**PRESS RELEASE**

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**TACTICAL VOTING IN TORY ELECTION**

**PREFERENCE VOTING FOR BEGINNERS**

Tactical voting? Of course there was! Why? Because of the crazy electoral system.

Proof? In round II, Stewart got 37 votes; in round III, 27. Therefore, either in II or in III, at least 10 of his ‘supporters’ voted tactically. Likewise, Javid got 38 votes in round III, but only 34 in round IV.

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Back to round 1. Johnston gets 114 ‘1st preferences’, definitely; and 179 ‘10th preferences’, maybe, just maybe; no-one knows for sure; it is indeed a crazy electoral system.

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Back to the future. As with the original US system for President *and* Vice, the runner-up should become the Deputy. So, as suggested by Nicholas Cusanus for the election of the Holy Roman Emperor in 1435, have one preferential vote: MPs cast up to 10 preferences on the 10 candidates; the 3/4 candidates with the highest average preference scores go into the party membership vote; the members cast up to 3/4 preferences, and the two most popular become Leader and his/her Deputy.

The Leader then becomes PM. But instead of an “elected dictatorship,” the Tory Parliamentary Party should itself choose the cabinet, as in a matrix vote. (The following simple example shows a cabinet of just 6 ministries.) The methodology has long since been tried, tested and now computerised: http://www.deborda.org/home/2016/4/25/2016-5-ireland-let-the-dail-elect-a-govt.html

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Preferences | Minister of… |
| ***A*** | ***B*** | ***C*** | ***D*** | ***E*** | ***F*** |
| 1st  | Ms K |  |  |  | ✓ |  |  |
| 2nd  | Ms T |  | ✓ |  |  |  |  |
| 3rd  | Mr B |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| 4th  | Ms R | ✓ |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5th  | Mr U |  |  |  |  |  | ✓ |
| 6th  | Mr G |  |  | ✓ |  |  |  |

The MPs choose, in order of preference, six colleagues, identifying (as here with a tick) in which ministry they wish each of their nominees to serve. The six most popular MPs become the cabinet, and each is then appointed to that ministry for which he/she has gained the most support.

The matrix vote can be used to elect an all-party coalition cabinet. It is thus ideally suited to conflict zones like NI, to plural societies like Belgium… and to bitterly divided societies as in England.

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