

Steel City

SPRINTER



2 weeks of Games...40 years of debt!

Oct 1990

4,552 competitors, 1,424 officials, 1,014 sporting encounters, 130 countries, massive new sports facilities, £150m worth of building work,....

Eh??... £150m works out at at least £25 per-person per-year for at least 22 years, and the cost is still rising, added to all our Poll Tax bills.

The games will also cost a further £27m to run, this is supposed to be coming mainly from private sponsors but the amount *over* £2.5m that the council has *already* ploughed into this is anybody's guess. Universiade GB (UGB), the company set up to raise this money collapsed when it was £4m in debt, the council was owed £2.5m of this and they immediately gave another million.

Since the Games body FISU decided Sheffield is to host the Games, we have been lied to repeatedly about how much it will cost us. The organisers have been seen to be incompetent, bumbling idiots, staggering from one crisis to the next. The regular sackings and resignations are always followed by accusations of lying to the council and financial incompetence. The boss at the moment, Ray 'grisley' Gridley (always known to be incompetent to the private tenants of Sheffield) is receiving £60,000 a year plus perks like a free posh car and free travel and accomodation. The Games has turned out to be alright for some!!!!

THE COUNCIL HAS ACTED, FROM THE START, WITHOUT ASKING US, THE PEOPLE EXPECTED TO PAY FOR THE GAMES. WE WERE NEVER ASKED IF WE WANTED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

The councillors tell us that they are acting in the interests of the people of Sheffield, that the Games will put Sheffield on the map. It's a publicity stunt that will apparently make companies suddenly think, "Oh! I know, lets set up in Sheffield, they held the World Student Games there!"

It should be obvious to anyone that companies, whose only concern is to make profits will only set up where profits are to be made. This usually means where wages are most depressed, due to unemployment, local conditions (Sheffield has 9.5% unemployment, compared to 5.7% nationally, wages are up to 11% less than the national average. The local average wage has dropped from £4.94 an hour to £2.50 an hour in ONE YEAR!), or where workers are known ot be 'not militant'. The only jobs on offer, in reality (as opposed to in the minds of certain councillors), are low paid such as part-time shop assistants and sports facility attendants. The companies, which are hardly flocking to Sheffield anyway, are not employing local people in any of the 'good jobs'. The council is compounding this by using volunteers and young offenders to do skilled jobs such as painting and decorating, translating, medical duties etc. This is a panic measure as the true cost of the Games is becoming apparent.

Small businesses in Attercliffe have been forced to close down either because the Council wanted the land or through pure insensitivity. Communities are seeing their own local amenities cut such as libraries, swimming pools, community centres etc. as the cash is transfered to the WSG bottomless pit. Sheffield's education system is massively underfunded, schools are falling down, the number of teachers is being cut down, the Tertiary Colleges can't afford to make their floors safe, adult education subsidies for the worse off among us are being cut. Schools are millions overspent and are already using next years money.

Next years Poll Tax has been forecast at over £600, but not, as the council try to make out, because of the non-payers, it's because a city the size of Sheffield simply can't run on the Poll Tax. Services will be cut and sold off anyway and that can only make life harder for us. With the Poll Tax, as with everything else, it's time to say 'no further!' Join your local anti-Poll Tax group, if you've paid up to now, it's not too late to stop paying.

In 1992, the Council has to put all recreation facilities out to tender, this means that they have to start making more profit from the facilities and prices have to rise, beyond our budget! We also find out, after the Mcvities competition, that we have to pay for these wonderful events that the Council wins for us!!

The story so far...

Aug 86: Sheffield's bid to get the World Student Games starts.
total cost: £10m

Nov 86: total cost: £30m

Jun 87: Natwest Bank gives £15,000 as a thank-you gesture for the millions they've made out of students over the years.

Aug 87: A planned park at the Ponds Forge site is scrapped.

Sept 87: Ray 'grisley' Gridley appointed director of the bid to get the games. £20m is committed to build Ponds Forge pool, before the games bid is accepted.

