

HATFIELD HOTLINE

**British
COAL**

APRIL 1992

ENSURE WE COMPETE!

We have now completed the 1991/92 financial year, cutting our losses dramatically between the months of November and March.

The work everyone has put in, to fight for Hatfield Colliery, has been creditable. We could not have provided much better evidence of our commitment to compete, and for that I thank you all.

Now, "the show must go on". We must start the new year, from the outset, with the intention of making money by producing coal at the lowest possible cost, thus ensuring we can compete in the market place.

Unfortunately we have not started this new financial year as well as expected on 103's, with the soft floor and roof breakdown problems (which emphasises just how vulnerable we are when we get it wrong, for whatever reason).

There can be no room for doubt, argument or blame. We must resolve any problems at the earliest stages. If we can foresee a problem we must sound the alarm bells before "the molehill becomes a mountain".

Let us strive to be proactive rather than reactive. If we don't, we eventually create major delays, breaking our continuity of production, putting us down and again having to fight to get back



up. We must pool our energies into improving results by being more efficient at what we do.

Taking out the risk element ensures we don't expose anybody to injury, that all systems are safe and that steps are taken to remedy potentially dangerous situations.

This pit of ours has the foundation on which to build. We have established working relationships; we have acknowledged that the way forward is to involve everyone in their work and the ways in which that work can function more effectively.

We must continue our upward trend by driving down the costs of

mining our product, not sending out any more dirt than is essential and by maintaining good standards of tidiness so that we can't stumble and fall by the wayside.

This colliery has a future provided we produce coal at the right price, so let's make our expensive machinery "sweat" for us.

I can't promise that the fight for Hatfield will become any easier, but if we all continue to think positively about what we have achieved and learned these last couple of years and direct it to the future, it should.

As I have already stated, we have not started the financial year very well, but what can we do about this?

We could start by looking at what we need to do to break some more records, as we've done in the recent past. We need to sort out whatever is standing in the way of our continual improvement and set out to achieve both budgets and objectives.

Let's make millions rather than lose millions.

Let's do it now before the slate gets dirty again.

Jeff Ainley, colliery manager.

ASKING FOR AN ACCIDENT?

On a recent underground visit I was appalled at the apparent disregard that everyone seems to have for providing clear travelling walkways.

As I progressed inbye along a roadway I saw material stacked either side of the haulage track. Not only was there no clear walkway but clearances for vehicles were reduced.

At the end of the rail tracks, ring packs were obstructing walkways resulting in people having to climb over them.

Everyone wants to avoid getting hurt, but as a pit we are asking for an accident to happen?

In this article I refer to one particular roadway but this is not an isolated case.

Why do we let it happen? Surely the way forward is to get it right first time by stacking material tidily and maintain clear, safe walkways.

I am convinced that it is far easier to maintain high standards of tidiness than it is to stretcher an injured man out of the pit. If we do not improve quickly then I forecast this will happen with some regularity.

Slipping, stumbling and falling are still the biggest category of accidents at the pit. Maintaining clear walkways can only help to reduce, if not eliminate this accident category and at the same time improve the general efficiency of the pit.

It is up to all of us to get it right.

Andy Helowicz, safety engineer.

OUTPUT & FINANCIAL RESULTS

	MARCH	CUMULATIVE
Total saleable output	83,000	595,050
Average daily tonnes	3,320	2,380
O.M.S. overall	6.87	5.06
Estimated operating cash cost per gigajoule	1.18	2.06

BIG IMPROVEMENT

Since we extended 121's tail end, installed the tail gate Webster and pump pack system we have seen a 100 per cent improvement in the tail gate end of the face which is a credit to every person involved.

The mechanical and electrical departments have installed new tail gate panel carriers, a cable and hose handling system and will soon install a winch to the back of the tail gate Webster to further improve material handling.

The winch will be interlocked to the Webster tracks, so when the machine winch is being operated the tracks will become in-operative. The winch will have 25 metres of rope range.

This type of team work, solving problems together, will not only improve our production levels but provides job satisfaction and a secure future.

Graham Holt, deputy mechanical engineer.

PUPILS LEARN FIRST AID

As part of their Trident work experience programme, pupils from Balby Carr School, Doncaster have been gaining a practical insight into the value of health and safety at work as well as "hands on" first aid experience.

Sessions during March and April were run with the help of St. John Ambulance (Doncaster Branch), South Yorkshire Army Youth Team and our medical room attendant, John Waggitt.

As a result of the school's newly forged link with Hatfield Colliery, it is planned to stage a mock accident when the pupils visit the colliery for a further insight into the world of work. The element of surprise being used to bring in a degree of realism.



John Waggitt, medical room attendant, supervises as pupils practice their resuscitation techniques.