

BakerlooNews

www.rmtbakerloobranch.org.uk



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

May 2009

Tell them again. We are prepared to strike!

VOTE YES

Last month tube management succeeded in de-railing our democratic right to strike for better pay, against bullying and against compulsory redundancies.

Running off to the courts and threatening the union with legal action rather than negotiating with us shows their contempt for the

workforce.

General Secretary Bob Crow said "Our members are furious that a democratic vote for action just a month ago was sabotaged by a shameful legal challenge aimed at undermining the internal democracy of our trade union. Tube bosses have wasted time and money on

lawyers when they knew very well that RMT would never tolerate this attack on our members and our organisation. The re-ballot will give our members a chance to express the depth of their anger,"

London Underground thought that using Thatcher's anti trade union laws would suppress workers' anger - they got a nasty shock on the Victoria Line.

Train drivers on the Vic showed us all that solidarity and unity still exists with a 100% walk-out from members of RMT and ASLEF.

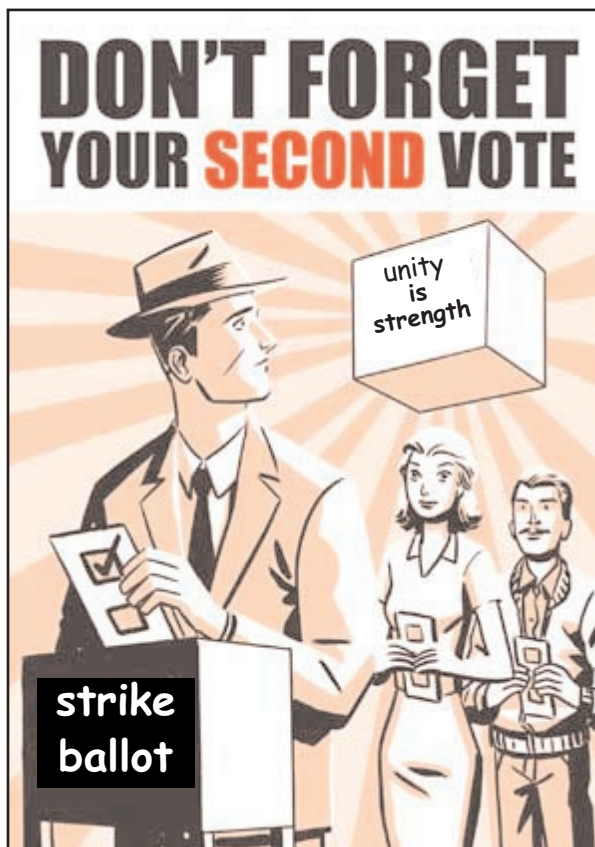
All 10,000 members of RMT on LUL and ex Metronet now have the chance to show the bosses again that their

pathetic (improved) 5 year pay insult is totally unacceptable.

Thanks to our hard work, LU was voted the 'Best Metro of the Year' earlier this year. LU's Chief Operating Officer, Howard Collins, accepted the award at a ceremony held at the start of April. If proof is needed to show how hard we have all worked to improve this company's performance and reputation, this is it. Surely we should be due some reward for these efforts? Not according to our bosses. Their response: to bask in the reflected glory of our achievements at awards ceremonies whilst giving us the two-fingered salute. Mr Collins takes an award with one hand whilst slapping us with the other. So you know what to do when you get your ballot paper: VOTE YES to fight for what we are due.

Last month's ballot gave an 80% majority for strike action. This time round we need to show the bosses that we are determined to win a substantial pay rise and bring an end to their bully boy tactics.

Ballot papers are to be returned by 28th of May. **Solidarity wins. Use your vote.**



Is this the worst management on the Bakerloo Line ever?



by **Oliver New, Council of Executives**



In mess rooms throughout the Bakerloo Line, people are asking - is this the worst management ever?

Some managers are OK but more and more seem to have lost interest in running a service and concentrate on 'macho management'. Is it coming from higher up? Either way we're not having it!

RMT members will be aware that part of our dispute with London Underground is about management bullying and failure to abide by procedures and agreements.

Hardly a day goes by without another horror story from Bakerloo management - one of the worst culprits of poor management on the combine.

One member of station staff who was off sick received 20 odd phone calls, 18 letters and a home visit over a period of 2 months. This is despite the member calling the DSM once a week as agreed and supplying regular updates from their medical specialist. Why are station management treating staff in this way? This is in breach of procedures.

There have been several members having their pay stopped as a tactic to get them back to work even before their doctor's certificate has expired. This is outrageous. Your pay can only be suspended if you actually fail to follow the attendance procedure, not at the whim of a GSM or TOM. Sick pay can only be withdrawn at a local disciplinary meeting when you are entitled to representation.

Harrassing sick staff into meetings and not allowing representation is just plain bullying. These people seem to have lost their compassion or understanding. This tactic is being used to bully staff back to work early and in some cases being used to harangue staff into kangaroo court disciplinary hearings.

On the trains' side a member who had treatment for cancer and as a result is going blind in one eye was withdrawn from a course which would have assisted with his future employment. Another driver who followed the drug and alcohol policy to the letter was sent home from work and told they had a choice of going sick, or taking a days leave or special leave unpaid. Meanwhile drivers have lost count on how many staff have been stood down at Queens Park depot. Two drivers have been sacked in as many months (members of our sister union) which is unprecedented.

If you have a grievance - management are abusing the process and deciding at which level the grievance will be heard.

The latest shameful abuse by management has been an attempt to victimise and shackle your reps. Brian Munro (industrial rep) and Jim Harrington (H & S rep) have been "called up" to see Stations Performance Manager Dave Proffit over alleged bullying of Bakerloo managers. There were no actual examples of any bullying supplied at the meeting. This is madness. And now Jim has had his email facilities stopped by Mr Proffit. This is in breach of the Health & Safety at Work Act and displays management's contempt for workers' rights. Brother Harrington is now consulting the union's legal team to defend the right of safety reps to have e-mail facilities.

They may face some stiff competition, but surely these are the worst managers we've ever had on the Bakerloo Line. We must stand up to these bullies. This ballot for industrial action is our opportunity to bring a stop to these abuses. Vote YES for respect at work.



Join our email list

For up to the minute information on your union, our campaigns and the latest on the pay talks join our email list.

Email bakerlooline@rmt.org.uk to receive bulletins, head office circulars and branch newsletters.

Also don't forget to register and log into the branch's website www.rmtbakerloobranh.org.uk

Fixed Links update

After months of quiet, drivers at both depots on the Bakerloo Line are finally getting to see the proposed fixed link rosters.

Copies of the proposed rosters are being distributed to all drivers prior to a ballot being held to decide whether the new rosters are wanted. The referendum which will take place in June will now be a postal ballot and secret, to ensure a fair process is adhered to. The ballot run by management will be overseen by reps from both RMT and ASLEF.

It was agreed that DMTs will not interfere in the process and will not express their views on the rosters.

The RMT Bakerloo branch has discussed the fixed links roster and believes that these rosters would not benefit the vast majority of drivers on the line. We urge our members to vote no when the ballot takes place.

BRANCH MEETING



16:00 hours
Thursday June 4th
Upstairs at The Clachan,
Kingly Street.
Oxford Circus