

# Bakerloo News



**Newsletter of the Bakerloo Branch**  
national union of rail, maritime and transport workers

**NOVEMBER 2008**

## Dude, where's our car?

Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of the Bakerloo Line pool car. Last seen in mid August being driven (badly) out of Premier

House by person or persons unknown. So far investigations have proved fruitless, so we are seeking help in tracking this motor down.

Have you seen this vehicle in the last 8 weeks? Has this car been parked on your street? Possibly in a lock up in NW London?

Any information received will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Keep em peeled!

## Government bails out the bosses What about the workers?



Capitalism is in crisis: world markets collapse, banks are part nationalised and the government bails out big business to the tune of billions of pounds. Naturally the talk in the mess room is "what's happening with the pay negotiations?"

It is entirely rational that workers on the tube want to safeguard our livelihood during this time. Many workers will be mortgaged up to the eyeballs and seeing their homes sink into negative equity on a daily basis.

But will London's tube workers be treated as favourably as London's bankers?

The double standards and hypocrisy from government and the bosses has

**BRANCH MEETING**  
**Thursday November 6**  
**16:00 hours**  
**THE CLACHAN**  
**Kingly Street**  
**near Oxford Circus**

shone through during the last few weeks.

When other industries and communities have looked to the government for help, the mining, steel or car industries for example, the working class has been told "the free market rules", "let the market decide"; "state intervention is a bad thing". Now the bosses who have been speculating, gambling and profiteering for decades are in trouble, suddenly state intervention is essential. In fact, the free market speculators have even sunk so low as to blame the current crisis on the lack of regulation. As the saying goes, you couldn't make this up.

It looks now that the Government will have the cheek to say that workers will have to "tighten our belts" to help pay for capitalism's crisis. Already Mandelson has announced plans to postpone the extension of flexible working rights for parents of children up to the age of 16.

If the Government has decided that Keynesian economics is the solution to the current mess, i.e. spend your way



London's bankers and speculators get some advice.

out of the crisis, then if it's good enough for the bosses, it's good enough for us.

As every London Underground worker knows we are due a pay rise from April 2009. The mood in the mess room is that we want our pay rise on or soon after the anniversary date, not 10 or 12 months later. And we want a substantial pay rise. And we don't want any politicking around the issue of the Olympics. And we want a one year deal.

The RMT will be submitting our written claim this month. We will be meeting London Underground in mid December. Get ready...

# Jerome Bowes dispute: the fight continues

## Bakerloo Branch nominates Steve Hedley for Regional Organiser



Support for Jerome during the strikes was fantastic

The battle for Jerome Bowes' job goes on, **writes Regional Organiser, Brian Whitehead.** The RMT is now taking Jerome's case to industrial tribunal. As you will remember Jerome was sus-

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ended and then sacked by LUL for defending himself against a drunk and violent member of the public who had already assaulted him. The support that Jerome has on the Charing Cross group was shown by the absolutely solid two days of strike action taken by all our station staff members on the group. He was also backed by TSSA members who respected the RMT picket line.

Management tore up the rulebook in their attempt to keep the stations on the Charing Cross group open during the strikes, bussing DSMs into the group who had never worked there before and had no idea what they were doing. Allowing these so called managers to do double shifts without a break and covering up serious safety issues that were the direct result of their incompetence. The union's health & safety reps are still trying to get to the bottom of an

incident where passengers were trapped in a lift at Elephant & Castle. The managers on site, it seems were too busy calculating their overtime payments to be worried about this life threatening situation.

Meanwhile, a ballot to bring out train operators was narrowly lost after a dirty tricks campaign was carried out at Elephant & Castle. During the ballot a fake RMT circular was distributed which contained stills from the CCTV footage of the incident involving Jerome and his assailant. The edited stills came with a running commentary claiming that Jerome had been the instigator of the assault. Worse still, some DMTs at Elephant have made the ridiculous claim that the circular was distributed by Bob Crow. This is a lie! This was clearly an attempt to influence the outcome of the RMT ballot.

A collective grievance to management has now been put in about these incidents and has made a request under the Freedom of Information Act to find out who had access to the CCTV stills file. So far management have stonewalled, claiming that such an investigation should wait until after Jerome's tribunal hearing. Let us be clear, all the incidents mentioned above will be investigated by the RMT and the union will not hesitate to pursue anyone

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involved in illegal activity against our members. Furthermore, none of this has deflected the union from the task of getting Jerome Bowes reinstated. The fight goes on!

In early November ballot papers will be dropping through letter boxes for the Election of a new Regional Organiser for the London Transport region. This is one of the most senior positions in the union for our region. It is essential that we elect the right candidate. The Bakerloo Branch, indeed the majority of branches across the region, have nominated Steve Hedley as our preferred candidate. However, our nomination alone will not be enough to get who we feel will be the right man for the right job elected. It is important that we all vote for Steve when the ballot papers arrive.

Steve is an honest, hard working, long standing activist for RMT. He won't let us down. A vote for Steve is a vote for a fighting, democratic union. Use your vote for Steve Hedley

## What's going on at Stonebridge?

It is being said that Booking Clerks at Stonebridge Park have been tipping out the first train (the 06:23 Mon - Sat) on their own. This is in breach of an agreement with the union. Meanwhile the staff who are supposed to tip out trains have still not been provided with wet weather clothing. At the same time when will management staff Stonebridge Park with SS's. Four positions, four vacancies. Get on with it.

**New rep for Wembley Group**  
The union is entitled to a second rep for station staff on the Wembley Central Group. We hope to elect the new rep at the November Branch meeting. If you are interested call the Branch Secretary.