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VOTE LABOUR!

Democratise the Labour Party and the unions — Fight for a workers' government

Voter turnout among under-25s was estimated at 89% in 1964. By 1992 it had gently slid to 75%. It crashed to 38% by 2005 and had recovered only to 44% by 2015.

Policies in the Labour manifesto like a £10 per hour minimum wage and nationalising the railways as franchises come up for renewal have brought Labour denunciation or derision from the wealthy and their ideologues, and a big lead over the Tories among younger voters.

The outcome on 8 June depends on how many of those younger voters get to the polls. The outcome after 8 June, if Labour wins or if Labour loses, depends on whether left-minded young people organise, mobilise, become a dynamic factor in the labour movement.

POLICIES

Taking £50 billion extra a year from the rich, out of their many hundreds of billions in revenues, is not going to create the fractures that they say it will.

But modest measures in the manifesto which have enthused Labour activists and voters will require a fight to push them through, even if Labour should win a landslide on 8 June. A real fight over the minimum wage and banning zero-hours contracts will mean gearing up trade unions and the labour movement to organise in workplaces currently unorganised, where workers are hyper-exploited and where a revitalised labour movement backed by a left-wing Labour government could begin to



initiate real change.

Scrapping the Trade Union Act will help, but Labour's omission anything on the older anti-union laws pushed through by Thatcher is a glaring gap. A Corbyn government, or a strong Corbyn-led opposition, will be effective only if they link with organising, mobilising, and action in workplaces and on the streets.

Despite all that is good about the manifesto, the last two years have been marked by confusion and the old Blairite way of policy-making. Policy should not be the property of wonks, think tanks, or officials in the Leader's Office. The fundamentals of the ideas and actions we fight for a Labour government to take up should be formed by democratic debate through the whole labour movement and the institutions of the Labour Party. The party conference must be sovereign,

democratic, and a real decision-making body.

Although they are narrowing, polls still predict a Tory victory. Even if Labour's vote is up on 2015, we could lose seats because of ex-Ukip votes going to the Tories After 8 June, the Labour right wing will seize on any pretext to challenge Corbyn's leadership and try again, as they did in 2016, to turn the Labour Party backwards.

Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell recalls that in 1992, when he lost his constituency to the Tory Terry Dicks, he and other activists made a point of organising a stall in Hayes Town Centre the very next Saturday. They showed the constituency that they had not gone away and would continue to fight.

Whatever the outcome is on 8 June, we must go forward in that spirit.

JUSTICE FOR THE LONDON BRIDGE 3

The RMT's combine-wide ballot of station and revenue grades for strikes and action-short to win the reinstatement of Lee Cornell closes on 13 June. Make sure you've returned your ballot paper!

Speak to your local RMT rep for more info.

LUCO LOCO AT OXO

A vision of TfL/LU's corporate, semi-privatised future at Oxford Circus recently, as wealthy sugar merchants Lucozade ran a promotion offering free bottles with a contactless chip worth one free Tube journey embedded in the bottom.

The promotion was a real boon to many travellers, for whom a free train ride is not to be sniffed at. It's just unfortunate that it came attached to the corporate fizz.

We say: yes to free travel, no to corporate involvement in the railway. With a belt-tightening exercise in the upper echelons of LU apparently underway, maybe some of the money saved by cutting back on overpaid senior bosses could go towards reducing fares.



'APPY NOW?

LU is on something of an app binge at the moment, rolling out new apps for rostering and coverage, and signing contractors onto stations.

The launch of the "Rostering and Coverage Tool" (RCT) app has been put back twice.

An app that makes it easier for staff to swap shifts and annual leave allocations would be very welcome. One to monitor and police staff movement, less so.

As for the new app for booking on contractors, this seems like a case of "fixing" something that wasn't really broken.

It seems increasingly clear that LU's ideal vision is for a single grade of station worker, armed with an iPad, capable of performing all the tasks required on the station. We wouldn't have a problem with this if a) there were sufficient numbers of them and b) salaries were levelled up. Somehow, though, we doubt this is what LU has in mind...

STAFF PRESENCE?

In the wake of the horrific terrorist attack in Manchester, station staff have been asked to wear our hi-vis vests permanently while on duty.

LU says this is to "reassure" passengers about "staff presence".

Might it not be more reassuring to actually address the issue of how many staff there are, rather than merely changing our outfits to make us more visible?

Since the 7/7 bombings in London, LU has cut thousands of jobs, massively reducing the frontline staffing level. These cuts should be reversed!

We can't reassure our passengers about staff presence if there aren't enough staff present.



A REPLY TO BRIAN WOODHEAD ON THE LONDON BRIDGE 3



Some selected highlights from senior LU boss Brian Woodhead's Employee Bulletin of 12

May, and Tubeworker's response:

Brian: "The RMT is claiming [...] a pregnant colleague was punched during this incident."

We say: This is false. RMT says that Kirsty Watts, a pregnant CSA, was *pushed*, not punched. The company itself - in recorded minutes from fact-findings and CDIs - acknowledges that Kirsty was pushed, and called for assistance.

Brian: "[I] invited the RMT General Secretary and [National] Executive Committee to view the extensive CCTV footage available in this case and other relevant material [...] but the RMT NEC didn't take up this offer".

We say: The RMT NEC has viewed the CCTV. Nothing they saw in it changed their assessment that the union is right to back Lee, Dave, and Saeed to the hilt.

Brian: "Some of you have asked why this CCTV footage hasn't been made available more widely, so that everyone can view this and see what happened [...] We concluded that this wasn't appropriate."

We say: On the one hand, Brian wants to assure us how free he has been with the CCTV, inviting Mick Cash and the RMT NEC to view it, and claiming they haven't (even though they have). But on the other hand, Brian says that it's "not

appropriate" to show the CCTV "more widely". A slight discrepancy.

But here's the real kicker, which many people reading Brian's email might not know and which Tubeworker encourages all our readers to spread far and wide: local management on the London Bridge Area have been showing the CCTV to members of staff... but only in the form of still frames. Many local staff have refused to view it; those that have say it doesn't change their opinion of the incident! Their solid strike on 7-8 May shows what they think of the issues.

Our employers are trying to play us for fools. LU is still maintaining its ridiculous line that the correct response would have been for Lee (who, let's remember, was being punched in the head) to step away and get out his iPad to file a "Workplace Aggression and Anti-Social Behaviour" (WAASB) report.

Anyone who's ever worked on a gateline, or in any operational role where you come into contact with the public, can put themselves in Lee, Dave, and Saeed's (and, indeed, Kirsty's) shoes.

Brian: LU "takes a zero tolerance approach to violence against [staff]".

We say: Patently this is untrue. Lee Cornell was punched twice in the head. He's been sacked. Zero-tolerance, Brian?

Brian: LU's "internal disciplinary processes have been exhausted in this case and will not be re-opened, regardless of the outcome of the RMT's ballot."

We say: Well, we've heard that before. We heard it in 2011, when LU sacked Eamonn Lynch. After a sustained campaign of union action, Eamonn

(along with Arwyn Thomas) was reinstated. We've heard it in other reinstatement campaigns too. LU's "internal disciplinary processes" are only one channel to fight our case. Letting the company know how we feel about this injustice by withdrawing our labour is another.

Vote yes for strikes and action short, let's get Lee back on the job!

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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