

STOP PRESS... MINERS STRIKE UPDATE...

THE STRIKE IS OVER... (OFFICIALLY)....

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES!

On the day of the 'official' end of the strike, 30,000 miners still refused to return to work - in defiance of their National Union - until their sacked comrades were reinstated. This includes 45% in the Scottish coalfields and 90% in Kent. The NUM executives at regional level have now ratified the continued strike in these areas.

VICTORY IN DEFEAT...preparations for the future.

This strike has seen amazing levels of class militancy and solidarity. Vast sections of the mining communities have had their political attitudes radically transformed. Women have organised themselves autonomously to support the strike, often rejecting the sexist role of 'food providers' to go out picketing. Hit Squads have been organised involving thousands of miners coordinating to sabotage NCB property and riots have occurred where strikers have quickly developed techniques to hold off and outwit the well trained, well prepared and WELL PAID police who had horses, vans, radio's, shields, batons etc. The miners, armed only with working class initiative and solidarity managed to put up a fantastic fight with what ever was available... bricks, bottles, cranes, concrete blocks, burning barricades and telegraph poles! The police have become definitively known as class enemies to large sections of the class.

All these points bode well for the future of the class war in Britain. Links that have been made with workers in other countries (Europe and Australia particularly) should be strengthened and extended...international co-ordination is vital to the effective combat of the international attacks being waged against our class.

The state has used every bastard trick it can think of to defeat the miners. Starvation tactics from the DHSS, mass arrests (over 10,000), road blocks, intimidation and indiscriminate beating by the riot cops. Kangaroo courts, where being on strike becomes a confession of guilt deserving the stiffest penalties...

and anti-strike lying propaganda by the media, at times so crude it would have made Goebels himself blush! All this was done in order to smash the working class into passivity. The state is all too aware how much of a threat to its continued existence a militant working class is. The demands of the miners, for the protection of their jobs and communities cannot be met for long within the framework of capitalism. For this reason not only the Tories but also the Labour Party were actively opposed to any kind

Sabotage...



It's as simple as pulling a plug...

of real victory for the miners. A REAL victory for the miners would have been a defeat for the governors of British capitalism (ie Tories), the would-be governors of British capitalism (ie SDP, Labour), and collaborators within it (ie the TUC and the unions). Indeed it would have been a defeat for the international ruling class.

GUERRILLA TACTICS....time to make a monkey of the state.

The reinstatement of those sacked during the dispute, the dropping of charges and the release of imprisoned strikers, are all demands to be pursued using whatever tactics are necessary. Hopefully the state has only succeeded in driving the struggle underground, where it will be continued using sabotage and guerilla tactics.... a form of struggle which demands an even greater degree of militancy and commitment from the significant minority it seems

likely will be involved. Damage to NCB equipment and conflicts with scabs seem inevitable, unofficial continuation of the strike has already happened and subsequently been endorsed by sections of the NUM. One pit was successfully picketed out by just 5 Kent miners. Many strikers in this area wanted to stay out despite the executive's call for a return to work, but were told that by placing themselves outside the union they would become the equivalent of scabs and may be subject to disciplinary action. It seems that loyalty to the union comes above loyalty to the strike. Many are now hoping Kent miners will picket their pits.

NO DIVISIONS....unite and fight.

The biggest danger to the progression of the working class at the moment is confusing sections of the working class with the union 'leaders' of that section. The State, with the help of the TUC and other unions succeeded to a large degree in isolating the miners - despite strikes by the dockers, carworkers, teachers, wildcat strikes from steel workers in Scotland and solidarity actions by workers abroad. Many miners, feeling betrayed by other sections of the class have vowed not to support those sections when they are attacked. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THE STATE WANTS! They are making an investment in the future of CAPITAL, when they buy off sections of the class whilst attacking others (first steel, now the miners, teachers, Michelin workers etc. next it could be YOU, or even you AGAIN!!!!). When they have defeated one section they can defeat the others by relying on the general demoralisation AND the resentment of the recently defeated section towards those who refused to help them. Despite the support of many steelworkers for the strike, and the fact that it would be in their DIRECT INTERESTS to link their struggle to that of the miners, the Union leadership prevented effective solidarity on the grounds that the miners (ie the NUM) did little to help them in the steel strike. This kind of approach helps no one except the ruling class.

With the official end of the miners strike the government will feel confident in attacking (they call it 'rationalising') other sections of the class, left, right and centre. The alternative to these attacks is an organised and united class offensive. Already in 1984 the number of days lost was 30% up on the previous year NOT including the miners strike! This increasing level of class militancy will only be effective if we go beyond the unions, which keep the class divided, and unite our struggles - each section supporting the others in the common fight against our continued exploitation and domination by the ruling minority.

RELEASE CLASS WAR PRISONERS!
AMNESTY FOR ALL SACKED MINERS!

VICTORY TO THE WORKING CLASS...

We have nothing to lose -
WE HAVE A WORLD TO WIN!!

Errata (is that how you spell it?)....PAGE 10 the 'Ways Forward' section says that NUM funds were sent to America, which is obviously rubbish. However it gives us scope for the first ever Careless Talk competition.... The first person to send us the correct location of the NUM funds plus a way of ensuring that next time enough of it is made available to maintain effective picketing will win a ten year free subscription to Careless Talk.

IDLE CHATTER... Every striking miner recruited by the 'Workers' "Revolutionary(?)" Party has ended up scabbing in this area. The sole remaining Newsline seller is now the subject of much piss-taking amongst those who didn't scab. The WRP now claims a membership of over 10,000 which means their members are even more pathetic and in active than the other trot groups!!



A fireman fights a field blaze started by petrol bombs at Kiverton Park Colliery

IN BELGIUM RECENTLY
FIREMEN TURNED THEIR
HOSES AGAINST THE RIOT
PIGS IN SOLIDARITY WITH
STRIKING DUSTMEN.
PERHAPS THIS SORT OF THING
COULD HAPPEN HERE?