

GREATER MANCHESTER CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

MAY 1986

NUMBER 5

SLAPPED WRIST 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

MORE CHOICE IN BURY

Perhaps the most impressive range of real ales in the Bury area can now be found at the MASONS ARMS, Nangreaves. They actually include two milds, the present offerings include Tetley mild and bitter, Youngers IPA, Walkers Best bitter, Boddingtons and Thwaites bitter, Hydes best mild and Moorhouses Pendle Witches Brew.

The pub is off the A56 north of Bury on a road to the right which is in fact sign-posted to the Lord Raglan free house. The Masons is owned by a CAMRA member and also has excellent restaurant facilities.

PETER WIGHTMAN

ROAD SCHEME THREAT

Last month a typographical gremlin "lost" a pub from the list of 15 threatened by the Hyde Road/Intermediate Ring Road scheme – The Grey Mare is of course not a free house but a keg Chesters pub, while the pub not listed – which is a free house – is very sadly the excellent Travellers Call on Ashton Old Road.

RHYS P. JONES

MORE SADDLEWORTH NEWS

Handpumps have re-appeared in the village of Delph after an absence of many years. The Bulls Head, of band contest fame is now selling cask conditioned Stones bitter (74p) Bass Light (71p) and 4X mild (71p). Yellow peril in the form of Carling Black Label and Tennants lager are (82p), once again proving that real ale is the best value.

Oldham mild has disappeared from the Diggle Hotel, Diggle, to be replaced by Tetley Walker mild (72p). The reason for the change was the recent inconsistent quality of the O.B. mild.

Linfit English Guineas is shortly due to make an appearance at the Horse and Jockey, Delph and the Church Inn, Uppermill. In case you haven't heard this is the only traditional cask conditioned stout being brewed in England (Strathalbyn stout which you may remember from Bury beer festival is a traditional Scottish stout, and Oakhill Stout from Bath, although being traditional is served under pressure). Which makes English Guineas well worth the effort in seeking out.

While on the subject of this stout, John Ferridge, landlord of the Merry Monk in Rochdale, has also agreed to try some of Ron Crabtree's brew.

ROB CARDER

DANGER-HOOLIGANS AT WORK

Before the Wigan v Bolton derby match at Springfield Park over Easter got under way, rampaging fans wrecked the Market Tavern in the town centre.

Rumour had it that the pub looked like the Somme in 1916 after these hooligans were through, and it was thought that the cost would run into thousands and the pub would be closed for some time, however, the damage was "only" in the region of £3,000 and the Tavern was closed for only 24 hours. The windows are now back in and you wouldn't think that anything had gone on now!

DAVE WHITE

SAMUEL WEBSTERS CHOICE - THE MARKETING OF A NEW PRODUCT

How do you introduce the public to a new beer without going to the expense of a T.V. advertising campaign? I think Websters and Wilsons could give us all a few pointers, so here is a brief discussion on the presentation given to the Northern Branches of CAMRA recently at Samuel Websters brewery in Halifax. The purpose of the presentation was to introduce us to their new cask-conditioned premium bitter, Samuel Webster's Choice.

The best real ales prosper by word of mouth. We sample different beers because they are recommended to us, not because we are told to drink them. In assessing this, Wilsons and Websters are to be commended, and when they described this CAMRA tasting as their "number one acid test", they could not be very far from the truth, because a more cynical bunch of tipplers I could not imagine. However the brewery have the courage of their convictions and as they told us they are "convinced of the future success of this important development because of the combination of pure product excellence and the dimensions of branding".

The presentation continued by explaining that the premium bitter market, although only a small part of beer sales, is expanding, while beer sales in general, are declining. There are, they said, "higher consumer perceptions of handpulled dispense and a demand for quality and tradition". These, then were the reasons for spending eighteen months developing this cask-conditioned premium bitter (as well as the test launch three years ago of the now-defunct Wilsons Gold Medal).

The beer itself will be launched in 50 pubs in the north (the list, hopefully, will appear in next month's Beer Lines). We were told that each has been specially selected on the basis of the quality of their cellarmanship and their ability to serve the beer at its best. These achievements will be rewarded with a certificate stating their fitness to serve Websters Choice, and as well as the beer, they will have the full paraphernalia (with the exception of T.V. advertising) of brand marketing; drip mats, posters, window stickers, shelf wobblers? as well as newspaper advertising. Let's hope this effort meets with some success.

