



tubeworker

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STRIKE TO STOP CUTS

Management hasn't budged in talks: 1,800 frontline jobs are now on the line.

But strikes can halt management's plans! Every management scheme is "inevitable" until we stop it! A solid strike can change the balance of forces; LU management and the Mayor are politically vulnerable.

We should prepare for more action beyond May. Unions should develop a programme for escalating the action, supplementing all-out strikes with creative forms of action to maximise the pressure on management, using hardship funds to support worse-off workers in taking sustained action.

The existing strike committee should be relaunched as a body with delegates from branches, so it can become genuinely representative and democratic, and drive the dispute from the grassroots.

The "Hands off London Transport" coalition has a vital role to play in building a public, political campaign against the cuts.

Don't vote Ukip! Support migrants!

The anti-Europe, anti-immigration United Kingdom Independence Party (Ukip) seems to have conned some working-class people that it offers an alternative to the political establishment.

It does not. Its policies are based on the racist scapegoating of migrants, and would benefit the rich at the expense of working-class people.

Racism

Ukip says immigration has opened the door to crime. It's pure racism to imply that any one nationality or ethnic group is inherently more criminal-minded than any other.

Tax cuts for the rich

Ukip would introduce a flat rate income/national insurance tax at 31% for everyone earning over £11,500. This represents a massive redistribution of wealth in favour of the rich, and would starve social services.

Better public services?

Ukip bleats about "benefits tourism" (which is a myth), and has no policies to

rebuild public services. Instead, it simply proposes restricting access to them by prioritising "local people".

EU = source of all evil?

The European Union is part of the network of national and international institutions capitalists use to administer their system. But is not the source of all evil. An "independent" British state, run by "independent" British capitalists, would still push austerity policies that damage working-class living standards. European integration also gives us the opportunity to link up with other workers in Europe to fight for social gains across the continent.

Our unions must fiercely oppose the racist, anti-migrant policies pushed by Ukip.

It's a shame that RMT has again sponsored the No2EU coalition in the European elections, which presents a false, "national" solution (i.e., British withdrawal from the EU) to problems that can only be solved by Europe-wide workers' unity.

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 doublespeak comprehensible since 1991 — bit.ly/t-trans
- New info from the talks — bit.ly/why-fight

DETAILS OF THE ACTION

- Do not book on for duties starting between 21:00 (Fleet 18:30) on Monday 28 April and 20:59 (Fleet 18:29) on Wednesday 30 April.
- Do not book on for duties starting between 21:00 (Fleet 18:30) on Monday 5 May and 20:59 (Fleet 18:29) on Thursday 8 May.
- Station staff (including DSMs): do not work overtime or rest day working from 00:01 on Tuesday 29 April until further notice.

TSSA MEMBERS: STRIKE WITH RMT!

ASLEF AND UNITE MEMBERS: RESPECT RMT PICKET LINES!

More: bit.ly/tssa-fight

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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CLEANERS' COLUMN

ISS: PREPARE FOR STRIKES!

ISS is now telling workers that the biometric booking on machines will be introduced in August. There's still time to stop their introduction altogether! **RMT agreed to ballot its ISS members for strikes on this issue weeks ago: the union should get on with it!**

WOT NO PAY SLIP?

Cleaning companies Initial and ISS are scrapping printed payslips and moving to online-only systems. ISS initially said the company would print out pay slips on request, but have since backtracked on this and said it's the responsibility of individuals cleaners to print their own slips.

This means that anyone who doesn't have access to the internet, or a printer, is severely disadvantaged. Cleaners have been told to use internet cafes, but that could mean having to enter sensitive details like bank account numbers and home addresses onto less-secure, public computers.

ISS are contracting out the e-payslip operation to private company, Ceridian, creating yet another link in the never-ending chain of outsourcing!

Not having guaranteed access to a printed payslip means it's easier for the companies to make illegal deductions from our wages without us noticing.

Unions should take up this issue as part of the fight for cleaners' rights.

CLEANERS FOR SALE!

Initial, one of the companies to which LU contracts out cleaning work, has been bought by Interserve.