Nov 87: total cost: £100m

Dec 87: total cost: £130m

Jan 88: Gerry 'giz-a-job' Montgomery is now getting £50,000 a year to run the games bid, alongside Clive 'the scab' Betts, Joan 'keep it in the family' Barton, Peter 'incompetent' Price, and 3 members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Feb 88: Private firms have only contributed 10% of the £70,000 already spent, but the committee is receiving "help in kind"!!

A disabled man is told "You've no chance in the next two years because the WSG is more important than anything else" when he applies for a council house move for himself, wife, son and two daughters (one pregnant) from his three bedroomed house.

May 88: More than 30 shops, warehouses and pieces of land down for compulsory purchase because the council thinks they don't look nice next to the new facilities.
total cost: £113m

Council lends a quarter of a million to Universiade GB (Ltd) (UGB) as an urgent requirement.

Feb 89: 2400 holes need to be drilled to fill mineworkings under Ponds Forge. £10,000 put aside to run the sports facilities after the games.

Council plans a £1m facelift for the main routes into the city.

March 89: £3m spectacular museum planned at Ponds Forge.

May 89: Council plans to spend £43m on Hyde Park, then knock it down, are not approved by the Government.

June 89: Firms in Attercliffe closing down because the building work causes a drop in trade.

91 club launched - for £5000 companies can use Universiade GB logo for advertising, and get free tickets.

Sept 89: cost cutting occurs due to overspending.

Oct 89: 8000 volunteers required. Council meeting gets angry, Clive 'the scab', Joan 'keep it in the family' Barton and Peter 'incompetent' Price accused of rushing through proposals without giving proper thought to the long term implications for Sheffield.

Nov 89: The museum idea is dropped to save money. Gerry 'giz a job' Montgomery resigns, he may 'eventually return as a private consultant!!' Mr Fixit, Alan Brailey resigns. Peter 'tell tale' Burns gets the sack from the 60,000 a year job as boss of UGB.

Robbin' Barron appointed acting director of UGB.

A+F Drake take back £5000 worth of furniture after a row with UGB.

Dec 89: One person offered the job that Alan Brailey quit refused it after seeing the accounts. 4 directors of UGB are getting £30,000 a year each. The total wage bill for UGB is well over £1m a year plus company cars and travel costs etc. UGB is £750,000 in the red.

Jan 90: Security budget halved to save money. Jobs freeze, 7000 volunteers needed. BBC and ITV both say they won't film the Games. The council gives £250,000 to UGB. It also becomes known that the council has slipped UGB a further £1.5m interest free loan to UGB via 'Sheffield For Health', on top of the £1m already given to cover the day to day running costs. Danny 'the rat' Simson quits as finance boss, days before the records are published.

UGB has a trading loss of £3.306m, the vast majority owed to the council. The company needs £640,000 to survive.

The cultural festival is dropped.

Feb 90: Security budget dropped from £1.5m to £0.5m. Hyde Park refurbishment stopped due to lack of funds. Concord Park hockey ground scrapped. Sky TV(who?) deal fixed. The indoor stadium, which will be owned by an American company needs to be subsidised, after the Games, it could be up to £2.4m a year.

March 90: The sports facilities will cost £8m a year to run.

April 90: Young offenders forced to work on Hyde Park for nothing with insufficient safety. £1m Club launched.

May 90: Tennis centre at Hillsborough scrapped due to local opposition. Furnishing contract collapses due to cash flow crisis.

June 90: Council puts in another £1m as UGB collapses, £4m in debt. The Sports Council refuses to hand over £1.4m still owed out of the £3m originally promised, due to lack of confidence in the Games. The council sacks 44 of the UGB staff. Ray 'grisley' Gridley is now in charge of the Games Secretariat and gets £60,000 a year for his troubles.

July 90: The Govt again refuses money for Hyde Park. Norton confirmed as the site of the tennis facilities, in spite of local protests.

The volunteers who took part in the 'Telethon' paint the village farce did not do it well enough, it needs doing again.

Aug 90: The Games company still needs £17m to run the Games, the £1m Club has all of 2000 members, the 91 Club has 102.

Sept 90: Nearly every night stories of financial crisis in the Star, facilities are being cut across the city no new sponsorship has appeared, schools are in crisis and the council is sacking hundreds of workers to save money.

How the cost has changed...in millions of £'s...

