

GREATER MANCHESTER CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

APRIL 1986

NUMBER 4

MELBOURNE STAR
PROMOTIONAL ISSUE

DON'T FORGET!

SADDLEWORTH BEER FESTIVAL

CIVIC CENTRE, UPPERMILL

FRIDAY, MAY 2nd — 5.30 p.m. - 11.00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 3rd — 11.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.
5.00 p.m. - 11.00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 4th — 12.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.

OVER 30 DIFFERENT REAL ALES
CIDER, PERRY, WINE & FOOD AVAILABLE

BOLTON LOSES MATTIES

Cask Matthew Brown's is now just a memory in Bolton. The real thing was removed from the Hart Common, Wigan Road, Westhoughton. Major roadworks outside the pub made it into a low turnover outlet but whether real ale will return after the roadworks have been completed remains to be seen.

DES NOGALSKI

SADDLEWORTH NEWS

I am heartbroken to hear that Saddleworth's only outlet for my favourite beer, Linfit Special, is up for sale. Advertised in the Evening Chronicle at £160,000, the Church Inn by Saddleworth church, Uppermill, has already attracted prospective buyers. Let's hope the four cask ales (as well as Linfit, Youngers IPA & No. 3 and Matthew Brown mild), are retained, and that it remains a free house. We can ill afford to lose another one after the Floating Light went to Thwaites last year.

Theakston mild has now made an appearance at the Rams Head, Denshaw. The range of beers is now Theakston's mild, bitter, XB and Old Peculier, plus a guest. Beer from the jug at its best.

The current range at the Horse and Jockey near Delph is Marston's Burton Bitter, Theakston's Bitter, Theakston's Mild, Marston's Owd Rodger and the Currently excellent Oak Porter.

The current range at the Diggle Hotel is Taylor's Golden Best, Landlord, Oldham mild and bitter and Boddingtons bitter. The regulars at this pub recently raised £800 in one quiz night for the Spastics Charity.

ROB CARDER

BREWERS SAVE SHIP CANAL?

There is information from a reliable source, that a series of secret high level meetings have taken place between senior members of the North West Water Authority, directors of the Manchester Ship Canal Company and representatives of the Brewers Society. As the traffic on the upper reaches of this once thriving waterway has declined, the owners are claiming that it is a drain on their company's profitability and they are seeking alternative ways of utilising this inexpensive and guaranteed source of water.

The brewers may have come up with a solution which could ease the financial burden on the Ship Canal Company and at the same time secure and possibly increase their own profits in these times of recession and tight margins. The process which they may implement, originated in that cradle of beer excellence, Milwaukee, where the waters of lake Michigan are reported to be utilised in the production of Yankee Amber Nectars.

The heart of the proposed scheme would be a jointly owned plant situated in Trafford Park drawing water from No. 9 Dock. The liquor will be rough filtered, pasteurised and then passed through a multi-programme computerised blender before malted barley and hop extract, colouring, Alcohol plus CO₂ is added as per each brewers requirement and the resulting product is then chilled and piped to road tankers for transfer to the respective breweries/kegging plants.

It is claimed that this product which will be retailed as LAGER, could be the saviour of the British Beer Brewing Industry, safeguard the dividends of the Ship Canal Company shareholders and ease the burden on the water rate payers of the North-West. There will of course be a number of job losses within the brewing industry as a result of this new development, but that is the price we must all pay for Progress.

BUD WISER & APRIL FOOL

RUBBISH!

The strength of beer is expressed in terms of its original gravity. This shows the amount of fermentable material which is added to water to make beer or lager. Water is rated at O.G. 1000, everything above that is fermentable and the higher the figure, the stronger the drink. Excise duty is calculated on the original gravity, the higher the O.G. the greater the amount of tax levied. Below is a list of some of the beers and lagers available in Greater Manchester.

LAGER	O.G.	BEER	O.G.
Carlsberg	1030	* Boddingtons Mild	1032
Heineken	1033	Chesters Mild	1033
Carling Black Label	1037	Draught Bass	1044
Skol	1037	Tetley Walker Bitter	1035.5
Harp	1032	* Oldham Mild	1031
Castlemaine XXXX	1035	Peter Walker Best Bitter	1035.5
Fosters	1035	Wilsons Bitter	1036.5
Orangeboom	1033	Tetley Walker Mild	1032
Stein	1036	Thwaites Bitter	1036
Tuborg	1030	Burtonwood Mild	1032
Hemeling	1031	Bass Cask Bitter	1036
Helden Brau	1032	Chesters Best Mild	1032
Hofmeister	1036	John Smiths Bitter	1036
Holsten	1045	Marstons Pedigree	1043
Amboss	1036	Hydes Bitter	1037
Regal	1039	Holts Bitter	1039
Holstenbrau	1032	Holts Mild	1033
Lees	1034	Lees Bitter	1038
Sialom	1036	Matthew Brown Bitter	1036
Tennents	1038	(Bass) Stones Bitter	1038
Ayingerbrau	1039	Sam Smiths OBB	1039
Arctic Lite	1032	Bass XXXX Mild	1031
McEwans	1038	Youngers IPA	1042
Kestrel	1032	Youngers Scotch Bitter	1037
Einhorn	1035	Robinsons Ordinary Bitter	1035
Grunhalle	1035	Greenhall Whitley Bitter	1038
Marstons	1038	Marstons Bitter	1037
Bergans	1033	Peter Walker Bitter	1033

