimmy and Alex have been great. Will uphold the const. motion that just passed. Had the Mario Kart social, we can have a picnic. Make sure the antisemitism training happens.

- **Questions**

JS: Some welfare officers have had different roles at B&B, what do you see your role in B&B as?

GW: I ran an event with Scottish Society. Would be fun to be behind the bar.

- **Result**

Guus wins with 97% of the vote (29 votes cast)