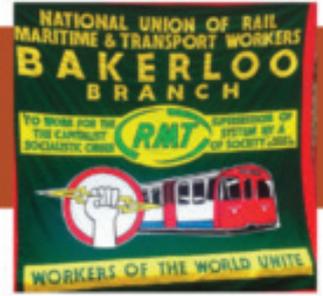




Bakerloo news



June 2015 Strike Ballot Special

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Vote yes for strikes Time to fight back



Why are we balloting?

Because LU has dug its heels in during negotiations on pay and Night Tube, and has not meaningfully responded to our claim for a substantial pay award (particularly for the lowest-paid grades) and a four-day week for all grades.

We are also balloting station staff for new action in the “Every Job Matters” campaign because LU is still determined to cut over 800 jobs, displace staff against our will, and impose anti-social rosters.

All three of our sister unions - TSSA, ASLEF, and Unite - are also balloting their members, creating the potential for a joint strike involving all unionised workers on the Tube.

What does RMT want?

Our pay claim is very clear. We want a substantial pay award, particularly for the lowest-paid grades, a four-day week for all grades, and staff travel passes for contractors and outsourced workers.

We also want LU to halt its job cuts plan on stations, scrap forced displacements and proposed anti-social rosters, reverse ticket office closures, and abandon proposed attacks on our terms and conditions.

Why should I vote yes?

Withdrawing our labour is often our only means to make our bosses take our demands seriously. We have been kicked around by our management for nearly two years, with attack after attack: huge job cuts on stations, displacements, proposals for new (and worse) rosters, ticket office closures, and more. For many staff, their insulting 0.75% pay offer is the final straw.

You should vote for strikes, and action short of strikes, so we can begin pushing management back. It's also important that we get back into fighting mode now so we're prepared for other attacks we know are being prepared. LU is already commissioning designs for driverless trains, and they are planning renewed attacks on our pensions.

Industrial action is the only thing that can halt their plans. They've had the momentum for too long; it's time to take it back.

**BALLOTS WILL BE SENT TO YOUR HOME SHORTLY, TO BE RETURNED
BEFORE 30 JUNE. MAKE SURE THE UNION HAS YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS:
CALL 0800 376 0376 OR SPEAK TO YOUR LOCAL REP**

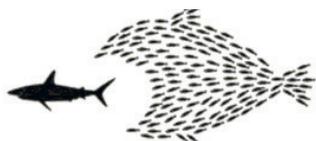
Unity is strength

All four Tube unions (RMT, ASLEF, TSSA, and Unite) are balloting for strikes over the pay and Night Tube settlement.

RMT will co-ordinate any strikes with our sister unions, meaning we could have a joint strike involving the vast majority of workers on London Underground.

RMT is an industrial union. This means that we believe all workers in a given workplace or industry, whatever their job, grade, or function, should be in the same union. The division of workers in a single workplace into different unions benefits no-one but the employer.

But while different unions do exist, it's important we try to work together and combine our struggles against the bosses.



Briefing on the strikes for fixed-term contract CSAs:

bit.ly/fixedterm-csas



GET ACTIVE IN YOUR UNION!

These upcoming meetings are your chance to have your say in what your union does:

RMT Bakerloo Strike Planning Meeting
Wednesday 17 June, 16:00, upstairs @ The Royal Exchange, 26 Sale Place, W2 1PU (near Paddington and Edgware Road stations)

RMT Bakerloo branch meeting
Tuesday 7 July, 16:00, upstairs @ The Coach & Horses, 1 Great Marlborough Street (W1F 7HG)

Resist Tory attacks!



John McDonnell MP, Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington and the convenor of the RMT Parliamentary Group, addressed the RMT Bakerloo branch meeting on Tuesday 2 June.

John outlined some of the attacks working-class people face following the re-election of the Tories, including new restrictions on the right to strike, cuts to benefits and public services, and further privatisation.

Although the outlook is bleak, John emphasised that campaigns of industrial and

political direct action by trade unions and working-class community campaigns such as Disabled People Against The Cuts (DPAC) can halt Tory attacks and build a movement for a different kind of government - one that serves the interests of our class as directly as the current government serves the interests of the rich.

John emphasised the 20 June demonstration (see box, below) as an important action; RMT Bakerloo encourages all members to attend.

End Austerity Now:
national demonstration
against cuts and
privatisation

Saturday 20 June

Meet 12pm

@ Bank of England - Look out for the RMT Bakerloo banner!

More: bit.ly/20junedemo

More Q&As on the strikes

Why are there two separate ballots?

We currently have two distinct disputes with LU. One is over pay and Night Tube. In this dispute we are balloting all members, in all grades. The other dispute is over job cuts and other changes taking place primarily on stations. In this dispute we are balloting stations-grades members only at this time. If both ballots return majorities for action, stations members will essentially be striking over two disputes at the same time.

What is "action short of strikes?"

Industrial action "short of strikes" could be a range of things, such as an overtime ban or a refusal to carry out certain work tasks outside of our specific job roles.

These kinds of action help keep the pressure on the company between strike days. We urge you to vote YES to action short as well as YES to strikes.

When will strikes take place?

When the ballots are returned, if they show a majority for action, the union's "General Grades Committee" (a sub-body of the Executive) will decide when to call strikes and other action.

It will do this in consultation with local branches, reps, and activists, as well as with our sister unions. The ballots are due back on 30 June, and are legally obliged to give the employer seven days' notice of any action.

How can I have my say on the dispute?

There are a lot of forums where you can make your voice heard. RMT Bakerloo meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 16:00 at the Coach and Horses on Great Marlborough Street.

We will also be organising extra meetings to discuss and plan the strike campaigns locally; the first of these is on Wednesday 17 June (see box, left).

The RMT London Transport Regional Council will also be organising additional meetings. See rmtlondoncalling.org.uk for details.

Fighting for decent pay

The anti-union press, particularly papers like *Evening Standard*, will undoubtedly denounce us as "greedy" for fighting for a pay rise when we are already relatively well-paid compared to some other workers.

We should remember that it's only through fighting that we can protect those benefits. We should support other workers' struggles to improve their pay, not sacrifice our own to so we can "level down".

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 bakerlooline@rmt.org.uk, or ring Branch Secretary Jim McDavid on 07917 131692