

GREATER MANCHESTER CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

FEBRUARY 1986

NUMBER 2 WELL PRESERVED ISSUE

WHY WE MUST FIGHT AGAINST TAKEOVERS

As everyone now knows, Scottish and Newcastle failed in their bid to takeover Matthew Brown, not because of the united rallying of the shareholders, management, consumers and CAMRA, but simply because of S & N's incompetence.

To the general public, CAMRA will have seemed to have been very much in the background when it came to the media reports, apart from a few "stunts" such as dressing people up in lion suits and marching to lager plants which were on strike at the time!, we appear to have been able to do very little.

Indeed, the Matthew Brown Takeover campaign organiser, Danny Blyth, stated that unless the brewery under threat is really keen to oppose a takeover or merger, there is very little to be done!!

This is very worrying in the light of Boddington's reply to Graham Chinn, chairman of Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch (see full story below).

Unless the man in the street acts, loudly and at length, Boddies will close Oldham Brewery some time next year, and we CAMRA people will have another obituary column in our newsletters.

Why all the fuss over the closure of yet another brewery? Well, firstly it means job losses, not the most welcome thing these days, secondly we will lose yet another local beer, brewed specially for local tastes. Thirdly, there will

be less competition for Boddingtons which means they can charge what they like and get away with it and lastly all the pubs eventually become standardised or even worse closed down!

What's to be done about this? Well, we need to act now. Write to Boddingtons to complain about this threatened closure and to praise Oldham Brewery products. Write to your M.P., job losses are a sore point with the government. Write to the Monopolies Commission and the Office of Fair Trading, they, if pressed, may be able to add weight to the campaign. If you belong to an organisation which has funds to invest, be it a sports club or a corporate pension fund, why not buy some shares, you could help by using any voting power wisely. Lastly join CAMRA, to keep up to date with developments.

This may be one of the biggest struggles we have yet faced, as Boddies not only has a firm foot in Oldham Breweries door, they are making themselves comfortable and at home with the very beer, tied estate and fittings!

PAULA CARDER
Editor, Beer Lines

If you wish to write to the editor for any reason, the address is below:

35, Hayfield Close
Pennine Meadows
Moorside
OLDHAM OL4 2LX

OLDHAM BREWERY TO CLOSE?

At a recent meeting, the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch reviewed takeovers in the brewing industry and in view of the merger between Boddingtons and Higsons of Liverpool during 1985, decided to seek an assurance from Boddingtons regarding the future of Oldham brewery. Oldham had been taken over by Boddingtons in 1982 and meetings between the company and CAMRA at that time had only produced a guarantee of 5 years continued life for the Oldham operation. It had been reported that a major consideration in the link with Higsons was the lager brewing capacity in their new brewhouse, but the fact that there were now three breweries within the group capable of brewing traditional beer gave rise to the branch's concern for continued production at Oldham.

Boddington's reply has not been encouraging, in that they have merely re-affirmed their assurance to retain the Oldham brewery for a minimum period of five years, and stated that the merger with Higsons does not affect this in any way. This reply, coupled with evidence of growing "Boddingtonisation" of Oldham pubs with the Boddington name being given greater promotion than the local product, strengthens our fears for the future of O.B. and the branch intend to launch a campaign to keep this issue in the public eye and influence Boddingtons future decisions by showing the strong local following which is enjoyed by Oldham Brewery products.

GRAHAM CHINN

THE HOWCROFT, POOL STREET, BOLTON

This superb traditional local has just been selected for the Joe Goodwin Award, which will be presented by CAMRA's Pub Preservation Group in London on February 10th. The traditional character of the refurbishment of this pub is the embodiment of the P.P.G.'s stance against the Whitbreads and Pennine Hosts of this world.

Situated at the top of a hill overlooking the inner by-pass and St. Georges Road, the end of the pub with its etched "Walker's Warrington Ales" windows and striking sign, is all that is visible amongst the newly built flats.

On entering the Howcroft you come immediately to the bar, which is situated in the centre of numerous rooms, and looks out onto the bowling green and garden.

Directly behind the bar is the games room, featuring bar billiards and table skittles as surprising additions to the more usual darts and doms. Behind this room is the concert room, used on Wednesdays by the folk club and available for meetings. In front of the bar area is a small room which looks suitable for a peaceful drink whilst watching the bowls during summer or board games and quiet discussion in winter.

