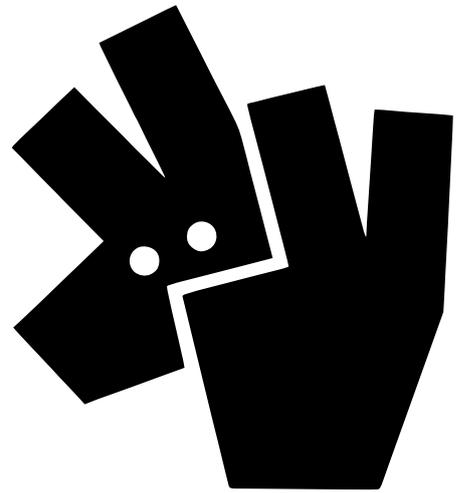




Bulletin #3 January 2017



Bristol Trainers Strike and Win!

This is an edited transcript of a video produced by trainers in Bristol talking about a recent strike and victory. You can find the full thing on the Bristol IWW Facebook page.

Us trainers in Bristol had real problems with our jobs. We could get assigned 20 trial shifts a day, 2, 4 or 6 at a time. It was really dangerous, and it just didn't work. You can't test someone's ability to do the job when there are five cyclists behind you! They promised us an hourly rate for each trial, but it only lasted one hour. If the trial took longer, we weren't getting paid.

So the people who were doing the trial shifts got together and agreed not to run any trials for one day. It was a strike. That really got the attention of the office. Everyone realised that everyone else was feeling the same thing so then everyone grouped together.

People started talking to each other, started organising. A large group of us have joined the IWW (a union).

We've now heard from the Deliveroo offices in Bristol that we'll get a rep for health and safety, and significant changes to the trial scheme. The numbers of riders on any one trial has been reduced to two riders at a time, and they have let us know that we never have to wear the uniform. When you're organised, you can get a lot done - and we've got a lot done here in Bristol.



Deliveroo victimise organiser and are forced to back down

Over the summer there was a week-long strike in the Hampstead, Belsize, Camden and Kentish Town zones of London against changes in pay structures. Strikers got a voice recording of Deliveroo Operations Director David Scott promising that no one would be victimised for taking part in the strike action.

However, just a few months later Deliveroo tried to go back on their word and victimise an IWGB member and organiser, Ben Geraghty. In November, Ben's app stopped working, and he was basically fired without any notice. When he did get some communication notifying him of the change, under the heading of 'reason' it just said "DO NOT ENGAGE". Then in December he found out he was being 'investigated' for having tried out another worker's cargo bike whilst running an IWGB union recruitment stall in Camden, which means Deliveroo were monitoring the stall and victimising union members, even using outlandish excuses like misuse of property.

The IWGB started to oppose his contract termination, and a couple of weeks later Ben was back riding for Deliveroo. The company backed down as soon as workers made clear they weren't going to tolerate this victimisation. This is a big victory for Deliveroo riders everywhere - we now know that we can organise without fear of losing our jobs, because we stick up for each other.

A gazeta istnieje, aby pomóc pracownikom i pracowniczkom Deliveroo w UK i na arenie międzynarodowej komunikować się i organizować się. Razem możemy budować solidarność i walczyć o lepsze stawki i warunki pracy.

This newspaper exists to help Deliveroo workers in the UK and internationally communicate and organise. Together we can build solidarity and fight for better wages and conditions.

Este jornal existe para ajudar trabalhadores da Deliveroo no Reino Unido e internacionalmente a se comunicarem e organizarem. Juntos podemos fomentar solidariedade e lutar por melhores salários e condições de trabalho.

إنهذه الصحيفة ترمي إلى مساعدة التواصل والمنظمة لعمال <<ديليفيرو>> في بريطانيا ودولياً وقد تطوّر التماسك وتناضل لتحسّن الأجرة والظروف معاً.

Este periódico existe para ayudar a los trabajadores de deliveroo a comunicar y organizarse. Trabajando juntos podemos desarrollar la solidaridad y luchar por mejores condiciones y sueldo.

Cílem tohoto bulletinu je pomoci pracujícím Deliveroo v UK a v zahraničí komunikovat mezi sebou a organizovat se. Společně dokážeme vybudovat solidaritu a vybojovat si lepší mzdy a podmínky.

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RIDERS STRIKE BACK

This call out, by a group of striking Italian Foodora workers' called the Deliverance Project, was released in November. At Rebel Roo, we wanted to share some sections with riders in the UK.