	Nov 87	Feb 89	April 89	June 89	Jan 90	Feb 90
Ponds Forge	31	40	46	45	51	52
Don Valley Stad		18	21	24	26	28
Hillsbro Centre		11	11	11	12	12
Tennis Facilities		1	2	2	3	3
Indoor Arena			12	32	34	34
Waltheof Centre				1	2	2
Hockey Site					2	2

What they've said...

"The scale of the problem is enormous, we will need £10m over 5 years"
John Morrel, Chief Recreation Officer, Aug 86

"Don't worry about the cash, it will all come back"
Gerry Montgomery, Aug 86

"The capital outlay could be as great as £30m. The council could find £4m in four years"
Peter Price, Nov 86

"The authority has always made it clear that Sheffielders would have to pay for the £100m worth of facilities"
Peter Price, March 89

"It's only like building a school or an old peoples home, and we always planned another sports facility in the city"
Peter Price, Jan 90

"It's vital if the city is to provide the *right* image to a global audience" (the council had just applied for a grant of £5m from the Government, to smarten up the roads into the city, and provide a *false* image to a global audience, they got £600,000)
Clive Betts, Nov 89

"When I said the council would give one million and no more, it was in good faith but circumstances have changed"
Clive Betts, June 90

"Poll Tax cash should be ploughed into the Games"
Coun. Mukesh Savani, Jan 90

"Within 9 months it's all starting to go sour"
Liberal Councillor, Oct 89

"Other services could suffer at the expense of Games facilities"
Bill Michie, Oct 89

"The WSG could bankrupt Sheffield... if we don't do it right, we are going to look the biggest 'nanas in Christendom"
Frank Price

"The opportunity to host the WSG has captured the imagination and enthusiasm of the whole of the city"
David Blunkett, Dec 86

The Men and The Money...

Since Sheffield's first bid to host the WSG in '86 all the talk has been of the 'prestige', 'glamour' and 'privilege' the people will get. When questions have been raised about exactly what this means, we are fobbed off with empty promises about 'jobs', 'investment' & 'regeneration' as the benefits to our communities. Examples such as Ponds Forge and Meadowhall are held up for all to see. However, scratch the surface of the last 4 years of promises and boasting and a different picture emerges. When Gerry Montgomery made the initial bid (along with Ray Gridley), as Senior Ass. Dir. of Recreation Dept, he said, "The bid is not a council matter but a city matter". Too right. But right from the start the people here have been excluded from having any say, only when a crisis looms have we been asked to be involved and then only to bail out the Universiade(UGB). Whenever the WSG have been in the media, it's been the same mixture of councillors & businessmen who've been blowing the WSG trumpet, but in effect they're blowing their own trumpets. The fact is that the only people reaping any rewards from WSG are politicians & businessmen. The parasites in the 'business community' who've made their millions from exploiting working-class people have joined forces with the parasites on the council who've built their careers off the backs of working-class suffering to line their own pockets and bring more hardship to our class.

DIRTY FINGERS IN DIRTY PIES

Hosting the WSG and the masses of construction work that needs to be done has brought £44 m(est.) to businesses. One such beneficiary is HUGH SYKES. Already one of the richest 200 people in Britain, he is Chair of Sheffield Development Corporation(SDC - the company set up to oversee regeneration of East End, with wide-ranging powers to control & encourage development from Canal Basin to Tinsley). At the same time he is 'non-executive chair' of a company called 'Hallamshire Investments' which by amazing coincidence has a major contract for work in the East End. So, Hughie is set to make a few bob from that. Also on the Board of SDC and Director of HI and on the Organising Committee of WSG is NORMAN ADSETTS. Both have much in common. Both Master Cutlers, both ex-presidents of Chamber of Commerce, both millionaires set to make plenty of profit from 'regeneration'. Not only that but the workers are working under dangerous & unprotected conditions, with already several serious 'accidents' on the sites. Courting both these men is 'Chief of the Brigands' CLIVE BETTS. As leader of the Council and with his deputy sad, sad PETER PRICE he has from the very beginning chosen to side with the yuppies & rich businessmen allowing them to turn Sheffield into a playground for the wealthy simultaneously stabbing working-class people in the back. Betts and Adsetts have appeared so often together in public promoting their warped idea of 'regeneration' that they are known as 'The Double Act' and so popular amongst the business community is Betts that he was the first labour leader ever to get a standing ovation at the annual Cutlers Feast, a sign of whose side he's on. "The council & private sector see very clearly the direction in which we want to go" said Betts in 1988. One such example of this direction is Sheffield Partnerships Ltd' - a joint action for 'regeneration' (it's that word again) of the city. Guess who is chairman? Norman Adsetts, who said "my immediate reaction is not motivated by personal interest". Ha ha ha. Tell us another one. As far as SPLtd is concerned, Betts admits "we now have a number of corporate partnerships". How much in back-handers, Scab?