The beers on offer are Peter Walker Best Bitter and Mild, which are always kept well and snacks are always available. Landlord Denis Lund, who moved here from the Raven in Wigan two years ago, is looking forward to greeting you all when you visit the jewel in Bolton's crown!

ROB CARDER

PUB PRESERVATION AWARDS

Once again the Northwest of England has a representative in the annual CAMRA Pub Preservation Awards. This time it is the Howcroft, Pool Street, Bolton.

There are three categories, best new pub — won by the Harrier, Peterborough; best refurbishment — Ye Olde Spa Inns, Derby; and a special category — the Joe Goodwin award, in honour of CAMRA's late chairman. This is the award to be presented to the Howcroft at a ceremony on Monday February 10th in London.

It is a high accolade for this Peter Walker pub, considering that nominations for likely winners are submitted by brewers, architects, licensees, CAMRA members and customers. Through an exhaustive process these are whittled down to a final few, then each pub is visited prior to a lively discussion session, at which the lucky winners are chosen.

An exhibition of all the winners and some of the runners up can be seen for two weeks after the award ceremony at The City Pride, Farringdon Lane, off Farringdon Road, London EC1.

KEN BIRCH



WILSONS RETURNS

Ye Olde Vic, on Chatham Street, Stockport, has had another change in its range of beers. The Wilsons bitter is back and the Everards Tiger has been discontinued. Jennings bitter and Ind Coope Burton Ale now alternate on a guest basis — they are also willing to try anything else that comes along, we'll let you know what does.

JOHN CLARKE

GREEN LABEL SIGHTINGS

The inaugural Beer Lines rightly reported the introduction of Websters Green Label light mild into a solitary area of the county — namely Stockport, but since then the beer's been wasting no time in widening its horizons. To Sighting in Altrincham and the City Centre, can now be added the Boundary, Audenshaw Road/Guide Lane, Audenshaw, where Green Label joins the established Wilsons mild and bitter on handpump; handy if changing trains at Guide Bridge, the pub is notable not only for the Green Label but for the extensive and authentic railwayana in the vault.

RHYS P. JONES

FAULKENERS ARMS

The tenancy at the Faulkners Arms, Stamford New Road, Altrincham, changed three months ago when Irene retired after sixteen years there, for eleven of these the pub was in the Good Beer Guide.

Pete Edwards moved in and installed a pool table, creating a certain anxiety over what might be to come. However the pool table has now gone and the only changes apparent are a coat of paint and Websters Green Label to join the Wilsons mild and bitter.

The beer is good and we wish Pete well in his new business.

DAVE WARD

MIKRON THEATRE

As many readers will know, Mikron Theatre tour the country's waterways from their base at Marsden near Huddersfield, performing self-written plays (which deal little or much with the canal system), at informal venues, most of which turn out to be pubs. Shortly before Christmas I caught the penultimate night of their South Pennine tour, at the Rose and Crown in Staly-bridge between the Station and the curry house!

"Just the Job" is the tale of an accident-prone family — father, daughter and daughter's boyfriend — who win "the holiday of a life-time" on the canal.

Surprise, surprise, it's not the idyll they expected, but as argument follows collision, only to be succeeded by the next argument, relationships are tested and eventually

strengthened. Even the Walkman-toting boyfriend (a fine performance by Mark Williams) eventually gets a speech that suggests he might be growing up.

I suppose if you wanted to you could pick holes in the production — accents, for example, ranged across a wide and seemingly random spectrum of urban England — but any niggling doubts were silenced by the sheer nerve of the performance from an energetic three-strong company. All this plus good handpumped John Smiths at 70p made for an excellent night out.

Mikron are, as usual in winter, hibernating at present, but Beer Lines will bring you details of their 1986 dates in and around Greater Manchester as soon as these become available.

RHYS P. JONES

HOLTS IN MIDDLETON?

Rumours suggest that Holts have bought the Assheton Arms in Middleton town centre. This may be part of a pub swap deal, if so which Holts pub have John Willie Lees taken?

STEVE LAWTON

TOTTIE TALES

Once upon a time in ye olde village of Tottington there dwelt several real ale pubs full of good cheer and these were protected by the Camra "Good Fairy".

It came to pass in December '85 that the Camra "Good Fairy" was called away to fight for the cause in other parts of the Kingdom. Whereupon, one stormy night, the witches and goblins of the "Fizz Giant" arose from the keg swamps and descended on the 'Printers Arms'.


