



SUPER STRIKE FLOORS LUL

Tuesday 7th September will go down in history as the day when RMT and TSSA members across London Underground stood shoulder to shoulder in the fight to save jobs, safety and working conditions. Support for the strike was truly superb with unprecedented numbers of stations forced to close. Management's usual trick of leaving open-section stations unstaffed and filling key section 12 stations with managers and office staff failed to disguise the rock solid support for the strike by members of both unions. On the trains side, with great support from the majority of ASLEF drivers, the company could muster no more than a dismal scab train service. Everyone who took part in the strike, and every

member of a different union who supported it by respecting our picket lines, should feel proud. A loud and clear message has been sent to the company and TfL:

- **STOP THE CUTS**
- **NO RELAXING OF SAFETY STANDARDS**
- **STOP THE ATTACKS ON WORKING CONDITIONS**



RMT and TSSA members united at Seven Sisters

Finsbury Park leads way

As one would expect, support for the action in our branch was second to none.

At **Seven Sisters** and **Brixton depots** the strike was well supported. The small number of RMT scabs who defected to ASLEF were vastly outnumbered by those who took action despite facing some financial hardship and by the many decent and principled ASLEF members who joined the strike and respected the picket lines. Leaflets were given out to passing members of the public explaining what the dispute is about, and were well received.

Support for the action was superb at **Arnos Grove depot** with only around 15 ASLEF members and a couple of non-

members crossing the well-attended picket lines at Arnos Grove and Cockfosters depot. When you consider that there are

270 drivers at Arnos Grove, the extent of support for the strike becomes clear. Most members, irrespective of union affiliation, have realized the importance of this dispute, and that is something we can be



Pickets out in force at Arnos Grove depot

pleased about – and something which will terrify a management hoping for disunity.

14 pickets throughout the day, and they reported that

the public were generally supportive.

Victoria station’s evacuation register mysteriously went missing, giving rise to the suspicion that the station

could have been open illegally. The local reps are now investigating.

Despite struggling to find sufficient pickets, staff on the **Brixton group** were also solid in

their support for the strike with only 6 people (one of whom was an RMT member) choosing to let down their colleagues by scabbing.

As always, members on the **Finsbury Park**

group were superb in their support, forcing

many stations to close throughout the day. Finsbury Park station could only be opened by a ragbag of managers and untrained office staff, and there are suspicions of numerous safety breaches having occurred as a result of management’s desperate attempt to keep stations open. These are now being investigated by local reps on the group.



United and strong at Finsbury Park

Supported by our TSSA colleagues, RMT station staff carried out the most solid display of industrial action ever. The slander that ‘station staff never come out’ has been well and truly put to bed after Tuesday’s excellent effort. On the **Victoria group**, only 6 people came in. There were between 8 and



United we stand - RMT and TSSA members picket Victoria station



Trapped! Two passengers imprisoned at Bounds Green station



I'm a passenger, get me out of here!

At **Bounds Green** station, he feared this situation would occur. The GSM two passengers were let off a scab train despite the

station being closed. They made their way to the ticket hall where they were spotted trying to find a way out. After being trapped for an hour, a CSA was sent to open

the gates and let them out. What is worse is that Finsbury Park RMT rep, Kevin Byrne, asked GSM Roger Carpenter to unchain the

closed stations on his group as

refused. So much for running a safe railway! Elsewhere within the branch, the picture was similar, with members of all unions staying out in support. In addition to the strike, an indefinite overtime ban has been brought in to put extra pressure on the company which we know is now relying on staff overtime to cover the many jobs it has deliberately left vacant. Bob Crow has written to every member explaining the importance of this action short of a strike. Please **DO NOT WORK OVERTIME** during the course of the ban. To do so is to undermine our efforts to protect jobs, safety and working conditions at this crucial time.

PUBLIC SUPPORT STRIKE

One of the pleasing aspects of the strike is the level of support for our action amongst the general public. It seems that we are getting our message across: **this dispute is about the safety of staff and customers**, as well as the quality of service we are able to provide. People do not want stations to become a mugger's paradise, nor are they thrilled by the prospect of another King's Cross fire. **A poll by LBC resulted in 74% support for our action and 80% believing that LUL's cuts are harming the service.**

OVERTIME BAN STARTS TO BITE

The overtime ban amongst RMT and TSSA members is already having an effect. On one day alone, Arsenal, Lambeth North, Regent's Park and the busy Liverpool Street were forced to close. Staff shortages elsewhere have caused other stations either to close or be staffed by managers. **It has also been reported that drivers on the Picc have been asked to work on stations to help keep them open during engineering works. As you might imagine, there were no takers!** The overtime ban exposes the staff shortages on stations which are the result of LUL's refusal to fill vacant posts. It also puts great pressure on the company to ditch the job cuts and properly staff our stations. Keep up the pressure – it's working!

