

# JOB CUTS? NO WAY!

## Members vote to fight against job losses

**R**MT members working for LUL have voted by more than 3 to 1 to take strike action unless the company backs down from its plan to axe 800 operational jobs. There were 3727 votes cast with 2810 voting for action. This result demonstrates that members have not only understood the employment and safety issues around LUL's penny-pinching plans, but are also prepared to put up a fight to stop the nightmare becoming a reality. Our sister union, TSSA, has also voted by 3:1 to strike over the same issues.

### Rally against job cuts

A rally open to all members is to be held at Friend's Meeting House, opposite Euston station, on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August, starting at 1800 hrs. Amongst other speakers will be the General Secretaries of RMT and TSSA, Bob Crow and Gerry Docherty. The meeting will discuss the way forward in the dispute. Your input is welcome and you are urged to come

along and take part. You can keep up-to-date with the dispute by regularly checking the special section of the Regional website, here:

<http://www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/jobcuts2010>.

### Disaster averted

If any further proof was needed of the recklessness of LUL's

plans and of the need to stop them, it arrived in the form of two recent safety-critical incidents. At Euston station, a fire was started underneath an escalator but, thanks to poor maintenance by subcontractors, the fire detection system did not detect the smoke. A disaster of Kings Cross proportions was only averted by the vigilance of a member of staff and by the consequent safe evacuation carried out by the rest of the staff on duty. In LUL's brave new world, that staff member may have been queuing at a job centre rather than be on duty at Euston station to save the day.

### TfL bosses get rich while we face axe

With government and Mayoral backing, TfL is taking an axe to our jobs, our safety and our working conditions. But it's nice to know that there is at least one group of people within TfL who, not only are spared the axe, but are who are doing very well indeed. Transport Commissioner Peter Hendy is currently paid an eye watering £393,551 per year, Howard Collins picks up a tasty £219,728 and Gerry Duffy 'earns' £173,486. This is their reward for willingly carrying out the hatchet job required by their political masters.



An LUL manager demonstrates the new Company Plan

In a second incident at Oxford Circus station, a fire began in the booking office. Again, as at Euston, the fire detection system failed to do its job due to poor maintenance and it was down to the staff to carry out a safe evacuation. These two incidents alone show why we cannot allow LUL to cut staff levels to the bone. **WE MUST NEVER ALLOW ANOTHER KINGS CROSS.**

## **Trains maintenance to be halved**

In yet another cost-cutting attack, the company wants the train inspection regime to be cut in half. Trains are currently inspected every 14 days for damage, worn parts, and for anything which could compromise the safety of passengers and staff. LUL now wants the inspections to be every 28 days, no doubt as a precursor to further job cuts

amongst maintenance staff. This outrageous plan shows beyond doubt that cost-cutting is now the name of the game – the safety of staff and passengers is not even on the agenda. RMT fleet staff will soon be balloting for industrial action to resist this latest axe-swinging attempt by the company.

# **JOIN THE RESISTANCE TO THE GREAT ROBBERY!**

We are not alone when it comes to fighting back against the government's public sector axe men. Workers in other industries are also making it clear that they are not prepared to have their livelihoods taken away or their pay and pensions cut in order to pay back a debt caused by the bankers and their friends in government. Our solid vote for strike action means that we join a growing list of workers who say that we're just not having it:

- *Alstom Metro Trains, our colleagues who maintain trains on the Northern and Jubilee lines, have just voted by an 8 to 1 majority for strike action over a derisory pay offer;*
- **British Airways cabin crews, members of BASSA, have taken 22 days of strike action this year in their fight to defend jobs and working conditions;**
- *British Telecom staff, members of the CWU, forced their employer to sign a deal guaranteeing a pay rise of 3% a year for the next 3 years after threatening to take strike action;*
- **200,000 Civil servants belonging to the PCS, covering staff in job centres, county and crown courts, driving test centres, passport control, Revenue and Customs, and civilian staff working for the police and Houses of Parliament, all took 2 days of strike action in March over government attempts to tear up their redundancy agreement and make it cheap for the authorities to sack their staff. More action will follow as they, like us, try to stop the government's axe;**
- *Ground staff at the British Airports Authority (BAA), members of UNITE, have voted to strike over a derisory 1.5% pay offer and BAA's failure to abide by an agreement on bonuses.*

