

■ Tekst 10

TUBE CHAOS

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HUNDREDS of thousands of London Underground passengers had their journeys disrupted yesterday by a strike over a driver who was caught playing squash after being absent from work for nine weeks because of an ankle sprain.

The walkout by the RMT Union¹⁾ led to the closure of the Circle and Hammersmith & City lines, normally used by nearly 400,000 travellers a day. The union called for a reinstatement of Chris Barrett, who was dismissed by LU last month.

Mr Barrett last worked on May 4 before reporting sick with an ankle injury. On July 10, LU attendance staff saw him entering a sports

centre in full squash kit, then watched him play a three-game match “vigorously”.

London Underground had been suspicious about his reason for absence because he had reported absent on 218 days in five years.

In August, a disciplinary hearing recommended that Mr Barrett be dismissed from his £32,000-a-year post. His appeal was rejected.

Mr Barrett’s defence was that he was not playing squash, merely “exercising my ankle on a squash court”.

Bob Crow, RMT general secretary, shook hands with Mr Barrett on a picket line yesterday. Mr Crow said: “It is a great pity that the company has devoted so much time, energy and public money snooping on an employee guilty of nothing more than trying to get fit enough to return to work.”

For the first time since becoming London mayor, Ken Livingstone criticised the RMT. “I am only surprised Mr Barrett was allowed to get away with it for so long,” he said.

The Daily Telegraph

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RMT Union: Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers

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- 1p **37** □ Wat was de directe aanleiding voor het ontslag van Chris Barrett?
- 1p **38** ■ Who is against Chris Barrett's dismissal, according to this article?
- A Bob Crow.
 - B Ken Livingstone.
 - C London Underground.
 - D The writer of this article.