

# JUSTICE FOR IAN STEWART

## Defend Ian Stewart, drop the charges now...

Why is London Underground sponsoring a complaint made by the owner of this offensive avatar that adorns the twitter account of the ludicrously named "busting4aslash"? Mr. Slash is a troll. Mr. Slash has an offensive avatar, that depicts what would be, if done in real life, a criminal offence, for sure.

Mr. Slash, or David, when he's not hiding behind silly names, is the epitome of a troll. The dictionary defines a troll as 'a person who sows discord on the internet by starting arguments or upsetting people by posting inflammatory, extraneous messages, with the deliberate intent of disrupting normal on-topic discussion'. However, Mr. Slash got upset when Ian called him a troll.

Mr. busting4aslash thinks it's funny to troll around stations, taking photos of LU staff, without their knowledge or their permission, who might be taking a break, or on meal relief, and repeatedly posting and then re-posting, their photo, on twitter with inflammatory remarks, calling for the staff to be sacked.

At the risk of stating the obvious, that's self-evidently harassment.

Mr. busting4aslash likes to hunt out what he thinks are twitter accounts linked to Tube workers, RMT members, TfL staff and troll their accounts. Each time he posts his rubbish he links it to union accounts, private accounts and suchlike, with the aim of picking a fight.



So why is Ian Stewart in trouble? Ian got fed up with being trolled. He got fed up with seeing LU staff slagged off, their photos put on the net, the simple points the unions were making about the Every Job

Matters campaign rubbished, and he told Mr. David busting4aslash that his avatar looks like a 'nonce looking over the toilet door'. Seems fair to us, but the twitter spat degenerated at this point and descended into name-calling.

But this is where the combative Mr. BustingOutInTears got all upset. Or at least he said he was upset. We suspect he actually likes this sort of stuff. He suddenly told Ian that he was going to tell 'Tracy, in the TfL press office' all about him. And so he did, which sort of indicates that the owner of this delightful avatar is a professional complainer.

Sadly, instead of LU telling Mr. busting4aslash to get a life, and not be so offensive, LU has sponsored his complaint.

More than that: LU is now attempting to throw the book at Ian. Like lots of union members/TU activists, Facebookers & twitterati, Ian had the RMT poster that says NO CUTS on his twitter page. Thousands of people use corruptions of the LU Roundel. The design was by RMT, not Ian. Ian merely used the RMT poster. LU has charged Ian with 'breach of intellectual copyright', which is as ridiculous as it is vindictive.

Ian has also been charged with misrepresenting LU and issuing deliberately false information. Ian never at any time passed himself off as an official spokesman for LU and merely said that he felt the proposed changes (EJM) would lead to unsafe and unstaffed stations. That is Ian's honestly-held view. LU can disagree if it wants, but it's not deliberately misleading. The Mayor of London said not long ago that he'd keep every station with a staffed ticket office - ask yourself if that's misleading.



Disgracefully, the CDI brief that has been prepared against Ian Stewart omits any reference to the offensive nature of the complainant's avatar. Imagine if an LU/TfL employee had such an avatar.

Ian is an RMT union rep at Earl's Ct depot, and has played an important role in the campaign to defend jobs, especially on stations, in the current dispute. The CDI brief, with its utterly ridiculous additional charges, is an attempt to silence a good union rep. Ian has already put his hands up and said it wasn't cool to be having a spat on twitter. He's been honest and it won't happen again. These are early days in the world of social media and a bit of perspective and a sense of proportion would come in handy here. Whether anyone other than Ian ever read the crap posted on Mr. Slash's twitter feed is debatable.

**RMT will defend Ian in any way necessary. The charges against him are unreasonable and LU should not be actively sponsoring a complainant who presents himself in such a way in public. Hands off Ian Stewart, Drop the charges now!**

