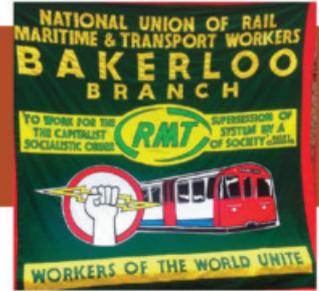




Bakerloo news



Jan-Feb 2017: Station Strike Special

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Magnificent strike shuts down the Tube Stand firm to win jobs Prepare to strike again from 6 February



RMT and TSSA members picketing at Edgware Road station

Our strike on stations on 8-9 January shut down huge sections of the network, closing down central London during peak times. Flagship stations like King’s Cross, Oxford Circus, and Bank were not able to open at any point throughout the day.

This strike has put to bed the myth that station staff have no leverage or power. The strike, and ongoing overtime ban (which has led to nearly 100 station closures so far), has already shifted the bosses’ position. At the start of our dispute, they stonewalled union demands for additional staffing on stations. Now they are proposing to reinstate 250 jobs. We’ve pushed them from 0 to 250: if we keep pushing, the number will increase!

Current offer not good enough

LU’s offer of 250 jobs represents

progress is nowhere near good enough.

This figure only represents around 25% of the number of jobs cut under “Fit for the Future”. Crucially, LU wants to reinstate many of those positions at CSA2 level. This is unacceptable. The creation of the CSA2 grade is a deliberate strategy by LU to reduce the rate for the job. RMT is demanding the two CSA grades be consolidated upwards, meaning all CSA2s would become CSA1s, and all future jobs come back at CSA1 grade or higher.

Further Strikes Planned

We have given LU a 6 February deadline to meet our demands:

- Reverse all job cuts; restore staffing to at least pre-“Fit for the Future” levels; staff all control rooms
- Stop displacements until an agreed transfer policy is in place
- Promote all CSA2s to CSA1; all new recruits to be CSA1; abolish the CSA2 grade
- Reverse the failed ticket office closure programme

If these demands are not met, prepare to strike again. Although discussions about what form of action we might take are ongoing, members should expect the strikes to escalate beyond 24 hours.

Drivers: safety first!

During the strike, LU decided to run trains through the central area, mainly empty but also some in service, even though the vast majority of stations were closed.

Some drivers refused to drive on grounds of safety and asked to see LU’s risk assessment for this unusual event. It was not forthcoming, probably because it does not exist.

Instead, drivers were given two brief letters, one from COO Steve Griffiths and the other from HSE director Jill Collis, saying that their plans had been assessed by HMRI and the ORR and were considered to be safe. The attitude seems to have been one of, “we are senior managers, we are telling you it’s safe, so we expect you to believe us”. So, in the absence of any detailed plans for dealing with the various problems which could occur in the tunnel, they were asking you just to trust them.

The company cannot be trusted with safety, as their inglorious record shows. We have to ensure safety standards ourselves. If it’s not safe, don’t drive.

Oxo jobs win



Four additional CSA jobs (two part-time and two full-time) have been created at Oxford Circus, after a lengthy union campaign to increase the staffing level.

Your Industrial and Health and Safety reps, along with their TSSA counterparts, consistently raised the

issue of chronic understaffing through Level One and Tier One negotiations, including referrals to Level Two, and after nearly 18 months of to-ing and fro-ing, the additional jobs have now come onto the roster.

The situation remains far from perfect, but the creation of the additional jobs shows what's possible with some consistent pushing.

Bakerloo News also reckons it's no coincidence that the additional jobs finally materialised round about the same time we began our overtime ban on stations.

We don't doubt the added pressure helped focus management's mind.

No cutting corners with minimum numbers!

Bakerloo News reminds all our members that minimum numbers on stations are legal requirements, not guidelines.

For the information of non-station grades who may not be aware, minimum numbers apply to all "Section 12" stations (that is, tunnel section stations to which Section 12 of the fire regulations apply). The minimum numbers are set by the fire authorities in conjunction with the ORR. LU cannot alter them.

These numbers can vary throughout the day, increasing at peak times, and comprise at least one member of staff licensed at CSS grade or higher, plus a number of other staff (for example, Oxo's minimum numbers between 07:00-22:00 are 1 + 10).

"Non-Section 12" stations do not have minimum numbers and can, technically (albeit unfortunately!), be kept open unstaffed.

If a Section 12 station drops below minimum numbers at any time, it must close.

This is not a recommendation or suggestion, it is the law. Members in CSS and CSM grades are reminded that you will be in breach of the law if you keep a station open below minimum numbers. Regardless of how much pressure an Area Manager or controller might put on you to keep a station open, you must uphold the law. There are no caveats or qualifications to this. It does not matter if an additional member of staff is on the way. If the station is below numbers, it must close. All staff must be fully licensed and familiarised. If a non-familiarised member of staff arrives to make up minimum numbers, the station must shut while they are familiarised.

Drivers: if you have verifiable information that a station is being kept open under numbers, you should not stop there.

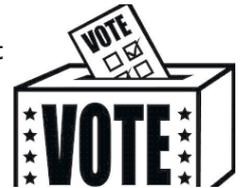
SRT staff cannot be counted towards minimum numbers except in "unforeseen" emergency circumstances. Uncovered duties do not count!

Rep elections

There is currently a vacancy for a workplace Health and Safety representative on the Bakerloo North Group.

To stand for this position, you must work on the Group and be an RMT member. Mentoring and training will be provided. To register your interest and obtain a nomination form, please email Branch Secretary Jim McDaid on jimmcdaid36@gmail.com.

The election will be held at the branch meeting on Tuesday 7 February.



The RMT London Transport Region Cleaning Grades Committee meets on the first Monday of every month, 15:00 at Unity House (39 Chalton Street, NW1 1JD, near Euston).

All cleaner members welcome. Ring Committee



Secretary Richard Crane on 07943 583830 for more info.

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).

The Regional Council meets on the **LAST THURSDAY** of every month, 16.30, at the Twelve Pins, 263 Seven Sisters Road, N4 2DE (Finsbury Park). All members welcome. Speak to your local rep for more info.

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