

Bakerloo News

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Newsletter of the Bakerloo Branch

national union of rail, maritime and transport workers

FEBRUARY 2009

Bakerloo Branch goes online - register and log on to - www.rmtbakerloobranh.org.uk

Who said trade unions are throw backs to the 1970's? Who would dare say that Bakerloo reps are dinosaurs living in the past? At last the RMT Bakerloo Branch has

joined the 21st century! For up to date reports on health & safety matters, industrial issues affecting your workplace and downright piss taking irreverence

that drives management round the bend, register and log on to the branch website. Only RMT members have full access. So once the administrators have checked

your membership you can download the latest newsletters and find out what's really happening on the line. Be the first in the know. Book-mark the Branch's website.

Is the platform train interface safe on the Bakerloo Line?



Prior to OPO mirrors and monitors, the Guard was in charge of the platform train interface

The most dangerous place on London Underground is the platform, train, interface (PTI). LU top brass call it their "top risk event", that is, if there is going to

be an injury, accident or death it is going to happen at the PTI.

In the last two weeks an incident occurred which raises serious safety questions about the datum mark alignment system which is supposed to tell the driver that he or she has a full view of the train.

A driver reported that although the datum marks were fully aligned, he was unable to see a full set of double doors at the front of the train.

This raised real concerns as to the confidence drivers can place in the whole system of mirrors and monitors on the Bakerloo Line. As a result, the driver asked that all category A platforms be staffed and that all trains leave the station with 'assisted despatch' to ensure passengers safety as the train leaves the station. This was denied.

The driver had no option but to refuse to work under the grounds of health & safety until such time as management could provide a

safe system of work

Despite a DMT checking all relevant platforms and declaring it safe and sound, the Elephant & Castle health and safety rep has found 3 more stations where the equipment is also misaligned. Clearly this demonstrates a failure of the system.

RMT reps on the line have now secured a local investigation into the disturbing events that took place on Saturday February 7 at Piccadilly Circus, which resulted in the absolute loss of confidence in the OPO monitors.

The union reps will nail down the failings of the system and managements inadequate response to put safety first.

BRANCH MEETING

**Thursday March 5th
16:00 hours**

**THE CLACHAN
Kingly Street
near Oxford Circus**

The Grinch who stole Christmas dinner.



The Grinch. Any resemblance to Bakerloo manager's living or dead is purely coincidental.

Before the crimbo tree was decorated and the garlands hung, the spirit and goodwill of Xmas had been well and truly choked out of existence at Elephant & Castle.

In a turn of events even old Ebenezer would have balked at for its mean spiritedness, drivers at the Elephant were given vouchers for Christmas Dinner on the company at the South London House canteen.

Hurrah!

But the very next day, these were cruelly taken back with obscene haste. **Bah Humbug!**

Reasons given were the ubiquitous credit crunch, the recession, impending redundancies and other equally unrelated notions.

This is in spite of both depots on the line being high flyers in the attendance leagues, SPADS, staff errors and lateness all down.

Reasons to reward the diligence of the workers, you would have thought?

Not according to this shower.

To take away the tradition of a goodwill gesture is cheap and tawdry.

In the same month, that we the taxpayer had to bail out the banks to the tune of billions of pounds for bad

investments, risky ventures and plain bad judgement the hard working train operators at Elephant & Castle were slapped in the face.

The Bakerloo Branch's own particular favourite money making scheme of £25 on the 3rd fav at Kempton Park would appear to have more sound financial sense than these merchant bankers have displayed.

Make no mistake; all London Underground staff will have to put up with all sort of excuses not to get our just reward.

Our terms and conditions will be under threat as LUL seek to redress the imbalance this financial meltdown has caused to their accounts.

We all need to be aware that we will have to fight to defend jobs, hard fought for benefits of service and terms and conditions we now take for granted.

We are due our pay rise in April. Will LUL kill off the easter bunny and blame these hard times?

Don't rely on your rabbit's feet or the lucky white heather; it's no use looking up your star sign. For a secure future sign up to RMT.

Marylebone are you Green Park in disguise?

A number of referrals have come out of the Marylebone group recently regarding Breaches of the framework agreement. Some members of staff are being authorised overtime which doesn't adhere to LUL's policies. Staff are being allowed to work excessive double shifts in a 28 day period, too many consecutive days (up to 16 days straight!) and the management on the group are the ones authorising it, doing dodgy deals to

try and cover up their mistakes in the process!!!

Local industrial and Health and safety reps have raised the issues several times over the last few months but the practices have continued and so were left no option but to refer the matter up through the machinery.

The problems echo what was happening at Green Park recently and when it was addressed LU admitted that Breaches had occurred, but and I quote "didn't want to rake up the past and so lets draw a line under it and move on". Maybe this Union could use that excuse at the next Cdi's that come up and tell the member to say sorry but lets draw a line under it and move on! This is not acceptable and the issues are up for discussion at the next Functional council. Watch this space for the outcome.

Snow excuses - pay up!

London Undergrounds policy during the worst weather in London for 18 years has been shabby to say the least. While the radio and TV advised everyone not to travel and TfL cancelled the buses on safety grounds, LU then decided to penalise the staff who could not come to work.

So they stop people from getting in, then fine them! They really do care for us, don't they?

Some people will be paid for trying to come in, while others are having pay stopped or losing annual leave in the same circumstances. One manager even decided to stop someone's pay, then claimed that since her pay was stopped, she must have been absent, so that was clearly a disciplinary item. This particular case has now been sorted out, but the whole situation is a mess.

Management's policy is blatantly unfair and unjust. They appear to say that to be paid, staff had to do 'productive work', but also that if you tried to get in for productive work, that might be good enough.

At the end of the day LUL should pay everyone. Will you be paid or lose a day's leave if you couldn't get in? LUL are saying the final decision is with your manager, so make sure you formally request that this is paid. It is at his or her discretion - they should not blame anyone else. If you need advice on how to put in a grievance, contact your local rep.