In the twinkling of an eye this once proud hostelry was reduced to an Open House "Sports Pub", a vast structure with chrome bar, shiny ceiling and pink and pale blue decor. Three pool tables adorn the floor and heaps of red balls (enough said) decorate the walls. Amid the gnashing of teeth and the wearing of sack cloth and ashes the drinkers of Tottington vowed to fight this evil presence — until the Camra "Good Fairy" returns, waves its magic wand and changes this nightmare into a real ale pub once more, so the little folk of Tottington can live happily ever after.

L.A. FEELEY

NEW PUB FOR BOLTON

The Railway Inn, Great Moor Street, Bolton is open again as the Quill and Pen. Real ale is available in the form of handpulled Tetley mild and bitter and Jennings bitter, although the pub is technically a free house. With so many Tetley outlets in Bolton it's a shame that the new owners weren't enterprising enough to put on a wider range of real ales that are not normally available in the area. However, it is a pleasant pub with good beer, the owners opting for a more traditional theme for the pub as opposed to a plastic disco wine bar concept.

When in
ROCHDALE
come and visit
JOHN + CAROL
at the
MERRY MONK
College Rd.
Tel. 46919
Marstons and
Burtonwood beers



R.O.B. G.B.G. TEN YEAR AWARDS: THE CROSS KEYS

Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch had a lively evening on Tuesday, 14th January when members presented Phil and Pat Kay of the Cross Keys, Uppermill, with a plaque to mark the pub's tenth full entry in the National Good Beer Guide. Ex-licensee Harold Neild and wife Lilly also came along for the occasion. The Cross Keys, which has been mentioned in every national G.B.G. since 1976, is one of the liveliest pubs in Oldham Metro. The Inn boasts the headquarters of Oldham Mountain Rescue Team, Saddleworth Runner's Club and Saddleworth Outdoor Pursuits Association. No doubt all participants very much appreciate a pint or so of cask, hand-pulled, John Willie Lees mild or bitter after their exertions. R.O.B. however, restricted their exercise on this occasion to lifting pints.

The Cross Keys is an unspoilt Inn which utilises the old farm kitchen as the bar — and hosts a folk club on Wednesday nights and a ladies clog dancing group on Mondays. One activity which amuses the locals is the well-established charity Saddleworth Beer Walk which starts and finishes at the Cross Keys. (I must warn would be enthusiasts that there is a superfluity of keg to be consumed during this event, I know from bitter experience when I participated in the 1984 walk dressed as a pirate).

The Cross Keys has also had an eventful past, one landlady had her eyes gouged out by a mad parson who disapproved of drinking. Yet another vicar, however, preached on the evils of drink and the devilment of alehouses simply, it is claimed, so that more of the inn's excellent product could be reserved for himself! No longer a home-brew house but still an inn well worth a visit by the connoisseur.

SUE CUNNINGHAM

HOW BREWERIES MAKE MONEY I

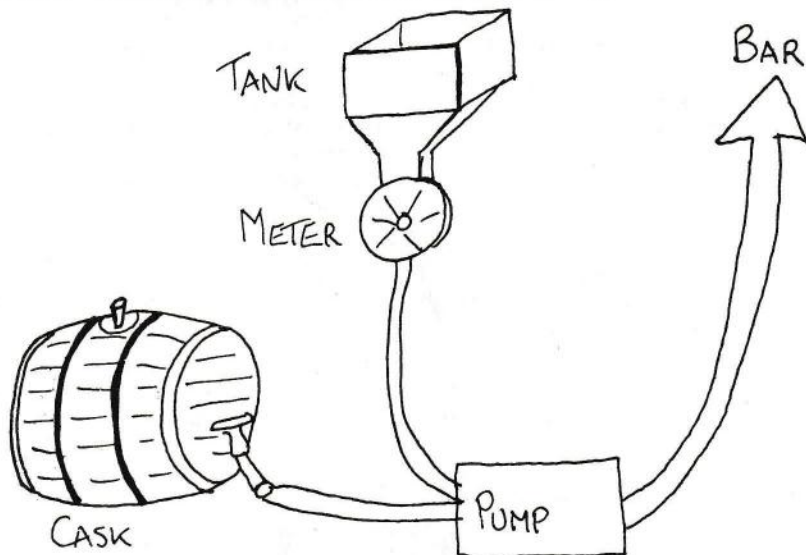
Boddingtons have introduced a new "aid" to cellarman-ship into managed houses. The device (see diagram) consists of a 2 gallon wall mounted plastic container with a ½ fl oz. graduated flow meter which allows fluid to feed (in degrees from ½ fl oz. upwards per half pint) into the beer line before the pump.

