

STRIKE BACK

Newsletter of the Notts Campaign Against Pit Closures

INTRODUCTORY ISSUE
24th November 1992

SUPPORT THE N.U.M.

The National Union of Mineworkers has warned since 1981 of the Tory government's pit closure plan. On each occasion our warnings have been classed as scaremongering tactics.

The persistence of the NUM's arguments were even questioned by some of its own membership, and the 1984/85 miners' strike was not supported by the majority of the Notts. miners.

The breakaway U.D.M. was formed and they laid their trust in British Coal and the Tories. How wrong could they be? Since 1985 fourteen collieries and a workshop have been closed in Notts alone. If Heseltine is allowed to carry out his further reductions, then the area will have just five pits on short term futures. Job losses in mining alone since 1985 will top the 20,000 mark in this area and the knock-on effect of further cuts will be devastating. I would hope even the most sublime will have realised by now that 'You can't trust the Tories.'

Everyone knows the arguments the NUM have placed before the government are unanswerable, and every Notts. miner ought now to be supporting the NUM; they should be rejoining the majority union.

Our aim is to save all of the 31 pits; not just the ones in the East Midlands area.

We demand that this government constructs a proper energy policy based on coal, and that they put a stop to this energy suicide that is nothing other than revenge against the miners for their actions in 1974.

Keith Stanley
Notts. NUM President

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

The most savage and barbaric cuts in mining and other related industries ever seen, on top of years of reduction in the living standards of millions of workers, in the thick of the deepest slump this century, has triggered the largest protest marches and demonstrations seen for many years in London and many towns and cities across the land.

This show of solidarity has given the necessary confidence not only to miners, but to all other sections of the working class. The most recent evidence of this was last Tuesday's day of action in Manchester which led to 6,000 workers downing tools.

After the 100,000 strong N.U.M. led demonstrations in London on October 21st, Nottingham Trades Council called a public meeting which was attended by around 100 people and addressed by Keith Stanley, President of Notts. NUM. The meeting unanimously decided to stand by NUM policies of how to build support for the immediate reversal of pit closure plans announced by the government, and to hold weekly meetings at the I.C.C. and Saturday stalls at St. Peter's Gate for the foreseeable future to raise public support, awareness and funds.

At a further meeting it was decided to initiate a newsletter in order to further facilitate dissemination of information and co-ordination of all actions in this area.

We are appealing to all rank and file workers who believe the time has come to make a united stand against this madness of capitalist market economy, to enrich this newsletter by their personal contributions and any information regarding their industries or workplaces which can be of use.

Let's stand firm and stand together

DIARY DATES

Friday 4th Chesterfield. Welcome the Scottish Miners March.
Evening Rally in Town Square.

Saturday 5th Mansfield. Black and Gold Social Evening,
Oak Tree Centre.

Sunday 6th Mansfield. 8.30 a.m. March leaves from Town Hall.
A38 to Sutton. B6139 to Kirkby-in-Ashfield.
A608 to Annesly Colliery - Pit head meeting.
Nottingham. A608, A611 to Bulwell, Basford, arrives
Nottingham Market Square (afternoon).
Civic Reception (tickets).
Evening Social - Marcus Garvey Centre.

Monday 7th Nottingham. 8.00 a.m. March leaves from Market Square.
(to Draycott and Derby). Join the March.
(T.U. Banners only).

TUESDAY 9th

DAY OF ACTION

Nottingham.

12.00 - 2.00 p.m. Rally, Market Square.

Saturday 19th London.

Scottish Miners March arrives.
Local demonstrations.
8.00 p.m. National switching off of lights.

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Every Tuesday

7.30 p.m.

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