



tubeworker

www.workersliberty.org/tubeworker <> tubeworker@btopenworld.com

TAKE ACTION!

We've done it again! Another 'yes' vote, this time up from 5:1 to 6:1. The two 'yes' votes show management how determined we are to fight, despite their legal challenge and intensive anti-strike campaign.

This action must and will go ahead. We cannot back down without a serious win. We want a one year real terms pay rise, no compulsory redundancies and no more bullying and will not accept a trade-off between these demands.

We should all join picket lines. Branches should plan them, bring new people, make it fun!

We need a strategy to win. A 48-hour strike is a good start. 24 hours would be just a protest: you might not lose much money but you would win nothing.

RMT needs to set more strikes to show we are serious and pile pressure on management. 'Action short of strike' can keep momentum between strikes: 'work to rule', overtime ban, revenue strike. Think what action could have an impact where you work, and feed it back to the union.

This could be a long battle. Management stand to gain so much that they will not give in easily. With a five-year pay deal and compulsory redundancies, they could save money, destroy our job security and weaken our union in one hit.

They are not digging their heels in cos they 'can't afford' any more: the government could plough public money into LU as it did the banks. Management, backed by Tory boss Boris Johnson, have declared political war to neuter the RMT.

To members of ASLEF and TSSA: put pressure on your union to ballot you too. These issues affect you. We will all benefit from a pay rise. You can complete an RMT membership form to cover you for the strike days. ASLEF drivers have taken a solid part in RMT's Vic line strike. We should all do the same across the job.

If this turns into a long battle, RMT's executive should make hardship payments to strikers. Branches should do what they can to help. At work, we can do whip-rounds, so those on rest days or annual leave can donate.

There is another public opinion that the media never reports: people who will cheer workers refusing to take the hit of the recession. Resistance is bubbling up. Visteon workers occupied their factory to win decent redundancy pay; postal workers are balloting to strike against privatisation, London Metropolitan University workers have struck to stop job cuts. We are part of a movement proving that workers can fight during a recession, giving hope to others who face pay and job cuts.

This strike has had more rank and file participation than previously. The strike committee has discussed tactics and desired outcomes. *Tubeworker* has been arguing for this for years: to make decisions more democratic, representative and in touch with members' views. Let's keep it up.

www.workersliberty.org/jobspayjustice

Tubeworker is produced by Tube workers and published by 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.

WHERE'S OUR LONDON LIVING WAGE?!

Boris Johnson has announced that the London Living Wage is going up 15p to £7.60. It's hardly a fortune, but many workers - including many of our cleaners - are not even on the old LLW rate, let alone the new one.



RMT should submit a new claim to the cleaning companies for the new London Living Wage for all cleaners, plus improved conditions such as free travel. The union can then launch a renewed recruitment drive based around the claim. Cleaners are far more likely to join a union with a prospect of winning better pay and conditions than just for the sake of it.

Together with a campaign for all immigrant cleaners' right to stay and work legally, this could form the basis to turn around the decline in the union's strength following victimisation of cleaners in the wake of last year's strike.

www.workersliberty.org/tubecleaners

DEFEND OUR REPS

When an employer wants to defeat a workforce - hold back pay, cut jobs, impose a regime of fear - they have to minimise resistance, which means attacking union reps.

Three RMT stations reps are currently suspended on various tenuous charges. Vic line management are persecuting RMT branch officer Glenroy Watson. Two safety reps - one RMT, one TSSA - have had their email use suspended. At least two RMT reps have been penalised for attending Vic line pickets. And the list goes on.

If LUL genuinely believed that its position on pay, jobs, attendance and discipline was fair, it would not need to attack union reps. As it is, in order to defend ourselves, we also need to defend our unions and their reps.

No2EU?

WE NEED A WORKERS' VOICE IN POLITICS; THIS IS NOT IT!

ASLEF and TSSA continue to hand over their members' money to New Labour while doing precious little to challenge the party's anti-working-class leadership. RMT has rightly decided to stand candidates against Labour, but has made the mistake of doing this with 'No2EU', a flawed and potentially dangerous campaign.

Its title opposes the EU, but European integration breaks down national

boundaries and bridges divides between workers. No2EU blames the EU for privatisation and anti-union laws, but these are part of a world-wide ruling-class offensive: Margaret Thatcher was violently anti-Europe yet pioneered both.

No2EU is anti-migration within the EU: against 'the free movement of labour'. There are many RMT members from Spain, Greece, Poland, Italy, etc who have moved to London to work and are angry at their union's stance.

We need a working-class-based election campaign on concerns like housing, jobs and public services, so No2EU's narrow anti-EU focus is a big lost opportunity, especially as we need to stop the BNP exploiting workers' fears during the recession. No2EU does not challenge the nationalism and anti-migrant prejudice on which the BNP feeds. It just re-phrases nationalism in softer terms.

