



tubeworker

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Vote Eamonn Lynch for EC

Tubeworker is supporting Eamonn Lynch to be the London Transport region's representative on RMT's executive. We asked him a few questions.



What successful and high profile campaigns have you been centrally involved in?

The campaign to reinstate myself and Arwyn Thomas after we'd been sacked for union activity, where I visited workplaces, engaged members behind a strategy and played a big role in winning our jobs back. We used this victory to build a 'reinstate our reps' campaign including Green Park rep, Peter Hartshorn and CSA Dayna Nehmhard. The Justice for the 33 campaign for sacked agency workers off the ground. I am currently working for the reinstatement of Noel Roberts, Alex McGuigan and Vicky Hayward.

What would you bring to the EC role?

I would bring a dynamic, confident presence to the council of executives. I would listen and recommend policy to benefit the membership. Equalities campaigns and recruitment would be my main focus.

What motivates your dedication to organising and campaigning?

My motivation for organising & recruitment is simple. Without new members our union cannot continue to do what we do. We are a fighting, winning, militant, democratic union. I believe in militancy but I will not let machismo be mistaken for militancy.

If you could suggest one area in which RMT could improve, what would it be?

How would you use your position on the EC to improve it?

We must improve RMT's reflection of our members. Currently we have few female reps and fewer BEM reps. This needs to change. I would work to encourage members from these groups to get involved. I would campaign for equality seats on the executive.

Eamonn has the support of the rank and file across RMT branches in the region. Over 100 reps and members voted to back him at the The Docklands Light Railway branch meeting.

RMT members: ballot papers will arrive through your door. Return them by 5th January 2015.

UKIP doesn't represent us!

Tory defectors Douglas Carswell and Mark Reckless have become UKIP's first elected MPs. Tubeworker looks at what UKIP's policies really mean for working class people, migrant or not.

UKIP: "Migrants are a drain on UK resources, including benefits and NHS" and the UK is "facing an unsustainable level of net immigration of 225,000"

Tubeworker: European migrants actually pay out far more in taxes than they receive in state benefits! A net contribution of £20 billion between 2000 and 2011. Of 1.44 million people claiming Job Seekers' Allowance in 2011, 8.5% were non-UK nationals. Fewer than 2.6% were from EU countries. Job losses and redundancies hit migrant workers as well as UK-born workers.

The real "drain on resources" is into the pockets of the rich. Just 10% own 44% of all household wealth, there is enough to provide for everyone, UK-born or migrant.

225,000 is 0.3% of the population. Only about half the UK's population growth is due to migration. If UKIP were really concerned about Britain becoming "overcrowded", they'd be campaigning against babies!

What is unsustainable is cuts to services, landlords' profiteering, unemployment and pay freezes.

UKIP: "UKIP supports a simplified, streamlined welfare system and a benefit

cap."

Tubeworker: UKIP will not just attack migrant workers, it will continue with Tory benefit cuts for all workers.

Many think benefit fraud is high. Official figures show it running at only one-tenth the level of tax fraud.

We think that whilst jobs are being cut and not created, society should tax the rich to provide a decent standard of living for those unable to find a job or unable to work.

UKIP: "Inheritance tax will be abolished"

Tubeworker: Inheritance tax is levied on inherited amounts over £325,000 per individual. This is not a tax that mostly hits workers. It is a tax that mostly hits the rich. The rich find many ways of avoiding it! In 2011/12, the tax was paid on only 19,000 estates, only 3% of all deaths.

UKIP says abolishing inheritance tax helps the "squeezed middle". The "squeezed middle" is a fallacy, based on assuring one section of workers that they are better than others. UKIP, like the Tories, would abolish inheritance tax as a symbol they want to favour the rich while squeezing the worse-off.

UKIP: "UKIP recognises and values an overarching, unifying British culture, which is open and inclusive to anyone who wishes to identify with Britain and British values, regardless of their ethnic or religious background".

Tubeworker: British



"national culture" is the result of centuries of outside influence. These islands would be a dim, dull backwater if it were not for successive waves of immigration.

Isn't a good thing we now listen to rap music and Beethoven, read Australian novels and watch US films, see foreign players in British football teams?

Not all "foreign culture" is good, and not all "British" bad. And vice versa. Culture should be assessed critically. If there is something oppressive or violent in a national culture, be it domestic violence, female genital mutilation, "gay bashing", or the back-to-the-1950s narrow-minded chauvinism of UKIP, it should be challenged.

The idea that "values" are valuable because they are "British" is as stultifying as the claims by the few mathematicians who remained in Germany after 1933 that their maths was good because "German intuition" was superior to "French" logic.

Yes unions should be political!

The RMT's political fund ballot returned a big 96.5% in favour of keeping the fund. More union members voted in this than the RMT General Secretary election.

Unions' political funds are pots of money which they can spend on political campaigning, including backing political parties in elections. Thatcher brought in

the rule that unions must ballot members every ten years on keeping the funds.

The ballot result debunks the myth that workers "don't care" about wider political issues and are only narrowly self-interested in defending their terms and conditions.

The RMT should use its fund democratically and effectively. All our unions

should pressure the Labour Party to commit to renationalising the railways, substantially increasing the minimum wage and and other pro-worker measures.

