

Trouble brewing over Labour club's debts

WRITS have been issued over the debts left by Knowsley South Labour Club in Huyton.

The latest came last month from bottlers H. King and Company, who are owed over £2,000.

But this is only a small part of debts totalling over £15,000 which have come to light since the club closed last July.

In December, brewers Joshua Tetley — who were owed £32,000 on a mortgage — took the club trustees to court to take possession of the club premises in Hillside Crescent.

The trustees were County Councillor Bob Foulkes OBE, Arthur Smith (Harold Wilson's parliamentary agent) and a Mrs Carey.

Arthur Smith and Mrs Carey, who lives in Northwich, in fact took little interest in the club's affairs.

That was left to Bob Foulkes as treasurer. And, even more, to the secretary and manager of the club, Barney Glennon. Mr Glennon was until recently a Knowsley borough councillor.

The way the club was allowed to deteriorate, and one item in particular in the club's accounts, raise a number of questions about the management of Knowsley South Labour Club.

When a new £36,000 extension was added to the club in 1969, there were around 400 members. When it suddenly closed last year, there were

only about 80.

Nevertheless, the annual returns in January 1974, still showed bar sales of over £40,000. And they also show something else.

In a note at the foot of the accounts, the auditors reported "a cash difference of £3,153.77, the source of which is not known..."

Asked about this, Bob Foulkes, the treasurer, at first said he could not remember it. But reminded of the details, he recalled manager Barney Glennon explaining to the club committee that the money had been used to pay bills and records not kept.

"As far as I was concerned the money of the club was handled honestly," said Foulkes. "If it had

been otherwise I would have been the first to say so."

And he added that he had personally settled two writs totalling £334 out of his own pocket.

Whatever went wrong with the club, it is a real loss to the area. The nearest pub is a good bus-ride away. And local pensioners no longer have the club as a meeting place and for weekly lunches as they once did.

One member in particular will miss the club. She is a 63-year-old widow who lent her £100 savings when times were getting hard. She only got £50 back.

And, like a number of less deserving people, she will probably have to whistle for the rest of her money.



HAVING nothing special to do, Mr Neil Stoppard, 19 and unemployed, went to an inquest. As there were no other spectators he sat with the jury and soon found himself being sworn in. He was not spotted until the end of the day when an observant policeman discovered there was not enough money to pay all the jurors. But the High Peak Coroner, Mr Henry Hartley, dipped into his own pocket and paid Mr Stoppard 75p.

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MAKING his great escape, a prisoner at Parkhurst lowered himself from a carefully concealed tunnel by a rope made of sheets, underwear and dirty socks. The stink attracted an alsatian patrol dog that greeted him when he reached the ground.

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AN ALSATIAN also spoilt the plans of Mrs Helen Ashford and Mr Arthur Bevan of Glossow. The couple were having it off on one of the 30 available beds at the Howard Bedding Company. Then they heard Zak the police dog coming. Mrs Ashford dived under the bed and Mr Bevan hid himself on a shelf [sic], but Zak sniffed them out.

In court Mr Bevan was asked why they had hidden, as it was not illegal to have intercourse in the Howard Bedding Company. Mr Bevan replied "No, but it's embarrassing to be caught at it by an alsatian."

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RED FACES in Chester (even amongst the Tories) when both Conservative and Labour parties chose Mr Tony Chilton as a potential election candidate.

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THE HEADLINE was "Tom the gentleman didn't duck a question" — a no-nonsense Echo phone-in with Liverpool FC's "iron man" Tommy Smith.

The article opened in fine style: "Liverpool's fanatical fans fired hundreds of teasers at Tommy and he didn't sidestep one. But the question they all asked was: Which was the better team, the Liverpool of the sixties or that of the seventies?"

And the answer? — "Diplomatically, Tommy refused to commit himself."

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Captain Cadell — in charge of the navy's propaganda team.

Navy sends a boarding party to shipyard

THE ROYAL NAVY'S propaganda team has paid a visit to Cammell Laird's Birkenhead shipyard.

Around 30 senior shop stewards, as well as office staff and management, were treated to films and a lecture about the need to protect 'our' merchant fleet from the growing Russian naval threat.

The show was put on by the Navy's Presentation Team, which is apparently making a tour of shipyards.

Their message is basically that the navy is doing a vital job and that government spending on defence ought to be maintained.

In the lecture, defence spending was compared with the cost of other government services like the National Health. But the team leader, Captain J F Cadell was careful to refer every now and again to the "choices to be made through the ballot box."

Of course, few people in the audience at Cammell Laird would miss the underlying point that more money for the navy could mean much-needed work for them.

But, as a shop steward told us, the navy did not go on to talk about the real reason for the shortage of work. "The British ship-owners are all shouting 'Rule Britannia' but taking their ships to Taiwan for repair and building them in Japan."

Nor did the navy mention that if Vickers had taken the chance to build oil rigs instead of building Polaris submarines in the sixties, Barrow would now be a boom town.

● According to the navy's figures 9p of every pound spent by the government goes on defence — the same as on housing. At best, our defences will never be used and this money wasted. At worst, it will prove a good investment by blowing us all to kingdom come.

Police attack two youths in daylight

WILLY MOHAMED and Dave Osu are well qualified to tell the sort of stories about the police that most people would find hard to believe. They're half-caste teenagers, both with previous convictions, they've been unemployed and they live in Liverpool 8.

