



Finsbury Park Monthly News

All grades united in one common object

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STATIONS SOLID AS BRANCH MEMBERS SHUT DOWN VICTORIA AND PICCADILLY LINES IN HISTORIC FIGHT

Monday 6th June will go down in history as the day that our stations members stood up for the defence of 600 jobs and the threatened destruction of work life balance along with the continued fight to defend our pension and other agreements that they are eying up. Branch members up and down the Piccadilly and Victoria Lines and indeed around the combine proved beyond doubt that they have the industrial muscle to shut LUL down and are not about to swallow the wholesale destruction of their jobs.



Arnos Grove

Members are expected to follow Union instructions and respect the industrial action called. Any member reported as not following instructions will be invited to branch to explain their reasons and be referred to head office should they require Union support in the meantime.

STRONG SUPPORT ,STRONG PICKETS AND STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT

Any doubts that the members' determination to fight for their jobs, conditions and agreements were quickly dispelled as LUL's vain attempts to train up an army of strike breakers fell flat on its face and the real power of our stations grades members was made apparent. No trains ran at all on the Victoria Line all day and nothing ran in the branch area on the Piccadilly with stations shut and padlocked up. Despite the inconvenience, pickets received lots of public support as the reality of a cabinet of millionaires imposing pay freezes and trying to get rid of thousands of jobs on LUL and nationally resonated with them.



Brixton

ALL LUL MEMBERS CALLED OUT ON 21ST JUNE AS RMT LEADS HISTORIC RAILWAY STRIKE IN DEFENCE OF OUR JOBS, CONDITIONS AND AGREEMENTS

With the Tory government hell bent on destroying the railway industry and ripping up hard won agreements, asking us to pay for their incompetence through pay freezes and attacks on our jobs and conditions the 21st of June will see the first national railway strike affecting all grades since the 1980s.



Leicester Square

OVERTIME BAN BITES

Many stations have been closed in the branch area since the calling of the overtime ban and members are congratulated for supporting this action which proves how understaffed the system is now without taking more jobs out.



Highbury and Islington

STAND STRONG AND TOGETHER – SUPPORT THE PICKET LINES

As you can see there was strong support for the last strike and there is a saying that the longer the picket line the shorter the dispute. Please speak to your rep to let them know where you can picket. They tend to be lively and are a great chance for you to speak to each other and find out what is happening with the dispute. Even if it is for an hour, it helps give management the message that we are RMT and we are not laying down and letting them walk all over us.



Victoria

STRIKE ON TUESDAY 21ST JUNE 2022

All RMT members on LUL are instructed not to book on for any duty commencing after 00:01 on 21 June 2022 until 23:59 on 21 June 2022.

The overtime ban for stations members remains in place but is suspended for the duration of the strike on 21st only to comply with the law.

VICTORIA LINE DRIVER SENT TO LDI FOR RAISING SAFETY CONCERNS

One of the Victoria Line's longest serving drivers is being sent to a Local Disciplinary Interview (LDI) just having hundreds of pounds deducted from his salary for the heinous crime of insisting on safely departing from Vauxhall station and flagging up that the platform had been erroneously categorised as B when it should have been an A.

SAFETY IMPROVED BUT DRIVER IS DISCIPLINED

It is clear that LUL have been endangering safety at Vauxhall for many years and when this issue was flagged up by our driver, they dragged their heels in even looking at the safety concern. It took the intervention of senior safety reps to get them to look at and finally concede that it was unsafe and needed to be recategorized.

Perhaps the fact that the procedure for Category A platforms when you can't see the full platform requires a member of station staff to help with assisted dispatch was a factor in management being reluctant to take this issue seriously at a time that they are trying to strip out 600 stations jobs?

TARGETED AND BULLIED

It was reported at the branch that control room staff were ridiculing the actions of our member whilst he was carrying out safe actions to prevent death or serious injury. It seems that LUL are more interested in carrying out a vindictive campaign of bullying and harassment of our long-standing activist who has held a number of positions in the union in the past including local safety rep at Seven Sisters. This seems to be more of who he is rather than the issues in play here.



