**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MULTI-OPTION REFERENDUM**

**The de Borda Institute calls for such a ballot to be held**

**according to the rules of the Modified Borda Count, MBC.**

If a second Brexit poll is to be “Chequers or ‘remain’?” the Brexiteers will be justifiably furious. If it’s to be “Chequers or ‘leave’?” the remainers will complain. So any second ballot should be a multi-option referendum.  In which case, how should such the vote be counted?

Consider then the simple example of four options, ***A, B, C*** and ***D***, with 14 voters. 5 have

1st-2nd-3rd-4th preferences of ***A-D-B-C***, 4 vote ***B-D-C-A***, 3 choose ***C-D-B-A*** and 2 opt for ***D-C-B-A***. So obviously, ***D***, the 1st or 2nd preference of everybody, *should* be the winner.

Under plurality voting, the winner is ***A*** with a score of 5. With Professor Vernon Bogdanor’s suggestion of a variation of the Two-round System (TRS), ***B*** comes out on top with 9 to ***A***’s 5. With Justine Greening’s idea of the Alternative Vote (AV) {or STV}, the winner is ***C*** with a score of 9 to ***A***’s 5. But with a points system, the Modified Borda Count, MBC, or Professor Richard Bellamy’s idea of a Condorcet Count which like a league system compares the popularity of all options, two at a time, the winner is indeed ***D*** on 44, to ***B***’s 36, ***C***’s 31 and ***A***’s 29 points; or ***D*** on 3, ***B***-2, ***C***-1 and ***A***-0 pairings, respectively.

There seems to be considerable disagreement as to which methodology is best. Yet as the above and many other examples show, plurality voting (like FPTP) can be hopelessly inaccurate; TRS (as in French elections) and AV (Australian) can be capricious; while Condorcet and the MBC are robust, inclusive and accurate, with the MBC being the better of the two because it is non-majoritarian and therefore more inclusive.

PS The June 2016 referendum should also have been preferential, as per our prescient press release No 7 of February 2016: <http://www.deborda.org/press-releases/>

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