

GREATER MANCHESTER CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

JUNE 1986

NUMBER 6

HOBSON'S ISSUE

WILSONS BREWERY TO CLOSE: OFFICIAL-1986

I'm sure that nearly everyone must have heard it on the news last month, Wilsons will close this autumn, brewing of Wilsons mild and bitter will now be at Websters brewery in Halifax. So finally, all the questions of the last year have been answered properly.

Q. Why did Wilsons and Websters merge last year?

A. (Then) It makes good sense to operate the two companies together. They are similar breweries with similar tied estates and free-trade outlets.

A. (Now) It will enable us to reorganise the management structure in preparation of closing one of the breweries down.

Q. Why have Webster's beers started appearing in Greater Manchester?

A. (Then) To give the consumer extra choice.

A. (Now) Because eventually we will discontinue brewing Wilsons and only Websters will be available. It will give the consumer time to get used to Websters products.

Q. Why have you decided to produce **Websters Choice**?

A. (Then) Because there is a market demand in the North for a premium cask conditioned beer.

A. (Now) If Wilsons is shut, only Websters can brew such a beer.

Q. Why are you storing Wilsons beers at your Yorkshire brewery? Are you brewing it here?

A. (Then) Oh no, definitely not. We are just **casking** it here.

A. (Now) We are test brewing it here to make sure that nothing is lost when we transfer brewing operations to Halifax.

The A (Now) comments have been supplied by me, not the brewery. However, in the light of recent events the responses are fairly obvious. The result is the closure of a brewery operation 152 years old. The tradition will be lost and fade into history. Grand Metropolitan strike again. The period during the 1970's when Watney's Red Barrel keg appeared nationally has returned only Websters Yorkshire Cask bitter has replaced it.

SUMMARY

Munich Beer Festival Holiday plus Review of Beer, Bed and Breakfast

Real Ale in Central & South Manchester. Update 3 Cemetery Caption Contest

R.O.B. goes to Heywood and wished they hadn't.

Don Chattwood Memorial Stag Night — Crawl round Central Manchester

Branch Diary — Details of Beer Lines Meeting and Ashton Canal Festival

BEER CLASSROOM

The Annual Summer Fete at Hawthorns Special School takes place on Sunday 29th June. CAMRA High Peak and North East Cheshire branch will again be organising a beer classroom between the hours of 1pm and 5pm, when Timothy Taylors Golden Best and Old Mill Bullion will be available. A small charge (usually about 50p) will be made on entry to the school grounds in aid of school funds. We would like to see as many CAMRA members as possible in attendance, to make this event successful for this worthy cause.

GEOFF LEES

Watneys more or less caused the formation of the Campaign for Real Ale with its policy of forcing mediocre products upon us. How long now then, before Webster's Yorkshire Cask Bitter forces action from the consumer? The days of "National Keg" (apart from lager, of course) are gone. "National Cask" is upon us. Distinctive, regional flavours will, therefore, disappear. This **must** not be allowed to happen! Wilsons: I remember you!

ROB CARDER

BOOK REVIEW

"Beer, Bed and Breakfast", ed Roger Protz. Robson Books/CAMRA, 210 pages £4.95

Most Beer Lines readers will know that CAMRA, nationally and through its local branches, publishes the only pub guides worth a second glance (because they're the only ones that give proper attention to the beer), but bed and breakfast! — what's the Campaign for Real Ale supposed to know about that?

As it turns out, quite a lot — as is proved by this handsomely produced paper — back detailing hundreds of pubs across Great Britain and the Isle of Man which offer, besides a good pint, comfortable accommodation.

Apart from a little drooling over menus, the pub and hotel descriptions are very much written by drinkers for drinkers, with colour TV in bedrooms coming a poor second to pub atmosphere. However, care has been taken to indicate the level and range of facilities offered, which obviously vary widely. Prices quoted are based on 1985 levels.