The drivers eye view(above) and the platform being changed to the correct category(right).

THE HARASSMENT CONTINUES

Bizarrely it seems that management are not content with the current level of bullying and have now suspended our member from work and are carrying out a further "fact finding" interview with him with the clear intent of escalating the disciplinary action against him. Our member had made it clear that he is willing to pick up and drive trains, but he just wishes to have a follow up meeting to discuss the outcome of the safety concerns he has raised. Rather than following this reasonable course of action management seem intent on punishing our member and potentially threatening to sack him.

SOLIDARITY WINS

One thing that can be guaranteed by being a member of the RMT is that we will not tolerate the bullying and targeting of our members for raising safety concerns. Our member will be given full support from one of the largest traffic branches on London Underground with experienced Activists, Reps and union Officers including an assistant general secretary and a number of full-time reps.

Pick a fight with Finsbury Park branch and you'll know you've been in a fight!

AROUND THE BRANCH

Branch meetings take place on a regular basis (details below), usually on the first and second Thursday of each month and rotate from in person and on zoom so there are plenty of opportunities for you to attend and get more active. These are opportunities for you to meet your colleagues and reps and get up to date information and for us to discuss common problems we may have at work and decide on a way forward to resolve them.

You also have the right to raise motions to have your say on union policy or anything that you think the union could be doing better. We are a member led union and you the member have the right to have your say at branch and all voices are equal.

Recent issues reported include the **Green Park/Euston Dispute**. After years of a local manager running riot despite numerous attempts to try and get senior management to engage with her, the branch resolved to ballot our members and after a magnificent yes vote and action called. LUL are at last taking our members' concerns seriously with senior management carrying out a review of some of the worst abuses of policies and procedures against our members. Should this review not bear fruit then the branch will not hesitate to demand that more industrial action is called. Watch this space.

A driver member from Seven Sisters sent to CDI facing a possible sanction of dismissal was recently successfully defended and received a 52-week caution backdated almost 10 months. He can now continue his career after months of worry over an issue that the local management over inflated.

VACANCIES

An **ad hoc vacancy has arisen for Industrial Relations Rep on Victoria North Stations Group**.

To stand you need to work on the cover group and be seconded by another member who works on the group also. Nominations are now open and will close on at the meeting held on 6th July. Should there be more than one nomination then an election will take place with only members of the group able to vote. No proxy voting will be allowed. You can get nominated by either attending a branch meeting or writing to the Secretary, Dean O'Hanlon at FinsburyPark@rmt.org.uk Full training and support will be given to the successful candidate. Other Ad Hoc vacancies that exist are for Night Tube Liaison Reps at numerous locations, Night Tube Officer, and many cleaner grade reps.

A DECENT PAY RISE FOR ALL WORKERS

The Branch will be supporting the following rally. If you want to join the branch contingent then meet at Finsbury Park Station at 1015 to move off to join the main group.

JOIN THE MARCH AND RALLY IN LONDON SATURDAY 18 JUNE

**ASSEMBLE 11AM PORTLAND PLACE W1
MARCH 12 NOON
RALLY 1PM PARLIAMENT SQUARE**

Working people have had enough. Everything's going up but our wages. Ministers partied while people died. Now they do nothing while living standards plummet and P&O lays off hundreds of workers on the spot.

It's time for a new deal for working people, real help with energy bills and a pay rise.

The government needs to act now!
Join us and demand better.

#DemandBetter
tuc.org.uk/demandbetter

WE DEMAND BETTER 18.06.22 ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Next Branch Meetings

Langham Club (600 Green Lanes near Turnpike Lane Stn)

Thursdays 16th June and 6th July at 1600hrs

Via Zoom on Thursday 13th July at 1600hrs (Meeting ID 446 837 4170)

Passcode FPK0543)