

# HATFIELD HOTLINE

British  
COAL

MAY 1992

## WE MUST INCREASE OUTPUT.. ..TO COMPETE

The recent spell of sunshine reminds us that the winter is now well behind us and we, by our efforts during the winter, have earned the right to continue. We must now consistently produce the results this summer to maintain the "blue skies and sunshine" over Hatfield.

There are though, some black clouds on the horizon. We aren't producing at the levels we should and, therefore, our spending has to be suppressed to keep the costs of production down. We really need to increase



on the 20,000 tonnes/ metres cut per week plus level to ensure we are competitive with anyone producing fuel.

A phenomena of the summer months is that sales demand reduces as heating systems are turned down. It is also unfortunate that the holiday feeling tends to prevail with all of us wanting to increase our leisure.

Organising your holidays, either short term or long term, will ensure your mates can operate without you. We still have to produce the coal to keep us all in the manner to which we have become accustomed.

Jeff Ainley,  
colliery manager.

### OUTPUT AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

	APRIL
Total saleable output	50,000
Average daily tonnes	2,778
O.M.S. overall	6.04
Operating cash cost per gigajoule (£)	1.84

# C.O.S.H.H.

By ADRIAN ENGLAND, TECHNICAL SUPPORT, AT GROUP H.Q. whose duties include that of Hazard Liaison Officer for South Yorkshire Group. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations are designed to protect **you** from most hazardous substances at work.

These substances include:-

- \* those which are labelled as CORROSIVE, IRRITANT, HARMFUL, TOXIC and VERY TOXIC, and products that might create similar hazards, such as mineral oils.
- \* pesticides and other chemicals.
- \* micro-organisms (viruses and bacteria).
- \* substances that may be created incidentally, like welding fume and dust.

During our working day we all come into contact with hazardous substances—many of which we take for granted like bleach and even typists' correcting fluid. These like most substances are covered by the Regulations.

By remembering these few simple rules when handling hazardous substances the risk to you can be reduced to the safest possible level.

\* **ALWAYS** read container labels— as well as identifying the product they often give useful information on the health risks, safety precautions to take when handling the products and emergency action and first aid information, in the case of an accident.

\* **ALWAYS** store substances safely and **NEVER** store more products in the workplace than is required.

\* **ALWAYS** practise safe working procedures these should be identified on the assessment of your given work activity— IF IN DOUBT, ASK.

\* **ALWAYS** report any hazard, defect or spillage to your supervisor.

\* **ALWAYS** make sure it's safe to use the substance where you are planning to use it.

\* **ALWAYS** use the Control Measures provided— this includes extraction systems for welding and other fumes.

\* **ALWAYS** use the Personal Protective Equipment provided.

\* **ALWAYS** make sure that the other members of your team who use hazardous substances are as clued up as you are.

\* **ALWAYS** practise a high standard of personal hygiene— eating your snap with dirty hands can seriously damage your health.

\* **ALWAYS** think before you dispose of a substance— it could be dangerous to pour it down the drain or throw the container on a fire. Some substances may also be harmful to the environment. If need to be, ask for advice.

\* **NEVER** ignore warning labels.

\* **NEVER** mix substances unless you are certain that they will not react together. The result of mixing chemicals may be a lethal cocktail. Did you know that 20 people a year die in the home as a result of mixing bleach with other cleaning agents?

**REMEMBER**  
**MAKE SAFETY YOUR WATCHWORD**  
THE MESSAGE SHOULD BE CLEAR—  
**IF YOU'RE NOT SURE—ASK.**

Your C.O.S.H.H. Co-ordinator on site is the Safety Engineer. If he cannot answer your queries then I will be only too willing to help.

## TARGET PRACTICE?

As I and my staff travel the pit, we are noticing an increase occurrence of notices being used for target practice by some people.

In some cases the same signs are being destroyed every week. Those responsible could be endangering the lives of others particularly where the signs are indicating fire fighting equipment.

In addition, there is the cost of replacing the signs both in terms of the signs themselves and the man hours spent replacing them.

So the message is clear to everyone. Get yourself off to the local rifle range if you want some target practice and **STOP** using our signs for this purpose.

Bear in mind that those found causing wilful damage to British Coal property could be subject to instant dismissal.

*Andy Helowicz, safety engineer.*

## GUARDS ON MACHINERY

A reportable accident occurred recently when a workman received severe crush injuries to his right hand when it became trapped by the piston on the Mindev pump at 121's pump packing station.

He had removed the guard over the piston in order to observe what was happening. As he walked over towards it, he slipped and as he fell his hand became momentarily trapped by the piston.

