Swindon: Wednesday 10th December: 20 pickets from London joined the Picket line at Lithorex Ltd in Swindon to bolster the forces of SOGAT strikers, who are being scabbed on by Management and NGA Machine Minders. The pickets from Swindon have been very active in the Wapping dispute, with both money and delegations to Wapping. Their support banner has become one of the fixtures of Saturday Night Demonstrations. We stayed for the shift change. Some of the scabs delayed their departure, some left at high speed intending to knock down pickets. One of the NGA Minders refused to work his machine without Trade Union Labour and was promptly sacked. We will be noting the progress of this dispute and the wishes of the pickets in Swindon.

Saturday 13th December: Wapping: A women's march (the 12th strike march to Wapping) of around 600 took place from Butcher Row, then along the Highway to Sutton Street. Here it met up with a print support group organised march of about 600 (the 12th) which had started at Aldgate East tube. Then both south to the Highway and rallying in front of the scab plant. Meanwhile a march (the 12th) of about 2,500 took place from Tower Hill to the scab plant. Later, pickets moved about the area. At Butcher Row, cops were seen moving three arrested pickets from one van to another. On one side of the prisoner was a uniformed strikebreaker, on the other plainclothes. Meanwhile, when the uniformed strikebreakers cleared striking workers and supporters from the Highway in front of the plant, some arrests were made. As things cooled down, a mass of pickets did the "Laughing Policeman" for a group of them at the rear of Wellesloe.

More writers welcomed.

Sunday 14 December: Wapping: Pickets kept up the pressure on the fortress by once again taking the gate at 3.00 in the morning. It was hard to see how many pickets were involved, but the number canvassed was 300 and there were still some onlookers in Wellesloe Square. Pickets seemed to be from all Unions involved and showed a maturity of organisation that comes from struggle. The gate was held for about an hour, at the busiest time for a Newspaper. By the time the uniformed strikebreakers had got their act together, it was 4.00am. Being then in the majority, they pushed the pickets up Virginia Street. Six pickets were arrested, even though it had been a totally peaceful demonstration. After the frame-up of Shiffield, Hicks and Savage it appears that pushing a Policeman who is doing his best to push you into the gutter now ranks as attempted murder. Steven Savage has now been released.

Bemrose: Pickets will have noted that the majority of Bemrose workers will have something in common with us in the not too distant future. They will be living like us, in Jolly Giro Land. This will come as no surprise to Machine Branch Casual Pickets, who constantly told Bemrose workers that by doing the bidding of their employers, ie printing the supplements for the News International Titles, they were showing their own weakness and moving forward the day when they would be on the sharp end of the stick. Again, we make the point: there is only one reward from crawling to the Boss — a swift and sharp kick from them, because they know you are weak.

Chapels in Fleet Street still using Bemrose reels, printing adverts for TNT and the like, please note.

Letter: Those involved in the dispute may not know that the majority of workers involved in this dispute are Casual Workers. There are 3,000 Casual Workers in the Centra Branch, 340 Casual Workers in the London Machine Branch and many more in other SOGAT and NGA branches. We have lost work, and the jobs we could have reasonably expected in the future. In many ways, we are in exactly the same position as the London Wholesale, we have stood with the strikers and can only rely on the strikers to protect our interests.

Those interests would include the retention of the Casual System of working, that is to say that members do not cover sickness and holidays, but call in Casuals to do this work. Anything less than this will mean that we have spent 10 months on the picket lines, many of our members have been arrested, some have been jailed, more have had their blood split on the streets of Wapping — all to no avail.

If there is a settlement without these conditions, I suppose we will have to continue the picket and then we'll have gone through one more experience. We'll know how the Kent Miners felt at the end of their strike.

Another letter: Pickets will be amused to note that our efforts are being read from as far away as the European Parliament, an institution whose principal purpose seems to be paying large salaries to those involved in its workings. As follows:

"I was very pleased to be able to take part in the printworkers' march to Wapping on Wednesday 26th November. It is essential that those privileged to represent working people clearly identify themselves with the struggles of working people. As always in such circumstances, the Miners' dispute, the 'Silent Night' dispute in my own constituency, and in your fight, I was struck by the comradeship, integrity and cheerfulness in the face of adversity shown by ordinary working
WAPPING STRIKER’S APPEAL - NOW IT’S GLASGOW’S TURN!

It is now 10 months since News International workers were locked out by their employer and were replaced by scabs recruited by the EEPTU.

During this time, the strikers have been battered by the Police, pilloried by the Press and have constantly been offered shady deals negotiated in secret by Union Officials.

They have resisted all these attempts to dissuade them from fighting for the basic issues of Trade Union recognition and jobs in Wapping. After 10 months we are more determined than ever that we will not back down to this sort of blackmail; we are fighting and we intend to go on.