The above table makes me furious. Why? Well, as you can see I have selected beers and lager of more or less the same strengths (it was hard to do this because on average lager is weaker than beer). What makes me angry? The price differential between each lager and beer is a minimum of ten pence (the lager being the most expensive!). On a recent City Centre prices survey, phenomenal differences in prices were shown up, e.g.

Chesters Bitter	70p	Heineken	83p
Stones Bitter	70p	Tennents	83p
Wilsons Bitter	78p	Fosters	96p
Tetley Bitter	73p	Castlemaine	86p

These sort of price differentials are typical throughout the region. Why is this the case? Perhaps it is because all this lager is foreign, I mean, there is a lovely selection of Dutch, German, Australian, Danish and Austrian beers on show in that list. If you think that, then think again. Everyone of those lagers is brewed in the U.K. In fact, except for those marked * they are brewed by the same company that made the equivalent cask beer!

The mystique about lager astounds me. Lager as brewed in this country is made from inferior materials, the breweries look like and operate as chemical works, the liquid has to be served cold to mask its lack of palate and character, it is weak, over-priced and in every pub you go in.

You can't open a magazine, read a newspaper or watch T.V. without having lager forced (metaphorically) down your throat by continual advertising campaigns, telling you to go out and buy it. It makes me sick! Look at the catch phrases, they are totally misleading!

Carlsberg; "Probably the best lager in the world", well at that strength it's almost certainly one of the weakest and probably has one of the highest profit margins! It's no wonder that they can afford to spend between £5 and £8 million a year promoting it, and we all know whose pocket that comes out of. It may well be brewed in this country by Danes, but it's not the lager brewed in Denmark, which does have a worldwide reputation. That is the Premium Hof (1042) and if available here would probably command a premium price.

Harp; "Precision Brewed". Of course it is! If they didn't process it very, very carefully they wouldn't be able to extract the maximum profit out of the minimum materials. What about "Each one tastes exactly the same as the last"? I'd agree with that too. Every one is tasteless, characterless, bodyless, weak, fizzy, cold and expensive!

"I bet he drinks Carling Black Label". Have you noticed how everyone on those adverts is not normal? The inference that if you drink Britain's bland leader you become some sort of super person, appears to me that Hitler should have brewed it. Talk about the ultimate solution!

You may have gathered by now that I'm not particularly fond of lager. What I can't understand is why 47% of beer sales in this country today are lager, when the traditional heritage of this country is real ale. I can't bring myself to believe that if lager wasn't promoted heavily that many people would drink it. I must admit that when you are coming up to 18 years old and the only thing you recognise when you go into a pub is that horrible plastic box selling "alcohol" that you've seen on T.V. (so therefore it must be good) that is what you're going to buy. I must also admit that I suppose you can get used to it because it's so inoffensive. But surely if real ale was promoted in the same manner it would also increase its market share. Because real ale is a quality product (in most cases but by no means all) it will retain its market share by word of mouth, but the nation's traditional beverage will eventually be strangled by this "pseudo-foreign" muck that is forever being foisted upon us. Something must be done, and soon, before it's too late.

I suppose that if you are reading this magazine you must have some commitment to real ale, and therefore I've been preaching to the converted. Do you have friends who drink lager? Show them this article and hear what they've got to say about it. I would love to have some replies to this from lager drinkers, because as I said above, I don't understand what they see in it. We have a letters column and we will print their opinions. As for myself, I'm off for a pint of something decent!

Rob Carder (The man who hates lager), 35 Hayfield Close, Pennine Meadows, Moorside, Oldham OL4 2LX.

One simple question from



ALE HOUSES

Could you drink Pendle Witches Brew in the company of a Headbanger, Old Tom, Old Eli, Old Timer, Old Hookey and a Forty-niner whilst discussing simultaneously the finer points of Bishops Tipple, Moonraker or the merits of Varsity and College—without losing your bottle?

Regulars will know the answer.

However, if you don't even understand the question, come and be initiated at

THE GAME COCK

152 Old Street, Ashton-Under-Lyne

Bus Route Nos. 187 216 218 219 345 347 348 349 Stop right outside the door.

The Fighting Cock, Bradford

The Red Rooster, Brighouse

The Woodcock, Halifax

The Duck & Drake, Leeds

Birds with all the "right stuff" inn

OPENING HOURS

Monday — Saturday: 11.30 a.m. — 3.00 p.m., 5.00 p.m. — 11.00 p.m.

Sunday: 12.00 p.m. — 2.00 p.m., 7.00 p.m. — 10.30 p.m.