The basic lesson to be learnt from this accident is obviously before removing any guard, that the machinery is isolated and also that before machinery is restarted all guards are replaced. These type of accidents continue to happen when all that is needed is a few minutes thought and a few simple checks.

**DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT!**

# WORKING ON LOCO ROADS

From time to time it becomes necessary for persons, other than those connected with locomotive haulage work, to walk loco roads in order to carry out their duties.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all such persons that when a locomotive is approaching that they must take refuge in a manhole until the locomotive has passed and not just stand in the side of the road as it passes.

In addition, those persons who do carry out work on locomotive roads must wear reflective jackets so that they can be easily seen by the loco drivers. Anyone requiring a reflective jacket should call in at the safety office.

*Andy Helowicz, safety engineer.*

## PROCEDURE FOR MINING CONTRACTS

To ensure continuity of production, contract documents for major contracts at the colliery need to be prepared at least three months prior to the start of any physical work.



Authority to go out to tender is sought from the Group Supply and Contracts Manager and the number and identity of the tenderers are agreed. At the same time, a specification for the work involved is drawn up by the section of the colliery management team responsible. A site visit is then arranged for the tenderers to familiarise themselves on the geological conditions and transport arrangements. The specification is normally given to the tenderers on the day of the site visit.

The tenderers will normally be given two to three weeks to put their tender together and submit it to British Coal Contracts Department by a certain date.

These tenders are appraised financially and technically by British Coal before a decision is made on who will be awarded the contract. In most cases, the lowest priced tender will be successful.

When the contract has been awarded to a company, mobilisation and site safety meetings are held with the contractor prior to the start of the contract.

*Paul Holland, colliery planner.*

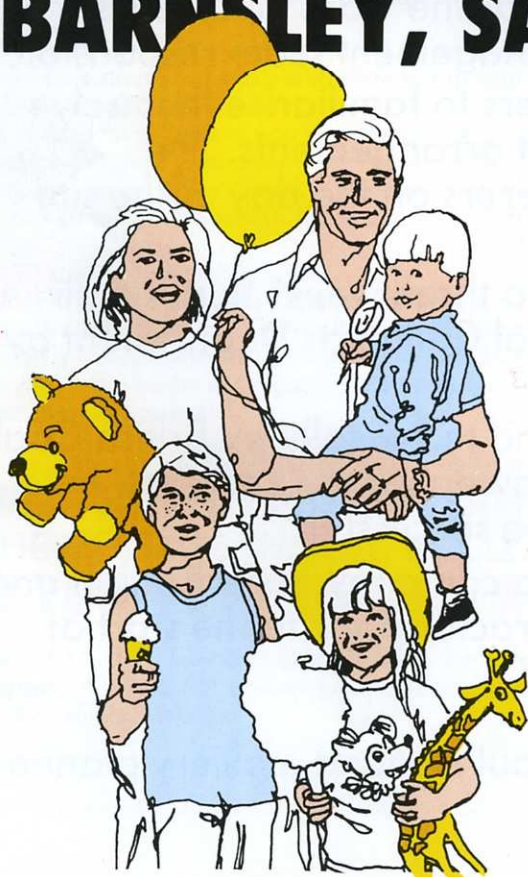
# HATFIELD MAIN SOCIAL SECTION

This is now well on the way to replacing the now defunct welfare scheme. Having passed through a complicated transitional phase, the section should be up and running by the time this article goes to press. Here are some key features:-

- \* The Keep Fit/Weight Lifters club will hopefully have started and men wishing to partake will need to inform the wages office to have the fee deducted from their notes. It will be roughly equivalent to £1.00 per week and be open to members of all unions.
- \* The Death and Benevolent Fund will be supplemented and the old folk's treat financed out of the previous fund.
- \* A small deduction of 15p will continue for social section activities while the welfare scheme deduction will stop. Each member's weekly deductions will therefore be **reduced** by 10p.

Dave Douglass,  
social section trustee.

## YORKSHIRE MINERS' GALA, BARNSELY, SATURDAY 20th JUNE



The NUM would like to welcome all Hatfield miners and their families to this year's miners' gala. This is a tradition the Yorkshire miners have continued for over 100 years.

The day includes: baby competition, fancy dress, juvenile bands, brass bands, speeches and stalls. The day ends with a folk music concert and buffet at The Broadway Hotel, Dunscroft, at 7.30 p.m.

Buses to Barnsley and back are provided FREE:

- 7.30 a.m. Winning Post, Moorends and round bus route.
- 8.00 a.m. Pit Club, Stainforth, March round Stainforth and Dunscroft.
- 9.00 a.m. Buses leave Broadway Top for Barnsley.

We cordially invite members of all mining unions to participate in a great family day out.

Dave Douglass, NUM delegate.