

DRIVER BEING SENT TO DISCIPLINARY HEARING FOR

Refusing to Read on the front of his train

A Train Driver who has worked on London Transport for over 30 years is facing the sack, after being sent to a Company Disciplinary Interview (CDI) because he refused to accept a letter while in charge of his train in passenger service.

Seven Sisters Driver Glenroy Watson who, on the 16th June has worked for London Transport for over 30 years, faces the prospect of losing his job because he refused to accept 3 letters, (one it later turned out was an instruction to attend a another Local Disciplinary Interview being handed to him in a public place in front of passengers).

The truth is, Glenroy requested the letters to be placed in his pigeon hole given he was on his way to book on at Northumberland Park Depot. Management insisted they were hand delivered. None of the letters were to be signed for, which is customary if letters are to be hand delivered and the contents of the letters could not be ascertained.

Unless management are putting in a bid for the postal service, these letters should have been placed in Glenroy's pigeon hole.

Instead, after his break management pursued him, letters in hand, in a manner reminiscent of a Benny Hill sketch. They chased him around on platforms 3, the chased him around on Platform 5; they made PA announcements and they even logged it in their log book. Management have been asked to provide evidence of this behaviour of delivering letters, making PA

announcements and the making of inappropriate log entries for anyone else – thus far they returned without anything. No surprise there – they can't do it, and did not do it to anyone else!

As everyone knows, a driver gets 7 minutes to read all their notices and documents when they book on. We do not read documents on the platforms or in front of passengers because this could interfere with our safety critical duty. Management's behaviour compromised and undermined the safety of staff and the travelling public by attempting to hand these letters to him on the platform in full view of passengers – TWICE!!

The next day Glenroy was requested to attend a 'fact-finding' and rightly asked for a rep. He was told, no reps allowed. Glenroy, a rep and activist of long standing, reminded management of the rules around fact-findings and found his own Rep so no time would be lost. Management refused and instructed he attend a fact-finding without a rep. Glenroy agreed to attend, with his Rep.

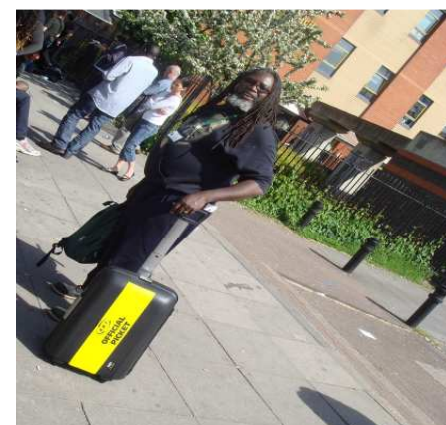
After being stood down and ordered off the site, Glenroy was brought in for another fact finding investigation with his Representative to answer questions as to why he would not attend a fact find without his Representative! Clear?

And for this, a stitch up if you ever saw one, Glenroy has now been told he will be sent to a CDI with the threat of losing his livelihood because of this incompetent management. Let's be clear: this isn't just about Glenroy, it's about us all. They want to make an example of Glenroy to discipline us all with the hope we will just cower to their demands across the combine. But the shoe's on the other foot. The

brilliant solidarity shown recently during the Victoria line strikes has got management running scared. Let's send out a clear message; any attack on Glenroy is an attack on us all.

THE FLYING PICKET

During the first set of strikes on the Victoria Line, management were misled into thinking that Branch Chair Glenroy Watson would not be on picket duties. Indeed they went around telling staff this, and it was true. He was at a UN World Conference against Racism. However; Glenroy flew back from Geneva in time to be on the 04:45hrs Picket line for the day's strike then returned to the conference the following day where he was to continue in his role.



Flying to Geneva, after Picket duties

UP COMING EVENTS RMT National AGM

28th - 4th July

July's Branch Meetings
Thursday 2nd and 9th

August
Thursday 6th and 13th

Finsbury Park
Branch



Monthly News

All grades united in one common object

Strike Campaign Special

ALL GRADES WITHIN THE RMT HOLDING THE LINE

SOLID

3rd and 4th

Despite Local management bravado and blusters, aided and abated by the rightwing media, Finsbury Park Branch members held up their responsibility and effectively shutdown our branch area.

