



tubeworker

www.workersliberty.org/tubeworker • tubeworker@workersliberty.org

KEEP UP THE FIGHT TO STOP CUTS

Our 28-30 April strike had a huge impact. Even on the lines where management claimed to be running a “good service”, or close to one, there were severe delays, with dozens of station closures across the network. Another solid strike this week can keep up the pressure.

Contrary to the media myth of public hostility, there were numerous reports of high levels of support on picket lines from passersby, as well as visits from members of other unions. For example, the late turn picket at Elephant & Castle was bolstered by a visit from 15 student activists from colleges across London.

The Hands Off London Transport campaign is planning to mobilise that support; as *Tubeworker* went to press, students and disabled activists were planning actions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in support of our strike. Their actions can massively increase the political pressure on our bosses and their Tory puppet-masters in the GLA.

Remember: they are vulnerable!

In talks at ACAS on Friday 2 May, management scuppered a potential agreement by insisting that RMT call off its dispute entirely. Keeping the dispute live is non-negotiable.

Whatever discussions and talks take place, the RMT has to remain clear (and, so far, it is doing so), that they take place on the understanding that the union is 100% opposed to all job cuts and closures. The live dispute, which allows us to call industrial action when talks fail, is the expression of that.

Trains and engineering grades should take particular note of management’s refusal to discussing guaranteeing protection of earnings and pensions to other grades potentially affected by “Fit for the Future”. The message is clear: your grade could be next! This fight belongs to all of us.

Management is playing hardball. We can only beat them by showing an equal level of determination.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO WIN?

- Be prepared to take prolonged action: we may need to strike again, for more days.
- Union branches should urgently discuss using hardship funds to help worse-off members take sustained action
- Relaunch the RMT strike committee as a democratic body with delegates from every grade committee and branch
- Discuss creative forms of industrial action short of strikes to keep up the pressure between strike days
- Work with HOLT and others to ratchet up the political pressure on LU bosses and the GLA

GET THE FACTS ON THE BOSSES’ PLANS

- How LU’s plans hit women and disabled workers — bit.ly/eq-inc
- *Tubeworker’s* translation service: making management double-speak comprehensible since 1991 — bit.ly/t-trans

TSSA and ASLEF members: don’t cross picket lines!

The reports of TSSA and ASLEF members who refused to cross RMT picket lines represent the best of labour-movement culture: workers acting in solidarity with each on their basis of shared class interest, despite being in different unions.

We appeal to members of TSSA and ASLEF, and Unite, to deepen and spread that spirit, as well as fighting within your unions to commit them to fully entering the battle alongside the RMT. The “Fit for the Future” project, if allowed to continue, will leave no

grade untouched.

We need to fight together! Don’t cross picket lines!

TfL pensions strike

RMT, TSSA, and Unite members in TfL will strike together on Friday 9 May in an ongoing dispute over pensions.

It’s unfortunate that TSSA and Unite didn’t want to coordinate the action with the LU strikes, again showing the need for greater unity and, ultimately, one industrial union for all transport workers!

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. Email us at tubeworker@workersliberty.org

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