Under normal conditions *good* beer drawn from a new cask when pulling through will be filtered back into the cask through a filter dish in the cask vent. Apparently the "selling point" of this device is that it enables beer to be reintroduced without possibility of disturbing the rest of the cask.

At approximately £800 per unit to the tenant (by our information) it seems a lot of "brass" just to filter the odd gallon of drawn beer. Unless, of course, you can think of another use for it?

Coincidentally three Boddington landlords have recently been discharged for watering their beer.

DAVE WARD



HOW BREWERIES MAKE MONEY II

When interviewed recently on the profits of the brewery, Chairman Mr. Sam Whitbread admitted they had a tough time with the declining beer market and the coldest summer for 28 years. Luckily lager is still coming to the rescue. Mr. Whitbread said "Heineken and Stella Artois are going very strongly and we get better profit margins on lager which accounts for 47% of our beer product mix, soon to be 50%. Given a good Christmas and reasonable weather I think the current profit trend will continue".

STEVE LAWTON

LOW LEES

Following a change in management at the Travellers Call, the Lees outpost in Bredbury, beer prices have been lowered. Bitter is now 65p a pint and mild 62p, which makes it the cheapest pub in the North East Cheshire and High Peak area.

GEOFF LEES

NEW FREE HOUSE FOR BURY

The Rose and Crown on Manchester Road, Bury was sold recently by Thwaites complete with license. The new owner has added Boddingtons bitter and Hydes bitter to the Thwaites mild and bitter, however he is threatening to pull all the dividing walls down and make the pub open plan.

While the change in ownership is very welcome the alterations sound ominous!

Information from JOHN WORTHINGTON

CLUBLAND

With the recent acquisition by Mr. Bill Parkinson, an Atherton business man, of Moorhouses Brewery, Burnley, Moorhouses beers have appeared in the Tyldesley area. Tyldesley Miners Welfare Association at Gin Pit Village are now selling Premier bitter alongside the Holt's mild and bitter which they only obtained some three or four months ago. With only a minimal charge of 20p on the door for non-members, the Club is worth the search for its friendly welcoming atmosphere. All the beers are excellently kept and are very reasonably priced due to the club policy of a very low profit margin.

RAY KRUPP

THE SHADY OAK CHANGES HANDS

Perhaps one of the most surprising of the recent changes to the pub scene in the Stockport area has been Barry Sullivans sale of the Shady Oak in Bramhall, to Tetleys, who were the original owners of the site. Since opening the pub was packed every night and Tetleys must have been kicking themselves for letting the site go, so much so that they made Barry an offer he couldn't refuse. He's remained tight lipped about the sums involved but a trade source has quoted us a figure of £600,000 as the price paid, so doubling Barry's initial investment in just twelve months. Barry left on January 20th but he managed to persuade the new owners that the pub's reputation had been built on the wide range of traditional beers available. The message appears to have gone home as the new range is as follows: Walker best bitter (76p), Ind Coope Burton Ale (84p), Tetley mild (72p), Tetley bitter (75p), Marstons Pedigree (80p), Thwaites bitter (75p) and Jennings bitter (75p). It's sad to say goodbye to beers from Taylors, Theakstons and Ruddles but all the same this is quite a range for a tied house.

Barry's plans for the future include two similar pubs to the Shady Oak, one in Northwich and the other in Cheadle on the site of the Old Seven Arches garden centre. The planning application for the Cheadle pub should have gone through by the time you read this and no doubt readers will join with us in wishing Barry the best of luck with both pubs. Let's hope these acorns grow to be as fine as the Shady Oak.

JOHN CLARKE & KEITH EGERTON

If Tetley's can manage to put so many guest beers on alongside their products and still hope to make a success in Bramhall, then why can't they do the same thing in pubs in the rest of the region? — The Ed.

DOWNTOWN DRINKING!

Those wishing to entertain friends or business colleagues over a couple of drinks or those perhaps intent on pursuing an illicit love-affair with thoughts of intimate conversation and misty-eyed glances across a table should **NOT** visit the recently renovated Footballers at Hill Stores, Oldham. The pub is nice enough, but the clientele!