The RMT recognizes that all these disputes have the same root cause. Just as all grades on London Underground should support each other against a common threat, all unions should work together to fight off the government's plans to make ordinary working people pay for a crisis caused by wealthy individuals who appear to be untouchable. To this end, our union will be putting forward a motion at this year's Trades Union Congress seeking a strategy of united and co-ordinated industrial action by all the unions fighting against the attacks on their members' jobs and conditions. We are also calling for a coalition of unions and community groups to fight against government plans to slash funding of our public services, a mean and vicious policy which would hit the poorest hardest.

**(See page 3 for details of a lobby of the TUC to call for a national demonstration against the cuts)**

# Darrell Clark – case thrown out

You will all no doubt have been delighted to hear that the recent misconduct charge levelled at Darrell Clark, a driver at Arnos Grove depot, was rightly found not proven and subsequently thrown out at his CDI. However, that the matter ever arose in the first place is a cause for concern and raises a number of other issues which need to be examined and addressed.

## It's a Shaw thing

It is common knowledge at Arnos Grove that senior Piccadilly Line management had their grubby little hands all over this particular case. It is widely acknowledged within Ash House that the matter was being dealt with locally - as any routine SPAD should be - until an intervention from above. In our opinion their actions were clearly vengeful and vindictive and were borne out of a desire to exact retribution on the east end of the Piccadilly Line following the refusal to work by dozens of drivers during the recent Tubelines dispute where senior managers were threatening and trying to evict local representatives rather than dealing with genuine safety concerns. This Tubelines strike caused severe disruption to Piccadilly Line services for the best part of 48 hours. What they didn't bargain for was the anger their actions provoked and the determination of the RMT to fight this injustice and to ensure that there were no punitive measures imposed on

one of the depot's most easy going, hard working and popular members of staff. Management's antics are akin to the football job who likes to goad opposing fans from a safe distance but when it 'comes on top' they quickly and cowardly skulk away leaving others to fight their battles. The CDI panel agreed that the SPAD policy rather than the disciplinary policy should apply and took on board Darrell's excellent all-round record. Credit to them for not supporting a discredited attempt to punish Darrell.

## Rule by fear

Another issue which is relevant to this case (and others) is the disgraceful practice of ruling by fear that seems to be a tactic favoured by senior LUL managers at present. This is part of a wider campaign by management which is intended to undermine the agreed machinery as negotiated by your Union and to administer summary justice as and when they see fit, and it needs to be challenged now. At a time when all tube workers are providing increased levels of productivity by carrying the burden of line closures and upgrade work almost every weekend, month after month, year after year, their thanks is to send us to CDIs on trumped up charges or to be issued with threatening letters questioning our suitability for the role of train operator for even the most minor transgression. But if they

persist in backing us into a corner then the only thing we can do is to come out fighting. We didn't stand for their lies and coercion during the aforementioned Tubelines dispute so why should we put up with their threats and intimidation now?

## Ready to fight back

RMT members recently voted by a majority of 76% to take strike action on the issue of jobs and safety, and management's bully-boy tactics have ensured that when that action is called it will be solidly supported at Arnos Grove, irrespective of Trade Union affiliation. Time and again, Arnos Grove drivers have proved that when management raises the stakes we up the ante and this time will be no different. Management already has egg on its face following the outright rejection of the disciplinary brief in the case highlighted above, so what better way to follow this up than to stand shoulder to shoulder during any forthcoming industrial action to show that we are determined to fight for the right to work in a properly staffed and safe environment which ensures the well being of employees and passengers alike, and to show that we are not prepared to tolerate their dictatorial methods, especially on the issue of discipline. The disciplinary procedure should be used as a last resort and not as a hammer to hit us with.

