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EVERY JOB MATTERS DISPUTE: WE NEED TO STRIKE AGAIN!

This is an all-grades fight

The Every Job Matters campaign was launched in 2013 as a fight to defend every job on LU. Our bosses are making £4.2 billion cuts; not just on stations, but in training too, with plans to reduce engineering and fleet jobs, as well as commissioning driverless trains.

The manager-heavy, retail-sector-style culture being ushered in on stations will soon be rolled out across the job. This fight belongs to all of us, and we have to fight now.

Some in RMT are worried that, if we strike, we'll lose members in non-stations-grades. But if we don't strike, and jobs are cut, we'll end up losing members anyway!

We must strike before the General Election

We have an opportunity to hurt the Tories who have pushed these cuts, in City Hall and Westminster, and who will push further cuts (and more anti-union laws) if re-elected.

It is an opportunity to highlight Boris's hypocrisy on ticket offices (see "#ASKBORIS" column, right). When we strike, the world listens.

We can't miss our chance to pressure the incoming government to reverse cuts and closures, and stop future cuts (including driverless trains).

Some have questioned whether the RMT's existing strike ballot is still live; let's test it by calling action!

Get active in your union to make your union fight!

TSSA have bottled out of action since January 2014, and ASLEF are narrowly focusing on drivers, as usual.

Many activists in RMT are unhappy with the inaction from our union leaders. Motions to the union's executive weren't acted on for months, and now there's foot-dragging over calling a strike.

Members of all unions must get active in their branches to demand action to stop these cuts!

NEW VS WINDOW OPENS SOON: DON'T SELL YOUR JOB! FIGHT EVERY CUT!

GENERAL ELECTION 2015

A TORY GOVERNMENT WOULD BAN TUBE STRIKES



VOTE LABOUR TO KICK OUT TORIES: FIGHT LABOUR LEADERS TO WIN WORKING-CLASS POLICIES

Another Tory government would be a disaster for working class people. The Tories will clamp down further on union rights, including the right to strike, and viciously cut back almost all aspects of the welfare state.

A Labour government will be more susceptible to union pressure. All TfL unions have links with Labour: ASLEF, TSSA, and Unite are affiliated to the party and RMT, although not affiliated, has a Parliamentary Group made up almost entirely of Labour MPs and is backing many Labour candidates. RMT-backed Labour MPs recently blocked a bill to allow TfL to sell off land to private developers. Despite the Labour leaders' attempts to disavow the party's trade union heritage, this link to the labour movement gives workers a chance to pressure the leadership. The Labour leaders have shifted under pressure, including recently on rail renationalisation. We should push them further to demand more public ownership and an end to cuts.

Smaller electoral initiatives, such as the Green Party and the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) have more left-wing policies than Labour, but cannot hope to form or influence the next government. They are also standing in some marginal seats, where the Tories could get in.

Anyone voting for them in this election should ask themselves: is this vote worth another five years of Tory rule?

And anyone voting Tory, Lib Dem, or Ukip should ask themselves: why am I voting for a ruling-class party which is standing against working-class interests?!



Are you registered to vote? Register online by 20 April: gov.uk/register-to-vote

#ASKBORIS

Boris Johnson recently held a "#AskBoris" Q&A session on Twitter. He said: "like my other manifesto pledges, I take my commitments seriously."

One of his "pledges" was that he would not close any Tube ticket offices, a promise he repeated several times, most recently in 2010. Now he's closing every single one.

So much for taking commitments seriously! One Twitter user asked Boris about the allegations facing Jeremy Clarkson. Johnson said: "I am a mega Clarkson fan". This is a man who, in 2011, said striking workers should be "taken outside and executed in front of their families".

Do you want Boris's party running the country? Your rights would be at risk. Vote Labour to kick out the Tories, and fight the Labour leaders to win socialist policies.

The Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory

Socialists including John McDonnell MP have launched a "Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory", which combines a fight to kick out the Tories with campaigning for the radical socialist policies and demands the Labour leaders won't fight for, such as:

- Expropriate the banks to fund public services
- Abolish the anti-union laws
- Reverse privatisation: for real public ownership of the rail, health service, and energy firms
- Tax the rich
- Living wages for all
- Equal rights for migrants; open the borders

Find out more at bit.ly/sclv-2015

CLEANERS' COLUMN

ISS SPIES ON STAFF

ISS has, with TubeLines' go-ahead, installed a CCTV camera in the cleaners' store room at Stratford, to keep an eye on the biometric fingerprinting machine it bullied cleaners into using to book on.

Cleaners use the room for breaks, to change, and to eat food; cleaners are essentially being spied on when they're not even on the company's time!

Installing CCTV cameras to spy on workers on their breaks seems way beyond what TubeLines and ISS need to do to protect their assets.

The introduction of the machines was itself a huge intrusion into workers' privacy that contravenes basic human rights and civil liberties. CCTV cameras in store rooms are yet another example of this exploitative, Orwellian culture.

MORE INDIGNITIES FOR AGENCY CLEANERS...

Previously, all cleaners on the Bakerloo, Central, and Victoria Line (BCV) contract – whether directly employed by cleaning company Interserve or through the AGS People agency – signed in using the same sheets and the same telephone system.

