



# tubeworker

www.workersliberty.org/tubeworker <> tubeworker@btopenworld.com

# STOP THE BNP!

The British National Party denies being 'fascist' and claims to be a respectable party. In elections and in numbers, it is on the rise. Last week, its two MEPs took their two seats in the European Parliament. But in their politics and their origins, they remain a fascist party. Here we answer questions about this issue, and suggest how you can fight fascist politics, which is a danger to us all.

**What do we mean when we call an organisation fascist?** Fundamentally anti-working-class, anti-democratic. Also racist, anti-semitic, sexist and homophobic.

**How does that make them different from other parties with similar policies?** They don't just build support in elections; they aim to build a mass movement to use physical force to fight for their ideas on the streets. The word fascist comes from the Latin 'fasces', meaning a bundle of rods bound together. It has the dual meaning of being strong in numbers and using physical force. The BNP still routinely intimidates and attacks election opponents and anti-fascist protesters.

**Why are they doing well now?** In capitalist crises, fascists exploit desperation and offer scapegoats: immigrants and minorities. They appeal to unemployed and lower middle class people, not workers who could fight as part of the trade union movement for politics that cuts across boundaries of race and sexuality.

They take advantage of working-class people not feeling represented by any mainstream parties. New Labour has joined the Tories in standing up only for the rich; bailing out banks by billions while unemployment has soared to over 2 million, people are being evicted from their homes, 27% of workers' wages are cut, etc. The BNP seem like the only ones talking about housing and badly-funded public services.

Although the establishment officially distances itself from fascism, when capitalism is in crisis and the system



seems shaky, fascism comes to the rescue and maintains the status quo through authoritarian means. Hitler was supported by the ruling class in the 1930s as the person who would stamp on the working-class rebellion against the suffering of the Great Depression and the fascist threat. Although with different characteristics, the politics of fascism is ultimately on the same side as the other capitalists' parties when it comes to maintaining the system they all profit by. This is why fascism is a fundamentally anti-working class political force.

### How can we fight it?

- Support politics that will benefit all working class people. Stand up for council housing, jobs for all, decent benefits for all.
  - Put forward these working class demands in the political sphere – stand working class candidates.
  - Support self-defence by communities targeted by the fascists.
  - Join the mobilisation against the BNP's 'Red White and Blue' festival. Contact *Tubeworker* for details.
- [www.workersliberty.org/anti-fascism](http://www.workersliberty.org/anti-fascism)

## STAND BY FOR STRIKES

Rank-and-file RMT reps recognise the probable need for more strike action, and know that members are up for it so long as they are kept informed about the issues.

There may be areas where support for action is not 100%, but dropping the fight because of weak spots is not an option: we would live with the consequences for years to come.

It is not ideal to be in dispute over several issues, as this can be confusing. Add to that management's propaganda, the mischief-making and/or inaction of the other unions, and RMT not always being great at explaining itself (though this is improving) - and we have an urgent need for clear information and argument. The key issues are:

- We don't have to settle for a crap pay deal because capitalism caused a recession; we need a one-year deal, with more money.
- Our jobs are under threat and we have to defend them.
- LUL/TfL's funding crisis should be tackled through public investment and reigning in the fat cats, not by punishing workers.
- We are not going to put up with management bullying any more.

But the union will never persuade management just by talking. LUL has proved over and over again that it only understands the language of industrial action. Without the pressure of named dates for strikes, management have no incentive to concede anything further during negotiations.

So get those picket armbands at the ready.

[www.workersliberty.org/jobspayjustice](http://www.workersliberty.org/jobspayjustice)

***Tubeworker* is produced by Tube workers and published by Workers' Liberty, an organisation fighting as part of the labour movement for a socialist alternative to both capitalism and Stalinism, based on common ownership and democracy.**

**We want one democratic, fighting union for all railworkers. We reject artificial divisions between workers of different grades. We oppose racism, sexism, homophobia and all prejudice that divides us. Only our bosses benefit from a divided workforce.**

## Our New Pay Offer

**L**UL now offers a two-year deal: 1.5% this year; RPI+0.5% next. Our strike won results: ending the 5-year nightmare and getting 0.5% extra.

In cash terms: for CSAs, an extra £360 a year, £28 in each pay packet; for drivers or SS1s, £600; £46 per pay packet. This will not cover the rise in one of our bills, let alone them all!

We know this offer is inadequate. But some people lack the conviction to fight for more during a recession - as if we have to make a token sacrifice, even though this will not help those people losing their jobs. Instead, we should demand more, and send a signal to other workers by refusing to accept instructions to 'tighten our belts' from bosses who are not tightening theirs.

LUL's 'Heads Up' bulletin suggests that by asking for 'too much' pay, the unions may put pensions at risk. But we would not have a pension fund at all without the unions, and the more pay we win, the more goes into our pension pot. To threaten our pensions like this is disgusting. Most people can see through their flawed logic and see it for the scare-mongering that it is.

## Defend Agreements

**O**ur dispute is partly about defending agreements. Many workers do not get why union officials go on about the importance of agreements; it can even come across as just an irrelevant union officials vs management squabble.

But agreements are like World War I trenches. They represent the extent of what we have won so far, the limits beyond which we will not let management encroach. When workers, through our unions, win improved conditions, we dig our trench by getting it signed and sealed in an agreement.

