

20 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT SCARGILL

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SINCE he was 15, Arthur Scargill has been a rebel—and a rabble-rouser. First it was the Young Communist League, then it was the Labour Party. But, most of all, the mighty National Union Of Mineworkers have been his stepping stones to power.

But how much do YOU know about the man now poised to unleash the biggest showdown between Government and unions since the General Strike of 1926?

He wants to get rid of the Queen

Did you know that:

1 Arthur might never have become a miner at all. After leaving school at 15 he tried to get a job at an engineering factory, but they wouldn't have him.

Later, when he went down the pit he was so unpopular with management and the union that he thought of joining the fire service.

2 His Scargill family name comes from an old Yorkshire word meaning "the place at the foot of a cliff."

3 Young Arthur failed the 11-plus at Worsborough Dale Junior School and left Whitecross Secondary Modern without any O-levels. Later he gained a degree in industrial relations and social history as a part-time student at Leeds University.

4 A life-long Marxist, he joined the Young Communist League almost by accident. He applied to the Labour Party but they failed to reply, so he wrote to the Daily Worker (now the Morning Star) and they sent round a membership form the same evening.

5 His father, Harold, now 78, is still a member of the Communist Party and supports the Russian line over Poland. His mother,

Alice, who died at 50, did not want Arthur to join the YCL, saying: "It'll only lead to trouble."

6 On Any Questions in 1977 he said: "The Queen should be phased out by the end of the century and replaced by an elected president of the republic."

7 His early efforts at public speaking were flops. At his first branch meeting he proposed that a delegate be sent to the World Youth Conference in Moscow—and most of the audience of miners stormed out in disgust. When he spoke at Speakers' Corner he was booed by an audience of five.

8 When he became a national leader of the Young Communist League he had tea with Khrushchev in Moscow—and ticked off the Soviet leader for being too critical of Stalin. "I told him that Stalin played a valuable part in World War Two," he said.

9 On another trip to Russia he complained constantly about the food, travel arrangements and rooms. "Why don't they let our wives go in the kitchens?" he said at the time. And after a holiday in Bulgaria he was so angry about over-charging and petty corruption he said: "If that's Communism, they can keep it!"

10 He met his wife, Anne, now 41, when he was 23 and she was a 19-year-old electrical winder. He knocked on her door while doing union business, and persuaded her to go for a spin on the pillion of his motorcycle. They married in 1961 and have a 22-year-old daughter, Margaret.

11 He was not a romantic in his courtship. On his second date with Anne he took her to watch him debate the Common Market against the Tories. Later, he taught her to drive a van.

12 Arthur, 46, has the job of £27,500-a-year president of the NUM for life—unless ten branches make a united call for a special conference to replace him. So we could be hearing from Arthur until 2002 AD, the year leading up to his retirement.

13 While miners down umpteen pints in his local, the Edmunds Arms, near Worsborough, Yorks, Arthur can make a half pint of lager last for hours.

14 While watching an anti-smoking film, he threw a packet of cigarettes away and has been a non-smoker ever since.

15 In his small bungalow, which he bought 18 years ago for £3,500, the central heating is coal-fired



Arthur Scargill . . . A Marxist hero in the hall of his home, a Jag at the door

and in the front hall there is a portrait of the Cuban Marxist hero Che Guevara.

16 He has never learned to swim, but is a yellow belt at judo. He played football for the Scouts as a boy, loves listening to brass bands, visiting old churches and walking his Airedale dog on the Yorkshire moors.

17 His favourite food is fish and chips but the family sometimes celebrate a victory by Leeds United, the soccer team that has been his lifelong love, with steak and chips. If Leeds lose, they come home, drop the curtains and mourn.

18 He refuses to appear in Who's Who and his telephone number is ex-directory. But he does give autographs and once wrote: "In all you do in life — think of others."

19 His predecessor, Joe Gormley, had a 3-litre car but Arthur demanded and got a 4.2 white Jaguar.

20 His favourite comedians are Benny Hill and the late Tommy Cooper.



Scargill and wife, Anne. He was short on romance.