

HATFIELD HOTLINE



British
COAL

DECEMBER 1992

OUR BATTLE CONTINUES!

Following the announcement of October 13th, there is now some consolation in British Coal's submission to the Department of Trade and Industry's inquiry.

I also take consolation in remembering that this time last year we were fighting for our pit and our jobs. That was not the first time Hatfield had been under review and we were delighted at being given the chance to survive.

Survive we did and here we are, exactly one year later, in precisely the same situation but this time alongside 30 other collieries.

Once again, we have been given the chance to fight for Hatfield's survival. We are experienced in picking up the gauntlet and fighting, otherwise we would have been finished long ago.

We must continue to be positive by looking at what we can do when the chips are down.

During last year's Christmas holiday period you volunteered to cut coal and prevented a potential £0.5 million cash outflow. You will by now have seen notices posted requesting a repeat of your efforts in order that again a cash outflow is prevented and a visible show of determination to stay "in the game". The target figure will be published nearer the time. F110's has now started to produce coal at a rate on a par with any unit we



have had in the past and shows signs that there is more to come. My thanks to everyone for their efforts.

As a result we are able to finance the development of two replacement faces. The equipment for these are now being obtained, the first being F122's.

Performances in the development headings have now improved. This is vital to us because performance in the developments provides low cost tonnage.

The balance of tonnage, development metres and costs are factors, reviewed daily, that will

influence any decision made about our future. We have an agreed plan which includes maximising production from F110's, generating revenue for developing and equipping 122's and 105's.

The colliery will be operating with two coal faces on machine shifts by March, eliminating the risks involved with being reliant on a single face.

Our backs are to the wall. We will probably never go through a more crucial period than the present, but the measures we have taken in running down manpower and reducing costs are enabling us to maintain viability and not lose the money hitherto lost with only one face available.

I appreciate all your efforts. Keep it up and we will be able to look forward to more happy new years.

My seasonal greetings go out to you and your families. I hope you all enjoy yourselves over Christmas. We all need to switch off now and again but come back refreshed, ready to take up the challenge for success and survival.

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New
Year*

Jeff Ainley, colliery manager.