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

800 jobs cuts – the tip of a large iceberg

In a week that sees the gathering of Unions across the country at the TUC, it is clear that the government is intent on savaging the public sector. With expected cuts in the transport budget of 25 - 40% to be announced next month, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to work out that the current proposed cull of 800 jobs is only the start of a wider attack on jobs across LUL and on your terms and conditions.

Put up or shut up

Faced with this there are only two choices, really. Either you shut up and take your lot, which means you could be on the dole within a year, or you put up and join in the struggle to defend jobs and safety on the Underground. Last week's strike shows that the RMT and TSSA message of defending jobs and safety has got through to

the majority of workers on LUL, but it seems there is still a minority happy to bury their heads in the sand and pretend it is not happening or it does not affect them. Our message to these workers is simple: **Are you happy to come to work and not only help management cut jobs, but actually put yourself in a position where your safety and those of yours passengers is in real danger.** The pictures of trapped passengers at Bounds Green on the strike day show this all too clearly.

Whose side are you on?

Are you on our side or are you on the side of a management team that has no respect for you, sends workers like Darrell Clarke to CDI (as reported in last month's edition) for no reason with a possibility of sacking him, who regularly harass staff who are sick, give maximum cautions for minor infringements and who generally treat their

workforce with contempt. If we lose this fight there will be no effective resistance left and you will be on your own to fight these onslaughts if, that is, you have a job at all.

Only unity can win

Our message to each and every Underground worker, regardless of union affiliation, is this: **let's stick together and fight the company's plans.** RMT and ASLEF have had differences in the past, but this is no time for dredging up old animosities; this is a time to come together and fight for the greater good of all our members. We in RMT hold out the hand of solidarity in the certain knowledge that only all workers and all Underground unions united can defeat management's plans. Disunity is a luxury we can no longer afford.

It is time for all railway workers to unite and fight.

UNITY WINS!

Next Branch Meetings

Twelve Pins Public House (near Finsbury Park Stn)

Thursdays 7th and 14th October at 1600hrs

Worse is still to come

Government wants 25 – 40% cuts in transport budget

RMT Regional Organiser, Steve Hedley, gave a report at our branch meeting in which he thanked everyone who had worked towards and taken part in Tuesday's 'tremendously successful' strike. Overall, throughout the combine, RMT had gained members as staff rallied to the joint RMT and TSSA call to fight back against the company's plans for an understaffed, unsafe Underground run on the cheap. Steve pointed out, however, that even worse cuts are in the pipeline. When questioned about this, TfL bosses have refused to deny that they have plans for further and deeper cuts to staffing levels.

Huge budget cuts

The governments' October spending review is expected to demand cuts to the transport budget of between 25 and 40%. Labour and Lib Dem members of the GLA recently put forward a motion opposing such swingeing cuts to the TfL budget. In an affront to democracy, the Tory group

simply walked out of the GLA meeting leaving it inquorate and unable to debate the motion. This shows you what kind of people we are up against; most of these Tories are wealthy enough to be untroubled by the cuts they are forcing upon everyone else. It also shows that the 800 jobs currently facing the axe are merely the thin edge of a huge wedge.

Cuts affecting other workers, too

Steve pointed out to the meeting that we are not alone in facing job losses and attacks to conditions of service. The **London Fire Brigade** has threatened to sack all firefighters and re-employ them on new contracts with inferior working conditions. Members of the Fire Brigades' Union are now balloting for strike action to stop this plan in its tracks.

The government has recently announced that it is to privatise the **Royal Mail**. Again, this will lead to a strike ballot amongst postal workers in the CWU

who have already faced repeated attacks on their pay and conditions over the last few years.

In **local government**, massive cuts to budgets mean that hundreds of thousands of public sector jobs could go. This will create levels of unemployment last seen under the Thatcher government and will cause a big reduction in the quantity and quality of our essential services. Public sector unions are waking up to the threat and will soon be mobilizing their members to resist the onslaught.

Let's fight back together

Our union is now working with others to try and get the Trades Union Congress (TUC) to lead a co-ordinated response to the cuts program. Just as we are achieving unity on the railway, so we need to build unity between the different unions. All our problems have the same root cause.

We need your ideas!