That means cleaning workers have just been traded like any other commodity, and now have a new employer.

Workers are not assets for companies to buy and sell!

Staff employed by contractors will always be vulnerable; LU could end this trading of people's jobs by ending contracting out and bringing all cleaning work, and other sold-off parts of the job, back in house.

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JUSTICE FOR PETRIT

Petrít Mihaj, RMT rep at Sodexo (the company which runs many staff canteens) and the activist who led the campaign to recruit 50%+ of the canteen workers to gain RMT recognition in the fight against vile exploitation, has been sacked. It's blatant union busting and victimisation.

RMT will be balloting members in Sodexo canteens for industrial action to win reinstatement for Petrít.

It has also called on LU workers to boycott the canteens every Monday until Petrít is reinstated. If their takings drop, they will learn not to mess with our reps.

STRANDED!

Radio Taxis, the company LU uses for the staff taxi network, lost their dispatch system on Good Friday after Virgin Media cut through a cable.

We had to wait up to 90 minutes for the taxi if we didn't have another way of getting home — the last thing we needed at the end of a shift on a bank holiday weekend!

For all the money LU pays to Radio Taxis, the system is unreliable. The taxi service is not a privilege or a "perk" of the job. It's a reasonable price for LU to pay for us to work extreme shifts. The least we should expect is to get home on time.

And as many of us face long, unsafe walks home from drop-off points, how about a taxi to our door?

RULE BOOK CHANGES HELP JOB CUTS

We all knew that LU couldn't implement station staff cuts without rewriting the LU Rule Book. Changes will come into effect on Monday 28 April.

"The requirement for accessing a station when closed or unstaffed", which has applied to surface stations since the 2007 Rule Book, will be extended to "all stations". This means that engineers, cleaners, and other workers on stations could have to evacuate themselves from an unstaffed subsurface station! As one cleaning worker put it: "I like to know that if the station got broken into overnight, there is an LU supervisor there, watching everything on the camera, who has got my back". Unions have not agreed to this change.

Another change is that "Station supervisors are no longer responsible for checking worksites after the work has finished". The person in charge has sole responsibility. LU operational staff should decide whether the area is safe for the travelling public. It's just another pretext for cutting jobs.

Unions should start making preparations for engineers, cleaners, and other staff to refuse to work on unstaffed stations.

NEVER WORK ALONE

Tubeworker is alarmed to hear that the number of stations with lone working will go from 73 to 122 if the "Fit for the Future" proposals go through.

Incredibly, LU has denied that this will increase risk of assault, only our "perception" of risk.

The risk of assault is not just in our heads! Staff assaults have risen year on year, with an increase in sexual, racially-motivated, and homophobic assaults increasing in the last two years.

It will get worse when we're carrying an iPad in a "designer-like bag", which LU proposes because the pockets in the new uniform are too small to fit the iPads that management believes will magically replace the function of a ticket office.

LU can't treat our safety with such contempt. The way to reduce vulnerability is to increase, not cut, staffing levels.

MORE REFURBS, MORE CONTRACTING OUT

An item on the LU intranet announces that 70 stations are due to "be modernised and fit for the next decade". Embankment, Paddington, Earls Court, Charing Cross and South Kensington stations are all included.

The announcement says: "Construction supply chains have become multi-tiered and fragmented, and it could be said that the industry has lost sight of the importance of craft skills in delivering efficiently." And what's behind that fragmentation of construction supply chains, we wonder? Endless layers of contracting-out and outsourcing!

The announcement says LU wants to engage "directly with the contractors actually doing the work on-site, simplifying contract arrangements".

If the company really wants to streamline refurbishment programmes, and improve efficiency, how about taking this work back in house instead of contracting it out at all?!

MAY DAY EVENTS

Thursday 1 May

National RMT mobilisation: "March for Bob" — Assemble 11am, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1

Saturday 3 May

Long Live International Workers' Solidarity! Marxist Revival May Day celebration, featuring speakers from Workers' Liberty, Iranian Revolutionary Marxists Tendency, Worker-Communist Party of Kurdistan, and others — 4pm, University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1E 7HY