

PRIME MINISTER

LESSONS OF THE 1984-85 MINERS STRIKE

Ministers have been asked to endorse the follow up action on endurance, law and order and on other matters such as supplementary benefit and public presentation. We already envisage a meeting of a small group of Ministers to discuss endurance once Sir Walter Marshall's report on what CEGB can achieve is available. You may also want to have a meeting with a separate group of Ministers to ensure that the recommendations on law and order are vigorously pursued.

The report is extremely interesting, though it tends to present the strike as a uni-directional struggle in which the Government gradually overpowered the miners. It does not convey the fluctuating fortunes and how near, on occasions, the Government came to disaster. It does not, for example, bring out low points such as the wait for the result of the Notts miners' ballot, the first and second dock strikes, the moments when it appeared that NCB had conceded too much in negotiations, and the NACODS vote. The outcome did not become inevitable until the return to work picked up again in the New Year.

The key point was possibly right at the start on Wednesday 14 March when, by chance, Mr. MacGregor came to see you to discuss Euroroute, and reported that miners who wanted to get to work in Nottingham were being prevented by violent picketing. At the meeting which immediately followed you galvanised the Home Secretary, who in turn galvanised the police into keeping the entrances to the pits open. This led immediately to the activation of ACPO. If that first battle had been lost, the rest would have been academic.

It is clear, however, that the Government under-estimated the time for which miners could be kept out, even on limited supplementary benefit, by a combination of union solidarity and intimidation.

AT  
Andrew - the report  
is too narrow  
too little insight - see p. 11  
not

24 May 1985

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF MAIN EVENTS OF MINERS' STRIKE 1984-85March 1984

- Announcement of Cortonwood (1st) and Bullcliffe Wood (2nd) closures;
- Coal industry national consultative committee (6th) at which output reduction put to unions by NCB;
- NUM NEC meeting (8th) sanctioned strike on area by area basis;
- Strikes began 12th;
- NCB obtaining High Court injunction against Yorkshire NUM to prevent use of flying pickets (14th) but NCB subsequently (19th) granted adjournment of contempt motion;
- Kent NUM sought (20th) injunction to prevent police stopping flying pickets moving through Dartford Tunnel; the application was unsuccessful;
- Lancashire Area NUM called one week strike (23rd) to support case for a national strike ballot but decided (30th) on a return to work on 2 April;
- 25% oil burn enhancement and selected coal stock protection implemented by CEGB on 28th.

April 1984

- 50% oil burn and further stock protection implemented by CEGB (4th) followed by 75% (11th), maximum available (18th) and full endurance regime (26th);
- NUM NEC ruled out immediate ballot (12th);
- NUM special delegate conference (19th) changed rule 43 to require only simple ballot majority to authorise strike.

May 1984

- BSC announced introduction of emergency measures to bring extra coal into Ravenscraig (1st) followed (11th) by agreement between mining, steel and rail unions to provide sufficient coal;
- NUM NEC (11th) cancelled annual NUM conference and announced intention of lobbying foreign embassies and stopping coal imports;

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- Scargill stated (14th) his aim to bring down the Tory Government. Mr Orme met Scargill (16th) to attempt mediation and subsequently Mr Orme met Mr MacGregor (21st);
- 18 working miners at two Notts pits obtained injunction to prevent NUM leadership declaring industrial action in Notts as official (18th);
- Lancs executive of NUM suspended union membership of working miners in area (21st);
- First scheduled NCB/NUM meeting cancelled (21st) when NUM made withdrawal of pit closure programme a pre-condition - but held on 23rd at NCB HQ with no productive outcome. NCB offered NUM talks on Plan for Coal;
- Mass pickets (23rd and 30th) at BSC's Orgreave coke plant;
- Second NCB/NUM meeting Yorkshire (31st) - Mr MacGregor not present.

June 1984

- Heavey picketing continued at Orgreave (4000 on 5th);
- Men returned to work for first time at Bilston Glen Colliery (5th) and some coal produced (20th);
- Third NCB/NUM meeting Yorkshire (8th) - agreement to further talks;
- Fourth NCB/NUM meeting Rotherham (13th) - acrimonious - both sides presented plans for future of industry;
- NUM NEC confirmed (14th) that there would be no national ballot;
- Overload implemented (19th) at Grain and Littlebrook power stations;
- Miners began (20th) blockade of five main BSC plants but steelworkers reject (21st) NUM demands that they cease production;
- High Court ruled (26th) that Lancs NUM could not call official strike without a ballot;
- 43 Kent miners dismissed (27th) for earlier occupation of Tilmanstone Colliery.

