

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY

COLLIERY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 18th NOVEMBER, 1969, AT 3.00.p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 4th November, 1969.
2. Matters Arising out of Minutes.
3. OUTPUT.
4. Safety.
5. Dust Suppression.
6. Welfare.
7. Correspondence.
8. Any Other Business.

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<u>TOTAL:</u>	297	478	250	1,025
Absent All Week:	32	57	16	105
Eff. Wage Earners:	265	421	234	920
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	11.1	11.9	12.5	11.8
Unauthorised:	6.2	5.4	0.9	4.6
<u>TOTAL:</u>	17.3	17.3	13.4	16.4

National Coal Board:
Staffordshire Area:

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY:

SALEABLE OUTPUT DETAILS - Week Ended: 8th November 1969.

DISTRICT:	Saleable Output Tons:	C/Face Shifts:	C/Face Cwts. Saleable:	Total U/G. Shifts:	Total U/G. Cwts.:	All emp. Shifts:	No. of Shears:
No.1.N.Holly Lane	3,359	336	200.0				20
No.5.South Moss	3,003	329	182.3				20
No.5.North Moss	2,525	238	212.3				18
Developments: Face	115	46					
Roadway	434						
TOTAL:	9,436	949	198.9	3,630	52.0	4,743	39.8

11046 SAL
 19-7-69 - 11299 - 1209 - 2663 - 1174
 11-10-69 - 194% - 1000 21% 2661 1099
 8-11 - 17.3% 9859 - 949 20% 2681 1113
 9647 SAL

19-7-69

Over.
 Hank 80 yds behind
 Rows 37
 Max 40
 Roger 25

ABSENTEES:

	Face:	U/Ground:	Surface:	All Workers:
<u>TOTAL:</u>	297	478	250	1,025
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<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
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<u>TOTAL:</u>	17.3	17.3	13.4	16.4

National Coal Board:
Staffordshire Area:
CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY:

Minutes of Colliery Consultative Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday, 4th November, 1969.

PRESENT: Mr. W. G. Irwin, Deputy Manager - Chairman:

Mr. P. Smallman - General Manager, Mr. T. Robertson - Branch Sec., N.U.M.,
Mr. F. Wilde - Undermanager, Mr. K. Roberts - " Pres., "
Mr. C. Corke - Mechanical Engineer, Mr. J. Gleaves - N.A.C.O.D.S.,
Mr. G. Buckroyd - Electrical Engineer, Mr. L. Bambridge - "
Mr. L. Ashley - Assistant Manager (Personnel), Mr. C. Brereton - Faceworker,
Mr. H. Dunn - Materials Controller, Mr. R. Gair - "
Mr. M. Schot - Safety Officer, Mr. W. Goodwin - Ripper.
Mr. F. H. Mounfield - Training Officer.

In attendance: Mr. L. Yates - Craftsman,
Mr. H. Ross - "

Mr. W. Rushton - Secretary:

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The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October, 1969, were confirmed as a true record.

214/69 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

(a) The Imperial Cancer Research Fund - 200/69.(c).

Mr. Mounfield reported that the collection held on 31st October, in support of the above Fund, had realised £29.5s.9d., and suggested that this should, through the colliery Benevolent Fund, be increased to £30.

This was agreed.

215/69 SAFETY:

Mr. Schot presented the accident report for the period 18.10.69 to 1.11.69 and said that during this time, 10 accidents had occurred. These were analysed as 2 Falls of Ground, 1 Machinery, 2 Tools and Appliances, 3 Handling Supplies, 1 Stumbling and Falling and 1 Other.

In the two-week period, 260 shifts had been lost through accident causes and 2 of the 10 men who had been injured in the fortnight had now resumed work.

Analysis of the accidents by districts showed that 5 had occurred on No.1.N.Holly Lane, 2 in the Cockshead Developments, 1 on No.5.S.Moss and 2 on No.5.N.Moss.

The accidents were examined individually and the Chairman commented that one of the accidents where a man had been helping to couple up an A.F.C. chain and the chain started, fastening him against a powered support and the roof, should never have happened.

The Chairman asked the Safety Officer how the report under review compared with the previous report and Mr. Schot replied that it was better. There were two accidents less in the comparative two-week periods.

Mr. Yates referred to an accident where a man's hand had been cut whilst handling covering tins and said that this too was an accident which could have been avoided if the man had been wearing gloves.

The Safety Officer said that on this particular subject, there had been some complaints that the gloves now being issued were too soft.

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216/69 DUST SUPPRESSION:

Mr. Schot said that two airborne dust survey samples had been received - one from No.5.N.Moss face and the other one from No.1.Banbury Return rock heading and both these showed non-approved conditions.

The Chairman inquired about the dust conditions on No.5.S.Moss face and Mr. Brereton said that there had been no improvement. Conditions were not too bad on the face and there was plenty of water on the sprays.

The Chairman said that the ripping machine in the top heading created dust but there were other sources of dust other than that created by face machinery, notably transfer points, and it was important that sprays at these points should always be used. It was, he said, a case of application of water at the source of the dust.

A discussion followed on dust along the top of the main dip and along the crut and it was stated that this could do with soaking with water occasionally.

The Chairman spoke of No.1.S.Banbury return drivage and Mr. Taylor said that the dust suppression here was very adequately dealt with and was a very good example.

Mr. Goodwin said that he thought some education was need all round on the use of dust suppression equipment.

In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Wilde said that the dust suppression on No.1.N.Holly Lane was very good.

217/69 OUTPUT:

The Chairman gave details of the output for week ended 25th October, 1969, and said that 9,533 tons of saleable coal had been realised at a Face O.M.S. of 200.5 cwts. and an Overall O.M.S. of 40.4 cwts.

He gave details of the losses which aggregated to 1,268 tons and then gave details of how the losses had occurred.

680 tons had been lost from No.1.N.Holly Lane face and had been caused by having to change a shoe on the machine, changing the shearer cable and P.80 motor cable and following dirt.

No.5.N.Moss face had lost 426 tons through a damaged P.80 cable, a broken level belt and the A.F.C. being fast. A further 160 tons had been lost from the developments.

The Chairman said there seemed to be two main causes of losses and these were trouble with face conveyors and electrical troubles, mainly with shearer cables. He suspected, he said, that insufficient care was taken with both P.80 and shearer cables and there was a degree of negligence and the losses due to these reasons were quite considerable.

Reviewing the face conditions, he said that on the Holly Lane they were very good and 18½ shears had been obtained. It had been hoped to do much better than this and to raise the week's shears to 24 or 25. He thought this possible if care and attention were used and stupid losses cut out. The face itself was in excellent condition and a stable had been formed at the top end to facilitate a quicker turn-round time.

On No.5.N.Moss, he said that the face was in excellent condition. The top level to this face still created problems and there was much still to do but there was no doubt that an improvement was evident. He saw no reason why 20 plus shears should not be obtained from this face.

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NATIONAL COAL BOARD

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY

COLLIERY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 25th NOVEMBER, 1969, AT 3.00.p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 11th November 1969.
2. Matters Arising out of Minutes.
3. OUTPUT.
4. Recruitment and Wastage.
5. Underground Economy.
6. Welfare.
7. Correspondence.
8. Any Other Business.

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ABSENTEES:

	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	298	481	251	1,030
Absent All Week:	34	60	32	126
Eff. Wage Earners:	264	421	219	904
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	11.9	12.7	7.8	11.3
Unauthorised:	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.1
<u>TOTAL:</u>	16.8	17.9	13.0	16.4

SALEABLE OUTPUT DETAILS - Week Ended 15th November 1969

District:	Saleable Output Tons:	C/Face Shifts:	C/Face Cwts. Saleable	Total U/G. Shifts	Total U/G. Cwts.	All emp. Shifts	No. of Shears:
No.1.N.Holly Lane	2,362	335	141.0				14
No.5.South Moss	3,168	358	176.9				21
No.5.North Moss	2,960	242	244.5				21
Developments: Face	123	47					
R'way	476						
TOTAL:	9,089	982	185.1	3,702	49.1	4,813	37.8

H/C. 1360 Tons lost broken c/v.
 S.S.M. 760
 S.N.M. Nil.

ABSENTEES:

	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	298	481	251	1,030
Absent All Week:	34	60	32	126
Eff. Wage Earners:	264	421	219	904
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	11.9	12.7	7.8	11.3
Unauthorised:	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.1
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>16.8</u>	<u>17.9</u>	<u>13.0</u>	<u>16.4</u>

National Coal Board:
Staffordshire Area:
CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY:

Colliery Consultative Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday, 11th November, 1969.

PRESENT: Mr. R. J. Ford, Undermanager - Chairman:

Mr. W. G. Irwin	- Deputy Manager,	Mr. K. Roberts	- Branch Pres., N.U.M.,
Mr. C. Corke	- Mechanical Engineer,	Mr. J. Gleaves	- N.A.C.O.D.S.,
Mr. L. Ashley	- Assistant Manager	Mr. L. Bambridge	- "
	(Personnel),	Mr. H. Ross	- Power Group,
Mr. H. Dunn	- Materials Controller,	Mr. S. Robson	- Faceworker,
Mr. M. Schot	- Safety Officer,	Mr. W. Goodwin	- Ripper,
Mr. F. H. Mounfield	- Training Officer.	Mr. W. Taylor	- Haulage,
		Mr. A. Riley	- Craftsman.

In attendance: Mr. L. Yates - Craftsman:

Mr. W. Rushton - Secretary:

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Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Robertson, Mr. Wood, Mr. Brereton, Mr. Buckroyd and Mr. Smallman.

Mr. Dunn referred to minute 209/69, Underground Economy, and said that this should read that 13 tons of scrap had been disposed of and not 113 tons.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4th November, 1969, were then confirmed as a true record.

