



tubeworker

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

WHY CLEANERS PLAN TO STRIKE

A Tube cleaner and RMT activist spoke to *Tubeworker* about why cleaners are planning to strike:

“Tube cleaners have been campaigning for many years against injustice. We're fighting for dignity, and equal conditions in our workplaces. Currently we have no company sick pay, which means cleaners who get sick are forced to come to work or face financial hardship. And we also have no free travel passes, unlike directly-employed staff working on the railway.

“The biggest demand we are fighting for is direct employment, for cleaning to be brought in house. I don't consider myself an ABM cleaner. I am a TfL cleaner, I am a London Underground cleaner. ABM will probably go in a few years, some other contractor will come along. But we are doing the same work, cleaning London Underground. We should be employed directly.

“There's hasn't been industrial action for several years; union

members amongst cleaners have been waiting for this dispute for a long time. People were asking, “when are we going to have a real fight?” Non-members have also been enthused by the announcement that we're planning to ballot. Since the decision was announced, I've personally recruited six people. Cleaners want to join because they see us preparing for a strike.

“We're not planning to strike simply because we're pissed off. Action is an essential organising tool. A union is only as strong as its membership. By taking action, we build the union. We need support and guidance from the rest of RMT. Many cleaners have English as a second language and many not know their legal rights. Some feel scared and isolated. The wider union can provide us with direction and information to help us build the dispute, and support us when we take action. We need to be honest with members about what it will take to win.

“We have been making good links with other unions organising cleaners, such as the IWGB. We have attend picket lines and demonstrations with them, and we've been sharing ideas and tactics at events coordinated by the New Economics Foundation. It's good to meet cleaners from universities and hospitals and discuss what we have in common. We're part of the union movement so should support each other. If they strike, they know RMT members will have their back, and vice versa.

“Our voice is bigger if we combine, so unions organising outsourced workers to demand direct employment should join together in common campaigns.”

VOTE YES FOR ACTION TO STOP “TRANSFORMATION”

RMT has begun balloting nearly 2,000 workers for strikes to stop the latest phase of “Transformation” cuts.

The plans affect workers in engineering, track, service control, LUCC, and elsewhere. The latest phase is particularly significant as it includes a proposal to outsource waste disposal workers currently directly employed by LU to a private employer. If we're not able to stop this attack, other workers could be in the scope for outsourcing and privatisation.

RMT's ballot runs until 16 July. Vote yes for strikes and action short of strikes!

BALLOT ON PAY/CONDITIONS IS OVERDUE

As *Tubeworker* went to press, unions were due to meet LU bosses at Acas on 10 July for further talks on pay/conditions.

We should have had a new deal on pay/conditions in April. It's now July. LU has made it clear they're not interested in serious negotiations and, without the pressure of industrial action, will only be offering us peanuts. We believe unions need to ballot immediately to win a decent deal.

We all need to campaign to ensure workmates are aware of union demands and are prepared to fight for them.

Further delays only benefit the bosses.

SEAN HOYLE FOR RMT GS!



Tubeworker supports Sean Hoyle's campaign to become the next RMT general secretary. Sean stands for fighting industrial disputes to win, with rank-and-file members calling the shots through democratic structures.



SH4RMTGS

SAVE THE TfL LEARNING ZONE!

TfL likes to boast about its Learning Zone, about how it has given staff the opportunity to enhance our skills and to overcome the barriers presented to dyslexic and other neurodivergent people.

It's so proud of the facility that ... it's planning to close it. Yes, the company can afford massive salaries for the big cheeses, numerous over-the-top contractor fees, but not a really valuable education service that costs the equivalent of such one-and-a-half staff.

We'd love to see industrial action against this, but in the meantime, please sign this online petition: bit.ly/k-tfl-lz

TOO HOT TO HANDLE?

Alarmed that the temperature could rise above twenty degrees, on Friday 28 June, Network Rail announced that on Saturday there would be a speed restriction of 20mph all the way from Queen's Park to Bushey.

After all, the rails might buckle in the oven-like temperatures.

Problem is: management didn't bother amending Bakerloo running times at all. Somehow, they expected trains to run to time without being allowed to run to time.

Drivers knew that this would rapidly turn into a fiasco. And so it came to pass. By Saturday midday, the job was up the wall.

HEATHROW DISPUTE CLEARED FOR TAKE OFF

RMT has launched a local dispute on the Heathrow stations cover group, demanding an end to lone working during Night Tube hours.

Due to short staffing, Night Tube staff at the Terminal 5 station often have to work alone, including having to detrain before trains are taken into the sidings. They face antisocial behaviour and a serious risk of assault.

The local branch also plans to ballot Night Tube drivers, who are also affected by short staffing on stations.

CASH FOR ACCESS?

It's great to see a new ramp at South Woodford. We are all in favour of improved access for mobility-impaired people and people encumbered with luggage or buggies.

Shame that in its wisdom, LU has installed BANK CARD ONLY ticket machines in the new entrance, forcing any mobility-impaired people to have to make a trip via a deep subway and back again if they want or need to pay with cash (assuming those machines work!).

It seems that once again, efficient extraction of money is a higher priority for the company than accessibility.

MARYLEBONE WORKERS WIN ON MESS ROOM

Local management at Marylebone had been planning to force staff to stop using the ex-ticket office mess room as a mess facility.

Local reps mounted a local campaign, escalated the issue through the machinery, and brought a motion to their branch proposing a dispute if management didn't back down.

Fortunately management saw sense and have agreed to allow staff to continue using the facility. There are remaining issues over the location of lockers, but it's a good win for now!

PREPARE TO BALLOT OVER PANDROL

RMT is considering a ballot of driver members on five lines - Victoria, Central, Northern, Jubilee, and Piccadilly - over noise levels.

LU has installed "Pandrol Vanguard" technology on the tracks in an attempt to reduce train noise at street level... with the effect that noise is forced into the cab and cars, affecting drivers and passengers.

This fix is not good enough. We want a proper engineering solution, and in the meantime a temporary speed restriction in place over affected areas to reduce noise.

If LU won't agree to that, industrial action short of strikes to drive at reduced speed over affected track will be necessary.

CLIMATE STRIKES IN SEPTEMBER?

School climate strikers have called on workers and unions to join them in a general strike against climate change on 20 September.

There are obstacles in place which make this difficult, but we should all discuss what might be possible - even if it's just statements of solidarity with the school strikers.

CITY HALL SECURITY ASSAULTS ACTIVISTS

RMT demonstrated at City Hall on 20 June, raising outsourced workers' struggles and "Transformation" cuts.

When a small delegation of activists attempted to peacefully enter the building, they were physically assaulted by security guards.

These are the violent lengths City Hall will go to in order to save Sadiq Khan the embarrassment of being confronted with the cuts and exploitation taking place on his watch!

With RMT now balloting for strikes against Transformation, and planning ballots of cleaners, Interserve security staff, and of LU staff over pay and conditions, will Khan be able to continue to ignore workers' demands when our strikes bring London to a standstill?

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

Tubeworker's blog — daily updates — workersliberty.org/twblog

Add "Tubeworker Bulletin" on Facebook, follow @Tube_Worker on Twitter

Subscribe!

Want to get every issue of *Tubeworker* (published at least monthly)? Send us your address along with a tenner (cheques payable to WL Bulletins)

Got a story for Tubeworker? We welcome reports and comments from all Tube workers.

Contact us: Workers' Liberty, 20E Tower Workshops, Riley Road, London SE1 3DG, tubeworker@workersliberty.org