Oh yes, I nearly forgot, after the hyperbole and the brewery trip, we finally got to taste the product that all the fuss was about. Taste and preference are entirely personal things but for my tenpenceworth, read on. I found the beer sweet and smooth with no distinct character but by no means unpleasant. I left the party early clutching my "exclusive-to-CAMRA" keyring (advertising Websters Choice, of course) and made my way to the excellent Red Rooster in Brighouse, and then to the Barge and Barrel at Elland. This pub was West Ridings only tied house until the brewery burned down (again) at Christmas. Now as well as Tetley mild and bitter, you can find two other premium cask conditioned bitters, Taylor's Landlord and Old Mill Bullion. Obviously, the nature of the evening meant that my colleagues and I had to endure further fieldwork research to taste and compare these beers with Websters Choice. Two more hoppy, dry tasting premium bitters you couldn't wish to find, each with their own distinctive character and taste. If only Websters and Wilsons could achieve something like these inestimable brews and combine it with their superb marketing, they would have a world beater. Still, it's better than foisting more of that fizzy yellow stuff upon us.

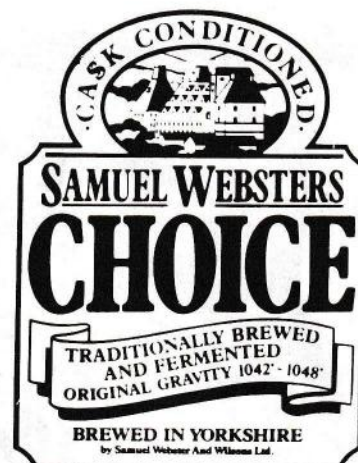
ROB CARDER

Footnote: During the presentations, Websters told us there was no competition for their new beer. Even if they were only referring to the major breweries, I must inform them that they are incorrect. Other breweries have spotted this market trend and you can expect an influx of premium bitters in the next few months. Already Sam Smiths Museum ale (1048) after a test marketing period in the South has appeared at Sinclairs in the City Centre. I also hear on the hopvine that John Smiths are working on a premium cask conditioned bitter. Even more 'choice' for us!

LIST OF BREWERY LIAISON OFFICERS

1. Bass North West — Ian Macmillan, 59 Caldly Road, Aintree, Liverpool L9 4RZ.
2. Boddingtons — Kevin Buckley, Leafy Acres, The Orchard, Huyton, Merseyside.
3. Burtonwood — Brian Gleave, 40 Taunton Avenue, Leigh, Lancashire.
4. Greenall Whitley — Post Vacant.
5. Higsons — see Boddingtons.
6. Holts — Ian McDermott, 3 Firwood Ave., Urmston, Manchester.
7. Hydes — Keith Egerton, 8 Meadway Close, Sale, Cheshire M33 4PT.
8. John Smiths — Graham Brown, 83 Jacob's Well Lane, Wakefield, W. Yorks.
9. Joshua Tetley (Leeds) — Mike Greenwood, 101 St. Annes Road, Leeds 6.
10. Lees — Mike Robinson, 48 Glen Grove, Royton, Oldham OL2 5SY.
11. Matthew Brown (Blackburn) — Paul Riley, 84 Coniston Road, Fulwood, Preston.
12. Moorhouses — Mike Crow, 1 Bolton Street, Newchurch, Rossendale, Lancs.
13. Oldham — see Lees.
14. Old Mill — Dave Vickers, 2 Sunningdale Road, Hatfield, Woodhouse, Wakefield.
15. Pennine Host — Humphrey Higgins, address from Stockport & South Manchester Branch contact.
16. Robinsons — Paul Thompson, see Pennine Host.
17. Timothy Taylors — Chris Rowland, 9 Thornhill Avenue, Oakworth, Keighley.
18. Thwaites — Sam Hird, 68, Redlam, Blackburn BB2 1UW.
19. Tetley Walker — Roy Walker, Highfield, Chester Road, Little Budworth, Tarporley, Cheshire.
20. Websters — Philip Hoffman, 1 Springfield, Kirk Lane, Hipperholme, Halifax HX3 8EX.
21. Wilsons — Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 2PW.
22. Whitbread (Chesters) — Steve Byrne, address from North Manchester branch contact.

PAULA CARDER



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.

FREE HOUSE NEWS

It's highly likely that an extra handpump will appear soon in the Merry Monk, College Road, Rochdale. This pump will be used exclusively for guest beers, the first of which is likely to be Linfit stout.

A cask of Lees Moonraker was seen behind the bar at the Cemetery, Rochdale recently, providing a welcome addition to the usual range of beers.

Another of my favourite beers, Franklins bitter (1037, brewed in Harrogate) will soon be available as a guest beer at the Marble Arch, Manchester. It is also available at The Gamecock, Ashton, fairly frequently and will appear at Saddleworth beer festival.

ROB CARDER

GREENALLS SELL MORE PUBS

Greenall Whitley are to close two pubs in the Wigan area. The British Queen, Ormskirk Road, Pemberton has been keg for several years, but the Plough and Harrow, also on Ormskirk Road, Newtown is a real gem of a boozer and will be a sad loss indeed. The brewery, who own a number of pubs in that area blame poor sales for the closures. It isn't known yet whether the pubs will be delicensed. Perhaps another brewery may be interested?