When he was recently investigated by the Dept of Environment as to his 'dual role' in the WSG, Hugh Sykes was simply advised at the 'drawbacks of combining his two roles which could lead to suspicion'. But to parasites like him, this means nothing. The likes of Sykes & Adsetts see nothing but £££ signs.

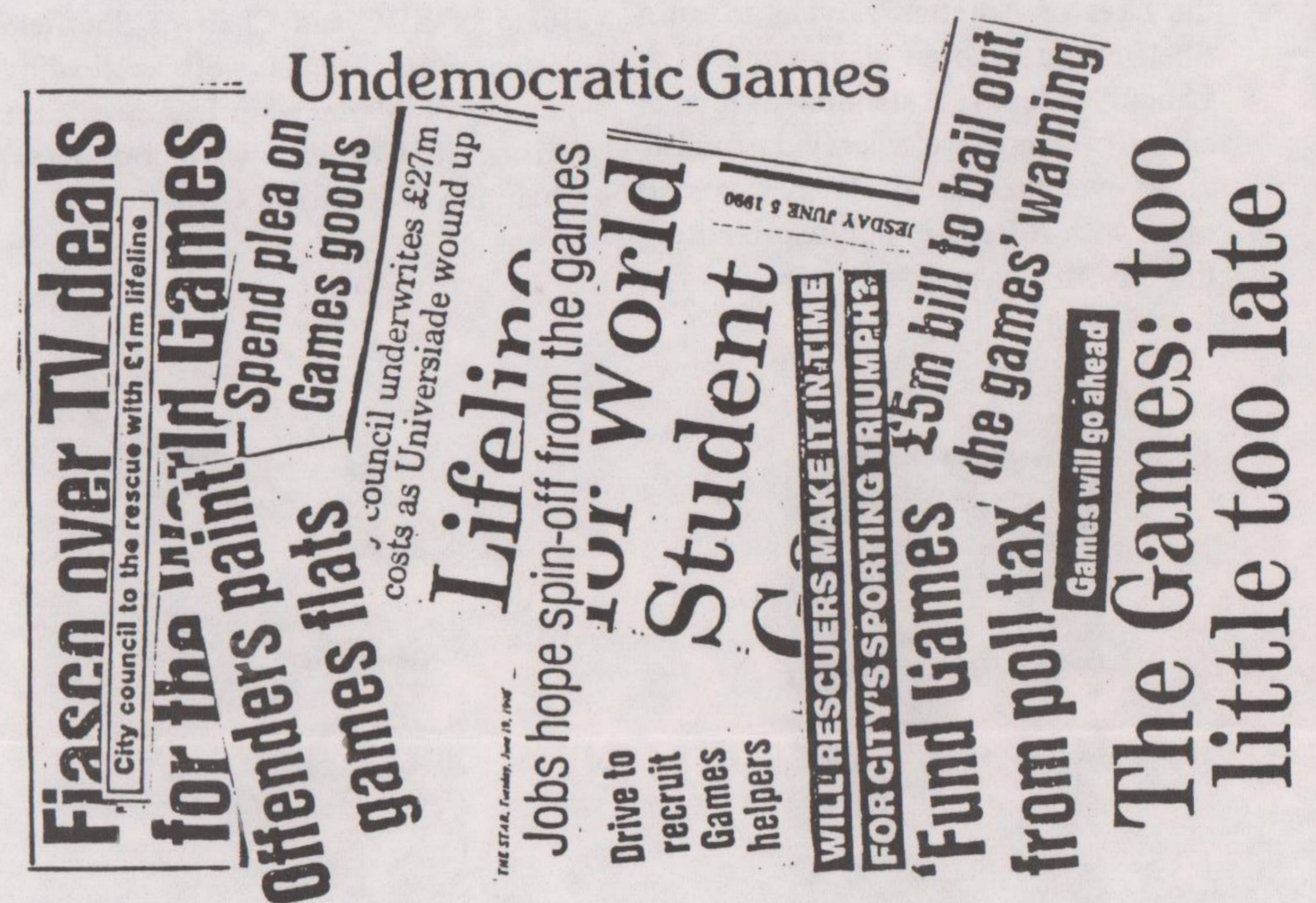
WHO IS PULLING THE STRINGS ?

