



The rally against pit closures in Barnsley on the 2 April Day of Action

(cont from P.3)

action over the 1.5% pay limit ought to stimulate UNISON together or in its current components to prepare joint action to smash the limit and oppose job cuts. It is only in this climate a successful re-ballot (which is what is required) of the Miners to re-start the strike actions can take place.

Meantime the Newcastle Utd FOOTBALL FANS who massed in the city to celebrate their strength and victory, announcing they were the 'Toon Army' are confined to barracks following the astounding decision to shut the Tynes last

shipyard. This move is every bit as catastrophic and would correspond to, the final closure of the last pit in the ancient Durham coalfield.

The masses who mobilised to mob 'the Toon' in victory ought to be encouraged to take to the streets in anger and demonstrate the force of numbers in concerted effort could force a climb-down by the government. If such mobilisations were repeated in Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield and other cities hit by unemployment and recession we could be celebrating the power of a class army.

Dave Douglass

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BULLETIN

TRADES COUNCILS AND PARTY POLITICS A Dire Warning



Most of you will be acquainted with Hull Trades Council, fearless prosecutor of the class struggle in Hull, Humberside and pretty well anywhere else that it can get stuck in.

Well organised, with its monthly newsletter, big meetings, scores of pickets and rallies. It faces haemorrhaging away from its affiliated branches, investigation by the Regional TUC and possibly suspension nationally.

Hull TC's strength like any other decent TC has always laid in its industrial activity

uniting the seven identifiable political factions and hundreds of independent workers in the serious business of opposing pit closures, attacks on the NHS, US/UK attacks on Libya, Iraq, ex-Yugoslavia and defending the environment. This very political (not party political) organisation has achieved what no party on its own could.

Before the recent County Council elections Hull TC was asked by Militant Labour delegates to support their candidate in the one ward they contested. (Cont. P.2)

(Cont from P.1)

Hull Syndicalists opposed this as Hull TC should not shackle itself to ANY one particular group as it is an independent organisation with views well to the left of Militant in most areas and secondly because the strength that Hull TC had built up over the last two years would be broken by disaffiliations. There are issues worth going to the barricades over but not just to give the Militant two paragraphs boasting our support in the local paper.

Unfortunately, a majority of delegates disagreed, Militant got their endorsement thereby handing a loaded gun to the union bureaucracy to point at the Hull TC.

So far, 2 NALGO branches and 1 TGWU branch have disaffiliated whilst the reptiles commanding the GMB are cajoling their branches to do likewise.

The union full-timers attacking the Hull TC are a bunch of cynical, do nothing right-wingers. Absent from all the recent struggles they are the same men who are selling out the Middlebrook Mushrooms strikers and who loath the NUM and the vitality of Hull TC. Colin Inglis of NALGO, Barry May of TGWU and George Hewson, GMB - the new nihilists, men who believe in nothing but their own pay packets and quiet lives.

Hull Syndicalists say that Hull TC were daft to give these jackals such a golden opportunity and hope that delegates will think twice before they commit the organisation to dip its toe into the sewer of electoral politics again.

Trades Council militants (small m) must speak to as many branches as possible opposing disaffiliation pointing out our true tradition that of direct action and solidarity.

G. Cheverton

Yeltsin

The Tory leaders and their co-thinkers round the world once again show their hypocrisy. Time & time again we saw, during the cold war, foul and corrupt Third World dictators, - a Mobutu, a Duvalier, a Christiani, a Pinochet, - hailed by the West as the steadfast ally of democracy; simply because they were useful allies against Communism.

Now these Tories take their lies so far that seeing Yeltsin abolish the fragile democratic order that the ex-Soviet Union had built, pretend that this is not in some way being done to defend and aid democracy. It is not and they know it! It is being done to defend and aid the Thatcherite economic system that Yeltsin has espoused.

We yield to none in our dislike of Stalinism (unlike the Tories, Syndicalists did not acclaim Stalin as "Uncle Joe" (cont P.3)