DAVE WHITE

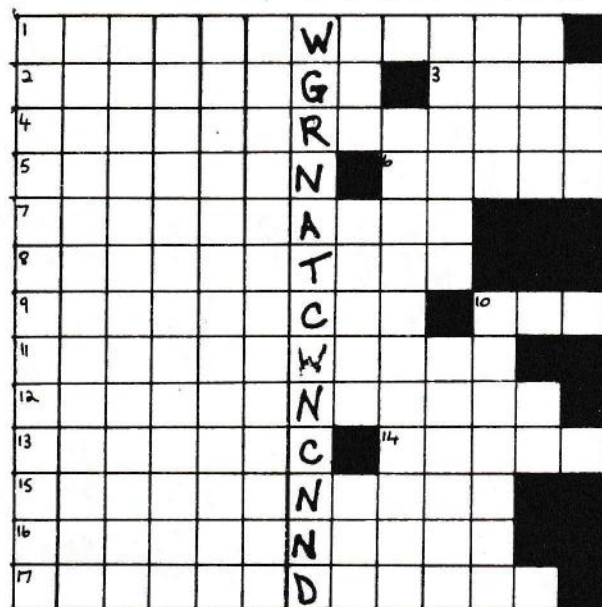
PRIZE COMPETITION

Solve all the clues, then find the name of a famous pub hidden in the grid (this can run forwards, backwards or diagonally)

The first 10 correct entries, taken along to the pub itself, will receive one free pint of their choice, courtesy of the landlord.

CLUES

1. Independent Blackburn Lion (7,5)
2. Tiger Brewery (8)
3. Home of Enoch and Eli (4)
4. Kentish Brewery, a crook should get a grip of this (8,5)
5. Heavy ale from Humberside (7)
6. Yodel leads you to this island brewery (5)
7. Manchester pub proud of more than one London connection (6,4)
8. Peculier brewery, this (10)
9. Bruce's new bird (3,6)
10. Stout Merseyside brewery (3)
11. Festival held with sad wort (11)
12. A Lincolnshire beer often crossed (8,4)
13. Goes down well with ice, this! (7)
14. Powerful church official (5)
15. A loony juice this - end of message! (5,3,3)
16. A good catch would explain this pub (5,6)
17. Twin firebreather from Wales (6,6)



HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE BRANCH TRIP TO BRADFORD

We wondered at times whether we would ever arrive at Bradford. The coach looked as though it had been borrowed for the evening from the transport museum. Its memory was certainly failing — or was it the gears? — for it constantly forgot to keep running when the driver changed down on hills, and he had to do a lot of that.

But arrive we did and soon found The Fighting Cock, father to the Gamecock in Ashton, and matching it in luxurious decor. Superb view of demolished mills, but to compensate good beer from Old Mill, Titanic, Archers and McEwans, to name but a few (and it was the beer we went for).

The coach was now rested, we went on to The Bradfordian which had Youngers No. 3, Webster's Green Label, Tetley Bitter on offer. Then down to Westgate to The Flagship for a pint of Trough bitter and Wild Boar bitter. The pub was equipped with the autovac system that produced a fine creamy Yorkshire head.

The party split here, some down to Yates Wine Bar to sample Youngers No. 3, McEwans 80/- and Websters, others returned up Westgate to have some Tetleys at the Boy and Barrel, another fine Yorkshire head — and good beer.

Then off to the Sair Inn in Linthwaite. We all made it up the hill, the coach stayed at the bottom. I remember particularly a pint of English Guineas, a stout, but reports from others on the other beers record equal satisfaction.

Then home, the coach seemed to glide back.

CHRIS TUCKER

For those who may never have been to Bradford I can thoroughly recommend a visit. I lived there for three years and never tire of re-visiting the stamping grounds. There are dozens of excellent pubs and even more marvellous curry houses. If you go during the day there is plenty to see and do, a visit to the Photographic Museum or the Industrial Museum in Fagley are well worth an afternoon, between opening sessions. Look out for the Beer Festival in December we always have a trip over on Saturday lunchtime, followed by a pub crawl and curry stop in the evening. — The Ed.

The area in Wigan just surrounding Wigan Athletic F.C. boasts an impressive array of real ale houses, with cask Tetley, Burtonwood, Greenalls and Whitbread all within walking distance of Springfield Park. But it is the Springfield Hotel, Springfield Road, that is currently packing them in.

Landlord Ernie Roughley brought an excellent reputation from the Silverwell in Darlington Street and has added Walker Best bitter (73p) to the ordinary bitter (72p) and mild (69p). The ales are up to Ernie's usual high standard and the pub is always full, with live music on Sunday Nights. You can expect to see Ernie and the Springfield back in the GBG next year.

