



London Calling

The Newsletter of the London transport Regional Council

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News & Views from RMT's London Transport Regional Council

WE WILL RESIST JOB CUTS

FIGHT FOR A FULLY FUNDED PUBLICLY OWNED UNDERGROUND

The Government's Austerity plans are coming to our workplace, Boris and his Tory cohorts at the Greater London Authority are lining up attacks on our pensions and our free travel arrangements.

These Ladies and Gentlemen, who are not known to turn down any perks or expenses themselves, want to attack our hard won rights for ourselves and our families.

Figures published in 'On The move' suggest that the Government is planning to cut TfL's grant by up to 50%. This is an insane policy. London Underground carries more passengers than the rest of the country's rail systems combined. 4 Million plus journeys per day are made on the tube and the figure is projected to go up to 5 Million by the end of the decade.

We can already see our bosses wringing their hands and saying there are no alternatives to cuts. There are now ludicrous suggestions to sell off station names to corporate brands to raise money. Will Canary Wharf, be tax avoidance Wharf?

The money is there to fully fund London Underground. The big companies whose staff use the Underground should pay a tax to subsidise the tube and other public services in the Capital. The Government, who can always find billions of pounds for unpopular and illegal wars, should stump up the money necessary to fund the Underground.

We will not pay for an economic crisis, caused by bankers, by accepting job losses, attacks on our pensions and benefits or a cut in our pay. We are accused of being overpaid, by politicians who fiddle their expenses and have allowed the big banks to carry on paying huge expenses to their top traders and executives. When the richest 1,000 people who have accumulated wealth of £404 billion chip in to bail out the economy then I may change my opinion, but it is more likely that a camel could pass through the eye of a needle than the super rich will pay their dues in tax.

Our real pay has fallen over the last 5 years, with inflation at 25% over that period. As a result the value of our pensions has also fallen.

The RMT stands for a publicly owned, subsidised Underground with cheap fares to allow workers,

pensioners and tourists to travel cheaply to work and play. We will raise this demand in opposition to government cuts and a tube starved of investment.

We will fight to maintain job security, pay, conditions and future promotion prospects for all grades.

John Reid. LTRC Secretary

Defend Clara Osagiede

Clara Osagiede, RMT Cleaners secretary on London Underground, faces an outrageous attempt to sack her.

Bosses at initial, part of the giant Rentokil-initial multinational, have dredged up accusations that were first presented 16 months ago and then shelved.



After a hearing into the claims in February last year, initial managers did not proceed with the disciplinary procedures and instead allowed Clara to take up full-time union work. Surely they would not have accepted this if they believed that the serious charges against her had any basis?

Clara has proved an excellent union official, taking difficult cases and winning sacked workers their jobs back. She has improved organisation and conditions among the cleaners and was recently re-elected to her post by an overwhelming majority. Could this be the reason why the charges have suddenly been resurrected? Clara was born and educated in Nigeria where she was a prominent student activist. After coming to Britain she threw herself into campaigning for her fellow workers and in 2007-8 achieved prominence as a leader of the battle for a living wage and for respect for cleaners on London Underground. She has continued to fight alongside cleaners. In 2012 she was awarded the migrant woman of the year in London.

Initial's attempt to remove this very effective rep has to be defeated. The whole of the RMT has to be mobilised in her defence and to demand that all the charges are dropped.





- ★ Stations & Revenue Functional Council
- ★ Stations & Revenue Health & Safety Council

Mobile Supervisors and ICSAs Signal the Start of Post-Olympic Cuts We Can and Will Defend Pay, Conditions & Job Security

London Underground is treating its staff with contempt. The company has let it be known that many station supervisors will be surplus to requirement if they succeed in establishing mobile supervision and doing away with night supervisors. Yet in spite of agreed structures in which new proposals should be discussed, known as as the machinery of negotiation, LU prefers to leak limited information through engagement events while refusing to discuss their plans with the unions.

A huge cut in the number of supervisors required would leave many supervisor members “over-establishment” and at the mercy of displacement. What does LU plan to do with these members? They will not say. What promotion prospects will remain for CSAs if there are so many over-establishment supervisors? Again, nothing from LU. Will CSAs be expected to take on the responsibilities of supervisors for no extra pay? We assume so.

RMT is demanding that the company comes clean about its plans and what impact they will have on the jobs and futures of members. We will fight proposals that result in overall job cuts or downgrading of work. RMT will fight to maintain a supervisor on every station. LU's own figures show that we are carrying more passengers and bringing in more revenue per employee than ever before. We have already delivered productivity gains and we will not accept a “reward” of job cuts.