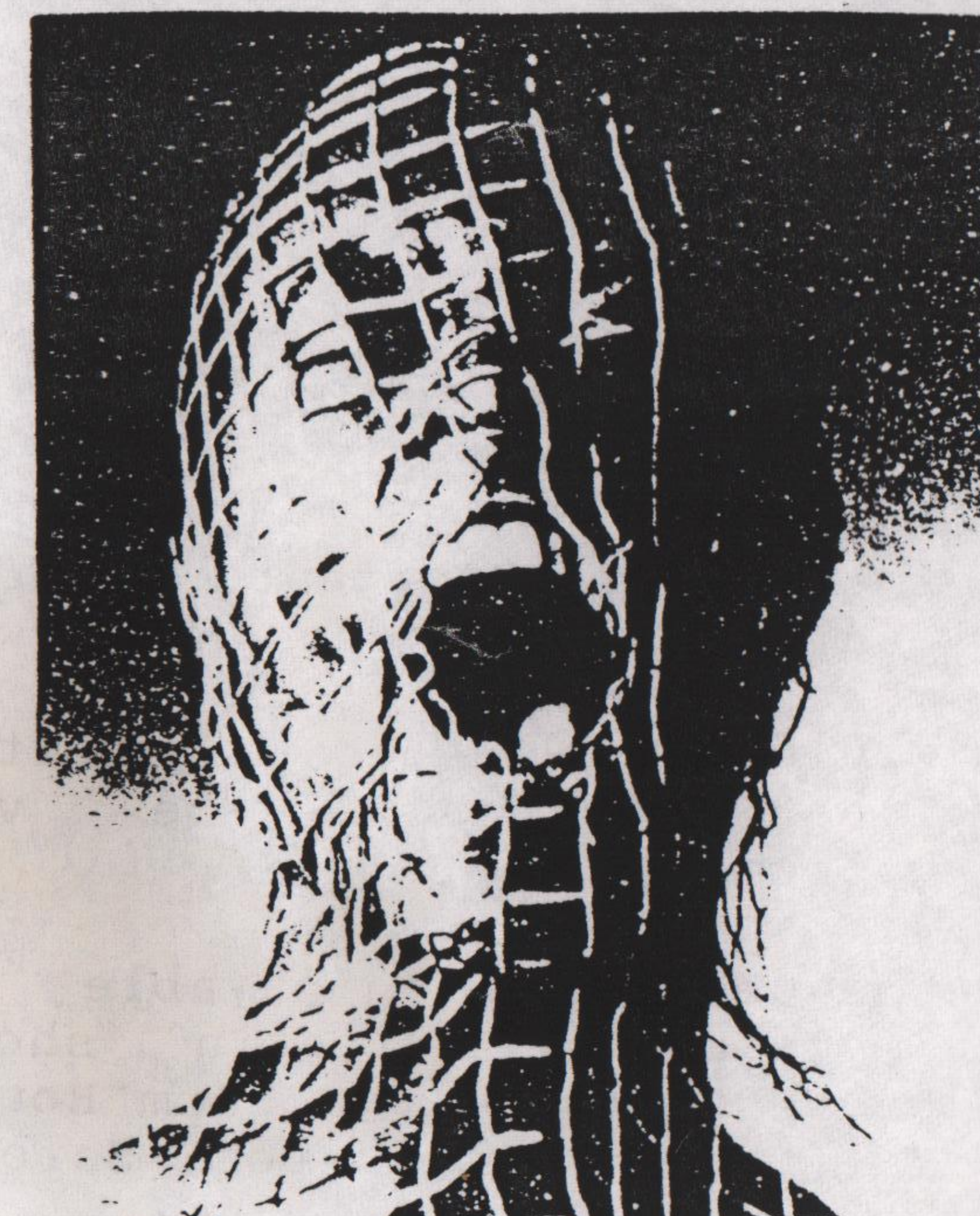
Yeltsin (cont from P.2)

during the war) mainly because Stalin imposed a regime that managed to stamp out all of the remnants of working class organisation in the Soviet Union; (industrial militants were massacred by the million during the war) but we are not prepared to applaud every opponent of Stalinism however brutal.

It could not be more plainly shown that when Tories talked of the brutality of communism, they did not mean its treatment of the working class, for after all they were only too pleased when some Third World despot did the same; their objection was purely that the ways that get-rich-quick capitalists were allowed to operate there were too regulated for their liking.

In calling for solidarity with workers in the "Commonwealth of Independent States" against both Yeltsin and the Stalinist Old Guard, Syndicalists stress that these are rival boss-gangster cliques and that the struggle for Russian (and other Soviet) workers is the same as the struggle for British workers against the Tories here.

L. Otter



The Pits, The Shipyards and the 'Toon Army'

By now it is clear there is a concerted press blackout over the Miners campaign. Daring acts of direct action, blocking Tory central office, occupying pits etc have all but been ignored by the press. The brutal repression at pit level with changing shifts, de-skilling and dropping incomes has had the effect of forcing out 8,000 plus men. Many of these were told that unless they accepted redundancy in 2 or 3 days they would be £8,000 worse off in redundancy payments.

Despite taking the bull by the horns and making nation-wide appeals for joint action concerted action and solidarity action risking legal penalties and sequestration, few unions have made that stand with us.

Our joint actions with the RMT were however dynamic and heartening. On April 2nd a quarter of all workers were away from work but the momentum has stopped.

Now the RMT have narrowly voted to call off the days of action. This is extremely disappointing and leaves us feeling isolated. Although to be right the RMT can claim a significant victory from which they have come out unscathed. The question of how they will meet the challenge of privatisation remains as yet unresolved.

What the miners needed before and need now is a general class offensive to heap the pressure on the government. The moves of the FBU towards industrial (cont P.4)