DAVE WHITE

TO MR & MRS DON CHATWOOD

CAMRA Greater Manchester would like to congratulate stalwart regional treasurer Don Chattwood, alias Little Donny Tattlecopse, and wish him all future happiness after his secret wedding to Julie on Easter Saturday.

We will get our own back for not being invited to the stag night, by announcing the first Don Chattwood memorial stag night crawl to take place on Saturday 14th June. Watch out for further details in June's Beer Lines.

ROB CARDER

WIGAN 'PUB OF THE YEAR'

Wigan branch's 'Pub of the Year' award has gone to the Millstone, Wigan Lane, Wigan. This small, friendly pub serves Thwaites bitter and best mild on hand-pumps and has appeared in the G.B.G. for some years. Well worth a visit.

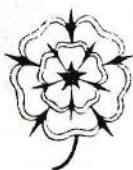
DAVE WHITE

LOCAL BEER GUIDE REVIEW

"Witch Beer in Lancashire?", a guide to real ale in east Lancashire, was published last month. It catalogues over 500 pubs and clubs in the area, in a very clear manner, with plenty of maps and photographs to help you on your way. Each major town is described and full details of licensing hours are included. Good value at £1.00.

I note that within its covers is included a free house which I visited last month. The White Swan at Wheatley Lane near Fence, is correctly described as having the largest selection of ales in the area. There are 11, including Donnington XXX mild and SBA! Above the entrance it very proudly describes itself as being 'Free of Brewer's Tie! A lovely pub well worth searching out if you're in the area.

ROB CARDER



MARBLE ARCH INN



73 Rochdale Road, Manchester M4 4HY

Tel: 061-832 5914

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

Manchester's Premier Free House

LETTERS

Dear Beer Lines — We have been consulted by Boddington's Breweries Plc in relation to an item headed "How Breweries Make Money 1", which appeared in your issue of February 1986.

The references to our Client Company's installation of a new filtering device in certain managed houses operated by it, in the context of the last two paragraphs and the "heading" of the item, constitute a serious defamation of our Client Company.

You may not be fully aware of the advantages which the system affords in terms of beer quality control and, equally relevant, in ensuring conformity to the requirements of the Beer Regulations but the clear inference of the item is that our Client Company, by its managers of licensed premises, condones or encourages the introduction of foreign substances into draught beers sold on such premises.

Whilst the seriousness of the allegation is such that our Client Company would be entitled to substantial damages, we are instructed to inform you that, provided an apology, in a form to be agreed by ourselves, is published in an equally prominent position in your next issue, our Client Company will forego its entitlement to monetary compensation.

Corbetts, Solicitors to Boddingtons.

While I can see the advantage of this filtering system in returning good beer without disturbing the contents of a cask, I am concerned also about the opportunity it offers to the unscrupulous in returning spent beer and other extraneous items, a practise that CAMRA disapproves of strongly. The reason for the headline was not to suggest that Boddington's managers use such a practise to make money for the brewery, but we were given to understand by the contributor that Tenants would be expected to pay some £800 for this device from their own pockets. It is often the case that a tenant is expected to pay for all sorts of bar fittings as well as paying his rent and buying his beer from the brewery.

Finally, the last paragraph, the very fact that the three landlords were discharged by the brewery, and rightly so, surely can not be taken to mean that we suspect Boddingtons of condoning this type of behaviour.

Perhaps Boddingtons themselves would care to write an article about their device, explaining its true nature. We would print it. We would also be interested to know why the brewery did not take exception to the article in the same issue about the rumoured closure of Oldham Brewery in 1987. Perhaps they might like to put us right on that issue too.

Finally it would be nice if Boddingtons and their solicitors could get my name right, I'm not Pamela Carter!

PAULA CARDER — The Editor

Dear Beer Lines — Anyone who lives or drinks on Tameside knows that there are a fair number of good pubs selling good beer in the borough. A check through back copies of the Good Beer Guide shows that two pubs in particular have been recognised over some years for their good beer.

The Tollemache (Robinsons) in Mossley has been recommended in the guide since 1975 — 12 years of good beer.

The Oddfellows (Robinsons) in Hurst has chalked up 10 consecutive entries since 1977 — a decade of achievement.

Behind these two front runners comes The Old Hunters Tavern (Robinsons), Stalybridge with 8 entries and The Dog and Partidge, Denton, and a rare outlet for Robinsons ordinary bitter, has been in 7 years.

Last there seem too great a bias in favour of Robinsons pubs, it must be said that The Moulders Arms (Tetleys), Hyde has 3 try also recommendations and 2 full entries in the last 5 years and The Napoleon (Marstons), Ashton, is regularly recommended as a pub to try also.

