**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE, 13th May.**

**LIVERPOOL WINS THE LEAGUE!?**

At 2 points for a win, 1 for a draw, Liverpool gets 30x2 + 7x1 = 67

Manchester City gets 32x2 + 2x1 = 65

Oh but they’ve changed the rules: it’s now 3 points for a win, so MC gets the title. It is an excellent competition: every team plays every other team, and the two winning teams are definitely the best. In a knock-out like the FA Cup, rather more is open to chance… though Watford might disagree.

**‘REMAIN’ WINS THE REFERENDUM?**

As in sport, so too in politics: for any given electorate and any given set of preferences, a result might depend upon the voting methodology used. In a multi-option scenario, any decision-making system which relies on only one vote, and only one option in that vote – “in the EU, ‘yes’ or ‘no’?” (‘remain’ or ‘leave’? – same difference) – is obviously suspect. Like just the one game to decide the league, Huddersfield versus Fulham.

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| “It’s not the people who vote that count, it’s the people who count the votes.”  Josef Stalin . |

Better by far a league system. Let the voters cast their preferences. Then, in the count, compare each pair of options, a Condorcet count, and the option which wins the most pairings, like the team which wins the most matches, is the winner. Or use a points system, preferences mean points, as in a Modified Borda Count, MBC: and usually, the team with the best goal difference is the team which wins the most matches. So too in preference voting: the Condorcet winner is usually the MBC winner.

Politics, of course, is much easier. 20 teams in the league; maybe only three options on the 2016 EU ballot paper: “In the EU, EEA or WTO?” And with EU getting maybe 48% again, and 52% split between the other two, ‘remain’ was probably the winner, by a landslide! It was the methodology, reducing everything to a binary vote, which was the problem. And still is.

It’s the same in parliament. Theresa May is trying to juggle her favourite policy – let’s call it Cardiff City – by painting it as an all-deciding Cardiff City v Huddersfield final. It’s not even a knock-out! And even in their indicative votes, parliament can’t manage a simple league based on preferences.

**SO WHAT IS TO BE DONE?**

The mistakes of 2016 cannot best be healed by another, divisive, binary vote. What’s more, the debate has moved on. It would be wiser to allow an independent commission or citizens’ assembly to consider the options, to then let the people cast their preferences on a ballot of 5-6 options.

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