

SEA PICKET

No 7

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JULY

16th

JULY 6th HOW MANY MORE?

Another major disaster. One hundred and sixty six workers are killed when the Piper Alpha platform in the North Sea is rocked by an explosion. Apparently this is another record; the worst disaster in the history of North Sea Oil production. How many more of these do we want? The Bradford Football disaster, Zeebrugge, Kings Cross and now the North Sea.

Of course the papers like the Scum all tell us it was an accident. Yet it is clear that there were fundamental problems with the design of the platform. Living quarters were placed above a gas compression module. Many workers appear to have complained about smelling leaking gas..... what happened....as we now know...nothing. Bloody criminal.

No doubt next year if there is a strike on an Oil Platform over safety the company will sack all the workers. Seapicket sends its deep condolences to the families and friends of those who died.

JULY 7th BRILLIANT

Great. The strike moves back into the news for the first time in weeks. A real boost to hear on the TV news at dinner time about the re-taking of the Union offices in Dover. Just shows what is possible if things are organised properly. Also nice to know that the boys in blue were caught out. Cosy chats on the picket line give them just what they want and help to make the strike harder to win.

Sad to see that the Government's attempts to introduce longer drinking hours is not being helped by the Police in Dover. Johnny Woods attempt to give crisps and a pint to one of the occupiers was simply too much for one copper. Disappointing to see that John is quoted as saying that outside cops are causing bother. Yorkshire Miners might be able to describe how 'outside' cops caused bother in 1984/5. Only then these 'outsiders' were Kent coppers. Fact is that none of them is of any use to workers. We pay their wages and the bosses pull their strings.

WHERE IS SAM?

The first striker to see or hear Sam McCluskie is asked to drop us a line.....we promise you a prize....don't know what to give as a prize.....mind you we should have plenty of time to decide.

Perhaps we are wrong. We hear that Sam is due to address strikers on Monday July 18th. This must be worrying for all concerned. Obviously he wants direct access to his flat back. It must be difficult going up the back stairs. And he must be getting sick of getting paid from the TUC hardship fund. Expelling those workers who have paid his wages for all those years will help to get him nearer to his new job in the NUR or TGWU. Mind you it will not exactly help those on strike. But, of course, thats no real problem for him.

WATCH THOSE ADVERTS

Have you seen them on the TV? Cruise across the channel with P&O. Incredible! We are told that the company is not losing money and that services are being fully used. If that's so, then why do they need to spend millions advertising their services? Come off it P&O, pull the other one.

WHEN'S THE NEXT DOVER DEMO?

It is now 9 weeks since the last demo in Dover. In order to keep the strike in the news and support rolling in there needs to be a focal point. So when's the demo?

West German support

A member of the Red 8 seafarers support group in Kiel, W.Germany is expected in Britain over the weekend. This group has raised £660 and this will be handed over to members of the Dover womens support group at the weekend. Hopefully we can get him from London to the picket-line and kitchens next week.

A FAIR COP?

Hackney Police continue to harass members of the local support group. Last week a retired 62 year old NUS member was asked to move along by the Police when he was collecting for the Dover support kitchen.

WHERE IS STIRLING?

Great to hear that strikers have decided to picket P&O's headquarters in London on Thursdays. Is Stirling still the Chairman? Funny, but he never seems to go to work at the Pall Mall office. Are we a little bit frightened of meeting the workers who who have made P&O millions!

AGONY AUNT

Supporters of the seafarers again appeal for an end to this constant bickering between different support groups. You can't go around telling people to stay off "your patch" and competing against one another. There needs (has to be) to be one WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP FUND which is run by those on strike. (ie strikers and their wives/husbands) Quite frankly supporters are getting completely sick of this constant dividing and rule tactics. After 24 weeks on strike people should be closer together, not arguing over a few quid here and there.

LETTERS

Seapicket is not just for supporters. We also welcome all contributions from strikers and their families. Our address is 489 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AU.

GOING ABROAD?

Leaflets and information will shortly be available in a number of languages; including German, French, Spanish. Any groups want copies?