



tubeworker

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SACK THE AGENCY, NOT THE WORKERS!



The 33 agency workers who were dismissed from LU in January are still campaigning hard. They've been doing a "walkabout" of London Underground stations and depots to spread the campaign.

The 33 are demanding to be taken on as LU employees. By taking an unprecedented stand against the agency workers' usual plight of being discarded from employment, the 33 have catapulted agency workers' claims to permanent jobs to the centre of RMT's industrial demands on London Underground.

Agency working has been rife on LU engineering side since the mid- 1990s, to the extent that directly-employed LU track workers are the minority. Past unionisation drives have had some success in slowing the rot, but it has taken the tenacity of the 33 force the RMT to vigorously pursue this issue. Now, RMT has written to LU and London Overground demanding that ALL agency workers be brought in house.

The 33's campaign has grown

to a campaign that could change the lives of hundreds of insecure agency workers on LU. It will send a message that LU cannot discard any worker like trash. In making agency employment look messy and unattractive to LU, it will secure every LU worker's job for the long-term by holding back LU's desire to extend agency working. When LU took over Silverlink Stations on the north of the Bakerloo Line, inheriting the contract with the Trainpeople Agency, LU's eyes lit with ideas for spreading super-flexible working across the combine. But LU's Bakerloo experiment blew up in their face. The agency staff refused to be abused; they organised. LU thought the 33 would go away quietly once it ended the contract with the agency; the 33 refused to go away. Every LU worker owes our job security to the 33's refusal to be mistreated and scrapped as an agency worker.

Let's repay the debt we owe to their bravery and vote "yes" to take action when we get the chance. We're fighting for the 33 and every agency worker on LU to work permanently and securely.

Hold back the agency tide! Keep our jobs safe! Justice for the 33!

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Want to get every issue of *Tubeworker* (published at least monthly)? Send us a tenner (cheques payable to WL Bulletin) and your address. Got a story for *Tubeworker*? We welcome reports and comments from all tube workers.

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT, NOT PRIVATE PROFIT!

Tory Chancellor George Osborne has hit public transport in yet another spending review, announced on 26 June.

He pledged money for Tube upgrades; £2 million for research into Crossrail 2 and £90 million for the electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking Line.

But he axed TfL's budget for running day-to-day services by 12.5%



This is a classic example of Tory public transport policy: cutting money that should fund the running costs of public transport services and investing it instead in massive projects that will enrich the privateers who win the construction contracts.

The budget for day-to-day transport services is already squeezed. Money is tied up in long-term contracts through franchises with private Train Operating Companies and extortionate debt repayments to private companies for Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects.

The Government's agenda is to use public transport funding as a vehicle to make private profit for their business buddies, while cutting services. Private profit instead of public transport.

The Government was quick to point out that cuts to "running costs" also means transport workers' so-called 'generous terms and conditions' are in the firing line.

Government policy, backed by Mayor Boris Johnson, threatens our jobs, pay and a worse service for the public. Our union movement needs to demand no job cuts.

We need a public transport system run in the interests of passengers and workers. Public transport not private profit!

SOLIDARITY SCARES THE BOSSES!



Ex-New York transport boss, Joe Lhota, advised Boris to copy New York by banning Tube strikes and throwing leaders in jail.

BoJo's mate Joe, not a fan of unions.

But he also let slip: "Nothing scared me more than when the head of the transit workers' union in New York said he was going to London to meet his counterpart...knowing how your unions are ...more....militant."

He intended his advice for our bosses. But it's important advice for us: our strength when we unite across borders scares our bosses.

Let's link up with transport workers around the world and scare them some more!

CLEANERS' COLUMN

Defend Clara Osagiede!

It is excellent that the RMT has decided to prepare a ballot for industrial action to defend Clara Osagiede.

Clara faces victimisation from her employer, Initial cleaning company, because of her work as an RMT cleaners' rep and cleaners' grade secretary.

Defending a rep is about defending the very idea of union organisation: if they can pick one of us off, then they will do it to us all.

