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## EDITORIAL

Congratulations to all who fought for and won the 2003 pay agreement. It has been a long and arduous two years

So here we are, September 2004. Having narrowly avoided the second bout of National Strikes over pay (same agreement, different day!), we have our 7.7% pay backdated, a pay formula improved and intact, the Grey Book is nearing conclusion, all bar a few outstanding points. And the world is peaceful once again ... or is it?

Apparently, a new dawn is before us (again!) and our employers are looking for a 'positive, joint approach to industrial relations' and so are the FBU. I still just can't help but feel that we're speaking different languages ...

OUR future is Brigade Control Rooms ... the same numbers as present

THEIR future is regions ... and not many

OUR future is a first class fire service, serving the public

THEIRS is the shiny new IRMP cutting services to the quick

OURS is a pension scheme funded for the many

THEIRS is one frozen, solely for the few ...

And the list goes on

They've lost the 'smash' we need to make sure they don't win the 'grab'.

There is still much work to be done comrades, but together we can achieve our aims.

Unity is strength.

*Vicky Knight*