We are the backbone of the company we work for: Foodora, a start-up company, leader of a growing food delivery sector that forces its workers to accept shit wages and conditions.

On October the 8th we began our mobilisation against new contracts that tried to get rid of our hourly wage and replace it with a piece-work wage. These contracts gave no guarantee on the number of deliveries per shift, no sick pay, no holiday pay, and above all gave no value to our time that we spent working for the company.

We hear managers talking about providing flexible work, about a way of working that breaks down hierarchies using apps and technology, but for us, for workers, this just means absolute job insecurity. This is what we call Digital Exploitation!

Foodora is a business that breaks promises, that ignores the demands of its workers and that refuses to talk to us. It is a business, like so many others, that refuses to treat workers with the dignity which is essential in order to prevent work degenerating into mere exploitation.

These problems go beyond our individual experiences. They are affecting the young, old, students, temporary workers and the unemployed. All of us are tired of dealing with a kind of work which is suffocating an entire generation. This work includes workers in food delivery, call centers, and warehouses, amongst others.

Our generation is deprived of its own future by the imposition of working conditions that, exploiting both the grey areas of the law and our desperation, trample on those rights won by workers through decades of struggle and sacrifice. It is time to say enough! It is time to take back the dignity of work, and come together to demand what belongs to us.

City Sprint 'Self-Employed' Courier Wins Legal Case

On the 7th of January this new year a courier working for London City Sprint on a bogus self-employment contract won the legal right to be treated as a worker. Maggie Dewhurst took City Sprint to court and is now legally entitled to sick pay and holiday pay. The IWGB supported the case. It is in fact the first of four legal challenges against courier companies including Addison Lee, Excel and E-Courier. Dewhurst's success could hopefully lead to more challenges of this employment type including at Deliveroo.

"We spend all day being told what to do, when to do it and how to do it. We're under their control. We're not a mosaic of small businesses and that's why we deserve basic employment rights like the national minimum wage," Maggie Dewhurst said.

LabourStart & IWGB begin Campaign

LabourStart is an online news platform for the international trade union movement that brings together news in 20 languages, run by 850 volunteers who are based on every continent. They also work closely with unions, supporting their campaigns. Last week, they launched a joint campaign with the IWGB aiming to inundate Deliveroo with emails of solidarity and support for unionised riders. Their demand is that Deliveroo HQ recognise Deliveroo riders as "workers" and not as "independent contractors".

The link is: www.labourstart.org/go/deliveroo

Transnational Social Strike Assembly

Heads up, there's a big assembly happening 10-12th of February in London. The TSS is a platform which brings together organisations who are working to strengthen the strike as a tool of workers by

socialising struggles, linking them to the changing wider context of capitalism. The focus of the meeting is about how migrant workers, and hyper exploited workers, could respond to post-Brexit fallout. Groups who have been involved in powerful strike movements across the continent, including logistics struggles, will be present. Details: <http://www.transnational-strike.info>

Merry Strike-mass and a Strikey New Year

Linking us up

By linking these up we stand a better chance of winning. Below are a list of the unions currently working to build solidarity and mutual support with Deliveroo riders. Even if a union branch doesn't exist near you, one of these contacts will point you in the right direction or support you to start your own.

Independent Workers of Great Britain (IWGB) In London

FB: IWGB Couriers and Logistics Branch
TW: @IWGB_CLB // iwgb.org.uk

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)

Rest of U.K
TW: @BristolIWW // iww.org.uk

Over Christmas we saw a wave of strikes across the UK. Delivery drivers, airport baggage handlers, cabin crew, builders and electricians, post office staff, train guards and drivers; it seemed like everyone was getting stuck in. Earlier in the year it was us - Deliveroo couriers - alongside doctors, cleaners, oil refinery workers and more. Outside of the 'workplace', student tenants have been on rent strike, and parents have taken little kids on exam strike.

Some of them won, some of them got sold out by their big union bosses, and some are still fighting. But all of us know that the way the world is going, if we don't fight

Contact

we'll get fucked over. Deliveroo riders need to step up again. Last time we went on strike it was just in London - maybe this year we can spread the strike across the country?

Want to distribute copies of the Rebel Roo?

Want to get in touch with other workers?

Email us! rebelroouk@gmail.com

We also have a website: weareplanc.org/rebelroo

Rebel Roo is produced by Deliveroo workers and supported by the Plan C Social Strike Working Group



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