

BEER LINES



10p

GREATER MANCHESTER

DECEMBER 1986/JANUARY 1987

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

NUMBER 11

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF BEER LINES

BEER LINES is one year old, and what a year it's been. We've seen headline articles on Brewery Takeovers, Free Houses, The Closure of Wilsons, Beer Festivals, Pub Licensing Hours and Additives in Beer. Spotlight features have included The Marble Arch, Manchester, The Howcroft, Bolton, Old Mill Brewery, The T.F.C. chain of pubs and home brew pub, The Sair Inn, Linthwaite.

Major articles about the dreaded yellow peril — lager, the marketing of a new real ale product — Websters Choice, why CAMRA run beer festivals, the brewing history of Manchester, the proposed closure (again) and cider have all appeared within our pages.

Branch trips to Greenall's brewery Wem, in Shropshire, Dublin and Bradford, plus one persons view of Vienna have all been reported.

For those who enjoy crawls many have been listed and reported on, Bradford, Failsworth, Rochdale, Radcliffe, Manchester, Heywood, Oldham and Glossop so far have appeared. With Bolton in this issue.

Added to this, news items, letters, competitions and awards all go to make the ten editions of BEER LINES to date.

None of this could have been possible without the countless CAMRA members who have worked long and hard writing and distributing the magazine, all the landlords who are kind enough to sell BEER LINES for us and mainly to **you**, the drinking public. Thank you to everyone and let's hope 1987 is even better.

PAULA CARDER



What does go into our beer?

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH MANCHESTER-UPDATE 9

Red faces kick off this month's round-up, for we must report that the Corner Shop, Rylands Street, Beswick has been selling handpumped Stones Best Bitter for some considerable time; apologies to Bass and to the Corner Shop for not including it on the original list.

In the City centre, the Harp and Shamrock has added handpumped Merrie Monk to its range, while in Chorlton-on-Medlock the Bowling Green has put Greenalls bitter onto handpumps (formerly electric) to join the Mild and Original. Elsewhere, though, the news is of beers being dropped. The Longsight in Belle Vue now has keg not real Black Country Bitter as a result of poor sales; the Sun in September at Burnage has dropped Tadcaster Bitter; and the Vale Cottage in Gorton has dropped Wilsons cask mild in favour of keg Special Mild — which, most regrettably, continues to be served through handpump.

RHYS P. JONES

LEES FLYING THE FLAG

DECEMBER 1st saw the introduction of a potent bottled beer by Middleton brewer's John Willie Lees. "Vintage Harvest Ale" weighs in with a whopping original gravity of 1100, and will only be available in half pint bottles. If successful Lees hope to make this an annual event — a special feature of the beer is that it is brewed from this year's crop of both barley and hops, with the usual water and yeast, no funny ingredients or additives here.

Brewery spokesman Charles Dennin told us that Lees had seen the massive penetration of beers into the U.K. from Europe, Australia and the U.S.A. which they regarded as an insult to British brewing so they came up with this special brew to 'fly the flag'.

Although brewery conditioned, it is envisaged that Vintage Harvest Ale will be a beer that keeps for some years. Only 500 dozen bottles have been produced, although it will be available to any pub that wants a stock of it.

JOHN CLARKE

T.F.C. ALESEARCHERS 1986

ONCE again the five pub chain of T.F.C. organised its annual 'Alesearchers' contest, the final of which was held in the Gamecock in Ashton-under-Lyne. Ten contestants, two from each pub assembled with some trepidation to face the tasting and identifying of four beers plus a selection of very mean questions gleaned from the 1987 Good Beer Guide plus in one case from the Financial Times.

For those who enjoy quiz type questions, especially about beer here are the ones the competitors had to cope with.

1. Name two of the harmful additives which can be found in real ale products, as mentioned in 1987 Good Beer Guide.
2. The 200 year old Castletown Brewery has just been taken over, who took it over and how much did they pay for it?
3. ABC bitter is brewed by which brewery and what big 7 company does it belong to?
4. Name two winter brews from Manchester which are bottled all year round, and what are their gravities?
5. Which is Britain's most northern brewery and where is it situated?
6. How many pubs does David Bruce have now, and which was his latest?
7. Two breweries in the Vaux chain are to have been closed down, what are they and when was/will be the closure date?
8. Which beer is the only one to win the Brewex competition twice?
9. What is the longest pub name in the world?
10. Who brews the following beers?
 - a) Celebration Ale
 - b) Wharfedale Ale
 - c) Hectors Bitter
 - d) XXXX Bitter
 - e) Hoxton Heavy
11. Which year did it become law that a price list had to be displayed prominently in every pub?
12. What are the nick names of the following pubs?
 - a) The Athletic Arms, Edinburgh.
 - b) The White Horse, Beverley, Humberside.
 - c) The All Nations, Madley, Shropshire.
 - d) The Old Swan, Netherton, Dudley.

David Boyle, a CAMRA member from Calderdale won the trophy for The Woodcock in Halifax.

