



Bakerloo news



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May 2019

Prepare to fight!

London Underground has responded to the RMT's demands on pay, terms, and conditions with a flat refusal.

Our employers have offered us a 2.5% pay rise, over one year, on the condition that we take all our other demands - around working hours, for example - off the table. This will not be happening.

The demand for a reduced working week is a key aspect of RMT's claim. A growing body of medical evidence now makes clear that the type of extreme shift working we do on London Underground is linked to numerous health problems and can even shorten life. Reducing the working



week, allowing more rest days, more days off after night shifts, and less extreme rotation between shifts, could be the difference between good and ill-health in retirement.

The company claims it would cost them £190 million to implement a 32-hour week. We believe this figure is inflated, but even if it's accurate, we don't accept that this demand is

"unaffordable" for LU. They lose £90 million per year in lost revenue; they wasted £16 million on the "Rostering and Coverage Tool" for stations, which was then scrapped. Top bosses like Director of Customer Services Brian Woodhead were given eye-watering pay rises of up to 74%. Millions has been wasted on the SSR signals upgrade, which LU has effectively ended up paying for twice. The huge operating surplus we generate for LU is currently being used to subsidise other parts of TfL, including privatised bus companies!

The withdrawal of the government subsidy does change the financial picture, and we should continue to demand the subsidy is reinstated. But we should not accept claims of poverty from a company run by fat-cat bosses with a culture of proligacy and waste.

Further talks between LU and the unions are scheduled, but the extreme likelihood is that we will be declaring an official dispute and beginning preparations for an all-grades ballot in the immediate future.

This means it's vital that your details, most importantly your home address, are up-to-date with the union. Check these with your local rep.

Prepare to fight for a decent pay rise and improved conditions!

Union campaign wins justice for Sophie

A disciplinary sanction against RMT member Sophie Kyei-Donkoh, a CSA at Piccadilly Circus, has been rescinded after a union campaign.

Sophie was issued with a 52-week warning by a Company Disciplinary Interview (CDI) panel. Her "crime"? Being abused by a member of the public, who happens to be a serial abuser of Piccadilly Circus staff, to such a degree that they've been cautioned by the British Transport Police.

In response to Sophie's CDI,

RMT Bakerloo passed a resolution to declare a dispute and ballot for industrial action should any sanction be issued. The solidarity Sophie's colleagues showed in being prepared to take action in her defence, and in prospective defence of any other fellow worker who might face a similar injustice in future, was essential to making the company see sense. Following an appeal, Sophie's warning was rescinded.

The lesson? An injury to one is an injury to all: unity is strength!

Defend train prep

Workers on LU Fleet have voted by a huge majority to take action the extension of train prep schedules beyond 24 hours.

Action, in the form of refusal to deliver or undertake training for work beyond substantive roles, has already been called from 2 May, with further action likely to follow.

On the Bakerloo, LU's plans mean that only 77 out of 244 of the checks currently performed 24 hourly would remain as such. 83 would move to a 96-hour frequency, with seven moving a 28-day frequency, and others being cut altogether.

This attack will not only affect fleet workers, but workers in all other grades.

Trains and stations members should prepare for the extension of the dispute against these cuts if fleet workers' action proves insufficient to force the company to climb down.

News round-up



South Group Stations

Reps are continuing to press management for responses to requests for additional staffing levels across the group.

These were presented as part of a BNS/staffing review, which management agreed to in response to RMT calling strikes in December 2018 and January 2019.

The ballot mandate for those strikes is still live. If management do not respond to the review, members should discuss naming further action.

Special Requirements Team

When Waterloo managers attempted to separate SRT staff from local staff by changing the messroom code, the SRT rep stepped in to challenge.

Local managers claimed they could not share the new passcode with SRT for "security reasons", but quickly backed down when SRT reps challenged this weak reasoning, highlighting the divisiveness of treating 200+ SRT staff as a "security concern".

Reps on the SRT are also challenging management over the fact that the early and late fixed links, despite being stipulated in the SRT framework, have disappeared from nomination forms, meaning no-one can nominate to be on them.

This breaches the framework, and RMT will challenge this at the highest possible level.

Centre Group Stations

The battle of Marylebone messroom continues, with local management ploughing ahead with plans to relocate staff to the dingy downstairs messroom.

Local reps are continuing to demand that existing custom and practise is continued, allowing staff to use the messroom in the former ticket office.

Cleaners: time to strike?

The Finsbury Park branch of the RMT has passed a resolution calling for a cleaners' strike, which has since been endorsed by the Regional Council.

Cleaner reps and activists in the branch want RMT to declare a dispute with ABM, and ballot all LU cleaners for strikes to demand free travel passes, company sick pay, improved holiday entitlement, and better pensions.

Bakerloo News asks cleaners on the Bakerloo Line: are you prepared to stand up and be counted by striking to demand

better rights? Since ABM took over the TfL/LU cleaning contracts, cleaners have continued to experience the exploitation, bullying, and harassment typical of all previous contractors. It's time to fight back.

As well as your monthly Bakerloo branch meeting, the London Transport Region Cleaning Grades Committee also meets on the first Monday of every month, 15:30 at Unity House (39 Chalton Street, NW1 1JD). Come along to have your say.

Your branch meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of every month, 16.00, upstairs at The Royal Exchange, 26 Sale Place, W2 1PU (Edgware Road H&C). All members welcome.

Bakerloo News is a monthly newsletter from the Bakerloo branch of the RMT union. To submit a story for *Bakerloo News*, or to contact the branch, please email jimmcdaid36@gmail.com, or ring Branch Secretary Jim McDaid on 07917 131692