



London Calling

News and views from RMT's London Transport Regional Council - www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk

london underground job cuts special

November 2010

rally against job cuts

thursday 25 november, 6 - 8pm

indian ymca, fitzroy square
nearest tube: warren street

Invited speakers: **Pat Sikorski** (RMT Assistant General Secretary), **Manuel Cortes** (TSSA Assistant General Secretary), **Olly New** (RMT Executive), **Steve Hedley** (RMT Regional Organiser), **Pete Murray** (President / BBC rep, National Union of Journalists), **Jeremy Corbyn MP**, plus speakers from the Fire Brigades Union, and student anti-fees campaigner

strike against job cuts

Former Metronet grades: Do not work from 19:00hrs on Sunday 28 November until 18.59hrs on Monday 29 November.

All other LUL members: Do not to book on for any shifts starting between 18:29hrs on Sunday 28 November and 18:28hrs on Monday 29 November.





RMT has been taking part in talks with London Underground at the arbitration service ACAS. Recently, this has taken the form of a 'review', where union reps have obtained information from LU managers about the facts and formulae behind the company's job-cutting plans.

This information provides more evidence that LU's plans are irrational and dangerous. Health and safety reps have shown how safety standards would fall with the proposed, lower levels. And stations reps' questions revealed that LU manufactured figures used to justify ticket office cuts by doubling the rate of ticket sales required to keep a ticket office open in any particular hour from 15 ticket sales per hour to 30!

With the 'review' stage over, unions and management will restart negotiations aimed at resolving the dispute. RMT firmly believes that we are only making progress in talks because we are keeping up industrial action. To make the talks succeed - keep the action strong!



Resolution passed by the GLA on 20 October:

The London Assembly is opposed to Transport for London's proposals to shed up to 800 ticket office and gateline jobs on London Underground. The number of stations which will be staffed by only one person working alone for some time will increase. Ticket machines alone are no replacement for the presence of trained Underground staff and the over reliance on ticket machines will disproportionately impact on those passengers who have a disability. This Assembly believes that passengers will feel less safe on poorly staffed stations particularly at early mornings and in late evenings.

This Assembly urges Transport for London and its Chair, Mayor Boris Johnson, to review this decision and re-affirm reasonable and safe staffing levels right across the London Underground network to ensure passengers continue to receive excellent service from London Underground.



London Underground has confirmed that hundreds more maintenance posts, including on fleet and engineering, face the axe as vacancies are left unfilled. The company had already announced that in addition to the 800 stations job cuts, it would chop another 800 in 'support services', which includes many operational and safety-related posts. Tube Lines has given notice of at least 250 posts to go, taking the total number of threatened jobs across the Underground to well over 2,000.

RMT warned that London Transport Commissioner Peter Hendy is working up a secret cuts blueprint called 'Project Horizon' and Boris Johnson's Tory allies on the GLA are continuing to lobby hard for a move to driverless trains and wholesale de-staffing of the Tube system.



London Underground fleet maintenance RMT members are working only to process instructions (vehicle maintenance instructions), not carrying out higher grade working and not co-operating with staff movements away from home locations. RMT called this industrial action after members voted by 88% to take against safety-critical cuts that have ripped up tube maintenance schedules leaving brakes and other equipment in a lethal state of disrepair. The action began on Tuesday 26 October and is having a major impact.

RMT General Secretary Bob Crow said: "We have released pictures which show what happens when you slash maintenance schedules and impose cutbacks on safety - you run trains without brake blocks and on cracked brackets and turn the journey to and from work into a lottery. The closure of District Line services, and the shortage of rolling stock on other lines, has been a damning indictment of London Underground's cuts plans which has rammed home the consequences of ripping up the rule book on fleet maintenance."

Defend Your Reps!



On 5 November, **Eamonn Lynch** and RMT won an important Tribunal victory.

Bakerloo drivers' RMT health & safety rep Eamonn had a 15-year unblemished record and yet London Underground summarily dismissed him for making one mistake. RMT argued that the real reason LU sacked Eamonn was that he is an effective trade union safety rep. The Tribunal Judge agreed.

London Underground should now reverse its decision to sack Eamonn Lynch and reinstate him on Appeal. Even the judge said as much when making the order. If it does not, RMT will ballot Bakerloo line members for strike action.



On 27 October, a packed meeting kicked off the campaign to defend long standing RMT activist **Arwyn Thomas** from disciplinary charges following allegations made against him by strike breakers.

Morden driver Arwyn has been a NUR/RMT member for over 29 years, and has been a rep and a branch secretary. He has organised many successful campaigns against unfair dismissals of Northern Line train and station staff members.

The meeting agreed that RMT should organise action to defend Arwyn without delay. Both RMT branches on the Northern line have voted to hold a ballot for strike action.



Green Park stations group RMT rep **Peter Hartshorn** has come under attack by local management. He faces the trumped up allegation of swearing at a DSM, which could result in a CDI and possible dismissal. In reality, the only thing for which Peter is guilty is being an effective local rep prepared to defend his members and stand up to management bullying.

Both Piccadilly line RMT branches have voted to hold a strike ballot to defend Peter.

Join



- Get a form from your local RMT rep ■ Phone 0800-376-3706
- Join online: www.rmt.org.uk/join