THE ENEMY WITHIN

Since the start of the dispute, the Scab Titles of News International have been printed in Glasgow at Kinning Park. The jobs that are there are the jobs of Scottish Printworkers who are on the dole.

These jobs have been stolen by the Scabs. They are stealing out of your mouths. Further, in a city like Glasgow which has a Trade Union history stretching back over 100 years, it is inconceivable that the Scab Scandal could go unchallenged in the city.

It is the shame of this city that it could happen. John Maclean and the Red Clydesiders must be turning in their graves. This blot on the history of Glasgow can only be erased when the Scab Scandal is knocked back by traditional Printing Union Members with traditional recognition.

At Wapping, we like to think that we are part of the fight against this evil Government; we urge you to join us and wipe out the blot on the history of your city.

PEOPLE OFTEN ASK “Why do you support printers who are involved in a dispute 400 miles away?”. And the answer’s quite simple.

Firstly, of course, the dispute is much at Kinning Park as it is in Wapping. Although no one has actually been sacked from Kinning Park, the scabs inside are doing jobs which are printworkers’ jobs and, like their puppet master Murdoch, are pissing on what little union rights workers have.

Not only that, but they’re parading about Kinning Park quite openly and sneering at every one of us. Well, they have been until recently now they’re beginning to see that we’re not going to put up with scabs in Glasgow, and we’re not going to accept bastards like Murdoch throwing 6,000 people on the scrapheap.

So that’s the reason we support printworkers, and all workers involved in dispute with the bosses. We all know what it’s like to be bullied and harassed by the bosses -

Now it’s time to tell the bullies to f**k off.
Picket Report

We asked around for stories on what happened on Friday 28th November at Kinning Park, and this is what some people came up with:

* * * * *

The first two speakers were Gillespie and a Labour MP from Edinburgh (all the Labour MPs in Scotland had been invited, but only one bothered to show just as well as the Union officials and with the odd "Scrabble getting shouted at the end just to kill off we’re all being too smart!"

When we arrived, it looked pretty quiet. Apart from a fence with, there were severed pieces of paper-sellers like this, a lot of police hanging around and hoolaj-business. The police seemed to be more interested in the crowd than in the speakers.

However, things heated up when one of the strikers from Wapping got hold of a megaphone and started to broadcast his views. He suggested that they go on a "walk of shame" around the area, a tactic which he told the pickets not to use all the time in Wapping. After a few minutes, they all headed to a noisy procession, went round the Sun plant once, came back, and set off to roam the streets a couple of more times. This seemed a good deal better than hanging around and it certainly paid off later. As a big group of us were walking up Milpark Street, we heard a loud shout of the pickets at the gates in Middlesex Street and saw about four scabs ears come out of the plant and head west along Scotland Street. We gathered that the pickets have to turn north into Paisley Road West so we legged it down Milpark Street with the aim of getting them. We were managed to reach the vans as they came up Lismore Street. With plenty of rubble lying around some quick-thinking characters had thrown the right stuff at the windows and that the pickets were stuck at the end of the road as they were unable to open the gate. We then headed back quickly to the plant, from the buses and

Labour Party workers who'd showed up.

The two speakers were Gillespie and a Labour MP from Edinburgh (all the Labour MPs in Scotland hadn't been invited, but only one bothered to show—it was just as well as the Union officials and with the odd "Scrabble" getting shouted at the end just to kill off we're all being too smart!"

When we arrived, it looked pretty quiet. Apart from a fence with, there were severed pieces of paper-sellers like this, a lot of police hanging around and hoolaj-business. The police seemed to be more interested in the crowd than in the speakers.

However, things heated up when one of the strikers from Wapping got hold of a megaphone and started to broadcast his views. He suggested that they go on a "walk of shame" around the area, a tactic which he told the pickets not to use all the time in Wapping. After a few minutes, they all headed to a noisy procession, went round the Sun plant once, came back, and set off to roam the streets a couple of more times. This seemed a good deal better than hanging around and it certainly paid off later. As a big group of us were walking up Milpark Street, we heard a loud shout of the pickets at the gates in Middlesex Street and saw about four scabs ears come out of the plant and head west along Scotland Street. We gathered that the pickets have to turn north into Paisley Road West so we legged it down Milpark Street with the aim of getting them. We were managed to reach the vans as they came up Lismore Street. With plenty of rubble lying around some quick-thinking characters had thrown the right stuff at the windows and that the pickets were stuck at the end of the road as they were unable to open the gate. We then headed back quickly to the plant, from the buses and

The Spirit of Christmas Past

"I assert!"

I assure at least half the trade unions of Britain, that is to say, executives, secretaries, officers, etc., of these unions, of being in their duty to their members.

The seamen's strike, as an instance, has surely shown that the men of this union have made it abundantly clear that they want no part of these corrupt scavengers, who are only too happy with work when they have a national strike on their hands. Can it be that they have been living in luxury so long that they have become afraid of work?