***Unity is strength.***

# Around the branch...

At **Arnos Grove Depot**, there was a full debate concerning the fixed link roster which is due to be implemented in December. Local reps are to request a special consultation meeting with members to explain next steps.

There are ongoing problems with the introduction of the new 09 stock on the **Victoria line** with serious reliability issues and insufficient training being given to staff. The branch has instructed local safety reps to do a survey of members who have been trained on 09 stock to see if they are happy with it. Branch has also written in to head office asking for an amnesty for drivers involved in stock issues on 09 stock until it beds in.

On the **Blackhorse Road Group** there are ongoing issues at Highbury and Islington station with Railtrack improvements and confusion over areas of responsibility.

Management on the **Victoria Group** are continuing to ignore agreed procedures in their demented quest to discipline staff at every opportunity. Even staff who have been absent for reasons acceptable under the Attendance at Work Policy have received cautions.

**Brixton Group** is now short of both an Industrial and a Health and Safety rep following the resignations of Denis Hyde and Orville Thomas. The branch wishes to thank Denis and Orville for their work as reps on the Brixton Group.

James Masango, a driver at **Brixton depot**, remains out of work after his dismissal by the company. A collection amongst Victoria line drivers and members of our branch has raised £635 to help relieve his hardship. The branch has not given up hope of securing justice for James – his case will now be heard at an Employment Tribunal where he will be fully backed by our union.

## Obituary

### Stuart Carcary

Stuart Carcary, a CSA at Turnpike Lane and loyal RMT member, has died of a heart attack at the age of 45. His funeral took place on 1<sup>st</sup> July, the same day as our first branch meeting of that month. The branch honoured Stuart with a minute's silence at the meeting. He leaves behind his widow, Serena, who is expecting their baby in October. The branch agreed to do a fundraising event for her and baby at the AGM in November.

## VACANCIES

**Brixton Group**  
Industrial Rep  
Health and Safety Rep

Nominations to be taken to branch meeting on 9th September. For further information, contact Branch Secretary, Dean O'Hanlon

## Election to Council of Executives

The branch meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> September will be addressed by Janine Booth and Lewis Peacock, both of whom are standing for election to the RMT's Council of Executives as the London Transport Regional Council rep. The winner will replace Olly New, whose period of office is coming to an end.

# Cleaners win London Living Wage

After a long struggle waged by our RMT cleaner members, ISS have agreed to pay Tubelines cleaners the London Living Wage of £7.85 for cleaners and £9.51 for cleaning supervisors from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010. This now brings all cleaners on the Underground up to the London Living Wage.

This is a culmination of the industrial and political pressure we as a union have put on the employers, TfL and the Mayor. It is without doubt a historic victory for the cleaners and the RMT and shows what can be achieved when we stick together and fight for decent pay and working conditions.

*This victory for our cleaner members should serve as an inspiration to all other workers fighting for justice.*

## Join the lobby of the TUC General Council to call for a national demonstration against the cuts

12 noon, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September  
Manchester Central Convention Complex

Organized by the National Shop Stewards  
Network

[www.shopstewards.net](http://www.shopstewards.net)

## New RMT Social Networking Site

Are you into online social networking? If so, how about joining RMT's new networking site for RMT members only? Just go to:

[www.rmtjunction.org.uk](http://www.rmtjunction.org.uk)

## Branch seeks support of ASLEF colleagues

Recognising the gravity of this dispute with LUL, our branch recently wrote an open letter to all ASLEF members working at Arnos Grove, Seven Sisters and Brixton depots to explain why we were balloting for strike action and to seek their solidarity, should we be forced into taking action. Despite differences between the leaderships of our respective unions, we have enjoyed a reasonable relationship at grass roots level, which is where it really counts. We hope to build on that. After all, it won't matter what union you are in if the company is allowed to impose its draconian plans. To read the letter in full, go to:

[rmtlondoncalling.org.uk](http://rmtlondoncalling.org.uk)

You will find it under Finsbury Park branch.

