

EMBARGO: 0845, 24.10.22.

Gina Miller's New Anti-Corruption Party Targets Beckenham at the Next General Election

- **James Clarke, local grassroots campaigner selected to take on Bob Stewart**
- **Clarke calls to clean up politics and fight corruption.**
- **The True & Fair Party will stand up to 30 candidates in England and Wales, at the general election**
- **Miller vows candidate launch is "just the start of our mission to clean-up Britain's dirty politics"**

Bob Stewart is one of 9 Conservative MPs who will face an electoral challenge from a rapidly growing new political party for "propping up an embarrassment of a government".

Set up by Gina Miller - who famously defeated the Government twice for unlawful attempts to override Parliament during the post-Brexit vote - the party highlights and campaigns against political corruption.

Introducing an initial slate of 9 parliamentary candidates this morning, Miller announced that passionate campaigner Clarke has been selected for Beckenham. Clarke is particularly concerned by endemic corruption, political party funding and complacent local politicians. He applied to become a True & Fair Party because of its strong stance on modernising democracy and cleaning up politics.

The 9 candidates' backgrounds range from an assistant teacher to a former nightclub owner, a charity trustee to a former diplomat, an IT consultant to a community volunteer. A further 10-20 candidates will be announced early next year. The selection is taking place now because of the growing possibility that the Conservative Party's inability to govern will lead to an early general election.

The candidate slate was announced alongside True & Fair Party-commissioned research showing that some £5.6bn could be raised immediately by closing tax loopholes and expanding the remit of HMRC. That would be enough, for example, to pay the salaries of more than 170,000 new nurses.

Under the proposals, HMRC would be given greater resources to run more investigations into bigger firms, which raises £69 in extra tax revenue for every £1 invested. Such resource investment would also have helped prevent the £1.1bn of COVID small business loans identified as fraud.

True & Fair Party leader Gina Miller said:

"What the political debacles of the past few years – and the Conservative humiliations of the past few weeks – have shown is that weak political systems, corruption, and incompetence only lead to chaos. The True & Fair Party is in its infancy, so we are focusing our resources on 20-30 seats held by those who have been propping up an embarrassment of a government.

"What we aim to do is show that politics is no longer about right and left, but right and wrong. Our candidates represent what is good about British society, they want the best for our country and are passionate about fairness. Working together, this is just the start of our mission to clean-up Britain's dirty politics.

"James Clarke is a straight-talking and experienced campaigner, and he believes in root and branch reform of the system. London needs candidates like James, with energy, passion and a proper vision for the future."

South Londoner Clarke stated, “The people of Beckenham have been subjected to the same incompetent leadership and treated with the same contempt by the Conservatives as anywhere in London. Transport, policing and health services have been cut, and housing becomes ever more unaffordable. Tory complacency here has to end, it’s time for something new.”

For media enquiries and requests to attend the candidate launch in London on Monday morning, please contact:

press@trueandfairparty.uk

or

james@trueandfairparty.uk

<https://www.trueandfairparty.uk/james-clarke>

07835 254335

Twitter: [@thatjamesclarke](https://twitter.com/thatjamesclarke)

Notes to editors:

White Paper – Closing Tax Loopholes

A copy of the tax research can be found [here](#).

James Clarke

James is a start-up consultant and business development manager, with experience in technology, teaching, financial services, and the travel industry. James spent time working in Asia, Australia, Europe and the US before returning to his native South London in 2016. Finding himself politically homeless, he stood as an Independent candidate in the 2017 election. For the last 5 years, James has worked with grassroots political organisations, recruiting and training candidates for election and pushing for higher levels of civic participation in the community. His involvement in politics stems from a passionate desire to reform and modernise the UK, clean up politics and raise standards of living.

Outside of work, James is a keen footballer, an avid traveller, and a collector (and occasional player) of electric and acoustic guitars and amps that go to eleven.

True & Fair

The True & Fair Party was launched by Gina Miller earlier in 2022 to tackle political corruption and institutional weakness, and campaign for the modernisation of UK democracy.

Policies include:

- **Political reform** - A legally binding ‘oath of office’ and Truth Law for MPs; compulsory parliamentary sitting for 40 weeks a year; removing hereditary peers from the House of Lords.
- **Electoral reform** – Introduction of proportional representation; introduction of automatic voter registration to improve representation; digital voting.

- **Anti-corruption** – Establishment of an Economic Crime Unit to tackle crime that costs the UK at least £290bn a year; a Transparency Law for overseas firms owning UK property; ban of paid lobbying by MPs.
- **Economy** - Bounce back loans to be written off for the three million SMEs excluded from support during the Covid pandemic; tenants to no longer pay business rates; National Insurance rolled into income tax to help lower earners.

The first 9 candidates announced on 24 October will be standing in the following seats at the next general election:

- Beckenham
- Derbyshire Dales
- Devizes
- Epsom and Ewell
- Mid-Bedfordshire
- Monmouth
- Tatton
- Witney
- York Outer

ENDS