Congratulations to The Tollemache and The Oddfellows.

CHRIS TUCKER

Dear Beer Lines — Thank you for the copy of your magazine which was subsequently passed round the brewery. If you have not already heard, the Red Dragon, The Crescent, Salford, has recently been bought by Mr. and Mrs. Davies and was successful in obtaining a licence last week. Holt's will be the major supplier along with a guest beer. It should be open, subject to building work being completed, week commencing April 14th.

A list of free trade outlets supplied are as follows:

Dear Beer Lines — Re your article Paula's Prattles in February Beer lines on Milners at the Hare, Kings Road, Ashton-under-Lyne.

There is one line in the article 'There is no beer keg or otherwise' that is most certainly untrue. We sell — and have since taken over the premises — John Smiths beers, a wide range including bitter, light and dark mild ciders and lagers.

It seems that you have obtained all your information about the pub from the 'Advertiser' — nowhere in the advert did it mention that draught beer was not on sale — if you had taken the trouble to visit the pub before publishing — 12 beer heads on the bar top would have told you that beer certainly is sold.

My wife and I have been in the business for nearly 15 years and try to keep to the highest standards of product and service. Our success testifies to the fact that a lot of people like the way we run our pubs. We find your article insulting — you are allowed your preferences — though why you choose to insult two very hard working people trying their best — but you are not allowed to lie about the pub — a damaging lie at that.

R. MILNER

Yes Mr. Milner, I did obtain my information from the advertisement you placed in the 'Advertiser', and while it did not say there was no beer available, neither did it say that there was. As the advert was mainly about cocktails and foreign lager I assumed wrongly, I admit, that it was a beerless pub. Also you are quite right to complain that I have never been into your pub, but I'm afraid that is true of many of the establishments I write about in the magazine. I rely on information sent to me from interested people around the region. This is only a part time job, part of my hobby really and I cannot afford to spend the time gathering all the information myself.

I certainly didn't mean to insult or offend yourself or your wife, and for that I apologise, but as you say we are all allowed our preferences and I still cannot see the fascination for the 'fun theme' pubs which are becoming more common today. In fact I have been thinking about this recently and your letter has prompted me to do an investigation into this new style bar, so at the end of May I will be visiting a number of such places and talking to the licensees and some of the customers. I hope to see you then.

PAULA CARDER, Editor Beer Lines

WHEN IN ROCHDALE

Come and visit

JOHN & CAROL

at the

**MERRY
MONK**

College Road
Tel: 46919

**Marstons &
Guest Beer**



1. Prestwich Liberal Club
2. Beech Hill Social Club
3. The Drop Inn

4. The Marble Arch
5. The Strawberry Duck
6. The Gamecock
7. The White House
8. Swinton Conservative Club
9. Astley & Tyldesley Miners Welfare

10. Legendary Lancashire Heroes

11. The Peter Yates, Urmston
12. The Grapes, Ancoats
13. Hr. Blackley Royal British Legion
14. The Red Dragon (to be known as the Crescent)
15. The Post Office Club

BARRIE H. KELLY
Free Trade Manager, Holts

CHESTER'S NEW M.C.C.P. & A.

Perhaps incautiously, Chesters chose All Fools' Day (evening, admittedly) to relaunch their former flagship 'Mr. Chesters' on Cateaton Street near Manchester Cathedral. The place now rejoices in the title Mr. Chester's Celebrated Pie and Ale House—an acronymist's delight, especially if the Ale is assumed to be real. And real it certainly is, with Chester's mild and bitter, Thwaites bitter, Marston's Pedigree and Bulmers cider on handpump.

The style of the pub is comparable to the Host Group's "Ale House" conversions, though less cluttered than these tend to be. Features include some well-displayed breweriana, such as barrel bushes and taps. The former

downstairs of the pub is now out of public use, being needed for cellar and other storage.

Basically, then a job well done, but two criticisms:

1) Sadly but predictably, the price of cider. The price list suggested 88p but I was charged 91p — as this was opening night and I'd had a free pint of beer and an enormous free slice of pie, I wasn't disposed to argue, but at either price it's a rip-off. (Beer prices are reasonable, ranging from mild at 71p to Pedigree at 76p).

2) It's disappointing that in a real ale showpiece, Trophy is only available in its keg form.

RHYS P. JONES

CAMRA NORTH MANCHESTER

Branch Officers 1986/87

Chairman — Peter Cash
Secretary — Roger Hall
Treasurer — Bill Collier
Membership Secretary — Sue Richardson
Social Secretary — Duncan Roberts
Publicity Officer — Stewart Revell
Events Organiser — Peter Barnes
Pub Preservation Officer and Branch Contact — Roger Hall

Banks' South Manchester only policies have apparently been revised. A new pub is being built by them on RADCLIFFE MOOR ROAD, RADCLIFFE. It is scheduled for opening in December 1986 and judging by the size of the plot, may well be extensive.

