

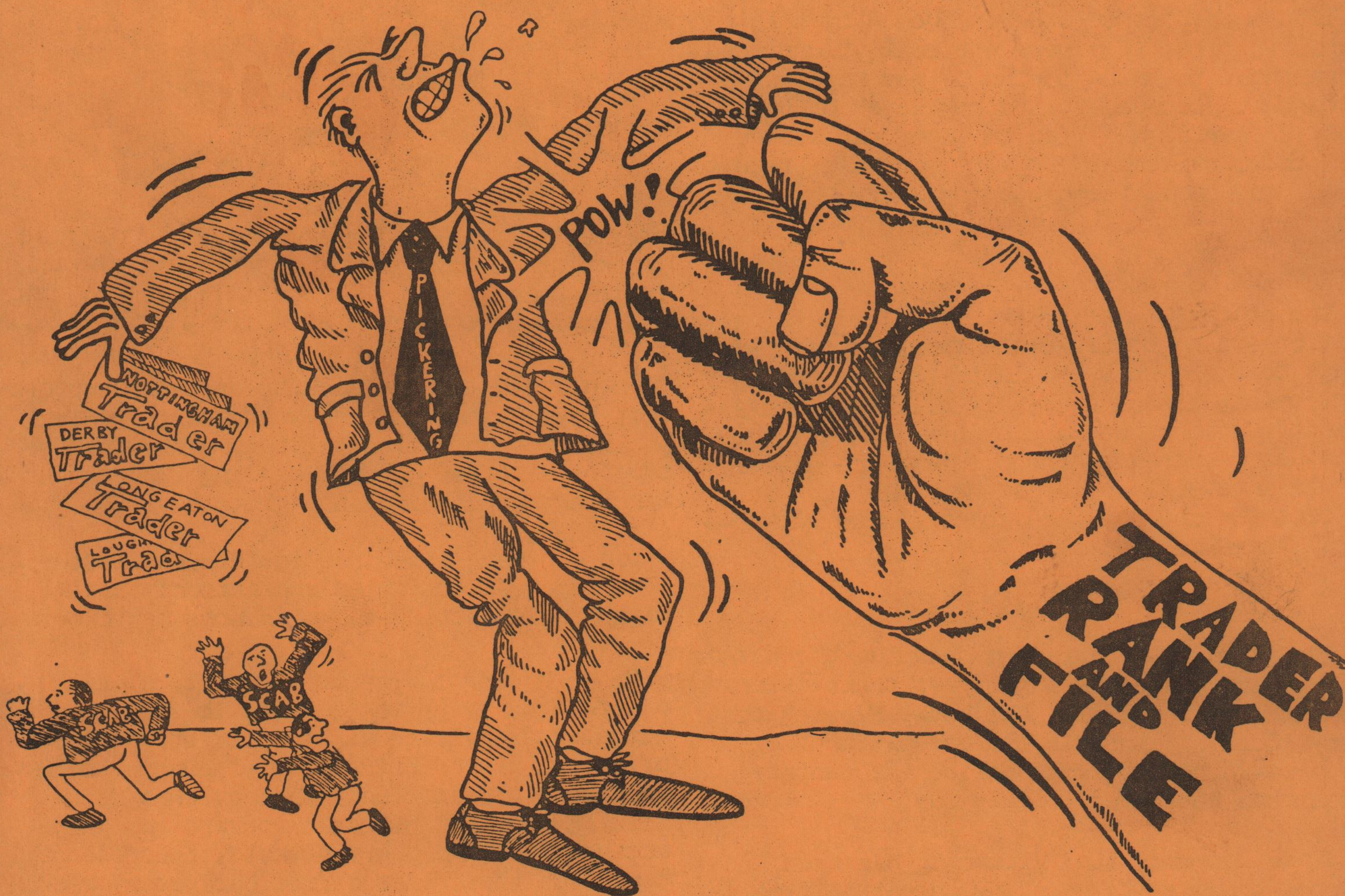
Issue One

Cost: Donation to Dispute Fund

# DISPUTE!

Newsletter of the Nottingham Sacked Trader

Print workers Support Group



**SUPPORT THE SACKED  
TRADER PRINTWORKERS!**



# WHAT'S THE TRADER DISPUTE ABOUT?

Lionel Pickering, millionaire print boss and owner of the Trader group of free newspapers sacked 90 printers from his Heanor Gate plant on December 4th, 1986.

He sent couriers round to the homes of the workforce at around 7am in the morning to issue "sack-o-grams" to each printer in turn. They were told they had been sacked and not to try to enter the factory ever again.

