



Dave Knight reinstated

Solidarity wins the day

**TOGETHER
WE ARE THE
UNION**



**Branch
Meeting**

**Thursday
3 February**

16.00hrs

**The Clachan
Kingly St,
2 minutes from
Oxford Circus
Station**

**Oxford Circus
Group
Representatives**

**AIF Theodore
Level 1 Rep**

**SS Picadilly Circus
07944 436212**

**Clive Protheroe
Health & Safety Rep**

**SA Picadilly Circus
07967 720556**

Oxford Circus SA, Dave Knight has sent a letter of thanks to all those on the group who have supported him during his campaign to win back his job. As you will know Dave was suspended and then sacked after an argument with a passenger who refused to buy a valid ticket. The combination of brilliant representation from the RMT and a hundred plus signatures on a petition from Oxford Circus group helped focus the minds of the managers doing Dave's appeal. Dave has yet to find out what station he will be working at in the future, but in the meantime Dave is having a well earned rest on full pay.

Sadly though there were some on the group who wished to see Dave sacked. Whether this was because they misunderstood the nature of the attack on Dave, or whether it was out of pure vindictiveness is hard to say, but some lessons need to be learned. If LUL had succeeded in sacking Dave it would have been a green light for management to treat us all like doormats.

Gateline staff are already three times more likely to be assaulted than the police and as the private contractors fail to get the Tube running properly so the level of abuse increases. The RMT understood this and the battle to save Dave's job was a battle to make the jobs of all station staff safer.

As for those who sympathised with Dave, but didn't think he had a

chance, well now you know the meaning of solidarity. The RMT defends all its members because the first rule of trade unionism is that an injury to one is an injury to all.

The year in review

2004 was a great year for the RMT, with victories both regionally and locally. After years of broken promises LUL management were forced to concede to our demand for a 35 hour week.

This deal, which has been endorsed by a massive yes vote by the membership will result in 52 days off a year for station staff and a reduction in the working week to 37.5 hours. Add to this an above inflation pay deal for 2004 and 2005 and it is clear that this victory, a result of our solid strike action in the summer, is a huge step forward for station staff.

Also this year the RMT successfully fought off government plans to water down the 1971 Fire Precautions Act, which would have seen London Underground stations lose their Section 12 status. Apart from putting the safety of passengers and staff in jeopardy, this dilution of safety law would have allowed LUL to get rid of up to 1,700 station jobs. Vigilance on the part of RMT's health & safety council and a campaign by the union's parliamentary group forced the government to back down, for the time being.

2 Oxo / Picc News

The union was also busy in 2004 defending its activists from attack. Not only did the RMT have to fight to defend Dave Knight, but the Bakerloo branch secretary, Brian Munro was also sacked, again for the heinous crime of arguing with someone. This time a scab on a picket line. However, when LUL management realised the level of anger that Brian's sacking had provoked an appeal was rapidly organised and Brian found himself reinstated within 41 hours of getting the sack.

So does all this mean that we can take it easy in 2005? Unfortunately no. Firstly, there is little doubt that the government will try again to attack health & safety law on the underground in the coming year. If the likes of Metronet and Tubelines are to make a profit then standards must fall. Secondly, having conceded a 35 hour week to station staff LUL management will try and salvage something from this defeat. RMT will fight to make sure that there are no redundancies in the ticket offices as a result of the 200 SAMF positions that are to go and we will also ensure that 'customer led rostering' does not lead to more unsociable hours or job loses for our members. However, the RMT can only fight if it has the membership to do so. The list of victories above and the battles to come should be reason enough to join the RMT, if we can achieve this with 80% membership, what could we do with 100% membership?

Local Issues

In February you're local RMT rep, Theo, will be having his regular level 1 meeting with management, this is an opportunity to raise issues that concern members on the Oxford Circus group. Amongst others, Theo is planning to raise the following issues. An increase to at least 3 weeks confirmed roster sheets, this will allow reserve staff to plan their lives a little more easily. The filling of part-time and full-time vacancies on the group. At present vacancies on the roster are unfilled because of the shorter working week, but staff could be allowed to permanently cover these positions until the new roster comes out. If you have any issues that you think should be raised speak to either of your RMT reps on the group, Industrial rep Alf Theodore or H&S rep Clive Protheroe.

Diary Dates

The Bakerloo Branch meets on the first Thursday of each month at 16:00 hours. Venue: Upstairs at the Clachan, Kingly Street. Nearest Tube - Oxford Circus.

Put these dates in your Diary:

February 3

March 3

April 7

May 5

June 2

July 7

August 4

September 1

October 6

November 3

December 1 (AGM)

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT NEED THE PROTECTION OF THE RMT...

If you are not a member join - for protection at work and for better terms and conditions. See your local reps

IF YOU NEED THE HELP OF THE UNION...

Contact your local rep or the Branch Secretary, Brian Munro on 07947 316259. The union also has a free phone help number: 0800 376 3706



