

This time last year, none of us had any idea of the history-making strike that we would be engaged in. Some of us knew that there was a strong possibility of a strike early in 1984, but did not envisage the length of time it would continue. Neither did we envisage the various tasks we would be called upon to undertake in order to survive, or the type of policing that we would be subjected to. The treatment of strikers in British Courts, with unprecedented bail conditions being dealt out for minor offences, and the criminalisation of ordinary, decent, men and women have sickened us all.

The strike in Notts. started for most of us on April 16th. There were quite a few men out at this time, but it turned out that many were downstream drifters, or on the sick list. After a few weeks, these people deserted their comrades and returned to work. The police operations in Notts. were of a military standing; heavy police presence at individual collieries, road blocks on junctions and main roads. Pickets were stopped and threatened with arrest if they did not turn back. Convoys of police vehicles on immediate standby toured the County, ready to travel to any colliery where large numbers of pickets assembled. It was not unusual for the police to get lost and never reach their destination. Pickets also suffered the same problem from time to time.

Throughout this dispute, we have travelled to various places, attended Rallies and Meetings that we normally would never have thought of going. As time went on, it was realised that fund-raising would be of paramount importance if we were to survive. Men who had never asked for anything in their lives before, had to take collection tins and stand in busy thoroughfares and ask the public to make donations to help support our families throughout these hard times. They are still there, getting some support and taking some abuse in order to raise money for us. Some men have had to live away from home, to organise and co-ordinate collections in Ipswich, Harlow, Welwyn, Huntingdon, etc. They have spoken at public meetings, many of them doing what they thought they would never do in a million years and to such good effect. They have publicly appealed for Christmas presents for their children and we have already witnessed what an excellent job they have done.

As the sunshine disappeared and Autumn set in, men volunteered to go logging to provide fuel, as coal had become non-existent to most of us. A common sight was the NCB lorry delivering to neighbours who were working - our addresses having been deleted from their list. The men are still logging, cutting wood, instead of cutting coal. I WONDER WHICH GIVES THEM THE MOST SATISFACTION?

Some of us have had crash courses in Union procedure, trying to ensure our survival as a minority group. A few of us have had a good education in the legal field, hopefully at times of benefit to the men who have crossed swords with police and scabs.

Three weeks into this dispute, the Hucknall and Linby Women's Action Group was formed to provide support for husbands, boyfriends and sons who were on strike. Many of the ladies had never been involved in a trade dispute, never attended meetings and were not politically minded. The Soup Kitchen sprang into existence at the Labour Rooms, Co-op Avenue. Ladies who had normally only cooked for family and friends, were suddenly preparing meals for a hundred people on a three-ring domestic cooker. They were standing with us on picket lines, collecting money, organising Welfare Rights and publicly speaking on our behalf. They arranged day trips for us to Butlins, a welcome break. They have arranged parties and presents for our children this Christmas. The happy smiles on our children's faces tell all. They have stood by us and given valued assistance throughout the strike. WITHOUT THEM, WE WOULD BE MUCH POORER.

For the men who went to Orgreave, the memories of that day will have the most lasting effect of all. When the 1984 strike is mentioned in years to come, Orgreave will immediately spring to mind. A medieval battle fought in modern times.

Reflecting back on 1984, we have sacrificed a considerable amount of money to stand by our principles and fight for our beliefs. The education we have received in return, money could not buy. The friends we have made throughout the Country like us for what we are, not what we have, the friends we have lost were not worth having in the first place.

As we cannot adopt the motto of 'UNITY IS STRENGTH' in this Area, how about a new motto for 1985 :

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR EACH OTHER"

A Merry Christmas to all Friends and Colleagues

TAKEAWAY EDITION

VICTORY IN 85!

Give me the
baseball bat. I'm
going round to
see Kinnock



There was a young man from Montmartre,
renowned far and wide for his fart.
When they cried, "What a noise!"
He replied with such poise,
"When I fart, sir, I fart from the heart."

Anon

REPORTS FROM BEHIND



1929-1984. THE PRINCIPLES ARE THE SAME, JUST THE FACES CHANGE.