## ***Next Branch Meetings***

*Twelve Pins Public House (near Finsbury Park Station)*

*Thursdays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September*

*Starting at 1600hrs*

# BRANCH SUPPORTS CUBAN CULTURAL EVENT

Following a motion passed at Branch the event below has been supported by branch. It reminds us that despite a harsh economic blockade by the United States the socialist economic model of Cuba endures and it reminds us that priorities in society are a political choice and are not inevitable as the endless mantra of the ConDemCuts government keep trying to persuade us. Feel free to drop in and find out more about Cuban Culture and by doing so support a progressive event.



Aida Bahr is a prize-winning writer of fiction, a literary critic and screenwriter from Cuba. She has been the director of the prestigious Oriente publishing house, based in Santiago de Cuba, since 1998.

A member of the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba, she is one of the organisers of the annual Havana International Book Fair.

## Aida Bahr, a leading figure in Cuban culture, to speak on CULTURE *and* the CUBAN REVOLUTION



Above: thousands of young literacy brigade volunteers join the 1961 "Rally of the Pencils" in Havana to celebrate the successful completion of the year-long campaign to teach almost one million peasants and workers to read and write.



Following a cutback and reorganisation of the sugar industry, 120,000 sugar workers look advantage of a government "study-as-work" programme, continuing to receive their old wages. Above, a pre-university class for workers at the Camilo Cienfuegos sugar complex in Havana province.



Massive queues for the Havana International Book Fair. The Fair attracts well over half a million people annually. It then travels to each of Cuba's fifteen provinces, ending in Santiago de Cuba, Oriente province.

The revolution doesn't tell you 'believe'!  
It tells you — 'read'!  
—Fidel Castro

**Saturday  
11 September  
Birkbeck College  
Room B36  
3pm  
Malet Street,  
London WC1 E7HX  
nearest tubes  
Goodge Street & Warren Street**

For further information, phone Jonathan Silverman on 07930-570667

### Meeting sponsored by:

**Bookshops:** Big Green Bookshop, Calder Bookshop, Centreprise, Clapham Books, Eastside Books, Herne Hill Books, New Beacon Books, Newham Bookshop, Pathfinder Books.

**Others:** Carlos Acosta, dancer and choreographer; James Kelman, novelist; Pauline Melville, writer; Margaret Busby, publisher; John Calder, publisher/bookseller; Dominic Dromgoole, artistic director Globe Theatre; Charles Dance, actor; Andy de la Tour, actor; Roger Lloyd Pack, actor; Harriet Walter, actor; Susan Wooldridge, actor and novelist; Judy Daish, literary agent; Caspar James, Culture Crossroads; Larry Herman, documentary photographer; Hilda Kaune, London librarian; Ruth Minott

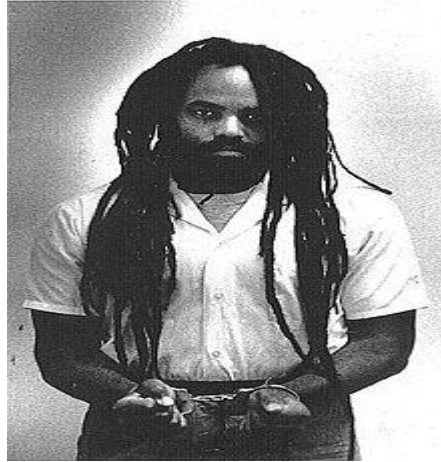
Egglestone and La Tasha Brown, Society of Caribbean Studies; Barry White, Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom; Doreen Weppeler-Grogan, PhD candidate in Cuban art; Jodi Thompson, student London Metropolitan University; John McDonnell, Labour Party MP; Jeremy Dear, General Secretary, National Union of Journalists; Gerry Morrissey, General Secretary of BECTU (Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph & Theatre Union); Paul Davies, Communist League; Yonatan Mosquera, Unison rep, East Wing Hospital; Dot Peterson, president Camden branch GMB; RMT Finsbury Park 0543 branch.

(Organisations for identification purposes only).