221/69 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

(a) Output - 210/69.

Mr. Roberts asked if anything had been done regarding the supply of wedges to No.5.S.Moss district and the Chairman said that this matter had been dealt with satisfactorily.

Mr. Taylor again remarked on the absence of facemen from the Consultative Committee and said that he felt strongly that they should attend the meeting in order to keep contact with the men.

The Chairman said that "Teach-in's" had been arranged for Face Management and these would keep the men in the picture besides any information given at Consultative Meetings.

The first 'Teach-in' had been arranged for the following day, Wednesday, 12th November, and was for the men on No.5.S.Moss district. A further 'Teach-in' for the Holly Lane men would be held on Thursday, 13th November. These meetings would be followed up with other meetings at which, periodically, every person at the pit would attend. These arrangements applied not only to Whitfield but covered the whole of the country.

Mr. Taylor said that he was whole-heartedly behind these measures.

The Chairman said that there would be a two-way traffic at the meetings. Each man would attend meetings for his own individual section and besides receiving information would be able to pass information back.

Mr. Gleaves said that he thought that these things could be overdone and he referred, particularly, to the developments. The development people, he said, were getting "fed up" of being spot-lighted.

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The Chairman replied that this particular type of work, at the present time, was bound to be spot-lighted because it was so important to the colliery.

Mr. Roberts said that after he, Mr. Irwin and Mr. Robertson had visited the Developments, some of the Development men had expressed their appreciation of the visit.

222/69 RECRUITMENT AND WASTAGE:

Mr. Mounfield presented the Recruitment and Wastage Report for the two-week period ending 7th November, 1969, and said that in this time, two men had been engaged at the colliery and four men had left.

Of the men who had left, one had gone to Her Majesty's Forces, one to another colliery, one had left the industry on health grounds and one had transferred to Area Mechanisation Dept.

Mr. Banbridge asked what the position was with regard to recruiting officials and the Chairman said that everything possible was being done. The colliery was alive to the problem. A notice had been put up, inviting men to apply for training as potential officials and to date, there had been three applications.

He thought that besides a notice being posted, a personal approach might assist in this matter.

Mr. Mounfield said that in what were considered suitable cases, this had been done.

Mr. Mounfield gave the present manpower as 297 facemen, 482 elsewhere underground and 250 surface workers, aggregating to 1,029 men.

Mr. Gleaves said that at a previous meeting, Mr. Smallman had said that the pit could not operate at less than 1,000 men and he was concerned to see the manpower slowly getting less.

Mr. Irwin said that manpower was a bit of a problem - the figures had been fairly static over a period but some wastage over a period of six months was only to be expected.

Mr. Roberts thought that some of the wastage may have been due to the fact that the summer had been a particularly good one and men may have wanted to get open-air jobs. It was, he said, conceivable that they would come back during the winter. He asked why men from Apedale Colliery, which had closed, could not come to Whitfield.

Mr. Mounfield replied that apart from any redundancies, there would be very few men who could not be accommodated at collieries nearer to their home than Whitfield.

Mr. Ashley said that at the present time, the total manpower at the colliery was only two under its requirements.

Mr. Goodwin added that other pits in the area had a much bigger problem in this respect than Whitfield had.

223/69 UNDERGROUND ECONOMY:

Mr. Dunn presented the Underground Economy report for the two-week period ending 8th November, 1969. He gave details of the salvage obtained from the Brights, No.3.S.Moss, No.4.S.Moss, No.15.Bullhurst, No.13.Bullhurst districts and the Developments, together with the material items which had been reconditioned and transferred directly to other underground localities.

The scrap disposed of in the period, he said, had been 12 tons, realising £120, and the supports lost had been 11 Dowty's & 4 girders to a value of £185.

The Chairman said that this report was very comprehensive and it showed that the manpower and money spent on materials recovery was well worth-while. It was imperative that the programme maintained its impetus.

Mr. Yates said that he thought that more salvage was being obtained now than at any previous time and the Chairman said that the temptation to use salvage men on other jobs had to be resisted. It was a very important job and almost never-ending.

Mr. Goodwin said that he couldn't see why there should be an average of three Dowty's lost from each face, now that the faces were standing as they were. It might be expected, he said, if they had "bad ground".

Mr. Dunn said that they were probably not lost on the face but outbye in places such as carvings or top headings, or being mislaid along the levels.

The Chairman said that he didn't believe that people deliberately lost props but every care had got to be exercised to eliminate prop losses altogether.

The Chairman then referred to the question of plant hire and said that everyone was aware that hire charges had to be paid for plant and any piece of equipment lying idle meant that the hire charge was being paid for nothing. Great strides had been taken in the last few weeks to get all idle equipment out of the pit and almost all the large equipment had been brought out. Hire charges, he said, were made whether or not coal was got and it could be seen, therefore, why it was so vital to keep the machines on the faces going. The cost of hire charges and equipment had to be paid for by the production of coal. These, he said, were facts that would be brought out at the "Teach-in's" which were to be held.

22/69 OUTPUT:

The Chairman gave details of the saleable output for week ended 1st November, 1969, when 9,025 tons had been obtained at a Face O.M.S. of 190.9 cwts. and an Overall O.M.S. of 37.6 cwts.

He gave the results of each face individually and said that at 22 shears and an O.M.S. of 204.6 cwts., the Holly Lane had probably given its best performance to date. It showed that it could be done and it was now a matter of obtaining continuity of this. There had been only half a shear lost from the face during the week, due to a fault on the A.P.C. cable, but this half shear would have helped just a little more and he advocated continual maintenance and the people being fully aware of the output that could be lost by breakdowns.

On No.5 South Moss Face, 25 shears had been obtained at a Face O.M.S. of 186.4 cwts. This, he said, was a "fairish week." As an individual face, these results were probably "break-even" figures but nevertheless, 380 tons had been lost on this face in the week due to a carving P.80 chain being broken, a mess on the main crut and difficulty with checks due to dirt swilling. A shear had also been lost on this face because of a breakdown to a surface conveyor.

Reference was made by Mr. Dambridge to difficulties at the loading point when four face machines were filling off.

Mr. Irwin said that the first essential was to obtain a suitable feeder to cope with varying loads.

No.5 North Moss had produced 14 shears in the week at a Face O.M.S. of 148 cwts. and the losses from this face had amounted to 850 tons. 200 tons of this was attributable to the surface conveyor breakdown and there had been electrical trouble on the machine. The main cause of tonnage losses from this face, however, were the difficulties being experienced with the top level and the repair to this was an absolute priority. The difficulty was being overcome and 145 rings had been set under the other arches but it was not an easy job and considering all the difficulties with materials having to be got up the face, he considered the No.5.N.Moss performance not too bad. It had improved to

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18 shears on the following week and he was expecting it to improve still further.

The total losses recorded in the week had been some 1,300 tons and the colliery ought to be able to move off the 9,000 tons saleable output mark. He had a feeling that there was some lethargy and a two-shear per shift complex. It seemed, he said, that people set their targets on two shears and fashioned their day's work around this. It was too much of a coincidence, he said, that only two shears per shift were consistently obtained - why was it that three shears per shift could not be obtained, as had been done in the past?

Mr. Goodwin said that Mr. Smallman had, in the past, made the comment that when three shears were done on one shift, only one shear was done on the next shift - by doing more than two shears, he said, it left more dead work for the next shift to do.

Mr. Bambridge said that on No.5.S.Moss, the bottom end was causing difficulties and the Chairman replied that there had been much bigger faults in the Moss and the face had still done three shears in a shift.

Mr. Bambridge said he agreed that the fault was small but it was in an awkward place.

The Chairman replied that the previous fault had been of a five-yard bigger throw and even when it was in the same position as the present fault, the face had never gone under 25 shears. He asked why this could not be done now. When the other fault was in being, the tonnage obtained had been 3,900 tons from the face, and now the week's output was 500 tons less. It was the same face, the same machine, the same supports and the same men.

Mr. Goodwin said that he would say that there were now more breakdowns and the Chairman said that the belt running times now were better than they were before.

Mr. Irwin said that he agreed with Mr. Ford that there seemed to be a two-shear complex and referred to the Holly Lane. Two or three weeks ago, he said, it had looked as if this face was going to do 2½ shears per shift and it was now down to 2 shears per shift.

Mr. Goodwin asked how much of the extra tonnage previously obtained was due to overtime working and the Chairman replied that last week the overtime on No.5.S.Moss district had equalled 17.8%. The fault on the face was now head-side of the bottom carving and still the shears were not forthcoming. He would, he said, like men to think seriously about this two-shear attitude and realise that the colliery had got to climb out of it.

Another factor that didn't help this district, he said, was absenteeism and it had been so for the last two weeks.

225/69 WELFARE:

Two applications had been received to visit the Russell Hotel and these were approved.

Mr. Mounfield said that the people commencing their stay at the Russell Hotel on 28th November, 1969, would be the last to attend before the Hotel re-opened again in 1970.

226/69 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Mr. Robson raised the point that men from the Holly Lane top rip had asked if they were required to work at the week-end and had been told that they were not. The Overmen had later put main level rippers to work on the top-head rip.

Mr. Irwin explained that this had not been done deliberately. The main level rippers had not come to work to do this job but had been transferred to it because it had been found, at the last moment, that it was not possible to do the job for which they had been told to come to work.

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Mr. Ford referred to the comments made during the previous week on unfair overtime working and said that he had prepared details of the overtime working - available at the meeting - which showed that the overtime worked had been over a period on a fair basis.

Mr. Irwin said that after the previous comments, he had asked when he went round the district if the men had any complaints about unfair overtime and had been told that there were no complaints.

