

THE SILVERWOOD MINEWORKER

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FREE COMPETITION?

In July Silverwood pit occupied second place in the British Coal League South Yorkshire Division. Whether this entitles us to a runners up medal at the end of the season (April, Financial Year) remains to be seen, but pits near the bottom could be in danger of closure. British Coal seem to be taking competition too far.

With every piece of propaganda sent out (Coal News, newsletters, etc) there is some comparisons between pits and faces. If B.C really want to keep men informed about production figures, giving them in an alphabetical list of pits would be sufficient.

However the real reason these figures are produced is to create a climate of fear. To those pits doing well its a warning saying closure could be around the corner. To those pits doing badly its a warning saying keep it up or else.

Not only do we have to compete with each other we are also told we have to compete on the International Energy Market. This means competing against Imported coal and also Nuclear energy.

With the privatisation of electricity its obvious that coal is cheaper than nuclear energy. Thats why the Tories are making it compulsory for a private electricity company to use Nuclear power stations. Tories believe this a good situation because it enables them to attack both us and transport workers.

The high price of electricity because of nuclear power doesnt worry the Tories because we pay for it as consumers. By demanding the closedown of nuclear power stations we will see cheaper electricity more Mining Jobs and a safer environment.



The C.E.G.B. believes it can cut costs by importing cheap coal, but how cheap is this coal? Chinese coal is very cheap but is a unreliable source. Columbian coal is produced by child labour but still isnt cheap enough so companies like MacGregors Exxon have to sell it at a loss. If B.C. say selling coal at a loss doesn't make sense why do American Internationals sell at a loss? The answer to that is easy, they are looking to the 1990's.

In the mid 1990's there will be a massive demand for coal. At the same time pits in Britian and Europe will have closed. B.C. should now be planning investment and job creation now so we can provide for the 1990's

The present management structure are too busy preparing for privatisation to be planning for the future. Thats why we must ready to fight privatisation and demand a real say in our industry for miners.

We must also forget the idea of 'free competition' because cutting costs to match the Multi-nationals like Exxon will mean a price war and all miners will lose. Free competition has to be paid for usually by deterioration of our Wages, Safety and Custom and Practice. The best we can do is stand firm and together when B.C. try to change these..

NOTTS N.U.M. GALA

The Notts N.U.M. gala took place on the 10th of Sept in Mansfield. Unfortunately the weather didn't match the high spirits. Trade unionists from all over Britian came to support the lads that stayed loyal to the N.U.M.

Yorkshire didn't get enough banners on the march something that needs to be put right in future. We must remember Notts gala as an important part of rebuilding the NATIONAL UNION OF MINERS.

Talking to Notts lads proved to be intresting. Clipstone miners thanked the lads at Silverwood for making a donation to the cost of their N.U.M. banner. It soon became clear that they welcomed our help in fighting the U.D.M. They were totaly against any recognition of the U.D.M. seeing this as a stab in the back of num loyalists.

Ray Chadburn choose to attack the UDM when he introduced the speakers. While handing out long service certificates he pointed out this would be impossible for the UDM to do, as they had only existed 4 years.

The decline of the UDM was shown by the fact they now have 'members' working in Quarries and South Coast Hotels. But Prendegast is looking further afield he now wants to organise the CLERGY. They must be desperate turning to god for help, but does he really help TRAITORS.

It is important to keep supporting this gala. Not only is it a show of strength against the UDM but it is a tribute to those that remain sacked. Notts N.U.M. run this jointly with JUSTICE FOR MENEWORKERS CAMPAIGN. Both these organisations need the help of all trade unionists to help them fight their causes.

It is up to us to make sure that help is there when they need it, to build a strong NATIONAL UNION where every miner has a job.

WOLVES IN SHEEPS CLOTHING

Hatred for working Notts miners and their socalled leaders, Lynk and co boiled over in every striking miner during the 12 months long strike. They were never to be forgiven, or forgotten?

Short memories, now we have some area and colliery elected officials advocating talks with the now UDM. "Lets get round the table "they say," lets start negotiating with the UDM".

I SAY NO, we cannot betray the lads who had no job to come back to. Why play into Lynks hands, if talks were to take place with the UDM, and Lynk did not like what was happening they would walk away and stab us in the back.

Once the UDM are recognised nationally, the door would be opened in all areas for them. Lets keep them tied up and stop all the talk of joining up with them. SOME elected NUM officials should know better.

After the fiasco of asking members to vote to call off the overtime ban so pay talks could begin, WHAT HAPPENED? The board simply ignored the union and enforced a pay rise, proving we were wrongly advised. So much for getting back on negotiating terms.

I say once again to the WOLVES IN SHEEPS CLOTHING keep your thoughts about talks to yourself.

STOP PRESS

At the Silverwood N.U.M. branch meeting held in September it was decided to reverse an earlier decision on conciliation. The new position means there will be no acceptance of a U.D.M. presence during negotiations between the N.U.M. and the Coal Board.

THE U.D.M. NEED SOME FRIENDS

Steve Bell

