



Bakerloo news



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August 2022 - Strike Special

We strike again on 19 August



RMT will strike again on London Underground on 19 August.

As passenger numbers continue to rise, LU is pushing ahead with cuts on stations, with 600 jobs to go across the network. On our line, several stations are facing cuts (see over). Those job cuts could now spread to other areas, with Track and Signals and Fleet Maintenance workplaces now holding positions vacant.

Night Tube workers: support the strike!

This will be the first strike to involve Night Tube station staff since the service was launched.

With Night Tube jobs due to be cut at both Oxo and Picc, we urge all Night Tube workers to join the strike.

Striking is simple: just don't up for your shift! You don't have to inform your manager that you're striking.

All members are encouraged to join a picket line if possible - see over for details of our branch's picket line locations.

Our pensions remain under threat, with LU refusing to rule out accelerating pension reform as a condition of receiving further government funding.

As negotiations between TfL and the Department for Transport continue, our bosses are refusing to share the details of the government's funding offer with us, the people it will most affect. They claim they cannot share it because it is "market sensitive". But our right to know what might be in store for our jobs - and, indeed, the right of London's travelling public to know what could be in store for the services we provide - should be more important than "market sensitivity".

DEMOCRACY

It is an affront to democracy that unelected TfL bosses like Andy Byford and Andy Lord negotiate with unelected civil servants from the Department for Transport, while we, the workers whose jobs and conditions could be traded for funding, are kept in the dark.

TfL bosses tell us that striking "won't change anything", but if we don't strike, we can be absolutely certain that nothing will change and TfL/LU will push ahead with its cuts unopposed. To give ourselves any chance of forcing concessions, we must continue to take action.

See you on the picket lines!



RMT has launched a new dispute with ABM, whilst continuing to demand cleaning is brought in-house.

The demands of the new dispute are:

- £15/hour minimum wage
- Full contractual sick pay from day one
- Staff travel passes
- Improved pension arrangements
- A minimum staffing level

The union will be building towards a ballot for industrial action to pursue these demands. To launch the campaign, we're holding an event for cleaner reps and activists on **Thursday 25 August, from 11:00, at the Indian YMCA, Fitzroy Square, W1T 6AQ** (nearest Tube: Warren Street).

The Regional Council will cover loss-of-earnings for any rep/activist who takes unpaid leave to attend this meeting.

Join the fightback - justice for cleaners!

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

Organise against anti-strike threats

Prospective Prime Minister Liz Truss has announced a raft of new anti-strike laws she plans to introduce if elected. These include:

- Action within 30 days of taking office to introduce the “minimum service requirement” outlawing all-out strikes in certain sectors that the Tories pledged in their 2019 manifesto for transport – but extended to other sectors too.
- Doubling the minimum notice period for strikes from two to four weeks;
- Raising the threshold for strikes in certain “essential” sectors from 40% of the whole eligible membership voting to 50% and extending this to the whole economy;
- Some sort of “cooling off period” meaning unions cannot strike at will after a ballot mandate;
- Outlawing or restricting strike pay.

Effective workplace organisation and effective strikes are already heavily restricted in the UK, which has what Tony Blair once proudly called “the most restrictive union laws in the western world”. The government has also recently passed legislation making it legal for employers to hire agency staff to cover the work of strikers. Union general secretaries have spoken strongly about campaigns of resistance: those words must be turned into action.

Resist job cuts on Bakerloo stations

Under LU's proposed job cuts, Charing Cross is due to lose three full-time CSAs.

Oxford Circus is due to lose eight full-time CSAs and 11 part-time CSAs, including one Night Tube CSA. Piccadilly Circus is due to lose five full-time CSAs and four part-time CSAs, including one Night Tube CSA.

This is at a time when passenger levels, especially at weekends, are increasing. These cuts will make rosters worse, with all full-time CSA1 rosters across the group seeing a decrease in weekends off, and an increase in the number of instances where six or more days are worked consecutively. Piccadilly Circus will see an increase in extreme shifts, and Oxo and Pic will see an increase in split rest days.


The reduced numbers will also increase workload at key times, and

Mick Lynch has also rightly emphasised the extent to which Truss's plans are an attack on democracy. A society in which workers do not have freedom to organise and take action at work risks is, in effect, a dictatorship of the boss.

RMT's opposes all legal restrictions on the right to organise and strike. We also have AGM policy to organise a national demonstration on this issue, and will support and work with a variety of organisations (including Free Our Unions, the Institute for Employment Rights, and the Campaign for Trade Union Freedom) as part of the campaign.

We urge all members to take part in activities as part of this campaign.


• *Adapted from an article on freeourunions.org*



Free Our Unions organising meeting

7pm, Wednesday 17 August


Scan to join via Zoom



lead to an increased risk of station closures.

Reps will meet with management to provide feedback on 1 September. RMT will be submitting a “Failure to Agree” in response to the new rosters, but our immediate opportunity to register our opposition to them is via our strike on 19 August.

Jobs on Bakerloo North are also on the chopping block, with detrainment duties threatened.



SAVE LONDON'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT - RALLY

7pm, 31 August, Conway Hall WC1R 4RL

The Hot Strike Summer

Levels of strikes in the UK are at a five-year high, and set to rise.

Our 19 August strike sees us take action alongside London Overground workers and London United bus drivers in Unite, with RMT members on Network Rail and mainline Train Operating Companies striking on 18 and 20 August, alongside TSSA members at several TOCs. Aslef drivers at several TOCs are also striking on 13 August.

BT workers struck on 29 July and 1 August, and postal workers also have a mandate for strikes. Civil servants begin balloting from 26 September, with school workers in the NEU launching a consultative ballot from 24 September. Arriva bus drivers are also balloting.

Refuse workers in Coventry just won a 12.9% pay increase, and workers at four Amazon warehouses have launched wildcat (spontaneous) strikes to win higher pay.

The upsurge in workers' action is why Liz Truss and the Tories want to clamp down on strikes. They know that sustained action by workers could force concessions from employers and the state.

It's our class against theirs, let's keep up the fight!

Picket Lines for 19 August (all from 05:00)



Queen's Park Train Depot



Oxford Circus Station



Elephant and Castle Train Depot



RMT General Secretary Mick Lynch addresses the August branch meeting

RMT Bakerloo meets on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of every month, 16:00, at the Fountains Abbey, Praed Street, W2 1RL.

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

A Zoom option is available for meetings in September and November: speak to a rep for details.