The geographical spread of the book is somewhat uneven, with the big conurbations poorly represented — only one Greater Manchester entry is included — and even that is indexed under Cheshire! To some extent this was inevitable as so few city pubs now do accommodation, but I do know of at least 2 other Greater Manchester pubs that were submitted for inclusion, and it's hoped that for future editions more relaxed timescales will allow such pubs to feature more strongly. There are also one or two surprising shire/county gaps (surely somewhere in Northamptonshire there must be at least one suitable pub, while I know for a fact that there are plenty in Dyfed), but despite these, there are a few parts of the country very far from a listed pub.

The book is tastefully illustrated with line drawings (though a few more of these would not have come amiss), but regrettably, as in so many CAMRA publications, the maps are so basic as to be of little practical use.

If you travel extensively around Britain, and you'd like to stay in the same sort of place you like to drink in, "Beer, Bed and Breakfast" is the book for you.

RHYS P. JONES

Beer, Bed and Breakfast is available from book shops and CAMRA H.Q.

BLAIRISH

The Minorca, Wallgate, Wigan re-opened recently as 'Blairs'. Greenalls Original bitter is on sale at 80p a pint. The beer was very good when I visited the pub, but with the 'Local' mild and bitter being keg and the poseurish clientele drinking lager, the Original seems doomed. Turnover of the ale is even slower than it should be, as the pints served are blatantly short measure. If you want to pose and drink good ale, the Raven further up the street (Walkers) is a safer bet.

DAVE WHITE

TOPHAMS AGAIN?

The ex Prince Albert on Oldham Street, Rochdale, a keg Sam Smiths pub which closed a year ago has sprouted new Robinsons and Hartleys signs and the name Tophams Again. Does this mean the Tophams concern which owned the pubs in Heywood and Smithybridge have started again? Drinkers may remember these pubs, both entitled Tophams Tavern, which were sold off to Boddingtons a year or so ago. At this time the mystery must await to be unfolded as the pub was still closed at 8.00 p.m. on a Friday night.

STEVE LAWTON

40 YEARS AT THE AINSWORTH

One of Bolton's longest serving barmen finally hung up his handpumps last month. Seventy six year old Bob Bradbury had worked behind the bar at the Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road, for 40 years, but has now decided to call it a day. Licencees at this popular Walker's pub, Tony and Carole Bretherton, the fourth in Bob's 40 years, held a presentation night for him and his wife Sissy at the pub.

DES NOGALSKI

FORLORN HEROES

The real ale off licence group, Legendary Lancashire Heroes are wondering what has happened to the aficionados of the amber nectar in Crumpsall where their shop on Cleveland Road is suffering from disappointing sales, so much so that draught beer by the pint may no longer be available. This is in contrast to most of their other outlets where sales appear to now be buoyant. Has Crumpsall become teetotal? Create the demand and supplies will resume.

Meantime, the cellar cooling problems at Thatch Lane shop in Whitefield, which were apparently caused by the shop being South facing and catching the sun, have now been solved by the installation of a cellar cooler.

KEITH EGERTON

BEER BAR?

It is a good sign when a wine bar offers real ale, a chance to wean grape fanciers onto our National drink.

Langtons, Great Bridgewater Street offers a selection of mild and bitter from Chesters. Handpump dispense is used. Over the next month a number of promotions will be featured, including a happy hour.

The staff are friendly, so give it a try.

DAVE SHELTON

CANAL SIDE IMPROVEMENTS?

Still on the subject of pub re-development, Tetley-Walker are promising to do something with the Commercial Inn, Cale Lane, New Springs. This is a friendly though basic boozer alongside the Leeds-Liverpool canal. What chance the Walker best bitter being retained?

DAVE WHITE

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.

FLEXIBLE LICENSING HOURS?

The Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, in a written reply to the House of Lords has said that the Government has no objections to flexible licensing hours. About 200 M.P.s are in favour and a private members bill probably will be presented soon. Let's hope the temperance movement do not succeed like the anti-Sunday opening hours supporters did.

It's time our outdated licensing hours were reviewed.

PAULA CARDER

HMS BODDINGTON

The landlord at the Bridge Inn, Dane Road, Sale, alongside the Bridge-water canal is hoping to refurbish a boat in Boddingtons Livery to have a floating advert in the hope of attracting canal trade. The outside drinking area has already been improved and further cleaning and tidying are planned with the help of the "Impact" scheme.

