



Bakerloo news



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January 2020

Tories plan new anti-strike laws:

Fight for free trade unions!



The Tory government elected on 12 December has announced plans to ban all-out strikes in the transport industry.

They plan to introduce new laws that would impose a “minimum service requirement” during transport strikes. Although the detail of how this would work has yet to be drawn up, in other countries where such laws exist, they usually mean that unions and employers agree between them that a certain number of workers will work through a strike to guarantee the minimum service level is met.

Britain already has what Tony Blair once proudly called “the most restrictive labour laws in Western Europe.” These new laws will make them more restrictive still. They remove our right to strike effectively. The whole labour movement, including the Labour Party, must resist their imposition.

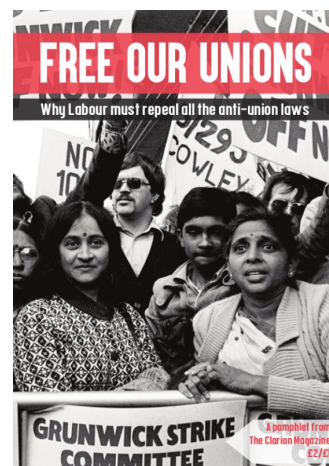
Although collective bargaining arrangements our unions have won mean that employers like London Underground have to consult and negotiate with unions over issues of pay and conditions, our bosses frequently act unilaterally, making up their mind about what they want to do and only “consulting” once their plans are already underway. Our only means to stop them from making cuts and restructures that will damage our working conditions is by taking action. Further restricting our

ability to do that means giving employers even more power to act unilaterally. It weights the scales of power in the workplace even further towards the boss.

RMT has already organised a protest outside Parliament in opposition to the new laws, and will be working with campaigns we support including Free Our Unions (bit.ly/Free-Our-Unions) and the Campaign for Trade Union Freedom (tradeunionfreedom.co.uk). Please see the websites of these campaigns for further information and resources for building resistance to new anti-union laws.

Workers’ right to organise trade unions and to withdraw our labour is essentially for any functioning democracy. The Tories’ plans to restrict these rights are a worrying indication of the authoritarian direction Johnson’s government could develop in.

Bakerloo News encourages all members to attend meetings and protests organised to oppose new anti-union laws.



Queens Park: here we go again

Management at Queens Park Depot are at it again. Bosses routinely disregard negotiated agreements in order to harass you whilst you are off work, or pressure you back to work before you are better.

We are told managers will be spoken to, and policies and agreements respected. Yet here we are again. Senior management need to get a grip of these cowboys. Or are they complicit in the harassment taking place at Queens Park?

Instead of harassing us, management should turn their energies to preventing enforced overtime and removing additional stress from operating with an unworkable timetable.

Ezra Christian, a member being sent to CDI, told management about the stress he was under prior to his incident; no support was given, he was sent to pick up and ensure that managers met their millage targets. These are the type of individuals operating here.

We have a breakdown of industrial relations at Queens Park Depot and a resounding mandate for action over the timetable. Management must act swiftly to resolve their failures.

No two-tier workforce in revenue

LU has held over 100 Revenue Control Inspector (RCI) positions vacant for over 10 years.

Now, instead of filling these positions, LU plans to create 60 positions in a new grade, Revenue Control Officer (RCO), paid almost £20,000 less than RCIs and trained and licensed to a lower standard.

RMT opposes the creation of a two-tier workforce, and demands LU immediately fill all RCI vacancies on current terms and conditions. We will ballot our RCI members for industrial action to resist a two-tier workforce.



RMT will be renewing our campaign for justice for our cleaner members in 2020. The union's Cleaning Grades Committee meets on the **FIRST MONDAY** of every month, 15:30 at Unity House (39 Chalton Street, NW1 1JD).

DRIVERS VOTE FOR STRIKES

Bakerloo Line train operators in the RMT have voted by a 95% majority for strikes to win a workable timetable, and by an 97% majority for industrial action short of strikes, on an 80% turnout.

Working Timetable 44/45 has led to worse working conditions for drivers, including turnaround times so tight that drivers don't have time for toilet breaks. Gaps between trains are also leading to overcrowding on platforms and more dangerous conditions for station staff.

Negotiations are due to continue early in 2020. After such a strong ballot result, management should be in no doubt that RMT drivers will strike if necessary.

Your branch meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month, 16:00, upstairs at the Fountains Abbey, 109 Praed Street, W2 1RL (nearest Tube: Paddington)

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