

THE SPOONS STRIKER

SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!

Strike on October 4th
for £10 an hour and a union

Workers at the Post & Telegraph and Brighthelm

It can be hard to live on the money we make. We spend most of our wages on renting damp flats, we have to walk to work when we can't afford the bus, and we have to choose between dinner and a haircut. We're forced to work as fast as we can for long shifts with barely any breaks, even when we're sick or injured. We've seen the people we work with struggling to make ends meet, sofa surfing and scraping by. Meanwhile, Tim Martin is worth £322 million. Our work has made him, the bosses and the shareholders rich beyond our wildest dreams, but we're left a few weeks' pay away from poverty.

We won't take it anymore. That's why we're fighting back. They won't listen to us when we complain, so we're taking the next step. In two Brighton pubs we've taken the decision to all stop work and go on strike on October 4th. We're fighting for £10 an hour and union recognition for every Wetherspoons worker in the country.

On your own, you can't change anything. Hiding in the freezer, stretching out your break time, getting another job – none of it solves the problem. The bosses have all the power and they don't give a shit about us. We know that we will only win when we fight together.



WE'VE ALREADY WON A PAY RISE

How do we know that we win when we fight together? Because we're already winning. The recent pay rises didn't come out of thin air.

In the past, millionaire shitlord Tim has argued against the idea that all workers deserve a living wage. He thinks it's 'unrealistic' that we get paid enough to get by. But suddenly, just after two pubs announced they were going to vote on strike action, he changed his mind. Now we've shown we can stick up for ourselves, generous Tim is willing to give us a couple of quid extra out of the profits we make.

The abolition of 18-20 youth rates means that some workers will be going £6.60 an hour to £8.26. That's two pounds an hour better – all because workers at just two pubs stood up to Tim and the bosses. Night shifts will get paid a pound extra per hour, and the tiny annual pay rise has been brought forward a few months. But it's not enough. At minimum, we deserve £10 an hour – because everyone deserves a wage you can live on in comfort.

But as well as the national pay rise, we've managed to get stuff changed in both of our pubs. At the Post and Telegraph we gave our pub manager a letter signed by half the staff complaining about the way our rotas were done, and things were changed immediately. At the Brighthelm, we handed in a letter complaining about the introduction of night shifts and they were stopped straight away.

SPREAD THE STRIKE!

If just two pubs in one city can force the bosses to give us a national pay rise, then what could ten pubs do? What about twenty?

We need to get organised all over the country if we want to win more. Tim can afford to give up a bit of his £322 million to the people who work hour after hour making food, cleaning toilets, closing up and taking stock. But he won't do it unless we force him too. The only way to force him too is to organise and fight back.

In Brighton, we're members of the Bakers Food and Allied Workers' Union (BFAWU). Unions are groups made up of lots of workers. Together, as part of a union, we can organise to immediately change our own lives. When you're in a union, you don't have to put up with a bad job, terrible wages, bullying managers or the rest of it.

We're asking you, workers at other pubs across the country, to join the union and organise where you are. There are over 900 spoons across the UK. Workers in as many of those as possible need to get organised and take part in the movement. There are tens of thousands of us and only a few of them – together, we can run our pubs for the many not the few.

HOW TO ORGANISE

Talk to your co-workers

We started organising when we realised we all had the same problems, and nothing was changing. Get to know everyone, get friendly with everyone, and get everyone on the same page.

Get in touch with the union

The union can help with this process. Get in touch with the Fast Food Rights Campaign and they can help you through the whole process.

Take action

We don't win just by talking. The whole point of organising is to do something. Next time we take strike action, we want your pub to be taking part too.

Never cross a picket line

If area managers start trying to make you cover the work at other striking pubs, collectively refuse to go. Strikes only work if we stick together.

NOT A WORKER? WE NEED YOUR HELP

You can find the PDF file of this bulletin at <https://notesfrombelow.org/spoons>. Download the latest version and leave some in your local spoons.

If the workers in your city are taking action, then donate to their strike funds, join their picket lines and demonstrations, and get community and political organisations to publicly support the strike.

Finally, build the movement in your own workplace – we'll back you up in return.

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