KEITH EGERTON

FINCH FLIES COOP

Simon Finch, manager of the oft-mentioned Gamecock, in Ashton-under-Lyne, has now left the pub to take over the reins at the original TFC pub, The Fighting Cock, Preston Street, Bradford (Yorkshire). Although only resident in Greater Manchester for less than a year, Simon became a popular and concerned member of the real ale scene. In the short time the pub has been open we have seen 100 guest beers (the last of which was Young's Special, did you miss it?), a beer festival, a cider festival, CAMRA socials and meetings, regular entertainment and the introduction of the biggest sandwiches, known as 'Docker's Wedges' plus the most evil chilli known to man. The Gamecock will be included in the 1987 Good Beer Guide and CAMRA finally signed up young Finch (who was a lapsed member) at Saddleworth beer festival. Continuity of management is assured by the promotion of the bar-cellarman, Bernard, to manager as Simon leaves. Good luck to both Simon and Bernard in their new ventures.

ROB & PAULA CARDER

HINDLEY TO GET THEAKSTONS?

Things are looking up in Hindley, as the Bird in Hand, a keg Brown pub in the centre of town, could get the Theakstons treatment in the summer. The landlord is keen, providing cellar coolers are installed. So come on Matty, now's your chance to convince the cynics in CAMRA (like me) that you were worth fighting for!

DAVE WHITE

BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

The GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL is once again being held at The Metropole Hotel in Brighton, between August 5th and 9th. Make a date in your holiday diaries NOW. If you like beer and enjoy trying new ales it's the place for you. Look out for a report on the festival in September's Beer Lines when Bob and I return from a week's hard work.

PAULA CARDER



BRIGHTON METROPOLE
AUGUST 5-9 1986

ROSE AND CROWN GOES NORTH

The Rose and Crown, Manchester Road, Bury has scooped the Greater Manchester free trade by obtaining supplies of Borge House Heavy Ale (1042). The beer, brewed on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, should make its appearance on Monday June 2nd, providing transport can be arranged. Geoff King, the landlord, has also obtained supplies for the Merrie Monk, in Rochdale.

The Rose and Crown is continuing with its policy of having a new guest beer each Monday, thus complimenting the range of handpumped beers from Thwaites, Boddingtons and Hydes. The guest beers for June are:

Borge House Heavy, Moorhouses, Pendle Witches Brew, Ruddles County and Goose Eye Pommies Revenge.

Whilst on the subject of the Rose and Crown, I understand that the group that owns the pub and 21 others, C.C.A. Holdings, has purchased the Two Ships, Hope Street, Rochdale, and plan to turn it into a free house, serving Thwaites, Boddingtons and Bass beers.

ROB CARDER

WIGAN HOURS

The afternoon licensing hours in the Wigan licensing district have changed. As from Monday, 17th March, 1986, the pubs in the town are allowed to open from 11.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Many licensees, in the town, say it has not brought any extra custom or revenue. Moreover, the licensees that re-open at 5.30 p.m. further justify their complaint by adding that this leaves very little social or family life, if any at all, during the afternoon and evening sessions.

On the other hand, from the customers point of view, it is an improvement. Wigan has now fallen into line with the surrounding towns. Any visitor to the district now knows that the afternoon licensing hours are the same throughout the whole area. The change has only been in effect for two months so it is too early to say how people's drinking habits will change. Furthermore, the licensees of Leigh and St. Helen's have always had to remain open till 3.30 p.m. and they have never complained.

This change has no effect on the evening licensing hours which remain at 5.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.

RAY KRUUP

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Readers with long memories may remember 'The Manchester Pub Guide' published in 1975 by Manchester Pub Surveys Ltd. — a name that hid four students/researchers at Manchester University. Arthur Taylor's fine book on 'Pub Games' described the Guide as 'comprehensive, authoritative and witty' — a description that I couldn't better (even though some of the entries didn't make it clear whether the cask beer was served under blanket pressure — quite prevalent practice in those days.)

