

BUS DRIVERS NEED A STRATEGY TO WIN

BUS WORKERS IN LONDON continue to get a raw deal. They are central to the transport system in the capital—they keep this city running.

While the bus companies keep their profits rolling in, our bus drivers have to worry about things like where they are going to find a toilet! It really isn't on.

Unite has huge potential strength on London's buses but union leaders don't seem prepared to flex their muscles.

A workforce with the power to bring London to a standstill should have the bosses on the run. It's about time this happened.

Sadiq Khan's election as London Mayor brought with it some hope that things would change. Khan made a lot of the fact that his own father was a bus driver. But promises of one rate for the job have failed to materialise.

Bus drivers are right to feel let down by the Labour London Mayor. Courting big business seems to be top of his agenda—not looking after the people who keep this city ticking.

The recent lobby of City Hall and the launch of the Bus Workers' Charter was a good initiative. There were delegations from garages right across London.

But to be truly effective the campaign needs to reach down into every garage and mobilise big numbers.

Corbyn

Unite is the biggest union in the country. Len McCluskey boasts proudly of a £35 million war chest for strikes—let's use it! The resources of this union need to be used to win a fair deal for bus drivers. All too often we seem to be being told 'Wait for Jeremy Corbyn and everything will be fine'.

But to make real progress drivers need to push the union to take up their



Big picket lines in Arriva North West strikes for fair pay this week

case. Drivers need to get organised in individual garages and across companies and between companies to bring the union on board with a serious fight. In garage after garage their are reports of attacks coming thick and fast.

Stage Army

Canteen closures, cuts to lunch breaks and on-stand time all raise important questions about safety.

And if bus bosses think they can fix the books to make it look like we're getting a better pay deal by attacking other terms and conditions—bus drivers should make them think again.

For too long London's bus drivers have been used like a stage army

—brought out to push political agendas, that they don't then see the benefit of.

There needs to be a strategy to win. The charter is a start but for it to be meaningful the union needs to put real weight behind it.

In every garage it's time to ring the changes—their needs to be a democratically accountable fighting leadership pushing for a strategy to win!

Elections for reps are due in the union, drivers should push for reps that will deliver.

The charter needs to be turned into serious garage meetings, escalating protests and a push towards strikes. Bus drivers have the power!

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