Unions should back left-wing Labour MPs and Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs), as well as effective socialist electoral challenges to Labour.

INDUSTRIAL ROUND-UP

NORTHERN LINE DRIVERS

After a 78% 'yes' vote, RMT driver members at the Morden depot will strike on 1st December to demand reinstatement for train operator, Alex McGuigan. LU unfairly sacked Alex after a breathalyser test gave a positive reading but didn't take into account his Type-2 Diabetes or test his urine sample.

Despite a vicious, anti-union smear campaign from management and the press, Alex is well-liked. A solid strike will tell LU that it can't get away with sacking staff in breach of procedure.

WATERLOO & CITY SERVICE CONTROLLERS

To step up their fight over re-grading, RMT service controllers on the Waterloo & City Line have been balloted for strike action. We're waiting for the ballot result and look forward to hearing strike dates announced soon.

BOXING DAY

LU isn't getting enough volunteers to work on Boxing Day, so it's forcing the most junior people in depots to work. RMT is balloting drivers for industrial action so we're not forced to work!

INTERSERVE CLEANERS

Cleaning workers on the Bakerloo, Central, and Victoria Lines will be balloted for strikes.

Management bullying has increased; wages are being paid late; RMT reps are being victimised since being transferred from Initial to Interserve.

This coincides with latest strikes by Interserve cleaners at Waterloo Station.

Cleaners should not be called out on strike without a strategy to win. A winning strategy would include:

- **Strike pay** to assist low paid workers.
- **All grades united!** RMT needs to know how many members are at each depot and station, how many work for Interserve and how many are agency workers. Central Line East branch led the way with a special meeting, which led to a fact-gathering day on the Central Line with an RMT organiser. This needs to be replicated across all LU branches. Organising cleaners across hundreds of workplaces is a task for every RMT member. An injury to one is an injury to all!
- **Leaflets please!** RMT head office needs to work with cleaner reps to produce leaflets and campaign material. If cleaners see RMT seriously supporting the campaign, it will build confidence to take action.
- **Strategy to beat strike breaking!** In recent strikes, cleaners working for agencies have been used to break strikes. It's excellent that agency workers are getting more involved where RMT has made an effort to reach out to them. This should be part of RMT's strategy beat strike breaking.
- **Co-ordinated strategy.** Cleaners on national rail at Waterloo are also in the midst of strike action against Interserve. To take on a multinational company, which employs 75,000 people worldwide, RMT cleaners need to co-ordinate across different contracts. Solidarity wins!

WHO'S AT FAULT FOR ASSAULTS?

Tubeworker was pleased to hear that LU's "Golden Rules for Avoiding Conflict at the Gateline" is being redistributed to staff.

This helpful document reminds us all that, if we're assaulted at work, it's essentially our fault, as we must've failed to follow some of the "golden rules".

WE WANT A TICKET OFFICE NOT A TESCO!

LUL is rumoured to be in talks about turning Shepherd's Bush ticket office into a Tesco as early as February 2015.

You need a ticket, not a ready meal, to use LU! Where once there would have been a permanent, well paid ticket seller, there will be a zero-hours, low-paid worker!

Confronted with this nightmare, we hope that staff and passengers will rise up and say no. It's not too late to save our ticket offices.

OFF THE CATWALK, BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD?

The new LU uniform is being trialled on in stations and depots.

With bright colours, LU wants to make us more 'visible'. *Tubeworker* says, if you want us to be more visible, don't sack nearly 1000 staff! The uniform is not fit for purpose. We're too cold and it doesn't keep us dry.

We don't need bright colours. We need thermals and a practical uniform.



HANDS OFF LONDON TRANSPORT

Hands Off London Transport (HOLT) is campaigning against LU staff cuts, ticket office closures and for more

funding for London's public transport.

In December and January, HOLT will protests outside stations where LU plans huge staff cuts. HOLT wants to bring LU workers and communities together in a high profile, media and political campaign to save jobs and services.

Please get involved.
handsofflondontransport@yahoo.co.uk
handsofflondontransport.wordpress.com



EVERY JOB IN EVERY GRADE MATTERS!



With Fit For the Future — Stations in our faces, it is perhaps easy to forget that attacks on jobs in other grades are also on LUL management's agenda.

LUL would like us to think the attack faces only on one group of grades. That way, they can pick us off one group at a time, relying on other grades thinking "This is nothing to do with us, why should we strike for others?"

Meanwhile, LUL have started the commissioning for driverless trains, and BoJo has unveiled a design. And jobs continue to be pared away in engineering, fleet, admin and elsewhere.

When RMT launched its fight against the job cuts last year, it called it 'Every Job Matters'. This was not just a witty take on the company's cheesy 'Every Journey Matters' slogan, but a clear statement that the campaign is about every job in every grade. It's not the 'stations dispute' or the 'ticket offices dispute' - it's all our dispute.

The union itself could do more to make this clear - to openly campaign against, and when the time comes strike against - all these threats together.

Workers in different grades should stand up for each other, but in the current situation, it is even simpler than that: every grade has its own reason to strike, to defend its own jobs.

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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