PETER WIGHTMAN



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

The pub with one of the longest names in the country has got a new licensee. After 25 years as customers, Peter Lawton and his wife Jean have taken over the 13th Volunteer Mounted Cheshire Rifleman, in Stalybridge. The pub sells handpulled Wilsons beers and is listed in the 1986 G.B.G.

DAVE HALE

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH MANCHESTER UPDATE 2

ADDITIONS

City Centre — Mr. Chester's Celebrated Pie and Ale House, Cateaton Street, Chesters M, B; Marston's Ped; Thwaites B; Bulmers Cider (H)

Chorlton-on-Medlock — Grafton Arms, Grafton Street, Holts M, B, (H)

CHANGES

City Centre — Branagan's Bar. Delete beers shown, add Wilsons B; Websters B, GL (H)

Briton's Protection - Add Jennings B (H)

City Arms - Add Jennings B (H)

Gullivers - Add Moonraker (E)

Peveril of the Peak - Add Websters B and Choice (H)

Salisbury - Add Bulmers Cider (H)

Chorlton-on-Medlock — Bowling Green - Add Greenalls M (H)

Didsbury — Old Grey Horse - Add Websters B (H)

DELETIONS

Ardwick — Cleveland (closed).

RHYS P. JONES

ON THE REAL TETLEY TRAIL

Less than three months after re-opening as a free house, the Quill and Pen (ex' Railway) on Great Moor Street, Bolton, has lost its cask-conditioned Tetley mild and bitter. Handpulled Jennings bitter is now the only real ale available alongside a range of Tetley fizz products.

Across the town centre the Millstone Crown Street, opened after re-furbishments with a cheese sculpting contest. There is also a range of cheese dishes on the lunchtime menu. Real cheese but no real ale. Apparently there is "no room on the bar" for handpumps (must be because of all these cheesy sculptures taking all the space! — The Ed.)

So the bets for real Tetleys in the centre of Bolton remain the Clifton Arms, Newport Street and the Sweet Green Tavern just up the road on Crook Street, which is currently installing a beer garden ready for summer.

DES NOGALSKI

DUBLIN TRIP

Back in March several people from Manchester went on a trip to Dublin. Between October and March B + I ferries operate a cheap service between Manchester and Dublin for £19 return, this includes a free bottle of spirits on the way back!

It was arranged through the Irish tourist board, and indeed this was where we were picked up, at 8.00 p.m. on Friday night. We boarded the ferry in Liverpool just over an hour later, where we installed ourselves in the bar, along with a party of footballers. Here we consumed Guinness and Smithwicks bitter, till the bar closed at 1.00 a.m. (we set sail at 11.00 p.m. but it took us well over an hour to get out of the harbour). The footballers had bought a case of Heineken and proceeded to drink most of this until one of their number was ill, then by common consent they went to sleep, so did we (if you can call it that, it was very uncomfortable plus the Irish sea was a bit rollin in the middle of the night). At 5.00 a.m. the footballers awoke, and needless to say so did we, they proceeded to finish their Heineken (they were going to play at 10.00 a.m., goodness only knows how they will play). Coffee and breakfast were very expensive (40p and £4) so we gave them a miss.

We docked in Dublin at 7.00 a.m. and caught the bus into the city centre. Here our party split, one group went in search of an early opening bar, the rest of us went to find a cheap breakfast emporium. Two and a half hours later, suitably fed and watered, we went to find a bookshop to buy a guide book with a map. Then on to the first bar of the day (10.30 a.m.). This turned out to be The Patrick Conway pub, where we had Guinness at £1.36 a pint. It was a nice pub with lots of stained glass and mahogany. There was an amusing argument between Paddy (a drunk) and Sean (the barman) over whether or not Paddy had paid for his pint, unfortunately we had to leave before the outcome was known.

From here a longish walk to John Mulligans on Pool Beg Street. This pub was recommended in our guide. It was a typical Irish bar with lots of dark wood, est. 1782. More Guinness, this time at £1.30 a pint.

Yet another long walk passing many majestic buildings (Dublins' City Fathers must have had a lot of money to spend). We found ourselves on South Great George Street and the Long Hall (should have been the long haul after the distance we came). This was the most impressive bar yet, with tall ceilings, moulded roses and brass and crystal chandeliers. Gold and black moulded friezes and stained glass panels on the walls. There were two impressive clocks, one behind the bar, the other over an arched screen (which looked like part of a confessional) which divided the bar from the lounge. The beer mats were extra thick here, either the Irish spill a lot or the extra thickness is needed to mop up Guinness. We had yet more Guinness, this time at £1.34 a pint. We also noticed that half pints cost up to three quarters of the price of a full pint.