Take a closer look at the set-up of the WSG. First of all is the 'ORGANISING COMMITTEE', which has a 'SECRETARIAT'. These have taken over from 'Universiade' which collapsed with more than £4m in debts. The OC consists of 5 people, headed by Pamela Gordon (Chief Executive of the City Council). While Betts, Price, Adsetts, Sykes etc 'promote' the WSG the OC 'organises' it. The Secretariat is headed by Ray 'Evict em' Gridley (Director of Housing & former union-basher with Manchester Council), but includes Gerry Montgomery, chief culprit in this farce, invited back into the fray after quitting UGB in '89. The Homeless Section at the Town Hall has only one phone to deal with people's housing problems but the WSG office has 7 - sums up the council's priorities and commitment to housing. The Sec. is

split into 5 sections, each with its own boss, plus a large number of council employees. When we asked how many workers at UGB had been re-employed in the secretariat they began to squirm and refused to answer. Have they got something to hide? Are the people who ran up a debt of £4m with UGB playing the same stupid games? It is strange how the same people seem to be involved. "We're not going to do an Edinburgh" commented Gerry Montgomery in '87, but with under a year to the opening ceremony it looks likelier than ever that they are 'doing a Sheffield'.

LIES, DAMNED LIES AND THE STUDENT GAMES

The people of Sheffield were 'promised' 10,000 jobs as a result of the WSG, yet a year away the 'organisers' are asking for 6,500 VOLUNTEERS to work in the WSG. Now, we know Scab Betts is into Slave Labour, but our class has been taken for a ride one time too many. A similar scam is the 'One Million Club'. On April 23rd this year, seeing that UGB was on its death bed, the cronies involved launched an appeal using such Tory celebrities as Seb Coe, Marti 'Sun City' Caine and Richard 'Apartheid Made Me' Caborn. Its aim was to raise £27 m towards running costs, by getting a million people to pay £27 each.



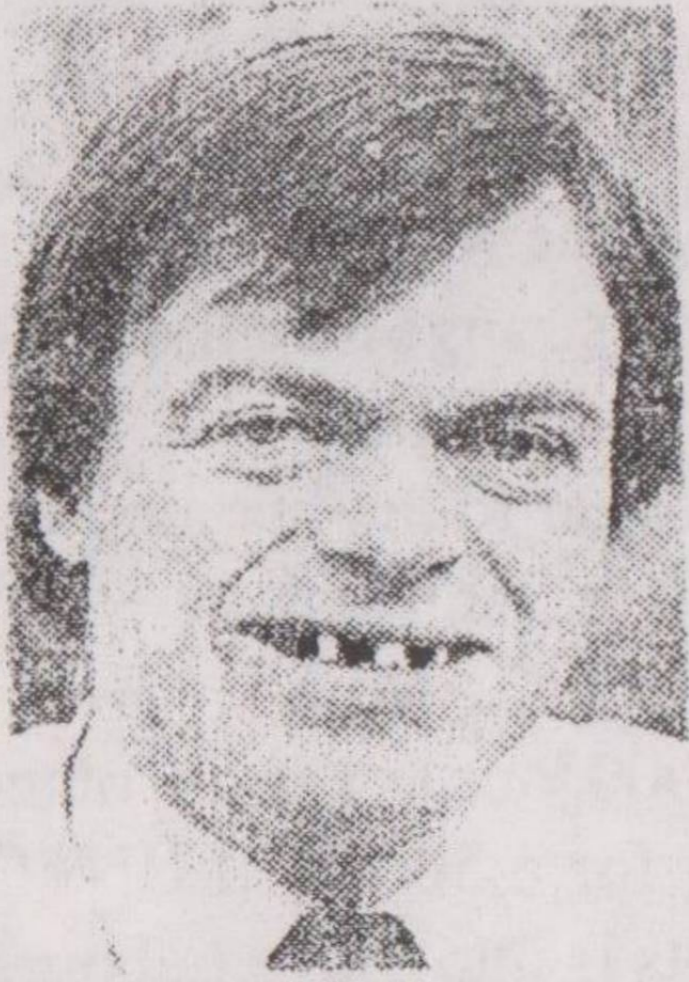
With the backing of the Sports Council, the 'One Million Club' was born. But hang on a sec, weren't UGB and the new Secretariat supposed to be finding the sponsorship, via the business world? Of course, but then we all know what sort of people are behind this. Make the people pay (twice) and then the political and business parasites pocket the profit & prestige. Alan Bamford knows what's in it for him - as Director of Henry Boot he enrolled 1,000 employees in the scheme. It's also to appeal to this idea that 'if the people of Sheffield pull together the WSG will succeed'. Don't be conned. WE'VE HAD ENOUGH - TIME FOR ACTION

