



# London Calling

The Newsletter of the London transport Regional Council

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## News & Views from RMT's London Transport Regional Council

### Build Support for a General Strike

Trade Unionists are facing the biggest attacks on working conditions and jobs for over 80 years as The ConDem Government tries to make working people pay for the economic crisis caused by the Bankers.

We are being asked to cut our living standards while the richest 1,000 in society have racked up their personal fortunes by another 5% to £414bn in the last year. Workers are being attacked throughout Europe while £20 trillion is stashed away by the super rich, worldwide, in tax havens.

The EUROPEAN General Strike on November 14th is a massive step to a unified fightback against austerity. Action on 14th will take place in several countries in southern Europe but a general strike in Britain would mark a new stage in the fight against austerity and would force the ConDem government to take the opposition to austerity seriously.

The RMT seconded a resolution at the TUC, calling for a General Strike in Britain. We must build on this demand, by discussing this call in every Branch. Mass meetings must be organised by the London and National leadership throughout London and in every area of the country. A General Strike, which would unify all workers against austerity and also give confidence to the unorganised and the unemployed, must be called in the New Year.

RMT will continue to argue for generalised action against austerity but this must not replace strike action



RMT members and Gen Sec Call for Support for General Strike at TUC



in our own industry. We in the RMT must continue our militancy and fight every threatened job loss; every attack on our conditions of work; every attack on our pensions or wages. The LTRC will be taking our discussions, on how best to fight cuts in our region, into every branch. We will call for a unified all grades campaign to defend jobs and our members' conditions, as well as defending the public service we provide. You can read more about this on the *Londoncalling* website .

John Reid

LTRC Secretary

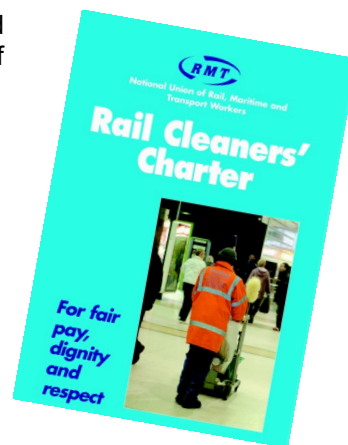
### CLEANERS

Coordinated action is being built across several companies.

We demand:

- A minimum of £10 per hour for all cleaners
- Free travel
- All cleaning jobs to be brought back in-house.

We also demand the withdrawal of the threat to bring in signing in by fingerprint recognition. This is an affront to civil liberties and also further undermines the role of the Station Supervisors.



### TUBE LINES

The Tube Lines dispute for pensions equality is solid and caused management to cancel significant weekend engineering work.

Tubelines members are now considering their next step in their fight for staff travel and pensions equality with LUL members.



# Station supervisor defence campaign— Fight for the future of our railway

The RMT have vowed to defend every job in every grade at every location on London Underground. We have all seen the leaked document that outlines the vision LUL have for the future. Now is the time to start our fight back in defending our jobs. It is clear that the attacks will come grade by grade, rather than an all-out assault in one big battle. It is more likely to be salami sliced cuts, little by little, designed to undermine our strength of solidarity and unity amongst all grades.

We believe that LUL will roll out their attacks on our jobs with an initial assault on the station supervisor grade. We have seen the reduction in the roles and responsibilities of the SS since company plan. The unsafe practice of remote booking on/off of contractors on stations effectively taking away the right of the SS to deny access is proof positive the intention that LUL have towards our members.

All the indications point to LUL making further cuts to the SS grade. The model proposed for ex-Silverlink stations could mean the SS will oversee a number of stations during traffic hours. Security guards could potentially open/close stations and supervise them overnight. The station supervisor handbook changes SS's operational role to performance management. These are all worrying possibilities.

We cannot accept any more dilution of the SS grade responsibilities. We must resist all attempts to further undermine and de-skill this very important grade. The RMT have been at the forefront of the campaign to defend the SS grade and have produced newsletters, campaign leaflets and regional flyers to promote our cause. An article will be appearing in RMT news shortly highlighting what the SS does and how vital their role is in the safe running of LUL stations. When you have finished reading RMT news, why not pass it on to a colleague who is not a member?

Keep up to date with campaign news by visiting [www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk](http://www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk)

It is vital all Supervisors realise the importance of this campaign and get on board to defend their own job, terms and conditions. The RMT are

determined to protect our members' jobs and we have a proven track record of successful disputes. All station supervisors should be in the RMT to protect their livelihoods'.

The message to LUL is clear: No job cuts. No erosion of conditions. We are ready to fight for the future of our railway.

[Stations Grades Committee.](#)

## Demo at Kings Cross

18 Nov at 11am

**Defend Station Staffing Levels**

**Maintain Fire Safety**



RMT will be demonstrating outside Kings Cross station on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00 to commemorate the fire and to highlight the continued need for a fully staffed and safe tube network.

This demonstration is especially important in light of the LUL documents which have been seen by your Union, which plan an unattended network including automated trains and would necessitate the ripping up of the safety regulations, including minimum staffing levels, which came about in response to the tragedy.

**The demonstration will be addressed by:**

**Bob Crow,**

**Matt Wrack (General Secretary FBU),**

**Megan Dobney (Regional Secretary SERTUC),**

**Frank Dobson MP**

**Andrew Dismore AM.**

Members are requested to assemble at the front of Kings Cross station and are encouraged to bring branch banners.

## RMT LGBT activists plan to stage a demonstration outside the Embassy of the Russian Federation

On Tuesday 20th November 2012, RMT activists plan to stage a demonstration outside the Embassy of the Russian Federation, in protest at the violation of the rights of LGBT Russians.

