



On Guard

Strikes suspended after Manchester atrocity.

The DOO strike, set for the 30th May was suspended by the RMT after the Bombing in the Manchester Arena last week.

"Our thoughts and solidarity at this time are with the people of Manchester." Mick Cash RMT General Secretary.

The bombing was a murderous atrocity killing and injuring mainly innocent children and young people.

On Guard fully supports the statement put out by Manchester Trades Council: *"Like all other Mancunians we at Manchester Trades Council are shocked by the horrendous crime committed at the M.E.N. Arena last night. We stand in solidarity with the loved ones of those who were killed and wounded last night. We pay tribute to the skilled and professional response of all emergency service workers last night, without whose prompt action the number of dead and wounded could have been significantly worse."*

We also salute all those who in the face of this adversity immediately stepped forward with offers of help. The Taxi drivers who gave so many people free rides home, those who opened their homes and countless other acts of solidarity that really define our city. Our city is too strong, too united to give in to the reactionary aims of the attacker who attempted to create hatred and division amongst us. As trade unionists we also stand in solidarity with every community in the city and against any attempt by reactionary forces to use this act to further their own revolting ends. Manchester will prevail through solidarity and love".

Our fight for a better world based on such solidarity - a socialist society - is one of the best responses to the murderers.

But we also need to win our own battles in the here and now. To do this, On Guard believe the strike against DOO should be reinstated as soon as possible.

EMT Driver Speaks To On Guard About The Election On June 8th

How are you voting in the election? *"I'm voting Labour. The Tory manifesto has said that they will guarantee a minimum service when strikes are called. This, on top of the ballot thresholds they announced last year will make people feel that they can't go on strike"*. (The Tories introduced new anti union legislation last year which obliges unions in key public sector areas to achieve at 40% vote in favour on a 50% turnout in a strike ballot).

Some drivers have said that they are all the same so voting is pointless. *"But they are not all the same. Corbyn is turning things around - however slowly. Finally someone is trying to make the rich pay rather than cut our services. The manifesto pledges to fund the NHS, end student fees and protect social care. It's a refreshing change from the 'cutting more gently' that Labour previously promised. When Blair was the candidate, he was supported by the Sun. Corbyn is being vilified by the press. There's a reason for that. It's because he is being effective"*.

The Labour manifesto has also pledged a 10 minimum wage. How will this affect railworkers? *"This will help a lot of people on the railway like the cleaners and the cafe workers. TPE and EMT Rail Gourmet people have got different levels of pay from each other. It causes resentment. We need everyone to be on a good living wage"*.

A lot of people are saying don't vote Tory but aren't saying what you should vote. Why are you saying vote Labour in particular? *"The Tories will go on cutting corporatin tax which benefits the rich, whilst carrying on cutting the services which we all need. The Lib Dems will tax everybody, rich and poor, an extra penny int he pound. Ukip don't have amanifesto as we speak but they won't have a coherent set of policies. Only Labour have identified precisely where the money will come from to improve things for working class people by increasing taxes on the rich"*.



INDUSTRIAL ROUND-UP

Managers put profit before safety!

Management at Sheffield have made themselves a laughing stock in messrooms all over the North after being caught trying to cut corners on training.

Shameful

ASLEF reps' persistent questioning of the fact that recent training for Minder Drivers appeared to be different at Sheffield than at every other depot eventually led to the uncovering of a shameful corner-cutting manoeuvre. So managers higher up the food chain had to suspend some Minders from minding duties, setting their Trainees back while they were retrained and re-assessed.

Corner cutting

This is what privatisation and the profit motive really do to public services. Far from providing 'incentives' to run an 'efficient' service, instead it encourages managers to cut corners to meet targets or earn bonuses, or just pats on the head from their superiors as they snivel their way up the career ladder - and we have to clear up the mess they make of our industries.

No Disciplinaries for showing solidarity

In an extremely positive turn of events, Arriva Rail North have moved away from their previous position of trying to bully ASLEF Drivers who have refused to cross RMT picket lines in the DOO dispute.

Democratic right

According to a letter from the ASLEF General Secretary to its Sheffield Midland branch which ended up being shared widely on social media, ASLEF has secured an assurance from the company that no Drivers will be disciplined for refusing to

cross picket lines. Although On Guard disagrees with the ASLEF leadership's refusal to go into dispute with the company over DOO until it has formally attempted to open negotiations on the subject, huge credit must be given to them for this move to uphold its members' democratic right to respect picket lines.

Picket line advice

ASLEF as a union recognises that respect for picket lines is a fundamental principle for the trade union movement, one that should be upheld whenever possible. That's why they publish the generalised advice on picket lines every year in the diaries issued to every member, and why they have sought and won this assurance from the company.

Support drivers and guards

On Guard once again calls on all workers to respect the RMT picket lines. Do it to support yourselves and the Guards - no-one wants to work on a DOO railway. Do it to strengthen both ASLEF and RMT's negotiating positions - RMT are more likely to win their dispute if the company knows Drivers will stop the job by refusing to cross and ASLEF will look a lot stronger if their members are demonstrating their willingness to fight when necessary.

Support yourself

Do it for one in the eye for management: for every time they have made you feel small; every time they have phoned you in your free time to bother you about a delay; every time they have kept you waiting around. Do it to keep yourselves safe at work.

Pressure from ASLEF

Scabs have proven on previous strike days that they cannot be relied upon to do the Guard's job right or to for-

get their Manager roles while doing another person's job. The company, under pressure from ASLEF, has given you a free hit on your managers - use it!

Correction

In the last issue of On Guard, we published a piece about a scab Manager operating the doors of a train on a strike day and carrying out the door procedure incorrectly by opening the doors from the front of the train. This was incorrect as it is of course permitted for a guard to open the doors from the front. What actually happened in that incident was that the doors were **closed** from the front of the train, which is against procedure and potentially dangerous.



Please send in to On Guard your experiences of rat watching in the workplace: messrooms, restrooms, toilets, cafes and coffee bars. All contributions welcome.

What is On Guard?

On Guard is a monthly socialist bulletin by and for rank and file workers at Northern. It is published by socialist group Workers' Liberty.

We will be featuring a lot of updates and articles on Driver Only Operation, but welcome content on any issue from Northern workers themselves.

Got a story for On Guard?

We welcome reports and comments from all rail workers.

Contact us:

onguard.bulletin@gmail.com