A SLOPPY BUSINESS!

When one considers the many hours of Radio and Television pushed out into the airwaves every week, items concerning booze and related subjects are fairly few and far between. So when Radio Times announced (for BBC 2's "Food & Drink" programme "Beer — what are the hidden extras in a pint of bitter that could affect your health?" — there was at least one CAMRA member ready with the video recorder!

It was all about germs, and what really happened to the contents of drip trays. 40 out of 70 former publicans confirmed the long suspected practice of putting the slops back into customer's glasses. Worse even — one talked about collecting left-overs from glasses after closing time, and demonstrated gaining access to a keg and pouring in a bucketful of these left-overs.

An Environmental Health Officer was suitably horrified — this is an offence under Food Hygiene Regulations, carrying a fine of up to £2,000. The Brewers' Society says it is undesirable and illegal. The BBC presenter suggested oversize glasses to reduce spillage, and metered pumps, but "CAMRA are against metered pumps as they think it destroys their folksy image" (?)

DOUBLE CELEBRATION AT THE GAMECOCK

April heralds two events at this bustling Ashton-Under-Lyne free house. On Wednesday April 16th there will be a traditional cider promotion night (a la Rhys Jones, see March BEER LINES). About ten different brews/concoctions will be available, including Thatcher's (no relation) and Landons. The emphasis will be placed on ciders and perry's from small, independent manufacturers. All the usual traditional beers will also be on sale.

Secondly, sometime during the early part of April, the 100th guest beer since opening will go on sale. Impressive figures for a pub only open nine months. The 100th guest beer will be something extra special at a reduced price. Mr. Finch has been very tight-lipped about its identity but rumour has it that Holts Cask Sixex may soon be available. . . .

ROB CARDER

LAKE DISTRICT MOVES SOUTH?

We learn that Robinsons subsidiary, Hartleys of Ulverston, have introduced a new keg mild called Three Shires. A free-trade only beer with an O.G. of 1032.5, the interesting aspect is that it's brewed in Stockport (to Hartleys recipe). As far as we know, this is the first Hartleys beer to be brewed away from Ulverston, but what if anything, this indicates we don't as yet know.

JOHN CLARKE

So what can we, the drinking public do? Personally, I like a clean glass every time, but in the Manchester area at least, this is not a very widespread practice, and in any case, if the slops go in, nothing is achieved. It isn't always possible to see exactly what is going on behind the bar, but at a very well known and busy pub in Didsbury village, drip trays are openly emptied into stainless steel buckets during a busy session — are they really going to be tipped away?

PHIL LEVISON (From Opening Times)

WHY NOT ADVERTISE YOUR PUB OR BREWERY IN BEER LINES? THE RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

HALF PAGE — £50 per Month

QUARTER PAGE — £30 per Month

EIGHTH PAGE — £15 per Month

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:-

ROB CARDER

35 Hayfield Close, Pennine Meadows,
Moorside, Oldham OL4 2LX.
or telephone 0204 389274 (W)

R.O.B. GO ROUND OLDHAM TOWN CENTRE

To mark the last day of February, R.O.B. undertook an investigative crawl around the pubs in Oldham Town Centre. We had been forewarned and advised that a Friday night may not be a good idea. Nevertheless, five zealous branch members participated in ascertaining some (if not all) of the following:

1) Abbey Inn, West Street — OB bitter (H) 67p, OB mild (H) 64p, Boddingtons bitter (H) 67p†

One intrepid explorer ventured into this first pub en route; consumed a half of reasonably typical Boddingtons bitter in rather comfortable (though a little noisy) surroundings. We have been warned that the OB beers may not be real — this requires checking.

2) Bank Top Tavern, King Square — Lees bitter (H) 75p†, Lees mild (H) 70p†.

Our first traveller here met up with three more of the party to savour (?) the delights of Lees' beers in what is now a pleasant pub (with restaurant). Not very busy at 8.00 p.m. though.

3) Sergeant at Arms, King Street — Whitbread FIZZ.

We marched right up to the top of the steps, then we marched right down again!

4) Roebuck, King Street — Wilsons bitter (E) 70p†, Wilsons mild (E) 68p†.

Here a discussion ensued concerning the bubbles in the beer and we raised our glasses to give them a good tap and watch the stream of bubbles surge through the beers. Not bad if fizz — probably under a low blanket pressure.

5) Star Inn, King Street/George Street — Wilsons bitter (E) 72p†, Wilsons mild (E) 70p, Websters Yorkshire bitter (E) 74p†. All fizz. We skeptically had a half each (well, apart from the young lady amongst us who decided that discretion was the better part of valour and had an orange juice!).

6) Nelson, Union Street — Whitbread Chesters bitter (H) 71p†.

Hurray for a pint of real cold tea! All a matter of what you compare things with! Here we were joined by two lads from the gas board who may have been more at home experimenting with the ales on the first half of the trip!

7) Grey Horse, Union Street — Robinsons B bitter (E) 72p†, mild (E) 70p†, Old Tom (G) £1.30†.