A fight between two obviously 'tired and emotional' young 'ladies' cut short this inspectors recent visit. Beers available are Boddington's bitter and Oldham mild and bitter, all handpumped.

STEVE LAWTON

THE DEAD GOOD PUB

Rave reviews in the newly-published Good Pub Guide (no relation to CAMRA's Good Beer Guide) for a Dublin hostelry called The Pearl have embarrassed the editors. It closed 13 years ago!

Spotted by STEVE LAWTON

UPTOWN DRINKING?


Two new wine bars opened up in the Bolton area just before Christmas. Firstly Brando's on Albert Road, Farnworth appeared in the former Farnworth Conservative Club. Then a week before Christmas the Pink Panther on St. Georges Road commenced business hoping to catch some of the disco-revellers on their way to Rockerfellas across the road. The local press's advertising feature for this establishment boasted of a pink delivery tricycle in front of the food area. Very Haute Couture.

DES NOGALSKI

OAK FELLED

The 'renovations' for the Royal Oak, High Street, Stockport, have, it turns out involved the demolition of almost the entire pub. We are told that the state of the pub was such that once the dangerous gable end was taken down, the remaining structure began to collapse! Robbies original plans have had to be abandoned, so what the new Royal Oak will look like is anyone's guess. This is a sad loss for the Stockport beer drinker as the "Oak" was a pub with true character.

JOHN CLARKE & GEOFF LEES



HOLTS, FULLERS LONDON PRIDE,
HYDES + MARSTONS PEDIGREE.
73, ROCHDALE ROAD, TEL. 061-832-5914.

HYDES OPEN NEW PUB

Hydes Anvil Brewery of Moss Side have just opened their 48th tied house, The Hoop and Mallet at Callands, Warrington. Their first new pub for nearly three years, this is a large, comfortable lounge type pub with quality fittings, complete with overhead fans, collection of old bottles and stone jugs and pictures of the brewery adorn the walls. Although not having a separate public bar, it does have a games room for pool and darts, unfortunately however, on the opening night some of the "games players" were unfamiliar with the finer points of pool and proceeded to apply cues and balls to the head of one of the other players. A re-education programme was quickly put into being by various Hyde's personnel and all will be well for the future.

KEITH EGERTON

PUB OF THE MONTH

The Stockport and South Manchester pub of the month for February is the Grapes on Castle Street, Edgeley. The Grapes is a popular two roomed pub with a large vault on the left and a lounge on the right, which itself has two distinct areas — near the bar it is more of a noisy smoke-room atmosphere and at the back a quieter lounge type area.

Although an excellent pub, ably run by Dave and Sandra George, who guarantee a warm welcome for all. The beer is always top-notch (the pub is a new entry in the 1986 National Good Beer Guide), with hand-pulled Robinsons mild and bitter being accompanied by Old Tom straight from the barrel in the winter months. All three will no doubt be sampled at great length on the presentation night (see branch diary for details).

JOHN CLARKE

PAULA'S PRATTLES

Did you know that every pub should display a price list at the point of sale? So many places seem to flout this piece of legislation and it can lead to a few nasty shocks especially if your drinking partner is not a real ale enthusiast. On a festive visit to Newcastle recently I spotted in the Duke of Wellington, that ex-CAMRA investments pub, a label behind the bar next to the bottles of Schweppes Malvern Water. The price per glass was 40p a glass! I thought this a bit excessive for fizzy water, and when I asked my local "tame" landlord how much he sold the same for the reply was an amazing 35p per bottle. As there was no price list visible in this Geordie hostelry the unsuspecting punter was unashamedly ripped off.

Seen in the Tameside Advertiser newspaper recently was a half page advertisement for Milners at the Hare! This used to be the Hare and Hounds, Kings Road, Ashton-U-Lyne. This pub has been "done up" by Janet and Ray Milner, who also own the Fleece at Stalybridge. The description went on at length about the stylish brick and fashionable cane and wicker furniture with a brown and

pink colour scheme. Instead of tables there are brick "islands" with tall Italian wickerwork chairs on which to perch, plus two stunning (their words not mine) cane Peacock chairs. The whole place has been designed to attract the smartly dressed 20+ age group and boasts music every night and regular D.J.'s. Should this tempt you to try the place a word of warning; there is no beer! Keg or otherwise. There is however a choice of liqueurs, spirits, wine, canned Budweiser, Tiger, and Swan lagers and Alten munster plus lots of truly revolting cocktails. One of which, the Jelly Bean they seem extraordinarily proud as it is mentioned four times. Apparently it consists of vodka, whiskey, pernod, blackcurrant and lemonade. Yuk! Which degenerate is willing to try this?