TAKEAWAY EDITION

National Coal Board
1 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7AE

NCB



10 Downing Street
Whitehall

CHAIRMAN
Ian MacGregor

25.12.84

Dear Minions,

We are holding your jobs for ransom -
if you want them back safely just send
us your souls.

Yours hatefully,

Mac the knife

25.12.84

Dear Subjects,

My husband and I extend Season's Greetings
to all who are suffering because of me.

Yours patronisingly,

Maggie and Dennis

P.S. Chequers is nice and warm.

P.P.S. We're having a miner for Xmas.
Last year we had turkey.

QUICK QUOTES

THANKS for the overtime and the permission to
buy all the new equipment.
Sir Kenneth Mewman

VICTORY TO THE BOSSES
Eric Hammond (unofficial EEPTU delegate
to the C.B.I.)

Thanks for the inspiration Mr. Spencer.
Colin Clarke, W.M.C.

Keep up the good work -
Parkhurst Maximum Security Wing
Miners Support Group

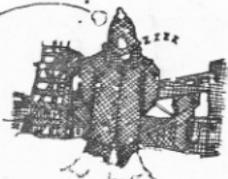
PRIVATE

TELEPHONE—MANSFIELD 26094/5/6

NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS
NOTTINGHAM AREA

UNITED WE STAND, FOR UNION IS STRENGTH

WAKEY! WAKEY! WE'RE
NOT DONE YET!.....



ONE NEW YEARS DAY.....

LETTERS



GO FOR A £ MILLION

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

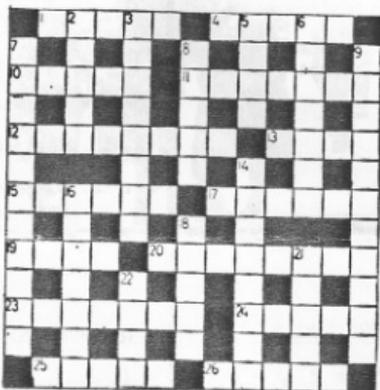
INSTANT CASH



HOW TO CLAIM

ACROSS

1. WORKING MINERS
4. ADVANCE PICKET
10. MEN MISLED BY NOTTM. UNION MEN
11. MORE THAN ONE LEADER.
12. FRENCH PIG
13. PRIVATE KILLERS
15. HIP CLOTHING
17. SHEEPS' VOTE
19. NOTTM VOTE ON KENT JOBS
20. ENTRANCE FOR SCABS
23. WELL KNOWN STEVENAGE FUNDRAISER
24. FOUR LEGS WITE A — ON IT'S BACK
25. MAN MISLED BY 10A
26. BISHOPS' LAST WORDS



DOWN

2. MACGREGOR
3. SEE 1A
5. BIG MONEY MAKERS
6. TOM JONES SAID IT'S NOT
7. SCAB ANSWER WHEN ASKED FOR SUPPORT
8. ——— ARMY
9. SCABS WALK UP BLACK PAD IN THIS ORDER
14. RULE 51, FOR SCABS
16. XMAS BONUS HAS DONE THIS TO A FEW
18. JUSTICE FOR PICKETS
21. GERIATRIC KILLER
22. THIS YEARS EARNINGS

PUBLIC OPINION



ME!! Control the Police, HOW ABSURD!!



TAKEAWAY EDITION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Thanks to the following for their unwavering support during our magnificent struggle for our jobs, communities and futures:

LABOUR PARTIES:

Hucknall,
Huntingdon,
Harlow,
Stevenage,
Welwyn Garden City,
Yaxley,
Wood Green,
Hammersmith,
Ware,
S.E. Herts,
Basford,
Bulwell,
Hall Green,
Brentwood,
Ipswich,
Forest Fields.

COMMUNIST PARTIES:

Nottingham Central,
Newham (E. London),
Bulwell,
Harlow,
Hucknall.

TRADES COUNCILS:

Nottingham,
Harlow,
Huntingdon,
Stevenage,
Long Eaton.

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Everyone who voted Tory in the last general election.

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630273 Club.

Apologies for omissions as the support all round has been magnificent.

Title: Victory in 85! Takeaway Edition

Organisation: National Union of Mineworkers

Date: 1984

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