We had definitely been warned but were quite happy to be deafened by the music and surrounded by freaks as we enjoyed a decent half. I even found myself tempted to join in the dancing, but thought better of it as I was clutching a briefcase and encased in a duvet jacket! Here a fifth R.O.B. member joined us but then left again!

8) The Bath, Union Street — OB bitter (E) 67p, OB mild (E) 64p, Boddingtons bitter (H) 68p†. The OB beers again suspected to be Fizz.

And then there were three, plus two, divided by two! Comfortable pub just beginning to get busy (prior to a move of the clientele across the road to the Grey Horse?) Shame there are no interior walls left.

9) Ashton Arms, Clegg Street — Bass FIZZ.

The scouting party went in and came out without drinking anything, however, the back-up crowd actually drank some!

10) Busbys, Union Street — Wilsons FIZZ (at least as far as we could see, there were too many spectators at the bar!)

Well — we had to have a try (the scouting party that is). In fact the barmaids in their undies and one young lady similarly scantily clad and dancing at shoulder height with tambourines, near the door attracted the male member of the scouting party to go back in But then too much pressure elsewhere had been fought against and other temptations of the flesh were resisted now too!

11) The Royal Oak, Rose Bank — Robinsons mild (E) 70p, B bitter (E) 74p†, Old Tom (E) £1.14.

At last! Bliss! A quiet, comfortable pub with good beer and recently done up ladies loos! Why didn't we stay longer . . . ? . . .

12) The Grapes, Yorkshire Street — Wilsons bitter (H) 76p†, Websters Yorkshire bitter (H) 78p†.

Splendidly redecorated large pub, more like a hotel lounge really, but better if visited earlier as it felt as if you were fighting your way out of Old Trafford!

13) The Oldham Hotel, Yorkshire Street — Marstons Pedigree (H)† (too drunk to note the prices? — The Ed.), bitter (H), mild (H).

Getting a little ratted now, very quiet apart from a couple of courting couples. Disco with no-one listening, let alone dancing. A very bleak pub. Evening made livelier by the entry of half a brick through the window! (Possibly a gang of irate landlords chasing the R.O.B. drunks, sorry members — The Ed.)

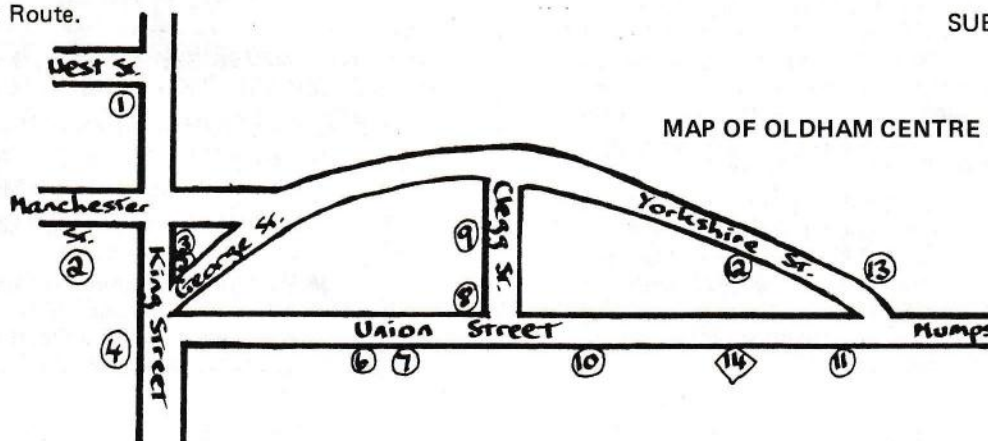
14) Light of Bengal, Union Street — Poppadums†, Tikkas†, Tandooris†, Curries†, Nan†, Gallons of black coffee†.

Descended to the peace and comfort of this excellent curry emporium, where we stuffed ourselves (some more than others), and tried unsuccessfully to sober up before taking a taxi home. (In the case of the Editor's husband it was a long taxi ride as he didn't get home till 2.00 p.m. on the Saturday afternoon!)

Next time we'll make it a Tuesday night as usual and "hit" the other high spots — if we can get any willing volunteers to brave the snow/gales/fizz/pandemonium of Oldham Town Centre. Or maybe we yokels will stick to Saddleworth, consume our Timothy Taylors, Linfit Special, Theakstons, Moorhouses, Oak Porter, Youngers and Matthew Brown and fall into the Diggle Chip shop or Greenfield Chinese Take-Away.

† Consumed En Route.

SUE CUNNINGHAM



LICENSING HOURS

Trafford and Hulme Branch attempted to get Trafford Magistrates to extend permitted hours to 11.00 p.m., Monday – Thursdays. This would have been a small step in giving consumers some choice in when they drink.

At the first hearing, supported by the LVA, T & H obtained a separate hearing to consider the matter.

At the second hearing, from which the LVA were conspicuous by their absence, the case was put by T & H and opposed by the Managers Association, NALHM. This Association appears to believe the best way to run pubs is to keep them closed.