It strikes me it would be a good idea to make contact with the original compilers of the Guide, and with the Manchester CAMRA (one of the few lucky people who's still got a copy) I can give their names below:

DAVID G. EVANS, RICHARD J. VENES, STEPHEN HUZARD and JAMES S. VARLEY.

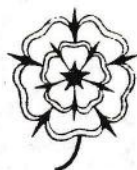
If they, or anyone in touch with them reads this, please contact the Editor and let us know what you think about the beer and pubs 11 years on.

RHYS P. JONES

LE OPENSHAW TOWER!

The Drovers Inn, Ashton Old Road, Openshaw is about to be transformed into a pub like no other in Manchester by Whitbread Merseyside. We have no details of the interior decoration planned but it will evidently be on a French Theme. This will be subtly hinted at not only by the blue neon signs with the new name 'Francs' (get it? . . . the original proposal by the way was Paris) but also a 15 foot model of the Eiffel Tower on the roof! Believe it or not, this is seriously being considered and indeed planning permission has been applied for. This bizarre scheme (which certainly puts in the shade the 6 foot illuminated pith helmet and taped jungle noises installed in Stockport's Far Pavillions by Pennine Host) surely shows the desperate lengths to which some of the big brewers will go to 'pack-em-in' and whether it succeeds only time will tell. At present the Drovers only serve keg beers and this we think is unlikely to change.

JOHN CLARKE



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Tel: 061-832 5914

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

Manchester's Premier Free House

COMMENT

The March 1985 edition of CAMRA's newspaper What's Brewing reported the merger of Wilsons and Websters as follows:—

Watneys are to merge their two northern breweries, Websters of Halifax and Wilsons of Manchester. Over 1,000 tenanted pubs will come under the new company to be called Samuel Webster and Wilsons Ltd.

Wilson's marketing director, Terry Hudson, explained the thinking behind the move: "We are putting the management teams together to market ourselves more aggressively and allow the public the chance of a greater range of brands".

Mr Hudson added that the partnership will see real ales from Wilsons selling in the Websters estate and vice versa.

He went on: "Both companies will retain their own identities and there may be exchanges of pubs between the two. The move should add up to a much wider choice of traditional ales for the drinker".

"There are absolutely no plans for closing either brewery. In fact, we plan major investments at both plants."

Here we are just over a year later reporting the sad loss of Wilsons brewery. The original intention to extend the range of beers for the consumer was a good one, indeed we saw this happening, with the introduction of Webster's products along side Wilsons. The exchange of pubs was also happening, significantly Wilson's first ever pub, the Heywood Arms on Oldham Road was the first of these exchanges. Let's hope our fears will be unjustified, and the Wilsons products will continue to be produced, and not just slowly phased out as each Wilsons pub is converted into a Websters pub.

As we have said before, and will keep on saying, the closure of a brewery is bad news. It means job losses, the loss of local tastes and the reduction in choice for you, the consumer.

PAULA CARDER

This space was to have contained an advertisement for Webster's Choice.

Since the announcement of the future closure of Wilsons Brewery we in CAMRA Greater Manchester have agreed to positively discriminate against Websters and Watneys. No advertisements will be accepted unless they are for Wilsons products.

If you want to help in the fight to save Wilsons, please fill in the card enclosed in Beer Lines and send to the address shown on it. Also come along to the campaign meeting at The Millstone, Manchester on Monday, June 16th at 8.00 p.m.

SAVE WILSONS NOW!

REAL REGAL BITTER

Vaux are now producing a cask version of their 'regal' keg bitter. The 1042 brew is on sale at 29 Vaux houses including Maxim's, Bradshawgate, Bolton, where it joins Samson Ale, Darley's bitter and Lorimer and Clark's 70/- although with Vaux's policy of allowing select pubs to sell guest beers the above range is liable to change.

