



# Bakerloo news



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February 2020 – Drivers' Strike Special

## Acas talks break down:

# Get ready to strike!



**After two meetings with senior Bakerloo managers and three meetings at the Arbitration and Conciliation Service (Acas), we are no further forward in our efforts to resolve our dispute with LU over our shambles of a timetable.**

We have named two strikes, spread over four days, from 21-24 February (see box for details). At the Acas meeting on 13 February, to attempt to avert those strikes, the situation took a dramatic turn for the worse. LU's negotiating team, led by the Director of Train Operations and supported by Bakerloo trains boss Frank Ibe, decided to take a bullish approach and insisted that there would be no further concessions.

At the heart of this dispute, and what most people believe to be the problem with our timetables, are the turnaround times in the North Sheds at Queen's Park. These turnaround times have been cut to the bone over the past couple of years. The RMT have demanded that these are improved. This in turn would require more drivers. This in turn would make our working day bearable.

LU insisted yesterday that they were not there to negotiate driver numbers; not now, and not anytime soon. This leaves us with our planned strikes still going ahead.

LU believe that the very minor duty schedules tweaks they have made for the next timetable will alleviate all our problems. They then want us to wait until the new timetable has been up and running for a whole month before we even sit down to review it. It would probably take a further couple of months to re-tweak it again. We would then be locked in until May 2021. This is unacceptable.

So to date, all we have achieved in talks is a three train step back at Elephant, a commitment that LU will abide by their agreements on overtime and more meetings. LU have even suggested that they are going to have an overhaul of the detrainment process at Queen's Park to speed up turnaround times. This stuff is just desperate.

We remain available, as always, for further talks. But given the body language and the mood music coming from their negotiating team yesterday this seems like a long shot.

**Withdrawing our labour is the most effective means of winning concrete concessions from our employer. All our terms and conditions, all concessions LU has ever made, were won via struggle, over many years. If we want improvements to our timetables and working conditions, we're going to have to fight for them. See you on the picket lines!**

**Do not book on for any duty between 11:59 on Friday 21 February and 11:59 on Saturday 22 February.**



**Do not book on for any duty between 11:59 on Sunday 23 February and Monday 24 February.**

**ALL MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND A PICKET LINE. SPEAK TO YOUR REP FOR PICKET LINE DETAILS.**

**Your RMT branch meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of every month at 16:00 at the Royal Standard (8-9 Sale Place, W2 1PH, near Edgware Road station).**