One point seemed to swing the matter was that Trafford has no common boundary with an 11.00 p.m. closing area. Since the right and sensible decision of City of Manchester magistrates, Trafford now has a very long boundary with such an area. Hopefully in 1987 the matter will be put right. Trafford and Hulme branch will certainly apply again. Perhaps in 10 months the LVA will decide where it stands. We would welcome their support.

In the meantime CAMRA will continue to campaign for the consumers right to choose what and when they drink.

DAVID SHELTON

RARE ROBBIES

Readers of BEER LINES will be familiar with Robinsons Best Mild and Best Bitter, some of you may even be familiar with the difficulty in finding the ordinary bitter, but it's a fair bet that few of you have sampled the extremely rare dark mild. This is simply the Best Mild with added caramel, but the effect is to create a distinctively different beer. It is produced for nine outlets only and Robbies won't put it in any more pubs but even so full marks to them for catering for local tastes in this way.

The outlets are not exactly all Greater Manchester, but if you find yourself in the area they will be worth a visit. New Inn, Market Place, Buxton.

Old Pack Horse, Chapel-on-le-Frith.

Square and Compass, Darley Dale, Matlock.

Red Lion, Lower Withington, Macclesfield.

Red Cow, Beam Street, Nantwich.

Rifleman, The Barony, Nantwich.

Griffin Hotel, Llanbedr-dyffryn, Clwyd, Ruthin.

The Wine Vaults, Ruthin.

Sandringham Hotel, West Parade, Rhyl.

JOHN CLARKE

ROAD SCHEME THREATENS 15 PUBS

News of plans for large-scale pub demolitions caused by the widening of Hyde Road, have already been published by the Stockport and South Manchester Branch of CAMRA. They have now seen the complete plans for this and the related schemes and can now issue a full list of the threatened pubs:-

Star, Hyde Road, (Wilsons)

Horseshoe, Hyde Road, (Robinsons)

Unicorn, Hyde Road, (Boddingtons)

Travellers Call, Hyde Road (Hydes)

Nags Head, Hyde Road, (Boddingtons)

Rock, Hyde Road, (Tetleys)

Victoria, Hyde Road, (Chesters)

Coach and Horses, Hyde Road, (Robinsons)

Cheshire Hunt, Hyde Road, (Sam Smith "free")

Plough, Hyde Road (Robinsons)

Star, Pottery Lane, (Keg Chesters)

Grey Mare, Ashton Old Road, (Free)

Duke of Edinburgh, Mill Street (Tetleys)

Alexandra, Mill Street (Free)

Although the plans are not due to become reality for at least three years they have already caused consternation in East Manchester. CAMRA will be doing all it can to stop the demolitions, and YOU can help by telling the council what you think of the plans – the person to contact is Mr. Alan Hubbard of Manchester City Council Planning Department, at the Town Hall, tel. 234 4530.

RHYS P. JONES

FUNTIME IN FARNWORTH

Jennings bitter has appeared in the Saddle Inn, King Street, Farnworth, but has disappeared from the King William IV, Manchester Road, Bolton.

Elsewhere in Farnworth, the Golden Lion on Gladstone Road has re-opened as a "Fun Pub" after refurbishments costing £55,000. The pub is called 'Bananas' thus challenging 'Rosie O'Grady's Good Time Emporium' for Bolton's stupidest pub name. Unfortunately real ale has been replaced by Keg Tetleys and Australian Gnat's Water.

DES NOGALSKI

WHEN IN ROCHDALE

Come and visit

JOHN & CAROL

at the

MERRY
MONK

College Road

Tel: 46919

Marstons &
Guest Beer



CITY NEWS

At the time of going into press, Lees' new city centre pub, Gullivers, on Oldham Street was closed following a fire. The building is still occupied however and an early re-opening is anticipated.

All change at Branagans Bar, beneath the Royal Exchange. Chesters beers have gone, to be replaced by Wilsons Bitter, Websters Yorkshire Bitter and Green Label, all on handpump.

JOHN CLARKE

The Victoria on Oldham Road has closed and the Landlord has moved over the road to another Wilsons pub called "The Spanking Rodger" (something we would all like to do! – The ED.) At present the fate of the Victoria is unknown.

Information supplied by JOHN HEYWOOD

WINNING WITCHES

The Club in South East Lancashire has scored yet another first. This excellent establishment is the first in the area to have Moorhouse's Pendle Witches brew on permanent sale. As stated before in BEER LINES, the club has a cheap beer policy and the Witches brew is no exception, at 78p per pint, this is excellent value for a 1050 beer.

RAY KRUPP

QUALITY WEBSTERS!

Certain CAMRA officianados have been invited to the Fountain Brewery, Halifax in early April as Samuel Websters and Wilsons are to unveil a new premium strength cask bitter. This is brewed 'for quality rather than quantity' and we look forward to sampling it. Certainly the Northern arm of Grand Metropolitan has been short of such a beer. We will report back next month.