DES NOGALSKI

NEW OLDHAM FREE HOUSE AND WINE BAR

The Spinners, a former Bass pub on Lees Road, Oldham has just opened up as a free house and wine bar. The pub was bought by Alliance Leisure and is their first. Boddingtons Bitter, Wilsons Mild and Bitter, Fullers London Pride, Theakstons XB and Moorhouses Pendle Witches Brew are on sale alongside Lagers, Cider and Wines.

Landlord Peter Reeves told us that there are plans to build an extension on the back to include a dining room and inside toilet.

The resident chef provides excellent meals up to 10 p.m.

The opening hours are 11.30 a.m. — 3.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. — 11.00 p.m. weekdays.

This is excellent news for Oldham, which has been in desperate need of a free house near the town centre.

PAULA CARDER

BEER LINES MEETING

NB Humphrey Higgins et al, the next meeting of the Beer Lines committee to discuss the policies for the next Three Months will be held at the Jolly Angler, Ducie Street, Manchester at 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday June 18th.

Answers to last months prize competition are below.

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

The hidden pub name is of course the GAMECOCK. At the time of writing no-one had claimed their free pint. I can now give credit to Simon Finch who made up this tricky little quiz.

MUNICH BEER FESTIVAL

Designer Holidays Ltd. have been in touch with me and have offered us the beer festival visit of the year — a five day coach trip including a visit to the Munich Beer Festival. The details are as follows:-

Day One: From our Northwest departure point we travel south via the motorways to Dover in time for the early evening crossing to Calais. Passing through customs, we continue our journey via Belgium and the German Autobahn system.

Day Two: As day breaks we are nearing the Austrian border from where it is only a short drive to Fieberbrunn and our hotel. On arrival we check into the hotel Alte Poste for two nights half board commencing with dinner this evening and the rest of the day is free to explore and relax.

Day Three: The morning is free before our coach leaves in the late afternoon to take us to Munich for an evening at the beer festival. The coach will return at midnight prompt.

Day Four: Time will be allowed for last minute shopping and sightseeing (?) before we must say goodbye to Austria and set off for the journey home in the early afternoon.

Day Five: Retracing our outward path via Germany and Belgium, we cross the Channel around lunchtime arriving back in the North West later this evening after a memorable trip.

The Cost: £99 per person including all transportation, ferry charges, road tolls and passenger taxes, two nights accommodation on a half board basis in twin rooms.

This trip is open to the first **twenty** applicants only. The trip starts on Wednesday, 24th September, 1986.

How to apply: Send a cheque for £20 (including £5 insurance cover), payable to Beer Lines, to:

Beer Lines (Munich Trip)
35 Hayfield Close,
Pennine Meadows,
Moorside,
OLDHAM OL4 2LX.

Closing date for applications is June 30th.

ROB CARDER

BOLTON NEWS

Moorhouse's Pendle Witches Brew is now on sale alongside the premium bitter in Classics wine bar at the Mercury Motel, Manchester Road, Westhoughton. This somewhat potent beer sells at 50p a pint during the 6 pm — 7 pm happy hour, some 40-odd pence off the usual price.

Meanwhile in Farnworth the Rose and Crown, Market Street now sells Chester's bitter on handpump at 74p a pint.

Burtonwood's new premium bitter JBA appeared in two Bolton pubs recently, the York, Newport Street and the Alma Inn, Bradshawgate. The Swan Hotel in the Town centre should also have the beer on shortly.

Pennine Host have put back renovations at the Golden Lion, Churchgate, Bolton until the autumn. It is hoped that hand-pumped real ale will make a welcome return. Despite being managed by Pennine Host, the Golden Lion sells only Tetley beers, as they own the building.

Soon to be renovated is the Anchor Inn off Bradshawgate and if Bass wish to follow up on the success of their real ales in local free houses by re-introducing it into their Bolton tied estate then the Anchor would be an ideal start.

DES NOGALSKI

WHEN IN ROCHDALE

Come and visit

JOHN & CAROL

at the

**MERRY
MONK**

College Road

Tel: 46919

**Marstons &
Guest Beer**



TRAVELLER'S CALL

Any Beer Lines readers who also see CAMRA North Manchesters sheet 'What's Doing' may have read in the May issue a report that the Travellers Call, Ashton Old Road was closed.