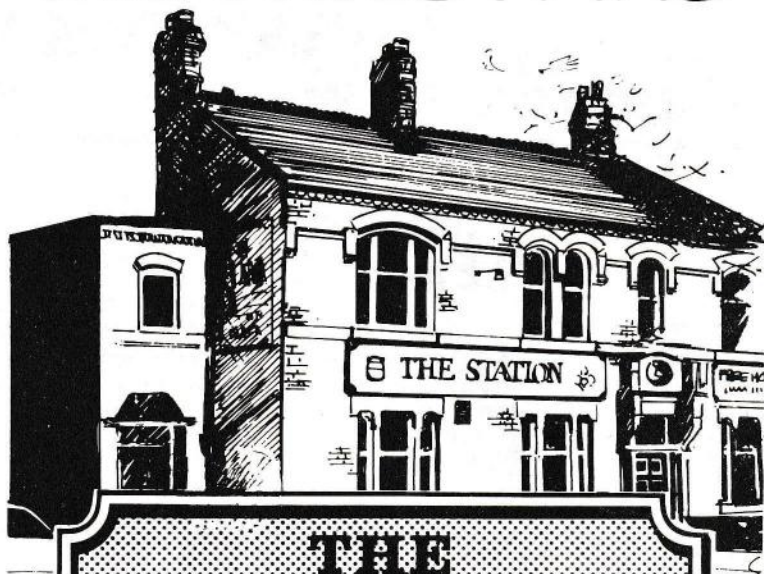
PAULA CARDER

- Answers:
1. Arsenic, Lead, Cadmium, Zinc, Sulphur Dioxide.
 2. Heron and Brearley, £4.4 billion
 3. Alesbury, Allied
 4. Moonraker 1074, Old Tom 1080.
 5. Bourne House, Isle of Lewis.
 6. The Falcon and Firk.
 7. Darleys Autumn 1986, Lorimers Spring 1987.
 8. Ruddles County.
 9. The Ferret and Firk in the balloon up the creek.
 10. a) Morrells or Liddingtons, b) Goose Eye, c) Hall and Woodhouse, d) Mansfield, e) Pittfield.
 11. 1979
 12. a) Gravediggers or Diggers, b) Nellies, c) Mrs. Lewis's d) Ma Pardoes.

PARTINGTON GREYHOUND

THE Greyhound, a Wilsons house in Partington has been undergoing complete internal refurbishment as what Pennine Hosts call a "blue collar" pub, with plenty of panelling and raised seating it can only be an improvement, but how long it will last is anybody's guess. By the time of publication the pub is scheduled to have reopened so, if anyone is prepared to venture in to find out, we will then know whether real ale will now be available.

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HYDES 4X

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BOLTON PUB CRAWL

THE Bolton branch of CAMRA are having a Christmas pub crawl on Thursday 11th December. The crawl takes in just 7 pubs so it shouldn't be too taxing for the casual imbiber. It starts at 7.30 p.m. at the Crofters Hotel (1) which is situated at the top end of St. Georges Road by the junction with Chorley Old Road and Chorley New Road. The Crofters is a large ex-Magees house built in 1905. The pub has been smartly decorated on the inside and is one of the few pubs that can boast revolving doors. Handpumped Greenall Whitley Mild and Bitter are on sale.

From there we move on to the Howcroft (2). Despite being visible from Topp Way the only access is via Vernon Street and Back Lane, but the Howcroft has always been well worth the effort. In 1985 the pub won the Pub Preservation Group Award for the Best Urban Refurbishment and it is in the 1987 Good Beer Guide, so you can enjoy the handpumped Walkers Mild, Best Bitter or Addlestons Cider in a traditional pub environment.

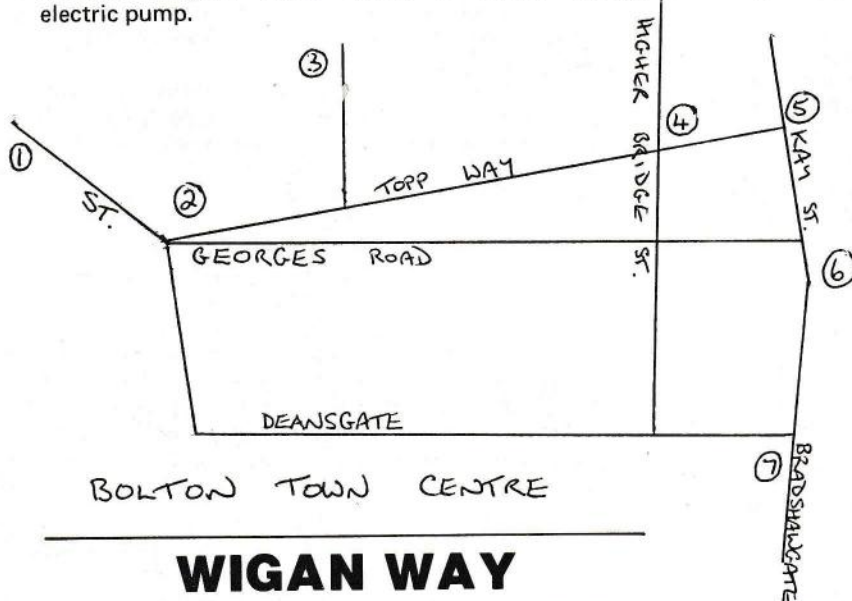
Next stop (at around 8.30 p.m. hopefully) is the Rock House (3) on Duke Street off Toff Way. This is the kind of pub which can only be described as a 'back street local', yet it has a very smart lounge and there is a nice homely feel to the place. The only cask beer is Wilson's Original Bitter which is served through electric pump.