(b) Mr. Robsons asked if, now that the winter was imminent, there was any possibility of bringing the noon shift starting time forward and Mr. Irwin replied that there was not.

(c) Mr. Roberts asked if the lighting down the lane could be improved and the Chairman said that this would be taken up with the Colliery Electrical Engineer.

Mr. Irwin said that the last time that the lights had been dealt with they had lasted for only two days, owing to vandalism.

Mr. Yates said that light fittings were required on several parts of the colliery.

227/69 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Chairman, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and the date of the next meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 18th November, 1969.

The meeting closed at 5.10.p.m.

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Distribution:

Deputy Director (Administration),
" " (Operations),
Chief Mining Engineer,
Staff Manager/Secretary (2),
Area Industrial Relations Officer,
Head of Manpower Branch,
Production Manager,
Area Agent, N.U.M.,
District Secretary, N.A.C.O.D.S.,
District Secretary, Power Group,
President, Midlands Area, N.U.M.,
General Secretary, Midlands Area, N.U.M.,
Committee Members.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY

COLLIERY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 16th DECEMBER, 1969, AT 3.00.p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd December, 1969.
2. Matters Arising out of Minutes.
3. OUTPUT.
4. Safety.
5. Dust Suppression.
6. Welfare.
7. Correspondence.
8. Any Other Business.

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ABSENTEES:

	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	298	483	251	1,032
Absent All Week:	28	60	23	111
Eff. Wage Earners:	270	423	228	921
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	10.3	12.5	10.4	11.4
Unauthorised:	4.1	5.0	4.7	4.7
<u>TOTAL SHIFTS:</u>	14.4	17.5	15.1	16.1

National Coal Board:
Staffordshire Area:

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY:

SALEABLE OUTPUT DETAILS - Week Ended: 6th December, 1969.

District:	Saleable Output Tons:	C/Face Shifts:	C/Face Cwts. Saleable	Total U/G. Shifts:	Total U/G. Cwts.	All emp. Shifts:	No. of Shears:
No.1.N.Holly Lane	3,432	379	181.0				21
No.5.South Moss	3,507	392	173.7				24
No.5.North Moss	3,139	273	230.3				23
Developments: Face	96	46					
R'Way	413						
TOTAL:	10,587	1,090	194.3	3,786	55.9	4,900	43.2

ABSENTEES:

	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	298	483	251	1,032
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<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	10.3	12.5	10.4	11.4
Unauthorised:	4.1	5.0	4.7	4.7
<u>TOTAL SHIFTS:</u>	<u>14.4</u>	<u>17.5</u>	<u>15.1</u>	<u>16.1</u>

National Coal Board:
Staffordshire Area:
CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY:

Minutes of Colliery Consultative Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday, 2nd December, 1969.

PRESENT: Mr. W. G. Irwin, Deputy Manager - Chairman:

Mr. P. Smallman - General Manager,	Mr. T. Robertson - Branch Sec., N.U.M.,
Mr. C. Corke - Mechanical Engineer,	Mr. K. Roberts - " Pres., "
Mr. G. Buckroyd - Electrical Engineer,	Mr. J. Gleaves - N.A.C.O.D.S.,
Mr. H. Green - Surface Supt.,	Mr. H. Ross - Power Group,
Mr. L. Ashley - Assistant Manager (Personnel),	Mr. W. Goodwin - Ripper,
Mr. H. Dunn - Materials Controller,	Mr. A. Riley - Craftsman.
Mr. F. H. Mounfield - Training Officer,	
Mr. M. Schot - Safety Officer.	

In attendance: Mr. L. Yates - Craftsman:

Mr. W. Rushton - Secretary:

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Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Taylor, Mr. Wood, Mr. Brereton and Mr. Bambridge.

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November, 1969, were confirmed as a true record.

241/69 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

(a) Dust Suppression - 228/69.(c).

In reply to Mr. Roberts, the Chairman said that the results of the re-sampling were not yet known and they would be given when the information was available.

(b) Any Other Business - 232/69.(a).

The Chairman said that the majority of the fittings had now been supplied and a start had been made on improving the lighting but had temporarily been suspended owing to the extremely inclement weather.

242/69 OUTPUT:

The Chairman presented the Output details for week ending 22nd November, 1969, when the saleable output had been 8,704 tons, obtained at a Face O.M.S. of 170.3 cwts. and an Overall O.M.S. of 36.8 cwts.

He gave details of the individual face performances and said that No.1. Holly Lane face had produced 20 shears, No.5.S.Moss 17 shears and No.5.N.Moss 18 shears. It had, he said, been an atrocious week and gave details of the losses which amounted to some 2,200 tons.

340 tons had been lost from No.1.Holly Lane face and had been caused by the machine being off the pans, a damaged shoe on the machine, no water pressure on the machine and difficulties with the 'swilley' at the top end of the face.

No.5.N.Moss face had lost 568 tons and this was attributable to the machine being unable to haul and having to put a new haulage end on. The face had had to stand for some 25 hours while this was being done.

1292 tons had been lost from No.5.S.Moss due to electrical and mechanical breakdowns, having the rip overthrown, the machine being fast in the swilley and fault preparation. The results from this face, he said, had been absolutely disastrous.

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Mr. Smallman then referred to the subsequent week and said that although the faces hadn't changed, some 10,400 tons had been realised at a Face O.M.S. of over 200 cwts. and in excess of 43 cwts. overall. This, he said, had been the best week since August 16th - nearly four months ago. He said that this was certainly a step in the right direction but asked what was needed to maintain the impetus to keep the output over 10,000 tons saleable.

Mr. Roberts asked what the shears had been from the individual faces during week ending 29th November and Mr. Smallman replied that the Holly lane had produced 21 shears, No.5.N.Moss 22 shears and No.5.S.Moss 21½ shears. He added that the losses recorded during week ending 22nd November were losses against what was honestly expected every week from the faces and emphasised that the difference between good and bad weeks was diligence to the job.

He referred to the lack of liaison between Fitters, concerning the whereabouts of tools and spares and the Chairman asked Mr. Corke to emphasise this particular point at a "Teach-In" he was attending on the following day. He asked that tool boxes should be kept supplied and said that it should be obvious to everyone that breakdown losses caused by waiting for tools or minor spares should never happen.

Replying to a query from Mr. Robertson, Mr. Smallman said that he had visited the Developments on the previous day and had been pleased with what he had seen. He expected that No.1.S.Holly Lane face would be headed out in about three weeks time. Work in the Holly Lane Main Dip was nearly at the junction for the main gate - the junction had got to be set out and then 100 yards drivage had to be done in about five or six weeks. The Development Team had said that they could do this and it should be on time. He said that if the Developments continued as they were now doing, they would be on time.

A start was being made, during the current week, on getting approximately 400 powered supports down to the new Holly Lane and Banbury faces. Work would have to commence on improving the manrider in the Bullhurst Dip. It was intended that this should be done by installing an endless rope in the Bullhurst Dip instead of the present direct rope and there was no doubt that it was a big job in the midst of all the other work that had to be done.

He spoke of the manpower position and said that it had to be remembered that the pit could not be viable on less than 1,000 men. Anything less than this could only result in working two faces and the manpower position had to be reviewed to see if there could be some saving on jobs. The biggest single saver of manpower would be to bring the main loading point into the pit bottom. This could save somewhere in the region of 28 men who would be available for re-deployment to fill gaps that existed by losses in manpower of two or three men per week. This saving of manpower and consequent re-deployment to fill other gaps was possible with single-deck loading at the pit bottom.

Mr. Gleaves said that as far as officials were concerned, it seemed that as soon as an official was engaged, one left and the Chairman replied that there were, at the present time, two or three under training.

24/3/69 SAFETY:

Mr. Schot presented the accident report for the period 15th November - 29th November, 1969, and said that in this time, 22 accidents had occurred and were categorised as 3 Falls of Ground, 2 Tools and Appliances, 5 Falling Objects, 4 Handling Supplies, 4 Stumbling and Falling and 4 Others.

These were further analysed into districts and Mr. Schot said that 359 shifts had been lost through accidents in the two weeks and 7 of the 22 men had now resumed work. The accidents were then examined individually.

Mr. Roberts referred to an accident in which a man had suffered a fractured foot and said this seemed to have been caused by a lack of communication

/Cont'd.....

in that someone had put the pressure on for the chocks without giving any warning.

Comment was also made on an accident that had been caused when a scaffold plank was being moved in and the man had lacerated the back of his hand.

Mr. Robertson said that it should be ascertained that the proper amount of planks were available.

Mr. Schot replied that the planks were available but men didn't seem to want to use them in the proper way, which was from the side girders, but preferred to rest them on the Joy Loader.

Mr. Smallman said that he couldn't accept this and that the job should be done properly.

The Chairman said that the onus was on officials to see that the men did their job in a safe way.

244/69 CORRESPONDENCE:

(a) Concessionary Coal:

A letter from the Area Supplies Co-ordinator, dated 24th November, 1969, asking that concessionary coal orders be placed as soon as possible to avoid a build-up of coal orders before Christmas, was read to the Committee.

Comment was made by Mr. Goodwin that some people had waited 8 days for their coal to be delivered.

Mr. Green said that it had to be accepted that the colliery had a tremendous area of delivery and although most of the orders were delivered very promptly, orders for delivery in outlying areas needed a little more notice.

Mr. Ashley said that notices had been put up some three weeks ago, asking the men to place their coal orders as soon as possible.

(b) Subsidised Transport:

Mr. Roberts said that some people were now having to pay up to £2 per week in bus fares and a Branch Meeting of the N.U.M. was to be held to form a petition on this subject to the N.U.M. National Executive Committee. This area, he said, was not in the subsidised transport scheme and he asked for permission to post a notice on the colliery to the members of his Union, informing them of the organising of the petition.