This is the case. I am told to say, in many unions too often the worker is given the short end of the stick by both employers and union officials. Religion does not enter the public eye, for it seldom reaches national level.

The officials form into cliques and hand-pick their secretaries in other words, jobs for the boys. Some of you may think that I am hard by describing the state of our unions as corrupt. I do not think so, but rather that anyone who can sell their commodity into bondage or slavery and see them sold, has no morals or principles whatsoever.

R. Gillespie
(Comin' and Gettin' Young Socialists)

The above is reprinted from an old copy of the Frockay Youth paper Rally.

FOR SOCIALISTS who have remained true to their ideals all their lives it is easy to recognise the degradation of those who have started their political lives as champions of the working class, only to climb the political ladder in the Party or the Union, forgetting all their earlier principles as they rose to each rung.

Bob Gillespie states that the idea of "pickets" is no exception. He quotes a speech that was written in the early sixties when he was a member of the Young Socialists, and states that the present practice is a "shameful".

Gillespie's speech at the last picket was bashed with references to "provocateurs" and exhortations to clear the road and follow the instructions of the police. A clear indication of how far the trade unionists who represent but of the many socialists in the Labour Movement who have shown their solidarity with the strikers at Wapping.

MTT two of Govan's finest - Police Constables Raymond and Bobby, based at Orkney Street.

They're often to be seen around Govan and on the picket line - in plain clothes, wearing 'support the strikers' badges - ready, willing and able when a Union Boss points the finger at 'troublemakers'.

Next time you see these delegates from the Police Federation, give them a Big Hello!

* * * * *

Union leader Lamont entered the homeworkers' Hall at the end of the street with his immortal words, "Obey the Police at all times!" These were the same Govan police responsible for the mass arrests of strikers at Hunterston.

As one pickets said: "It's provacutis, not provocateurs, that are the bloody problem!"

* * * * *

Car enthusiasts might like to know what sort of cars Kinning Park scabs can afford to drive. This handy list of number plates should help identify them that much easier. Most scabs now own Audis - the cars immediately north of Paisley Road West.

MSC 661.KSF 118X A580 HBE 6GG 561X BDM 379W D902 QGD 15SW 690L BBG3 XYS 0VH 8992 C752 LDG AB84 TGG C162 XST

* * * * *

If you're got any news, comments, views, information etc. on what's going on at Kinning Park then we want to know and, with luck, publish what you've got to say. Write to us at: Box 14, 349 West Prince's Street, Glasgow G12.
Comp's Note: Sounds like a nauseating load of patronising drivel to me. What do you think?

A POEM

My Husband
For ten long months I've watched him go Out for another long night. 
In wind and rain and ice and snow To stand up for what is right.
He's always been a printer He knew his job, like you, But craftsmanship's not what HE wants - Now anyone will do.
My man is not a militant. He does not scream and shout, But because he's in the NGA That Dingo said - "You're out!"
"If you want a job at Wapping All you have to do, Is just tear up your Union card And join the Double EPTU."
No chance, said my husband, I'm a printer like the rest, So I'll stand here at the picket Till you realise we're the BEST.
Murdoch's a multi-millionaire, Filthy rich, it's true, He's played a game with all our lives To save a pound or two.
Now Maggie doesn't give a damn. She puts him on the head, She's even gagged the media So no-one really knows what's said.
Whatever comes out of this mess, Whatever you may do, To all who stand at Wapping's gates, Good Luck - to all of you.
Wife of Sun NGA/Machine.

Related greetings to a clerical strikers' newsletter, Hard Times.

Correction to Picket no. 36, which said that a list of mistakes in scab lists would be published in the present issue of Wapping Past. Nothing was published.

Tuesday 16th December Hangers Picket Line Roehampton. Over 50 printworkers amongst the 250 strong pickets. Usually 2 coppers on line - today 30+. Silent night present as well. Workers uniting where it matters on the picket gate. Abuse of scobs very vociferous especially when a white van (it’s the same the whole world over) carrying artificial limbs was beset. Even more coppers called to ensure a safe passage. Left after 4 hours with Hangers pickets uplifted after a very productive morning’s work.

Over 330 have been sacked. After about an hour at the gate we had a march round the plant. On the second lap we encountered a very nervous scab who was eventually helped away by scabs in blue.

Tuesday 9th December March to Brixton Prison. A large march estimated between 300 and 2000 took place from Peckham AUSW HQ lobby to jail where Hicks was held. He has now been moved out of London.

Income: 60p resident; 50p Saturday night: £9.35 NGA strikers; £1 Mirror NGA; £1 NUJ striker; £5 NGA machine; £5 Corby; £2 Wednesday night; £3.01 Bexleyheath unemployed collection; £2 Leicester.

Published by print union pickets and residents

Picket, c/o Housman's Books, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX