



tubeworker

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STAND UP TO NATIONALISM: DEFEND MIGRANTS' RIGHTS



With grim predictability, the Brexit process has descended into abject chaos. Turns out that it's not possible to unpick 50-odd years of social and economic integration without doing immense damage!

Supporters of the *Tubeworker* bulletin have differing views on Brexit and what should happen now. To further explore and clarify these views, we held a debate on 21 March between pro- and anti-Brexit positions, a summary of which can be found on our blog at bit.ly/brexit-debate.

Workers' Liberty, the socialist group which publishes *Tubeworker*, opposes Brexit, and is part of the left-wing anti-Brexit campaigns

For more info on the socialist campaigns against Brexit, see:



Labour for a Socialist Europe
labourforasocialisteurope.org



Another Europe is Possible
anothereurope.org

Another Europe is Possible and Labour for a Socialist Europe (see box). Workers' Liberty believes that social and economic integration, and the erosion of borders, under the EU, provides a positively higher platform for workers' struggle than a Europe of competing national capitalisms walled off behind tariffs and border controls.

Tubeworker bulletin has always stood up for migrants' rights, against racism and nationalism. We believe borders only serve to divide workers of different nationalities, and that the right to migrate and live and work legally in other countries makes workers better able to organise. Migrants' rights are now several threatened by Brexit.

In the unfolding Brexit chaos,

STOP PRESS: LU PAY FIGHT - LET'S BALLOT FOR STRIKES! BUILD THE CAMPAIGN!

Our unions have now begun negotiations with LU over our next deal on pay, terms, and conditions. Unless those negotiations bear fruit immediately, our unions should declare disputes and begin balloting for strikes. Let's have a positive campaign to win our demands, including a 32-hour week.

For more, see: bit.ly/LU-pay-claim

some basic principles must be reasserted:

- Against nationalism, for internationalism! Workers have more in common with workers from other countries than we do with bosses who happen to share our nationality.
- Defend migrants' rights! Workers born in other countries are just as much part of our class as workers born in Britain. We must defend our migrant colleagues' right to live and work in Britain, and resist any attempts to restrict their rights if Brexit takes place.
- Workers' struggle is key! Struggle by workers across Europe can transform society. The EU, and the national governments which comprise it, have pursued anti-working-class policies because the labour movement across Europe is weak. Breaking up the EU can't solve our problems; only assertive working-class struggle for socialist policies can begin to do that.

We fight for our unions and the Labour Party to adopt a radical political programme that articulates a socialist alternative to the politics of austerity, whether that austerity is driven from Westminster or Brussels.

Workers' Liberty London forum:

Building fighting unions

Friday 12 April, 7pm, Institute of Education, WC1H 0AL (Russell Square)

John Moloney is standing for the assistant general secretary position in the PCS (civil service) union.

All the other candidates are full-time union officers; John is the only rank-and-file member of the union standing. He's committed to taking an average member's wage, rather than the high salary attached to the position.

How can we make our unions more accountable to grassroots members? How can we make them fight? How can we make them win?

OUTSOURCED WORKERS FIGHTING BACK



STM AND VINCI WORKERS TO STRIKE

Travel Safe Officers employed by the STM Agency on the

London Overground (Arriva Rail London) contract will strike on 2 April, followed by a strike of Vinci cleaners on the Overground on 4-6 April.

The STM workers, who do platform and on-train work for London Overground, face a pay freeze, despite already being low-paid. The Vinci cleaners are striking to advance a number of different demands around pay and conditions.

RMT will demonstrate outside Arriva Rail London's headquarters, next to Swiss Cottage Tube station, at 10am on 2 April and at 10am on 5 April.

INTERSERVE WORKERS GET ORGANISED

Security guards and reception workers at LUL and TfL buildings are getting organised. Interserve, the outsourced contractor which employs them, is in financial chaos, and was recently bought out of administration by its own lenders.

This means these workers, who already face a raft of workplace issues, now face a deeply uncertain future.

RMT's Piccadilly and District West branch has been taking a particular lead in helping the workers organise.

As well as fighting for better pay and improved working conditions for Interserve workers, RMT will also be fighting for the contract to be taken in-house and for the workers to be employed directly by LUL/TfL.

FIGHT AGAINST ABM GOES ON

RMT is continuing its effort to organise cleaners on the main LUL cleaning contract, where the employer is ABM.

With four previously separate cleaning contracts having been consolidated into one, there's a real opportunity to win improvements, with only one employer to deal with.

RMT is in talks with ABM to ratify a recognition agreement across the contract, but is also pressing LUL/TfL to take cleaning back in house.

RMT cleaners' main demands are for staff travel passes; company sick pay; and better holiday entitlement.



FLEET WORKERS: VOTE YES FOR ACTION!

RMT's ballot for strikes and action short of strikes to defend train preparation schedules closes on 2 April. Tubeworker urges all LU Fleet workers to vote yes/yes.

The union must urgently look to spread the dispute if fleet-only action proves insufficient to force management to back down.

BUCKING THE TREND?

Around International Women's Day (8 March), *On the Move* featured women who are "bucking the trend" by working in male-dominated roles - technical officer, service control manager, track maintenance.

But why are women still a minority in LU when we are 51% of London's population? In the most recent stats available (2017), women were 23.4% of TfL's workforce and only 17.1% in LU, 15.6% in operational grades.

The percentage of women at LU has fallen since 2016, perhaps as women have been squeezed out during Fit for the Future. "Transformation" will cut even more women workers' jobs.

LU talks diversity and representation but maintains a deeply sexist and discriminatory culture.

STICKY RIP OFF?

Apparently, LU pays £1,300 a go for a Track Retrieval Device.

Remember, this "device" is a sticky pad on the end of a stick.

Given this profligacy, a Truth Retrieval Device may be needed the next time LU says there's no money for additional staff.

BALLOT FOR BILLING

Station staff at Heathrow are gearing up to defend Harvinder Billing, a colleague sacked after two ticket office discrepancies.

Anyone who works in a ticket office knows how unreliable LU's machines can be. We can't stand by and watch our colleagues sacked for human error on an unreliable system on which we're not properly trained.

It's good to see Harvinder's colleagues rally round.

A SKY-HIGH PAY RISE

Workers on the cable car service across the Thames have won pay rises of between 14.35% and 22.35% - by getting unionised.

In this relatively new workforce, a few staff had joined RMT. But the campaign stepped up a gear in October last year with the election of a new RMT rep. The union negotiated a recognition agreement and started talking to the company about pay.

As time went on and the benefits of unionisation became clearer, more joined, and so the pressure on management increased. Crucially, the union won a bigger increase for lower-paid workers.

DISPOSING OF OUR HERITAGE

55 Broadway is to be "disposed of", according to an article on the TfL intranet.

This happening as a result of the Tories' political choice to cut funding.

It is likely that 55 Broadway will be turned into flats for rich people. If those same rich people were taxed more, perhaps TfL wouldn't be in such financial straits.

HEY BUDDY

London Underground has announced a new "buddy system" for lone working on stations.

Every two hours, you're supposed to phone your mate at the next station to check they're alright.

But what use is a phone call two hours after you've been assaulted? The system can't keep us safe during the traffic day.

On the east end of the District Line, and at Barking and Upminster depots, RMT wants to ballot for industrial action about lone working.

It is also tackling the root cause of lone working by fighting for more staff.

JUSTICE FOR SOPHIE!

Sophie Kyei-Donkoh, a CSA at Piccadilly Circus, was abused by an aggressive passenger, who makes serial vexatious complaints against staff.

How did the company support her? With a 52-week disciplinary warning!

RMT members at Sophie's station are rightly up in arms about this travesty. Prior to the decision, the union wrote to LU to tell them that there'd be a dispute should Sophie be disciplined.

The warning must be rescinded!

FAMILIAR NAMES

A collision on the Hong Kong metro, operated by future Crossrail operator MTR, has been attributed to signalling software provided by Thales.

Thales will be familiar to many on LU. But will this latest cock-up make TfL rethink its policy of contracting out critical functions to private companies?

Or will our intrepid bosses carry on regardless?

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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tubeworker@workersliberty.org

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

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