

Picket

no. 30

Saturday 18th October

4.00am 7th October. Recently while travelling along Byward Street EC3, two W.H.Smith's vans were involved in an incident with a pack of Murdoch's white mice. The first WHS driver was rammed and forced onto the centre island by one of the scabs. Then, in the scab's frantic effort to escape, he careered into the back of the second WHS van.

All drivers involved were detained by police, who commented that it was lucky neither of the two WHS drivers had been seriously injured. But *guess what!* The police are taking no further action concerning the incident. As if we didn't know!

Wednesday 8th October, Wapping. My prayers were answered at last. The march tried a new route, and by god wasn't it successful. Led by the Clerical banner, it went straight out the back door at Tower Hill. Left the boys in blue standing looking stupid as usual. On and on we went, to Aldgate, around the roundabout. They tried to divert us but the banner stood firm and just walked over them. They tried for an arrest, but again they were stamped on. They tried to hold one of our colleagues in a bus shelter, but when we decided to take them and the shelter if necessary, they let him go. Onward and upward we marched, into Commercial Road. Taking up both sides of the road.

By now the Clerical banner was joined by the SOGAT banner side by side across Commercial Road. It was a glorious sight. Then down towards and into King David's Lane. At the junction of King David's and the Highway, the bully boys must have felt as though they were playing at home. They tried a bit of assault and battery. Funny how the bastards always like to grab a woman picket. Don't get me wrong, girls, but they do have a lot more men to grab. But no, they do like to try a woman. However on this occasion they were well and truly stuffed. Funny, the old bill losing at home on a Wednesday night.

It lifted everybody up, on top of getting the right result from the vote. It went down really well. They say it is going to get better, that we will be getting more support. Well all I can say is if we keep showing this kind of determination, we will win and quickly. Imagine if you can the outcome if we had more numbers on Wednesday, some down to King David's, some marching on Thomas More and Dock Street, some marching on Glamis Road and Wapping Lane. All we need are bodies. So come on down!

Southampton, October 10th: 6.00pm. Two pickets discover an empty Marchwood coach broken down in a lay-by. They board and harangue the driver. He pleads he really was not on his way with EETPU scabs to Wapping, and says he is a TGWU member and against what is happening. He agrees to take a load of our literature to Peter Eady, their shop steward, and argue our case. To date, there is no evidence that anything has been done, and John Ashman – the local TGWU secretary – has done nothing either. Perhaps they could all do with a reminder? Marchwoods are on 0703 869033, and 868020 (night number). Two more numbers on which to put your point of view to Marchwood: 0703 842134 or 845433. Southampton TGWU is on 0703 37373, and ask John Ashman, Livvy Read or Denny Harriman why they let a so-called unionised coach firm get away with helping to wreck 5,500 people's lives.

Saturday 11th October. 3,000 march from Tower Hill to Wapping. Our elderly pickets ran circles around most of these socialist youth who are trapped in the empty resolution game.

Saturday 11th October. After main march, 200 pickets went up to the Commercial Road. They split into groups of 30/40 and operated independently from the side roads, joining up into bigger groups. Then splitting up. This causing confusion among the bosses' lackeys. And lorries here re-routed. Coming out of Butcher Row and leaving right. Then in the direction of the Blackwall Tunnel, and Mile End Road. The instructions to the filth over their radios has been to observe the roving bands but leave them alone.