This campaign did not come up from union branches and was rubber stamped by the union leadership. Let's build a campaign from the grass roots of the union that gives a political voice to all workers in the EU!

no²eu
yes to democracy

www.workersliberty.org/tubeunionspolitics

TEXTBACK FLOP

Remember LUL's silly idea of inviting passengers to text in their comments? Well, they spent £15,000 running a trial of this gimmick on the Rickmansworth group, only for hardly anyone to bother sending any texts. The trial was such a flop that they are quietly dropping the whole idea now.

Note: £15,000 is about a pound for each and every person covered by the current pay dispute.

Priceless.

Want to get every issue of *Tubeworker* (published at least monthly)? Send us seven quid (cheques payable to *WL Bulletins*) and your address!

Got a story for *Tubeworker*? We welcome reports & comments from all Tube workers.

Contact Workers' Liberty, PO Box 823,
London SE15 4NA. 020-7207-3997

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tubeworker-list-subscribe@workersliberty.org

Tubeworker p&p S. Matgamna

VIC LINE STRIKE EVEN MORE SOLID

May's Vic line strike was even more solid than April's. Not only did no trains run, but even fewer strike-breakers crawled in to work.

Management made a sly attempt to disrupt the end of the strike by inventing duties that booked on after 2100, but no-one seemed willing to drive! The police spent their time staring at the picket line, and a manager stationed himself outside the staff loos to guard them!

Drivers are now considering whether it is safe to drive on the Vic line. The potential of wrong-side door opening surely presents a serious and imminent danger. When a few drivers rightly refused to drive on these grounds, management sent them home without pay and without even a nod to the proper procedure, and even called the police! Management have since had to back down, restore the docked pay and apologise.

Meanwhile, Carl Campbell's case has been submitted to Employment Tribunal. Before long, Glenroy Watson might find himself down the dole office with Carl. Unless, of course, we stop management in their tracks.

www.workersliberty.org/victoria

CBS WORKERS DEMAND SAFE KIT

CBS Outdoor is making its workers use a tool to smooth out advertising posters which puts a lot of pressure on their hands, causing damage. The company has ordered some replacements from the USA – but it's taking ages.

We all have the right not to be injured in the course of our work. If CBS workers refused to put the posters up, the company would have no cash coming in, and management might start to take their workers' welfare seriously!

www.workersliberty.org/cbs-outdoor

ANOTHER DRIVER SACKED

Another driver has seen one mistake leave him out of work - Bakerloo driver Kevin Dobinson.

We all make mistakes occasionally, and if someone puts their hands up and has mitigation, then a warning or re-training would be appropriate. But while the company applies that approach to managers, it is a different rule for the rest of us.

Kevin's workmates are signing a petition, hoping to persuade his appeal panel to reconsider his sacking. This case illustrates very well the culture of harshness and fear that management are creating on LUL, which RMT is challenging with its industrial action. A solid strike next week might also help persuade Kevin's appeal panel.

www.workersliberty.org/bakerloo

OWN GOAL!

Managers cancelling their meetings to spread anti-strike propaganda in one-to-one and team 'briefings' has only galvanised staff's support for the strike, even among non-RMT members.

Management are rattled by staff's support for RMT's action. Managers not usually seen in the workplace unless they are summoning you to a disciplinary are popping up all over the place. They try to tell us we should accept having our pay cut, seeing 1,000 of our workmates lose their jobs, and letting managers mistreat us. That's a hard argument to win, so they have resorted to low tactics, asking people to sign for the briefing and telling porkies. The repeated lie is that RMT has walked out of talks - but it is management who are refusing to convene meetings.

Are we surprised to see management behave like this? Despite the things managers busy themselves with the rest of the time, this is their key role: to undermine strikes. They think the way they do because they are bosses. And we see the issue the opposite way because we are workers.

Ideas for Freedom 2009:

Socialists, the capitalist crisis and the working class

Friday 10 - Sunday 12 July, central London - a weekend of socialist discussion.

- why does capitalism have crises? - how economic crises transform politics: the 1880s, 1930s, 1970s - People's Charter or Workers' Plan? - the state of the labour movement: a panel discussion - lessons of the Visteon dispute - social work and child protection - what's wrong with the Green New Deal? - how and how not to fight the BNP - should the left say 'No2EU'? - community struggles and workers' representation - the rising tide of class struggle in France - the politics of Northern Ireland, in 1968 and today - revolutionary anniversaries: world revolution 1919, Cuba 1959, Iran 1979, miners' strike 1984-5 - the war in Sri Lanka - Workers' fight against the army and the Taliban in Pakistan

Book online at www.workersliberty.org/ideas

Tubeworker's weblog - daily updates - www.workersliberty.org/twblog