Though the printers were shocked by this appalling act, they were not really surprised. Throughout the nine months of pay negotiations that preceded the "dirty deed" of Dec. 4th, Pickering had lied to them, threatened them, twisted their words and had tried to trick and cheat them at every turn.

The printers - after much difficult negotiation - had got Pickering to agree to a 4% wage deal. Seven weeks later he tore up the agreement, issued a totally different "settlement" and demanded the printers accept the new deal. Outraged, the printers immediately began an overtime ban. It had only been in effect for one day when the infamous sack-o-grams were issued.

Immediately the printers occupied the Heanor Gate plant and spoke angrily of their determination to win their jobs back. Feeling that they could not sustain the occupation they began a 24 hour picket outside the factory which has continued to this day.

Since December 4th, Pickering has been forced to move his printing operation time and again. After a brief run at the Evening Post's presses at Breaston he eventually moved most of the work to the non-unionised plant at Ad-scene in Canterbury. The NGA workers at their unionised plant at Welshpool - in an appalling show of class treachery - are continuing to print some of the Trader titles.

On a national basis, support from the NGA has been pitiful. Printers have had to waste much energy in pushing the NGA to keep the



strike "official". The NGA are paying strike pay but have only publicised the dispute once in the union paper "NGA Print", and very few officials have ever visited the picket line.

Printers, with the backing of their supporters, have been picketing, harrasing Trader publicity stands, leafletting, gathering the support of other unions, sending Traders back, marching, organising and agitating.

You can read elsewhere in this newsletter the range of activities and actions that together is putting the pressure on Pickering.

He is having to reduce the price of his advertising by up to 45% just to fill up space. And while he has to pick up the cost of having his printing done elsewhere he is keeping his Heanor Gate factory empty and idle. Everywhere his scab workers go, they are greeted with angry pickets. Hundreds of copies of the Trader arrive back every week. And meanwhile as Pickering flounders more and more, support for the printers grows daily.

They need our support. Getinvolved in the Trader dispute. See this struggle through to victory!

SUPPORT THE PRINTERS!

RICH



# PICKET!

Alongside the 24 hour picket outside of the Heanor Gate site there have been other regular pickets, comprising both printers and their supporters, at various sites around the area.

In the main these have taken place at Langley Mill, where, on the Vic Hallam site, the paste-up work is presently being done; and at the Leicester Trader office.

But the following excerpts from our diary should give you some indication of just what's been cracking off:

## BREASTON. MONDAY FEB' 2nd.

It was discovered that the plant owned by T. Bailey Foreman (remember him?) at Breaston had been printing the Trader on Pickering's behalf. About 50 of us gathered for this, the second, picket outside of the Breaston plant. It was cold, dark and drizzling to boot.

By 9 pm we decided that the scabs either weren't turning up, or on seeing the mass of angry pickets, they'd slunk off back to the pits from which they were lured with bribes.

## LANGLEY MILL. SUNDAY FEB' 8th.

The scabs in their motorcars drive back and forth along the main road, whilst their former workmates and their supporters crowd the entrance to the Vic Hallam site. But there's scabbing to be done; and they sit po-faced and tight-lipped as they crawl through the assembled pickets huddled inside their protective motorcars.

Of course, there's always one arsehole shittier than the rest. And this particular pile of shit drove straight at the picket line, knocking one printer to the floor and carrying another half running, half sitting on the bonnet for 30 yards till, as the car swerved sideways, she in her turn was thrown to the ground.

His murderous desire still not satisfied, he then began to chase pickets around the car park at speed, leaving another cut and bruised as the picket dived out of the way to avoid graver injury.

Yet, the 'forces of reaction' don't always have it their own way and this chappy's car was left in urgent need of a panel beater's attention; and a well aimed boot removed his left hand rear brake light.

## HUTHWAITE. TEUSDAY FEB' 10th.

A less vigorous confrontation.

The bosses representatives in blue, awkward as only the Miner's strike hardened Notts. police can be, insisted that only 2 of us could stand in the roadway and threatened our much practiced and enthusiastic photographer with arrest if he continued to ply his trade.

Well, that gives some idea I think. Thankfully the sun has begun to shine (for a while at least) and those early rises and hours of standing about seem far less unattractive.

B.P

## GREMLYN HUGHES

On the 27th March, Emlyn Hughes (t.v. personality and a pillock extraordinaire) came to Nottingham as part of a publicity campaign for Pickering's scab papers. He put in appearances at various shops and firms around Nottingham as a guest of 'The Trader' newspapers. It was no coincidence that the shops and firms he visited just happened to be the major advertisers in Pickering's periodicals.

