

BakerlooNews

www.rmtbakerloobranch.org.uk



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

October 2009

Reject the pay insult - Vote YES for action



After a mass meeting of reps, RMT is to reballot members on the dreadful 2 year pay offer made by LUL. The meeting agreed that issues over bullying and breaches of agreement had not been resolved and that a 1.5% rise this year and 0.5% on top of inflation next year was a slap in the face. A high turnout and a big yes vote will give RMT a fresh mandate to call more action and will send a message to management that they can stick their 2 year pay joke. So far RMT members have managed to get rid of LUL's outrageous 5 year pay insult and have successfully defended our 'jobs for life'

deal. Now the RMT is to escalate this dispute and force LUL to make us a sensible offer.

Anyone who watched the recent party conferences will realise that all three main parties are falling over themselves to make working people in this country pay for the greed and stupidity of the bankers. The sight of the Tory leadership whipping themselves into a frenzy of excitement over the cuts they will impose on public services was truly sickening. But make no mistake LUL management, will be at the front of the queue to do the governments bidding will slash jobs and services

regardless of the impact on staff and the travelling public. Remember how enthusiastic they were for PPP, even though they knew it would be a disaster and has proven so. And let's not forget Boris Johnson would love to do to us what Thatcher did to the miners.

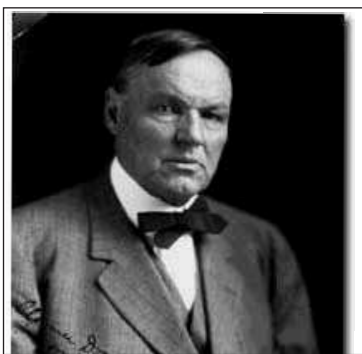
Meanwhile, the leadership of other organisations on the tube seem to be like rabbits caught in the headlights. TSSA have now accepted the pay deal, feeling that 20p a day for their members is more than enough. ASLEF on the other hand remain in dispute, however this seems to involve nothing more than telling their membership that they will keep them informed. Informed about what; the fact that they're terrified to ballot their members? Surely members of other organisations must agree with us that this offer is rubbish.

With the failure of leadership from the other lot everyone must get behind RMT's campaign for a proper pay rise. RMT members vote yes.

RMT: fighting for a decent pay rise

Quote of the month

“ With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in man, than any other association of men. ”



Clarence Darrow, lawyer

Get behind the postal workers!

With the Royal Mail announcing its plans to hire a scab workforce of 30,000 to crush the strike on the post, the Bakerloo Branch of the RMT is resolved to do our utmost to offer our solidarity.

In London 16 strikes involving 11,000 workers have been staged since June already. Now the Communication Workers Union has announced a nationwide walk-out by a mandate of 76% of its members who are protesting at the "imposition" of changes to working practices as well as cuts in their pay and job losses.

Deputy general secretary Dave Ward said: "This is a huge vote of no confidence in Royal Mail management. The company has tried to make out that problems only exist in some local offices, but postal workers across the UK have now spoken and they say no to Royal Mail's arrogance. "Royal Mail has never really been engaged in modernisation. They've been running down the business, running down services and cutting costs and it's that business plan that postal workers

have overwhelmingly rejected today. "We want reassurances on job security, covering both redundancies and full-time part-time ratios.

Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson have weighed in behind the Royal Mail bosses saying the postal workers have to modernise. But a postal worker told the real story when he wrote to the Independent newspaper, he said "Royal Mail figures in May had the mail volume down by 5.5 per cent over the preceding 12 months, and is predicted to fall by 10 per cent this year. Every postman knows these figures are false. How come I can't get my round done in under four hours any more? How come my knees nearly give way with the weight? How come something snapped in my back as I climbed out of the shower?"

The Bakerloo Branch will be showing our solidarity with the posties organising workplace collections and going on picket lines. Visit www.rmtbakerloobranh.org.uk for more details.

Don't bottle it take a PNR!



RMT reps have raised the issue with Bakerloo management of train drivers urinating in bottles and throwing them on the track. The union has a long standing agreement with LUL that drivers needing a toilet break should call for a personal needs relief (PNR) to use the the proper facilities.

While other workers can easily use the toilet in offices etc, train staff need to inform the line controller that they require a PNR at either Elephant & Castle, Queens Park, or Harrow and Wealdstone. Urinating on or near the track is a sure way of getting yourself electrocuted and your workmates shouldn't have to handle the TBC after you've taken a leak. The safety and hygiene issues here don't bear thinking about. RMT reps are concerned that there is a culture of drivers being too afraid to ask for a PNR on the Bakerloo line. To this end management have agreed to outline the PNR procedures in the November team talk.

Lift Training, Familiarisation and Re-Familiarisations

Lift training is a generic issue and can take place at selected stations. This is one off training and was (in the past) done as part of the station staff core training. Lift familiarisation and re-familiarisation, which is done after successfully completing the initial relevant training (taking into account the different types of lifts across the system and the particular lifts where you work), must be undertaken as soon as you move to a location with lifts and then (for traction lifts) every 6 months for Supervisors and 12 months for CSA's. Records must be kept detailing your familiarisations as well. This issue (for traction lifts) was recently clarified at Stations and Revenue Safety Council in that

'one off' lift training can take place at a suitable station but that lift familiarisation and re-familiarisation must be undertaken locally (i.e. site specific) as this met the ALARP principle (risks kept to a level as low as reasonably practicable) and was best practise. This means that if you work at a station with lifts then you must undergo familiarisation and re-familiarisation as described above on the specific lifts at that specific station. This applies to every single station you work at that has lifts as all stations have different characteristics. Any training and familiarisations must be facilitated by staff with the relevant qualifications.

Branch Meeting
Thursday November 5
16:00 Hours
Upstairs in the Clachan
Kingly Street
near Oxford Circus tube