



# Bakerloo news



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December 2019

## Drivers: vote yes for action! Fight to scrap WTT44!



**RMT Bakerloo Line drivers are balloting for industrial action to win a workable timetable. Ballot papers will be sent out from 2 December. Make sure your address is up-to-date with the union. Vote yes for strikes and action short of a strike!**

This timetable has resulted in Train Operators being disciplined for SPADS, forced to work compulsory overtime, and even being left unable to use the toilet.

Your reps and countless drivers on the line have repeatedly informed management of the issues with this timetable, all of which have fallen on deaf ears. Requests for formal meetings were denied. A meeting scheduled for 5 November was cancelled. The bosses seem to think there's no problem.

With Oxford Circus station full of stood down drivers, and based on your widely held frustrations, your reps gave management seven days to convene a meeting. At the same time, we convened one of our own – an emergency meeting of our RMT branch.

Drivers booking on have been met with managers trying to charm them, asking "the timetable isn't the bad, is it?" As you can imagine, most drivers have given them some choice responses.

When we finally met management to formally discuss the issue, they refused all our proposal for a suspension of disciplinary

sanctions; an emergency timetable; and a commitment to no compulsory overtime.

Shortly after, a fantastically well attended emergency branch meeting unanimously passed a motion calling for an industrial action ballot to win a decent timetable.

The present situation cannot continue. The vast majority of customers do not know what is going on, tempers are often at boiling point, and our staff are at the forefront of their anger. Coupled with short meal reliefs, SPAD traps, stepping forward at Elephant, no turnaround times, and an unhelpful unsympathetic management exasperating the situation we are left with no choice but to take industrial action.

## Breakdown of industrial relations at Queen's Park

**On 22 November your union had a local meeting with management in a bid to resolve 16 outstanding items and 11 new items in addition to our normal agenda of standing items such as depot facilities, etc.**

If you have been on the Bakerloo even a short time you will know that issues such as management harassing us whilst off sick, items being slipped into your holistic, and your privacy being breached just keep coming up. As much as it was nice to learn that we will be receiving new mouse mats in the computer room, it does not make up for management's inability to follow their own procedures and abide by agreements reached with your union.

Morale is at rock bottom. Victoria Line drivers already declared a breakdown in industrial relations and have balloted for strikes. Other lines are on the verge. There is a storm brewing.

Our local issues have been escalated to a senior level. We hope that action is taken to prevent reoccurrence of management failings, and an agreeable solution is found which will restore our faith and improve depot morale. If not, we will have to take action to make our voices heard.

## Cleaners fight continues

**ABM cleaners voted by a 98% majority for strikes, on a 48% turnout.**

Unfortunately the Tory anti-union laws, which require 50% turnouts in all ballots, meant we fell just 11 votes short of being able to call action.

These arbitrary thresholds do not apply to any other area of democratic life.

The union will learn lessons from this experience and renew our fight for justice for cleaners and against undemocratic anti-union legislation.

**The Regional Council is planning demonstrations and other actions as part of this ongoing campaign.**



# RMT Bakerloo: fighting for every member

**A Bakerloo train operator is finally back at work after surviving a gross misconduct charge at CDI for an incident which took place in June.**

Further charges of leaving a train unattended and failing to report an incident were thrown out by the CDI panel following strong RMT representation at the hearing. In consequence of this and his previous good record, the comrade received only a 52-week final warning backdated to June.

This is the fourth RMT driver at Queen's Park in the past two years to have faced a gross misconduct charge at CDI. All four remain in the grade as a result of their membership of our union. This is the kind of job where we can find ourselves in trouble at any time. And when we do, we need the best representation and support available - the RMT!

An Elephant & Castle Cleaner was also charged with gross misconduct by ABM in the summer. They attended a disciplinary hearing in July, accompanied by her RMT rep. They were issued with a written warning, which, following RMT representation at her appeal, was quashed leaving our member with a completely clean record.

**Another example of how it pays to be in the RMT!**

**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](mailto:jimmcdaid36@gmail.com), or ring Branch Secretary Jim McDaid on 07917 131692