This is not the whole story but just the tip of the ice-berg. We are limited by space to expose the scandals, corruption, personal gain and betrayal of working-class people which are an integral part of the WSG. However, the story will not stop here. This sort of circus is what the Labore Party now represents; it has never had anything to offer us and it has become a pale imitation of its Tory idols. The class of people who stand to lose are the people who always get shat on by the likes of Betts & Price. How much will it cost us to use the facilities after the WSG? The prices will soar out of our reach. THESE ARE NOT OUR GAMES!! Against all this conniving & scheming is a backdrop of a city being destroyed by central govt with the collusion of a council with no guts. Just as with the Poll Tax, we must fight the Labore Council too.

FUN, GAMES & SABOTAGE

Because opposition to the WSG has been largely unvoiced, the WSG will go ahead, just as the yuppification of the city has taken root. But, sooner rather than later we, the ordinary people of Sheffield will have to do something. From refusing to pay the Poll Tax to picketing the Games, if we're not asked for our opinion then we'll have to give it anyway. The Council will want us to be as invisible as possible, so as not ruin their spectacle. But we should be as VISIBLE as possible, raising our voices, working to mess up their plans which they made without our consent.

THE ROGUES GALLERY OF BRIGANDS AND GANGSTERS...



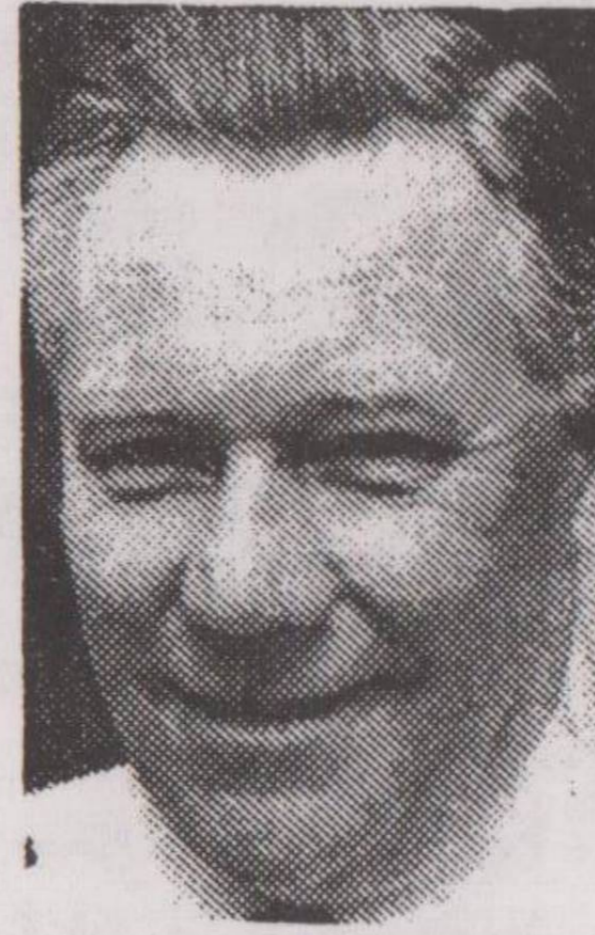
CLIVE BETTS:

