

BakerlooNews

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

June 2009

Five years of nothing. No thanks. TIME TO STRIKE!

Here are the facts: London Underground's insulting pay offer will mean a fiver a week extra for CSA's and less than a tenner a week for everyone else - and that is before tax.

Then for the following 4 years, until 2015, you will be shackled to half of that. Are you prepared to accept this? The RMT membership have said no.

This offer from London Underground, while we break productivity records and they get the awards; while Howard Collins collects gongs for our hard work, sweat and professionalism, we are offered worthless pay rises, job losses and a regime of bullying and harassment.

Meanwhile management have blatantly attempted to interfere in the democratic process: firstly they question our ballot for strike action, the next thing we know Lance Ramsay was seen on the line for the first time ever. Managers were even instructed to question us on the decisions we took in our secret ballot. Gerry Duffy and his boss, Boris Johnson, must be desperate.

In all these years, the union has never seen management sink so low and interfere in our democratic

process so much.

Their bulletins also question the union's mandate for strike action! Ho ho. Well the last time we checked, a vote measuring 6 to 1 in favour of strike was a very clear mandate. We have had to vote twice, and twice we have delivered a very clear YES vote. Which part of "we don't accept their offer", dont they understand?

They also claim that we are acting prematurely in taking action: we submitted our pay claim last November, the pay rise was due in April, it is now June how long do we have to wait? Try telling the gas or the lecky people 2 months after the red reminder that they are being premature in their demands. Do London Underground want us to wait until next November for a settlement?

We have sat at the table, we have tried to negotiate, but they just are not interested. It's time to strike!

We have been told to tighten our belts due to a recession not of our making. Have you noticed how LU staff are the only people being told to lower their expectations? (see the box opposite). All this at a time when workers across the country

are gettinG honest pay rises for an honest days work. This at a time when bankers get billions for bail outs and MPs have their snouts in the trough.

Enough is enough, man the picket lines, tell them NO.

Other Workers Are Getting Pay Rises

Gerry Duffy says "RMT have made wholly unrealistic pay claims that ignore the current economic situation." Compare Gerry's 'offer' with these (most are 1-year deals, none is part of deal longer than 3 years):

- UK Coal: 5%**
- Trico Marine: 7.5%**
- Merseyrail Drivers: 4.55%**
- House of Commons staff: 4.5%**
- Britvic Soft Drinks: 4.5%**
- BAE Land Systems: 3.4%**
- Island Line: 4.8%**
- Barclays Bank: 5%**
- British Gas: 4.1%**
- BMW Oxford: 3.8%**
- ACAS: 3.75%**
- Arriva Trains Wales Drivers: 4.75%**
- Newhaven Ports: 4%**
- Maersk Offshore Deep Sea Ratings: 3%**
- Balfour Beatty Rail Plant: 3.7%**
- Balfour Beatty Rail Infrastructure Services: 3.7%**

Kevin Dobinson



WRONGFULLY SACKED

Train Operators on the line are all too aware of other drivers who have committed safety offences and are still driving trains on the Bakerloo Line.

On the whole of London Underground, 18 drivers in the last year had aggravated SPADS and are still driving trains.

Sacking Kevin in this way for a similar offence is wrong.

Underground bosses have gone too far this time.

Kevin put his hands up to his mistake and had mitigating circumstances to account for his error. Yet despite his good record, London Underground sacked him.

This is another example of bullying management.

All drivers need to support their workmate.

A petition is being circulated for all drivers to sign so that the strength of feeling on the Line can be shown. This will be handed to the Chair of the Appeals Panel.

Oliver New from the Executive of the union has agreed to represent Kevin at the Appeal.

SIGN THE PETITION TO RE-INSTATE KEVIN

Can you believe anything that management say?

LUL management issued the following bulletin on Thursday June 4th: "The RMT leadership has now agreed to enter discussions with us on pay as part of a London Underground Company Council meeting tomorrow to which all our Unions have been invited.

We welcome this change of heart and have always made clear that we're ready to meet with the RMT anytime, anywhere.

We remain committed to finding a fair resolution that means that our employees are not forced by the RMT leadership into a damaging and unnecessary strike that will only serve to lose our staff two days' pay and cause harm to the Underground and its customers."

You might describe this spin on events incredibly cheeky or you might call it outrageous lies from LU management.

Let's deal with Mr Duffy's misrepresentations - firstly, RMT has

never refused to take part in talks over this year's pay claim. By contrast, the union has consistently requested LUL to hold talks more frequently, and been met with stalling. For example on May 29th the RMT even went so far as to call for direct talks with Mayor Johnson to get out of this impasse.

Secondly, there is no sense in which RMT's leadership is "forcing" members to strike. By contrast, it was RMT members who requested the union to organise this industrial action, and who "forced" the union to call a strike by voting 6-1 for action!

More to the point, LUL management has forced us to take action by offering a real-terms 5-year pay cut, threatening compulsory redundancies and allowing managers to persecute staff.

So London Underground managers stop your lies and your spin and start negotiating with the RMT.

SAMF's under attack

It is of great concern that the number of individual SAMF's being sent to CDi for ticket office irregularities is growing ever larger with two already sacked this year.

Another 2 SAMF's recently got twelve month warnings and an SAMF at Elephant & Castle has recently been stood down pending investigations.

Despite there being a Debits and Credits procedure which should deal with these issues LUL are ignoring it and are sending the SAMF's straight to CDi's.

LU's banking procedures are seriously flawed and by their own figures are losing in excess of £800,000 per year through debits, but rather than sort out their incompetent system they are looking at scapegoats (namely our comrades) to take the blame.

Your reps are calling for a sys-

tem that allows SAMF's to account for their money properly and enable them to have proper 'individual accountability' instead of blind faith that the money they send off is right and not having any opportunity to put right some of the mistakes that can be rectified at the end of each shift (like you could under the old system).

JOIN THE PICKET LINES

The Branch will be picketing Elephant & Castle and Queens Park train depots. Contact your local rep for more information.