

Bakerloo News Stations



Newsletter of the Station Grades Committee of the Bakerloo Branch
national union of rail, maritime and transport workers

August 2009

We need unity across all grades to win



All out on the stations

RMT is considering further strike action in our campaign to protect thousands of jobs, secure a proper pay rise for our members and end management bullying and harassment.

It is crucial for all grades on LUL that we win this dispute and make management stick to the agreements that they have signed. There have been suggestions by those who don't want to strike that this dispute has nothing to do with station staff and that it makes no difference if a few white collar workers lose their jobs. However, the agreement that gives these

employees protection from redundancy also protects us. Most of you will have seen a copy of the agreement that management are now renegeing on. It clearly shows there is an agreed process and offers of alternative employment.

But management are digging in their heels on this because they consciously want to undermine and attack our existing agreements and our ability to defend them. Whether this is coming from Tory Mayor Boris Johnson or as a result of the economic climate, or both, LUL management are out to do the collective strength of the union, the workers, ie us, in.

On the crucial issue of pay, management have refused to reward station staff for our hard work over the last year.

As you can see from "On the Move" our directors are happy to jet set to collect the gongs for our efforts but are loathe to offer a

proper pay settlement. Thanks

to RMT action we has succeeded in gaining an extra 1% and a two year offer instead of a five year deal. It would be nice to think that all we need to convince management of our case is a well presented argument. In fact management will only negotiate with the workers if we threaten to withdraw our labour. We have a new management, appointed by Boris Johnson that are out to break the union and tear up agreements, not just on redundancies, but also on tickets offices and pensions.

Everything we have on stations has been achieved thanks to a fighting trade union, the RMT. Health & safety rules, decent pay, annual leave entitlements, pensions and workplace rights. Support the RMT, back our campaign, respect picket lines and if you are not in the RMT, join now. Unity wins.



ALL GRADES UNITED

New attack on station jobs



The latest attack on station jobs is the management's attempt to drive customers away from ticket office windows and therefore do away with ticket office jobs.

Euston, Paddington, Brixton, Victoria and Kings Cross are the latest stations which are trialling the five pounds minimum top up of oyster cards.

Clearly it is in management's plan to reduce the number of transactions at ticket office windows in order to justify job cuts. This will not only mean the destruction of existing jobs, but will be a further block on the promotional prospects of CSAs, bearing in mind that LUL are not filling vacancies (over 150 unfilled jobs saving themselves over 4 million pounds per annum in wages).

We have already had to knock back a management proposal to advertise station supervisors jobs to holders of ticket office licences only. This of course makes nonsense of the management propaganda that all operational jobs are safe.

Meanwhile the fleet managers are preparing an all out assault on staffing levels by moving the goal posts in relation to maintenance of trains. This will be an attempt to reduce the frequency of maintenance in order to cut jobs and reduce their budget by 60 million in the next three years. Again these are all operational jobs

Ex-Silverlink: staff update

The recent Stations Functional Council discussed the outstanding issues from the transfer of ex Silverlink staff to London Underground. The following was noted:

- * Staff who failed the Station Supervisor application have been allowed to reapply - 31 of the 34 have done so. The applicants will have 'enhanced coaching'. The three parts of the application - written test, role play and interview - will have a full day each, with coaching prior to assessment.

- * However, RMT is concerned that these staff have received no development or coaching since their initial application in February, and one day's coaching may not make up for that.

- * Reps are currently being consulted about rosters.

- * Management say that the inclusion of rostered agency working in previous draft rosters was "a mistake".

- * A referral from Kew and

Gunnersbury saw union reps complaining that staff were being refused overtime because agency staff are used in preference. LUL argued that they had to do this under the terms of their contract with the agency, TrainPeople. RMT has insisted on receiving a copy of this contract.

- * As part of this referral, RMT also argued that reserve posts should be created as soon as possible, so as to remove the need for the use of agency staff altogether; and that the creation of a CSA reserve should not have to wait until the issue of Supervisors is resolved. After some discussion, management agreed to create the CSA reserve without further delay.

- * In a referral from Wembley Central group, reps complained about the lack of Supervisors at Stonebridge Park. Management stated that these Supervisor posts would be filled once Supervisors were appointed for the group.

SAMFs up against the wall

With London Underground's plan that every group should hold at least one vacancy of each grade, the Stations Functional Reps are extremely concerned about renewed attacks on ticket offices.

A large increase of SAMFs are being hauled in front of disciplinary for "unusual debits". This is because the banking system is badly flawed. Each individual is expected to have personal accountability for every transaction, but due to the blind accounting system the SAMFs have no idea what money they are putting into the safe for collection.

The union has raised this issue at Directors level and Penny Hazel's response was that an £800,000 a year loss was acceptable and was better than what LUL used to lose.

If the losses are acceptable then why take our members to disciplinary hearing for losses that should

have been dealt with under the debits and credits procedures. Another process management are ignoring. The union is collecting names for a collective grievance to highlight this problem and help defend our brothers and sisters jobs. Our union fights for all its members.

Stay informed

For up to the minute information on the dispute and all union matters log in and register to:

www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk
and the branch website:
www.rmtbakerloobranh.org.uk

Branch Meeting

Thursday September 3
16:00 Hours

Upstairs in the Clachan
Kingly Street
near Oxford Circus tube