The Chairman granted this permission.

245/69 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Mr. Corke proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and the date of the next meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 9th December, 1969.

The meeting closed at 5.0.p.m.

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Distribution as normal:

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY

COLLIERY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY, 1970, AT 3.00.p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 20th January, 1970.
2. Matters Arising out of Minutes.
3. OUTPUT.
4. Recruitment and Wastage.
5. Underground Economy.
6. Welfare.
7. Correspondence.
8. Any Other Business.

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ABSENTEES:

	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	298	478	252	1,028
Absent All Week:	39	99	26	164
Eff. Wage Earners:	259	379	226	864
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	13.2	20.0	12.5	16.3
Unauthorised:	7.0	7.6	2.8	6.3
<u>TOTAL:</u>	20.2	27.6	15.3	22.6

National Coal Board:
Staffordshire Area:

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD
COLLIERY:

SALEABLE OUTPUT DETAILS - Week Ended: 24th January 1970:

District:	Saleable Output Tons:	C/Face Shifts	C/Face Cwts. Saleable	Total U/G. Shifts:	Total U/G. Cwts.	All emp. Shifts:	No. of Shears:
No.1.N.Holly Lane	2,538	396	128.3				17
No.5.South Moss	1,783	348	102.5				14½
No.5.North Moss	983	113	173.5				8
Developments: Face	79	92					
R/Way	149						
TOTAL:	5,532	949	116.6	3,478	31.8	4,592	24.1

ABSENTEES:

	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	298	478	252	1,028
Absent All Week:	39	99	26	164
Eff. Wage Earners:	259	379	226	864
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	13.2	20.0	12.5	16.3
Unauthorised:	7.0	7.6	2.8	6.3
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>20.2</u>	<u>27.6</u>	<u>15.3</u>	<u>22.6</u>

National Coal Board:
Staffordshire Area:
CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY:

Minutes of Colliery Consultative Committee Meeting held
on Tuesday, 20th January, 1970.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PRESENT: Mr. L. Ashley, Assistant Manager (Personnel) - Chairman:

Mr. C. Corke	-	Mechanical Engineer,	Mr. T. Robertson	-	Branch Sec., N.U.M.,
Mr. H. Dunn	-	Materials Officer,	Mr. K. Roberts	-	" Pres., "
Mr. F.H. Mounfield	-	Training Officer,	Mr. J. Gleaves	-	N.A.C.O.D.S.,
Mr. M. Schot	-	Safety Officer.	Mr. H. Ross	-	Power Group,
			Mr. W. Taylor	-	Haulage,
			Mr. A. Riley	-	Craftsman.

In attendance: Mr. L. Yates - Craftsman:

Mr. W. Rushton - Secretary:

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Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Wood, Mr. Brereton, Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Robson.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January, 1970, were confirmed as a true record.

14/70 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

(a) Concessionary Coal - 1/70.(e).

The Chairman said that complaints over deliveries of Concessionary Coal had been negligible and any complaints that had been received had been dealt with satisfactorily.

(b) Collection - 1/70.(e).

Mr. Roberts informed the members that he had received two very nice letters - one from Cheddleton Hospital and one from the N.S.R.I. - thanking everyone for the assistance they had given with the collection that had been taken.

(c) Any Other Business - 1/70.(f).

The Chairman said that a meeting would be convened with the Union Officials to discuss public transport facilities in connection with the new surface shift times.

(d) Welfare - 5/70.

Mr. Roberts asked when the next round of the Safety Quiz would be held and Mr. Schot replied that this had been arranged for the 5th February and would commence at 7.15.p.m. at the Wolstanton Combine Mine Welfare Club. It was an inter-colliery round and would involve Wolstanton, Whitfield, Victoria and Norton collieries.

Mr. Roberts said that he hoped that the Consultative Committee would give this next round its full support. He said that he believed that at other pits, men were given facilities to have training periods with the Safety Officer and Management.

Mr. Schot said that he would take this matter up with Mr. Irwin, Deputy Manager.

15/70 OUTPUT:

Details of outputs were given for week ending 10th January, 1970, when the Saleable Output had been 8,117 tons obtained at a Face O.M.S. of 176.1 cwt.

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and an Overall O.M.S. of 39.3 cwts.

The Shears obtained had been 12 from No.1.N.Holly Lane, 24 from No.5. South Moss and 20 from No.5.North Moss, whilst Developments had produced 181 tons of coal.

Losses during the week had equalled some 1800 tons, 1190 of which (equalling 7 shears) had been from No.1.N.Holly Lane. Apart from 255 tons, which had been lost through dip belt trouble and the machine being off the pans, all of this had been caused by the broken roof conditions on the face.

355 tons (or 2½ shears) had been lost from No.5.N.Moss face and had been attributed to a broken level belt, absenteeism and the bank being frozen up.

140 tons (or 1 shear) had been lost from No.5.S.Moss with level belt repairs and the freezing up on the bank.

Developments had lost 140 tons.

It was stated that the results for this week had, after interest, cost the colliery some £3,600. The cost of wages had soared owing to the recent increases in pay and the increase in proceeds price had not yet been implemented.

Mr. Robertson remarked on the absenteeism rate which, for all workers, was 30% and said that this was the highest for a very long time. In spite of this, with the output at 8,117 tons, the Overall O.M.S. had been 39.3 cwts. He could not see why the colliery should lose money when the Overall O.M.S. was at 39.3 cwts.

Mr. Gleaves said that he thought Overall O.M.S. figures could be misleading and illustrated the point by saying that although total shifts worked might remain fairly static, the incidence of overtime shifts worked included in that total have a very great bearing on E.M.S. in that overtime shifts carried gift time which enhanced the rate per shift and thereby increased the cost of running the colliery.

Mr. Taylor said that it had been announced to the Press that it was not intended to close any pits in North Staffordshire this year and that only 14 pits in the whole of the country would close during the year. Two-thirds of these would be because of seam exhaustion. He added that in spite of this, there was no room for complacency at Whitfield and everyone had got to give of his best to keep the efforts already expended going as hard as possible.

16/70 RECRUITMENT AND WASTAGE:

Mr. Mounfield gave details of the Recruitment and Wastage for the period ending 17th January, 1970, and said that in this time, 3 people had been engaged and 5 had left. There were now 1,028 persons on the colliery books, consisting of 298 coalface workers, 479 elsewhere underground and 251 surface.

Analysis of the engaged persons was 1 coalface worker, 1 developments and 1 craftsman whilst the wastage had been 1 faceman, 1 elsewhere underground, 1 craftsman underground and 2 surface workers. The craftsman engaged had previously worked at the colliery - approximately 18 months ago.

The reasons given for the men leaving had been that one was going to be self-employed, one was going to a better job, one had left the industry, one had been taken off the books under the 15 month rule and one had retired. Nothing, of course, could be done about the last two and one of the others had only worked 25 shifts in 6 months.

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Mr. Roberts asked if there was a sufficiency of Chock Maintenance men at the colliery - he said he knew of one/^{man} who would be prepared to withdraw his notice if he could be put on this type of work and the Chairman said that he would be seeing the Undermanager concerned on the following day about this man.

17/70 UNDERGROUND ECONOMY:

Mr. Dunn presented the Underground Economy report for the two week period ending 17th January, 1970, and gave details of the salvage that had been obtained from No.4.S.Moss, No.5.S.Moss, Brights, No.13.Bullhurst, No.15.Bullhurst and the Bullhurst Dip. He said that a total of 49 Mark 2.Pans had been taken from No.5.S.Moss and all the pans were now out of the bottom carving.

A haulage end and two motors, the result of having changed machines on the face, had been recovered and sent to Area Workshops. He said that 13 Downties had been transferred from No.13.Bullhurst face to the Developments and all the Downties were off this face. It was a creditable performance, he said that not one Dowty had been lost.

A total of 700 yards of rails had been salvaged and laid out ready for installation in the Bullhurst Dip.

Salvage men were now preparing to get Downties off No.3.S.Moss face.

Support losses in the period had been 12 Downties, equalling some £180 and the scrap disposed of had been 10 tons at a value of approximately £100.

18/70 WELFARE:

Mr. Roberts said that teams had been entered in the Inter-colliery Knock-out Competition for Darts, Crib and Dominoes. The Darts team would be away to Hem-Heath Colliery, the Dominoes team away to Wolstanton Colliery and the Crib team had a bye.

19/70 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Mr. Gleaves proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and the date of the next meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 27th January, 1970.

The meeting closed at 4.50.p.m.

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Distribution:

Deputy Director (Administration),
" " (Operations),
Chief Mining Engineer,
Staff Manager/Secretary,
Area Industrial Relations Officer,
Head of Manpower Branch,
Production Manager,
Area Agent, N.U.M.,
District Secretary, N.A.C.O.D.S.,
District Secretary, Power Group, N.U.M.,
President, Midlands Area, N.U.M.,
General Secretary, Midlands Area, N.U.M.,
Committee Members.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY

COLLIERY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 21st APRIL, 1970, AT 3.0.p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 7th April, 1970.
2. Matters Arising out of Minutes.
3. OUTPUT.
4. Recruitment and Wastage.
5. Underground Economy.
6. Welfare.
7. Correspondence.
8. Any Other Business.

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Absent All Week:	22	53	29	104
Eff. Wage Earners:	268	428	220	916
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	7.4	8.0	12.3	8.8
Unauthorised:	7.5	8.0	5.0	7.2
<u>TOTAL:</u>	14.9	16.0	17.3	16.0

SALEABLE OUTPUT DETAILS - Week Ended: 11th April 1970.