DAVID SHELTON

WELCOME BODDIES

The Peels Arms, Den Lane, Springhead now has hand-pulled Boddingtons. This is a welcome addition to the keg Oldham mild and bitter.

BRYAN JACKSON



For a night to remember
in a cosy, unspoilt traditional pub,
The Cemetery is unbeatable.

Bring a party and we can provide you with
a private room — bar sports as required, food
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

SKELETONS IN BODDIES CLOSET

Spotted on a notice board in the Brewers Arms, Strange-ways, where the January Regional Meeting was held, was a list of forthcoming engagements for senior staff at Boddingtons. Under Thursday February 20th it read "Dirty Tricks Meeting". This month's competition is to list as many as possible dirty tricks Boddies have done in the last five years.

RHYS P. JONES & PAULA CARDER

MORE RENOVATIONS BY WALKERS

Apologies to the Cross Guns, Bolton Road, Westhoughton who, it was wrongly stated last month, was to open as a Walker's outlet. In fact it is the Grey Mare that will switch from Tetley to Walker in the next few months.

However, the Cross Guns has re-opened after £20,000 worth of renovations, which appear to have been well spent — an awkward dividing wall between the lounge and bar has gone, in order to create more space, and new carpets and seating have been installed. All in all Tetley's have done an excellent job with the refurbishment, making the Cross Guns an excellent pub to drink in. Handpumped Tetley mild and Walker's best bitter are available.

DES NOGALSKI

CARETAKER LEES

The Old Boars Head on Long Street, Middleton is serving Lees beers on a temporary basis until it is re-leased. This sixteenth century listed building is owned by Rochdale Corporation, and until recently was run by the Pennine Host group. As the new tenants must spend £100,000 to renovate the interior it's not the sort of pub anyone could buy, but we understand that a decision on the new owners will be imminent.

KEITH PARTINGTON

MAN & SCYTHE

Real ale has returned to the Man and Scythe, Churchgate Bolton after a lengthy absence. The pub appeared in the very first Good Beer Guide in 1974, but cask conditioned beer disappeared shortly afterwards although traditional cider remained, the plethora of cloudy yellow drinks only serving to testify to its popularity over fizzy Whitbread Trophy, but now handpulled Castle Eden is a welcome addition at 78p a pint.

The Man and Scythe is without a doubt the oldest and most famous pub in Bolton. Originally built in 1251 and re-built in 1636, James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby imbibed there in 1651 prior to his execution, and his seat on that fateful day is on permanent display above the bar.

DES NOGALSKI

WHAT WILL MR. WHITBREAD DO NEXT?

Whitbread have ripped out the interior of the former Mr Chesters on Cannon Street, Manchester, having evidently decided that the previous theme ('Instant Victorian') had come to the end of its natural? life. It was mooted that after re-opening it should sell the beers brewed at the Lass O'Gowrie, Charles Street, but this has apparently been discarded as impractical. Despite the signs proclaiming cask conditioned beer, the pub had sold only keg products for some time, as to whether this will still be the case after re-opening, we'll let you know.

JOHN CLARKE

ENTERPRISING RIP-OFF

Now that the G-Mex centre is open we have heard that Bass run the bars in the complex. Visitors can enjoy keg beer at £1.20 a pint. Isn't it a shame that with the recent Enterprise North-West exhibition that the owners of the centre couldn't find an enterprising North-West brewer to supply the beer.

PAULA CARDER

NEW GUIDE

Stockport and South Manchester CAMRA have just produced a new guide to real ale in Central and South Manchester. Similar in style to the comprehensive lists produced in conjunction with 'What's Doing' in the days when that publication served the entire region, it nevertheless incorporates some of the much-needed improvements — for example, explaining the abbreviations so that you don't have to be a CAMRA member of 10 years standing to understand the thing! Priced at 10p it's available from a selection of the listed pubs or, in case of difficulty from: Jim Flynn (Branch Treasurer), 13, Styal Avenue, Reddish, Stockport. If ordering by post, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Serially numbered updates to the guide will appear in BEER LINES, information for these should be sent to: Rhys P. Jones, 24 Ellen Wilkinson Cres., Manchester 12.

And now, here is UPDATE No. 1

ADDITIONS:

City Centre — Sam's Chop House, Back Pool Fold. Websters B, Manns B (H); restricted opening hours.

Rusholme — Sherwood Inn, Claremont Rd. Chesters B(H)

DELETIONS

City Centre — Bridge, Pin Mill Brow. CLOSED.

CHANGES

Ardwick — King's Head. Add Greenalls M (H)

Clayton — Strawberry Duck. Delete Holts M.

RHYS P. JONES

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

As we all know the Marble Arch, Rochdale Road, has Fullers London Pride as a regular beer, but did you know that John Worthington manages to transport it to Manchester and still sell it at a much more acceptable price than the tied pubs in London? In the Star, Belgrave Mews, West London, it is 95p per pint. In the Argyll Arms, Argyll Street, London (Nicholsons) it is £1.02 per pint, while at the Marble it is a mere 87p per pint. Yet another example of the price differences between North and South.