Finally, while visiting the new Websters pub, the Heywood Arms on Oldham Road, I spotted a poster which really tickled me! It read:- Join us in 1986 for reduced prices YORKSHIRE BEERS:- Yorkshire bitter, Green Label Best and Carlsburg Hof?? Eee, by gum, that's a real traditional tyke brew, all the way from Halifaxburg.

PAULA CARDER

WARRINGTON SAFARI

The Turf & Feather, Glover Road, Locking Stumps (near Warrington) re-opened on Wednesday 11th December, to the usual razzmatazz of these occasions having all the brewery hierarchy in attendance.

On the outside, the Turf & Feather looks like any other modern estate pub. The new-look interior has been totally "gutted" looking more like a tropical forest rather than a public house. This is a rather surprising step for Tetley-Walker to take, as all of the other refurbishments of this type have been in town centres whilst this one is in a new town development area. Is this a new trend the brewery is taking? We will have to wait and see.

On the beer front, the bitter and mild beers remain keg but there is a glimmer of hope. Burton Ale has been re-installed.

RAY KRUUP

CHESTERS TAP DANCE

Readers may recall the report in the last issue of Beer Lines concerning the misleading sign outside Chesters Brewery Tap, the Tallow Tub, which proclaimed cask conditioned ales when none were in fact available. Our report to the Trading Standards Department produced rapid results and the sign has now been replaced. Apparently when the pub was repainted and resigned it did serve cask conditioned beer and hence the offending sign. You may be wondering why Chesters didn't reinstate cask ale — the answer as they say is simple — most of the Tallow Tubs trade is with the brewery workers who have such faith in Chester's cask beers that they won't touch them!

JOHN CLARKE

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a taste of
tradition*

*Brewers of fine
Cumbria Ales since 1828*

JENNINGS BROTHERS PLC
Castle Brewery
Cockermouth
Cumbria CA13 9NE
Telephone: (0900) 823214



TETLEY HOUSES OFFERING JENNINGS

An up to date list supplied by Jennings brewery.

JENNINGS TRADITIONAL BITTER INTO NOMINATED TETLEY WALKER TENANCIES

Public House	Address
Princess Royal	47 Yorkshire Street, Burnley
The Stork	102 Westgate, Burnley
King William III	202 Manchester Road, Bolton
Bulls Head	427 Halifax Road, Rochdale
Crooked Billet	1/3 Smith Street, Worsethorn
Clifton Arms	94 Newport Street, Bolton
The Red Lion	The Square, Whitworth
The Ramsden	Talbot Road, Blackpool
The Blowick	147 Norwood Road, Southport
Farmers Arms	18 Church Street, Garstang
Grapes Inn	Goosenargh Lane, Goosenargh, Preston
The Royal	257 Marine Square, Morecambe
Live & Let Live	87 Freckleton Street, Kirkham
Uncle Peter Websters	Central Promenade, Blackpool
The Railway	Station Road, Kirkham, Blackpool
Highgate	Blackpool Road, Kirkham
Stocks Tavern	Alder Lane, Parbold
Wellington	East Bank Street, Southport
The Railway Hotel	10 Appley Lane, Appley Bridge
Spinners Arms	23 Church Street, Adlington, Chorley
The Railway	84 Market St, Adlington, Chorley
Kings Arms	Delf Lane, Haskayne, Ormskirk
The Queens	52 Chapel Street, Chorley
Wheatsheaf	30 Oak Street, Manchester
The Albion	29 Bolton Street, Chorley
The White Lion	10 Church St., Upholland, Wigan
Queens Head	2 Lucas Nook, Aspall, Wigan
The Railway	Station Road, Hoscarr Moss, Ormskirk
Lostock Arms	Lostock Junction Lane, Bolton
Wrights Arms	Belmont, Bolton
The Railway	Twist Lane, Leigh
The White Lion	Knutsford
Waggon & Horses	Bolton Street, Chorley
The Crown Vault	Kirkdale Road, Liverpool
Anglesea	34 Beresford Road, Liverpool
Queens Arms	2 Hinderton Road, Birkenhead
Beaconsall	25 Station Road, Hesketh Bank
Village Inn	101 High Street, Skelmersdale
Red House	31 Foxhouse Lane, Maghull, Merseyside
Roscoe Head	Roscoe Street, Liverpool
Cross Keys	13 Earle Street, Liverpool
Storrdsale	43/47 Storrdsale Road, Liverpool
Buckley Arms	Partington Lane, Swinton
Smugglers Den	56 Poulton Street, Morecambe