Back to the main roads now for the Globe (4) on Higher Bridge Street. Again a basic local's pub that sells handpulled Wilsons Bitter. The Globe is to be spared the large ball and chain in the Toff Way extension unlike its two neighbours, the Peel (closed) and the Falcon (5) our next port of call, now in its final weeks as a pub (see elsewhere). Landlord Keith Partington has always kept a fine pint of Tetley Mild and Bitter which is served through handpump. The Falcon has appeared in past editions of the Good Beer Guide, and would have been in the forthcoming Greater Manchester Good Beer Guide had it still been open.

At the bottom of Kay Street is Manor Street and the Dog and Partridge (6) another 1987 Good Beer Guide pub. Handpulled Thwaites Mild and Bitter are on sale at this small but popular pub. Estimated time of arrival is 10.00 p.m. (very approximate).

From there we stagger up the hill to Bradshawgate where we find our last port of call, Maxims (7). (If miraculously we are in front of our schedule we could pop into the Prince William across the road for some Boddies). Maxims is very loud on a Thursday night thanks to the disco, but it does sell Vaux Samson Ale and Darleys Best Bitter on handpump plus a guest beer, and it is open until 1.00 a.m. on Thursdays. Come and join us.

Bolton Branch CAMRA



WIGAN WAY

THE Enfield Inn, Enfield Street, Pemberton re-opened recently and is now known as the New Enfield (an imaginative title indeed), the exterior of this pub is pretty much the same as before, but the interior is totally changed. All the walls have been knocked in, making for an open plan pub. The only cask conditioned beer is Wilsons bitter on handpump, the same as before. The Wilsons mild, and Websters Yorkshire bitter are keg. For those visiting the area, there are several pubs in Pemberton, Orrell and Highfield which warrant attention.

The Standard Mower, Chapel Street, Leigh re-opened recently, selling Bass 4X mild as before; but the Cask bitter has been dropped in favour of Stones Best Bitter. Both beers are now served by handpull and there is an outside chance of Draught Bass being added to the range in the future.

Still with Bass and the Manley Hotel, off High Street, Ince is up for sale. The pub re-opened earlier this year after several years closed and boarded up. Anyone thinking of spending a holiday in Ince next summer should take note — the Manley is up for sale. The pub re-opened earlier this year after several years closed and boarded up. Anyone thinking of spending a holiday in Ince next summer should take note — the Manley is a keg emporium.

Walker Best Bitter is now on sale at the Bellingham Hotel, Wigan Lane, Wigan, alongside the Tetley Mild and Bitter.

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MAGIC MAN!

A GORGEOUS late September day found me and my mate in the "Royal", lower Heysham, quaffing excellent Mitchells prior to embarking onto M.V. Tynwald for our trip to the Isle of Man with about 40 other CAMRA members.

Our trip, from Wednesday through to Sunday was to visit the two breweries, sample the pubs and generally explore the ancient Manx isle. This was the first visit to the island for most of us and anticipation was high.

The infamous Irish Sea was dead calm as we made our way to the bar for a preliminary recce. Good news! Okell's on draught, bad news — keg! — obvious really. We had to try some and it wasn't really that bad though rather expensive but for those with scruples there was bottled Guinness. Besides our group the other passengers seemed to consist mainly of Germans?, T.A. soldiers bound for Jurby Camp and some Americans.

We arrived in Douglas half an hour early due to the millpond crossing and were immediately bussed 200 yards to our hotels on the "front". After dinner and complimentary gravity Okells at the bar we ventured out to explore the town. A most pleasant balmy evening, we tried two Okells houses near North Quay, the "Shakespeare" and the "British Hotel". These were rather quiet so we moved on to the "Bridge" (Castletown) rather more upmarket with a younger clientele. The Castletown ale at this juncture was rated just above Okells, nothing to do with the young women in the "Bridge", honest. A point of interest, Manx pubs have a limit of customers they can allow on their premises due to local Fire Regulations — most unusual. Thence we went to a lively brew pub called "Busheys" near the steamer terminal. The beer, Old Bushy Tail about 1055, was good though quite expensive. Then back to the hotel where there was a duo performing (music) and a healthy (mainly) sing song ensued. To bed very late, driven there by an American lady rendering something from South Pacific.

Next morning, warm and sunny saw us following the TT course, still straw baled from the recent Manx Grand Prix, enroute to Peel and Ramsey. At Peel arrived before open doors so the coach driver knocked up the nearest pub's landlord for those in need whilst the more cultural/more hung over of us walked the beach, took photos of the fine castle and talked to the fishermen. It was pleasing to note that everyone we spoke to knew about our trip, it had been well reported in the local press. (Probably telling everyone to lock up their daughters and the silver — The Ed).