July 1984

- Oil overburn implemented at Tilbury and Blyth Power Stations (and);
- TUC Steel Committee rejected (2nd) NUM request for halt to steel production;

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- Fifth NCB/NUM meeting (4th/5th) in London lasted 9 hours, sixth meeting (9th) in London saw both sides tabling draft agreements and disagreement over use of word "beneficial" by NCB in relation to criteria for closing pits; seventh meeting (18th) in London broke down after 13 hours;
- First 1984 dock strike began (10th) and ended 21st);
- NUM extraordinary delegate conference Sheffield (11th) defied High Court ruling by agreement to new rule 51 giving union leadership increased powers to expel, suspend or discipline members;
- Media coverage (week ending 27th) of "Silver Birch" and back to work movement;
- South Wales NUM fined (30th) £50,000 for contempt.

August 1984

- CEGB (1st) operated gas turbines over peak load period at six power stations and oil overburn at West Burton, Cottam and Rugeley B followed by use of gas (15th) for main generation at Hams Hall power station and oil overburn (20th) at Ironbridge and Willington power stations;
- NCB agreed (3rd) to leave their final offer to NUM on table;
- NUM special delegate conference endorsed (10th) their leaders rejection of NCB final offer and agreed to new rule 51;
- Miners ballot (17th) at Haig Colliery 106 to 37 not to join strike and 3 miners at Lea Hall Colliery obtained High Court order reinstating them as branch officials;
- Scargill/MacGregor live debate (22nd) on Channel 4 TV;
- TWGU National Docks Delegate Conference voted (24th) for immediate dock strike over berthing of Ostia at Hunterston;
- All four production faces at Polkemmet Colliery lost (27th/28th) from flooding following withdrawal of safety cover as NUM reaction to some miners returning to work;
- NUM and TUC officials pre Congress meeting (30th)

September 1984

- TUC Congress pledged "total support" for NUM (3rd). On same day working miners at Easington Colliery granted injunction to prevent disciplinary action against them by NUM;
- Further series of NCB/NUM talks began in Edinburgh (9th) continued in Selby and Doncaster (10th and 12th) and broke down (14th) without agreement after a 5 hour meeting in London;
- NACODS NEC agreed (12th) to ballot their members about strike action on cutback in capacity, attitude to conciliation procedures and guidelines for NACODS members crossing NUM picket lines. Result declared (28th) showed 82.5% in favour of strike;
- Second dock strike ended (18th) having been largely ineffective;
- TUC agreed (21st) to sponsor fund raising campaign for NUM and met Mr MacGregor (24th) to receive briefing on latest NCB/NUM talks;
- ACAS officials made first contact (24th) with both sides;
- Oil overburn implemented (25th) at Didcot Power Station;
- TGWU Delegate Conference agreed (26th) to ballot members at opencast sites on moving opencast coal. On same day NACODS officials met NCB;
- High Court ruled (28th) in response to cases brought by working miners - that strike in North Derbyshire and Yorkshire was unlawful.

October 1984

- Labour Party Conference (1st) passed motions giving full backing to strike and condemning organised police violence;
- NCB/NACODS meetings (1st and 2nd) - in light of NACODS ballot - resulted in suggestion of independent arbitrator on pit closures. Idea subsequently discussed between NACODS/ACAS (1st); BACM/ACAS (5th) - at which BACM suggested a new Plan for Coal should be prepared; NUM/ACAS (6th and 7th) and NCB/ACAS (8th);
- High Court imposed (10th) £200,000 fine on NUM for contempt;
- NUM and NCB began discussions with ACAS (11th) (NACODS also in Building) which resulted in an ACAS proposal (12th) on third party arbitration which was accepted by the NCB but rejected (15th) by NUM and NACODS, after which the talks ended;

- NUM NEC reaffirmed (16th) continuation of strike and announced weekly meetings with TUC to coordinate TUC support policy. On same day NACODS announced strike action would begin on 25 October;
- Michael Eaton appointed as NCB spokesman (20th/21st);
- TGWU announced (22nd) result of ballot - no opencast coal would be moved;
- NCB/NACODS talks resumed (23rd) at ACAS with eventual TUC and NUM participation - following agreement NCB/NACODS the NACODS strike was called off (24th). Further NCB/NUM talks at ACAS for 10 hours (25th) and 10 more hours (31st) resulted in no progress;
- High Court ordered sequestration of NUM assets (25th) following non payment of £200,000 fine;
- The Libyan connection (NUM Chief Executive and Col Gaddafi) announced (28th) in Sunday Times.