Along with the crowd of autograph hunters and photographers were about 10 people from the then newly formed Trader Sacked Workers' Support Group. With placards and a loudhailer we followed Emlyn around Nottingham in a van- sometimes reaching his next port of call before he did! The biggest turnout was at the main Co-op in the City Centre; where some of us managed to get inside and succeeded in bothering Emlyn so much that he had to cut short his visit to the store. When asked why he was aiding Pickering in his quest to smash the unions, Emlyn said that he had an obligation to carry out the terms of his contract. He promised that as soon as his contract ended, he would pledge his support for the sacked printworkers. Like hell he will!

The turnout for all the pickets was good and laid firm foundations for future actions for the Trader Workers' Support Group.

Jimi.



# INJUNCTIONS and TRIBUNALS

Due to increasing levels of picketing at several of the Trader plants, Lionel Pickering made an abortive attempt to bring injunctions against 8 of the sacked Trader printworkers. Obviously what he wanted from a court ruling was to prevent any form of "militant" action by 8 of the strikers who he saw as "organisers" and key figures. In this he failed dismally.

The decision returned was a dismissal of injunctions against 4 of the strikers, which resulted in Pickering being ordered to pay court costs running into thousands of pounds. The injunctions against the remaining 4 were only partially upheld. The ruling returned was that they must not say or do anything that constitutes "abusive language" or "threatening behaviour".

This must have been a real blow to Pickering's finances, and to his hopes of smashing the printers' resolve.

Jimi . . .

Within 13 weeks of dismissal the strikers have the right to apply to an industrial tribunal to claim unfair dismissal. This has been done, but normally takes a very long time before a decision is reached, partly because each case takes a week to be heard; and also a decision will not be made until all of the cases have been heard.

Because this would mean waiting well over a year for a decision, the tribunal has agreed to hear more than one case a week, and to reach its final decision by October of this year.

If the decision reached is favourable, then this could mean either reinstatement or compensation. However, the strikers will have to abide by the decision whatever the outcome. This could effectively mean an end to the dispute.

Jimi

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## Chesterfield shows support

Support for the Trader workers is gaining strength in the Chesterfield area. Individual responses and acts of solidarity have grown into more effective and collective acts of solidarity.

Representatives of the sacked workers have spoken at meetings in the area, the most recent being at the Chesterfield & District Trade Union Council, as a result of the address a support group has been established to co-ordinate solidarity work in the area. The support group has publicised widely through leafletting & posters, and has written to all unions affiliated to the Trades Council outlining the history of the dispute and calling on them to invite sacked workers to their branch meetings, and also to offer practical support by way of regular donations of food and money.

Workers from the area have attended pickets on a number of occasions and as the support

group continues to publicise the dispute more workers will be taking part in pickets and demo's.

We will be doing all we can to support our fellow workers in struggle. We fully understand that after the Miners Strike, GCHQ, Wapping and the Trader we are all under threat and must support each other. Sacked Trader Workers will be taking part in our May Day Gala on May 4th, and the Chesterfield Support Group will continue to mobilise support for the Sacked Trader Workers.

The group can be contacted c/o  
17 Wentworth Ave.  
Chesterfield  
Derbyshire S40 3JB

Solidarity Forever,  
Yours in Struggle  
Chesterfield Trader Support Group.

N.B. Next edition of Dispute will include reports of Trader Support Groups active in Leicester, Derby, Loughborough and elsewhere. Please send in reports of your local activities



# TRADER NEWS

## DERBY MARCH

On March 7th, a coach organized by Nottingham Trades Council chugged its merry way to Derby for a march in support of the sacked workers and against the Trader.

The weather was miserable. But did we moan and develop frostbit? Yes! but we marched on, all 300 of us, chanting and shouting for all our worth.

The march, organized by rank and file sacked workers, wound its way through Derby, getting quite a few encouraging cheers and comments from passers by.

We finally squeezed into Derby Town Hall for a rally and some speeches. One of these being a very inspiring speech from the chiselled features of Ron Sanchek, Trader Father of Chapel.

Well worth the frostbite!

Phil.

## BENEFIT BASH

On Thursday 16th April, a benefit was held at the Garage nightclub in Nottingham, to raise money and gain support for the sacked Trader Printworkers.

Headlining the evening was poet/ranter Atilla the Stockbroker, with support from local bands The Temps, Those Rio Snappers and The Dinosaurs. There was also a stall by Black Raven Books; and a stall distributing Trader Strikers leaflets and selling badges and T-shirts.

A highlight of the evening was a rowing 'to the barricades' speech by Ron Senchak (this issue's wonder guy-Ed), F.O.C. of the Trader chapel of the National Graphical Association (NGA).

