



London Transport Region

- August 2008

The Fightback Has Begun

Now we must co-ordinate the action

Come to the meeting:
19 August, 6.30pm

Friends House, Euston Road, opposite Euston station
Speakers: Bob Crow, and reps from all the disputes



Regional Council Secretary Steve Hedley joins RMT rep Jared Wood and striking staff on the Rickmansworth picket. Photo: Neil Hodgson

By Steve Hedley, RMT London Transport Regional Council Secretary

Massive congratulations are in order for the RMT members who have organised effective strike action recently.

Rickmansworth group station staff had a solid strike amongst members against compulsory transfers. Even TSSA members and non-members did not break the picket. Management had to resort to running trains through three unstaffed stations in a row saying that the new Rule Book does not specify the number of unstaffed stations that constitute a danger. The logical implication of this is that station staff are now not needed in order to run a safe service: *this stupidity affects us all.*

CBS Outdoor bill posters have had four days of rock-solid action at Blackhorse Road station depot over a final pay offer below the rate of inflation. Directors seemed close to tears when what amounted to a pay cut was rejected unanimously at mass meetings by the workers.

Charing Cross group staff stood their ground for a victimised colleague sacked for trying to stop an abusive drunk attacking him.

Cleaners have named new strike dates:

from 05:30 on Thursday 21 August until Saturday 23 at 05:29, to continue their battle for the promised London living wage, dignity at work and basic human rights.

TubeLines workers are currently balloting for strike action on pay. With skyrocketing price rises - gas up 40%, electric up 15%, food and petrol going up almost daily, workers can't afford to accept anything less than parity with their colleagues in Metronet who do the exact same jobs but for more money and enjoy the benefits of free travel and a TfL pension.

Waterloo group station staff are balloting on yet another sacking with a big yes vote expected from colleagues who know that they might well be next if they don't stick together.

We are in the face of a management onslaught where all our grades are experiencing management abuse of the attendance procedure. People are being harassed for going sick, with phone calls being made to them in their sickbeds demanding to know when they will return to work.

Drivers, station staff, engineers, controllers and cleaners are facing the same outright bullying right across our

region. This is not a series of unconnected events but clearly a strategy by management to reduce costs by intimidating the sick back to work. In one case, a manager sacked a member of staff after she had illnesses associated with pregnancy, incredibly justifying his actions by claiming that she might do it again! Many complaints of bullying and intimidation have been put in against the GSM on this group - he is an ex ASLEF rep whose name has become synonymous with outrageous treatment of staff. Needless to say, RMT is balloting **East Ham group staff** for action.

Meanwhile, RMT **drivers** are effectively being denied access to reps by LUL's refusal to recognise the vast increase in RMT's membership and allocate more reps accordingly.

To win these disputes, we must co-ordinate our action to cause the greatest possible impact. Management can cope with disputes in isolated areas but not a whole region acting together. As your regional secretary, I implore you to attend the meeting and help the RMT help you.

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Ticket Offices Saved: Victory Celebration Party

RMT & TSSA are having a joint victory party to celebrate our win in stopping ticket office closures: Thursday 28 August from 19:00hrs at Swinton's, 61 Swinton Street (near Kings Cross), with free drinks and buffet.

All members from both unions are welcome.

Details: Brenda Sutton 07828-290025 or Brian Haughian 07834-117509.



www.rmtplatform.org.uk/saveticketoffices

DLR Recruitment Day Success

On Thursday 31 July, RMT's Docklands Light Railway (DLR) branch held a recruitment day. Les Sime (branch chair) reports ...

First of all, we would like to thank the members of the regional council for attending our first ever recruitment day - Bros Hedley, O'Dowd, Hodgson, Rayfield and Pottage, and Sisters Siddall and Booth.

I have been chair for the last year, and in that time, we have managed to raise the profile of the RMT in our workplace, and this is now paying dividends in all aspects of our branch. Our aim now is to become regular attendees at the regional council meeting, and to help promote the RMT branches at their recruitment days and activities.

Our recruitment day was a great success, and we managed to enrol another 45 new members into the union by targeting the areas where membership was quite low. 92% of the entire workplace is now in the RMT.

Once again many thanks to everyone who attended, and the information we gathered that day will prove invaluable in the future.

Keep Tyne & Wear Metro Public

Believe it or not, the government wants the Tyne & Wear Metro (Underground) go down the same disastrous PPP route as London Underground.

Please support the campaign to keep Tyne & Wear Metro a wholly publicly owned company. Read and sign the 10 Downing Street petition here:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/TyneWearMetro>

What Next For Revenue Control?

After senior managers' cull of Duty Revenue Control Managers and Admin, what next for Revenue Control Inspectors?

Special meeting: Friday 22 August, 14:00hrs, RMT Head Office.

All members are invited to discuss the new set-up, tactics, future plans and internal RMT plans for RCIs.

More information from Ross Marshall, Health & Safety rep, BCV Revenue: 07789-652518.

www.rmtplatform.org.uk/revenuecontrol

Making Our Disputes More Effective

Supported RMT's campaigns and industrial action over recent years? Thought the union did some things OK but some things less well? Come to our conference on Friday 29 August in the King's Cross area to discuss with other union members how we can make current and future struggles more effective.

Details: Steve Hedley, Regional Council Secretary (contact details overleaf).

Know Your Rights: Medical Appointments

- a guide for London Underground staff

If you have a medical appointment, how should you and your manager deal with it?

- You are supposed to arrange the appointment outside your working hours if possible. But the company accepts that it is not always possible.
- If the appointment takes you out of only part of your shift, you should get paid special leave.
- If the appointment takes you out of your whole shift and you have not been able to arrange cover, you may have to take annual leave; if that's not possible (eg. if you have run out of annual leave entitlement), you should get paid special leave.
- This implies that if you are able to arrange cover, you should get paid special leave.
- If your medical condition is covered by the Disability Discrimination Act, management will still expect you to try to arrange appointments outside work time, but if that is not possible, then you must get paid special leave for the appointment, and will not have the absence counted as an item of non-attendance.
- LUL's policy refers only to annual leave and paid special leave, so they should not try to force you to take unpaid special leave.

If you have any questions, or if you think that management are infringing your rights, contact your RMT rep immediately.

More guides to your rights here:

www.rmtplatform.org.uk/rights

Join RMT

- Get an application form from your local RMT rep
- Phone the union on 0800-376-3706
- Join online:

www.rmt.org.uk/join