Meeting supported by  
Centre for Iberian and Latin American  
Visual Studies (CILAVS), Birkbeck



# **BRANCH HOSTS FILM NIGHT – MUMIA ABU JAMAL – IN PRISON MY WHOLE LIFE**



In line with the Branch's efforts to host guest speakers and stimulate debate on important issues of our time the branch had the honour of showing a film entitled "In Prison My Whole Life" and the director Marc Evans was in attendance and took questions from branch members after the showing.

The film is in the documentary style and tells the story of Mumia Abu Jamal a former Black Panther and at the time of his arrest a journalist who was working as a part time cab driver to make a living. He witnessed police questioning his brother and on some very dubious eye witness and forensic evidence he was convicted of the police officers murder by shooting. He was tried by a Judge who was a member of the "fraternal brotherhood of police officers" who prevented him representing himself when it looked like he was doing a good job. He was sentenced to death and has spent most of the time since his conviction in 1982 on death row. The case begs a number of questions of police brutality, a flawed legal system, race relations in the US and the political nature of his conviction bearing in mind his political activism. The film touched on this and many other subjects and is well worth a look and includes interviews with a range of people including rapper Snoop Dog. Mumia himself has spent most of his time on death row campaigning for a number of progressive causes and is famous for never discussing himself. His case is international news but despite this the US authorities have thus far refused a retrial. If you would like to find out more or get involved in the campaign for his release including signing an online petition contact [free2mumia@googlemail.com](mailto:free2mumia@googlemail.com) or visit [www.mumialegal.org](http://www.mumialegal.org). Look out for further details of forthcoming film shows and guest speakers coming to branch.

# NOT IN THE RMT? YOU NEED ITS PROTECTION AND ITS BENEFITS – JOIN NOW! COMPLETE AND GIVE THIS FORM TO A LOCAL RMT REPRESENTATIVE

**NATIONAL UNION OF RAIL, MARITIME & TRANSPORT WORKERS**  
*Daily House, 39 Chalfont Street, London NW1 1JD*



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP** – please complete your application along with either the attached Direct Debit or a separate payroll mandate form.

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS and block ink. \* Information that must be provided.

SEARCH NUMBER:

Minimum salary subject and valid to 2002

**1 PERSONAL DETAILS.**

Surname\*  Address\*   
 Forename(s)\*   
 Home phone   
 Mobile phone  Postcode   
 Email address   
 Date of Birth\* / /  National Insurance Number\*

**2 Your Employment.**

Employer\*  Location   
 Job Description\*  Part Time YES  NO

**3 Sex.**

Male  Female

**4 Ethnic Origin.**

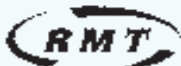
White  Black African  Black Caribbean  Black Other   
 Pakistani  Indian  Chinese  Bangladeshi  Irish  Other (please state)

**5 How do you wish to pay.**

Your Pay Number   
 Direct Debit [you must complete form below]  Payroll Deduction [see plate separate form\*]  I confirm my payroll mandate has been sent to my pay office.   
Please Inform HRM 202 270 to confirm your company after payroll starts

**6 I undertake to abide by the rules now in force or those that are adopted.**

Your signature  Date



## Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



Please fill in the whole form including official use box using a ball point pen and send to RMT, 39 Chalfont Street, London NW1 1JD

Originator's Identification Number

9  7  1  7  4  5

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

Reference Number

To: The Manager  Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Your National Insurance Number

FOR BANK OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your bank or building society.

Bank/Building Society account number

Branch Sort Code

Normally your payments are made once a month to RMT. If you prefer to pay 4 weekly instead please tick

Instructions to your bank or building society.

Please pay full Direct Debit for the amount detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards covered by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with RMT, if so, details will be passed voluntarily to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions from some types of account

This guarantee should be attached and retained by the Payer.

### The Direct Debit Guarantee



- This guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that take part in the Direct Debit Guarantee – it means that if you have a problem with your bank or building society
- If the amount to be paid on the payment date changes, RMT will notify you 10 working days in advance if your account being debited or no advance agreed
- If an error is made by RMT Credit Union Ltd or your bank or building society you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your bank of the amount paid
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your bank or building society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.