

HATFIELD COLLIERY NEWSLETTER

The objectives set for this pit and all other pits is to produce coal at a maximum overall cost of £39/tonne or £1.50/gigajoule.

The number of questions I am being asked about these figures, how this pit stands and recent press reports has urged me to write this newsletter.

Can we achieve these "objectives", the answer is 'yes' - provided the following happens.

- 1) We maintain our weekly tonnage levels at 15,000 tonnes + per week.
- 2) Costs and overtime levels are controlled.
- 3) Qualities of coal for the market are achieved.
- 4) The development performance matches the face performance and we have no gaps in faceroom replacement.
- 5) New faces achieve planned output immediately to replace output that is being lost.
- 6) Salvage is completed in the allotted time.

At this present time the pit is cumulatively losing £2.427m with a total overall cost of £52.92/tonne. The losses and cost/tonne are slowly being reduced each week we produce 15000 tonnes and above. We have proved in September for example, that with a consistent weekly output the cost/tonne was £37.81p and cost/gigajoule was £1.46p. This proves what this pit is capable of, providing the weekly output is maintained.

This week we will lose the output from H03's - H05's face line should thirl but this will leave us without a retreat face until H05's is kitted up, this must be done in the minimum time to reduce our losses.

H75's has to take over and achieve full production immediately to minimise the loss in production until we achieve the third face.

76's development must be pushed to replace H05's without a gap in production, to achieve this we will have to average 40 metres/week from each drivage and reduce H05's to 2 shift working due to its short life.

This pit can produce the goods provided the production levels already being achieved can be maintained and with three faces this can be improved, then we should have nothing to fear.

*J.K. Deeming*

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