



# tubeworker

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## STOCKWELL SHOOTING: INQUEST BEGINS



**A**t present an inquest into the death of Jean Charles de Menezes (pictured) is taking place. This occurred over three years ago in the aftermath of the 7/7 'terrorist bombings'.

He was shot 6 times in the head and in full view of passengers on a train at Stockwell. Reports have surfaced that the driver was also threatened at gunpoint.

The question must arise, 'what is the role of the police?' De Menezes was followed by police because he lived in the same block of flats as a suspect. He is not the first innocent person to die either in custody or on the street at the hands of the police and won't be the last. The police are so often are used as a political force to harass pickets, immigrants or those who appear suspicious by colour, appearance or conduct.

Will the true facts from the inquest emerge? Will anyone take the blame or is another police coverup taking place? Until the police are answerable to the public and not some shadowy 'MI6' style hierarchy, justice will never be done. The police force will continue to imprison and murder innocent people under the protection of the so-called 'war on terror'.

**Tubeworker's weblog**  
- daily updates -  
[www.workersliberty.org/twblog](http://www.workersliberty.org/twblog)

## RMT REGIONAL ORGANISER ELECTION:

# VOTE STEVE HEDLEY

**R**MT members are about to get a say in a very important election. Not the President of the USA, but the RMT's London Transport Regional Organiser, who will be in charge of the industrial strategy and negotiations with all the companies who were ever part of London Transport - from LUL, to cleaners, to Metronet - for the next five years.

**T**his election is about the future of the union, as in the next five years management will go all-out to break us. Look at what they've already done by victimising leading Metronet rep, Andy Littlechild. Management are throwing attack after attack at us, aiming to defeat us by convincing us we can't win.

We need a Regional Organiser who understands that we need a basic strategy to build the union's strength in every company and grade and get them working together. We need to involve more members in the union, build up the confidence of local reps, get more people active. Pay and conditions will only be won if the union is in a strong position to fight for them. The union must be a fighting force, and also a democratic one, where members are listened to and control our own union.

**Tubeworker believes that the candidate who fits the bill is Steve Hedley.**

**S**teve has been in the RMT for over 20 years, representing members locally and negotiating at a high level. He is a committed fighter, who has been sacked five times for standing up to management!

Most recently, he has been working for Metronet, involved in building the strong union organisation that won two strikes in the last year. Involving members in decisions and running disputes, holding union meetings at work to involve members have built up near 100% solid RMT membership and support. These efforts have culminated in Metronet workers going back under LUL by December. Steve wants to roll these winning tactics out to the rest of the Underground.

Electing Steve will mean having someone to lead the fight when management unleash their attacks in the run-up to 2012. Management's plan to continue casualising jobs before the Olympics and cull jobs after is clear but not inevitable. With a strategy to

take us to 2012 and beyond, and a strong union presence in every workplace and company which Steve will help build, we can see these plans off and secure our jobs.

Electing Steve will mean that we go into the next crucial pay talks in a strong position. Management want to tie us into a five-year pay deal to disarm us until after the Olympics, and they will resent paying above-inflation pay at a time when inflation is pushing living costs through the roof. With Steve elected, RMT will go into pay negotiations in a strong position, where all companies are organised and in a position to fight if we have to.

Steve will not let the union be defeated and by defending the union will defend the benefits the union has won in the past.

**S**ome union elections don't really inspire you to vote. Sometimes they are between people you have never heard of or people who just want to keep things ticking over in the same old half-effective way.

This election is different. Steve Hedley is a candidate worth making the effort to vote for, and encouraging your workmates to do likewise.

**Tubeworker is produced by tubeworkers in the Alliance for Workers' Liberty, an organisation fighting as part of the labour movement for a socialist alternative to both capitalism and Stalinism, based on common ownership and democracy.**

**We want one democratic, fighting union for all railworkers. We reject artificial divisions between workers of different grades. We oppose racism, sexism, homophobia and all prejudice that divides us. Only our bosses benefit from a divided workforce.**

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TEAM (SRT)

### DISCIPLINED FOR DEFENDING LUL POLICY

The King's Cross staff who walked out to prevent abuse of the SRT face disciplinary action. So it's not a disciplinary offence for management to break the agreements that they themselves signed, but it is a crime to defend those agreements?!

You get the impression that management get really rattled when workers stand up for ourselves. Which means we should probably do it more often - and we should certainly defend those of our workmates who face victimisation for doing so.

### DEAR TUBEWORKER

*A letter from a member of SRT staff ...*  
I have never quite experienced so much discontent as in these last few weeks. Most of us worked our little socks off and received some acknowledgement for so doing. There was the Notting Hill Carnival and a few genuine Special Events to be getting on with, but as the days drifted by, tension and exhaustion mounted. And so the lack of cohesion, indifference and sheer confusion became apparent. By week 4, many of us had completed something like 40 familiarisations.

To be pulled out of a station when arriving, to be greeted when you get to another by: 'What you doing 'ere, mate?', or left to wander aimless as a storm cloud on an alien platform for 8 hours, cannot be the best way to develop good working conditions. The Framework Agreement has been destroyed and resurrected on a daily basis, with some very 'uncertain' supervisors wanting to impose their own.