At Ramsey we had the official group photograph outside the "Mermaid" in the Market Place. Another shocked landlord, he had to call for reinforcements. We had our own shock minutes later standing in the sun enjoying our pints when the life boat maroons went off (highly decibelic). This was followed very quickly by some fast driving round the Market Place as the lifeboat crew drove to the station just round the headland.

UNIQUE PUB IN ASHTON UNDER LYNE?

IT is the belief of the landlord of the Buck and Hawthorn on Katherine Street, Ashton, a Robinsons house, that there is not another pub with the same name in the country. It would be interesting to see whether the extensive knowledge of the readers of this paper can produce another pub similarly named.

Name aside, the collection of 310 bottle openers that line the walls of the pub must be one of the few such collections to be found.

Nor can there be many pubs that preserve to the same extent their "between wars" interior. There is wood, etched glass, coloured glass and leaded glass, tiled walls, with some of the tiles lustre glazed, original fireplaces and a flagged floor in the pool room, plus a tiny snug, all to be found inside this friendly pub which served excellent beer.

CHRIS TUCKER

The "Groudle Inn", Groudle Glen was our next venue for lunch just opposite a tramway stop. Some of us foresook the coach and we trammed it back to Douglas, great fun. That evening, just after dinner we were shown round Okell's Falcon Brewery in the town, a fine Victorian edifice. The tour although quite short was most informative and the hospitality was superb, they wouldn't let us out till 11.30! Back to the hotel, bar still open . . . what's Manx for help?

My kippers were excellent next morning, surprisingly some couldn't manage! Out into the sun again onto our trusty coach due for Castletown and a trip round another brewery. A small pretty town is Castletown with a fascinating castle would you believe, which we visited before moving on to the brewery yard by the harbour. Only a small place newly painted and very trim. We went around in three batches due to its small size. The head brewer told us the bad news of the proposed takeover by Okells. (This has since happened). The trip was excellent and rather sad really — this place should **not** be allowed to close! Hospitality was 6 "help yourself" 18's of "Ale of Man" bitter which we enjoyed chatting in the sunlit courtyard. More group photos outside, then off to Port Erin for lunch. A visit to the Railway Museum for some was followed by a trip back to Douglas on the Steam Railway, quite fast, noisy and swaying madly — BRILLIANT. One of our number managed to sleep through the journey. A relaxed evening in Douglas followed. Found a welcoming Castletown pub back in town, "The Forresters", well run by three mature sisters. Excellent mild (quite rare) and bitter.

Next day, Saturday, most of the party en steamed after breakfast for the mainland whilst the hard cases stayed on for another day. Now it was everyone for themselves and we decided on a tram trip up Snaefell via Laxey. Cold at the top but fine views of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Back in Douglas we late lunched at the "Waterloo" a cosy Okells house run by a certain Richard Turpin. Saturday night in Douglas was pretty boisterous, lots of incapable youths high on various things, Oldham on a Friday night would be a fair comparison. We moved to higher ground and "The Forresters" after a real curry at the Villa Marina Restaurant, run by an ex-native of Bradford made good.

After some more toothsome kippers at Sunday breakfast (my mate brought half a stone back with him), we took the 8.30 a.m. boat for Heysham. The crossing was more choppy than the outward trip but no problems.

BRYAN JACKSON

The above trip was organised by CAMRA Travel, details of their trips both near and far can be obtained from CAMRA LTD, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW.

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HIGH PEAK BRANCH'S TRIP TO MARSTONS BREWERY

I CAN recommend to anyone interested in beer to go, if they get the chance, around Marstons Brewery. It is an education to see how a large brewery can maintain the volume, the quality and also in parts, the traditional methods. The core of the brewery is a building of 1871, erected by a London brewery to make use of the famous Burton water supplied by an artesian well on the site. This well is still used today, as are grist mills from the 1870's that grind the malted barley. The next stages of brewing are carried out in fine gleaming steel vessels, but then some of the beers undergo their first stages of fermentation in the Suares Room, a set of suare fermentation vessels that form part of the original brewery and which seem to allow for blending to produce a consistent beer. The unique feature of the brewery is, however, the Burton Union, in which all the Owd Roger and some of the Pedigree is allowed its final fermentation. It consists of a double row of large barrels, linked like beads on a necklace to one another. Each barrel has a swan necked pipe from its top, feeding into a long flat open vessel that runs over the top of all the barrels and feeds back into them. As the beer ferments the yeast and the debris is forced up the pipe from the barrels into the top vessel. Any liquid also forced up can re-enter the linked barrels from the vessel. It produces a clear beer and a good yeast to be used for future brews. It is a simple and effective process in which the action of the fermentation itself continues the fermentation. Marstons had clearly spent a fair bit of money rehousing the union and refitting it, so it appears to have some chance of continued use.

The branch members took the opportunity of being in Burton to visit the Burton Bridge Brewery pub. The beers here were excellent and worth a trip in their own right.

On the way back we capped the day with a stop off at the Travellers Rest at Burslem (Stoke). Not only does this pub have its own Titanic Beers but, at the time of our visit, Strathalbyn Porter and a Belgium beer on draught, Old Hoegaarden, a wheat beer that tastes both sharp and sweet — elixir. Not a bad pint all day. In fact, it was a dream of a trip, and when we woke up Bobby was in the shower.