Many of the strikers themselves were there and the evening went very well, with £180 profit from the door and £58 raised in donations-£238 in all!!

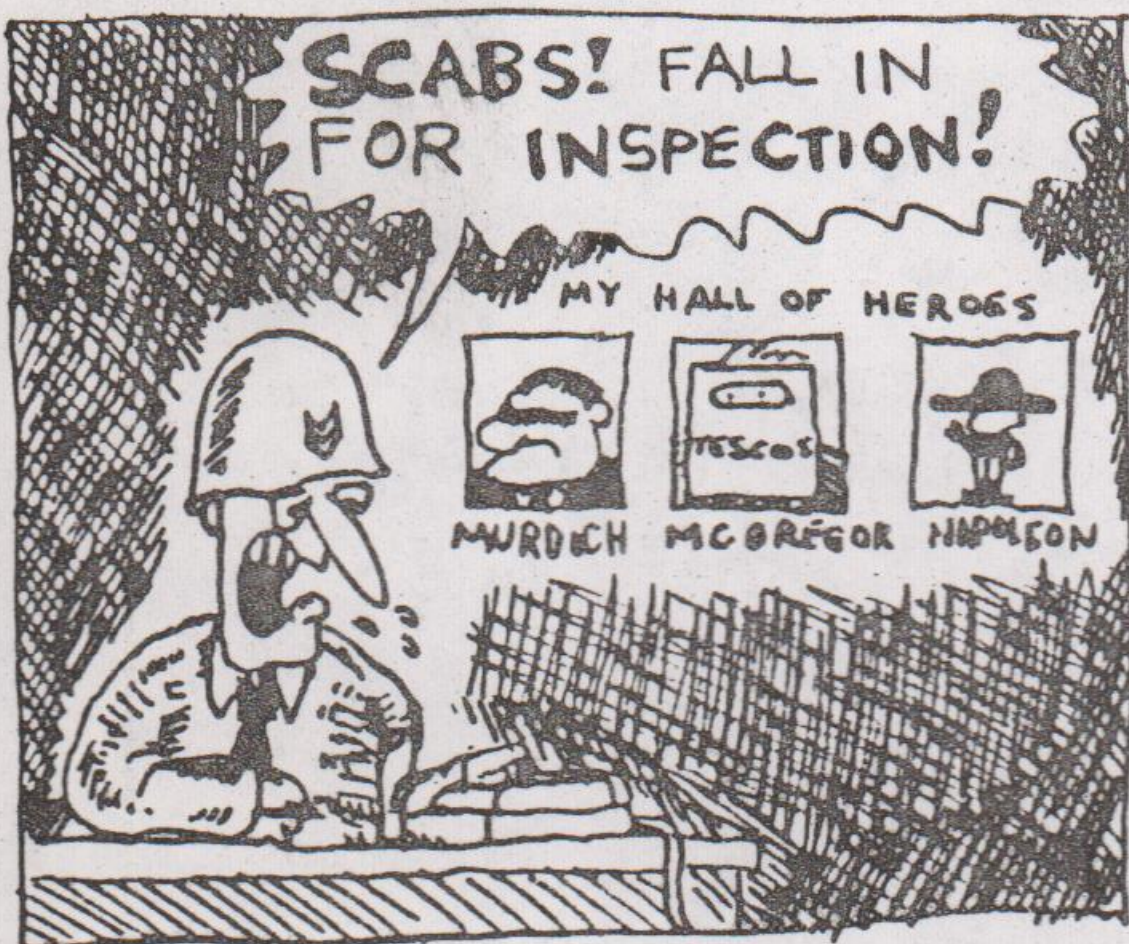
Jimi

**THE  
Trader**

THE STORY SO FAR: MANIC MILLIONAIRE LIONEL PICKERING HAS SACKED 90 OF HIS WORKERS. IN A FLOURISH OF LUNATIC EGOTISM LIONEL PREPARES TO "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT"....

NO1 P.J. Hedgehog\*

Steve Bell: eat yer heart out!!



\* Contrary to popular belief There is no God.



# TRADER NEWS

## Is Pickering coming back to Heanor Gate?

Interesting things seem to be afoot at the empty Heanor Gate factory (Trader Web Offset where all the Trader papers were printed before the dispute).

Faced with the massive rates bill for the premises, as well as a massive heating bill for keeping the plant warm enough for printing, Mr Pickering has itching to get back into the premises to start the presses rolling. But up till now, there were no signs of it happening.

However in the past month activity has been noticeably stepped up. At the end of March a sacked worker, driving past the factory, noticed two uniformed Police inspectors on the hill at the back of the plant.

