



# VOTE

## JOHN RUSSELL

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## **RUNNING FOR EDGWARE ROAD HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE**

Hi Everybody. Johnny Russell here. Just letting you all know that I will be running for the Health and Safety position at Edgware Road Train Crew Depot. The election will take place in November and you will have the option to vote online if you can't make it in person to the Branch AGM. There will be a 24 hour window in which to access the link sent to you via email. So please make sure your email address is up-to-date with the Branch.

Anyone who knows me is well aware that I am truly passionate about the RMT and have even earned the nickname amongst some in the mess room, 'Mr RMT'. I am currently the Branch's Assistant Secretary and have even chaired the branch during the last few meetings – something you know I've enjoyed as it gives me a platform to listen to my own voice.

I have been an RMT member since I joined LU in 2007. I attend the Branch regularly and thrive being involved with the issues we, the workers, continuously face. For a while now I've really wanted to be involved in the Health and Safety side of things. As an IO I'm required to have knowledge and a good understanding of many things relating to health and safety and I am particularly knowledgeable when it comes to the Rules and procedures. I am often approached by drivers seeking advice on driving procedures, the framework agreement or stock defects. In addition to this I have also participated in Line Route Risk Assessments, as the subject matter expert, working with Health and Safety reps across the line. This has given me a broader knowledge of the issues we face. The attacks we've seen on both station and train staff's conditions cements my belief that an industrial Union like the RMT can fight for all our benefit. It's particularly important for all of the Health and Safety reps from stations and the depots across the line to work together as one.

The upper levels of the RMT operational machinery are an important part of the fight ahead and having already started to do so I wish to carry on fostering closer relationships with Tier 2 reps and above in order to improve on providing the safest possible working conditions for our members. I can do this by being an effective conduit between us the members and the leadership.

I have also been using my spare time getting more familiar with the regulations and acts at a Health and Safety rep's disposal and the machinery by which we raise and resolve issues.

I'm very personable and well-known across the line. I love to talk to people in the mess rooms and corridors and even when I'm hanging round the desk. My colleagues deem me approachable enough to discuss issues pertaining to work or in some instances issues on a more personal level. Going forward as with everything I do, I will be 100% committed to the role should I be lucky enough to get it. I will always be present and available to the members as I thrive in being given new opportunities to learn and new challenges to face.

In the past I have never shied away from speaking out against health and safety issues; one such example being when IOs wanted sufficient training using Hammersmith sidings before being expected to train other drivers. I was the first to send an email to management expressing my concerns and expectations and then through collaboration with my IO colleagues we achieved our collective goal and received the training we required. I would love the opportunity now to really build for the future at our depot, and to be a leader when it comes to health and safety issues that we face going forward to help build a safer railway.

Anyway guys, as usual I've rambled on long enough... hopefully I can count on your vote in November to give me the opportunity, finally, to do something I'm really passionate about. Thank you.

### **Running for a reason for the best of ALL of us**