November 1984

- NUM NEC (1st) called special delegate conference on 5th which voted to continue the strike and hold five rallies (Edinburgh (6th) Sheffield (8th) Newcastle (11th) South Wales (13th) Birmingham (14th)); also reaffirmed no national ballot and no change in composition of union negotiating team;
- £2.7 million NUM funds in Ireland frozen (4th) by Dublin High Court;
- BACM met NCB (5th). On same day lighting up oil delivered for first time to Drax, Eggborough and Fiddlers Ferry Power Stations and new surge back to work began;
- Renewed picket line violence (12th) in Yorkshire;
- TUC General Secretary "shouted down" during South Wales rally (13th);
- £4.63 million of NUM funds in Luxembourg frozen by local courts (14th);
- NUM NEC announce (15th) new publicity campaign in mining communities; on same day Scargill seeks further support at Russian Embassy; lighting up oil delivered to Aberthaw power station;
- 5032 miners returned to work in week ending 16th;
- North Wales NUM withdrew support for strike (20th) in view of lack of strikers in area. On same day coal deliveries restarted to Dinsdale and Brighton Power Stations;

- 5959 miners returned to work in week ending 23rd;
- McGahey and Heathfield met NCB (27th) in apparent attempt to restart talks;
- NUM successful appeal (29th) against freezing of assets in Luxembourg;
- 2159 miners returned to work in week ending 30th.

December 1984

- NUM special delegate conference (3rd) agreed to refuse cooperation with High Court appointed receiver and not to purge union's contempt. Also on 3rd a day long meeting of TUC/NUM Liaison Group took place;
- 668 miners returned to work in week ending 7th;
- Coal deliveries to Uskmouth Power Station re-established (11th) and coal produced in Yorkshire Area (12th) for first time since strike began;
- S of S Energy met TUC coal liaison team (14th); subsequently TUC Liaison Committee decided (17th) to take no further action before the New Year;
- 521 miners returned to work in week ending 14th;
- Nottinghamshire Area NUM agreed (20th) rule change to end their subordination to the NUM NEC from 1 January 1985;
- 174 miners returned to work in week ending 21st;
- S of S Energy announced (29th) there would be no power cuts resulting from the NUM strike during 1985.

January 1985

- "Heating" at Seafield Colliery (Scotland) (3rd);
- 712 miners returned to work in week ending 4th;
- NUM NEC decided (10th) to exclude Notts Area unless rule change agreed on 20 December was reconsidered (subject to vote of special delegate conference) and to enlarge negotiating team to include whole NEC;
- 20 South Wales miners began (11th) attempts to get injunction limiting number of pickets at certain collieries (injunction eventually granted on 11 February);
- 2365 miners returned to work in week ending 11th;

- Notts NUM Area Executive (12th) suspended Area General Secretary from all official posts;
- S Derbyshire and Leicestershire NUM Area Executives indicated (14th) support for Notts Area 20 December rule change;
- NACODS walk out (15th) from Coal Industry National Consultative Committee (in protest against NCB attitude towards negotiating with NUM) and later (16th) decide to boycott future talks with NCB at national level until NCB resumed negotiations with NUM and to ballot their members on the NCBs 5.2% pay offer;
- CEBG met (17th) highest ever peak demand for electricity (46.215 MW) and highest ever CEBG oil burn 561000 tonnes in week ending 20th;
- 2870 miners returned to work in week ending 18th;
- In a series of meetings Messrs McGahey and Heathfield (NUM) discussed informally (22nd) with Mr Ned Smith (NCB) the resumption of negotiations; Later that day the NUM met the TUC Monitoring Committee; S of S for Energy met the British Council of Churches (23rd) and Welsh Council of Churches (24th); S of S for Scotland met Scottish TUC leaders (25th); NUM NEC expressed dissatisfaction (24th) with NCB insistence on a written commitment to discuss uneconomic capacity prior to resumption of negotiations; Mr Heathfield met Mr Spanton (NCB) (29th) after which Heathfield reported to NUM NEC and TUC;
- 3386 miners returned to work in week ending 25th;
- Reduction of oil burn began (28th) at Didcot Power Station;
- NUM NEC agreed (30th) not to provide written undertaking requested by NCB - the latter announced there was no basis for resuming discussions; the same day the receiver paid the NUMs £200,000 fine from recovered NUM funds;
- TUC General Secretary reported (31st) to NUM NEC on his attempts to get negotiations restarted.

