# Hull Trains strike threatens travel plans for Challenge Cup final fans



Rugby league fans preparing to attend the highly anticipated Challenge Cup final at Wembley this Saturday are facing potential travel upheaval due to an ongoing strike by drivers at Hull Trains. The industrial action is rooted in a dispute over the dismissal of a driver who raised safety concerns, an allegation the train company contests. The strike, announced by the drivers' union Aslef, is set to cause significant disruption along the East Coast main line, impacting supporters travelling to the match between Hull Kingston Rovers and Warrington Wolves.

Aslef's industrial action is part of a broader wave of strikes that has gripped the UK's rail network since mid-2022, when tensions began to escalate over pay and working conditions. Nigel Roebuck, Aslef’s organiser in the northeast, has voiced understanding for the frustrations of fans but insists that the disruption is the result of the company’s actions. “Angry fans should understand that this is a dispute entirely engineered by the company, not by us,” he stated. According to Roebuck, the union has made multiple attempts to engage in dialogue with Hull Trains but has been met with a lack of serious responses.

While Hull Trains maintains that it adheres to industry protocols and that it has made efforts to resolve the situation, the company's spokesperson noted that around 90 per cent of services scheduled for Saturday are expected to operate normally. This includes additional services aimed at accommodating fans heading to the cup final. They encouraged passengers to stay updated via their website and social media, articulating support for the teams involved in the match.

The context of this strike is set against a backdrop of widespread industrial action across various sectors in the UK, largely driven by the steep rise in living costs. With inflation hovering around 9.9% and expected to worsen as winter approaches, many unions are pushing for wage increases to match the surging cost of living. This united front among workers extends beyond the rail sector, with multiple sectors, including Royal Mail and dock workers, planning strikes as well.

As rail workers continue to assert their rights in the face of a challenging economic landscape, the latest strikes highlight the complexities of the current situation, where fans, companies, and union members are all caught in a struggle that seems unlikely to be resolved soon.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/wembley-trains-strike-challenge-cup-b2765053.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/wembley-trains-strike-challenge-cup-b2765053.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/wembley-trains-strike-challenge-cup-b2765053.html), [[3]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/october-train-strikes-2023-b2424373.html), [[4]](https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/travel/train-strikes-october-drivers-aslef-b2169431.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://news.sky.com/story/another-day-of-rail-strikes-announced-for-october-12703344), [[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022%E2%80%932024_United_Kingdom_railway_strikes)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/national-rail-strikes-on-1st-5th-and-8th-october-57715/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/wembley-trains-strike-challenge-cup-b2765053.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/wembley-trains-strike-challenge-cup-b2765053.html> - Rugby league fans heading to Wembley for Saturday's Challenge Cup final are bracing for travel disruptions as Hull Trains drivers strike over the dismissal of a colleague. Members of Aslef have been engaged in industrial action for months, protesting what they claim was the unfair sacking of a driver who raised safety concerns. Hull Trains denies the claim. The union has warned that the 24-hour walkout will disrupt services on the East Coast main line, affecting supporters travelling to the Hull Kingston Rovers versus Warrington Wolves match. Train services have already been impacted throughout the week due to the ongoing industrial action.
3. <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/october-train-strikes-2023-b2424373.html> - The first national rail strikes since the 1980s began in June 2022. The unions involved are Aslef and the RMT, the largest rail union. They are involved in parallel disputes with the 14 leading English train operators, which run the main intercity and commuter services. Transport for Wales and ScotRail are unaffected. For 15 months, national rail strikes and other forms of industrial action have scuppered the travel plans of millions of train passengers. Stoppages have been called frequently, causing massive disruption and making advance travel planning difficult.
4. <https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/travel/train-strikes-october-drivers-aslef-b2169431.html> - Millions of rail passengers face having their travel plans wrecked by two more strikes by train drivers next month. The Independent understands that the train drivers’ union, Aslef, has given notice to 12 train operators that members will walk out on Saturday 1 and Wednesday 5 October. The union, which called off a strike due on 15 September immediately after the death of the Queen, is understood not to be making any comment until Tuesday – the day after the state funeral. But employment law requires Aslef to give employers at least 14 days’ notice of industrial action – which explains why the train firms have been informed.
5. <https://news.sky.com/story/another-day-of-rail-strikes-announced-for-october-12703344> - The news comes just days after train drivers at 12 operators vowed to walk out on Saturday 1 October and Wednesday 5 October. Those strikes by Aslef union members could affect both the London Marathon and the Tory party conference. Operators involved are Avanti West Coast, Chiltern Railways, CrossCountry, Greater Anglia, Great Western Railway, Hull Trains, LNER, London Overground, Northern Trains, Southeastern, TransPennine Express and West Midlands Trains. Rail is just one sector affected by industrial action - others striking include Royal Mail workers, dock workers, barristers, and BT employees. Each union is battling to secure wage rises that will help its members combat the worst of the squeeze from the cost of living crisis. The rate of inflation stands at 9.9% but is expected to return to double figures over the next few months as winter sets in, despite government aid for household and business energy bills.
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022%E2%80%932024_United_Kingdom_railway_strikes> - The rail network of Great Britain has operated under a franchising system since its privatisation in 1997, with services in England, Wales, and Scotland being run by a number of operating companies. (Northern Ireland's network is managed separately.) Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the UK government relieved the companies of their franchises to protect them from financial harm, and issued new contracts that made rail revenue a government concern. Around £16 billion of public money was also given by government to support the railways during the pandemic. With revenue from train fares having fallen by an estimated £2 billion as a result of COVID, Network Rail and the various train operators were told to make savings. National negotiations for a wage increase for rail workers were ongoing, but with the Department for Transport (DfT) stating this had to be "with clear direction from government about the modernisation that needs to be achieved".
7. <https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/national-rail-strikes-on-1st-5th-and-8th-october-57715/> - Saturday 1st October: Network Rail – RMT Avanti West Coast – ASLEF, TSSA, RMT C2C – RMT Chiltern Railways – ASLEF, RMT Crosscountry – ASLEF, RMT Greater Anglia – ASLEF, RMT Great Northern – RMT Great Western Railway (GWR) – ASLEF, RMT Hull Trains – ASLEF East Midlands Railway – TSSA, RMT LNER – ASLEF, TSSA, RMT London Overground – ASLEF Northern – ASLEF, RMT SouthEastern – ASLEF, TSSA, RMT South Western – TSSA, RMT Southern – RMT Transpennine Express – ASLEF, TSSA, RMT West Midlands Trains – ASLEF, TSSA, RMT Thameslink – RMT Wednesday 5th October: Avanti West Coast – ASLEF Chiltern Railways – ASLEF CrossCountry – ASLEF, TSSA Greater Anglia – ASLEF Great Western Railway – ASLEF Hull Trains – ASLEF LNER – ASLEF London Overground – ASLEF Northern Trains – ASLEF Southeastern – ASLEF TransPennine Express – ASLEF West Midlands Trains – ASLEF Thursday 6th October: Great Western Railway (GWR) – TSSA