

BakerlooNews

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

November 2010

Next strike day - November 3rd!

Together we will win!



RMT and TSSA members on the picket line. Elephant & Castle, 4 October 2010

The 2nd day of combine wide industrial action by RMT and TSSA members was a resounding success. Even the most begrudging naysayer would have to agree. By the morning peak on Monday 4th October even LU had to admit that the second day of strike action for jobs was having an even greater impact than the first. With most stations closed a skeleton service on some lines and no service at all on other lines. Management broke briefly from the habit of a lifetime and said that the

network was in chaos. This of course didn't stop them trying to run some trains putting both passengers and staff at risk. LU have the cheek to call our dispute political while they play Russian roulette with staff and passenger safety just so they can tell their friends at the Standard that they ran a service. Hypocritical and arrogant to the extreme.

Passengers were found wandering around Regents Park and Charing Cross station even though both sta-

tions were closed and unstaffed. Be sure that it would be the driver, having opened the doors and not the manager who decided to authorise this dangerous practice who would get the sack if there had been an accident. Technically this is considered a wrong side door opening, as there is no correct side at a closed station. Drivers should think twice before working in these degraded conditions: you are not immune from discipline because there is industrial action!

On the picket lines there was growing evidence that the strike was spreading with more picket lines across the combine, considerable picket lines at Elephant and Castle and Queen's Park, more Aslef drivers refusing to cross the picket lines and considerable numbers of Queen's Park and Elephant & Castle DMTs joining the dispute. At Queens Park, even refuse collectors and maintenance staff were turned back at Premier House gates. It's about all time that all drivers showed the same backbone and refuse to cross the lines.

There was also anger amongst some drivers who did come to work, with one Elephant & Castle driver saying that they had to drive for six

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hours before a break, they will not be coming in for the next strike.

Meanwhile, management have announced another 800 job loses in what they call 'support', services to you and me that's the people who process our wages, sort out our annual leave and oh yes, maintenance staff who check that the trains are safe to run. At the last count we were up against almost 2000 job cuts; this is despite LU keeping most of it's budget at the Chancellors spending review. More evidence, if any was required, that LU are hell bent on using the excuse about the recession to cut, slash and burn our hard fought for terms and conditions.

No grade is immune from this attack! Changes to pool driver requirements and axing of team talk will leave LU heavily over subscribed in driver numbers; there are also plans to slash IO numbers from 350 to 120 across the combine. Wake up, this dispute does affect you!

The next 24 hours of action starts on Tuesday 2nd of November and runs into Wednesday the third. All shifts booking on after 21.00 hrs on Tuesday should stay in the pub, take the family out for the day or join our picket lines.

Again we call on all Underground workers, regardless of union, to join us in this fight for jobs and safety. Don't put yourself or the passengers at risk by helping the bosses to run a dangerous service during next months strike, refuse to cross picket lines and let's show the management that we mean to win. Unlike the Government's hollow claims, we really are all in this together.

Branch Meeting
Thursday November 4th
16:00 Hours
Upstairs in the Clachan
Kingly Street
near Oxford Circus tube
All members
welcome

Council of Executive Elections Vote Janine Booth!

The Bakerloo Branch has nominated Janine for the Council of Executives and we urge all members to vote for sister Janine Booth. Activists and representatives explain why...

"I am giving my support to Janine's election as I feel that the constant and consistent hard work she has contributed to our union has been of great benefit. I am sure that she will bring a range of strengths to the Executive council in these very difficult times."

Jon Abdullah

Special Requirements Team

"With management on the offensive, we need an Executive member with passion, commitment and drive. That's why workers on London's underground should vote Janine no.1."

Brian Munro

Elephant & Castle depot drivers' rep
Secretary, Bakerloo branch

"Janine is getting my vote because she is 100% committed to the RMT. I have only been a rep for a few months and have called her a few times for advice: she is always there for you."

Carol Carroll

Wembley Central stations group rep

Are we employed by a fascist regime?

Management's latest Gestapo tactics during this dispute are clear evidence that they are running scared. So determined are they to suppress our democratic industrial action that they have sunk to new levels that would make Goebals blush.

Not content with sacking, disciplining and harassing our members during this dispute they have even started to issue circulars forbidding certain activities when we are not at work.

Diktats from Gerry Duffy via LU's email system and on the intranet have attempted to impose severe restrictions on reps movements.

Apparently we are not allowed to hand out leaflets to the public when we are not at work; we are not even allowed to visit FBU picket lines during their dispute. Correct us if we are wrong but is it not up to us to decide what we can do with our valuable time off or have the democratic norms of society suddenly changed where LU management are the state police? Do they have a list of preferential supermarkets or pubs that they would like us to use as well? Their attempts to control our movements during our time off is a clear breach of our civil liberties.

“As history teaches us, the only way to deal with bullies and fascists is to fight back.”



With drivers on the Bakerloo being sacked, Northern Line drivers up for disciplinary and Piccadilly Line station staff facing constant bullying and harassment it looks like more ballot papers will be landing on your door mats soon.

As history teaches us, the only way to deal with bullies and fascists is to fight back.