



Bakerloo news



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Resounding vote for action over Queen's Park job cuts

Stand firm in jobs fight



RMT drivers at Queen's Park delivered a resounding yes vote in our recent ballot for industrial action, voting by a 99% majority in favour of strikes in response to LU's job cuts plan.

This plan would literally decimate the driver workforce at the depot, increasing workload and worsening conditions for remaining drivers.

Despite our ballot result, LU has continued to stonewall union requests for negotiations over the issue. One has to ask - why? Could it be that they know they cannot justify the job cuts as they claim? Could it be

there is no paperwork to support these

cuts? Could it be that they know the new duties are a crock of shit, and they are too embarrassed to admit it? Whatever the reason, they have shown their true colours.

They don't care about drivers' working conditions, as long as the service runs and they can generate their revenue. A meeting for drivers' reps and activists on 4 May discussed our dispute. The meeting was resolved in its continued opposition to the company's cuts plan, and the detrimental effect it will have on remaining drivers. The consensus at the meeting was that sustained, cross-depot action is likely to be necessary to force meaningful concessions from the employer, and a decision was taken to build towards that rather than call token protest strikes immediately which the employer would likely be able to ride out.

Make sure your voice is heard in the ongoing discussions about how to develop the campaign. Speak to your reps, attend your branch.

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

Defend Night Tube jobs!

Although Night Tube does not (yet) run on the Bakerloo line, RMT Bakerloo organises NT station staff at Oxford Circus, Piccadilly Circus, and Charing Cross, so our members have a direct stake in the ongoing discussions about the future of NT.

With the service due to resume in 2022, LU wants to integrate the NT T/Op grade (TO23) into the full-time T/Op grade (TO21), offering existing TO21s a cash incentive to work night shifts.

Promotion into the TO23 grade is one of the main ways into the trains function for station staff, and the only way into the trains function for NT station staff who want to retain their NT hours. And, if LU gets away with integrating NT duties into full-time rosters on trains, it's likely they'll attempt the same thing on stations.

Unfortunately, Aslef has told LU it will accept the proposal. RMT continues to resist.

LU's proposed shift incentive amounts to around £60 per shift, after tax. But even if the company's cash bribe were much higher, it would still be unprincipled to sell off terms and conditions for cash.

Watch this space for more info on the fight to defend NT jobs.

Step up the pressure in cleaners' fight

RMT Bakerloo reaffirms the vital work done by Tube cleaners during the ongoing pandemic.

Due to outsourcing, they remain a "second-class" workforce across TfL/LU, with lower pay and worse conditions than directly-employed staff.

As we go to press, it looks certain Sadiq Khan will be returned as mayor of London. Khan's mayoral manifesto included statements about "making an assessment of" the possibility of extending travel passes to cleaners, and "looking into" in-housing cleaning and other services.

These statements are vague and easy to wriggle out of. Our union must maximise pressure on Khan to force him to go further and make concrete commitments.

The practise of outsourcing, by privatising and driving down the conditions of work done by predominantly BEM/migrant workforces, represents a form of systemic racial discrimination. We support the efforts currently being undertaken by the United Voices of the World union to pursue legal challenges over this issue and will discuss how we can emulate these in our own industry.

RMT Bakerloo will also support "Cleaners' United", a campaign coalition established by the Centre for Progressive Change, including cleaners' reps from the PCS union, IWGB, and other unions.

The campaign aims to network and amplify cleaners' struggles across unions and industries.

No rushed return to BAU!

From 17 May, a number of stations, including Oxford Circus, are likely to move away from permanent Sunday minimum numbers, and return to Monday-Friday minimums.

However, this does not necessarily mean a return to "Business As Usual" (BAU) working in terms of rosters, shift allocations, etc.

Covid rosters should remain in place, albeit with tweaks to duty times where necessary to ensure minimum numbers are met. These measures are not contingent on levels of passenger demand but are about maximising safety while public health guidance about social distancing remains in place. If the government's "roadmap" is followed and all social distancing restrictions are removed from 21 June, we expect to return to BAU working from that point. RMT will be fighting for some exceptions to this, such as SATS, which will we argue should only return on the

basis of local discretion.

If you have any concerns about workplace safety, or proposals for additional safety measures, speak to your local safety rep.

Defend detrainment duty times

SRT reps are working with Tier 2 safety reps and local reps from the Bakerloo North group to protect detrainment duties north of Queen's Park.

Management wants to adjust the times of these duties so SRT staff will work what are effectively dead early/dead late hours.

This would damage work/life balance. RMT will fight to protect duty times and defend conditions for our SRT members.

Longer term we will fight for the integration of these duties into local staffing establishments on the Bakerloo North group.

Oppose the Police Bill. Defend the right to protest!

The following is excerpted from a motion passed at the May branch meeting of RMT Bakerloo:

We oppose the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which threatens to gut the right to protest, including the rights of workers and unions; worsen an already draconian and repressive criminal justice system, which disproportionately targets Black people and other people of colour; and target Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

The Bill is part of a wider authoritarian-nationalist project, including plans for more anti-strike restrictions targeting transport workers ("minimum service laws"), persecution of migrants, and attempts to stifle discussion of left-wing ideas.

We note that there is yet to be a widespread labour movement and trade union mobilisation for "Kill the Bill" protests. This must be addressed, and the labour movement must actively throw its weight behind the movement.

We will:

- Sign and circulate the "Kill the Bill" statement initiated by Sisters Uncut.
- Circulate information about protests, mobilise people to attend and look for opportunities to organise protests.
- Invite speakers to a future meeting to discuss the mobilisations against the Bill, including a speaker from Free Our Unions, to discuss the Bill's specific impacts on workers' and unions' ability to take action.

BRANCH MEETINGS AT 16:00 ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, VIA ZOOM. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME. CONTACT YOUR REP FOR THE LINK.