CHRIS TUCKER

BOLTON NEWS

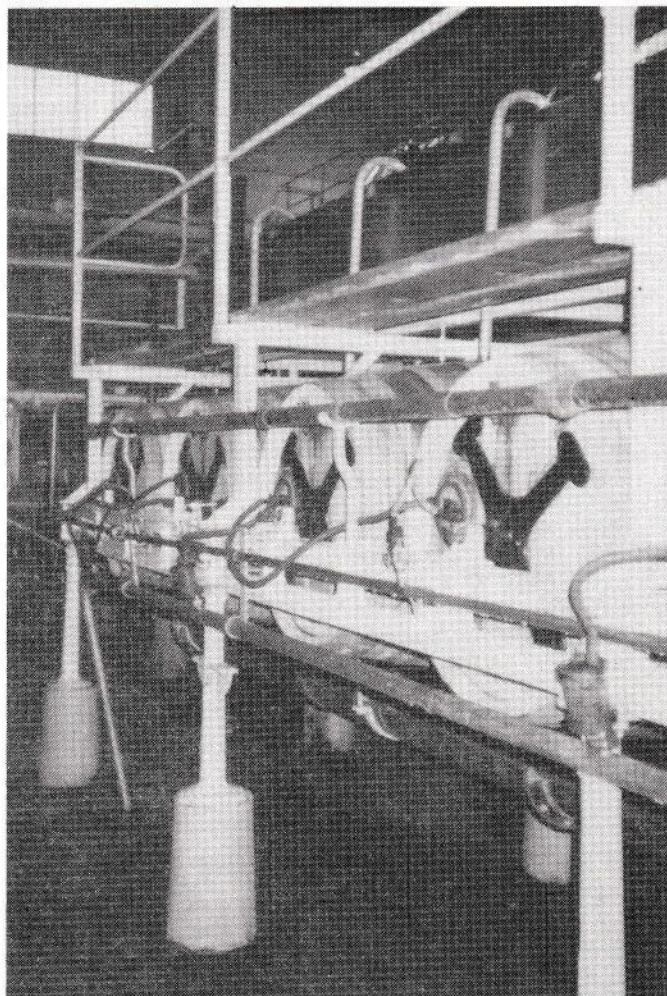
THE Falcon on Kay Street, Bolton will close down after Christmas prior to demolition for the Toff Way extension scheme. Tetley Walker and Bolton Council have come to an agreement and the pub is to go along with nearby council houses and the Peel, the ex-Greenalls pub on Higher Bridge Street which the Council has also bought. Further up Toff Way a former church is set to open as Benjamin Toff's, a Victorian free house/restaurant. The Bolton Branch of CAMRA hope to have a "farewell Falcon" night on Tuesday 6th January.

Following Bass's decision to finally back cask, Draught Bass is now available at the Greyhound on Deansgate, Bolton and the Freemasons Arms, Market Street, Farnworth. Both are well worth a try. Future outlets are the Anchor, off Bradshawgate, Bolton, the Unity Brook Inn, Manchester Road, Kearsley (which hopes to have cask Stones) and the Nab Gate, Hanwood.

Hartleys Bitter is now on sale at a couple of Whitbread pubs on the outskirts of Bolton, the Canary on Plodder Lane, Farnworth and the Volunteer Inn, Darwen Road, Bromley Cross.

Vaux's only Bolton pub, Maxims on Bradshawgate along with a number of other Vaux houses has been operating a guest beer policy for some time. Recent guests have been Gales HSB, Taylors Landlord and Crouch Vale, while other beers from the Vaux empire are regularly on sale. After Christmas the pub will close for two months while refurbishments take place. The disco is to be moved upstairs while the lower level is to become a traditional Victorian-style 'Vaux free-house', with 8 real ales, 4 of which will come from outside the Vaux chain.

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At a T.F.C. Alehouse apart from **Rail Ale** there's the company. Colourful characters like **Alice Sixty** a real old **Battleaxe** who's in most nights with **Old Faithful** by her side.

She usually gets **Topsy Turvy** and has a good **Old Grumble** before **Ten Thirty Five**.

Then there's the **Bombadier** a man of **Pedigree**, who was in with all the local **Squires** until he made an **Exhibition** of himself with some **Blackbird!** now he just gets **Piston Bitter**.

From time to time one of the **Directors**, an **Extra Special** yet **Heavy** man, not from this **County**, who has made great **Progress**, will be in situ.

Through winter **Old Snowy** often keeps him at home, but during summer months he will **Down Moore Ale** than many a **Landlord** whilst telling you he still needs more **Capital** – but don't be fooled, he drinks **Boddingtons Bitter**.

THE GAME COCK

152 Old Street, Ashton-Under-Lyne



ALE HOUSES

Birds with all the "right stuff" inn

BITS AND BOBS

START first with an apology to the **Cloggers Arms** in **Failsworth**. In October's **BEER LINES** it is described as a depressing two room characterless pub, this description should have been for the **Lamb** (**Boddingtons**). The **Cloggers Arms** is O.K. according to our **High Speed Gas** correspondent (known as **Sid**). The pub serves **Greenall's** bitter on electric pump.