DAVID SHELTON

JENNINGS UPDATE

The following is an update to the list of Tetley houses now selling Jennings bitter (See Beer Lines February).

Delete: Football, Swinton Hall Road, Swinton. Buckley Arms, Partington Lane, Swinton.

Additions: Bull's Head, Chorley Road, Swinton. Black Horse, Elliott Street, Tyldesley. Ellesmere, Manchester Road, Walkden.

RAY KRUPP

TIMPERLEY HEROES

It's now about six months since Bob Thornton bought the franchise of the Timperley Legendary Lancashire Heroes (a branch of the real ale off licence chain), at 150 Sylvan Avenue, Timperley, a shop he had previously managed. Bob keeps up to four draught beers on hand-pump, with the changes constantly being rung. Winkles and Oak brews are regulars with the beers of other "micro" breweries such as Dildfords or Titanic, competing with the larger traditional brewers. For traditional cider drinkers, Thatchers range is always available.

An extensive range of bottled beers from around the world complements the usual wines and spirits.

Any quantity of beer can be supplied to order with 4, 8, 18 and 36 pint containers available for the "take away". Large orders can be delivered if required. Bob, a CAMRA member, keeps a consistently good pint and you can ring him on 061-905 1009 to check on his latest range. (BEER LINES ALWAYS IN STOCK)

DAVE WARD

MOORHOUSE'S CLASSIC

Classics Wine Bar opened in February at the Mercury Motel, Manchester Road, Westhoughton, and, unusually for a wine bar, real ale is on sale. Moorhouse's Premier bitter, previously unavailable in Bolton Metro, is dispensed through a handpump at 78p a pint with a 50p Happy Hour from 6.00 — 7.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. The owners are aiming for a "Higher Class" of clientele, so you may have to negotiate the bouncer on the way in.

DES NOGALSKI



MARBLE ARCH INN

73 Rochdale Road
Manchester M4 4HY
Tel: 061-832 5914



*Holts, Fullers London Pride, Hydes
& Marstons Pedigree & 3 Guest Beers
always available.*

Manchester's Premier Free House

ALE SEARCH

There are 27 beers all with the original gravity of 1040, hidden below can you find them?

T H R E E C O U N T I E S C S Z
H A R T L E Y S X B U R T V P A
U L E Y B I T T E R D P A O A R
R B E E X E S R X E C F W G D Y
L E W N X J R O N W H I N L J L
S N A O I O E N E X A S Y Q T L
T E N T S H H G U I N N E S S E
O D D S S N S A K M B O M M E W
N E O D H P A R N P B R O I B O
E E V I T E D M G Q Y R U L S P
B L E A R E A L I C E A L E R L
I T R M O L E S H K V B J S E E
T S A R W H L V P A R I S H H U
T A L F D S E S I D A R A P C M
E C E L A N E D L I H T T V R A
R I N G W O O D B E S T I V A S

Beers included are:-

Brew XI	Harvey BB
Guinness	Hilden Ale
Castle Eden	Moles
Alice Ale	Paradise
Archers Best	Samuel Powell
Axe	Ringwood Best
Barrons	Smiles
Andover Ale	Three Counties
John Peel	Thurlstone Bitter
Burt VPA	Uley Bitter
Strongarm	Wadworths Six X
Tawny	Parish
Maidstone	Dashers
Hartleys XB	

PAULA CARDER

BRANCH DIARY

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

APRIL

Saturday 5th: Evening Coach trip to Bradford and the Sair Inn. Contact Tom Lord for pick up points.
Tuesday 8th: Committee Meeting, Rising Sun (Wilsons) Bredbury 9.00 p.m.
Tuesday 15th: Branch Meeting, George (Burtonwood) Hayfield 8.30 p.m.

MAY

Tuesday 6th: Committee Meeting, Crescent (Robinsons), Disley, 9.00 p.m.
Tuesday 13th: Branch Meeting, Gamecock (Free), Ashton, 8.30 p.m.
Contact Tom Lord 061-427 7099.

STOCKPORT & SOUTH MANCHESTER

APRIL

Tuesday 1st: 8.00 p.m. Open Committee Meeting, the Alexandra Northgate Road, Edgeley.
Thursday 10th: 8.00 p.m. — Branch AGM, The Gateway, East Didsbury. Note membership cards are required if you want to vote.
Monday 7th: 8.30 p.m. — Social, Victoria, Withington.
Friday 11th: City Centre Crawl with Trafford and Hulme Branch Lass O'Gowrie, 7.00 p.m. Circus Tavern 8.00 p.m.
Monday 14th: 8.30 p.m. Social, Adswood Hotel, Adswood Lane.
Monday 21st: 8.30 p.m. Social, Victoria, Hyde Road.
Thursday 24th: Pub of the Month — Crown, Didsbury.
Friday 25th: Ollerton Crawl, (transport to be provided)
Monday 28th: 8.30 p.m. Social, The Printers, Cheadle.