They pointed at the road and made notes, probably rough ideas on where to deploy the Police in case of any Mass Picketing. Plus, in the last week of April, Pickets at Heanor Gate noticed known scabs driving past in their lunch hour.

Most importantly, the printing contracts Pickering made with Scabby Printworks up and down the country, run out in the next couple of months. Therefore, we can expect Pickering to be back to Heanor Gate by the Summer, and when he does, we should be ready for him!

## The Councils and the Trader

After agreeing to withdraw advertising and generally not "trade with the Trader", Nottinghamshire County Council seem to have run into problems. After over 3 months of the dispute, adverts from Notts. still appear in the Trader, and the City Council have had their own council newspaper delivered inside the Trader!

Their problems seem to stem from advice that the moves may be illegal in Notts., and management in publicity not realising that they are trading with the Trader.

There's a simple solution. The ruling Labour groups must give clear instructions that adverts must be withdrawn and no trade given to the Trader. Derbyshires Labour City Council have found it easy to find legal justification for their moves, so come on Notts!

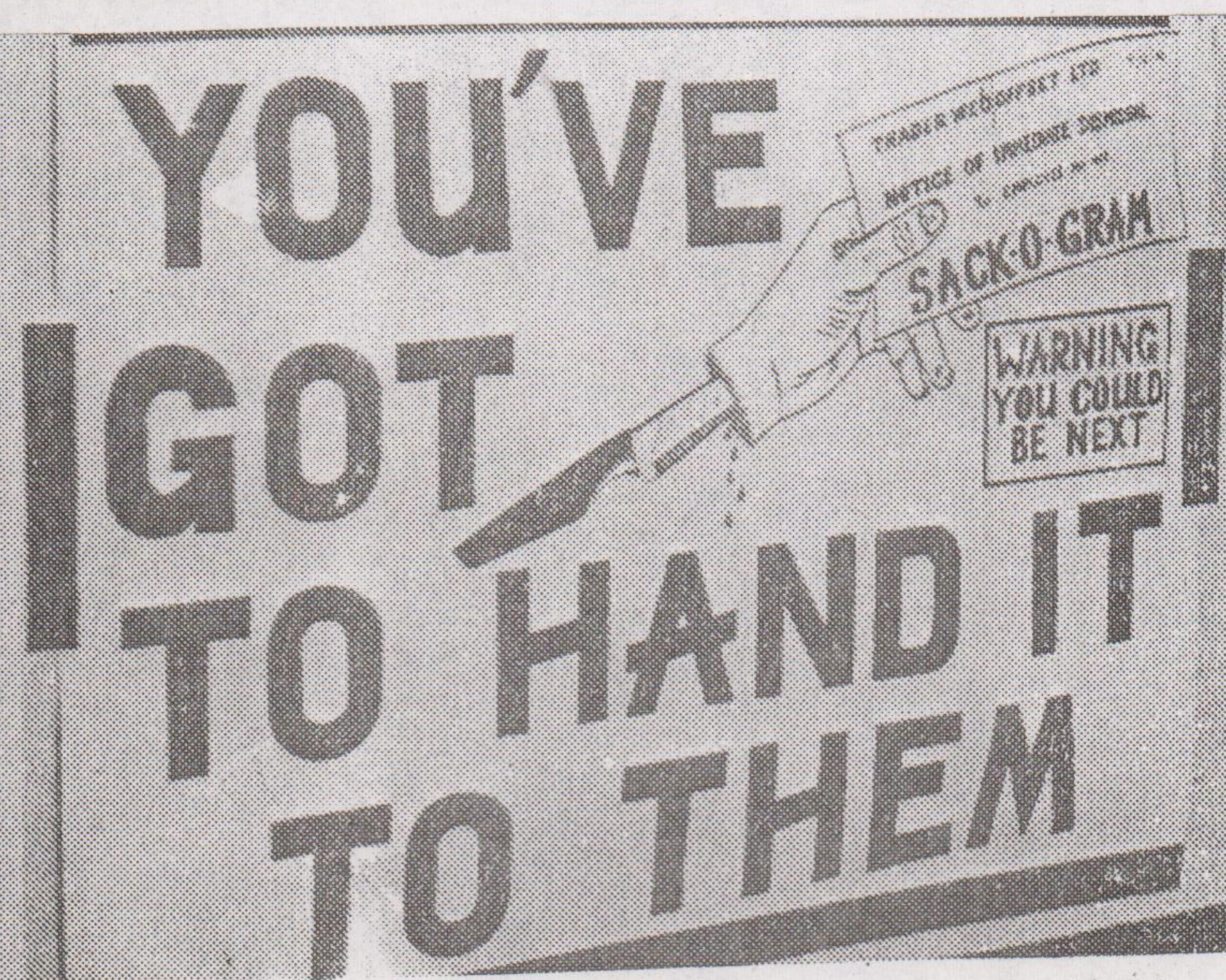
## The Trader May Day March

Saturday May 2nd is Nottingham's MayDay march, something that's normally a bit of a damp squib in this City. The crawl around the city centre when no one's around before rushing off to the usual obscure venue, listen to a boring Vote Labour speaker and then getting pissed. Not very inspiring at all.