District:	Saleable Output Tons:	C/Face Shifts:	C/Face Cwts. Saleable	Total U/G. Shifts:	Total U/G. Cwts.	All emp. Shifts:	No. of Shears:
No.1.S.Holly Lane	2,560	480	106.7				19
No.1.South Banbury	1,110	347	64.0				7
No.5.South Moss	999	169	117.9				9
Developments:	33	65					
TOTAL:	4,702	1,159	81.1	3,664	25.7	4,771	19.7

ABSENTEES:

	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	290	481	249	1,020
Absent All Week:	22	53	29	104
Eff. Wage Earners:	268	428	220	916
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	7.4	8.0	12.3	8.8
Unauthorised:	7.5	8.0	5.0	7.2
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>14.9</u>	<u>16.0</u>	<u>17.3</u>	<u>16.0</u>

Minutes of Colliery Consultative Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday, 7th April, 1970.

PRESENT: Mr. P. Snallman, General Manager - Chairman:

Mr. W. G. Irwin	-	Deputy Manager,
Mr. L. Ashley	-	Assistant Manager (Personnel),
Mr. F. H. Mounfield	-	Training Officer,
Mr. H. Dunn	-	Materials Officer,
Mr. R. Schot	-	Safety Officer.
Mr. T. Robertson	-	Branch Sec., N.U.M.,
Mr. K. Roberts	-	" Pres., "
Mr. L. Bambridge	-	N.A.C.O.D.S.,
Mr. H. Ross	-	Power Group,
Mr. G. Wareham	-	Deputy,
Mr. S. Robson	-	Faceworker,
Mr. W. Goodwin	-	Ripper,
Mr. C. Brereton	-	Faceworker,
Mr. L. Harrop	-	Technical Assistant.

Mr. R. Whalley - Secretary:

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The Chairman opened the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Mr. Gleaves and Mr. Taylor.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March, 1970, were confirmed as a true record.

79/70 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

(a) Recruitment and Wastage - 66/70.

In reply to a query with regard to the recruitment of officials, Mr. Ashley said that one man who has been interviewed had now been appointed.

80/70 RECRUITMENT AND WASTAGE:

Mr. Mounfield presented the Recruitment and Wastage Report for the three week period ending 4th April, 1970, and said that during this period, one person had been engaged and four had left the colliery.

Analysis showed that three of those who were leaving the colliery were doing so for medical reasons and one was leaving the industry.

The colliery manpower figures now stood at 292 coalface workers, 478 elsewhere underground and 249 surface, including 30 mining and craft apprentices, aggregating to 1,019.

81/70 UNDERGROUND ECONOMY:

Mr. Dunn presented the Underground Economy Report for the three weeks ending 4th April, 1970, and gave details of salvage obtained from No.5. North Moss, 8300' Crut, Brights, Banbury-Moss Crut, Bullhurst, Developments and Reece's Crut.

Scrap disposed of was 30 tons, realising £300, and support losses had been 17 Downties, equalling £306.

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Mr. W. Goodwin referred to the Ripping Machine and four discs in the South Moss top level and said that if they were not salvaged soon, more roadway repairs would be needed to facilitate the salvaging.

Mr. T. Robertson asked the Chairman about the order of salvaging material in the North Moss.

Mr. Smallman said that the order in which material was salvaged was to a large extent dictated by requirements in other parts of the mine so that some equipment, e.g. electrical switches etc., had to be salvaged as soon as a district ceased production.

82/70 WELFARE:

Nothing to report.

83/70 CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter received from the Multiple Sclerosis Society, asking for permission to take a collection at the colliery at a future date, was read to the Committee and it was agreed that Mr. Mounfield should reply, giving consent.

Another letter from the Cancer Research Fund, asking for another collection was also agreed. It was stated that the last collection for this fund realised £30.

84/70 OUTPUT:

The Chairman presented the output details for week ended 28th March, 1970, which was the last week of the financial year.

No.1.North Holly Lane face had produced one shear, No.1.South Holly Lane $14\frac{1}{2}$ shears and No.5.South Moss 19 shears, whilst Developments had contributed 254 tons.

Reported losses during the week had totalled 2,636 tons, of which 680 tons had been from No.1.North Holly Lane, due to Bunker scraper and A.F.C. breakdowns. No.1.South Holly Lane had lost 1,360 tons, due mainly to difficulties with the plough, fault preparation and grading through the fault. Losses on No.5.South Moss had been 560 tons, caused by abnormal roof conditions, boxholing and girdering and conveyor breakdowns.

The total Saleable Output was 4,551 tons for 1,116 face shifts.

Reviewing the position, the Chairman said that a total of 1,125 shifts were required on the coal face and to achieve this, we still required more face men.

The No.1.South Holly Lane results had been disappointing and although there were a lot of problems on this face, some of them were made. It had been decided 10 days ago to get a new Bi-di cowl and this had been installed and proved much better, but when the conveyor was rammed over too tight, it would not go through the face. Difficulties had been made through leaving bottoms and on one occasion, this had meant pulling back the conveyor to get the bottoms up.

A conveyor-mounted trepanner was being prepared in the Fitting Shop to be put on the bottom half of the face, up to the fault, and the disc shearer was to work the top end of the face, down to the fault.

An exercise had been carried out on the No.1.South Holly Lane by the Method Study Department and this showed that apart from difficulties with the plough and faulting, one of the main problems was communication between shifts. During the week in question, each shift had dealt with the fault preparation in a different way and consequently, much of the advantage gained by one shift had been lost by another. One of the main points discussed at the recent

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'Teach-in' was that when the plan for any district is laid down, it is essential that when any alterations are made, everyone should be informed to maintain a common aim.

The No.1.South Banbury face had been geared up quickly due to a deterioration in the condition of the No.5.South Moss face. However, after the next few days, the South Banbury face should be in good condition and would soon be ready to take the second machine.

No.2.North Holly Lane face headings had now thurled and some equipment was being transferred from No.1.North. Chock installation would start soon.

When No.2.North Holly Lane was in production, it would mean that No.1. South Holly Lane would go on to two shifts. Good teams of men were being fixed up on each face and if the fault persists on the South Holly Lane, extra men could be put on either the Banbury or North Holly Lane to maintain output.

The next Banbury face would be ready in approximately 5 months time.

85/70 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Robertson, referring to a meeting to be held at Staffordshire House to discuss the future of the Northern end of the coalfield, said that he could see a reasonable future for the colliery.

86/70 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and the date of the next meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 14th April, 1970.

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Distribution:

Deputy Director (Administration),
" " (Operations),

Chief Mining Engineer,
Staff Manager/Secretary (2),
Area Industrial Relations Officer,
Head of Manpower Branch,
Production Manager

Area Agent, N.U.M.,
District Secretary, N.A.C.O.D.S.,
District Secretary, Power Group, N.U.M.,
General Secretary, Midlands Area, N.U.M.,
President, Midlands Area, N.U.M.,
Mr. W. Goodwin.

Committee Members.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY

COLLIERY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 28th APRIL, 1970, AT 3.0.p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 14th April, 1970.
2. Matters Arising out of Minutes.
3. OUTPUT.
4. Safety.
5. Dust Suppression.
6. Welfare.
7. Correspondence.
8. Any Other Business.

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	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	290	477	247	1,014
Absent All Week:	25	50	33	108
Eff. Wage Earners:	265	427	214	906
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	6.3	9.3	13.6	9.4
Unauthorised:	9.8	9.0	4.7	8.3
<u>TOTAL SHIFTS:</u>	16.1	18.3	18.3	17.7

National Coal Board:
Staffordshire Area:

Chatterley/Whitfield
Colliery:

SALEABLE OUTPUT DETAILS - Week Ended: 18th April 1970.

District:	Saleable Output Tons:	C/Face Shifts:	C/Face Cwts. Saleable	Total U/G. Shifts:	Total U/G. Cwts.	All emp. Shifts:	No. of Shears:
No.1.S.Holly Lane	2,883	508	113.5				19
No.1.S.Banbury	2,143	361	110.9				12
No.5.South Moss	1,250	158	158.2				10
Developments:		68					
TOTAL:	6,276	1,095	114.6	3,640	34.5	4,744	26.5

ABSENTEES:

	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	290	477	247	1,014
Absent All Week:	25	50	33	108
Eff. Wage Earners:	265	427	214	906
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	6.3	9.3	13.6	9.4
Unauthorised:	9.8	9.0	4.7	8.3
<u>TOTAL SHIFTS:</u>	16.1	18.3	18.3	17.7

Minutes of Colliery Consultative Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday, 14th April, 1970.

PRESENT: Mr. W. G. Irwin, Deputy Manager - Chairman:

Mr. C. Corke	- Mechanical Engineer,	Mr. T. Robertson	- Branch Sec., N.U.M.,
Mr. H. Green	- Surface Supt.,	Mr. J. Gleaves	- N.A.C.O.D.S.,
Mr. L. Ashley	- Assistant Manager (Personnel),	Mr. L. Bambridge	- "
Mr. F. H. Mounfield	- Training Officer,	Mr. H. Ross	- Power Group,
Mr. M. Schot	- Safety Officer,	Mr. C. Brereton	- Faceworker,
Mr. H. Dunn	- Materials Officer.	Mr. W. Goodwin	- Ripper,
		Mr. A. Riley	- Craftsman,
		Mr. S. Robson	- Faceworker,

In attendance: Mr. G. Wareham - Overman.

Mr. W. Rushton - Secretary:

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Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Roberts, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Smallman and Mr. Yates.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th March, 1970, were confirmed as a true record.

87/70 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

(a) Safety - 74/70.

