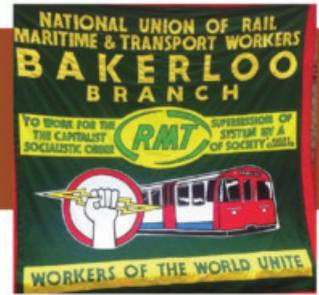




Bakerloo news



rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/bakerloobran
facebook.com/bakerlooline.rmt • @bakerloormt

May 2022 - May Day Greetings!

Prepare to strike again

Our March strike was the opening salvo in an ongoing fight.

That strike demanded: no detrimental changes to agreements, no detrimental changes to pensions arrangements, and no job cuts. LU has not met those demands, so our fight must continue.

We have pushed the company back over pension reform (for

now: see box), but on jobs and agreements, LU is accelerating attacks.

600 stations jobs are due to go, with six Bakerloo stations (Oxo, Pic, Charing, Queen's Park, Stonebridge, and Harrow and Wealdstone) on LU's hit list. At Heathrow and King's Cross, the first areas where cuts have been announced, LU plans to cut 55 jobs.

Cuts of this scale will wreck work/life balance, increase fatigue, and displace many, mainly part-time staff.

FRAMEWORKS IMPOSED

LU is also imposing new frameworks on the Special Requirements Team and the Revenue Control department.

They aim to maximise "flexibility", which LU conceives of in very one-sided terms.

Faced with these attacks, we must strike again.

Discussion continues within the union about when to strike, and whether all functions/grades should strike together, or whether individual functions should take selective action. Have your say in that discussion by attending your branch meeting.

As the deadline for the current TfL financial settlement approaches (24 June), it is highly likely RMT will take further all-grades action to press our existing demands, and demand no punitive strings are attached to any future funding settlement.

Prepare to strike again!

PENSIONS FIGHT IS NOT OVER

LU's pensions review was tasked with making a recommendation for reform, and setting out an implementation plan.

It did not do this, instead merely listing options and warning they would all be difficult to implement.

That cautiousness is undoubtedly a result of our strike on 1/3 March. Had we not struck, or if the strike had been weaker, LU would likely be pushing ahead with reform immediately.

But the fight is not over. Pensions reform was a condition imposed by the Tories as part of the funding bailouts. They will put more pressure on TfL to when the current funding package runs out on 24 June.

To protect our pensions, we will need to strike again.

RESIST RETURN OF "FLASH AND DASH"

LU plans to remove all detrainment duties from stations, combine-wide.

This would see a return to the "flash and dash" method of detrainment, where the drivers flashes the lights on and off before taking the train into the sidings unchecked.

Last time LU removed detrainment staff from these locations, we had over 3,000 overcarries in six months.

Three months of industrial action secured the return of these vital staff. RMT Trains Health and Safety Council reps have met with LU directors to express our concerns about this latest safety attack.

Opposing stations jobs cuts is in drivers' interests too!

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

Remember 2017!



Above: A picket line at Edgware Road during the 2017 stations strike

As discussion continues about the most effective tactics for our dispute, one proposal put forward is for a stations-only strike over the threatened job cuts and imposed frameworks.

There used to be a pessimistic orthodoxy across parts of the job that station staff were weak, and industrial action could only be effective if drivers and others were also on strike. We exploded that myth in January 2017, when a stations-only strike led to a near-total shutdown of the Tube.

The strike won a partial but very significant victory, forcing LU to reinstate 325 of the jobs they'd cut

as part of the Fit for the Future restructure.

The decision on the form of action we take will be the result of democratic discussion within the union. If a stations-only strike is called, the experience of 2017 should inspire us.

Stations and Revenue Control is the biggest function across LU in terms of headcount. An effective strike on stations will shut all major interchanges and any station with minimum numbers. Even if LU is able to open outlying stations unstaffed, trains will not be able to run into central London as those stations will be shut.

Reps and activists are working hard in workplaces to maintain the industrial solidarity of our dispute. We're not asking drivers, or other sections of RMT's membership, to strike "for" station staff, we're seeking to persuade all RMT members to see attacks on stations jobs as an attack on them: an injury to one is an injury to all.

But if a decision is taken to have function-specific strikes, be in no doubt that they can hurt the company and force concessions.

SRT and Revenue under attack

LU says the new frameworks it wants to impose on the SRT and Revenue will maximise "flexibility".

The problem is, flexibility only goes one way for LU. It means, they can use us flexibly, changing our duty times and locations at shorter notice.

The new frameworks will also introduce cover weeks for SRT and Revenue staff, leading to less certainty about shifts, making it harder to plan our lives outside of work.

The plans will turn SRT, and to some extent even RCIs and RCOs, into network-wide reserves, used to plug staffing gaps on stations created by the company's massive cuts.

RMT Bakerloo has organised SRT staff since the department was created. We will lead the way with further action to defend conditions on the SRT.

Pigeons at the Park and Elephant toilets...

RMT reps have long pushed for proper solutions to the pigeon problem at Queen's Park.

Due to holes in the roof, pigeons are able to get in, and the netting in place to prevent them from nesting often becomes a repository for decomposing pigeon corpses.

So far, LU's main solution has been new netting. LU's essential works team advised RMT trains reps that they visited the site and decided against spikes on the grounds of job difficulty and cost. Hence the new netting. They have agreed to undertake more regular inspections and put in place a more robust cleaning regime. They have also agreed to better roof fixings to stop the pigeons getting in there in the first place.

On a more positive note, good work by safety reps has ensured that funding has been secured for a complete overhaul of the Elephant and Castle platform level toilets. This location has been a problem for far too long.

We have been advised that this job is now out to tender and it should be completed by the summer.

Centre Group update

RMT reps on the Centre Group are pressing management over damage at Maida Vale.

Essential works have been delayed, and reps are insisting management step in to ensure works are progressed.

MAY DAY GREETINGS

1st May is International Workers' Day. RMT Bakerloo sends May Day greetings and solidarity to all trade unionists around the world fighting for freedom and equality.

RMT Bakerloo meets on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of every month, 16:00, at the Fountains Abbey, Praed Street, W2 1RL.

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.

A Zoom option is available: speak to a rep for details.