This places members of the SRT at a constant disadvantage, especially in terms of our working identity. We actually don't have any. I guess some people might love it, but I don't hear anyone saying they want to continue after the year. Now, freshlings from Ashfield House are being recruited. These shell-shocked souls float about in a state of complete bewilderment.

It may have been more accurate to call SRT the Mobile Support Team, because that's what we are. However, we all know that 'supply' has a premium attached: more money. This is what management so clearly wish to avoid.

A colleague and I once stood at the foot of a virtually empty escalator for 7 hours a day for five days. Is that providing a World Class Service?

[www.workersliberty.org/SRT](http://www.workersliberty.org/SRT)

## WORKERS CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE

15th/16th November - LSE near Holborn - creche available

As capitalism goes into meltdown and the threat of climate change lurks, the bosses and the bosses' government have no answers to the world's problems. They cause these problems by putting their own power and money-making before people's needs or the planet's health. But it's not them that does the work to keep society going, it's workers - so it's us who can make change. Only a democratic, worker-controlled economy can stop climate change and avoid the misery of the credit crunch.

Workers Climate Action seeks to create solidarity between the grass-roots labour movement and grass-roots environmentalists to discuss a workers' plan to prevent ecological disaster. Join us on 15th/16th November to organise for real change!

[www.workersclimateaction.co.uk](http://www.workersclimateaction.co.uk) [workersclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:workersclimateaction@gmail.com) 07974-331053

### METRONET BACK IN LUL

All Metronet staff are to become LUL employees, completing the reversal of the PPP for two-thirds of the Underground. It's a victory for those of us who have spent ten years campaigning against privatisation.

Mainly, the efforts of the workforce have won this. RMT in particular has fought all attempts to drive down pay and cut corners, making it hard for Metronet to maximise profits at our and passengers' expense.

Returning to LUL raises issues. What about LUL policies such as the Machinery of Negotiation or the Attendance policy? The unions should demand a harmonisation of policies that levels up rights for workers. One more thing: now we are under the same employer, there is no legal obstacle to us striking together when the need arises.

[www.workersliberty.org/metronet](http://www.workersliberty.org/metronet)

### ANDY LITTLECHILD: METRONET BACKS DOWN

Metronet has backed down in its victimisation of Andy Littlechild and the dispute is now settled.

This is due to the strong response from his workmates, who immediately balloted for strike action and made their support for Andy clear. Metronet knew they were facing the prospect of a massive Yes vote and effective strike action.

[www.workersliberty.org/disputes/anti-victimisation-disputes](http://www.workersliberty.org/disputes/anti-victimisation-disputes)

### CLEANERS' PAY

Cleaners are still not all receiving the London Living Wage. Not all Metronet companies are paying, and cleaners on TubeLines contracts have a 60p increase but no guarantee of the full living wage.

Cleaners' supporters shouted from the gallery at Mayor's Questions that this issue is not resolved. The Assembly Hall was cleared and the meeting delayed, reminding Boris that the issue won't go away.

Encouragingly, catering company Sodhexo has written to RMT saying they are looking into paying the London Living

Wage. Less hopefully, talks between unions and ISS cleaning company were cancelled. The cleaners' campaign is still alive.

[www.workersliberty.org/tubecleaners](http://www.workersliberty.org/tubecleaners)

### SICK SYSTEM: NEW LOW

LUL's attendance clampdown has plumbed new depths: they have medically terminated a member of staff who was not even sick!

The company did not like her past attendance record. But medical termination is supposed to be a last resort, and is about prospects for future attendance not past.

An important principle is at stake. We can not let them get away with this.

[www.workersliberty.org/sickssystem](http://www.workersliberty.org/sickssystem)

### WOT NO STAFF?

Wood Lane opened without much of a hitch. This is good luck for LUL, as the station is badly understaffed.

They don't cover Supervisors' meal breaks, and leave a CSA working alone at times. Rostered 'babysitting' of stations by CSAs is a new and unwelcome move. Wood Lane may pose a particular problem as Europe's largest shopping centre is due to open on its doorstep very soon.

LUL claims that it is OK for a CSA to evacuate Wood Lane alone because the Rule Book says so. CSAs will have to rise to the occasion if needs be, doing their best despite not having access to the some facilities that the Supervisor would, but why on earth should a CSA do a Supervisor's work for CSA's money?

[www.workersliberty.org/staffinglevels](http://www.workersliberty.org/staffinglevels)

### IMPOSED ROSTERS

Euston CSAs found out about their new roster when it was posted on a pin board 'to take effect from 16th November'. The roster is not much different, but it will interfere with Christmas plans.

Staff signed a petition objecting to the lack of consultation and asking that the new roster be delayed to the new year. Management agreed, but their initial impatience creates unease about what is behind this. The future of the Customer Care Assistant grade is uncertain, creating issues for medically-restricted CCA staff.

[www.workersliberty.org/northern](http://www.workersliberty.org/northern)

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