So the first strike day was a great success and the overtime ban is starting to bite. But we need your help to bring even more pressure to bear upon the company to help win this dispute. A discussion was had at the last branch meeting, and the following ideas emerged:

- No more goodwill
- Boycott the £5 minimum oyster top-up rule
- No more higher grade working
- Tell scabs that if they don't support their union then their union won't support them

Any more ideas? Speak to your local rep or come to a branch meeting. Branch meetings are open to all members and new attendees are always especially welcome.

Victoria Line new duty sheets not agreed by reps

Management on the Victorian line are at it again! New duty schedules for Seven Sisters and Brixton depots have been in their possession since 15th May, yet they waited until 19th August before allowing local reps to scrutinize them, and then only by email.

The new sheets also included the dreaded 5-rounder turns, but without the agreed means of covering them. Duty sheets are required to be displayed at least 28 days before implementation. The start date of these new sheets was to be 3rd October but, because of management's messing around, this cannot now happen.

THEREFORE WE INSTRUCT ALL RMT VICTORIA LINE DRIVERS TO REFUSE TO WORK THE NEW DUTY SHEETS UNLESS THEY ARE AGREED AND DISPLAYED 28 DAYS BEFORE, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Hardship Fund

The branch has recognized that there are a few members who struggle financially with the loss of a day's pay due to taking strike action. Sometimes it is possible to swap duties with someone better off who has a rest day. Because this is not always possible, the branch now has a fund from which payments may be made in cases of extreme hardship. The money in the fund comes from members' donations and, in particular, from branch officers and reps who donate a day's pay if they are resting or on annual leave during a strike day.

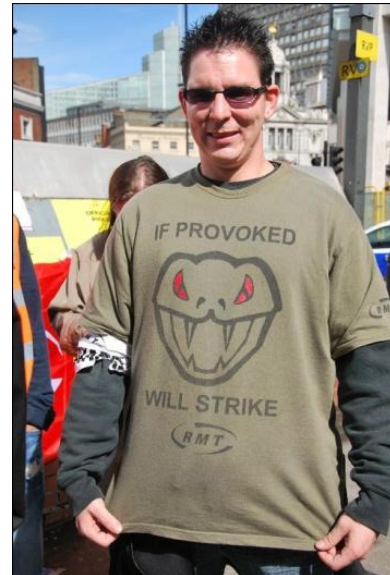
If you are in desperate financial straits, please speak first to your local rep who will help you to apply for a hardship payment

Jason Dew leaves LUL

Ex-Branch Secretary and Tier 2 Safety Rep, Jason Dew, has been medically retired by LUL. A long-time member of our branch, Jason worked on the Finsbury Park group of stations and was a Tier 1 Safety rep for the area.

Jason has been invited to our branch AGM in November where he will be honoured and given thanks for his many years of service to our union.

A DAY TO REMEMBER; THE STRIKE IN PICTURES



Clockwise from top left:

1. Safety first at Seven Sisters depot
2. Early morning picket at Cockfosters depot
3. Victoria group rep, Peter Basley, has been provoked!
4. Solid support for strike at Victoria
5. The new canteen at Seven Sisters!
6. Meal relief on the picket line
7. Branch Sec, Dean O'Hanlon, does the catering at Arnos Grove

Organised by RMT Learning with London Underground supported by TSSA and ASLEF

**COMPUTER TRAINING
at Maritime House
Old Town, Clapham
London SW4 0JW**



- FREE to All**
- Full tutor support**
- All union and non-union members WELCOME**
- Quality Training**
- Relaxed atmosphere**

Wednesday 22nd September 2010 - 12.00am – 3pm Drop-in anytime

Find out about the training sessionsAdvice and guidance.... One on one questions to the tutor

Wednesday 6th October 2010 - 1pm – 3pm

First steps in using a computerBasic terminology.....Starting programmes

Wednesday 13th October 2010 - 1pm – 3pm

Using Microsoft WORDWorking with files and text

Wednesday 20th October 2010 - 1pm – 3pm

Searching the World Wide Web.....Setting up an e-mail account.....sending and receiving e-mail

Wednesday 27th October 2010 - 1pm – 3pm

Using Microsoft EXCEL to help manage your household budget

Wednesday 3rd November 2010 - 1pm – 3pm

Using Microsoft POWERPOINT to create multimedia presentations

For more information contact Bjorn Bradshaw-Murray RMT Union Learning Rep

Mobile: 07951 724 271

E-mail: bjorn.bradshaw-murray@tfl.tube.gov.uk or

bjornbm@hotmail.com