Wanted for crimes against the people of Sheffield. Leader of City Council and Labour Party 'New Realist' (i.e. sell-out and scab). Cambridge Graduate in economics, he is 'financial helmsman', forging partnerships & alliances with the likes of Adsetts & Sykes to turn Sheffield into a yuppie playground. First Labour leader to get standing ovation at annual Cutlers Feast (where industrialists crowd over their wealth). Appears so often with Adsetts in public promoting the city that they are known as "The Double Act".



NORMAN ADSETTS:

A real criminal. Has a vested interest in WSG being a success. Director of Hallamshire Investments, which has contract for building work in Lower Don Valley area. He is the other half of the "Double Act" with Betts. On Board of SDC and Chair of Sheffield Partnerships Ltd as well as leading member of "Partnership In Action", the union of Council with business. Chairman of Regional CBI.



BEV STOKES:

Director of UGB and ex-chairman of Bassett Foods. Called for a £25 levy on all Sheffield people to pay for the Games saying, "Fund the Games from the Poll Tax". Known Tory but has found an ally in Betts and the new Secretariat. Complete scumbag.



MALCOLM NEWMAN:

Chief Treasurer of City Council - the 'Penny Pincher'. Sidekick to Betts, this 'supremely confident Treasurer' has promised to send non-Poll Tax payers to prison whilst helping Betts and finance chairman Howard Knight enforce government-imposed spending restrictions (i.e. cuts). Likes to watch people being evicted. Along with Knight he told council workers in the Town Hall to vote against taking action against the Poll Tax.



RAY GRIDLEY:

City Council Housing Director, was in charge of previous Games Secretariat when Sheffield won the bid in '87. Wanted Chief Executive's job but lost out. Now has it, as Director of the new Secretariat. More interested in money & prestige than getting people housed, he lets it be known how pleased he is. Helped assemble the original bid. Previously worked for Manchester Council where he was known as a 'union-basher', which he carried on in Sheffield, sending illegal & threatening letters to striking housing workers.



GERRY MONTGOMERY:

Made the initial bid for the WSG in Nov '86, then Senior Assistant Director of Council's Recreation Dept.. Director of Sport till Nov '89 at UGB, he's now back as Head of Sports in the new Secretariat. Has no principles whatsoever and is proud of it. "I want the WSG to succeed because the rewards will be huge. Especially for me".



PETER PRICE:

Deputy Leader of Council, Betts' right-hand man. Famed for treating Sheffielders like dirt. Instigator of Council's "Alliance of Greed" with big business, he hopes his political career will take off after the WSG. At a Public Meeting with Parkhill Tenants over the closure of their swimming baths he refused to answer their questions and sat and picked his nose. All-round arrogant shit. Has paid his Poll Tax.



HUGH SYKES:

Along with Adsetts will get a nice, big windfall from the WSG. He is 'non-executive Chairman' of Hallamshire Investments, Chairman of SDC and was on the Board of the now defunct UGB. One of richest 200 parasites in the country, he also talks about 'prestige' and 'investment' while rubbing his hands with glee. Wants 'more productive relations between council & business community', i.e. cheap land for his business and building contracts for H.I.

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People required to WORK FOR NOTHING! Must be able to lick boots and arses, apply to the Town Hall!

Land for sale, going very cheap! turn that ugly greenbelt park into a nice new profitable concern, or why not look at our range of housing estates, all for sale to the right person. Must be willing to knock 'em down and make money from the space. Contact C'live Betts.

Frightened to think for yourself? Do you need your opinions to be made for you? Can you follow orders? sell papers? Contact Militant, SWP, RCP, etc. We'll make it easy for you! (except for the standing around in all weathers harassing shoppers on Fargate every Saturday)

WANTED: embarrassing information about councillors or businessmen/women for publication. Send anything you can to P.O. Box 446 SHEFFIELD S1 1NY.