This year however, if we get as many people as possible (that includes you!), we can make it a day to remember. This year, the Trader dispute has given something real to work around, rather than the tired old Labour Party anthem.

MayDay should be a day when working-class people can get together, display their unity, have fun and show the bosses they won't be pushed around. It isn't at the moment, but we've got to start somewhere, and the Trader Dispute is probably the best place to start.

So! Turn up at the Victoria Park, Sneinton on May 2nd at 10.30am, for a march through the City Centre to Hyson Green Boy's Club. There'll be a rally, with stalls, speakers (including Trader F.O.C. Ron Sanchez), as well as an all comers Five-a-side football competition! Oh, and a well stocked bar so you can get pissed.



'SIGN on the Trader printers Dispute Van, leading the Trader March in Derby on March 7th.



# RON SENCHAK, TRADER F.O.C., SPEAKS OUT!

The struggle for T.U. recognition and for the right to work at the Trader printers is now entering its 22nd week. 22 weeks of picketing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's been a long and cold winter but we've endured, we've had high court injunctions against us but were not frightened, we've had police harassment on the picket line but we will not be intimidated. Mr. Pickering, the boss of the Trader has attacked us in his newspapers that are being produced by scabs. Tory M.P.s have attacked us in the columns of of the Trader newspapers. The columns of the Derby Trader are now totally devoted to attacking the Derbyshire Labour County Council and the Trade Unions, and is now no more than a right wing propaganda sheet.

Despite all the smears and propaganda we have not wavered in our defiance of these bully boy tactics and our determination is as firm as ever for the fight for T.U. rights. The organisation of support and solidarity is now more important than ever, we can not win alone. The support of trade unionists and socialists is vital if we are to carry on the struggle. Every trade union branch and shop stewards committee must invite a sacked printworker to speak at their meeting. There is no substitute for this direct contact. Collections must be organised in a systematic way and on a regular basis.

Visits to the picket line at Heanor are also needed, to boost morale as well as showing management that we are not alone. Remember that the fact that we are picketing has kept the printing works from being used. The presses have not run since the 4th of December, the day that we were sacked. Managements intentions were to print again under the mistaken belief that we would soon give up due to hardship caused by the sackings. This dispute is costing Mr Pickering thousands of pounds every week that the presses in Heanor stand idle.

This struggle can be won, and sooner if we had the support of the Labour council in Nottingham and the support of the Co Op in Nottingham, there is no excuse for not giving workers in struggle the support and solidarity that's necessary now when they need it most. It's only solidarity and unity in struggle that's ever achieved victory for the working class. Every act of solidarity with the Trader Sacked Workers is also rebuilding our movement, building up the confidence of workers confident of their own power. That's what Mr Pickering fears and what the Tories try to break - workers power, that's the power that can change the world. The world needs changing, give us the support we need and together we can begin to turn the tide - Victories instead of Defeats! Support the Trader Sacked Workers now.

donations to 114 Stonehill Road Derby DE3 6TL



# WHAT YOU CAN DO

IF YOU SUPPORT THE SACKED TRADER PRINT WORKERS, BUT ARE NOT SURE HOW YOU CAN HELP THEM, READ THIS PAGE OF THINGS YOU COULD BE DOING!

BOYCOTT THE TRADER'S MAJOR ADVERTISERS  
REFUSE TO SHOP IN GREATER NOTTINGHAM  
CO-OPS, SCHRIEBER FURNITURE SHOPS etc.

SOLIDARITY  IS STRENGTH!

ORGANISE A REGULAR GROCERIES COLLECTION FOR SACKED WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SCABS ARE  SCUM!

HAVE A MONEY COLLECTION AT YOUR PLACE OF WORK OR AT YOUR UNION BRANCH.

PICKLE MR  PICKERING!

GET SOME OF THE UNSOLICITED MAIL STICKERS FROM THE SACKED WORKERS OR THE NOTTINGHAM SUPPORT GROUP, WRAP UP COPIES OF THE TRADER AND SEND THEM BACK TO PICKERING AND HIS SCABS.

