Multi **C**ultural **M**ulti **F**aith **B**ritain

2000

www.thisisbury.co.uk BY THE JOURNAL, Wednesday, April 12, 2000 — Page 19

Racism gets the big boot

● Watched by dignitaries from the Asian and footballing communities, club chairman Mr Robinson is pictured signing a declaration detailing the club's commitment to tackling racism in football.

● BELOW: Putting over the message are some of the youngsters who took part in the soccer coaching course. A number of them acted as ball boys for the match. Cheering them on is Robbie the Bobby, the club mascot.

Story by STEVE BOTT and TERRY MORGAN

THE Shakers are taking the lead in kicking racism from the terraces.

Bury FC's recent Kick Out Racism Day was voted a huge success as MPs, football hierarchy and youngsters from local ethnic communities gathered at Gigg Lane for the match against Scunthorpe.

One group of Pakistani and Indian children from Cheetham Hill attended the soccer coaching course before the match. They enjoyed a tour of the ground and had four of their number selected to be ball boys for the game.

It was appropriate that Bury should push the boat out for the day, as they have the only black manager in the professional game in this country at the moment in Andy Preece.

Comment

Preece said: "In the ten years I have been playing I've never suffered any real racial abuse.

"There has been the odd comment, but people have had a go at my hairstyles more than my colour.

"When it does get to having a go at you because of the colour of your skin it steps over the line and I can't take that."

Professional Footballers' Association chief executive Gordon Taylor, a former Bury player, and Bury North MP, David Chaytor, were among the dignitaries that attended the day and Bury FC chairman, Terry Robinson, said: "I think it was a very successful day.

"I think everybody who came was impressed by the efforts the club had made and we were very pleased with how it progressed.

"The atmosphere was good and everybody was happy the day went off so well.

"It makes a statement that we want everybody to get involved at Bury and we are setting out to try to do that."

And Mr Khalid Hussain, director of Bury's Racial Equality Council, added: "The event also marked the formation of an Anti Racism Forum to further the aims of eliminating racism in football.

"David Chaytor has been asked to be the president and the chairmanship will be shared between Dr Mohammed Salim, our own chairman and Terry Robinson.

"Fortunately, Bury has no problem with racism on the terraces but the forum will work to ensure measures are put in place to ensure it doesn't creep in in the future."

Qassim Afzal is a former Manchester City Councillor. He has been chosen as a Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Smallheath and Sparkbrook, a largely Asian area of Birmingham

'I decided to stand in this seat because I think I can win it. It's a predominantly Pakistani and Kashmiri area, and my father is from Kashmir, which is a big advantage.

I don't have the luxury of standing in a safe white seat. I have never met outright racism within the party, but British people have not come to terms with the fact that ethnic minorities can represent mainstream politics. Until that happens, we have to find seats where there are large numbers of black and Asian people.'

FEATURE WEEK ENDING 26 NOVEMBER 1999

Ethnic Minority Councillors

Leaders

Ethnic minority councillors are on t seen on the national stage. Why is

NO-ONE COULD have failed to have missed the intense and biased political race for Mayor of London. Was Frank Dobson, former Health Secretary, forced to enter by Tony Blair? Why did broadcaster Trevor Phillips take a step back to run as Dobson's Deputy? And will Ken Livingston make it to the finishing line?

Running alongside this development is the Local Government Bill, which promises to deliver new, improved 'modern' councils.

While these questions and changes consume every section of media, less attention has been paid to the political path travelled by ethnic minority candidates towards the creation of a Greater London Authority. Very few of the candidates are from ethnic minorities. For example, Labour has two ethnic minority councillors (Asian) out of those contesting the 12 divisions.

And it is difficult to identify how many ethnic minority councillors there are nationwide as very few local authorities conduct monitoring.

Last weekend, over 100 councillors aired their concerns and fears over their place in Blair's new Britain at the third convention by the National Association of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority Councillors (NABAEMC). And the result doesn't appear to be all that bright, despite an estimated 90 per cent of ethnic minority councillors representing Labour.