We all had noticed by this time that there had been no women barmaids (we discovered later that because of Dublins long opening hours it is a full time job so mostly men work behind the bar), also there has been no juke-boxes or games machines. A worrying thing though was the signs in every pub warning people to beware of pick pockets and handbag thieves. In the streets there were some strange sights too, a small girl by a telephone box and a handicapped woman sitting in a cardboard box in an arcade, both were begging.

A shorter walk by the river took us to Fleet Street and The Palace, where we met up with the rest of our party. Dempseys at £1.36 a pint was had, this was a pleasant fruity brew, although served much too cold for our palates. Here we were met by Kevin, the brewer from Dempseys, and at the God hour, between 2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m., when all the bars close, we went by bus to the industrial estate where the brewery is situated. Here we were entertained by members of Dublin CAMRA, and were shown round the brewery, and sampled copious quantities of Dempseys in their bar which was taken from one of the Dwyers bars (for details of the actual brewery visit see June's Beer Lines).

Much later that evening we were taken by our gracious hosts to Ryans Bar, a pub which was more like a railway station, with high ceiling and lots of dark wood and mirrors. More Dempseys was consumed, however by this time I'd lost track of prices.

A walk was called for, and Andy Cooper, Rob and myself set off for the city centre. We arrived eventually after a slight disagreement as to which direction it was in relation to the Guinness brewery. Near the Castle Inn on Castle Street, is Burdocks the best fish and chip shop I've ever been in. They have a coal fired range, and do the biggest portions ever, we couldn't manage to finish them!

A short car ride took us to Bagget Street and the Doheny and Nesbitt, where we sampled some Murphys stout at £1.34, very nice it was too. This bar seemed popular with Americans and was again typical with wood paneling and intricately moulded ceiling tiles. Rather reminiscent of some of the bars in Edinburgh.

Again a car ride (although it would have been quicker to have walked because of the one-way system) to Kennedys, on the corner of Westland Row, where we had Murphys Beamish Stout at £1.31. This beer was marvellous, after all the stout we had drunk, it still had a distinctive taste. This bar was different, if had a T.V. and was much larger and lighter, and at first was not as busy as the ones we had just left. However, later about twelve musicians started to play lovely Irish jigs and reels. There was a range of instruments and a range in ages of the musicians but they played well, and soon the bar was full.

Unfortunately, we had to leave to catch the ferry, so we said goodbye to our Dublin friends and took a taxi back to the port.

We boarded and went straight to the duty free shop to get our free booze, then some of us headed to the T.V. lounge where we had a peaceful, although chilly night. Our friends the footballers were celebrating in the bar, somehow they had managed to win 4:2! Some hardy souls from our group managed to have some Guinness for breakfast on the Sunday morning, but we gave that a miss.

The coach dropped us off in Manchester at 9.00 a.m. and we went straight home to bed, although Andy intended to go to the United match in the afternoon, more fool him.

The trip was well worth it, Dublin is a lovely city and the people we met, both from CAMRA and the bar staff and the taxi driver were all friendly and helpful. Each was very proud of their city and delighted to tell us of its history.

PAULA CARDER

BRANCH DIARY

SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE

MAY

Saturday 3rd: Trip to Saddleworth Beer-ex see Branch contact for further details.
Monday 5th: Trip to Newton Priory, Runcorn, phone Ashton-in-Makerfield 719037 for details.
Thursday 8th: Trip to the Crown, Darwen, leaving 8.30 p.m. see Branch contact for details.
Saturday 10th: Trip to Ellesmere Port Beer-ex, see Branch contact.
Monday 19th: Social Secretary's Birthday Celebration, phone A-in-M 719037.
Sunday 25th: Branch Meeting, Railway, Twist Lane, Leigh 1.00 p.m.

JUNE

Saturday 7th: Trip to Furness Beer-ex, see Branch Contact for details.
Thursday 12th: Secretary's Birthday Celebration, phone A-in-M 719037 for details.
Contact: Ray Kruup, Atherton 876884 (h) 061-736 1537 (w)

BOLTON

MAY

Wednesday 7th: 8.30 p.m. — Branch Meeting, Cross Guns (Walkers) Deane Road, Bolton.
Monday 12th: Thwaites Brewery Trip. Phone branch contact for details.
Sunday 18th: 12 noon — Social, Flag, Bromley Cross.