STUFF THE  TRADER!

VISIT THE PERMANENT PICKET AT THE HEANOR GATE TRADER PRINT WORKS, DERBYSHIRE.

STAMP ON  A SCAB!

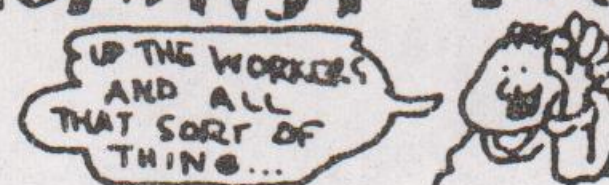
WRITE TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL LABOUR GROUP AND TELL THEM TO BOYCOTT THE TRADER (AND ASK THEM WHY THEY HAVEN'T).

WHISTLE WHILE  YOU WORK!

IF YOU LIVE IN NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, OR CHESTERFIELD, JOIN THE LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP. IF YOU LIVE SOMEWHERE THAT GETS THE TRADER, BUT THERE'S NO LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP, FORM YOUR OWN!

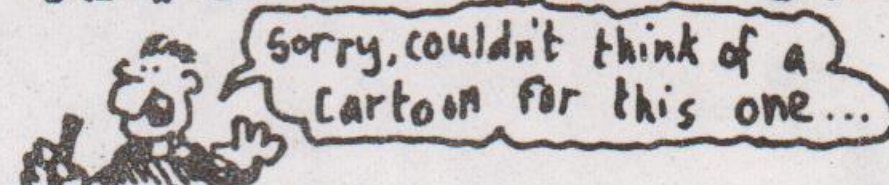
INVITE A SPEAKER FROM THE SACKED PRINT WORKERS ALONG TO YOUR UNION BRANCH/GROUP/PARTY/SOCIETY etc. MEETING TO GIVE A TALK ABOUT THE DISPUTE.

UNITE AGAINST PICKERING!



COME ALONG TO THE REGULAR WEDNESDAY PICKETS OF THE NOTTINGHAM TRADER OFFICES ON STANFORD STREET (JUST OFF HOUNDS GATE) FROM 12 NOON TILL 1pm, BE THERE!

NGA+SOGAT RANK AND FILE UNITED!



COME AND BUY BADGES AND ANTI-TRADER T-SHIRTS FROM THE TRADER STALL ON ST. PETER'S GATE, EVERY SATURDAY FROM 11.30am TILL 2pm.

BOSSSES ARE  BASTARDS!

TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND WORK-MATES etc. ABOUT THE DISPUTE. THE MORE PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT THIS DISPUTE, THE BETTER.

**DON'T  
TRADE  
WITH THE  
Trader**





# TRADER NEWS

The Nottingham Sacked Trader Print-workers Support Group has been in existence for two months and operates as an open group which welcomes all people who wish to provide practical support and help for the printers.

The Nottingham Support group organizes a wide variety of activities in liason with the sacked workers.

These include fund raising activities such as the recent Benefit gig at the Garage which raised £238 (neat profit). We've also organized actions against the Trader in Nottingham.

We started with a phone blockade of the Trader office which had a limited amount of success, then a concerted campaign of returning copies of the Trader back to the Derby office packed in 'unsolicited mail' wrappers. This generated such a volume of mail that the Post Office had to throw it all away.

The Support Group has also also organized two regular events. One is a weekly picket (Wednesdays 12 til 1) of the Nottingham Trader office in Stanford Street, just off Hounds Gate. The other is a regular publicity stall at St. Petersgate (just by the infamous £23,000 leafstem sculpture) which apart from giving out leaflets and stickers, also sells T-shirts and badges (genuine official fund raising

merchandise) which are exceedingly tasteful, buy some now- come anytime from 11.30am til 2pm.

As well as local actions, the Support group also provides bodies for major pickets (live people as opposed to corpses) to boost numbers and provide enthusiasm.

If you want to come along to one of our meetings- we meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the TCWU offices on Mansfield Road (Tho' if they've got a Branch meeting then there'll be a note on their door directing you to either 118 Workshop or the International Community Centre- both on Mansfield Road.



## 101 Things to do with a scab rag

With the Trader being so right wing you could always just give your copy to the nearest member of the National Front so he can sit & look at the pictures. Or you could toilet train your puppy on it, the paper is too inky to wipe your bum with. Alternatively you could get some "Unsolicited Delivery" stickers from the Trader Support Stall in St. Petersgate on Sat. morning & send them back. Pickering has to pay 22p postage on each copy, apparently & it doesn't cost you a thing.