But a new booking-on system has been introduced that requires AGS cleaners to sign separate sheets, and leave details including their payroll PINs.

Quite apart from the data protection issues (these sheets are just left lying around, anyone could see our PINs and then use the telephone system to clock someone out of work), it's just adding to the sense that agency cleaners are second-class citizens, separated from colleagues doing exactly the same work by exploitative employment arrangements.

...BUT SOME GOOD NEWS TOO

Sustained pressure from RMT (the only to organise Tube cleaners), including direct action by some courageous individual cleaners, has forced cleaning company Interserve into creating 50 new permanent positions.

It will hire from within the workplace, so the jobs will go to workers currently working through AGS (many of whom the agency forces to register as bogus "self-employed" contractors, so AGS can avoid tax and their statutory rights).

It's a small step in the campaign to ensure all cleaners are on stable contracts and, ultimately, that outsourced services like cleaning are brought back in house.

The lesson is: union action gets the goods!



THE PRICE OF SAFETY?

London Underground seems to be taking drivers to task for PTI incidents on the District Line, going as far as sacking one recently.

But on the District Line, the cameras and monitors are so old that the driver frequently does not have a clear view of the platform. LU says it doesn't need to upgrade the old kit, as it will be obsolete when new S-Stock is rolled out.

But that could be a year away; what's the price of safety until then? Drivers are already rightly requesting assisted despatch from station staff. Keep it up! Maybe delays will force LU to cough up.

WOT NO SECURITY CHECKS?

Central and Waterloo & City line staff were no doubt delighted to receive a bulletin from our management stressing the importance of our role in security checks.

We wholeheartedly agree. The hours that station staff spend every day checking areas and doors are secure is essential to the security of millions of people travelling on the Underground. It - quite literally - saves lives.

Strange, then, that management have never included time for security checks on the "Business Needs Schematics" (BNS), which show which tasks station staff need to carry out. Are we supposed to clone ourselves and do two tasks at once?

Management's reasons for not including the checks are spurious. Our unions must insist to management that security checks are added to the BNS, which would then require more jobs on the rosters. That's one of many demands we are making to ensure that jobs are not cut.

ROSTER NIGHTMARE

New draft rosters for stations are nightmarish, drastically reducing our weekends off, giving us "cover weeks" without rostered rest days, wrecking work-life balance, flipping us between earlies and lates with only one or two days off in between, leaving stations staffed at bare minimum levels (so if there's an incident which requires urgent attention, gatelines or control rooms could be left unstaffed), and, of course, closing our ticket offices.

Yet more reasons to reinstate strikes!

DEAR STAFF, AREN'T YOU LUCKY?

Wasn't that nice of London Underground Ltd to send us all a letter telling us how much the company pays us, and what "rewards" (travel passes, penions, etc.) we get on top?

And what a coincidence that it just so happened to arrive just as the pay talks are kicking off in earnest.

The message? "Don't you get lots of lovely pay and perks? Why on earth would you want any more? Don't be greedy now ..."

Unfortunately for LUL, pretty much every Tube worker has seen right through its attempt at manipulation, particularly since the company has offered us a 0.5% pay "rise" that would actually equate to a real-terms pay cut.

And, as ongoing attacks on TfL workers' pensions show, our employers are always keen to take our "rewards" away from us.



TOUCH ONE, TOUCH ALL!

Karen Guyott

London Underground has "medically terminated" (i.e., sacked) a disabled worker... for having a disability.

Karen Guyott worked as a CSA on Jubilee Line stations. She has epilepsy, but with "reasonable adjustments" was perfectly able to perform her role. There's been no issue for five years.

But LU has suddenly decided that Karen's situation is "unsustainable", and she has been sacked.

This is clear discrimination against a worker for having a medical condition, and must be fought with every weapon available.

Clara Osagiede

Cleaners' rep and organiser Clara Osagiede has been sacked by Interserve on trumped up charges, all relating to her union activity.

RMT is already in dispute with Interserve over short- or non-payment of wages, management bullying, and victimisation of reps including Clara and Alex Boachie (who Interserve managers had arrested at Hainault depot last year).

It's time for RMT to prove its mettle as an all-grades, industrial union. An attack on any transport worker, of any grade, is an attack on all of us. The union needs to take whatever action necessary to get Clara back to work.

Noel Roberts

RMT will ballot members on the Embankment, Tower Hill, and East Ham stations groups to win reinstatement for CSA Noel Roberts.

Noel was medically terminated despite being declared fit by his GP and LUOH, and not having a day sick in 10 months. Vote yes for strikes!

What is Tubeworker?

Tubeworker is a rank-and-file socialist bulletin, published at least monthly, written by

Tube workers, for Tube workers. It is published by the socialist group Workers' Liberty, but is produced in editorial meetings open to all workers. Supporters from outside London Underground can help with public distribution.

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Contact us: Workers' Liberty, 20E Tower Workshops, Riley Road, London SE1 3DG,
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HANDS OFF LONDON TRANSPORT

The Hands Off London Transport coalition is

linking with RMT to organise demos against cuts and closures at Tube stations across London on **Friday 27 March**. Keep up the fight to save and re-open ticket offices!
handsofflondontransport.wordpress.com