

Bakerloo News



Newsletter of the Bakerloo Branch
national union of rail, maritime and transport workers

AUGUST 2008

Are they LUL or aren't they?

Ex silverlink staff having now completed their training and signed their LUL contracts are still working to their old draconian rosters. Staff on the Wembley Central Group are subject to excessive shift patterns, some rosters even caus-

ing staff to work up to 12 days straight.

Rostering rest day working is the norm and the GSM has even sent emails saying that staff can work up to a 72 hour week!

Management also state that

days 9 - 12 are not safety critical! Where do they get their ideas from? Surely every day staff are carrying out safety critical duties?

Management are stonewalling over these issues saying that the ex-silverlink staff will fall

into line with LUL next year. But we demand a solution now!

The pressure will continue from this union to help our comrades get the same rights as the rest of their colleagues on LUL.

Jerome Bowes strike solid Branch to discuss escalating action



BTP on the picket line following the assault of health & safety rep, Joe Thompson

Only three non-members came into work during the strike to defend Jerome Bowes, sacked for defending himself on the barrier.

The Branch wishes to place on record our thanks to TSSA members who respected our picket line.

The management were forced to do some work on the day concerned. Even the GSM put a shift in at the Elephant. In the main DSM's from all over the Bakerloo Line and RCI's were used to keep

the 3 stations open. The level of support for Jerome was fantastic and shows to management the strength of feeling on this issue. Great support for our sacked colleague Jerome Bowes.

Just to prove that working at the Elephant is a dangerous business, on the Mondays picket at around 06:30 am health & safety rep, Joe Thompson was assaulted by a man shouting racist abuse. Joe was punched in the face causing a split lip and a bloody nose. Joe said "I was afraid to defend myself as the way Jerome was sacked, I didn't want that to happen to me. I have people at home depending on my wages".

Metropolitan police arrested the man but later released him telling Joe that the man had not been in trouble with the police for the last three years and had mental health problems so a caution was all they could give him.

This incident highlights the shit all station staff put up with every day and the reason staff were striking. Jerome was sacked for defending himself after being assaulted by a drunken man on new years eve. According to management he has no right to protect himself. The next meeting of the Branch will be discussing how we escalate this strike. All welcome. Meet at the Clachan, Kingly Street, 16:00 hours, Tuesday, August 12.



**“ I was afraid to defend myself as the way Jerome was sacked, I didn't want that to happen to me. ”
Joe Thompson**

LUL bosses say yes. RMT says no. Who do you trust?

Management seem hell bent on trying to bring in fixed links for train operators on the Bakerloo Line to the extent that they don't mind using underhand tactics, breaching agreements, or telling lies. Unfortunately for them the vast majority of drivers have seen through their methods and will soundly reject this poisoned chalice when the referendum takes place.

The hard sell hasn't involved outright threats yet, but given their desperation it probably won't be long. The RMT is also concerned of the possibility of ballot rigging given the way LUL have gone about this exercise. What should have been a reasoned discussion and honest debate at the depots on whether fixed links is a possible way forward has turned into a nasty argument with management trying to force in fixed links while distorting the facts and bending the truth.

The attempt at brain washing starts with the DMT's under team talk and then drivers are then probed as to what link they would like to work. Well here is a surprise: a lot of drivers want to work early turns.

The 5 pages of propaganda produced by management are a

per-
version of
what was agreed
at the local meeting

when it was decided to hold a referendum on the matter. The propaganda from management is shockingly unbalanced and one sided. The Bakerloo Branch has discussed the issue on a number of occasions and has agreed that fixed links should be rejected by all RMT members. The only people who will benefit from fixed links are those with 15 or 20 years seniority. Under the status quo with mafia's at both depots, the vast majority of train drivers on the line can organise their lives whether it's for childcare issues, or any other life style reason. The current set up works. Rather than preventing employees organising themselves, management should meet with the syndicates and union reps to see where they can assist with the smooth running of the mafias. This manipulative and cynical attempt to railroad in fixed links will not work. The drivers on the line see through this. Vote no..



Somewhere over the rainbow

In the ceaseless battle to find work for the management on LUL, or at least the ceaseless battle to create the impression of work, spare a thought for the boffins at 55 Broadway whose latest activity creating wheeze is called the Rainbow attendance procedure. If you have yet to be dragged in for one of these interrogations, this, in a nutshell is how it works. Some DSM/DMT who has just returned

from a six month sickie will present you with a multi-coloured chart covered in dots and explain to you that one of these dots represents you. And because your dot is in the

red section and not the blue you'd better have a damn good explanation as to why you were off for two days in June 2003 with food poisoning! Or, I see you were hit by a bus on the way to work March 2005; what mitigating action have you taken to prevent this recurring? Rumours that one Queen's Park DMT started quizzing a driver on his failure to turn up for his school's sports day in 1976 have yet to be confirmed.

Now as we all know LUL already has a draconian attendance procedure, which allows management to

sack people over the phone just days before Christmas. You would therefore think that if this policy has failed to reduce sickness levels on the combine that our managers would instead start looking at the underlying causes of why people might go sick. Such as, stress from having to work a busy gateline single-handed. Having to drive clapped out trains with no air-con, or having to mess in unsanitary

conditions. But that would of course involve management actually getting off their arses and doing some real work.

Instead we now have a procedure which allows managers go back as far as they see fit into your



3 managers wait to join the new "delivering the rainbow" course.

work history and invent patterns of non-attendance that they then tell you could lead to disciplinary action. Yet again management have come up with their favourite type of procedure, one that allows them to spend all day shuffling paper while at the same time intimidating those who do the real work. Anyone who has seen the Wizard of Oz will remember that at the end of the film the Tinman, the Scarecrow and the Lion all get their wishes granted. Unfortunately in the real world our bosses remain heartless, stupid and cowardly.