Pea Pod

## DISPUTE!

We Hope you enjoyed this, our very first issue, and we hope it's made you want to get out into the streets, into action and support the sacked workers.

Any Anti-Trader, Anti-Pickering activities you are organising or carried out, we want to hear about them!

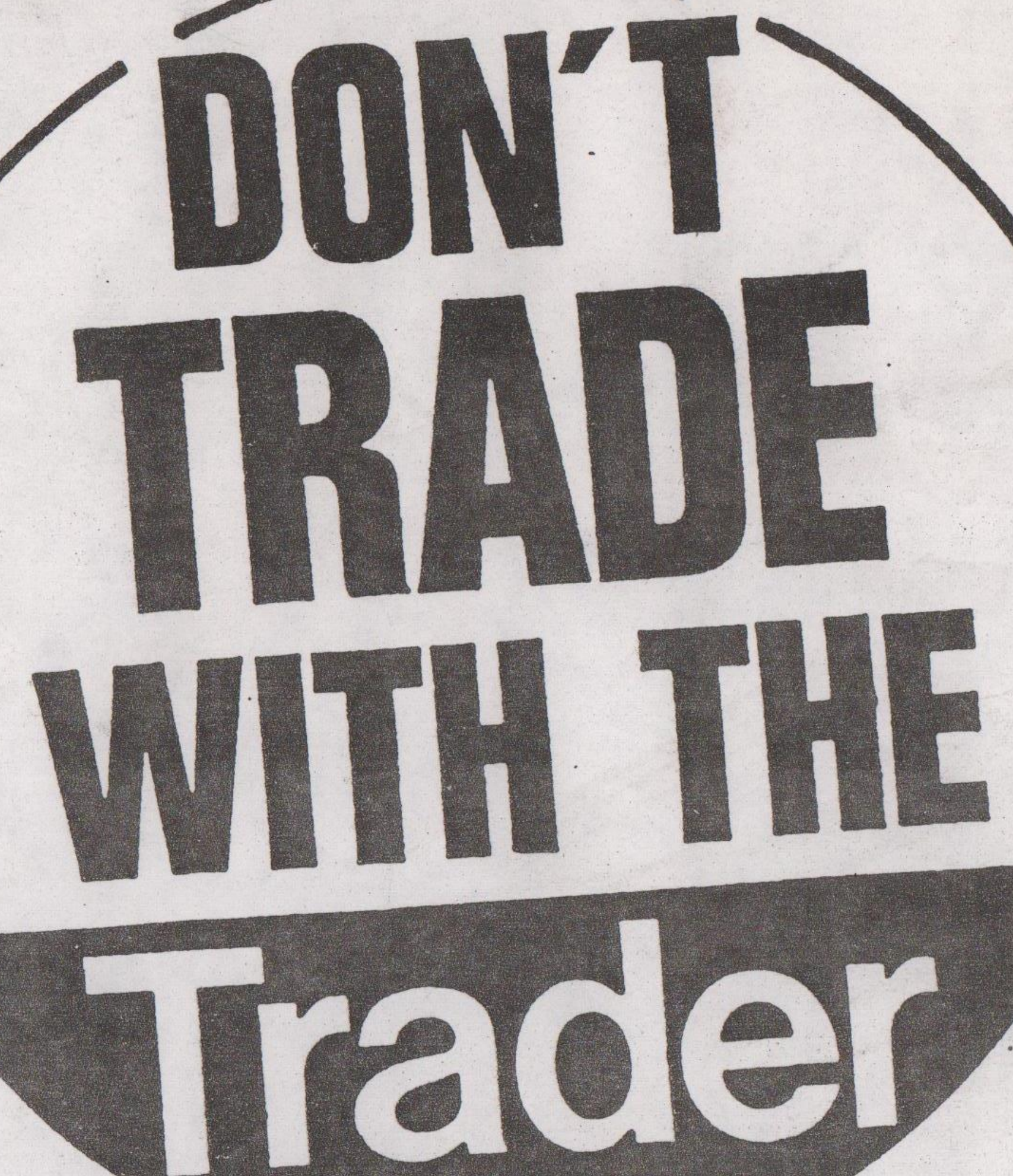
So, get writing! Send all your beer stained bits of Foolscap/A4/Toilet Roll etc to this address:

Sacked Trader Print Workers Support Group,  
c/o Box 5  
118, Mansfield Road,  
Nottingham.





**PICKET  
PICKERING  
& STOP THE  
Trader**



**DON'T  
TRADE  
WITH THE  
Trader**

**SUPPORT THE PRINTERS!**

**THEIR FIGHT IS YOUR FIGHT**

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