



London Calling

News and views from RMT's London Transport Regional Council

www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk

30 November 2010

Strike Four!

RMT and TSSA have dealt another blow to London Underground's plan to decimate staffing levels with a fourth one-day strike on 28/29 November. The action was as effective as previous walkouts, perhaps even more so, as RMT and TSSA members remained solid, and many ASLEF members respected our picket lines. Despite the bitter cold, reps and members picketed up to 100 workplaces.

TfL exaggerated the service it was able to provide to such an extent that even the usually-sympathetic press used the term 'Transport for Lies'. And while passengers suffered serious disruption to their travel, they continued to send messages of support to the union because they know we are defending their longer-term interests.

Thanks To You!

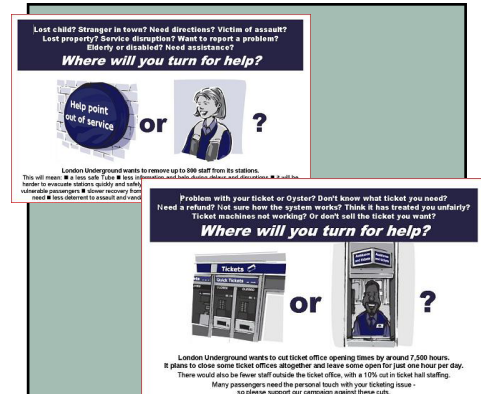
RMT thanks and appreciates all our members, and members of other unions, who are standing firm in this dispute. We know the devastating impact on both passengers and workers of the wholesale de-staffing of our underground system.

RMT General Secretary Bob Crow said: 'I to congratulate you on delivering another rock-solid strike to defend safety and jobs. TfL's dishonesty about the effects of the dispute, as well as their lies over unstaffed stations have now well and truly caught up with them and that the public no longer trust them. It is clear that our industrial action has been having a cumulative effect and this action has been the most effective yet.'

What Next?

RMT's national Executive will meet soon to decide further strike dates. The union's London Transport Regional Council (made up of London Underground workers sent as delegates by RMT branches in the region) has unanimously recommended escalating the action, with longer strikes. Delegates warned that to simply keep walking out for 24 hours each month would probably not stop London Underground cutting the jobs, so we need to intensify the pressure. The Regional Council has also asked the national union to provide hardship payments to strikers.

Meanwhile, we still have our 'action short of strikes' keeping up the pressure on management. And we are continuing to work to win public support and put pressure on politicians.



RMT's Regional Council has produced two new leaflets for the public explaining how the job cuts will affect them and asking for their support. Ask your RMT rep or branch secretary for some leaflets and give them out to passengers before or after work, or give them to neighbours and friends. Or you can collect a batch of leaflets from the union's head office



On Wednesday 15 December, RMT members and supporters will be protesting outside City Hall during Mayor's Question Time. We will be handing in the thousands of

postcards to the Mayor that Londoners have signed to show their opposition to the staffing cuts. We want loads of people to join the protest to show the strength of feeling against the cuts to the Mayor and GLA members inside the building, and to the press outside - so come and join us!

More information, and publicity materials, from Janine Booth, Regional Council Secretary janine@rmtlondoncalling.org.uk, 07910-202225

EDUCATION: STOP CUTS & FEES

Students have been protesting in their thousands against government plans to cut university funding, massively increase tuition and scrap the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA - a grant to poorer students that enables them to attend college). The students deserve our full support.

London's transport workers and student campaigners are fighting to defend two essential public services - education and transport - which we believe should be publicly-provided, fully funded and accessible to all. Both services face intense attack under a government hellbent on vicious public sector cuts.

RMT and its members support the principle of access for all to further and higher education, and know that many working-class people - including our own kids - will be unable to attend university or college if to do so means taking on a massive debt. And student campaigners have shown their support for our fight against job cuts by attending our picket lines and sending us messages of support. A speaker from the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts (www.anticuts.com) came to our rally against job cuts last week and offered full support.

Unity and solidarity like this can help both groups win our battles for decent public services.

Staff on Docklands Light Railway are in dispute with the company as it attacks workers' rights on several fronts:

- closing the pension fund to new employees
- sacking two members over comments posted on Facebook
- having some workers on longer working hours than others at Beckton
- restructuring supervisors without consultation
- changing walking times and spread times without agreement

RMT throughout London Transport region will support our workmates on the DLR in whatever action they take to fight back against these attacks.

30 or under? Come to RMT's Young Members' Conference!

The conference takes place in Plymouth on 24-26 February 2011. It will discuss issues relevant to young rail and transport workers, and will be a good opportunity to meet fellow young members from around the country.

You can ask your RMT branch to send a resolution about anything you feel strongly about, whether it is a workplace issue, an issue in wider society, or an idea for how RMT can do more for young members.

To either send a resolution or be nominated as a delegate, contact your branch secretary, or contact our national Young Members' Chair, Adrian Rowe: adrian@rmtlondoncalling.org.uk



As a London resident I completely agree with you about the importance of having adequate staff on the London Underground. In my view, there are currently too few staff and to reduce the numbers further is dangerous, unhelpful and demonstrates a lack of insight and too much focus on the bottom line.

Caitlin Morrow

I support the strike - as a woman who often travels alone on tubes I really value having hard working and helpful tube staff on hand to ask for assistance.

Keep on fighting the cuts!

Katy Arnold

I totally support what every action you have to take to defend your members and our tube/rail services.

Paul Neale, Fire Brigades Union

Good luck in your dispute. It's a shame more workers didn't get organised, join unions and take on these wretched bosses - they make me sick, think they can walk all over people and get away with it.

I am a Unite member and offer you solidarity and good luck I am also a branch secretary of London Construction branch.

An injury to one is an injury to all!

Steve Kelly

Our total support for your fight against the employment reductions

Baptista Silanes, CCOO Metro Barcelona

I would like to register my support of your fight to protect your terms and conditions of employment at London underground. The tube and the people work on it are one of the best things about London and I hope that continues into the future.

Ciaran Ryan, Barons Court

I fully support the retention of staffing at tube stations because of the following:-

1. Personal safety: CCTV cannot be a substitute for having a responsible person on site to help people especially lone female passengers.

2. Rail safety: Supervisors have safety duties to do with points and other equipment, who will be on the ground to deal with this?

3. Ticketing: Machines break, also they are difficult for some people to use i.e. those with learning disabilities, sight problems and people from different countries.

4. Lost property: I left an important bag of presents on the train today, there were very helpful staff at two stations so I got my property back within half an hour, not several days as it would take if no supervisors were available.

I think there needs to be more station staff not less; as our population ages there will be more people who need help not less. I therefore support your campaign.

William Stephens, Rickmansworth

