

Audience exhilarated by David Cameron

The scene was set with members of the Shadow Cabinet sitting in a semi circle on the platform with the lectern in the middle. William Hague, with his only appearance on the platform during this Spring Forum, introduced David Cameron and the audience rose to give him a standing ovation lasting some minutes. Much more applause was to follow as the Party Leader, following an earlier speech from George Osborne, gave his audience a taste of what more was to come from this emerging new Tory Party with the will to win.



What the Party leader had to say had many sound bites but there was substance and meaning in all of them. He emphasised that the way ahead was not going to be all roses and that there would have to be thrift in the way a new Conservative government would have to go about its business in order to bring about the change in the economy. He talked about rediscovering our Conservatism and building a movement that isn't just about the individual but about the community and reminded his audience of the rich heritage of our political tradition. He promised a whole

new way to how the country would be run because the world has completely changed.

It was an excellent speech and we left Cheltenham with some elation and with a conviction that here was a leader we could follow and that he will lead a government that will get down to the business of straightening the country out -

even if it will be a long road and the surface of it will not be without its bumps and pot-holes.

Our support should be behind him and the young team he has gathered together to bring a new shape to British politics

Comment

With an 18 points lead over Labour there is a great danger in believing we are home and dry but there is still work to be done even though Labour seems to be helping us in our efforts.

Gordon Brown looks less and less like a leader who will take his party into the next election and if such members of the Labour Party, such as Charles Clarke, has his way it would seem very unlikely.

New Labour has been done and dusted - the last budget dispenses with all vestiges of it with a violent lurch to the left and the old Labour principles of taxing "the rich" even though many of his own party thought it was a wrong course.

Labour has a habit of indifferent leaders following good Harold Wilson was succeeded by James (what crisis) Callaghan who having lost the election was followed by the rather inept Michael Foot. And now we have Gordon Brown proving that he does not have the ability or charisma of Tony Blair. His Party is now in a more open revolt than John Major suffered in 1997.

Getting out the vote will be important. At the end of 2008 only 14,000 of the 2.5 million British citizens living overseas were registered to vote. If you know British citizens living abroad who are eligible to vote they can help bring about the change this country needs.

Any British citizen who was on the electoral register in the UK less than 15 years ago can register to vote in UK Parliamentary and European elections. For more information visit: www.dontleaveyourvoteathome.com.

The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Conservative Party.

TIME FOR NEW MEMBERS

Every Association deputy chairman, membership within Nottinghamshire now has the new Membership Workbook. It is a comprehensive guide to recruiting new members. branches can use it to recruit for now is the time. More new members mean more votes.

Next party conference will be in Manchester

The Party Conference will be in Manchester from Monday 5th October to Thursday 8th October. More details are available on the website at www.conservatives.com/conference.

June the 4th is important

Getting people out to vote has never been so important than in the forthcoming County Council and European election on 4th June.

Postal votes can swing a result. The last day for registering a postal vote is 5.00pm on Tuesday 19th May which is also the deadline for applications to be included in the Register of Electors to be used for the election.

The counting of votes for the County Council elections will be on Friday 5th June.

Party chooses new voluntary chairman

The Conservative Party Convention has chosen Jeremy Middleton as the new chairman of the voluntary party. Jeremy who comes from Newcastle won a three cornered fight against former Party President Simon Mort and Member of



Parliament Sir Graham Bright. Jeremy was the immediate past president of the Party and has been replaced by Emma Pidding. Vice presidents are Charles Barlow who was re-elected together with newcomers Fiona Hodgson and Paul Swaddle.

Eric Pickles, Chairman of the Party recalled a meeting with John Prescott who told him he was too fat. It's because every time we win I eat a biscuit and we're doing a lot of winning at the moment replied Eric. There was no reply.



New chairman for Newark

The Newark Association has elected 29 year old David



Lloyd as its new chairman. David is current the chairman of the Association's Newark branch and has recently won a by-election for a seat on Newark

town Council. He has previously served in roles at Conservative Central Office and was chairman and founder of Meirionnydd Nant Conwy Conservative future with same CF role at Hull University. He has been involved with Conservatives in the county since 2001 and is one of the youngest Association chairmen.