A relatively recent outlet for **BEER LINES** is the **Crescent Pub** near **Salford University**. This is a very pleasant **Free House** selling **Holts** mild and bitter, plus a regular guest beer, such as **Taylor's** **Landlord**, **Adnams**, **Moorhouses** **Pendle Witches Brew**, **Theakstons**, **Ruddles**, **Marstons** **Pedigree**, **Greene King**, **Fullers** and **Everards**. Hot and cold snacks are always available and you can be sure of a warm welcome from **Jo** and **Andy Davies**.

BANK's Brewery from **Wolverhampton** continue to open new pubs in the **Greater Manchester** area. The latest addition is the "**Prince Albert**" at **Whitefield** which re-opens on the 11th of **December** at 12 noon. Also in mid **December**, the "**Sparkling Clog**", **Radcliffe Moor Road**, **Bury**, is to be opened. And in the future, spring 1987 should see the opening of a pub in **Seymour Grove**, **Manchester**. It's nice to see a small brewery actively seeking and building pubs in new areas, rather than seeing larger ones closing down pubs.

GREATER Manchester's only **Higsons** pub, **The George**, **Mersey Square**, **Stockport**, has been causing a few worries for **Stockport** and **South Manchester Branch**. It seems that recently the **Higsons** was not available very often, and when it was no attempt to sell it was made. Those asking for bitter were automatically given **Boddies**. They are heaving a sigh of relief however, as **Boddingtons** have assured them that **Higsons** will remain at the **George** and in future customers will be asked which bitter they want.

IN the November issue of '**Canal and Riverboat**' magazine the regular columnist "**Stillwater**" commends **Ashton Canal Festival** for its real ale tent run by **Cheshire** and **High Peak Branch** of **CAMRA**. It seems that even though **Ashton** is a relatively small canal festival the refreshments more than matched other festivals, particularly mentioned is the **Brentford beer tent** where it was all keg. Indeed **High Peak** and **North East Cheshire Branch** have been approached to run yet another refreshment tent in the 1987 canals festival held over the weekend of **July 10th–12th**. This will be the tenth such **Ashton Beer Tent** and I'm sure the **Branch** will endeavour to make it the best yet.

THE **Golden Buck** on **Manchester Road**, **Werneth** has a new landlord. **Derek Heap** of the **Old Post** at **Hollingwood** now has it, he has introduced handpumped **Oldham Mild** and **Bitter** to go with the **Boddingtons**. For those lovers of the **Old Post**, do not despair, **Derek** has put in a manager to look after it for him.

THE **Old Davids**, **Mount Road**, **Alkington** has gained real **Stones Bitter** and **Bass Light** in the recent **Bass conversions** (see elsewhere).

ANOTHER festival on the horizon is the **Stockport Beer Festival** to be held at **Stockport Technical College** over the week end of **25th–27th** of **April 1987**. Also next year is the **Oldham Beer Festival** organised for the **Lord Mayors Appeal**, the dates for this are now **March 7th & 8th 1987** and not as previously mentioned. This festival will take place in the **Music Rooms** at **Werneth Park**, near the fire station.

IT seems that **October 29th** saw the passing of the first reading in the **House of Commons** of a private members bill aimed to create a no-smoking area in pubs. Proposer **Joe Ashton** urged that smoking should be banned in at least 40% of the public area in pubs. This would of course create few problems for pubs still retaining the traditional multi-roomed layout – one room could easily be made no-smoking – but what of the vast amount of pubs who have had all their interior walls ripped out? The prospect of breweries spending thousands of pounds replacing walls is a daunting prospect. I bet there will be lots of prayers and burnt offerings made to try and prevent such a law ever being passed.

PETER Grogan, owner of the **Spinners** in **Oldham** has bought what used to be "**Bottoms**" **Wine Bar** in **Summerseat**, **Bury**. It is now known as '**The Waterside Inn**'. It is truly a magnificent building, with the river running underneath it. Inside there is a delightful arched ceiling, lots of metal supporting beams and it's huge! Beers on sale include **Taylor's**, **Ruddles**, **Moorhouses** and **Wilson's**. There are bar snacks and a restaurant, plus baby grand piano! Something for everyone and well worth a visit.

STOP PRESS **Bolton Beer Festival** is definite. The weekend of **Saturday, April 4th** should be left free, so you can attend yet another local festival.

BASS SEE THE LIGHT

BASS North West announced last month a major shift in policy, which will mean a full scale conversion to cask beers from keg in that large chunk of their tied estate which doesn't already stock them.

This will involve converting over 100 pubs from Greater Manchester, through North Cheshire and into North Wales to cask beers over the next six months. This could mean that around 50% of Bass managed houses, (possibly 70% here in Manchester) will be selling the real thing.

The changeover will be spearheaded by cask Stones Bitter (from Sheffield) but in many pubs mild will also go real and to complete the picture, Draught Bass will also be installed where it is considered appropriate.