LU is also refusing to negotiate with us over the use of “Incident CSAs” (ICSA). These are non-operational staff given two days training and an ICSA license. Management insist that an ICSA is licensed to carry out ALL of the duties of a fully trained CSA.

It is bad enough that management is building up a reserve station staff to use during industrial disputes or where they have cut established station staff so far that they cannot keep stations open. But if we allow a two day course to replace full CSA training then the door is wide open for agencies to provide staff on minimum wages to replace our current station grades.

These are LU's plans but there is nothing inevitable about them. We have resisted job cuts and attacks on our conditions before and we will do it again. We must defend both the conditions of existing staff and those who will work on our stations in the future. We will not accept a two tier workforce that drives a wedge between workers and tears apart the solidarity that has allowed us to defend ourselves in the past.

We remain in dispute with the company over ICSAs and we need reports from local reps and members about how ICSAs are being used. If you have any information about local deployment of ICSAs please provide the info to one of the SFC reps. We will pass on info to both the RMT Tier 2 (Health & Safety Reps) and John Leech (RMT Regional Organiser).

- ★ **A Supervisor on Every Station 24/7**
- ★ **No ICSAs on Paid Side of Gateline**
- ★ **For Safety, Job Security and Future Promotion Prospects**



RMT Trainpeople Members: Still Fighting for Justice

The RMT Council of Executives has asked the region to prepare membership info so that we are in a position to ballot members for action if LUL does not accept its responsibilities towards the trainpeople members who have worked as CSAs, SAMFs and Supervisors for several years. Trainpeople members will be visiting branches over the next few weeks.

APPEAL: FIGHT FOR BRIAN MUNRO'S LIFE!

Brian Munro is 44. He lives with his partner Lucy and their two children, Isobel (10) and Brenna (7). Last



July Brian was diagnosed with Ocular Melanoma metastasis to his liver.

A cutting edge treatment is available at Christie's Hospital in Manchester that can prolong Brian Munro's life. We need your help to do that. Brian Munro was first diagnosed with Ocular Melanoma (an extremely rare eye cancer) in December 2007. Since then Brian and his family have tried to live their lives as normally as possible. But in July 2012 Brian's family and friends were shocked to learn that he had developed Ocular Melanoma metastasis to his liver. He was told that as the cancer had spread from his eye, the condition was now incurable and he might only have a few months to live.

With the support and advice of Ocumel UK, a charity which represents people suffering with ocular melanoma, Brian sought out treatments to prolong his life and to fight the cancer.

Adoptive Lymphocyte Transfer is at the cutting edge of science making the body itself immune to cancer. Immune therapy involves harnessing the bodies own ability to fight cancer. This new treatment at Christie's uses the so-called killer T cells that can attack and kill cancer cells. These killer T-cells are in the body's front line of immune defences. The doctor's at Christie's have found that they can take killer T-cells from a patient's own tumour, and grow these in a laboratory to form a colony of millions - an attacking army of killer T-cells can then be safely re-injected into the patient.

Unfortunately this treatment is not available on the NHS at the moment. But Brian does not have the time to wait for this breakthrough treatment to become available routinely and needs your help to raise the funds to prolong his life. We hope that if the funds are raised and this treatment is beneficial it will make a case for NHS funding and a real difference to people, like Brian who have this rare and deadly cancer.

Brian Munro is a lifelong socialist and trade unionist. A Branch Secretary and representative for the Bakerloo Branch of the RMT for nearly 20 years, Brian has fought for working class people all his life.

Please make a donation to the fund using the PayPal account link on the London Calling website. You can also download a collection sheet for raising funds in the workplace.

Statement from RMT LT Region on Arson Attack against Islamic centre.

Today's attack on the Islamic centre in Muswell Hill was a barbaric act calculated to whip up division in the community. The London Transport Region of the RMT wholeheartedly condemns the attack on the centre and offers its full solidarity and support to the community which it serves. We call upon the trade union movement in London to lead a campaign of support and solidarity with the local Muslim community.

Reports that the letters 'EDL' were scrawled on the walls of the mosque indicate this was a racist attack intended to strike fear into the heart of the local Muslim community. This attack is the latest, and most serious, in a string of attacks on Muslims, their property and their places of worship following the horrific killing of Lee Rigby.