Defend Clara! Fight this union-busting drive against vulnerable workers!

3 Cosas summer of action

RMT cleaners can take inspiration from cleaners at the University of London who are pursuing their campaign for "3 Cosas" ("three things") throughout the summer.

Their demands are: sick pay, holiday pay and a pension. Supported by students and workers at the university, they have staged regular, solidly-supported demonstrations, including a "beach party" to highlight their demand for holiday pay.

The workers are mostly from a Latin American background; they have built comradeship and union membership through social and salsa evenings, proving that trade unionism can be creative and fun!

ISS cleaners come back fighting

As we reporting in the last edition of *Tubeworker*, ISS has culled cleaners through immigration raids, causing others to leave in fear.

Coinciding with RMT's industrial action ballot over biometric fingerprinting and sickness discipline amongst other issues, ISS used immigration law to crush a potential strike.

But ISS has not succeeded in kicking the fight out of cleaners. ISS hoped newly-employed workers would be cowed by fear, but most have eagerly joined RMT after seeing you can't be on your own against such brutal management. RMT must now work so that the spirit of defiance inspires the new agency cleaners.

Once the bosses learn that we can't be intimidated, they will have nowhere to hide.

PED DOORS

Management are looking for new ways to cut jobs on the Jubilee Line extension.

When a platform edge door is defective at present a member of station staff would be required to stand by the door, both to ensure it remains shut, and to notify customers the door isn't in use. Now management want to do away with the need for staff to monitor the door, and to wedge the opening mechanism with a lump of metal. Whether this will be a world class bodge job remains unclear.

Drivers and station staff need to work together to ensure this goes no further. The Jubilee Line had a successful dispute recently getting dangerous plans to remove tunnel telephone wires – without an alternative – stopped.

Similar steps should be taken to stop this latest attack.

workersliberty.org/jubilee

WAVE AND PAY CREEPS CLOSER

"Wave and Pay" with contactless bank cards is already on the buses. LU ticket selling coaches are about to begin their training on "wave and pay" in LU ticket offices.

Tubeworker does not oppose new technology but it should not replace staff.

RMT urgently needs to carry out its public campaign to convey this message to the public as wave and pay creeps closer.

workersliberty.org/ticketoffices

WHITECHAPEL IS A LINE IN THE SAND

RMT activists and reps have kick-started the campaign to defend Whitechapel ticket office from its planned closure under the Crossrail project.

They have launched an online petition, called a demonstration and got the RMT backing for the campaign and potential industrial action.

A threat to one ticket office is a threat to them all. Reps and officials throughout RMT and TSSA must get on board with this message.

The closure of any ticket office crosses a line in the sand. We mustn't wait for even one ticket office to close before taking action.

workersliberty.org/ticketoffices

VIC LINE DRIVERS SHOW THE WAY

Following on from the success of Jubilee and Piccadilly drivers' disputes over breakdowns of industrial relations, Vic Line drivers have been inspired assert themselves.

Issues include counting dependency leave as part of attendance discipline, refusing to convene flexible working and grievance meetings, not granting annual leave requests submitted months in advance.

A lot of this will sound familiar to us wherever we work. Management demonstrate they don't care about us as human beings and aren't bothered about our lives outside work. If we can't make them care, we can make them listen.

Vic Line drivers are showing us all that we don't have to just accept being treated like dirt if we organise and assert ourselves.

Maybe there is an opportunity to co-ordinate across LU.

workersliberty.org/victoria

BRIAN MUNRO CANCER FIGHTING FUND

For many years, Brian has put tireless energy into the RMT as Bakerloo Branch secretary and rep at Elephant and Castle depot.

Now it's our time to support our comrade. *Tubeworker* urges us all to donate to Brian's fighting fund, to raise the money necessary for Brian to have cutting-edge cancer treatment as soon as possible. Look out for fundraising events.

facebook.com/brianmunrocancerfightingfund

Marxist ideas to turn the tide: readings and reflections on revolutionary socialist strategy

A new book from Workers' Liberty. Buy online for £5 from bit.ly/marxistideas