This policy change comes from a high level in the company and the degree of new-found commitment is reflected in the comprehensive training programme being introduced for managers and the expenditure of some £250,000 on new handpumps; the latter is particularly welcome — too often in Bass pubs have cask and keg beers been served from identical plastic boxes on the bar, with no way of telling which was which.

Let's hope however that the changeover isn't used as an excuse for silly prices, a lot of the Bass pubs in Greater Manchester are in depressed areas, high prices there would be a sure recipe for failure.

At present we don't have a list of intended conversions but several reports have been coming through (see elsewhere), and a complete list will be available soon.

Information just received indicates that once this current wave of conversions is completed, the tenanted estate will also receive a review, which could result in more real conversions.

JOHN CLARKE

CITY CENTRE

DURING a recent survey of the City Centre, T & H branch worthies observed:

- The Town Hall Tavern, Tib Lane is still closed for renovation. Will Bass's new found enthusiasm for cask beer result in a range of real ales?
- The City Arms, Kennedy Street, is being renovated but remains open. The bar has moved through 90°, 5 cask beers are kept. There is still some redecoration in progress.
- The Royal Hotel, Windmill Street has been comfortably refurbished. The decor is typical of many London pub renovations, old pictures, potted plants and glass lampshades. By Boddingtons standards the beer is expensive. On our recent visit it was rather short of a pint, but the bar staff did top this up when asked.

DAVID SHELTON

SPUR FOR CARRINGTON

A PLANNING application has been submitted to Trafford Council for demolition of Mersey House and Rose Cottage on Carrington Lane, Ashton on Mersey and the building of a public house and restaurant. The application for this site, which is next to where the Carrington Spur road will be has been submitted by an independant group and there does not appear to be any brewery involvement at present. It is not yet known whether real ale will be available.

BOOK REVIEW

A GOOD stocking filler for the historically inclined boozers is Gordon Readyhough's "Pubs of Bolton Town Centre 1900-1986". The book is a historical record with photos of almost every pub in the centre of Bolton this century. Older boozers may recall the Town Hall Hotel (closed 1933) and the Imperial Hotel (closed 1934 but still standing on Churchbank) while not so old imbibers will remember the Parkfield Inn, Crook Street and the Old Three Tuns, Moor Lane both of which closed in 1973. A good read and at £2 it's well worth the money.

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CAMRA ROCHDALE, OLDHAM AND BURY

Present

THE ST. VALENTINE'S REAL ALE MASSACRE

BURY BEER FESTIVAL

DERBY HALL, BURY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

11.30 a.m. — 3.00 p.m. & 5.30 p.m. — 11.00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14th

11.30 a.m. — 3.00 p.m. & 5.30 p.m. — 11.00 p.m.

SEE YOU THERE

IDENTITY CRISES

MORE pubs in Bolton are changing their names. Two pubs re-opened under different monikers on 14th November. The Tiffing's Arms on Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge is now "Astleys", while Greenalls are attempting to displace the winos from the Wheatsheaf on Great Moor Street by calling it "Serendipity's" and restricting it to the 'smart young set' in the evenings.

Forthcoming name changes include the Golden Lion, Churchgate, which after 180 years as the Golden Lion is shortly to re-open as the Bear's Paw, its original name in the 1770s. Also the Gardeners Arms, Vallett's Lane which has been closed for over twelve months will soon become 'Arkwright's Ale House'.

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For a night to remember
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The Cemetery is unbeatable.

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to your liking — and even the ale of your choice —
within reason!

Our selection of handpumped beers is

Boddington's Bitter - Ruddles County
Theakstons Old Peculier - Taylors Landlord
Best Bitter and Porter - Thwaites Mild and Bitter
Oak Old Oak - Shipstones Bitter - Old Mill Bitter
West Riding Tyke

PLUS — The world's strongest ale EKU
+ many foreign & bottled beers

UNSPOILT BY PROGRESS

BOLTON

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

DECEMBER

Tuesday 2nd: 9.00 p.m. Committee meeting, Crown, Bredbury.
 Tuesday 9th: 8.00 p.m. Branch Meeting, Gamecock, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. Please come early so that essential business may be dealt with before joining the Regional Social.
 Saturday 13th: Branch Christmas Party, The Station, Ashton-under-Lyne. Special guest beers and buffet arranged, further details from branch contacts.

JANUARY

Tuesday 6th: 9.00 p.m. Committee Meeting, Hatters, Marple. All welcome to join us at the chairman's local (with his Aunt Sadie!)
 Tuesday 13th: 8.30 p.m. Branch Meeting, Prince of Wales, Mill Town, Glossop (off A57).
 Contacts Geoff Williamson 06632 5634 (H) 061 234 4034 (W) Tom Lord 061 427 7099 (H) 061 832 8686 X 358 (W)

TRAFFORD & HULME

DECEMBER

Thursday 4th: 8.00 p.m. Committee Social at the Mancunian, City Road, Hulme.
 Thursday 11th: 8.00 p.m. Social at the Swinging Bridge, Redclyffe Road, off Barton Dock Road, Trafford.
 Saturday 13th: 8.00 p.m. Altrincham Amble. Start from the Bakers Arms, Pownall Street. Call at the Grapes, Regent Road at 8.00 p.m. Details from Branch Contact.
 Thursday 18th: 8.00 p.m. Branch Meeting and Christmas Dinner at the Railway, Mobberley. Eaters to book in advance via branch contact.