With only 10/12 trains out of 37 – less than one third – running on the Victoria Line and 3/9 out of 78 on the Piccadilly Line branch members can be rightly proud of our work.

On the Victoria Line trains only ran between Seven Sisters and Victoria, while on the Piccadilly Line managers tried to pretend they were running a service, but in reality this was a shuttle between Arnos Grove and Cockfosters?!

SCAB Quiz

On Strike days at Seven Sisters management and scabs get a delivery of Pizza. Finsbury Park Branch are offering a prize for the best idea of "WHAT SORT OF TOPPING DO SCABS HAVE ON THEIR PIZZA" Text to 07535693770

The few who scabbed were doubled up with untrained office staff as there was no trip cock tester.



These staff had no idea what they were doing on the front, but were just told to "do as the Driver tells you." Most resented being put in a cab with a scab.

At Finsbury Park station, home of our Branch, we held a symbolic picket and handed out leaflets to passengers explaining why we were on strike and how they can help support our strike action.

Finsbury Park Branch Drivers on the Victoria line had already taken two days of strike action (Solid 1st and 2nd) and had led the way to the 3rd and 4th.

Our successful strike right across the combine has forced the bosses back to the negotiating table, after they had walked away thinking they had the Aslef (Asleep) Leadership in the guise of unknown Secretary 'K the man' Norm in their back pocket.

While their Leadership may have lost the trade union principles many rank and file Aslef members

NEVER ON OUR KNEES!

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REPORTS FROM AROUND THE BRANCH AREA



refused to cross our picket lines and stayed solid.

At **Seven Sisters**, in the run up to the 48 Hours, management continued to remove RMT notices off our notice board, so we walked behind, putting them back up.

Then they started putting up Aslef notices on the Aslef board. Aslef Reps had to follow them around taking them down while management put them back up. **You just could not make it up.**

Meanwhile, on the first day of the 48 Hours, still upset from not being allowed to build their wall to prevent us having our Barbeque, local managers were furious when it started to rain and they saw us putting up the RMT colours Marquee. The police just ignored their request to have us pull it down.

Blackhorse Road Group a few scabbing from Tssa but was not enough to keep any station North of Seven Sisters open. All Reps actively participated in picketing.

Victoria Group. Quite a bit of scabbing by Tssa members who also went out of their way to do overtime of RMT members work, in excessive hours. Names are being compiled, management kept on the run doing the work.

Brixton Group was solid, and this without any local or Safety Representative.

Arnos Grove Group member's shutdown Cockfosters, joined the picket line at Arnos Grove depot for most of the day, whilst also making sure the station was closed.

Arnos Grove Depot held a strong picket line on both days, with very few Aslef Drivers crossing the picket line. Some are now sucking up to management. Barbeques and Arnos Grove Pickets are one and the same, so while it has spread to the Victoria line and other picket line, Arnos Grove remains the only line with a menu. No wonder so many other unions were giving their support.

Finsbury Park Group (see page 1) had a number of stations closed.

Leicester Square Group, worrying amount of scabs going in during both days with TSSA doing overtime and working rest days

Green Park Group, high leave of scabs were expected but did not materialise as management hoped.



ALBERTO: *In Solidarity*

Solidarity from other works on our Picket line is always very welcome. All 4 days on the Victoria Line UNITE (T&G) Representative Alberto Durango was in attendance. He has recently been sacked from his job with a cleaning company in the city, because he came to the aid of other Workers sacked by Bank Schroder who worked for Mitie cleaning company, who also work on LUL. Alberto is 3rd from right below on the RMT's Picket Line.



“SCAB” By Vaughan Thomas Regional Council President

It's an emotive word.

Nevertheless, it is an important part of the lexicon of picketers and very effective when used properly! So what are scabs, what motivates them?

Some people join a militant union to gain effective representation - insurance if you like, but will come into work through self interest when their union calls a strike.

These are definitely scabs and whilst tarring and feathering may not necessarily be the solution neither are they worth wasting breath on.

Some people join a militant union in the full intention of supporting it but are intimidated and bullied by managers into coming into work. Whilst not inherently bad people, these are also scabs, but with a bit of work can be won around from the dark side. Some people choose to join a yellow union in the knowledge that they are unlikely to be called out on strike and that their local leaders will support them when they decide to come into work across RMT picket lines.

