



platform

news for station and revenue staff - 3rd January 2008



London Underground station staff work alongside station cleaners. They are vital to our stations, yet there are not enough of them, and the contractors employ them on low pay and unpleasant, unsafe conditions. Station staff can help cleaners to win better treatment - and cleaner, nicer stations for all of us.

Here, Becky Crocker and Adrian Finney give some ideas about how you can support the cleaners. Becky and Adrian are both station staff who have taken on responsibility within their RMT branches for helping organise and support cleaners.

- Cleaning staff have been cut back. Be understanding about the unclean state of the stations. It is not the cleaners' fault for being lazy! If you are unhappy about the state of the station, get your health and safety rep to do an audit, so that station staff can put together a case for more cleaners.
- Cleaners may be bullied by their supervisors. Tell your station supervisor if you see a cleaner being shouted at. The station supervisor can tell the cleaning supervisor that behaviour like that is not acceptable on the stations, particularly in public places.
- Station supervisors should **not** pass on visitors' logs to cleaning company management to check cleaners' attendance.
- Ask cleaners whether they are in the union. Encourage them to join by telling them what RMT can do: fighting for a living wage and dignity at work; winning better conditions, such as decent mess facilities; supporting cleaners unfairly treated by the cleaning companies. Invite them to your branch meetings to raise their problems.
- Talk to cleaners, invite them to use your - probably nicer - mess facilities. Find out what mess facilities they have and get your local rep to take it up if they are inadequate.
- Cleaners are building towards a dispute to win the London Living Wage of £7.20, holiday and sick pay and free travel. If cleaners take strike action, it will have much more impact if other grades in the RMT support them. On health and safety grounds, station staff could refuse to open a station where no cleaners were working. One of the major causes of the Kings Cross fire was the build-up of litter.
- By being in the same union as the cleaners, we can help them fight their low pay and terrible conditions.



Staff Our Stations

RMT is still heading towards dispute with LUL over the company's plans to casualise the workforce and de-staff our stations. In particular, your union opposes the use of security guards and agency staff, and management's plans to introduce mobile Station Supervisors who will cover several stations at the same time.

Talks with LUL are getting us nowhere, so we will soon be balloting members for industrial action. There is a special issue of *RMT platform* which looks at these issues in more depth - if you have not yet seen a copy, contact Janine Booth 07748-760261.

The union has also produced leaflets explaining the issue to drivers and service control staff. We believe that this is an attack that threatens all grades, and that therefore, all grades should unite to defend ourselves against it.



Your RMT Stations and Revenue Council representatives are:

Jon Abdullah 07810-153880

Jenny O'Donnell 07739-869867

Janine Booth 07748-760261

Paul Schindler 07834-117509

Jason Humphreys 07740-065367

Vince Walpole 07956-686182



Rickmansworth displacements

Rickmansworth group RMT rep Jared Wood reports

Management are trying to force seven CSAs to transfer off the Rickmansworth group reserve. LUL says the group is 'over establishment' for CSAs - but this is because of LUL's mismanagement and has nothing to do with the individual members now being told to move.

All seven are CSAs with between three and six months service and all were told at Ashfield House that Rickmansworth would be their group. Several have moved homes since starting on the group but now LUL expects them to move to zone 1 stations, which would leave them needing staff taxis at 3am to make dead early starts.

If management get away with this, it will establish a dangerous precedent where LUL can send CSAs to a group over the normal reserve level and then demand they transfer at any time to any location. This flies in the face of established procedures for transfers and promotion and risks making station staff a mobile workforce at the mercy of management whims.

The staff were told to move on 13 January, but were not even given proper notice. The issue is due to be discussed at functional council on 17th January. RMT on Rickmansworth group is also calling for support for these members from all RMT members.

Save Our Ticket Offices

A second meeting to organise a passengers' campaign to stop ticket office closures has been held in Chesham. Eighteen people attended a planning meeting and several have already been out petitioning at the station. The campaign is also opposing closures and reduction of window service at Amersham and Chalfont & Latimer stations. Campaigners are now calling on Chesham Town Council to challenge London Underground to attend a consultation meeting, which would be open to the public.

It is clear that Tube passengers are not taken in by LUL's ridiculous claim that closing ticket offices will improve customer service, and we should do whatever we can to help organise opposition amongst the travelling public as well as fighting LUL's plans industrially.



Jared Wood reports



RMT holds monthly meetings open to all station and revenue staff. Some issues we discussed at the last one:

- Management's treatment of staff who need **time off for domestic emergencies** differs widely across groups. We plan to oppose abuses and demand a 'levelling up' of all groups to the standards of the best.
- Some groups have **guaranteed rest day patterns** for reserve staff; others don't. RMT will aim for the best across the job.
- We are planning a 'know your rights' guide about **attendance and disciplinary rights**.
- We oppose **rosters covering more than one station**, as LUL might use this to cut jobs.
- RMT will try to get **facilities for union reps** improved, so your rep can support you as effectively as possible.
- CSAs now receive only **two weeks training**; members felt that this is inadequate.



Bakerloo line detrainment staff were out on the picket line on Christmas Eve as part of their ongoing fight against lone working.

Got a report for the next issue of **RMT platform**? An issue you'd like to see covered? Or an question you'd like answered? Contact Janine Booth on internal e-mail, personal e-mail janine.booth@btopenworld.com, or phone 07748-760261.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION AT NEXT RMT STATION & REVENUE GRADES MEETING:

What to do about out-of-order managers who repeatedly mistreat staff.

Thursday 31st January 15:00-16:30
Exmouth Arms, Star Cross Street, near Euston.