Agreements protect us every day even if we don't notice it. Why can you not be made to work ten days in a row? Or more than a certain time without a break? Why do you have the right to a rep if you get in trouble? Or the right to apply for promotion? Or swap duties with a workmate? *Agreements*.

We are now defending agreements on job security, attendance and discipline (though the attendance policy was imposed, not agreed). Oil refinery workers have successfully defended their national agreement that protects jobs, pay and conditions.

Don't think of agreements as just pieces of paper. Think of them as our trenches: dig in and give no ground.

**Tubeworker's weblog - daily updates**  
[www.workersliberty.org/twblog](http://www.workersliberty.org/twblog)

## DEFEND KEVIN

**R**MT is to ballot Bakerloo drivers for strikes and action short to demand the reinstatement of Kevin Dobinson, sacked for an aggravated SPAD.

LUL wants a regime where they sack anyone for any mistake. Unless we defend workmates like Kevin, they will succeed. So to defend yourself, defend Kevin!

[www.workersliberty.org/bakerloo](http://www.workersliberty.org/bakerloo)

## TESTING TESTING

**W**hen tested on Bombardier's test track at Old Dalby in Derby, the new Met line S stock trains managed to rip up the rails! Thanks goodness we have these high-quality, innovative private firms taking care of our upgrades, eh?

[www.workersliberty.org/metropolitan](http://www.workersliberty.org/metropolitan)

## PA OR DOOR SAFETY?

**T**here are two glitches with the new Vic line trains: an imperfect PA system, and a door safety problem Which is management prioritising to sort out before the trains go into passenger service (shortly)? Yep - PAs!

But surely LUL takes Vic line door safety seriously: it even sacked a driver for one mistake! It's enough to make you think that Carl Campbell's sacking was more about management asserting themselves than about passenger safety.

[www.workersliberty.org/victoria](http://www.workersliberty.org/victoria)

## CLUCK OFF, BOJO

**S**o Boris thinks that a quarter-of-a-million quid is 'chicken feed' - so long as it is his second income not our pay claim! Obviously BoJo believes that his writing hobby is worth more than ten times the daily slog of a CSA.

The handful of scabs who BoJo praised must be feeling like prize plonkers now.

[www.workersliberty.org/tubefatcats](http://www.workersliberty.org/tubefatcats)

## SPREADING SWINE FLU

**S**till no statement from LUL that swine flu absences will not count as an item. Fearing the Attendance policy, sick staff may come to work and infect workmates and passengers. The Tube network could transmit the pandemic around London.

But worry not! TfL has told the press that it will be OK if loads of workers go off sick because loads of passengers would too, so the reduced services wouldn't matter. It's lovely to see how much they care about the health of their staff and passengers!

[www.workersliberty.org/LTsafety](http://www.workersliberty.org/LTsafety)

Want to get every issue of *Tubeworker* (published at least monthly)? Send us seven quid (cheques payable to *WL Bulletins*) and your address!

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

Contact Workers' Liberty, PO Box 823, London SE15 4NA. 020-7207-3997

Subscribe to *Tubeworker* by e-mail:  
[tubeworker-list-subscribe@workersliberty.org](mailto:tubeworker-list-subscribe@workersliberty.org)

*Tubeworker* p&p S. Matgamna

## The Fat Cat Bosses

Now all the fat cat bosses  
Who think they are so wise  
Say we are in a recession  
The workers won't arise

*These workers tell us what they want  
But we know what they need  
We won't allow some union  
Make us curb our greed  
And we'll say what is chickenfeed  
And we'll say what's enough  
So raise your glass of vintage champagne  
'Cause the going is getting tough*

Now listen all you fat cat bosses  
Who think you are so wise  
The working class have had enough  
And surely will arise  
We're not fighting just for jobs and pay  
And for safe travel too  
We're fighting for the working class  
And that means me and you  
So let's all stand united  
And heed the clarion call  
'Cause if we don't and if we won't  
We cause our own downfall

## WOT NO TICKETS?

**G**oodge St staff came to work to find that their 'Tickets and Assistance' window was now an 'Information' booth. Not because we had stopped selling tickets, but because management replaced the sign above the windows to deter customers.

Staff wrote a protest letter. LUL did the same thing at Goodge St before and reps got it changed back. That they are willing to go to such expense to confuse customers shows how determined they are to close ticket offices.

[www.workersliberty.org/ticketoffices](http://www.workersliberty.org/ticketoffices)

## PHEW, WOT A SCORCHER

**T**ubeworker reckons that if it is too hot to wear a tie comfortably, then take it off. But LUL reckons we need a Hot Weather declaration from NOC before going tie-less. But conditions on a deep-level platform in a crowded central London station may be very different from those on an open-section station 20 miles away.

How about LUL trust its staff to decide?!

[www.workersliberty.org/LTsafety](http://www.workersliberty.org/LTsafety)

## READY, STEADY, DETRAIN!

**M**anagers at Woodford reckon that station staff should detrain the reversers in sixty seconds! Maybe they are limbering us up for the Olympics. Or they are taking the employers' *raison d'être* of making us work ever harder and faster to the extreme.

Fearless managers ignored staff views that this was impractical and unsafe. But they had to pause for thought when a disabled passenger had an accident because of the rushed detraining.

[www.workersliberty.org/central](http://www.workersliberty.org/central)