February 1985

- 1596 miners returned to work in week ending 1st;
- NCB decided (1st) still no basis for resuming negotiations; same day NUM approached ACAS and NACODS NEC considered position of their October 1984 agreement with NCB;



- Only productive coal face at Frances Colliery (Scotland) lost (3rd) due to severe heating;
- In further meetings NUM and NACODS leaders met ACAS separately, NUM met the TUC and NACODS the NCB - all on 4th followed (7th) by a joint NUM NEC/NACODS meeting and call for NCB to resume negotiations without preconditions. Meanwhile Chairman ACAS had informed NCB (5th) of results of talks on 4th and NACODS, following their ballot, accepted NCB pay offer for 1984/85;
- 3775 miners returned to work in week ending 8th; the same week BR moved 240 coal trains - the highest total since Summer 1984;
- Injunction granted (12th) in High Court restricting number of pickets to 6 at 11 Yorkshire collieries;
- In a further series of meetings S of S for Energy met NACODS (13th); General Secretary TUC met Chairman NCB (14th) and the following day at a TUC.NUM/NACODS meeting the two unions rejected proposals for a resumption of negotiations; on 16th and 17th NUM met ACAS, NUM and NACODS executives spent weekend at TUC HQ, General Secretary TUC met Deputy Chairman NCB and reported back to NUM/NACODS without progress being made; TUC met the Prime Minister (19th); within the next 36 hours S of S Energy met TUC, NCB met TUC, NUM NEC met with General Secretary TUC but the NUM rejection of all proposals was endorsed (21st) at an NUM special delegate conference in London;
- 2175 miners returned to work in week ending 15th and 2261 in the week ending 22nd;
- South Derbyshire NUM executive voted (18th) in favour of rule changes to give area greater autonomy and Notts Area NUM Council voted (25th) to end overtime ban;
- In period 25 February to 1 March 9383 miners returned to work - the 50% back at work total was achieved on 27th and 51% on 28th;
- NUM NEC met (28th) and called Special Delegate Conference for 3 March to discuss a return to work without an agreement.

March 1985

- NUM Special Delegate Conference decided (3rd) on end to strike and a mass return to work on 5th. Decision subsequently endorsed by all areas except

Scotland and Kent, who decided to carry on strike until NCB declared a general amnesty for miners dismissed during the strike. NCB and S of S for Energy stated there would be no general amnesty;

Return to work on 5th saw some 60000 returning - meaning 85% of NUM no longer on strike;

In the period 6-12 March all remaining strikers returned to work, Scottish Area voted (6th) to return on 7th and Kent voted (9th) to return on 11th;

- NUM NEC decided (7th) to continue overtime ban, press for a general amnesty and maintain position on pit closures.

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CASES	DATES OF KEY HEARINGS	ORDERS OF COURT	UNION RESPONSE TO COURT ORDERS (IF KNOWN)
1 LANCASHIRE AREA (Agecroft)	23 MAY	Injunction prohibiting 5 year suspensions from Area union for crossing picket lines and withholding union benefits from non-strikers.	
2 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AREA (Pye Hill and Sherwood)	25 MAY	Injunctions preventing Area union from instructing miners to join the strike and from threatening disciplinary action against those working normally	
3 DERBYSHIRE AREA (Shirebrook and Williamthorpe)	4 JUNE	Injunction ordering Area union not to discipline working miners.	Union gave undertakings not to discipline miners for crossing picket lines.
Taylor, Roberts and Phillips	27 SEPTEMBER	Judge declared strike in Area unlawful and granted permanent injunction against disciplinary action.	
	9 NOVEMBER	Permanent injunction against the further use of union funds to support action previously declared unlawful and prohibiting the removal of accounting records until inspected by plaintiffs.	Three senior officials gave an undertaking to the Court not to use Area funds to support the strike and to provide accounting records and details of all future transactions to the plaintiffs' lawyers.
4 NORTH WALES (Point of Ayr)  McKay	13 JUNE	Injunction ordering Area union not to discipline working miners, not to use branch funds for the strike or to describe the strike as official.	Pickets were withdrawn, as a result of the injunctions, enabling 480 of the 620 miners to return to work.
5 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 17 members of Area Council	9 JULY	Injunction requiring Area union to hold an immediate Area Council meeting to consider how votes should be cast at special delegate conference on 11 July on proposed new disciplinary rule.	Area Council meeting held: delegates voted against the rule change.
	10 JULY	Injunction prohibiting all delegates at the special delegate conference from discussing the proposed disciplinary rule.	Although the new rule was passed at the delegate conference, the 10 July injunction had the effect of making action under it unlawful. This led the union to pass a further resolution endorsing the new rule at a special delegate conference held in August.
6 MIDLANDS (Lea Hall and Rugeley)	31 JULY	Injunction prohibiting Area union from treating the strike in the Area as official.	