We will meet-up at Notting Hill Gate Tube Station at 2:30pm and walk together to the Russian Embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens where we will stage our demo and deliver an RMT protest letter.

gay pride events in the city for 100 years. In Saint Petersburg, it is now illegal to speak in public or publish any article about being LGBT. After Ryazan, Arkhangelsk and Kostroma, St Petersburg is the fourth city to pass such a law.

The full text of the letter is available at [www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/node/3526](http://www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/node/3526)

To The Embassy of The Russian Federation

VIOLATION OF RIGHTS OF LGBT RUSSIANS

We, the undersigned members of the RMT National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, urge President Vladimir Putin to stop attacks on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Russians; non-



our Russia's International human rights obligations and treaties, and stop pushing discriminatory anti-gay legislation.

In October 2010 the European Court of Human Rights found Russia in violation of freedom of assembly for denying activists the right to hold pride marches. But despite this legally binding ruling, attempted gay pride rallies and LGBT rights pickets in Moscow and St Petersburg have been repeatedly dispersed by police, and gay rights advocates arrested and detained for the simple act of publicly demanding their rights.

On each occasion, police have used excessive force and failed to protect peaceful LGBT protesters from the violence of anti-gay protestors, Russian Orthodox Church activists, neo-Nazis, and extreme nationalists.

In June 2012, the Moscow City Government banned

### Celebrate the Freeing of the Pentonville Five with LU Engineering Branch

London Underground Engineering Branch invite you to the 40th anniversary meeting to celebrate the liberation of the Pentonville five, a landmark victory in the history of our movement.

#### Speakers:

**Bob Light, Striking Docker in 1972.**

**Bob Crow, RMT General Secretary**

The meeting will be held at:

**The Exmouth Arms,  
Tuesday 4th December at  
5pm.**

This crucial event is invaluable to us all. Please make every effort to attend and encourage others to do the same.



# Bakerloo & Central Line Drivers Balloted For Action over De-Training

The RMT General Grades Committee has agreed to ballot for action short of strike action driver members on the Bakerloo and Central Lines for a safe procedure for detraining passengers.

This follows a joint meeting of RMT and ASLEF members held on Monday 22nd of October to discuss the detraining procedure on the Bakerloo Line. The meeting was addressed by RMT Regional Organiser Brian Whitehead and ASLEF executive member Terry Wilkinson.

The RMT General Grades Committee met on Thursday 25th of October and agreed that action is necessary to ensure a safe procedure for drivers. The following resolution (abridged) was agreed:

“We note that London Underground now expects Bakerloo line drivers to take trains into depots and sidings without physically checking that all passengers are off the train, and plans to extend this practice to the Central line.

This union believes that this is unsafe for both passengers and staff, and our view has been shockingly vindicated by recent events; in one 10-day period, 165 passengers were carried into sidings on the Bakerloo line by mistake. Drivers have experienced verbal abuse, and we believe that it is only a matter of time before a driver is physically assaulted.

Further, this is an attack on jobs, as it has led to the removal of station staff posts and is another move towards automation of the train service and deskilling of staff.

We note that London Underground's pretext for this policy is that new 'inner car barriers' make it impossible for overcarried passengers to escape from a train in a sidings or depot. A recent incident in which a 12-year-old boy was taken into the sheds at Queen's Park and got out of the train onto the tracks illustrates that this is not true. Even if it were, there are other dangers associated with overcarrying passengers, not least of all the distress that it causes. This is yet another illustration that any new equipment should be used in conjunction with staff, not as a replacement for them.

PA announcements and flashing lights are no substitute for staff checking that each car is empty and then closing it. We demand the retention (and on the Bakerloo line, resumption) of physical checking by staff of trains being taken out of service, and the restoration of

the station staff posts that have been cut.

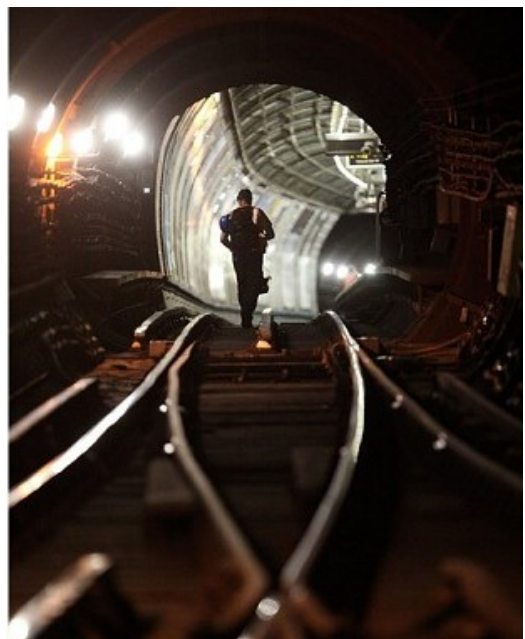
We note that a joint meeting of RMT and ASLEF on the Bakerloo line has taken place, and that representatives of both unions have stated their determination to work together in fighting on this issue.

We instruct the General Secretary to conduct a ballot of our Bakerloo line and Central line train operator and instructor operator members for industrial action, with the intention of instructing them to insist on a physical check that every car on a train is empty before taking it out of service. We note the legal advice received and the recommended wording.

We further instruct the General Secretary to:

- send a personal letter to all members involved, by post, urging them to vote Yes
- liaise closely with ASLEF to maximise the impact of a joint approach
- produce leaflets and posters for distribution in workplaces.
- arrange for representatives and officers to visit workplaces
- seek media coverage of this issue
- produce a leaflet for the public
- obtain an urgent report on possible industrial action by station staff on this issue.”

Full article available at [www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/node/3484](http://www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/node/3484)



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