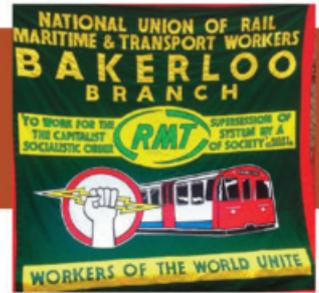




Bakerloo news



June 2017: Election Special

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Kick the Tories out on 8 June: Vote Labour!

The choice in this election is clear: five more years of a Tory government committed to governing in the interests of the rich, or a Labour government committed to reducing inequality, reversing cuts, and extending public ownership.

RMT is encouraging all our members to vote Labour. Many of Labour's policies will directly benefit our members' lives: Labour will scrap Tory plans to end TfL's central government subsidy; it will take the railways back into public ownership; it will increase the minimum wage to £10/hour; it will reverse cuts and privatisation in the NHS.

Labour is also committed to ending university tuition fees, a mass house building programme to end the housing crisis, and reversing cuts to school budgets.

The Labour Party has promised no tax increases for anyone earning under £80,000, but will ask the rich -



those who can clearly afford an increase - to pay more tax to fund public services. Labour will also close tax loopholes that allow multibillion pound corporations like Google and Starbucks to avoid paying tax.

Significantly for us, Labour will also scrap the Tories' "Trade Union Act", which places immense restrictions on our ability to organise effectively at work (see reverse for more).

No political party, or election manifesto, is perfect, and there are undoubtedly Labour policies that some of us will disagree with, for a variety of reasons. But politics is

fundamentally a matter of conflicting class interests, and in this election we are being asked to pick a side. RMT knows which side it is on: the side of working-class people, our families, and our communities - the people whose labour creates the vast wealth which exists in society, wealth which is creamed off by the rich, highly-paid bosses, and tax-dodging corporations. The Tory party exists to advance the political interests of those very elements. Working-class political interests are best served by kicking them out of government.

Vote Labour on 8 June!

JUSTICE FOR THE LONDON BRIDGE 3: VOTE YES FOR ACTION

The ballot for industrial action to win reinstatement for Lee Cornell and justice for Dave Sharp and Saeed Sioussi closes on 13 June. Make sure you vote. If you not received your ballot paper, call 0800 376 3706, or 0207 387 4771, or e-mail info@rmt.org.uk to request a replacement.

Solidarity against terror and racism

RMT Bakerloo sends our solidarity to all those affected by the barbaric terror attack in Manchester, especially the families of the victims. We salute the spirit of



those who helped in the aftermath of the attack.

As frontline transport workers,

our workplaces could be targets for future attacks. Remember: safety is paramount!

We must also resist attempts to manipulate this horrific event to stir up racist hatred of Muslims or immigrants.

Only a reassertion of global working-class solidarity and social hope can defeat terror.

Tories' anti-union laws can be beaten

Not content with Britain already having the toughest anti-trade union laws anywhere in Western Europe, the biggest crackdown on trade union rights for 30 years came into effect earlier this year in the form of the Tories' "Trade Union Act".

A double threshold now has to be met in any industrial action ballot called in the transport industry as well as other "essential" sectors. Strikes are now unlawful unless at least 50% of those balloted return their ballots. The "double threshold" means that, additionally to the 50% turnout requirement, at least 40% of those balloted must vote yes for action. In practise, if 100 union members were balloted for strike, the action would only be lawful if at least 50 members voted, and at least 40 vote yes.

PICKET LINES

In addition to the new double threshold, a named official, carrying a letter of authorisation from the union, will be required to be available at all times to the police to oversee the picket line.

Unions will need to give employers' 14 days' notice of any action, and renew any strike mandate with a fresh ballot within four months.

The Tories also plan further attacks, seeking to further criminalise picketing and permit employers to hire strike-breaking agency staff.

This is a massive attack on our union and workers' rights the length and breadth of the country. The Tories are shackling unions because they know



effective industrial action is the key means by which working-class people can organise to defend and extend our rights. A society without free trade unions is one in which the power of the rich goes unchecked.

Needless to say, if these thresholds were applied to parliamentary elections, then we would have very few sitting MPs.

As union members, all of this means we have to up our game considerably. We can no longer afford to be complacent and

assume that everyone else will vote in favour of action. We all have a responsibility to vote and get our ballot papers back in the post as soon as possible. If you don't vote, it is a no vote!

The RMT has a proud tradition of defending our members. Our terms and conditions and pay levels have been hard fought for over many years.

This attack on the trade unions can be pushed back if all members recognise the importance for the vote we have.

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.

The Regional Council meets on the LAST THURSDAY of every month, 16.30, at the 12 Pins, next to Finsbury Park station.

Bakerloo News is a monthly newsletter from the Bakerloo branch of the RMT union. This is a special edition produced for the general election. 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