MAY

Friday 2nd: Coach Trip to Saddleworth Beer Festival, depart Bulls Head, Hazel Grove 6.15 p.m.; Pineapple, Heaton Lane, Stockport 6.30 p.m.; White Swan, Fallowfield 6.45 p.m.
Contact John Clarke 061-477 1973 (H) 061-832 2468 X 385 (W)

SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE

APRIL

Tuesday 1st: Fools' Day crawl of Liverpool. Start Lion, Dale Street/Moorfields at 7.30 p.m.
Thursday 3rd: Trip to Moorhouses Brewery, Burnley. Details from Branch contact.
Monday 7th: Social, Astley & Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Association, Gin Pit Village, at 8.30 p.m.
Saturday 12th: Trip to Blackburn Beerex, King Georges Hall, Blackburn. Details from Branch contact.
Saturday 26th: Social, Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh, at 8.00 p.m. Full Buffet and entertainment provided. Everyone welcome. Further details from Branch contact.
Sunday 27th: Branch meeting, Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh 1.00 p.m.

MAY

Saturday 3rd: Trip to Saddleworth Beerex. Details from Branch contact.
Monday 19th: Social Secretary's Birthday Celebration. Details to be arranged. 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.

TRAFFORD & HULME

APRIL

Thursday 3rd: 8.15 p.m. Branch Expedition to Hulme. Start from the Ducie Arms, Devas Street, thence the Old Abbey, Guildhall Street at 8.45 p.m.
Monday 7th: 8.00 p.m. Committee Social at the White Lion, Liverpool Street, Manchester.
Thursday 10th: 8.00 p.m. Altrincham Anabasis. Starts from the Orange Tree, Old Market Place, then the Roebuck, 8.30 p.m. and Old Mill, 9.00 p.m. Details from Branch contact.
Friday 11th: 7.00 p.m. Joint crawl with Stockport and South Manchester Branch in City Centre. Meet Lass O'Gowrie, Charles Street, then Circus Tavern, Portland Street, 8.00 p.m.
Thursday 24th: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting and report of AGM, Old Mill, Barrington Road, Altrincham.
Contact: David Shelton 061-795 2113 (H) 061-224 7341 (W)

NORTH MANCHESTER

APRIL

Wednesday 2nd: Salford Crawl; Woolpack 7.00 p.m. Paddock 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday 9th: Old Veteran, off Eccles New Road, Salford.
Wednesday 16th: White Swan, Swinton, 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday 23rd: Kenyon Arms, Manchester Road, Little Hulton, 8.00 p.m.
Wednesday 30th: Tyldesley Crawl, 7.30 p.m. Carder's Arms, 8.30 p.m. Half Moon.
Contact Roger Hall 061-740 7937.

BOLTON

APRIL

Wednesday 2nd: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting, Sunnyside (Free House) Bottom of Adelaide Street, off St. Helens Road, Bolton. All members welcome.
Sunday 6th: 12 noon Social at the Royal Oak (Greenall Whitley), Bradshaw, and 1.00 p.m. at the House Without A Name (Chesters), Lee Gate, Harwood.
Sunday 13th: 12 noon Social at Bob's Smithy, Chorley Old Road, Bolton.
Tuesday 15th: 6.00 p.m. Brewery Trip to Mitchell's of Lancaster. Phone Des Nogalski 0204 655418 (H) for details.
Wednesday 23rd: St. George's Day crawl of Farnworth. Start 8.00 p.m. at the Market (Walker's) Brackley Street 8.30 p.m. Britannia (Chester's) King Street 9.00 p.m. Saddle (Tetley/Jennings) King Street 9.30 p.m. White Hart (Jennings, hopefully) 10.30 p.m. White Horse (Tetleys). All times are very approximate.

MAY

Wednesday 7th: 8.30 p.m. Branch Meeting, Cross Guns (Walkers), Deane Road, Bolton.
Monday 12th: Thwaites Brewery Trip.
Contact Des Nogalski 0204 655418 (H) for further details.
Branch Contact - Dave Fleming, Bolton 389918 (H) or Farnworth 75111 X 207 (W)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

APRIL

Tuesday 8th: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting, Dog and Partridge (Lees) Middleton Road, Royton.
Tuesday 22nd: 8.00 p.m. Committee meeting, Black Horse (Lees) Rochdale Road, Shaw.

MAY

Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th: SADDLEWORTH BEER FESTIVAL see elsewhere for details.
Tuesday 6th: 8.00 p.m. A.G.M. — The Castle (Wilsons), Manchester Road, Rochdale. All members are asked to attend, sandwiches provided.
Tuesday 20th: 8.00 p.m. Committee meeting, Sawers Arms (Thwaites), Whitehall Street, Rochdale.
Tuesday 13th: Crawl of Heywood. Start 8.00 p.m. at Kings, Market Place, Heywood. Join in at the birth place of Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch.
Contact: Steve Lawton — 061-620 9239 (H) 061-928 6311 X 7111 (W)

PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM APRIL, ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BEER LINES SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH.