



news for station and revenue staff - 24th August 2011

RMT and TSSA in merger talks

RMT and TSSA General Secretaries recently issued the following joint statement on the progress of a merger which would unite both major unions representing station staff.

STATEMENT FROM GERRY DOHERTY & BOB CROW

TSSA and RMT historically met today, 12 August 2011, to discuss the possibilities of a merged union.

A series of meetings will be held to discuss key issues and objectives recognising that both unions have separate Rule Books and traditions.

Both unions will use their own democratic structures to consult and agree with members and wish to conclude these discussions as soon as possible as industrial attacks are taking place more intensely on transport and travel workers.

The respective union negotiating teams are:

RMT

Alex Gordon, Mick Cash, Malcolm Dunning, Owen Herbert and reserve Mick Thompson

TSSA

Harriet Yeo, Mitch Tovey, Manuel Cortes and Frank Ward



Your RMT Stations and Revenue Council representatives are:

Mac Mckenna

07801 071363

John Reid

07748 760261

Neil Cochrane

07739 869867

John Kelly

07740 065467

Mick Crossey

07931 570521

Malcolm Taylor

07748 933241

Strengthen RMT on the Stations!

Join our monthly stations organising days.

On the last Thursday of each month.

Meet at 10am to join RMT reps and activists as we visit stations to find out your issues and recruit new RMT members.

Join us at 1430 for our monthly Stations and Revenue Grades Meeting. All LU station staff welcome. Your chance to discuss issues you face at work with level one and two reps. Also, hear reports stations reps across the network.

People who attended last months meeting commented that they found it informative and helpful. We discussed : station reserve staff's rights re. line working according to the Framework Agreement.; how LU are discussing new methods of cashing money that will do away with banking and consolidation in the ticket office; Olympics working (see over); assisting wheelchair users on escalators. And many other issues!

Becky Crocker, Chair, Stations and Revenue Grades Committee

(Euston Group Rep) 07734 364302

Gary Lazell, Secretary, Stations and Revenue Grades Committee

(East Ham Group Rep) 07812 757552

Olympics Reward and Recognition

[report from Stations Functional Council]

The Trade Unions met with the company for the first time since March to discuss what reward and recognition employees would get in acknowledgement of our work over the Olympic period next year.

Laughably, LU have proposed an enhanced CSS bonus with an offer of £200 over the existing bonus scheme (taxable) if we attain the mark which LU set.

Obviously all four unions rejected this offer stating that we want a guaranteed bonus for our members and something that's payable as close to the Olympics as possible not over a year later! Any members that may have left the company between the Olympics and the following April would not receive the proposed bonus nor would TfL employees who are not within the CSS bonus scheme. The company is relying a lot on the good will of staff to cover the staffing shortages (ironically 450 extra staff are needed, the same amount as cut under OSP!) on O/T and the Trade Unions feel this current offer is an insult, bearing in mind LU have given away well over £3.5 million in free Oyster Travel Cards for the games and only recouped the manufacturing cost of the Oyster card from the Olympic Games Committee.

Safety

[from the Stations and Revenue Safety Council]

Wheelchair ramps. LU are looking at trialling the laying of wheelchair ramps to assist wheelchair users to board/alight trains at approximately 20 stations across the system in readiness for the Olympics. At present we (safety council reps) are in the process of commenting on the

relevant safety documentation that LU have produced.... We have been advised our functional council industrial colleagues that at present there is no agreement for LU staff to lay these ramps on our platforms/ trains. At present we are advising local safety representatives not to take part in discussing or participating in local trials relating to this activity and/or take part in any workplace risk assessments.

Assisting wheelchair users on escalators. We have been advised by safety representatives and staff that LU have been rolling out a training package for our staff to assist in this activity.

There is no agreement for LU staff to undertake this activity or the training package.. There are still a number of safety related issues that have to be addressed before this activity can be undertaken and we would advise local representatives to refer any problems regarding this working practice to us.

Defend London Underground Licences!

With Chiltern Railways suspended between Harrow on the Hill, Amersham and Marylebone, Chiltern national rail staff have been sent onto LU stations to assist - on the unpaid side of the gates.

There had been no consultation with the local health and safety reps or the safety council.

The Chiltern rail staff were even expected to work on the platforms, but management were forced to back down on this following pressure from safety reps.

The RMT looked into railway safety legislation, which confirms that staff should be fully trained and familiarised to work on London Underground.

The RMT has arranged a

meeting with the Office of Rail Regulation and with senior management.

It important all station staff support Metropolitan Line staff on this issue, to defend the importance of LU-licensed staff working LU stations.

AFM Functionality/ Line Reserve

To keep pressure on against further LU stations job cuts, RMT has decided to boycott the 'line reserve' and enhanced AFM functionality policies. These are both measures which assist LU to manage with fewer staff, paving the way for future job cuts.

RMT has serious safety concerns with AFM functionality, which requires staff in the ticket hall (CSAs with ticket office licence or displaced ticket sellers) to use their staff pass and ID number in full view of the customer. Arguments could ensue about whether or not to resolve incomplete Oyster journeys. Such transactions should only take place from a safe ticket office environment.

RMT will offer guidance about when the boycotts will take effect, how to participate, your legal rights to take this form of industrial action. Look out for updates!