Public Sector invited a three councillors - Rajinder Sohpal, Qassim Afzal and Narendra Makanji - to set the record straight while Jennette Arnold, one of the few Black women councillors, reveals what a typical day for her is like.

QASSIM AFZAL

AGE: 39

BACKGROUND: Spent the last two years as a LibDem councillor with Manchester city council. He is an approved Parliamentary candidate.

"Before I became a councillor I was very active in the community as an adviser to LEAs the Standing Committee for Religious Education. The community felt that the existing councillors were not recognising their basic needs as every time they called a meeting councillors wouldn't show up. They put a petition together and presented it to the LibDem party and said that they wanted me to stand in a ward that has been run by Labour since World War II. I was voted into place in a by-election.

The Association is a good way to push for councillors of different political persuasions to work in a cross-party environment. That way we can push for multi cultural representation at all levels of the community.

The current government isn't fair with its political Black and Asian representation. If we are to have harmony and for our own needs, we have to have more Black and Asian MPs.

As a multi cultural councillor, I have managed to achieve something on every issue raised. For example, there were plans to have a casino next to a school. I used the press and the community and it was withdrawn. I lobbied for land to be used by the multi cultural community and fought for CCTV in my ward, which I got.

My power base is from the community. And we have to use our own resources and money and energy to progress. The only way to be successful is when we become political mentors to the future generations. It would be good for a Black or Asian child to say, my dad or mum makes policy."

Summer 1998

STAND

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Newsletter of the National Association of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority Councillors Summer 1998

MANCHESTER CONVENTION:

LETS WORK TOGETHER SAY INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

Association plans to meet challenge with a unique European project

Over 100 Black, Asian and other minority ethnic councillors from across the country joined forces at Manchester Town Hall for a weekend conference earlier this year. This second national convention heard guest speakers from the USA, Canada, and with European Year Against Racism funding, speakers from Germany, France, Holland, and Belgium. Councillor Rajinder Sohpal, Association Chairperson, said "We aim to build upon this event, and will be developing a series of events across Europe, linking Black councillors and officers to share best practice and give each other support in the struggle to advance racial equality in local government."

The conference discussed the new Government's approach to race equality. Workshops included developing Black leadership; lobbying and building alliances; looking beyond the European Year Against Racism; and strengthening the 1976 Race Relations Act.

Race Equality 2000

Oona King MP was elected in 1997 as Labour MP for Bethnal Green and Bow

'If I was a black, rather than a mixed race, MP, it would have been even more difficult. It just so happens I am mixed race, so I could more easily blend in, and some of the Bangladeshis would mistake me for a Bengali. And with white constituents, my white family background was an advantage. Otherwise, I think it would have been much more difficult to get elected.'

How representation works

The fewer black and Asian people there are in an organisation, the harder it is to change its culture

Autumn 2000 • Connections 11

PublicSector

NEWS FOR BRITAIN'S BLACK & ASIAN PROFESSIONALS

NEWS: Minority health results revealed: A new survey exposes how and why Britains minorities are worse off. PAGE 2

COMMUNITY: Parenting: Why white families can also learn from good practice within black families. read on.... PAGE 6

Jobs Direct The cream of the country's top jobs PAGE 9

Qassim Afzal: is he our next MP?

Grassroots Campaigner

£6 Free to all Silver and Gold members of ALDC

November 1998

Labour's safest seat Not any more!