JUNE

Wednesday 4th: 8.30 p.m. Branch Meeting, The George (Wilsons) Great Moor Street, Bolton.
Sunday 22nd: Daisy Hill Social, meet 12 noon in the Grey Man, 12.45 Three Crowns 1.30 p.m. Rose Hill (The Bug).
Contact: Dave Flemming 0204 389918 (h) 0204 75111 X207 (w)

TRAFFORD & HULME

MAY

Thursday 1st: 8.00 p.m. Committee/Social at the Vine, Kennedy Street, City Centre. All Welcome.
Thursday 8th: Hulme crawl. Start from the Pack Horse, Deansgate, Manchester at 8.15 p.m. call at Grants Arms, Royce Road, 9.00 p.m. details from branch contact.
Thursday 15th: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting at Cheshire Midland, Ashley Road, Hale.
Thursday 22nd: 8.00 p.m. Pub of the Month. Provisional date for award to the Old Roebuck, Victoria Street, Altrincham.
Thursday 29th: Lymm Lounge-about. Meet at Swan With Two Necks, Little Bollington at 8.15 p.m. call at the Church, Lymm 9.00 p.m.

JUNE

Thursday 5th: 8.00 p.m. Committee/Social at the Church, Hulme. All welcome.
Saturday 21st: Advance notice of Chester trip. Details after new B.R. timetable comes out so we know how we're getting there.
Contact: David Shelton 061-795 2113 (h) 061-224 7341 X54 (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.

MANCHESTER

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.

JUNE

Wednesday 4th: 8.00 p.m. — Joint Social with North Manchester in the Mitchells Arms.
Contact: John Clarke 061-832 2468 X385 (w) 061-477 1973 (h)

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

MAY

Tuesday 6th: Committee Meeting, 9.00 p.m. Crescent (Robinsons) Disley.
Tuesday 13th: Branch Meeting, 8.30 p.m. Gamecock (Free) Ashton-under-Lyne.

JUNE

Tuesday 3rd: Committee Meeting, 9.00 p.m. Railway, (Hardy & Hansons) Doveholes.
Tuesday 17th: A.G.M. 8.30 p.m. Andrew Arms, (Robinsons) Compstall.
Sunday 29th: BEER CLASSROOM, 1 p.m.—5 p.m. at Hawthorns Special School Summer Fete, Corporation Road, Audenshaw. Oldham bitter and Linfit bitter available.
Contact: Tom Lord 061-427 7099

WIGAN

MAY

Wednesday 7th: Matthew Brown survey, Hindley. Meet in the Bird in th' Hand, 8.00 p.m. then the Balmoral 8.30 p.m. A liking for bottled Guinness and White Shield would help!
Wednesday 21st: 8.30 p.m. Branch Meeting, Seven Stars Hotel, Wallgate.
Contact: Dave White Padgate 826515 X303 (w) Wigan 37389 (h)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

MAY

Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th: Saddleworth Beer Festival, Civic Hall, Uppermill. 30 different beers from 20 different breweries plus ciders, wine, food and entertainment.
Tuesday 6th: 8.00 p.m. A.G.M. Castle, Manchester Road, Rochdale. All members welcome, sandwiches provided.
Tuesday 13th: Heywood Crawl, meet in the Kings Arms (Thwaites) at 8.00 p.m. relive the first meeting of CAMRA R.O.B.
Tuesday 20th: 8.00 p.m. Open committee meeting, Sawyers Arms (Thwaites), Whitehall Street, Rochdale.

JUNE

Tuesday 3rd: 8.00 p.m. Branch Meeting, White Lion, Bury.
Tuesday 17th: 8.00 p.m. Open Committee meeting, Rose and Crown, Manchester Old Road, Bury.
Contact: Steve Lawton 061-620 9239 (h) 061-928 6311 X7111 (w)

NORTH MANCHESTER

MAY

Wednesday 7th: Irlam Crawl, meet 7.30 p.m. in the Nagshead, 8.30 p.m. the Boathouse.
Wednesday 14th: 8.00 p.m. Committee/Social, Pendlebury — Newmarket (Holts)
Wednesday 21st: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting. Provisionally at the Waldorf, Cone Street, Manchester.
Saturday 24th: Trip to Liverpool, phone Duncan Roberts, 061-793 5750 (h) or 061-273 3322 (w) for further details.

JUNE

Wednesday 4th: 8.00 p.m. Joint Social with Stockport and South Manchester, Mitchells Arms.
Wednesday 11th: 8.00 p.m. meeting at the Spanking Roger, Miles Platting.
Wednesday 18th: 8.00 p.m. Meeting at the White Swan, Swinton.
Wednesday 25th: Survey of Farnworth. Meet in the Bridgewater, Buckley Lane at 7.30 p.m. with final meet up at the Market at 10.00 p.m.
Contact: Roger Hall 061-740 7937 (h) 061-736 3065 (w)

REGIONAL DIARY

MAY

Wednesday 28th: Regional Meeting — Three Legs of Man, Greengate, Salford.

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