



## Campaigning to end privatisation

While infrastructure workers took strike action to defend terms and conditions after the collapse of Metronet, the RMT stepped up the campaign to bring the infrastructure back into public ownership.

# Metronet Workers Secure Pensions Victory

The Industrial Action by Metronet workers seen a great victory! Despite the Mayor, the Prime Minister, LUL and Chantelle from Billericay all condemning our union, our leadership and our members as a bunch of selfish dinosaurs holding London to ransom, it was nothing but a triumph for the working classes over the Fat Cats of big business.

Let's be clear, we are not the ones to blame!

Metronet, a private company made of 5 different companies, who all made multi-million pound profits last year, went into administration, jeopardising the jobs and pensions of 2500 of our members. What was the RMT supposed to do? Sit back and roll with it? The last time the union checked, even with the draconian anti-trade union laws that the Blair Government forgot to repeal, workers still have the right to withdraw their labour. Assurances that were given during

the PPP were all conveniently forgotten about. There's a surprise!

The Evening Standard and the newbie freebies ran the usual, vitriolic campaign against our Union and our members who had the temerity to stand up and defend their jobs and pensions. How very dare we!

Gordon Brown, the architect of the PPP was quoted as saying, 'get back to work.' It would have been nice for once for a politician to stand up, hold his hands up and say, this was my cock-up, sorry. But it just isn't going to happen.

The Mayor claimed that all our assurances had been met and he had no idea why we were on strike. He kept forgetting to mention that the assurances that he had given were only 'during the period of administration.'

The deal that the RMT has secured has a given copper-bottomed guarantee to the pensions beyond this period.

Has Livingstone forgotten that he took Blair, Brown et al to the High Court to fight the PPP in the first place? How those, so easily corrupted by power have short memories!

Poor Chantelle from Billericay (according to the Standard, the Metro or any other London rag) took an extra 30 minutes to get home and missed Eastenders and she thinks we are all selfish. Get a life you selfish cow. 2500 of our members could have seen their jobs, pensions and lives shattered if we hadn't stood up to be counted.

We should all be proud to be part of a campaigning trade union. Viva RMT.

### BRANCH MEETING

16:00 hours

Thursday October 4, 2007

Upstairs at The Clachan,  
Kingly Street.

Oxford Circus

## We will not work alone

Our strike on 22nd August went well. Staff were out in force early, leafleting the public and were joined by RMT activists across the combine.

Plenty of detrainment staff were there throughout the day. The strike was solid from our members concerned. Harrow and Willesden stations were staffed with three people from outside our Group and up to six staff at times at Queens Park.

**No lone working for them!**

Even with all this staff to hand these people working the stations managed to forget to tip out a train and a poor unsuspecting passenger ended up Stonebridge Park depot. Gone in 60 seconds - from Queens Park to Stonebridge Park Depot!

We are not going to go away so LUL top brass had better take note.

In recent weeks staff at Queens Park and Willesden have been abused. A member of staff followed while walking along the platform at Willesden and staff threatened with a broken bottle at Harrow.

On the 6th September a passenger was convicted of Racial abuse and public order offences against staff at Willesden Junction.

Bob Crow was highlighting in the media last week the BTP annual report that shows an increase in abuse and assaults on railway staff. The union's position is clear: as the station staff charter says - at least two members of staff on every station and an end to lone working.

It's the only safe thing to do.

## LUL want casual workforce after Silverlink transfer

Later this year, the Bakerloo line section north of Queens Park is due to transfer from Silverlink to LUL. This is good news - not only does it make more sense for the whole line to be operated by one company, but this small piece of the privatised national railway will be brought back into public ownership.

It should also be a boost for the Silverlink staff, who should move onto London Underground terms and conditions, better than they have at the moment. But LUL has plans for the transfer which are totally unacceptable to staff and to the RMT.

Firstly, the staff on the north end of the line are not going to immediately get London Underground pay and conditions. Until they pass medicals and training courses, they will stay on their current terms - and London Underground will save money.

Even more worryingly, LUL says that the staff will be trained by 'specialist agency staff', rather than LUL trainers, and that these agency staff will cover the station staff's annual leave! On top of that, 'Security staff will cover the stations after

the evening peak and overnight'.

While this section of the line is returning from private to public ownership, LUL is using it as an pretext to import some of the worst practices of the private mainline railway onto the public Underground. Your union rejects the use of agency workers, as we believe that everyone who works on London Underground should work for a fully-integrated, publicly-owned London Underground.

If they get away with using agency workers and security guards on the north end of the Bakerloo, LUL will be looking to using them in other situations too. It will casualise our workforce and therefore weaken our job security, pay, conditions and union strength.

LUL management have sent out an Employee Communications internal bulletin outlining their plans. They do not mention that RMT has refused to agree to this - but please be assured that your union will completely oppose the use of casual labour, and insist instead that our new staff are fully-fledged LUL staff.

## Branch says no to violence

With media reports and spoof RMT newsletters published, printed and distributed by senior ASLEF reps doing the rounds, RMT members will be scratching their heads wondering what is going on. The short answer is that complaints have been made inside the union alleging violent assaults and the RMT Executive is holding investigations and disciplinary hearings. This is the correct way of going about these types of complaints. In the meantime Bakerloo RMT members can be assured that the Branch has adopted strong policy; a resolution was agreed at the April meeting and forwarded to head office. It says: "The Bakerloo Branch fully endorses the trade union principle

that "an injury to one - is an injury to all". We wholeheartedly support the union's policy that violence against our members is unacceptable and we fully endorse the RMT's continuing campaign for our members safety in all walks of life. We also accept that our union must be democratic: discussion and debate free from bullying, intimidation and violence must be the norm otherwise the union will descend into gangsterism and thuggery. In this climate we will never be able to achieve our stated object - "to work for the supersession of the capitalist system by a socialistic order of society."

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