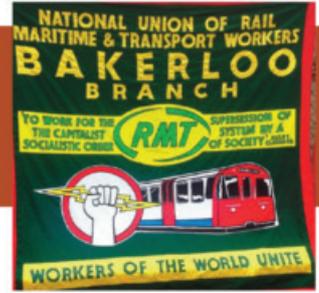




Bakerloo news



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January 2019

South Group stations short staffing dispute:

Union action wins concessions

Fight goes on: hold the bosses to their commitments

The threat of strikes has secured significant concessions from London Underground management on the Bakerloo Line South Group.

The company has made an explicit commitment to scrap its previous policy of designating certain duties less important to cover, and to “make every effort” to cover all uncovered duties.

Bosses have also committed to fill all vacancies by 17 February at the latest, and to launch a review of the baseline staffing level, via which RMT reps will be making proposals for additional jobs.

The aim of strikes is to win concessions. These were the immediate demands RMT posed when we launched our dispute over short staffing; having been secured, we’re able to suspend a planned strike on 26 December.



RMT members, and particularly the local reps who ran an enthusiastic and effective campaign to get the vote out in our strike ballot, should feel positive and empowered about our progress thus far.

But, this is only the first stage. What we’ve secured is a commitment; now it’s time to see if management keep to their word and ensure duties are covered. Our ballot mandate is live for six months, meaning we can call action at any time, at two weeks’ notice,

should we feel management are breaching the agreement.

If you’re a fan of a football metaphor, it’s 1-0 to the workers at half time, with the second half set to continue for some time!

Along with the significant victories secured at Baker Street, RMT station staff have shown that, when we take a stand, make demands, and show that we’re prepared to withdraw our labour if necessary, we can make gains.

BAKERLOO
SOUTH RMT
REPS



Jim Lloyd (Industrial) -
07930 820402 -
jimlloyd1@hotmail.co.uk

Tre Crossfield (Health &
Safety) - 07762 132669 -
trealexi@hotmail.com

Access all areas?

It's second-nature to operational staff on LU that we do not allow members of the public into sensitive, staff-only areas of the Underground.

And of course if we we're caught doing so we would be disciplined. Unfortunately, this second nature does not extend to management working at Queens Park's Premier House.

TMs seem happy to allow a parade of people, including friends and family members, to spend time in the office.

The office is full of sensitive information, such as medication that some of us might be taking or personal problems that might be impacting on our work, as well minutes of case conferences and LDIs. Our bosses insist that we are entirely honest with them about our problems and then they leave information lying around for anyone to nose through. Not only is this in breach of company rules, it also breaches the law.

Your local RMT rep has raised this issue formally with Queens Park management and we wait with baited breath for them to do something about it.

In the meantime, if you don't wish to discuss anything sensitive, or indeed anything at all, in front of the random Toms, Dicks, and Harriets who have moved into the TM's office, then demand the right to a private meeting and if you do see breaches of procedure report it to the reps.

Organising on the SRT

RMT members in the Special Requirements Team are part of the RMT Bakerloo Line branch, and are an active and valued part of our organisation.

Reps and activists on SRT have recently been organising around a number of issues.

Platform time rotation

SRT staff in some locations are being treated differently from other staff and being given less opportunity to rotate to a different location after spending time on the platform.

A Safety Council agreement gives all station staff the right to a break after a maximum of two hours on a platform. This agreement must be applied consistently.

North Greenwich staffing

The staffing of events at the O2 at North Greenwich continues to be extremely stretched, leading to an increase in assaults on SRT staff.

Other news

Your RMT Health and Safety rep on North Group stations is challenging various unsafe practises.

There are still no water or toilet facilities on the Wealdstone side at H&W, and pigeon netting has not been replaced at Wembley.

If these issues are not addressed, your union will escalate them.

LU is pushing ahead with its imposition of light red tabards for station staff.

As well as being an aesthetic abomination, there are numerous safety concerns around these items that have been ignored.

RMT branches are discussing how to respond.

Additionally, there is little BTP support.

Your RMT Safety reps on the SRT is fighting for increases to the staffing level for these events.

Loopholes in staffing levels

We are aware of at least one recent instance of an SRT staff member, who was allocated to cover the additional staffing levels required for Winter Wonderland at Hyde Park Corner, being moved to Great Portland Street to prevent a closure.

This left the Hyde Park Corner staff one person short.

These loopholes need to be closed.

If additional SRT support is required for an event, it must be consistently provided.

SRT RMT REPS

Jon Abdullah (Industrial) - 07944 431204 - jonabduallahrmt@yahoo.com

Jeremy Chopra (Health & Safety) - 07957 154475 - jeremychopra@gmail.com

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