Along with the vast majority of people in society, including Muslims, RMT condemns the killing of Lee Rigby. Groups like the EDL and the BNP have tried to use the shock caused by the killing as an excuse to whip up hatred against Muslims. Although it is still unclear who exactly carried out this attack, there can be no doubt that groups like the EDL create the climate that encourages these attacks to happen. Asked to comment on the attack one EDL member said "I don't condemn this."

Racist organisations like the EDL are trying to feed off the desperate conditions of poverty and hopelessness that exist in parts of Breadline Britain. When food banks can't keep up with demand, when there's a shortage of decent homes and jobs for our youngsters, then the EDL's racist lies can seem to provide easy answers.

But EDL hatred provides no way forward. In fact their divisive racism can only set back the struggle against poverty. Racism weakens the force in society that has the potential to defeat government cuts - the power that comes from a united struggle of working people, of all backgrounds.

That's why the RMT, along with other trade unions, organises to oppose the EDL but also to build united action to oppose privatisation and cuts to schools, hospitals and their public services.

In Lewisham the BNP attempted to march on the local mosque but were prevented in part by the actions of a joint campaign between the local community and Lewisham NUT. We believe a similar response is needed from the trade union movement in response to this attack. The RMT has a long tradition in fighting racism and fascism. The trade union movement cannot allow one section of the working class to be isolated and attacked.

We stand ready to offer our full support. We won't allow racism to divide the community.
UNITY IS STRENGTH

John Reid

RMT London Transport Regional Council Secretary



Lobby Against Taxi De-Regulation



From RMT General Secretary
Bob Crow

The Law Commission is currently reviewing all legislation relating to taxi and private hire vehicles. Whilst this review, which officials claim is designed to simplify the legislation,

could potentially deregulate the industry and as such is a threat to members' livelihoods, it also presents us with a number of opportunities.

RMT is participating in a lobby of Parliament in order to ensure that MPs are aware of our views on any changes to legislation. This lobby is a joint lobby with both Unite and the GMB.

The rally will take place in Committee Room 10 from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesday 2nd July. In order to lobby your MP please arrive at 1.30pm.

Tubelines Pension Dispute Continues

The RMT Council of Executives

recently took the following decision:

"We note the report from our lead officer, recommending industrial action in pursuit of this dispute. We instruct the General Secretary to arrange a meeting of our Tube Lines representatives as soon as is practical to discuss what form this action should take and to place a report in front of us.

London Transport Regional Council, branches and Tube Lines representatives to be advised.



Save Whitechapel Ticket office

Please take a few seconds to add your name to the petition to stop the closure of Whitechapel ticket office:

<https://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/london-underground-limited-stop-t...>

With Crossrail coming to London next year, Whitechapel Underground station is undergoing a huge refurbishment, which will see the station serving thousands more customers each year. However, London Underground has announced that the completed station will have no ticket office.

Every click on this online campaign generates an e-

mail to LUL Managing Director Mike Brown and will help us defend all ticket offices and SAMF jobs on London Underground. Please share this with everyone you know and encourage them to sign too!

PRIDE 2013 - 29 June

Join other activists and let's make RMT presence on the Pride march bigger than ever!



We will be marching alongside the TUC contingent near the front of the parade. Be ready for a walk down to find us.

On 29 June we will meet-up 12:30pm for start at 1pm. Route will be from Baker Street along Oxford Street to Oxford Circus then down Regent Street to Haymarket, past Trafalgar Square and ending in Whitehall.

T-shirts same as last year – available from Unity House if you need one.

Bring along your friends. See you at Pride!

Pride website - <http://londoncommunitypride.org/>

NSSN Conference

11am-5pm, Saturday June 29th, Camden Centre, Judd Street, London, WC1H 9JE

Speakers include Mark Serwotka, PCS general secretary, Billy Hayes, CWU general secretary and Steve Gillan, POA general secretary, and Tommy Sheridan from the Scottish Anti Bedroom Tax Federation.



The NSSN was initiated by the RMT transport union in 2006. Seven national unions – RMT, PCS, CWU, NUM, POA, NUJ, and BFAWU – are either affiliated to the NSSN or officially support it as well as countless union branches, shop stewards committees and trades councils.

We support workers in struggle as well as those facing victimisation for the crime of defending their members from the employer's attacks.

The conference will include main sessions on resisting the cuts but also workshops on defending the NHS, organising in the workplace, housing, organising the unorganised, fighting blacklisting etc. It's open to everyone in the unions and all those fighting these brutal cuts.

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