



# tubeworker

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## KICK THE TORIES OUT OF CITY HALL VOTE LABOUR ON 5 MAY!

We face a straight choice in the Mayoral elections on 5 May: Labour or the Tories. Here at *Tubeworker*, we think the choice is pretty clear.

We know who the Tories are: the party of the bosses and the rich. Their candidate, the millionaire Zac Goldsmith, is an enthusiastic supporter of the government's Trade Union Bill, which aims to massively restrict our rights to organise at work and take action to defend and extend our rights.

He wants to remove the friends and family "nominee passes" that most directly-employed staff are entitled to, claiming he'd use the extra money (even though the nominee passes don't require any financial outlay from LU) to pay for more police on the Tube.

The Tories have run a dog-whistle, racist campaign, making gutter-level insinuations about Khan they would not have made



had he not been a Muslim.

Labour's policies - on housing, on living wages, and on other issues - would clearly be materially better for working-class people than the Tories'. For example, Labour want to create a "Living Rent" scheme, defining "affordable" rents as a proportion (1/3) of average income, rather than the current criteria of 80% of average market rates.

Labour's candidate Sadiq Khan is not as radical as *Tubeworker*, and many others, would like. His ambiguous calls for "efficiency

savings" at TfL could mean cutting back on senior management pay and ludicrous outsourcing cock-ups like the Bombardier fiasco (which we'd enthusiastically support), or more cuts to frontline services (which we'd wholeheartedly oppose).

But Labour is also a party in the midst of an immense political upheaval. It is now led by two radical left-wingers, Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell. If Labour loses in London, the Blairites will go on the offensive and attempt to unseat them.

All Tube unions have links to Labour, either through being directly affiliated or through Parliamentary Groups. Our unions could use those links to pressure Khan to alter and expand his transport policy platform: we should demand that a Labour mayor reverses frontline staffing cuts, reopens ticket offices, and ends outsourcing.

Tube workers should not just passively vote for Sadiq Khan: they should join the Labour Party, and get involved in this moment of transformation. The more workers who join the party and push for working-class policies, the more restrained the party's pro-capitalist wing will be.

**So vote Labour on 5 May, and join the fight!**

### "FIT FOR THE FUTURE" TRAINING FIASCO

**"Fit for the Future", LU's new staffing model on stations, is in chaos.**

Only a small proportion of the required staff training necessary to make the new model work has been delivered, as these shocking figures show.

- "Ticket Machine Servicing" training: 12% of all staff who need the training have been trained.
- Station Familiarisations: 34.8% of staff have been trained. The lack of adequately familiarised

staff has already led to multiple station closures and stations having no step-free access, confirming our fears that "Fit for the Future" would particularly disadvantage disabled passengers.

- Control Room Familiarisations: just 35.3% of staff have been trained.

**Unions must continue to fight "Fit for the Future", and find ways to launch new disputes and campaigns to push it back.**

**REMEMBERING LEON BRUMANT: A TRIBUTE TO A COMRADE**

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## CLEANERS' COLUMN

### ISS PENSION CHANGES KEEP WORKERS IN THE DARK

ISS wants to scrap its existing pension scheme and start a new one, apparently as a cost-saving exercise.

There has been no consultation with staff, or with RMT (a recognised union) about the changes. Some staff have received letters, but many are being kept in the dark. RMT has demanded info and talks with ISS.

The ideal solution would be for LU to take cleaning service in house, employ cleaners directly, and allow them to join the TfL pension scheme!

### SAME OLD STORIES

Cleaners' reps in ISS are getting tired of having their requests for meetings with the company to discuss Night Tube constantly ignored.

Meanwhile, there's still no sign of the back-pay cleaners are owed since the implementation of the new London Living Wage. Short payment remains endemic in both ISS and Interserve.

### WHOSE RISK?

Word reaches Tubeworker HQ that ISS has been failing to carry out proper risk assessments for workers who are pregnant, or who have physical conditions.

This kind of cavalier attitude to workers' safety is typical of ISS, which has proved itself a heartless and compassion-free employer time and time again.

### AND FINALLY, A WORD FROM THE FRONT...

A *Tubeworker* correspondent in the cleaning grade writes: "New 'London Living Wage'? Bullshit. It's not enough to live on, even working 44 hours a week. You're supposed to be able to live on it? My arse you can.

"Once you pay for your high rent, your travel, then food it's all gon. I'd like to see the fucking Tory arseholes live on it and then tell us it enough to live on in London."

### H&C DRIVERS FIGHT BACK

RMT drivers on the Hammersmith & City Line have entered dispute against their managers' overbearing, disciplinarian tactics.

Workers from elsewhere on the job will recognise these increasingly common issues, ones that drivers on the Piccadilly Line are already in dispute over, staging a rock solid strike recently.

We hope a ballot for action will shortly be forthcoming, and in quick enough time to allow for coordination with any future strikes on the Picc.

### SHOCKING DISREGARD FOR OUR SAFETY

Metal was found in the soles of the new LU shoes, meaning that they could conduct electricity when we access the track. Now LU is issuing 9,000 pairs of "interim shoes" while it works on a long-term replacement.

While we wait, LU says we just have to check that the soles are not damaged before we go on the track. But what if the soles get damaged *while* we're walking the track?

Don't go anywhere near live track wearing conductive shoes! Your safety comes first.

This debacle shows that LU prioritised cosmetic corporate re-branding far more than safety when it re-designed the new uniform.

### PARKING PANDEMONIUM

Staff parking is in chaos due to mass displacements.

On the east end of the Central Line, staff who have parked legitimately are finding that they are getting fines!

It's totally unacceptable for this to be happening to staff. Another reason why Fit for Nothing needs to be parked!

### CSA2s: LEVEL UP!

As LU begins externally recruiting CSA2s, unions must guard against the creation of a two-tier workforce.

CSA2s must be organised, and mobilised in unity with other grades to fight for the "levelling up" of their pay, terms, and conditions to CSA1.

### STRIKES AT LILLIE BRIDGE DEPOT

RMT will ballot engineers at Lillie Bridge depot for strikes, as Boris Johnson and TfL/LU attempt to accelerate the process of shutting the depot and demolishing it to make way for luxury flats.

Lillie Bridge workers are in the dark about what will happen to them if and when the redevelopment takes place.

*Tubeworker*, along with RMT and others, supports the Save Earls Court campaign, which seeks to block the redevelopment, which is no-one's interests but the rich.

We hope housing campaigners and community activists will join RMT engineers on the picket lines. A solid strike could seriously disrupt the developers' plans!

**In next month's *Tubeworker*... EU referendum - the case for a socialist "in" vote. Read more online: campaign.workerseurope.net**

### MORE CONTENT ON TUBEWORKER'S BLOG

- TfL faces further cuts: [bit.ly/tfl-cuts](https://bit.ly/tfl-cuts)
- Defend Glenroy Watson: [bit.ly/defend-glenroy](https://bit.ly/defend-glenroy)

### 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](mailto:tubeworker@workersliberty.org)

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