Crossbench hereditary peers' by-election, October 2015: result

In the by-election following the retirement of Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, 26 valid votes were cast. All excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Crossbench group who had taken the oath this Parliament, 29 in total, were eligible to vote.

On the first count, of the 17 candidates, seven received one or more first-preference votes. After five transfers of votes, the votes for the final three candidates were:

Lord Aldington	7
The Earl of Cork and Orrery (*Lord Boyle*)	3
Lord Oaksey	12

The successful candidate was therefore **Lord Oaksey**.

Overleaf are details of the votes cast for each candidate at each count. The left-hand column lists all candidates. The next column shows the number of first-preference votes for each candidate. Subsequent columns (which are numbered) show the number of votes for each candidate after each transfer of votes from excluded candidates. An **X** in a column shows that the candidate concerned was excluded at that stage. The penultimate row shows the total number of votes at each stage—i.e. after excluding votes which could not be transferred because no further preference was marked. The last row shows the number of votes required at that stage for a candidate to be elected—i.e. half the total (rounded up if necessary).

Note on the voting system
- The election was conducted using the alternative vote system (also known as preferential voting).
- Under this system, voters rank in order as many candidates as they wish.
- Initially only first-preference votes are counted.
- If the vote for any one candidate equals or exceeds the votes for all the other candidates combined, that candidate is elected.
- Otherwise the votes for the candidate or candidates with fewest votes (or, in the event of a tie, fewest first-preference votes) are transferred to whichever of the continuing candidates is marked by that voter as their next available preference, and the votes thus transferred are added to the first preference votes of those candidates. The process is repeated until one candidate has as many votes as all the other remaining candidates combined.
- Any paper on which no further preference is marked is set aside as non-transferable.

The poll was supervised and the count was conducted by Electoral Reform Services. Lord Hope of Craighead acted as scrutineer.

20 October 2015

David Beamish
Clerk of the Parliaments

Distribution of votes

Candidate	1st preference votes	1	2	3	4	5
Albemarle, E.	0**X**					
Aldington, L.	6	6	6	6	6	7
Cadman, L.	0**X**					
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.	1	1**X**				
Cork and Orrery, E. (*L. Boyle*)	3	3	3	3	3	3
Darling, L.	0**X**					
Harlech, L.	0**X**					
Hood, V.	2	2	2	2**X**		
Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, E.	0**X**					
Massereene and Ferrard, V. (*L. Oriel*)	0**X**					
Monson, L.	0**X**					
Napier and Ettrick, L.	3	3	3	3	3**X**	
Oaksey, L.	10	10	11	11	11	12
Rutland, D.	0**X**					
Southampton, L.	0**X**					
Sudeley, L.	0**X**					
Vaux of Harrowden, L.	1	1	1**X**			
VOTES EXCLUDED AT EACH STAGE	0	0	0	1	3	4
TOTAL CONTINUING VOTES AT EACH STAGE	26	26	26	25	23	22
VOTES NEEDED IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED	13	13	13	13	12	11