These are bad people and whilst they may technically claim not to be scabs, they are to all intents and purposes, scabs. Other people join a union in good faith believing that theirs is a principled organisation only to find themselves being instructed to cross picket lines. When confronted with fellow workers in dispute they will express solidarity, and in most cases join the picket line.

These are true trade unionists and should be cheered to the rafters. Hopefully, in time, they will see the error of their leader's ways, work to change it or join the RMT. Treat them as the comrades they are and hope that such principled behaviour is as infectious as swine flu.

The solution to “scabbery” is to lead by example; talk to your workmates, persuade them of the justness of our cause; be aware of their concerns and support them if they feel intimidated; explain that the RMT is by far the best union for transport workers and always have a membership form in your pocket. **Remember you can join at anytime.**

DEMO IN SUPPORT OF CLEANER

LONDON LIVING WAGE

Cleaners working on TUBELies have never received the London Living Wage (LLW) when it was £7.45, now that it's up to £7.60 it is clear that we have a further fight on our hands in order to make sure we win this for all our members. (Night) Mayor Boris Johnson has already been found out in a lie claiming that only 50 Workers are not getting the LLW. How many Cleaners does he think are working on the Jubilee, Piccadilly and Northern Lines? 50? Cleaner Grade Members are being called to get ready for another round of Campaign for Sick Pay, improved Holidays; an end to that nasty 3rd Party Action. **Members have an additional meeting last Friday each month along with their Branch Finsbury Park meetings to raise issues. Contact Secretary Clara 07951470130**



Seven Sisters Hardship Fund

Finsbury Park Branch has set up a Hardship fund in order to help Drivers at Seven Sisters. They have taken two more strike days than other Branch areas. The initiative came from members of the public who held a pre 48 hours supporters meeting at the 12 Pins and collected £120 at that meeting alone.

We will start at £50 with the amount going up to **£60** for those who attended the Picket line.

Payment will not be restricted to RMT members only, but to all Drivers who have fully supported the strike so far regardless of which Unions you are in.

It is up to each Driver to decide if she or he had suffered a **HARDSHIP** and wish to make a claim. The initial amount will be dependent on how many Drivers claim and how much we collect from each other and outside of our industry.

The fund is set up with 3 Trustees, Arnos Grove Driver and branch Vice Chair Frank Curtis, Driver @ Seven Sisters Julie Miller and Sacked Driver Carl Campbell. The role of the Trustee will be to verify each request and assist with handing out the funds. We have created special forms to capture this information which can be obtained from any Rep at Seven Sisters.

Why a Seven Sisters Hardship fund and not a Finsbury Park or RMT Hardship fund? We fully support the demand that the RMT set up a **STRIKE FUND** come hardship fund and hope the Leadership will do so. However, we will not wait on them to help our members when we can help ourselves.

Jamie Whitchell



Seven Sisters Driver **Jamie Whitchell**, standing to the right of Carl Campbell, who has attended all of the strike picket lines and continues to play an invaluable role in our picketing strategy, wishes to thank all Finsbury Park branch members and Officers for the effort put into getting a ballot around his case on the agenda.

His case, as many of you know, has been raised, dishonestly via media by Nightmayor Boris Johnson claiming that's what the last 48 Hour strike was about.

As you know, this was not true, but the RMT had raised his case as one of which should go to ACAS – where it is now - in order to expose LUL's dishonesty. As this is already the case and with the Branch and members strong feelings about the injustice known to management, it has been decided to allow the ACAS process to take precedent, at this time. This does not in any way remove our right to seek justice via the ballot box if this process breaks down.

Meanwhile **Carl Campbell's** Case remains outstanding and we are continuing to build the campaign into the next days of strike action along with the other 3 items. Members should ready themselves for action as management have shown that their dishonesty knows no bounds, with other wrong side openings coming to light since Carl's sacking and those Drivers rightly protected.

HOW YOU AND OTHERS CAN HELP MAKE THE NEXT STRIKES SUCCESSFUL

- 1) Contact the Reps for your working area.
- 2) If you do not live near a station in your area, then the Rep can also put you in contact with a station and Local RMT branch where you live.
- 3) If you have a car or other means of Transport you could help with getting pickets around.
- 4) Can you provided accommodation or a place to rest during the strike near a picket location
- 5) Do you have friends and family who would like to help by supporting the strike?

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:-
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