FIRST DIVISION		13 Brighton1 Barnsley1	26 Gillingham1 Carlisle0	SOUTHERN PREMIER		SCOTTISH FIRST		
1 Charlton2 Leicester0	14 Hull0 Reading2	— Middlesbro3 Walsall1	38 Alvechurch2 Camb City2	50 Brechin2 Queen of Sth1				
2 Chelsea2 Man. City1	15 Leeds3 Portsmouth1	27 Newport Bristol C OFF	39 Aylesbury3 Salisbury0	51 Dumbarton2 Airdrie1				
3 Liverpool4 Oxford Utd0	16 Plymouth2 Sunderland4	28 Rotherham1 Bolton0	40 Basingstoke2 Bedworth2	52 Dunfermline1 Morton1				
4 Man Utd1 Luton0	17 Sheff Utd.0 Huddersfield0	29 Swindon2 Chesterfield1	41 Dartford7 Redditch0	53 East Fife1 Clyde1				
5 Newcastle1 Arsenal2	18 Shrewsbury0 Derby1	30 Wigan2 Fulham0	42 Dudley2 Corby1	54 Kilmarnock3 Forfar0				
6 Norwich1 West Ham1	19 Stoke1 Blackburn0	(at Bilston)		55 Partick5 Montrose0				
7 Nottm. For1 Q.P.R0	20 West Brom1 Grimsby1	FOURTH DIVISION		SCOTTISH SECOND				
8 Southampton0 Everton2	31 Burnley2 Stockport0		43 Fareham6 Shepshed0		56 Albion1 Stranraer1			
9 Tottenham1 Sheff Wed1	32 Hartlepool1 Peterboro2		44 Celtic3 Motherwell1		57 Alloa2 Raith2			
10 Watford4 A Villa2	33 Hereford1 Exeter1		45 Dundee Utd2 Clydebank0		58 Arbroath0 Stirling1			
SECOND DIVISION		34 Lincoln1 Rochdale1		46 Falkirk1 Rangers5		— Cowdenbeath3 Ayr1		
11 Birmingham4 C Palace1	35 Orient2 Wrexham4		47 Hamilton1 Hearts3		— Meadowbank1 E Stirling0			
12 Bradford3 Ipswich4	36 Preston1 Aldershot2		48 Hibernian1 Aberdeen1		— Queen's Pk0 Stenhousemuir0			
		37 Southend3 Crewe1		49 St. Mirren4 Dundee1		— St. Johnstone3 Berwick2		
		— Swansea1 Wolves0						

Winchester, October 13th: 3.30pm. Alongside the wall of the top people's college, awaiting a party of young Tories, stands a Coliseum coach. Two Wapping pickets approach the slumbering driver, who becomes very upset when he finds himself being slagged off. Argues the old chestnut about "only doing my job", and gets ridiculed for his trouble. Pickets persist, and driver gets really abusive before locking the doors and windows. He scuttles to the back of his high-line coach, and lays on the floor. Hope he had fun getting all the stickers off later! Coliseum's owner is David Pitter, on 0703 472377. He says Wapping scabs are "just another group of passengers". We have to convince him otherwise.

Monday 13th October. Pentonville Prison. Printers David Payne and Bob Tettaur have been jailed for six months. 250 printers assemble in a side street a few hundred yards from the prison and hold a march to the front gates at Holloway Road. No traffic can pass for half an hour. Marchers chant to the prisoners inside, who wave back. Joined by SOGAT W.H.Smith's Chapel which works across the road. There are two arrests.

Wednesday 15th October. Evening March. Around 1,000 protesters turned up at Tower Hill for the evening march to Murdoch's menagerie. City of London "Paper Boys" lined up across the road at the rear of Tower Hill, just in case the marchers decided to travel via Aldgate (as if they would!). But this time, by way of a change, they marched along the Highway.

An abundance of "Paper Boys" and their usual unmarked vehicles were in attendance. On reaching the scab plant, the march stopped 50 yards short of the Mets welcoming committee, to hold its rally and speeches. The infra-red camera had been removed from the penthouse opposite, which drew loud cheering. But two paperboys were spotted on the balcony. This drew loud jeering. Being spotted, they disappeared indoors, and re-appeared in shirtsleeves (the art of disguise!). At this, the Pickets collapsed into fits of laughter.

At 11.30pm, the paperboys decided to push the 50 Pickets remaining in the road back into Wellclose. However, the demonstration finished on a high note when pickets formed a chorus line and performed "Knees Up Mother Brown". Alas, no paperboys joined in. Probably didn't know the words!