Mr. Bambridge asked if the accident in which a man had had his hand trapped on top of a chock had been further investigated and the Chairman said that the detail of the accident had been fully examined and he was satisfied with the result.

(b) Output - 76/70.

Mr. Robertson asked if the plough on No.1.S.Holly Lane face was now giving better results and the Chairman said that it was cleaning up much more satisfactorily. It was not perfect and it was not a problem that was easily solved, but there had been a vast improvement now that the modifications had been done. It was the general opinion at the meeting that there was no perfect plough.

88/70 SAFETY:

Mr. Schot presented the Accident Report for the three-week period ended 11th April, 1970, and said that in this time 9 compensable accidents had occurred and 4 of the men involved had resumed work. In the same period, 405 shifts had been lost through accident and the accidents in the report were analysed as 1 tools and appliances, 2 falling objects, 3 handling supplies, 1 other accident at the face, 1 contact with moving machinery and 1 haulage accident. These were further analysed into accidents per district.

Each accident was then examined individually and Mr. Dunn said that he would like to point out that there had been no face ripping accidents in this report.

Mr. Robertson replied that this was coincident with a re-supply of covering tins.

The Chairman said that it was pleasing to note that in the three-week period, there had been only nine accidents and this figure was the lowest for a very long time but he emphasised that one accident alone was one too many.

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He commented particularly on an accident in which a man had hurt his foot whilst he had been standing on the conveyor and the conveyor had started up. He had, he said, personally made enquiries on this accident and had been given varying accounts, one by the man who had operated the conveyor who said that he had received a signal to start and by others who said that no signal had been given.

Mr. Goodwin said that there seemed to be a large proportion of accidents caused when men were lifting materials and he thought that proper lock-up places were required in which to store lifting tackle. He also thought that the best thing to do was to load and unload in clean areas with lifting tackle being available at both ends.

89/90 DUST SUPPRESSION:

Mr. Schot presented the Dust Suppression Report and said that he had the result of only one sample to put before the committee and this was in respect of No.5.South Moss. The conditions here were unapproved.

The Chairman asked if there was enough water and if the sprays were up to date and Mr. Brereton replied that they were.

He added that there were always two evils on the Moss faces and these were gas and dust and the need for adequate ventilation created dusty conditions.

The Chairman said that Mr. Stephens had been newly appointed to the position of Dust Suppression Officer and Mr. Robertson said that he was very glad to hear this.

Mr. Brereton reminded the Committee that at one time, the suggestion had been noted that men should be appointed to each district to cover dust suppression and asked if any further progress had been made in this respect.

Mr. Mounfield replied that there had not been any response from men to fill these positions.

90/70 OUTPUT:

The Chairman presented the Output details for week ending 4th April, 1970, and said that the saleable output had been 2,739 tons, obtained at a Face O.M.S. of 59 cwts. and an Overall O.M.S. of 14.6 cwts. This week, of course, had included the Easter Holiday period.

He then gave details of the losses which had occurred on the faces and these had amounted to some 3,020 tons. 340 tons had been lost from No.1.N. Holly Lane face and had been caused by conveyor troubles and fast chocks at the top end of the face. The face had ceased production in this week. 1,700 tons had been lost from No.1.S.Holly Lane and had been caused by fault preparation and conveyor and machine breakdowns. No.5.S.Moss had lost 980 tons and apart from half a shear lost, due to an electrical breakdown on a belt, this was entirely due to abnormal roof conditions on the face which entailed box-holing and blowing the floor in the thin coal area.

He said that the conditions on No.5.S.Moss were reasonable and he hoped that this face would continue until No.2.N.Holly Lane face was ready, which should be by the end of the month.

Conditions on No.1.S.Holly Lane face had improved, although the face had been troubled with sandstone rolls etc. At the present time it was averaging $1\frac{1}{2}$ shears per shift and treble-shifting. It was intended that when No.2.N. Holly Lane face commenced, this treble-shifting would be reduced to double-shifting.

In the week just past, No.1.S.Banbury face had commenced production and he was, he said, very pleased with this face. There was a patch at the top end of 40 yards which was affected by faulting, but by and large the face was in a very good condition and the set up was excellent. The wastes were

working well for 85% of the face and in its first week's working had produced 7 shears. This was expected to increase considerably in a few weeks' time.

When No.2.N.Holly Lane face commenced and the Moss ceased, the production faces then, i.e. No.1.S.Holly Lane, No.2.N.Holly Lane and 1.S.Banbury, would all be on double-shift working. No.2.N.Holly Lane face, he said, had thurled and there were 93 spill plates on. This job was expected to be completed in the next two or three days and a start would then be made on getting the powered supports onto the face. It would, eventually, be equipped with a new conveyor-mounted trepanner.

He then gave details of the types of work that development workers were doing and said that No.2.N.Holly Lane face would be in production for some six or seven months and its replacement would then be No.1.N.Banbury.

He said that a 'teach-in' for No.1.S.Banbury men had been arranged for Saturday morning at 9.30.a.m. and would be held in the top canteen. This teach-in had been arranged so that the men would have spent a few shifts on the face. The teach-in for the No.1.S.Holly Lane men had been held before they had seen the face and he thought that this ^{new way} would be helpful to the men in airing any problems they found during these few shifts. Brochures on the face would be provided as they had been for the teach-in for No.1.S.Holly Lane men.

Mr. Brereton asked how far No.1.S.Banbury face would go. It was, he said, rumoured that it would only be allowed to advance 800 yards.

The Chairman said that a paying face would not, in normal circumstances, be stopped.

Mr. Robertson said that he had had the idea that No.1.S.Holly Lane face would be stopped short of where it could go in case it interfered with work being done by Wolstanton. He said that at the meeting of Area Management, Colliery Management and Union Representatives, held at Area Office on 8th April, 1970, and at which Wolstanton, Whitfield and Victoria collieries had been discussed, the Area Director had said that there was no danger of Whitfield not having sufficient faces until March, 1972. If both Wolstanton and Whitfield collieries were then viable, it was proposed that they would then merge. He said that he had asked what the position would be if Whitfield was viable and Wolstanton was not and he had added that a viable colliery could not be closed. He had, he said, been informed that the position would be looked at every three months.

Mr. Bambridge stated that Mr. Hunter had said that there was coal at Wolstanton that only they could get.

Mr. Goodwin said that the immediate objective of the colliery had to be the working of three faces at a profit. He could not, he said, see the Board merging a viable unit to a non-viable unit. Referring to stopping faces short of their potential life, he said that faces could not be made viable on this basis; they were not given sufficient time to recover capital costs. As for not closing a viable colliery, he said that Stafford colliery had been closed on an Overall O.M.S. of 60 cwts. when it was viable.

Mr. Gleaves referred to respective manpower at Wolstanton and Whitfield and said it had been intimated at the Area meeting that absorption of Whitfield men posed much less of a problem than the greater number of Wolstanton men in the event of closing either of the collieries. The fact had to be faced, he said, that £12 million had been thrown away at Wolstanton.

The Chairman said that the position at Whitfield last year had been that the colliery was virtually due for closing. At this moment, the colliery was developing faces and had good faces in production. He was, he said, by no means despondent and the main aim had to be to get the pit onto a profitable basis and then be able to argue from strength. He could not see the possibility of a merger if Whitfield were viable and Wolstanton were not.

Mr. Robertson said that at the meeting with the members of his Union, he had told them that there was no danger of a merger until 1972, and if

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Wolstanton could not prove something that they had been unable to prove before - (i.e. that they were a viable colliery) and Whitfield was viable, Whitfield would continue as a colliery for a very long time.

Mr. Gleaves said that the three collieries - Wolstanton, Whitfield and Victoria - could not work the same area of coal and if neither Wolstanton or Whitfield were viable, then they would both have to close.

91/70 WELFARE:

(a) 'Bus Service:

Mr. Ashley said he had been notified by Turners 'Bus Co. that because it was uneconomical, they were applying to the Traffic Commissioners to obtain permission to cease the 'bus from Brown Edge Schools to the colliery.

Mr. Robertson said that there was no other way for the men that used the 'bus to get to the colliery on time and Mr. Goodwin proposed that the Board should oppose the application. If the opposition were unsuccessful, the Board should give consideration to providing an alternative service.

Mr. Ashley was instructed to take this matter up with Industrial Relations Department.

(b) Inter Colliery Competition:

Mr. Roberts said that finals of the Darts and Dominoes matches would be held at Wolstanton Combine Miners Welfare Club and Norton Miners Welfare Club respectively on Sunday morning, 19th April, 1970.

(c) Safety & Tidiness Competition:

Mr. Schot said that the competition had, for the surface, been won by the Electric Shop/Lamproom Section. 10 prizes of £5 would be awarded for the surface, based on being accident-free and attendance.

In the underground section, again based on attendance and being accident-free, 345 persons were eligible for the draw. The prize would be split into 175 £1 shares.

Mr. Brereton commented that the Tipplers section in the surface competition had had the best results on tidiness alone but had been badly let down on the absenteeism rate.

The Chairman said that the next competition should be looked at from all angles and possibly something a little better could be formulated.

92/70 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Powder Cans:

Mr. Bambridge said that difficulty was being caused by a shortage of powder cans for No.5.S.Moss through their non-return.

Mr. Robertson thought that payment for powder carrying would help to solve this.

(b) Boiler Steam Pressure:

Mr. Robertson asked why boiler steam pressure should at times be less than desired and the Chairman said that several factors contributed to this. The boilers were being fed with run-of-mine coal and this was, at the present time, carrying excessive dirt with it from the Holly Lane fault and from getting Banbury dirt bottoms up. The make of methane for the gas-fired boilers had also considerably decreased with 5.N.Moss face ceasing and 5.S.Moss face only being on single-shift working. The use of pure coal as opposed to run-of-mine was not possible because it would damage the boiler firebars. However, this problem of occasional low pressure would soon be obviated when the Holly Lane and Banbury were fully productive and more methane would be available for the plant.