But their last tangle with the police shocked even them, and horrified those who witnessed it.

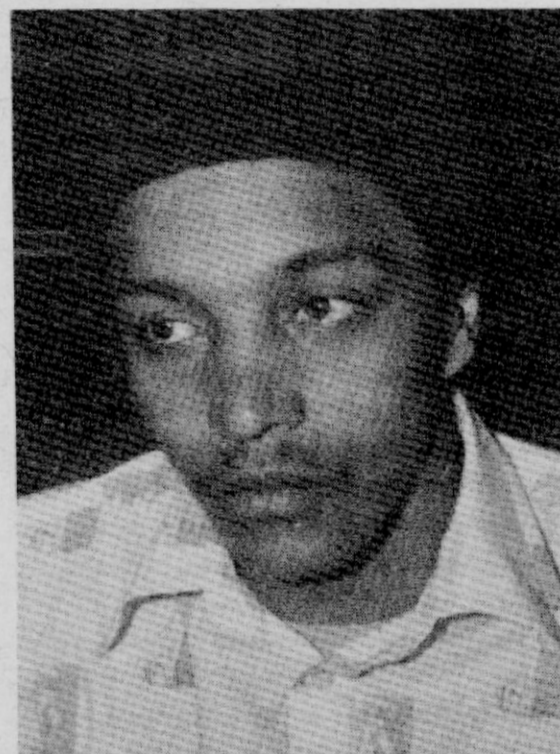
On Tuesday February 18, two policemen in a panda car stopped and searched George Carpenter, a workmate of Willy Mohamed and Dave Osu, as he was walking along Upper Warwick Street with 14-year-old Hilton Adams.

It was 7.50 a.m., he was on his way to work and the only thing the police found in his bag was his lunch.

George Carpenter had been stopped many times like this in the past. According to Hilton Adams he said to the police: "Why are you always pulling me up? You wouldn't if I was white." An argument developed and it was then that Willy Mohamed came across to see what was happening. "But he didn't say anything," said Hilton Adams.

When their bus arrived, George Carpenter and Hilton Adams ran to catch it. Willy Mohamed was about to follow them when he was called back by the police. Then they both jumped on him and beat him about the body and head with their truncheons.

Willy Mohamed is a big lad and managed to escape for a moment but the police caught him again, pinned him down on the pavement



Willy Mohamed

and continued to beat and kick him.

A neighbour, 60-year-old Mrs Bruce, who saw the incident from this point, thought at first somebody had fainted.

"I came out of my front door in my dressing gown," she said. Then she realised what was happening.

"What do you think you're doing? Leave him alone, I said.

"Fucking get in, one of the policemen shouted at me.

"You can't make me, I live here, I said.

"The kid was lying moaning on the pavement. One of them hit him across the face and said: Shut your fucking mouth."

Mrs Shawcross, who was watching from her bedroom window, described what happened when Dave

Osu arrived on the scene:

"Two policemen had one lad on the ground when this other kid came up. One of them said: Come on! — as if to challenge him. He turned to run and another panda car drove onto the pavement and cornered him against the railings. Three police got out and started to punch him."

By now there were three panda cars and a jeep on the scene.

Both lads were taken to Admiral Street police station and held in the cells until the early afternoon, when they were moved to Cheapside bridewell. When their solicitor asked for a doctor to be allowed in, permission was refused.

Willy Mohamed now faces two charges of assault on the police. Dave Osu is charged with obstructing the police in the course of their duty.

When he was released on bail, Willy Mohamed saw a doctor who sent him to hospital for stitches in his head and treatment of bruises to the body and face.

Newspapers do not usually write about legal cases before they come to court because of the risk of being punished for "Contempt of Court".

But lawyers, magistrates and judges have shown more than once that they are not concerned about the behaviour of the police. And so assaults by the police continue unchecked.

Anyone who doubts this should read our original report about the arrest of John Lannon in Kirkby (Free Press 20) and about the outcome of the case in Liverpool Crown Court (this issue, page 8).

Repair depots face axe

MERSEYSIDE'S worst landlord — Knowsley Council — intend to cut back even more on housing repairs.

Apart from deciding to sack 200 men from their Direct Works department, the council want to close three of their six maintenance depots.

If they get their way, the Westvale, Halewood and Huyton depots will all go.

And these areas will be 'served' from the three remaining depots in Southdene, Whiston and Longview

With little more than a hired fleet of light vans for transport, they will be served very badly.

On top of that, a strike against the sackings by the entire Direct Works department looks inevitable. The men are expecting a long dispute. But with no chance of other building work on Merseyside, they have little to lose.

Any strike will be a difficult one. Knowsley Council have not got the money for repairs — although they are not telling the tenants that.

A dispute will allow the council to blame the men for the backlog of repairs (now standing at 18,000). At the same time they will save money on wages and materials. Only the tenants will suffer.

But this raises some interesting possibilities. Some tenants were already discussing a partial rent strike over the recent binmen's dispute.

If more repairs are not done, other tenants might start asking what they are paying rent for.

Students at Kirkby College of Education recently demonstrated another possibility when they occupied the council offices to protest about education cuts.

And something else that worries the council is the thought of large numbers of tenants prosecuting them under the health laws for not maintaining their property.

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