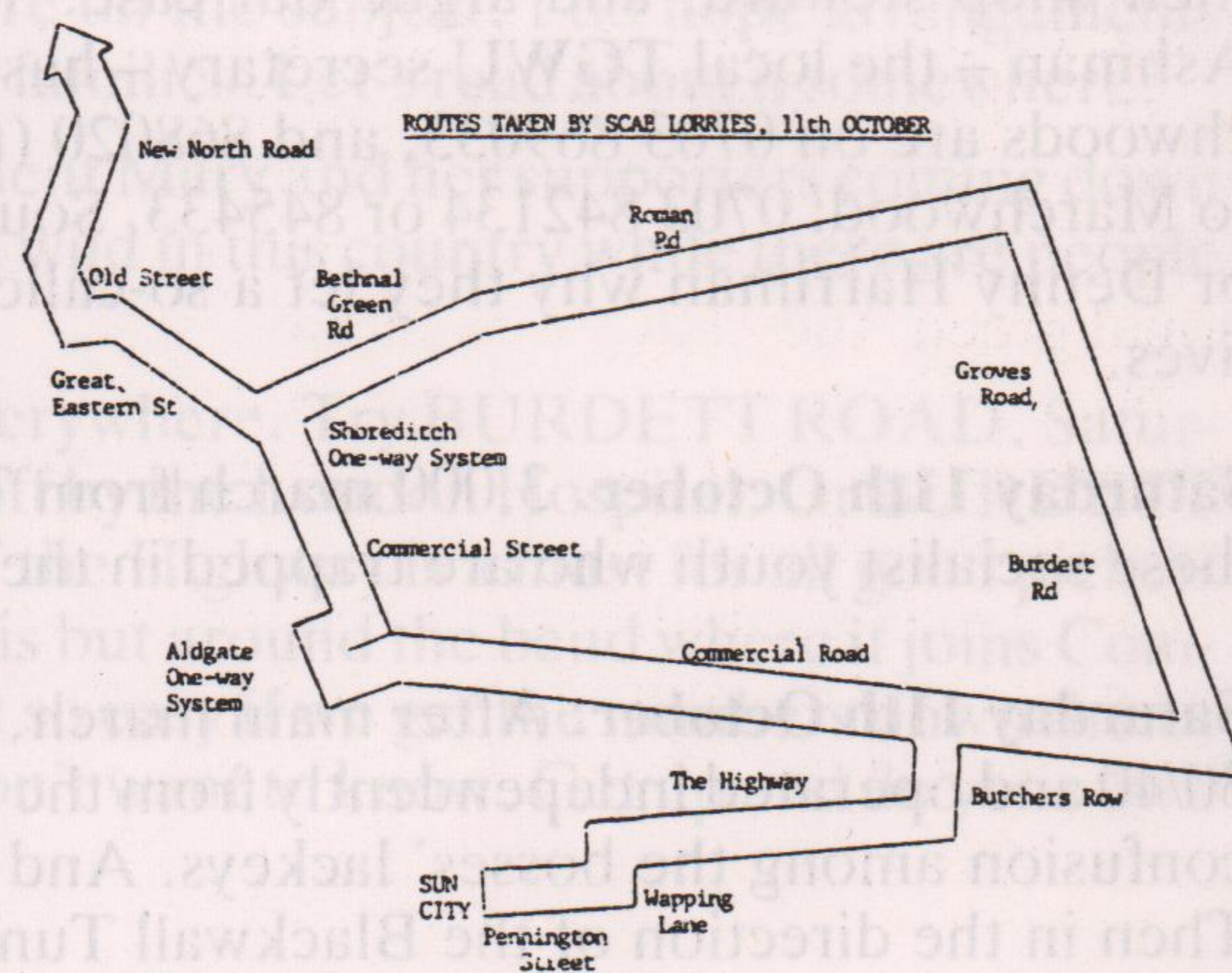
One arrest was made.

PS: Isn't that young "fella" that plays the trumpet GREAT!!

Note:

Under pressure from the effective confrontations with scab lorries along Commercial Road, law-breaking scum escorts led convoys from the "Wapping Free Press" plant through Bethnal Green to get them to what they mistakenly thought were "safe" areas. Convoys going left along Commercial Road lost their escorts at Aldgate, whilst those going right to go through Bethnal Green lost theirs at Shoreditch. Lorries sustained broken windscreens at Old Street, Commercial Road and the Highway, although milkbottles full of oil or paint proved more effective in disrupting their movements. Generally escorts have NOT stopped unless lorries have stopped, and even then have not pursued brick-throwers without back-up. White mice continue to operate without any escorts at all – much to the distress of the vans which were hit on Commercial Street and elsewhere during the small hours. The filth have proved to be unfamiliar with the area – generally they have not the imagination or resources to cover more than one alternative route in an evening and are virtually powerless against mobile pickets.

Possible alternative routes to the above next time may include Mile End Road and a return to Thomas More Street.



A Poem

Yet another offer, and what is more
It's bloody worse than the one before.
Just the money will not suffice.
We've said it once, we've said it twice,
It's jobs we want, nothing less.
Now let's put it to the test.
As we said before, money isn't our god.
All we want is a proper job.
The work belonged to us anyway,
Until bastard Hammond helped take it away.
And we won't be judged by a load of yobs
To see if we're capable of doing *our* jobs.
We proved all that when our votes were cast,
So Willis and Dean get up off your arse.
What you must do, there is no doubt,
Is get that bastard Hammond out.
Get back to the table – you know how we feel –
And this time make it a sensible deal!

Picket comment: Dispute will be settled on the picket line, not in luxury hotels. To place the slightest amount of trust or confidence in the class collaborationists at the top of the Labour Party and TUC is to invite disaster.

Seamen's Dispute. Wapping pickets seeing similarities between their struggle and that being waged by NUR, NUS and NUMAST members visited Portsmouth and Weymouth in a gesture of support. This resulted in "Wapping on Sea" banners being draped across the bridge decks of the affected vessels. Valuable time was being squandered by the full-time coterie of union bureaucrats, who chorused "Let's have a secret ballot", in a bid to undermine the rank-and-file success story. Activists were unanimous in their condemnation of James Sherwood (Sealink's owner, and director of parent company Sea Containers Ltd – also operators of the obscene Orient Express luxury train). Described variously as a "Tory stoolie" and "Murdoch clone", all have been vehement in their rubbishing of Sherwood. Now a local Tory candidate, Barry Field, is bleating to the Minister of Transport to buy out Sealink (*re-rationalise* it!) to get Sherwood off the hook! Most local people voted Tory in the last two elections, and now seem shocked by the naked aggression of rampant capitalism on *their* doorstep. After years of their smugness and personal greed, they have woken up.

NUS pickets claimed success in stopping the only scab ship still operating, the *Corbière*. After days of refusing to co-operate, TGWU dockers who loaded the ship's freight have been shamed into blacking it, thus stopping all scab sailings completely. Even local NUR organiser, Jimmy Hally, had to admit that a show-of-hands vote was what the membership wanted, and agreed it would probably produce an overwhelming vote in favour of stronger action. But the placemen of Unity House in London (far away from the picket lines, of course) still want to bow their knees to Thatcher's law.

Latest situation: Unclear, due to bureaucratic sabotage. Seamen under threat of sack are still occupying boats.

NOTES

● Letter re Being Named a Scab in *Picket* No. 25.

My name is Mike Rowbottom, and I'm a sports journalist with the *Guardian*. In fact I left the *Times* at Grays Inn Road when the dispute happened and have never been anywhere near Wapping. On the offchance that anyone connected with the calls reads *Picket*, would it be possible for you to put them straight about me? Phone calls to myself and my girlfriend are no joke, and come particularly hard when there is no justification for them. Thanking you in anticipation, Mike Rowbottom. PS: I enclose a fiver for the cause.

● Chris Asbley is a royal SOGAT member.

● Pedestrians.

Punters welcome. Why not write for *Picket*? Why not, indeed! No item is too Pedestrian for this newsletter. In fact, the more Simple and Tedious the better. Or how about writing us a Song so that we can raise early-morning voices in Blissful Harmony in the pissing rain down the Highway?



● **Two scabs served by W.H.Smith Peckham Depot.**

Harry Ansell (Sacked *Sun* worker. *Sunday Mirror* committee member.) Joan's Kiosk, 386 Walworth Road, London SE 17.

B. Grossman (Sacked *Times* driver) 3 Station Buildings, Station Approach, Hayes, Kent.

Support Newsagents who Support the Picket. *Charlie's News Stand* in Thurlow Street, Walworth, SE 17 refuses to sell any of Murdoch's titles. Please support it. Also, *JAL Newsagent*, just south of the old *Times* building, corner of Grays Inn Road and Mount Pleasant. They support us, we support them.