Not only has the Travellers never been closed under present management, it sells excellent traditional beer from Boddingtons, Marstons and Thwaites, plus the best pub food for a long way, all in a warm and cosy atmosphere which has helped win the pub a well-deserved entry in the 1987 Good Beer Guide.

CAMRA regionally would like to apologise to Tony and Anne Healey for the erroneous information carried in one of our branch newsletters.

RHYS P. JONES

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL & SOUTH MANCHESTER UPDATE 3

Additions

City Centre:- Pack Horse, Deansgate. Greenall Whitley M,B (E)

Deletions

City Centre:- Old Bank Street Brewery (closed for refurbishment)

Didsbury:- The Didsbury.

Wythenshawe:- Silver Birch.

Changes

City Centre:- Bull's Head, Add JBA

Crown, Deansgate, Add Websters Choice

Crown & Anchor, Delete Taylors P, add Ram Tam.

Ducie Bridge, Delete M, add Websters GL Choice.

New Union, Add JBA.

Rising Sun, Add Websters Choice.

Salisbury, Add Websters Choice.

Sam's Chop House, Add Websters Choice.

Sinclair's, Add Museum ale.

Northden:- Jolly Crofter should read Jolly Carter.

Tatton Arms is now styled Tatton Arms Tavern, delete M, add Websters B, Choice.

Withington:- Withington Ale House, add Websters Choice.

Wythenshawe:- Sports, address should read Portway.

RHYS P. JONES

RE-OPENINGS

The former Bank Street Brew House in central Manchester is now closed and undergoing a 'major development'. Re-opening is scheduled for August when it will emerge as 'The Conservatory'.

Further along Bank Street, the former bar attached to the Danish Food Centre has re-opened as 'Schnapps'.

Surprisingly cask conditioned beer is available in the form of handpulled Wilsons and Websters Yorkshire bitters. Not cheap however at 80p a pint, this does however reduce to more sensible levels in the early evening happy hour.

Another central Manchester development about to re-open as Beer Lines went to press was Richmonds Bar in the cellar of Princes House on Princes Street. Again Wilsons and Websters products will be available, but so far no sign of any handpumps.

JOHN CLARKE

SWEET HONEYSUCKLE

The Honeysuckle, Swan Meadow Road, Poolstock re-opened at long last. The pub, though popular with the young set, is tasteful and the beers are good, Chesters bitter and Hartleys XB, both for 75p a pint. If the bar staff can resist the urge to go for the keg Trophy tap, then Whitbread are onto a winner with this one.

DAVE WHITE

BARBECUED BEER

If the weather ever improves, the Windmill Inn, Manchester Road, Carrington, is to have outdoor self barbeque facilities for evenings and weekends. Worth a visit for the whole family as there is an outside seating area and children's playground, plus of course, Samuel Smiths OBB and Tadcaster bitter.

KEITH EGERTON



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

ALTERATIONS

Tetley Walker have now applied for planning permission to turn the ground floor and basement of the Portico Library building on Mosely Street, Manchester, into licenced premises.

Also in central Manchester, Wilsons are intending to build a two storey extension to the New York on Bloom Street after the demolition of a neighbouring derelict cottage.

Chester's Lord Wolsey on Ashton Old Road is to have a single storey toilet extension and further along the road, Wilson's Staff of Life is to have some internal and external changes. The main change inside is to extend the existing vault backwards into the kitchen to create a larger games room with pool table.

JOHN CLARKE

SADDLEWORTH NEWS

The Printer's, that well known Denshaw free house, is now totally free of Wilsons beers. Instead, a selection of Greenall Whitley products are now available. Whilst I must welcome Greenalls to Saddleworth, this being their first outlet in the area and it gives extra choice to us over here (mild, bitter and Original bitter on handpump), I would hope that the future holds one of two alternatives for the Printers:

- 1) That the free house signs come down and the pub advertises what it effectively is, a Greenall's tied house or
- 2) Guest beers start appearing, even if only from Greenall's subsidiaries, Shipstone, Wem or Davenports. If you are a free house, you must be free to change. CAMRA Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch await keenly for developments.