CASES	DATES OF KEY HEARINGS	ORDERS OF COURT	UNION RESPONSE TO COURT ORDERS (IF KNOWN)
7 DURHAM (Crookhall private coal company)	JULY	Injunction granted to nine miners banning their expulsion from the Area union for continuing to work.	
	11 JANUARY	Following expulsion from union, further injunction granted at an ex-parte hearing.	
	21 FEBRUARY	The Area union applied for a discharge of the injunction on the grounds that there was a lawful strike in the Durham area and that the miners had crossed picket lines in breach of union rules.	Area union responded by seeking to have the injunction discharged.
	5 MARCH	Mr Justice Walton directed that the injunction should remain in force until a full trial was held (before the end of July).	
8 DURHAM (Easington) Wilkinson	3 SEPTEMBER	Injunction restraining Area union from taking disciplinary measures against Wilkinson or from intimidating him. Union also ordered to carry out peaceful picketing only and not to beset his place of work or house.	Union stated publicly that it would comply with injunction but that peaceful picketing would continue. Picketing numbers reduced to around 6 on most days (though with a reversion to mass picketing on some occasions).
	12 OCTOBER	Union leaders ordered to take steps "within their power" to prevent other people from organising or causing any intimidation towards Wilkinson or unlawful picketing or besetting his place of work or home.	
9 SCOTLAND (Bilston) Fettes, Pupkis and McConnell	6 NOVEMBER	Judge refused to grant interim injunction requiring Area union to withdraw strike instructions until national ballot held.	
10 NATIONAL UNION (Manton) Taylor and Foulstone	25 SEPTEMBER	Injunction ordering National union not to describe the strike as official and giving temporary protection against disciplinary action until full trial.	Refusal to comply with orders of the court but was represented in court in proceedings following sequestration. Assets remain sequestered.
	10 OCTOBER	Fine of £200,000 imposed on the national NUM and £1,000 on Mr Scargill for contempt.	
	25 OCTOBER	Writ of sequestration issued and Price Waterhouse appointed as sequestrators.	

CASES	DATES OF KEY HEARINGS	ORDERS OF COURT	URTOR RESPONSE TO COURT ORDERS (IF KNOWN)
	9 NOVEMBER	The sequestrators reported to the court that £2.7m had been frozen on the orders of a Dublin judge.	
	28 NOVEMBER	The sequestrators reported to court that they had traced and temporarily frozen £4,630,000 in Luxembourg; and £503,000 in Switzerland.	
	31 JANUARY	Receiver gained possession of £4.9m from Nobis Finanz.	
	12 FEBRUARY	Judgment was reserved in the High Court in Dublin on who was entitled to the £2.7 million deposited in a Dublin bank.	
	3 APRIL	Some £217,000 released to the receiver by a Swiss Court.	
11 NATIONAL UNION (Group of 16 working miners)	16 NOVEMBER	Preliminary hearing of action to make NUM executive members personally liable for £200,000 fine.	First occasion on which the National Union acknowledged the courts by entering a defence.
	17 JANUARY	The case was adjourned with the agreement of the plaintiffs until after the election of the national executive committee.	Four moderate members of the Executive swore affidavits pledging to observe the law and uphold court orders.
12 NATIONAL UNION (Group of 16 working miners) Clarke and others	30 NOVEMBER	A temporary order appointing a receiver was granted to the working miners pending a full trial.	The NUM failed to reverse the initial order on appeal because it refused to give an undertaking that it would abide by past and future orders of the court. On 3 December a Special Delegate Conference voted to reject payment of the fine, to oppose purging its contempt, and to ban co-operation with the sequestrators or receiver.
	7 DECEMBER	Permanent orders granted removing Scargill, McGahey and Heathfield as trustees and appointing a receiver to hold the union's property.	
13 COKEMEN'S GROUP (Barnsley) Watson	4 DECEMBER	Barnsley Section ordered to allow Watson to inspect its minute books.	
14 POWER GROUP (Silverdale and Woolstanton) Carr and Hayes	12 DECEMBER	The Power Group agreed to hold new election for Group's NEC representative to settle the action.	
	14 DECEMBER	Mr Justice Scott informed that final details had been drawn up for the settlement of the action, and that fresh elections would be held before January 15.	Union agreed to hold fresh elections

