



Bakerloo news



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February 2019

Pay, terms, and conditions battle:

We demand a shorter working week!

With our deal on pay, terms, and conditions due to expire in April 2019, RMT has submitted our demands for the new deal to LU (see box).

With LU pleading poverty, we should expect to have to do some real pushing to get a good deal out of them. But we shouldn't take their claims at face value: despite cuts to funding, they still found £16 million for the "Rostering and Coverage Tool" that ended up in the bin, and

are still paying eye-watering salaries and bonuses to top bosses (senior stations director Brian Woodhead got a 74% pay rise!).

A key part of the union's pay claim is for a 32-hour week. We can expect a backlash from the right-wing tabloid press, which will undoubtedly be outraged that we're daring to demand to work less. But we must stand firm on this demand.

Recent studies have reconfirmed how terrible the air quality is on

Tube platforms. There's also abundant scientific evidence showing that our workplaces are incubators for disease and bacteria. And there are numerous studies showing that extreme shift working, particularly night working, has a massively detrimental effect on health and can even shorten life.



We believe all workers should work less, but for us it could be the difference between good health and ill health... or worse.

A shorter working week would mean more rest days, more time off after runs of extreme shifts, and, of course, an increased staffing level, meaning the workload would be more evenly shared when we are at work.

It won't be an easy win, but if we don't fight at all, we've already lost.

RMT is currently waiting for LU to respond to our demands. If no response is forthcoming in short order, we may decide to kickstart an industrial dispute anyway.

RMT is demanding...

- A substantial pay award, with a minimum flat-rate increase. Many RMT branches believe this figure should be around £2,000
- A 32-hour week
- Equalisation of staff travel privileges (PTAC/Priv tickets for all)
- Scrap the CSA2 grade, promote all 2s to 1s

Read the full pay claim at rmtlondoncalling.org.uk

STOP PRESS: LU PLANS CUTS TO TRAIN PREP

Currently, trains are "prepped" (i.e., have all basic safety checks performed) every 24 hours.

LU has announced plans to extend this to 96 hours, or even more on some lines. One proposal is that trains will only be full prepped every 82 days!

This will not only affect fleet workers, but drivers, station staff, cleaners, and of course the public... anyone who has any interaction with a potentially unsafe train!

RMT will resist this attack. All grades must stand firm.

Trains news

After months of badgering the management over union notice boards and mirrors for the Gold Fish Bowl, four new notice boards and two new mirrors have now been installed.

It's shocking it took so long! In other news, due to the Good Friday and Easter Monday shutdown on the Network Rail section of the line between Harrow and Wealdstone and Euston, Bakerloo drivers are running a six-minute service to Harrow and Wealdstone, with drivers double ending into the sidings at Harrow and then stepping back three trains. Safety reps will be visiting Harrow and Wealdstone to view the accommodation facilities and to carry out a risk assessment before Easter. This is to ensure that all these practices are safe for our members and travelling public.

Meanwhile, a further bone of contention at Elephant and Castle is the quality of the water from the platform tap. With the water machine regularly becoming defective, safety reps have been asking management to put plans in place to enable drivers to keep hydrated. Management's stock response to this is that drivers should drink the water from the tap. But is it fit to drink? Is there any paperwork to prove that the water has recently been tested? No assurances have been forthcoming.

Management argue that Thames Water say the water is clean. But their responsibility ends at the premises' perimeter. It's a long journey from the mains, through 150-year-old Victorian pipes, before it finally reaches the tap at platform level.

Reps have escalated this issue beyond local management level, and will take it further if no progress is made.

Fighting for more staff

As a consequence of our superb ballot result and strike threat in December and January, we have won a number of gains on Bakerloo South.

All uncovered duties are now being advertised for overtime, all vacancies will be filled by 17 February, and management have agreed to a comprehensive review of staffing levels across the cover group.

So far, in consultation with members at each station, your RMT reps, along with their TSSA counterparts, have made requests for the following staffing increases:

ELE: additional 15:00-23:00 weekend CSA duty

ELE: additional morning CSA duty

CHX: additional part-time CSA duties in both peaks

PIC: additional part-time CSA

duties in evening peak

PIC: extend part-time CSS duty to full time.

This is only an initial list and may be revised depending on ongoing discussions. If you have

further ideas about the increases we should be requesting, speak to your reps. Further increases will also be sought at Oxo.

Of course, there's no guarantee that management will agree right away, but the first stage is to make the strongest case possible.

If the company still refuses to grant any increases, we always have the option of industrial action, as our strike ballot remains live until June.

MYB GLAP

LU plan to remove the Marylebone GLAP while major works take place.

The current proposal is to replace it with a new place of safety in the form of a small booth with a glass panel.

GLAPs are also important for staff welfare as a place to sit down or warm up.

RMT is seeking assurances that no-one will get a hard time off management for using the booth for the same purpose.

Demonstrate against outsourcing

RMT is uniting with other unions organising outsourced cleaning workers to demonstrate for direct employment and workers' rights.

Assemble 08:00, central London (location tba), Tuesday 26 February. Save the date!

More: bit.ly/26feb-demo

Your branch meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of every month, 16.00, upstairs at The Royal Exchange, 26 Sale Place, W2 1PU (Edgware Road H&C). All members welcome.

Bakerloo News is a monthly newsletter from the Bakerloo branch of the RMT union. To submit a story for *Bakerloo News*, or to contact the branch, please email jimmcdaid36@gmail.com, or ring Branch Secretary Jim McDaid on 07917 131692