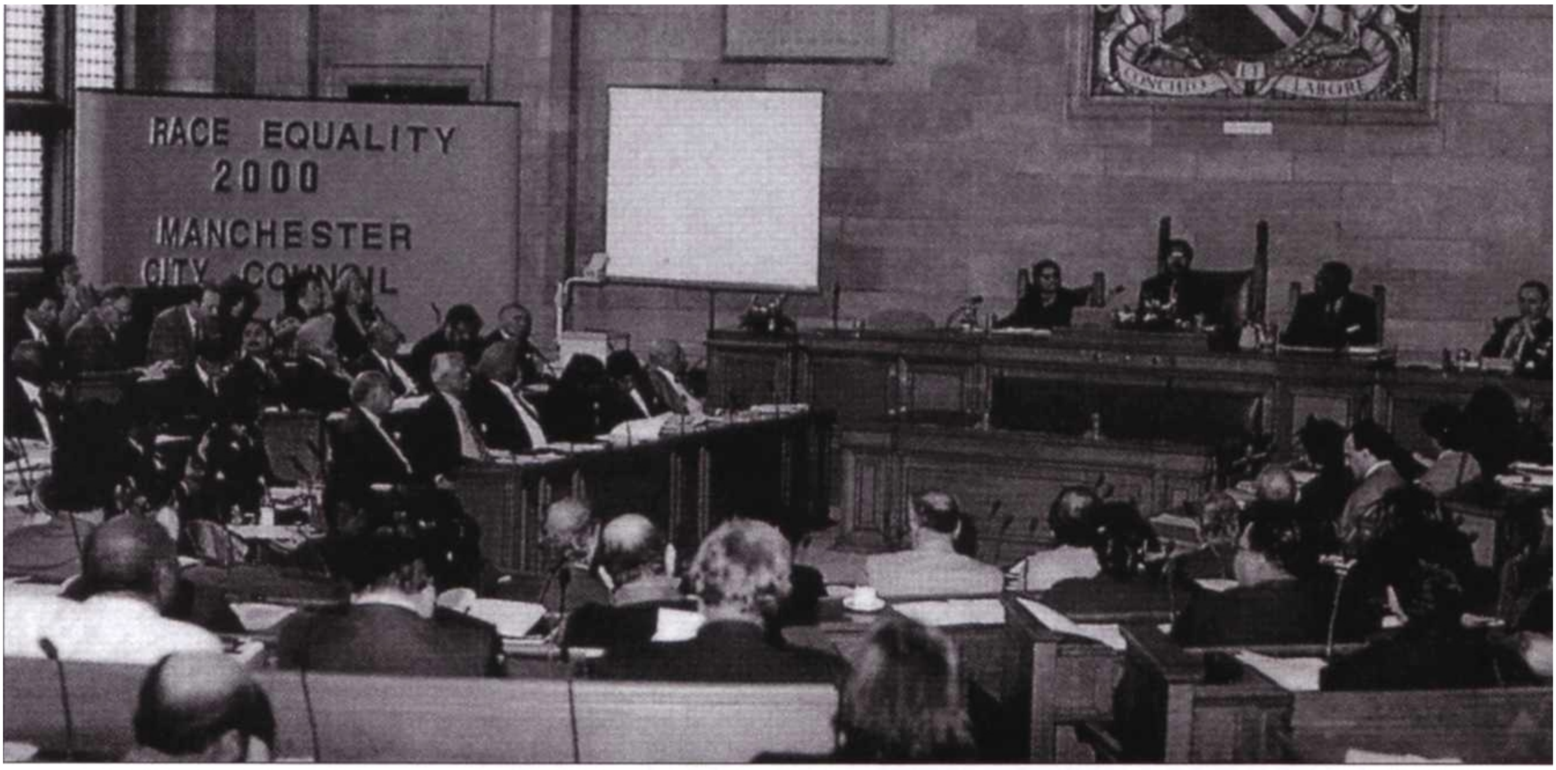
The story of how we won Cheetham Pg 8

Cheltenhams road train

Plus news from other Lib Dem Councils Pg39

Inside:

- By-election reports P4
- Making money at Jumble Sales P19
- The Eastleigh success story P22
- Why we lost in Harrow P27
- Councillors Annual Reports P24



Government's approach to race equality. Workshops included developing Black leadership; lobbying and building alliances; looking beyond the Euro Year Against Racism; and strengt ing the 1976 Race Relations Act.