● **Pickets Beware.** Razor blades on scab coach door handles. One man, who has been in hospital since Friday, is now feeling the Torment of being the victim of such a callous act (if you can call it an act). About to open the door of a scab coach when, to his horror, the razor blades sliced through the underside of his fingers. Serious hospital treatment was needed and a large number of stitches also. No point in alerting the ever-caring Met. Strikebreakers are immune.

● I would once again give my warmest thanks to all the Pickets at King David's Lane on Wednesday 8th. Prevent arrests must be our prime concern under such circumstances. And this you achieved in a brave, heroic fashion. You can share my trench any day.

● If you hear of anyone trying to accept Murdoch's individual offer, I have it on good authority that they are wasting their time. He just wants to see someone begging. He couldn't get you all. But his ego demands someone. He is holding the offer on a long stick with a rubber band. Don't fall for it, you mugs.

➡ I will be advertising in Picket and elsewhere shortly, for a special group as stated before. Only known faces can be accepted. Nothing illegal, just stopping Murdoch. Details will be published shortly. Plenty of wet nights and dewy mornings. Only the stout of heart need apply.

● Why are some pickets still chatting to police bullies? Will they never learn?

● The *Standard* late march on Saturday was a brilliant piece of work. Why not organise relief columns along the way, then the ones who get tired or have to go home can be relieved. But it will need organising. With relief parties, we could keep going till daybreak.

● I would like to offer my sympathy to Mrs Payne this week; her husband Davy was sentenced to six months. Davy helped me out on May 3rd above and beyond the call of duty. Obviously I cannot say what. But take my word for it. What he did on that night will never be forgotten. These are not idle words. I would gladly serve his sentence for him. God bless you, Davy. Don't let the bastards beat you. While we are on the subject, I do hope arrangements are being made for a fund or something to support our prisoners and their families. Let's read about it somewhere?

● Once again my heart has been lifted by the sight of our wonderful resident Mary and her supporters coming down the Highway to meet us. God bless you all. The Kangaroo will never run wild in this country while there are people like her about.

● They seek them here, they seek them there, they seek them lorries everywhere. Try BURDETT ROAD, Saturday, at 1.00am onwards, or WHITECHAPEL ROAD, where they turn off by the London Hospital. Or BURDETT ROAD for white mice a bit later, 2.00am to 3.00am. The Tunnel end of the Highway is a must for all good pickets on Saturday night. We need more bodies this end. Not so much at Glamis but around the bend where it joins Commercial Road – they go off left and right here. And Plod cannot control it so easy if we get the numbers down there. Come on, Pickets, think! Don't be led into "safe" spots by people that don't want to know. Get up and do your own thing. These are the weak spots, they must be exploited.

● Just think, Murdoch, Maggie and McGregor all have one thing in common. They are all ugly. They are all sexless. They are all bullies. They are all cowards. They are all rich. They all want to be richer. They all hate us. They all kiss Reagan's arse – one for help, one for citizenship and one because he is an arse-licker anyway. They all blame someone else for all that goes wrong. All their names begin with 'M', which also begins words like Murder, Malpractice, Miserly, Moronic, Masochist and so on. The only good thing they have in common is that they will all die. The sad thing is that they haven't already. McGregor thinks he beat the miners. He has even written a book about it. They are still here, and by no means beaten yet. Maggie thinks she has beaten inflation. She only has her finger in the hole. She has to take it out sooner or later. Then the flood? Murdoch thinks he has beaten the printers. But as each day passes, he has to spend more money, employ more people. Take more precautions, get more police involved. I hear the Surrey constabulary have a special squad on standby now to deal with Flyers. Sooner or later the whole country will erupt when they get the bill for it all. So what has he won? F.A. And he never will. They should be renamed, MINDLESS, MADNESS & MALFUNCTION.

Income: £2.67 Bookshop sales; £7.73 NGA strikers; £96.02 SOGAT Sun Publishing collection; £3.75 Unemployed NGA; £10.00 Sunday Mirror Warehouse; £5.00 Journalist; £5.00 Corby.

Picket, c/o Housman's Books, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX

Published by picketing print union members and residents.