(c) Road Surface:

Mr. Bambridge said that he was pleased to see that the holes in the colliery lane had been repaired and he thought a good job had been done.

93/70 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Mr. Green proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the date of the next meeting was arranged for 21st April, 1970. The meeting closed at 4.55.p.m.

istribution as normal:

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY

COLLIERY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD
ON TUESDAY, 19th MAY, 1970, AT 3.00.p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 5th May, 1970.
2. Matters Arising out of Minutes.
3. OUTPUT.
4. Recruitment and Wastage.
5. Underground Economy.
6. Welfare.
7. Correspondence.
8. Any Other Business.

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	<u>ABSENTEES:</u>			
	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	284	479	244	1,007
Absent All Week:	38	64	29	131
Eff. Wage Earners:	246	415	215	876
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	11.2	12.4	12.2	12.0
Unauthorised:	7.8	7.2	4.8	6.8
<u>TOTAL:</u>	19.0	19.6	17.0	18.8

National Coal Board:
Staffordshire Area:

Chatterley-Whitfield
Colliery:

SALEABLE OUTPUT DETAILS - Week Ended: 9th May, 1970.

District:	Saleable Output Tons:	C/Face Shifts:	C/Face Cwts. Saleable	Total U/G. Shifts:	Total U/G. Cwts.	All emp. Shifts:	No. of Shears:
No.1.S.Holly Lane	1,975	324	122.1				15
No.1.South Banbury	3,037	403	150.7				19
No.5.South Moss	2,257	249	181.1				20
Developments:		146					
TOTAL:	7,269	1,122	129.6	3,578	40.6	4,659	31.2

ABSENTEES:

	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	284	479	244	1,007
Absent All Week:	38	64	29	131
Eff. Wage Earners:	246	415	215	876
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
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Unauthorised:	7.8	7.2	4.8	6.8
<u>TOTAL:</u>	19.0	19.6	17.0	18.8

Minutes of Colliery Consultative Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday, 5th May, 1970.

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PRESENT: Mr. P. Smallman - Colliery General Manager (CHAIRMAN):
Mr. W. G. Irwin - Deputy Manager,
Mr. C. Corke - Mechanical Engineer,
Mr. L. Ashley - Assistant Manager (Personnel),
Mr. F. H. Mounfield - Training Officer,
Mr. M. Schot - Safety Officer,
Mr. H. Dunn - Materials Officer.

Mr. T. Robertson - Branch Sec., N.U.M.,
Mr. J. Gleaves - N.A.C.O.D.S.,
Mr. L. Bambridge - "
Mr. C. Brereton - Faceworker,
Mr. W. Goodwin - Ripper,
Mr. S. Robson - Faceworker,
Mr. W. Taylor - Haulage,
Mr. A. Riley - Craftsman,
Mr. L. Yates - Fitting Shop.

Mr. R. Whalley - Secretary:

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An apology for absence was received from Mr. Roberts.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st April, 1970, were confirmed as a true record.

109/70 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

(a) Collection on behalf of the Multiple Sclerosis Society - 94/70.

Mr. Robertson said that the amount raised for this collection (almost £35) was very good and suggested that it be made up to £35 out of the Chatterley-Whitfield Sports and Welfare Fund.

This was agreed.

(b) Correspondence - 99/70.

Referring to the proposed withdrawal of the 'bus service from Brown-Edge Schools to Whitfield, Mr. Ashley said that Turners Bus Co. had given sympathetic consideration to the three or four employees who had been using the service for a great number of years and at the present time, they were making further investigations. They had promised to give 14 days notice before the 'bus was taken off.

110/70 RECRUITMENT AND WASTAGE:

Mr. Mounfield presented the Recruitment and Wastage Report for the two weeks ended 2nd May, 1970. During the period, one Mining Engineering Trainee and one Coal Face Trainee had been engaged. Four people had left the colliery, all of whom were leaving the Industry.

Men on books at the present time were 289 coalface, 476 elsewhere underground and 246 surface, including 30 apprentices. The total was 1,011.

111/70 UNDERGROUND ECONOMY:

The Underground Economy Report for the two weeks ended 2nd May, 1970, was presented by Mr. Dunn and gave details of salvage operations in the Bullhurst, Moss and Holly Lane districts.

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Scrap disposed of during the period amounted to 29½ tons which realised £295.

Mr. Dunn pointed out that some difficulty had been experienced in getting the skips for removal of the scrap, thus reducing the amount disposed of.

Support losses in the week totalled 9 Downties and these were valued at £162.

112/70 OUTPUT:

Mr. Irwin gave details of the output for week ending 25th April, 1970, and said that the saleable output had been 8,104 tons, obtained at a face O.M.S. of 152 cwts. and an overall O.M.S. of 43.6 cwts.

No.1.South Holly Lane fault area had improved, mainly due to better preparation, and produced 19 shears.

The No.1.South Banbury face had also produced 19 shears but the grading of the face had to be watched here.

No.5.South Moss, which had been single-shifting, had produced 10 shears.

Mr. Irwin pointed out that during the week just ended, losses due to dirt had been exceedingly high. The Ash Monitor on the surface was set at 18% so that any greater make of dirt than this meant that the product was automatically sent to the washer. This gave a 14% loss plus a make of slurry which was not included in the saleable output.

Mr. Goodwin queried the height of the disc on the Banbury face and whether a smaller one would help to get the machine out of the floor dirt.

Mr. Smallman pointed out that grading through faults at the top end of the face was mainly responsible for the dirt on this face but the cutting horizon on the bottom part of the face could be improved. He also said that a test shear was being carried out on the Wednesday night shift in order to find the exact ash content of this face.

The Chairman pointed out that it was essential to get the best machines on the faces. It was proposed to put a trepan shearer on the South Banbury face during the coming week-end and following this, a C.M.T. on the No.2.North Holly Lane and No.1.South Holly Lane. The Banbury machine would have a tilting underframe and there would also be steerage on the other machines.

On No.2.North Holly Lane face, the chock installation was almost complete and the machine would go on during the coming week. The first part of the return drivage had been completed and a conveyor was now being installed for the final 15 yards of this work. In the Holly Lane main crut, the beat-up had been continued and a Rushton Loco and 8 manriding carriages were to be got down this coming week-end to provide manriding facilities.

Work had commenced on the repair of the Cockshead Dip extension below No.12's as part of the development programme for the next faces in the Banbury Seam, both to the North and South.

Following a general discussion on output and developments, the Chairman played to the members a tape recording which he had received from the N.C.B. Headquarters. The recording, which had been prepared by various members of the Board, dealt with various aspects of the industry from Marketing to Coal Production.

113/70 WELFARE:

The members were informed that there had been one Russell Hotel application and this was approved.

114/70 CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter referring to the recent collection in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund was read to the members, extending thanks to all who contributed or helped in any way. The sum of £30.14.2d. had been raised.

115/70 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Robertson referred to arrangements which had been made for the men on one face to adjust their shift times so that they could watch the Cup Final on the Wednesday, and asked that this should be extended to other faces if it was so desired.

The Chairman agreed that this could be done where possible and said that it should be arranged with each individual Face Overman.

116/70 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Mr. Goodwin proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and the date of the next meeting was fixed for Tuesday, 12th May, 1970.

The meeting closed at 5.00.p.m.

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Distribution:

Deputy Director (Administration),
" " (Operations)↓
Chief Mining Engineer,
Staff Manager/Secretary (2),
Area Industrial Relations Officer,
Head of Manpower Branch,
Production Manager,
Area Agent, N.U.M.,
District Secretary, N.A.C.C.D.S.,
District Secretary, Power Group, N.U.M.,
The President, Midlands Area, N.U.M.,
General Secretary, Midlands Area, N.U.M.,
Mr. W. Goodwin,
Committee Members.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

CHATTERLEY/WHITFIELD COLLIERY

COLLIERY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 2nd JUNE, 1970, AT 3.p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 12th May, 1970.
2. Matters Arising out of Minutes.
3. OUTPUT.
4. Safety.
5. Dust Suppression.
6. Welfare.
7. Correspondence.
8. Any Other Business.

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	<u>ABSENTEES:</u>			
	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	259	490	242	991
Absent All Week:	37	65	24	126
Eff. Wage Earners:	222	425	218	865
<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
Authorised:	11.2	12.8	9.9	11.7
Unauthorised:	9.8	6.2	5.6	7.0
<u>TOTAL:</u>	21.0	19.0	15.5	18.7

SALEABLE OUTPUT DETAILS - Week Ended: 23rd May, 1970.

District:	Saleable Output Tons:	C/Face Shifts:	C/Face Cwts. Saleable	Total U/G. Shifts:	Total U/G. Cwts.	All emp. Shifts:	No. of Shears:
No.1.S.Holly Lane	1,820	295	123.6				14
No.1.South Banbury	3,472	390	178.3				22
No.2.N.Holly Lane	390	44	176.1				3
No.5.South Moss	1,448	237	122.0				13
Developments:		9					
TOTAL:	7,130	975	146.3	3,437	41.5	4,549	31.3

ABSENTEES:

	<u>Face:</u>	<u>U/Ground:</u>	<u>Surface:</u>	<u>All Workers:</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	259	490	242	991
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<u>ABSENTEEISM:</u>				
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Unauthorised:	9.8	6.2	5.6	7.0
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>21.0</u>	<u>19.0</u>	<u>15.5</u>	<u>18.7</u>

Minutes of Colliery Consultative Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday, 12th May, 1970.

