

Elect Lewis Peacock



"I am standing in this election in order to give a fighting leadership to all members in all grades.

I am proud of the role RMT has played in defending members jobs and conditions and have experience as a successful negotiator in key industrial disputes.

I ask you to support me in this election and I pledge that I will involve the regional council and membership in developing a strategy to defend jobs and conditions."

- ★ FOR UNITED ACTION TO DEFEND JOBS
- ★ FOR GENERALISED ACTION AGAINST CUTS THROUGHOUT THE PUBLIC SECTOR
- ★ DEFEND THE UNION'S FIGHTING POLICIES
- ★ INVOLVE THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY AND TACTICS
- ★ FIGHT THE ANTI-UNION LAWS
- ★ FOR A NEW WORKERS' PARTY
- ★ STANDING IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF SOCIALISM AND WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE

Lewis's Record

- ★ RMT member for 21 years.
- ★ Started as a fleet train cleaner
- ★ Signals support technician since Company Plan
- ★ Assistant Branch Secretary of LU Engineering, the largest RMT branch
- ★ Assistant Secretary of the London Transport regional council. Previously chair and membership secretary.
- ★ Represented members on health and safety and industrial relations at all levels of machineries.
- ★ Negotiator for RMT in successful negotiations under Metronet for pay and conditions and the transfer back into London Underground - including winning passes and pension rights for all former Metronet workers.

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"RMT members face an unprecedented struggle to defend pay, conditions and job security in the face of massive cuts in transport expenditure by the ConDem coalition government.

The London transport region will be in the eye of the storm as the trade union movement resists public sector cuts. I will seek to build on the traditions of solidarity between RMT members across the London Underground combine

I believe that by combining the combativity of RMT members with an intelligent strategy we can defeat LU's attempts to make our members pay for the costs of bailing out the PPP and for an economic recession created by bankers and wealthy financiers. If elected, I will involve the regional council in all discussions affecting the region and explain honestly to members what I believe to be the best strategy and policies for RMT and the LT region.

DEFEND JOBS

We are facing a massive attack on jobs, job security, wages and pensions. We need unity of all members and all grades to fight back against these attacks. We cannot allow our members to be picked off grade by grade; an attack on one section of our membership is an attack on all.

I will fight to save every job and fight to ensure that not one penny is cut from our wages and that no cuts are made to our pensions. Our members have fought long and hard to defend our wages and conditions but still have to endure unsocial shifts to keep London's transport system running. Our pay and conditions should reflect this.

But we have a Government that is trying to push conditions back for working men and women. Like Robin Hood in reverse, they are cutting essential services used by the less privileged so as they can give more to the rich bankers who caused the recession in the first place. I do not accept that RMT members should lose one penny in our wage packets or work one hour longer to pay for the current economic crisis.

FOR GENERALISED ACTION AGAINST CUTS

I support the "call to arms" made by Bob Crow at our conference for a "sustained campaign of generalised strikes across both the public and private sectors and community direct action to defend public services. There needs to be alliances of trade unionists and community campaigns in every area.

I back the call for the TUC to call a national demonstration against the cutbacks and if necessary to begin preparations for a public sector general strike. If the TUC does not act the RMT should take the lead with other willing unions.

I am involved locally in anti-cuts campaigns of trade unions and local community campaign groups. These campaigns need to be built in every London borough and up and down the country in order to build a mass campaign against government cuts.

Twenty years ago I was involved in the Anti Poll Tax Union, which built a mass campaign of 18 million non-payers. That campaign forced Thatcher's hated government to ditch the poll tax and drove Thatcher out of office. Similarly, a mass trade union and community campaign against this government's attempts to cut our public services, jobs and wages can succeed today.

DEFEND THE UNION'S FIGHTING POLICIES

We have a leadership in our Union that is widely and justifiably seen as the best of any union. The RMT leadership has been prepared to back members' requests for industrial action and has taken a lead both industrially and politically in campaigning for a fighting left approach throughout the trade union movement.

But the RMT leadership will face an onslaught in the coming

period from the government and the right wing in the trade union movement and RMT itself. Members who support militant left policies need to organise in the union to defend and build support for such a programme.

This can only be done by ensuring that all members are involved in the democratic running of our Union and development of the union's campaigns, from the branches up. If I am elected, I will visit Branches on a regular basis. I will also report back ongoing discussions and decisions of the Council of executives to the Regional Council and to the membership, and will make it clear how I have voted on major policy decisions. I will seek to involve members at every stage of key strategic and tactical decision making.

FIGHT THE ANTI-UNION LAWS

Britain's anti-union laws are now so restrictive that it is impossible for a union to comply with the laws on balloting. Any insignificant technical detail about the description of grade or location can be enough for a judge to grant an injunction against the union.

I will do whatever is possible to ensure that RMT takes the best advice and has its membership records in the best possible shape but I will also argue that, if there is no other way to defend our members, RMT should be prepared to defy these laws.

FOR A NEW WORKERS' PARTY

Defending our members' jobs, pay and conditions will always be my first priority but to do this effectively we need a political voice alongside our industrial voice.

The Con-Dem attacks are coming thick and fast, but Labour prepared the ground in government. Across the country it will be Labour councils as well as the ConDems that implement the cuts. If Labour comes back to power it will continue to attack the public sector, albeit it with more hand-wringing regret than we get from the ConDem coalition.

We need a new party that is controlled by and acts for the interests of trade unionists and working class communities. The RMT was to the fore in putting forward a left alternative to Labour in *No2Europe Yes to Democracy* and more recently supported candidates of the *Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC)*.

I will strive to build on this work in our union and will argue for our union to continue to seek ways of creating a viable new mass party of the unions and working class. This is the only way to create a political alternative to the pro big business programme of the Conservative/Liberal coalition and to the programme of Labour which is fundamentally the same.

BUILD AN ALTERNATIVE SOCIETY

I am a Socialist and I believe that the ills of our society, including low wages, poor housing and mass unemployment are a result of the capitalist system that puts profit over the needs of the masses.

Britain is the sixth richest economy in the World, yet that wealth is concentrated into the hands of a small minority of society. The richest 1,000 people in British society saw their wealth increase by £77 billion last year, no recession for them! Nevertheless, public servants, pensioners and our membership are being asked to accept job cuts and a decrease in our income in the national interest.

I believe in a democratic socialist society and in international cooperation and solidarity with workers in other countries. We need cross border struggles to defend conditions across Europe. The fight against public sector cuts is a fight against our government and against global capitalist markets. We must build a similar level of global solidarity between workers.

