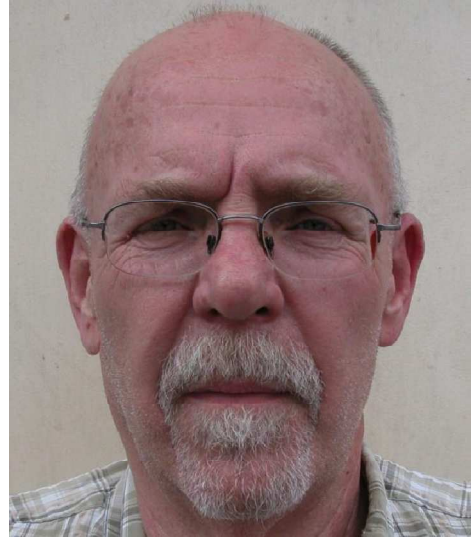


VICTIMISED FOR BEING A GOOD REP?

Peter Hartshorn (pictured right), our Industrial Relations rep on Green Park group, has been set up and given a final caution at a CDI for attendance. This is despite a notorious anti-RMT DSM tampering with evidence and insisting that he is sent to a CDI for two absences, one of which was an accident on duty and the other, authorised special leave. Even though the CDI panel agreed that evidence had been tampered with (his signature was forged in a return to work interview!), they issued him with a final caution. This is rough justice and a stitch-up, and this decision was recently upheld after Peter had been kept waiting



In the line of fire: Peter Hartshorn

for the appeal result for over a month now. In the meantime, it seems that management don't like standing by decisions to grant special leave where Peter is concerned: having granted him two days' special leave with pay to attend to a family bereavement, they have now deducted two days' pay from his wages! It seems they will go to any length to punish him for being an effective rep.

Removed from workplace and now sent to CDI

They continued to "investigate", or rather not investigate, allegations that he swore at the same manager who stitched him up in the attendance case (even though he was allowed to work for two weeks following this alleged incident and it was witnessed, or rather not witnessed, by his GSM!); for nearly two months this was designed to keep him out of the workplace whilst on suspension and cause him stress and worry and make sure he was not allowed to represent our members on the group.

In line with attacks on our reps and activists around the combine Peter has now been sent to CDI on a complete stitch up. The Branch will not stand idly by and we are carefully watching what happens to Peter with an intention to ballot all members on the line if they sack him.

**We must defend our reps. An injury to one is an injury to all.
Stand by to defend Peter Hartshorn.**

JOBS AND SAFETY DISPUTE LATEST

The fourth one-day strike by all grades took place on 28/29 November and was again solid, causing massive disruption to services on all lines. LUL management was given an opportunity to prevent the strike when our union offered to go to binding arbitration over the issue of cuts to station jobs. We offered to call off this and further strikes for a 12-week period to allow a safety review to be undertaken. We believe that the cuts will have an adverse effect upon safety, and that an independent investigating panel would agree with our assessment. It seems that LUL management also think we would be proved right, thus their refusal to accept our offer. Well, LUL might be prepared to undermine railway safety in order to save money, but we are not. Congratulations are due once again to each and every member who took action in defence of jobs and safety, and a big thank you also to all members of ASLEF who continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with their colleagues through this important fight.

Overtime Ban still on

Since our last strike, some members have been led to

believe that the bans on overtime and higher grade working are now suspended. **THIS IS NOT THE CASE. These actions short of a strike remain in place until further notice.** These bans are causing the company many problems, including the closure of stations due to inadequate staff numbers, and are demonstrating clearly that we need more station staff, not less. *We need to keep up the pressure.*

Area Roundup

At **Arnos Grove depot**, the strike was the strongest yet. No RMT members came in to work and only 8 or 9 others (the fewest ever) came in.

Arnos Grove group also had a solid strike with only 3 scabs all day. There were also new faces on the picket line, members who had never before taken part in picketing – this is something we have also seen elsewhere since the start of the strikes and is a very encouraging development.

On the **Victoria group**, there was a well attended picket line (20+ at one stage) at Victoria station which included the General

Secretary of TSSA, Gerry Doherty. There were no RMT scabs.

The action was well supported on the **Leicester Square group** with Russell Square station closed all day. Support for the action remains strong on the **Green Park group**, with Knightsbridge and Hyde Park Corner stations being closed on all four strike days.

On the Victoria line, the trains side continued to have problems. At **Seven Sisters depot**, a majority of ASLEF members chose to ignore the picket line. Clearly, there are still many drivers who don't understand that by undermining our strike they are merely building their own gallows. **If you know any strike breakers, please talk to them and explain the reasons why we are in dispute and taking industrial action.** The more solid our strikes are, the sooner we can get it over with, hopefully with victory.

Stop Press

The union has agreed to suspend the overtime ban from 0001hrs on Friday 31st December til 0001hrs on Sunday 2nd January.



Arnos depot pickets brave the icy weather



As befits a dispute over safety, Arnos depot Safety Reps Garry Fitzpatrick and Dave Rayfield on picket duty

Station staff thank drivers

John Noonan, the local rep for Victoria group, has asked our branch to express the gratitude and admiration of the staff on his group towards all the drivers who have continued to support the strike for jobs and safety. This support, in the best tradition of inter-grade solidarity, has been a source of great comfort and encouragement to station staff on the Victoria group, helping them to stay strong throughout the dispute. So a big **THANK YOU** to all drivers of both unions for your support. **Let's stay together, stay strong and win this battle for a fully staffed and safe Underground.**

Brixton Depot Reps

The local Industrial rep for Brixton depot, Zehra Nazim, has suffered a broken ankle and will be out of action for a number of months. We wish her a speedy and successful recovery.

In the meantime, Tracy Fitzpatrick has agreed to cover Zehra's position as Industrial rep until Zehra returns to work. Tracy is very capable and will do a good job at this crucial time for our union. Until further notice, these are the current reps for Brixton depot with their contact details:

Industrial rep:	Tracy Fitzpatrick	07890 515 780
Health & Safety rep:	Gary Doyle	07830 221 543



Christmas Social



London Transport Regional Council

Friday 17th December at the Twelve Pins Public House
(2 minutes from Finsbury Park station)

DJ, buffet and limited free bar

1800hrs til late

Fight the Cuts

Join the TUC demo in London on 26th March

The TUC is organising a huge demonstration against the government's attack on jobs and public services. Our union wants to swell the numbers and ensure that our message of resistance gets across loud and clear. Our branch has agreed to try and get at least 100 of our members to attend. Will you come along and show your support for jobs and public services? It should be a fun day despite the seriousness of the issues. Clear your diary for 26th march and look out for further details about the demo.

Mick Ferryman

It is with great sadness that we announce the untimely passing away of Arnos Grove Train Operator, Mick Ferryman. Drivers at Arnos Grove will know of Mick, who had worked at the depot for many years. A full obituary will appear in the January edition of Monthly News.

Next Branch Meetings

*Twelve Pins Public House (near Finsbury Park Stn)
Thursdays 6th and 13th January 2011 at 1600hrs*