PRESENT: Mr. W. G. Irwin, Deputy Manager - Chairman:

Mr. F. Wilde	-	Undermanager,
Mr. C. Corke	-	Mechanical Engineer,
Mr. L. Ashley	-	Assistant Manager (Personnel),
Mr. M. Schot	-	Safety Officer,
Mr. F.H. Mounfield	-	Training Officer.
Mr. T. Robertson	-	Branch Secretary, N.U.M.,
Mr. J. Gleaves	-	N.A.C.O.D.S.,
Mr. H. Ross	-	Power Group,
Mr. L. Yates	-	Fitting Shops,
Mr. S. Robson	-	Faceworker,
Mr. C. Brereton	-	"
Mr. W. Goodwin	-	Ripper,
Mr. A. Thompson	-	Haulage.

In attendance: Mr. W. Taylor - Retired Mineworker,
Mr. E. Sellars - Student Apprentice.

Mr. W. Rushton - Secretary:

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Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Robertson said that he would like to introduce Mr. Thompson, who was a newly elected representative on the committee - the vacancy having been caused by the retirement of Mr. Taylor, who was present.

The Chairman said that he would like to thank Mr. Taylor for all the contributions he had made to the meetings that he had attended. His comments had always been sincere and constructive and he would like to take the opportunity of wishing Mr. Taylor and his wife a very happy retirement which would last many years. Knowing Mr. Taylor's interest in the colliery, he said that there would be no doubt that he would be visiting the colliery from time to time and it would always be a pleasure to see him.

Mr. Robertson said that he would like to endorse everything that the Chairman had said. People of the calibre of Mr. Taylor were very hard to replace. He was a man that had always put his cards on the table and he, personally, had gained a lot in having Mr. Taylor as an N.U.M. Committee Member. On behalf of the N.U.M, he said he would like to wish Mr. Taylor and his wife a very happy retirement - it had been well-earned.

Mr. Gleaves, on behalf of N.A.C.O.D.S., and Mr. Ross, on behalf of the Power Group, both said that they would like to endorse these sentiments.

Mr. Taylor replied that he had very much enjoyed being a Consultative Committee Member. He had, he said, never pulled his punches and never expected Management to pull theirs and it was, he said, gratifying to see from the minutes that so much attention was being paid to dust suppression. He was, he said, terribly impressed with this. He closed by thanking all the members for their good wishes and comments.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April, 1970, were confirmed as a true record.

117/70 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

(a) Bus Service - 101/70.(a).

Mr. Ashley said that there was nothing further to report on this matter at the present moment.

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(b) Output - 104/70.

Mr. Robertson referred to his comments on absenteeism and said that he had the backing of his Branch in making every effort to bring the absentee rate down to acceptable levels. Two people had been recently dismissed for their poor attendance and men had got to face the facts that absenteeism could not be tolerated. Some people seemed to think that two or three shifts a week were sufficient but they were going to have to think again. People should need no telling what was required to put manpower and absence figures right and he was quite sincere in saying that it was the N.U.M's. policy to bring the absentee rate down to an all-time low of 15%.

The Chairman said that it was true that some men were treating the colliery as a matter of convenience whilst others were striving hard for its betterment. A man should have a fair crack of the whip but consistent absenteeism should be dealt with and he was glad, he said, that the Union upheld this policy.

Mr. Robertson said that he would like to add that there were too many men at the pit who took time off in the week and then worked at week-ends and he thought that Management must look at this problem.

Mr. Wilde said that due note had already been taken of this and actioned.

118/70 SAFETY:

Mr. Schot presented the Accident Report and this was examined in detail. 7 accidents were involved and reference was made to one in which a man had been fastened by a mine car against another load. Comment showed that when the mine car had been scotched, it had slewed and that it was a damaged mine car. It had immediately been sent out of the pit for repair.

Mr. Schot commented that the shifts lost per accident were lower than in the last report and were progressively decreasing.

Study of the causes of the accidents brought comment that haulage and ripping accidents were high throughout the Area and Mr. Robertson said that he was again pleased to note that there were no ripping accidents on this report. This position had obtained on two out of the last three reports.

Mr. Schot said that accident tables figures for the quarter ending March, 1970, showed that Whitfield had a 4% improvement over the two year period 1966/68 and that the colliery had done really well in this quarter until a reportable accident had occurred last week.

119/70 DUST SUPPRESSION:

The Dust Suppression Officer's Report was presented and examined.

The Chairman agreed with Mr. Brereton that there was a dust suppression problem in the Banbury caused by having to cut in dirt in the fault area.

The Chairman said that the report showed that a great deal had been done towards eliminating dust on this face and there was no question of shutting their eyes to the problem - it was essential that it was recognised and something done about it.

Mr. Brereton said that he thought that dust was a problem that would never be completely eliminated and the Chairman said that he agreed, but we could use what knowledge we had and see that equipment was geared up and what was more important, that it was used, otherwise it was no use. All too often, he said, sprays were geared up and then it was found that men hadn't got them turned on.

Mr. Brereton said that he would like to see a wet curtain used at the top end of the Banbury on the face side and if it proved to be a success, another one could be installed half-way down the face.

Mr. Goodwin said he thought that if a curtain was used, it should be attached to the powered supports and moved in each time.

Mr. Robertson said that he didn't think there would be any hardship in setting a curtain up but men had to be educated in its use.

Mr. Brereton asked if it could be attached to the powered supports and Mr. Wilde said that he was of the opinion that it was not possible to fix it to the powered supports and it would be better fixed to a Chesterfield Bar.

Reference was made to the report on the South Banbury which showed that water connections were now fitted ready for a curtain and arch sprays.

Mr. Brereton asked if the Dust Suppression Officer was getting any assistance and the Chairman said that he had three men with him and the Dust Suppression work programme was being got out.

Mr. Goodwin said that the report could be accepted and satisfaction expressed on the steps that had been taken.

Mr. Brereton said that he would like to thank the Dust Suppression Officer for his report.

Comment was made that dust conditions on the No.1.S.Holly Lane face were very good.

120/70 OUTPUT:

The Chairman presented the Output Report for week ending 2nd May, 1970, and said that 7,454 tons of saleable output had been obtained at a Face O.M.S. of 130.9 cwts. and an Overall O.M.S. of 31.1 cwts.

He gave details of the losses incurred and said that 600 tons had been lost from No.1.S.Holly Lane face in fault preparation and the machine being off the pans, 200 tons from No.1.S.Banbury with difficulty at the fault at the top end and having had water in the shearer control unit, and 500 tons from No.5.South Moss face, caused by having the AFC chain broken, fast chocks and the fault at the top end.

This had been a very disappointing week, he said, as far as saleable output was concerned when it was considered that some 8,900 tons of pithead coal had been raised in this week. Everyone was aware, he said, that this loss in vend had been caused by an excessive amount of dirt in run of mine coal, causing the product to be rejected at the Ash Monitor and necessitating a larger proportion of the output being washed. Run of mine coal was acceptable at the Ash Monitor up to 18% dirt but anything above this had to be sent through the Washer and this washed down to 4%. The difference of the 14% in output was lost to the colliery. The colliery also lost the make of slurry and this had amounted to almost 600 tons. He hoped, he said, that the installation of a trepan shearer with a tilting underframe on the South Banbury and the installation of conveyor-mounted trepanners with steering facilities on the Holly Lane faces would help in this problem.

Referring to a trial shear that had been taken from the Banbury, he said that 166 tons had been obtained which had contained 27% of dirt in the smalls and a great deal of care had got to be taken to make the product acceptable.

Mr. Wilde said that with care in cutting at the right horizon, the Banbury seam could be kept to less than 20% dirt and then all the product would be acceptable. It all rested on fine grading.

The Chairman said that there were now two machines on this face and this would give more time for grading and preparatory work.

Mr. Goodwin said that it had been said previously that it was not an economical proposition to run the single face in the Moss seam but he was of

the opinion that No.5.S.Moss face could produce a profit of £3,000 a week and that he thought it would be a crime to close No.5.S.Moss face while it was running at its present production.

The Chairman said that planned projections showed that there was a 'wash-out' in front of this face and would probably be affecting the face by the end of next week. However, it was intended to keep No.5.S.Moss face going as long as it was possible and at least until the new Holly Lane face was properly established and the manrider had been installed in the Bullhurst Dip. The machine on No.2.N.Holly Lane face, he said, would be given a run within the next two days.

Referring back to No.5.S.Moss face, the Chairman said that there was a lot of very useful material tied up in this area and it was needed. The face itself, he said, was in very good condition - probably in as good a condition as it ever had been - and had, during the last week, produced 20 shears.

On the Banbury face, he said that the set-up was excellent but there was this patch of faulting which had to be dealt with.

On No.1.S.Holly Lane, the fault was still in evidence and this reduced height on the bottom section of the face with sandstone rolls. This, together with the pressing for a cleaner product, took longer to shear and resulted in loss of production.

Mr. Brereton said that results had certainly been comparatively better since the changeover from treble-shifting to double-shifting.

The Chairman closed the discussion on output by giving descriptions of the work done by development teams.

121/70 WELFARE:

(a) Russell Hotel:

3 applications had been received to visit the Russell Hotel and these were approved.

(b) Sports & Welfare:

Mr. Mounfield said that the Balance Sheet had been submitted to the auditors and approved. Copies of this had been circulated to the Trustees, Chairman and Secretary of the Committee and a request made that an Annual General Meeting be arranged.

122/70 CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from the Coal Industry National Consultative Council dated 24th April, 1970, was issued to the members.

123/70 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Mr. Mounfield proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and the date of the next meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 9th May, 1970.

The meeting closed at 4.55.p.m.

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