White Hart	67/68 Albert Road, Farnworth
Bowling Green	Wigan Lane, Wigan
Waggon & Horses	Manchester Road, Bolton
Hare & Hounds	Simmondley, Glossop
Football Hotel	33 Swinton Hall Road, Swinton
Bulls Head	Town Lane, Mobberley
Red Lion	Main Road, Goostry
Eureka Hotel	Ormskirk
Smiths Arms	37 Sherratt Street, Manchester

JENNINGS TRADITIONAL BITTER INTO NOMINATED TETLEY WALKER RETAIL HOUSES

The Bull	17 Lines Street, Morecambe
The Manor House	579 Wilmslow Road, Withington
Stonemasons Arms	365 Stockport Road, Timperley
Nags Head	30 Church Street, Lancaster
Boars Head	38 Preston Old Road, Marton Blackpool
Albert Hotel	Lark Lane, Liverpool
The Shady Oake	Bramhall, Cheshire

JENNINGS TRADITIONAL BITTER INTO TETLEY WALKER FREE TRADE ACCOUNTS

Kings Arms Hotel	Hawkeshead, Nr. Windermere
Royal Hotel	North Promenade, Cleveleys
The Tower Hotel	Portinscale, Keswick
Britannia Elderwater	Ambleside, Grasmere
The Ship Victory	George Street, Chester
Ye Olde Vic.	7 Chatham Street, Edgeley, Stockport
Fylde R.U.F.C.	
The Rampant Lion	Anson Road, Rusholme, Manchester
Black Bull	Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria
George & Dragon	Dent
Kingshead Hotel	Ravenstone Dale
The Sheaf	Newhey, Rochdale
Norton Grange	Castleton
Midway Hotel	Stockport
Brinsop Arms	Westhoughton
Wheatsheaf	Rochdale
Craven Heiffer	Chaigley, Nr. Blackburn
Regal Nights Hotel	Yorkshire Bank Chambers, 4 Wood Street, Bolton
Quill & Pen	Gr. Moor Street, Bolton
The Greyhound Hotel	Main Street, Shap

ROBBIES RENOVATIONS

Robinson's revamped Star and Garter on Hillgate, Stockport, re-opened just before Christmas and as expected it's been given their standard lounge bar treatment. The Separate vault has been retained but the rest is semi-open plan with the usual wall lights, plush carpet and tasteless bar. It is clear that a lot of money has been spent on this pub, it's smart, clean and

the facilities vastly improved, particularly the toilets, but it's totally characterless with no real pub atmosphere. This may have been due to the fact that the paint was barely dry on our visit and it must be admitted that it was busy enough but despite this the question remains, is it really necessary for Robinsons to do up all their pubs in the same style? Don't they realise that most other brewers have abandoned this bland stereotyping? On current evidence the answer, sadly, is no.

JOHN CLARKE

BRANCH DIARY

BOLTON

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 5th: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting at the Derby Arms (Castle Eden), Derby St. Bolton. All members are most welcome.
Wednesday 19th: 8.30 p.m. Quiz social, Clifton Arms, (Tetley) Newport St., Bolton, return of the CAMRA masterminds!
Sunday 23rd: 12 noon. Social, Sunnyside Hotel (Free House), Bloom St., off Adelaide St., Daubhill.

MARCH

Wednesday 5th: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting at the new-look York Hotel (Burtonwoods), Newport St., Bolton. Monday 17th: 8.30 p.m. St. Patrick's Day social, Sunnyside, Bloom St., and 10.00 p.m. the Lodge Bank Tavern, (Lees), Bridgeman St., Bolton.
Contact Dave Fleming 0204 389918 (h)
or Farnworth 75111 X 207

STOCKPORT & SOUTH MANCHESTER

FEBRUARY

Monday 3rd: 8.30 p.m. GBG Survey social, Midway, New Bridge Lane, Stockport.
Tuesday 4th: 8.00 p.m. Open committee meeting, The Crown, Heaton Lane, Stockport.
Monday 10th: 8.30 p.m. GBG Survey Social, Bowling Green, Chorlton-on-Medlock.
Thursday 13th: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting, Gateway, East Didsbury.
Monday 17th: 8.30 p.m. GBG Survey social, Travellers Call, Great Moor, Stockport.
Wednesday 19th: Joint social with North Manchester branch, Britannia, Beswick.
Friday 21st: Cheadle crawl, White Hart, 7.00p.m. Railway 8.30pm
Monday 26th: Three way social with Rochdale, Oldham & Bury and Kirklees branches at the Sair Inn, Linthwaite nr. Huddersfield
Thursday 27th: Pub of the month, The Grapes, Castle St., Edgeley, Stockport.

