

FOR THE RECORD

News from your RMT rep on the Liverpool Street Group

July 2009

Pay Deal Discussions

Monday 6th July

On Monday 6th of July at Unity House near King's Cross which is the location of RMT Head Office a meeting was held to discuss the pay deal and further strike action.

I am informed that the Level 1 Reps (such as I) were released for that day to contribute to the discussion the views of their various members.

I didn't attend.

You will know doubt wonder why, and you do deserve an answer.

Quite simply, I was not invited.

Nor was I informed until the morning the meeting was due to take place that anything was happening, and since I have just returned from three weeks annual leave I have not had a chance to discuss with any of you your attitudes towards the pay deal.

This being so I would not have been able to contribute anything but my own opinion, and as I pointed out in the first edition of *For the Record* in relation to the new CSA roster at Liverpool Street I value democracy, I do not have an agenda of my own to follow as your rep, but rather will be led by you. I shall ask at the next Branch Meeting why I wasn't given more notice of the meeting; naturally I would like to attend such meetings when I can.

It is likely that these will not be the only talks that take place, so ask you now – **use all the methods of communication available to you to communicate your opinion of the pay deal offered by London Underground.**

Burning Issues:

CSA Roster at Liverpool Street

This has been going on for so long now; I think a lot of staff are losing interest in the matter. The burning question of the moment is WHEN?

It isn't possible for me to say with absolute accuracy when the new roster will come in, but management have to give you 28 days notice of the change. If you are on leave when the change begins you should receive this notification in writing.

My prediction is that the new roster will be in place from the 4th Sunday in August. Well let us hope so, as we all need to organise our lives.



Need to contact RMT ?

Got a problem?
Need help, advice, representation?

Is there an issue at work that you would like the union to take up with management?

Perhaps you would like to get more involved in the union, come to meetings and help with campaigns?

Check out our website for station and revenue staff:
www.rmtplatform.org.uk

Your first point of contact is your local RMT representative, who is:

Gavin Bowtell 07 907 602 174

If you are a full-time reserve, you may work more or less than your contracted hours if your group admin gives you more longer shifts than shorter or vice versa.

If, over a 12-week period, you work more than your contracted hours you are paid for these hours at overtime rate.

If, over the 12-week period, you work fewer than your contracted hours, management can make you work these hours, but in the next 12-week period, and ONLY up to a maximum of 8 hours.

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■ Join online: www.rmt.org.uk/join

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Step Free Access for Mobility Impaired Passengers

is woefully inadequate at our stations making it very difficult for some of our passengers to get around independently or with ease.

We know this from our own experience of assisting Mobility Impaired Passengers.

Unfortunately I have read from one source that the Tube won't be accessible to all before 2021, and though the TfL website says that 25% of stations will have step-free access by 2010 I can't see the situation for passengers in wheelchairs improving on the Liverpool Street Group in fewer than six months!

Instead we shall do our best to hide our embarrassment when we advise passengers of the difficulties they will face when attempting to travel from our stations.

Recently I had cause to mention this issue to the GSM because a passenger in a wheelchair who told me she could not get out of the chair, nor stand on the escalator wanted to take a train to Tottenham Court Road on the Central line!

Ordinarily we would deal with these things locally.

However on this occasion the passenger in question presented a letter from a Manager at 55 Broadway which the passenger believed gave her carte blanche to travel wherever she wanted to.

continued in the next column



The BTP intervened to prevent the lady from travelling as to use an escalator in a wheelchair is to risk not only the safety of the person using the wheelchair, but that of other passengers and staff; but with letter in hand she defied the support that the BTP were offering her and LU staff at the station.

As a result I wrote to our GSM as have her details of the event. I stated that:

- I wholeheartedly support the right of mobility impaired passengers use of the Underground and lamented the fact that it is not more accessible and this fails to provide a truly first class customer service and which reflects and includes in every way the rich diversity of the population that London Underground serves.
- passengers should not be given letters which may be used as ammunition in disputes with staff.
- it is wrong for instructions to be issued to staff by letter from someone who is not our GSM or her named deputy.
- That nothing can over-ride the decisions we make on allowing passengers to travel when we exercise our duty of care and act within the boundaries of the Rule Book, Conditions of Carriage and the By-laws.
- I asked that the passenger in question and any others in possession of such letters be written to explaining the situation on the Tube i.e that less than 75% of stations are not step-free.
- I asked our GSM to bring the matter to the attention of the author of the letter.

I shall report back to you should there be any further developments in the matter.

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