CASES	DATES OF KEY HEARINGS	ORDERS OF COURT	UNION RESPONSE TO COURT ORDERS (IF KNOWN)
15 YORKSHIRE (Manton Colliery) Taylor and Poulstone	13 DECEMBER	Proceedings to displace the trustees of the Area union and replace them with a receiver were adjourned.	
16 NATIONAL UNION Lynk and Prendergast	4 FEBRUARY	Libel writ issued against the national NUM leadership over a pamphlet issued the previous week throughout the coal field.	
17 SOUTH WALES (Cynheidre) Thomas	11 FEBRUARY	Injunctions granted limiting the number of pickets at 5 pits to 6 only and restraining the union from organising picketing other than to peacefully persuade.	Area executive decided to comply with the injunctions and not to appeal.
	22 MARCH	Injunctions lifted.	
18 YORKSHIRE Group of working miners led by Mr W Sharp	12 FEBRUARY	Injunctions granted limiting the number of pickets at 11 pits to 6 and restraining the union from organising picketing other than to peacefully persuade.	Area executive decided to comply with injunctions and not to appeal.
	24 APRIL	Injunctions lifted.	

## II ACTIONS BY EMPLOYERS UNDER EMPLOYMENT ACTS 1980 AND 1982

SES	DATES OF KEY HEARINGS	ORDERS OF COURT	UNION RESPONSE TO COURT ORDERS (IF KNOWN)
1 NCB v NUM (Yorkshire)	14 MARCH	Injunction ordering Yorkshire Area to withdraw instructions for secondary picketing and to refrain from financing or otherwise encouraging unlawful picketing.	None.
	19 MARCH	NCB granted an indefinite adjournment of its application for contempt proceedings.	
2 WIGHT CONTRACTORS v NUM (S. Wales)		Injunction ordering S. Wales Area to withdraw pickets from its site	
3 R & G READ v NUM (S. Wales)	17 APRIL	Injunction restraining union from instructing or encouraging members to stop, approach or interfere with the free passage of the plaintiffs' vehicles or to abuse or threaten the drivers.	
	20 JULY	The S. Wales Area fined £50,000 for contempt and their funds sequestered for failure to pay the pay.	Picketing reduced to token proportions. In discharging the sequestration order the judge noted that the union had obeyed the orders of the court.
	12 MARCH	Sequestration order discharged	
4 R & G READ v TGWU	2 NOVEMBER	Injunction ordering union not to "encourage or instruct" its members to refuse to unload or weigh the companies' vehicles (following "sympathetic" blacking action at Cardiff docks).	Subsequent press reports indicated that the injunction was to be withdrawn following an undisclosed peace formula worked out between the two sides
5 H.J. BANKS & CO v NUM (Durham)	26 OCTOBER	Interim injunction ordering union to withdraw instructions to picket H J Banks' open-cast mine.	
	12 NOVEMBER	NUM and its Durham area ordered to call off pickets outside 5 open cast mining sites. Both unions restrained until full trial from procuring by the attendance of pickets at the sites, breaches of commercial contracts between the companies and their customers for the supply of coal.	

	DATES OF KEY HEARINGS	ORDERS OF COURT	UNION RESPONSE TO COURT ORDERS (IF KNOWN)	
6	P T EVERARD & SONS v National Union of Seamen	14 JANUARY	Injunction granted for seven days restraining NUS from inducing or attempting to induce crews of ships belonging to the plaintiff to break their contracts of employment.	Members of the crews had refused to sail in line with official union instructions not to handle coal during the strike but following the granting of the injunction the crew voted to sail.
7	STEPHENSON CLARKE SHIPPING V National Union of Seamen	18 FEBRUARY	Injunction granted ordering the NUS to withdraw any instruction or advice given to the crew of the Pulborough not to sail or carry out their duties.	The General Secretary of the NUS withdrew his instruction to continue the action. The seamen initially voted to continue the action on an unofficial basis but the blockade was lifted on 28 February.
8	R & G READ V NUM (S.WALES)	5 MARCH	Writs issued against Area union seeking injunctions banning union members from blacking companies' lorries in retaliation for their activities during the strike.	