Contact John Clarke 061-477 1973 (h)
061-832 2468 X 385 (w)

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 11th: 8.30 p.m. Committee meeting at the Duke of York, Romiley. (John Smith)
Tuesday 18th: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting at the Stalybridge Recreational & Bowls Club, Wood Street, off Cheetham Hill Rd., (Oldham Brewery)
Thursday 27th: 8.30 p.m. Stockport Pub Crawl, start at the Old Vic.

MARCH

Tuesday 4th: 8.30 p.m. Committee meeting at the Penny Farthing, Denton (Thwaites).
Tuesday 11th: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting at the Navigation, Marple (Robinsons).
Contact Tom Lord 061-427 7099

TRAFFORD & HULME

FEBRUARY

Monday 3rd: Coach trip to the Station, Ashton-U-Lyne. Details from branch contact. E.T.A. at the Station, 8.15 p.m.
Thursday 6th: 8.00 p.m. Committee meeting at the Church, Cambridge St., Hulme. All welcome for an informal chat after "the business".
Thursday 13th: CHORLTON CHECKOUT. Survey of the pubs of Chorlton. Meet at the Southern, Mauldeth Road West at 8.15 p.m.
Thursday 27th: 8.00 p.m. Pub of the month, award to be made to the Rope and Anchor, Dunham Massey. Presentation of the plaque at a social to be held on this date. All welcome.

MARCH

Thursday 6th: 8.00 p.m. Committee meeting at the Cheshire Midland, Ashley Road, Hale. All welcome.
Contact David Shelton, 16 Nada Lodge, St. Marys Hall Road, Manchester M8 6DZ. 061-795 2115 (h) or
061-224 7431 X 54 (w)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 4th: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting, Eagle and Child, (Holts) Higher Lane, Whitefield.
Wednesday 12th: Old Mill Brewery Trip, contact Graham Mason, social secretary 061-688 9412, limited space available.
Tuesday 18th: 8.00 p.m. Committee meeting, Wellington, (Bass) Stand Lane, Radcliffe.
Wednesday 26th: 8.00 p.m. Inter branch social with Kirklees and Stockport and South Manchester at the Sair Inn, Linthwaite, Nr. Huddersfield.
Friday 28th: Investigative trip round Oldham town centre, Start 7.00 p.m. at the Abbey, West St., then 7.30 p.m. at the Bank Top Tavern then onto territory unknown!

MARCH

Tuesday 4th: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting, Railway and Linnet (Lees), Middleton Junction. (Note change of venue)
Tuesday 18th: 8.00 p.m. Committee meeting Merrie Monk (Free), College Road, Rochdale.
Contact Steve Lawton 061-620 9239 (h)
061-928 6311 X 7111

SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 4th: Trip to Tetley-Walker Brewery, Warrington, see branch contact for further details.
Sunday 23rd: 1.00 p.m. Branch meeting at the Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh.
Contact Ray Kruup Atherton 876884 (h)
061-736 1537 (w)

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.

ALE SEARCH ANSWERS

In the first edition of Beer Lines there was a Winter Warmer Ale Search, should you still be puzzling over it, the ales hidden were as follows:-

Adnams Old	Celebration Ale
Old Snowy	Porter
Conqueror	Talisman
Delph Strong Ale	Dark Star
Firkin Special	Reephams Barley Wine
Wallop	Bishops
Old Expensive	Old Tom
Old Buzzard	Ram Tam
Willie Warmer	Old Grumble
Draught Excluder	Old Strong
Old Ale	Christmas Cracker
Old Nigel	Lumley
Anvil Strong Ale	

JOKE CORNER

"What's that mark on the bridge of your nose?"

"It's caused by glasses."

"Have you tried contact lenses?"

"Yes, but they don't hold as much beer!"