JANUARY

Thursday 8th: 8.00 p.m. Committee Social at the Vine, Kennedy Street, City Centre. All welcome.
 Contact David Shelton 061-224 7341 X27 (W) 061-795 2113 (H)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

DECEMBER

Tuesday 2nd: Branch Meeting 8.00 p.m. Railway and Linnet, Middleton.
 Tuesday 16th: 8.00 p.m. Branch Christmas Social, Bank Top Tavern, Oldham. Free food, come and join us.
 Sunday 28th: Editors birthday, cards and presents welcome at the usual address. xxx.

JANUARY

Tuesday 6th: Branch Meeting 8.00 p.m. The Globe, Whitworth Road, Rochdale.
 Tuesday 20th: Two Ships, Committee Meeting, Hope Street, Rochdale.

CAMRA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Are you a real ale drinker? Do you feel strongly about your local being turned into a disco fun pub? Does the current spate of brewery takeovers worry you? Then why not join CAMRA and help with the struggle against the profit makers.

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

I/We enclose my/our remittance for Full/Husband & Wife membership for one year £7.00

Signature(s)

Date

Please send this form with your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) to:
 Sally Bennell, CAMRA Ltd., 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW.

DECEMBER

Thursday 4th: 8.30 p.m. Branch Meeting, Alma (Burtonwood), Bradshawgate.
 Sunday 7th: Stoneclough Social, 12 noon. Market Street Tavern, 12.45, Lord Nelson, 1.30, Horseshoe.
 Thursday 11th: Christmas Crawl, 7.30 p.m. Crofters, 8.00 p.m. Howcroft, 8.30 p.m. Rock House, 9.00 p.m. Globe, 9.30 p.m. Falcon, 10 p.m. Dog and Partridge, 10.30 Maxims.
 Sunday 28th: Social, 12 noon Ainsworth Arms, 1 p.m. Fox and Stork, Halliwell Road.

JANUARY

Tuesday 6th: 8.00 p.m. Farewell Falcon, Branch Meeting/Social at the Falcon, Kay Street, if closed then Dog and Partridge, Manor Street.
 Sunday 18th: Sunday Social, 12 noon Sweet Green Tavern, 1 p.m. York, 1.30 Clifton.
 Contact Dave Fleming 0204 75111 X 207 (W) 0204 389918 (H)

STOCKPORT & SOUTH MANCHESTER

DECEMBER

Monday 1st: 8.30 p.m. Social, Florist, Shaw Heath.
 Tuesday 2nd: 8.00 p.m. Open Committee meeting, The Alexandra, Northgate Road, Edgeley.
 Tuesday 9th: Minibus to Regional Social at the Gamecock, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. Phone contact for details.
 Thursday 11th: 8.00 p.m. Branch Meeting, Claremont, Moss Side Holts Speaker.
 Saturday 13th: Branch Christmas Dinner, Bakers Vaults, Stockport. Guest speaker Michael Jackson. See contact for details, £9.50 per head.
 Thursday 18th: 8.30 p.m. Pub of the Month, The Claremont, Moss Side.
 Friday 19th: The famous Hillgate Crawl. Start Blossoms, Buxton Road 7 p.m. Star & Garter, Hillgate 8.30 p.m.

JANUARY

Wednesday 7th: Coach Trip to Greenalls, Phone contact for details. Branch Contacts John Clarke 061-831 7222 X 307 (W) 061-477 1973 (H)
 or Andy Cooper 061-477 2959 (H) 0625 872641 (W)

SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE

DECEMBER

Tuesday 9th: 8.00 p.m. Branch Meeting, Standard Mower, Leigh.
 Contact Steve Prescott 0942 719037 (H) 0925 835481 (W)

REGIONAL

DECEMBER

Tuesday 9th: 8.00 p.m. Regional Christmas Social, Gamecock, Ashton-under-Lyne 8.00 p.m.

NEW YEAR PUB OF THE MONTH

THE Trafford & Hulme Pub of the Month for January 1987 is to be The Axe and Cleaver, Dunham Massey, Altrincham on Thursday, January 29. This has been re-arranged from its original time of November 86 as the licensee was away on holiday then. This will be the first time that a manager of a Chef & Brewer (Pennine Host) house will have won this award from T & H branch and it is well deserved as over the last 12 months we have seen the range of real ales expand from Wilsons mild and bitter only to now include Websters Choice & Yorkshire bitter plus one guest beer which is often Taylor's Landlord or Theakston's Old Peculier. So come along and help us drink them.

G.B.G. PUB CHANGES HANDS

NO sooner than the 1987 Good Beer Guide is published than one of Trafford & Hulme's entries changes landlords. The Rope & Anchor at Dunham has seen the departure of Norman Frederickson due to a difference of opinion with the revenue and an ex wife to be replaced by Eric Occleston, formerly of the Red Lion, a busy local in Patricroft. Eric has plans to enlarge the car park, re-open the bowling green and eventually to create an "up market" restaurant upstairs in this large former station hotel.