ROB CARDER

The Manager of the Cemetery Hotel, Rochdale, is offering 9 gallons of Ruddles County to the person who submits the most apt and original caption to this photograph.

Entries to the pub please with a 50p donation to Kidney Research. We shall report on the winning caption.

PAULA CARDER



HEYWOOD: IN SEARCH OF A LOST CAUSE?

13th May, 1986 — certainly unlucky for some! Particularly those who selected the short straw and participated in R.O.B.'s investigative crawl around the delights of Heywood.

Although only five in number — members outnumbered the number of real ale pubs found in the centre on this occasion!

Here's a summary of what we found between us:

The Three Terriers: Boddington's Bitter (H) 70p/pint
Fairly characterless pub featuring five handpumps, all of which offered only bitter of similar status. A price list was not apparent — the most obvious sign warning "No Industrial Clothing". The jukebox was rather loud (we were sitting under one of the speakers — but then it was difficult not to!). The best feature of the ex-Tophams pub was the etched windows featuring Boddies' logo. Quote of the visit: "It doesn't taste like beer at all . . .".

Kings: Thwaites' Mild (H) 68p/pint
Thwaites' Bitter (H) 70p/pint
Greater Manchester Beer Guide listed pub. Quite comfy, although ordinary, town pub. Small tap-room with dartboard and TV; juke box intrusive. Good price list displayed here.

Queen Anne: Wilsons/Websters Fizz (?tank?)
Nice windows; plushly done-out Grand Met. style with a gaudy jukebox, rather like something from outer-space, with rainbow effect lights. Two quotes of interest here:
1. "Tasted mildly beery";
2. "Better than the Boddingtons". (Sorry Ewart!).

Dressers' Arms: Tetley assorted keg
I didn't think there were pubs like this any more! (And I rather wish that I hadn't found one.) Drably old-fashioned — 60s/70s disco on Saturday evenings. At least I can say that the pub was nice and clean! Plate outside proclaimed affiliation to 'The Union of Metal Dressers'.

Freemasons' Arms: Bass Fizz Assortment at 70p mild/
72p bitter per pint
Not even any Worthington White Shield to alleviate the drying palate!
Open-plan pub with raised drinking area/darts area. All facilities but real ale. Interesting brass fan suspended from stained-glass window in ceiling!

Brunswick: Burtonwood Mild (H) 66p/pint
Burtonwood Bitter (H) 68p/pint
The pub with a pump-clip shortage! Clear price list did, however, enable you to guess at what may be drawn through the handpumps! Dare I say nice stained glass windows? Nicely decorated yet strange interior — a little too plush for the geography of the layout!

Brickhouse: Whitbread Chesters Bitter (H)
Price list indistinct.
Loud pub in all senses. All in red plus slatted/slanted wood panelling. When asked for bitter, bar person went straight to fizz pump! Beer in good condition but lacked flavour. Whole pub lacked good taste really . . .

Talbot Hotel: Whitbread assorted fizz
Nice pub — shame about the beer. The only "true" pub visited. Multi-roomed and cosy with central bar. Could have stayed here all night on shorts . . . Apparently lack of cellar space/space behind bar to manoeuvre if pulling hand-pumps, prevents the intro' of cask ale — not really room for a pin on the bar either. Have to come back if ever on the waggon . . . or feeling rich!

Brittania Hotel: Bass keg
(Glad I went to the Talbot instead)
A variety of quotes to whet the palate ('cos nothing else obviously did): "Looks like Hitler just left".

"First time I ever complained about over-measure — left mine".

"Average age about sixty apart from behind bar — had resident tramp" (Of which variety one wonders?)
Chauffeur (confined to fruit juices — lucky thing, that's me folks — The Ed.) now drove us all down to:

The Engineers: Samuel Smith's Old Brewery Bitter (H) 66p/pint

Greater Manchester Beer Guide listed pub — and deservedly so. Best pint all night. Cosy pub full of nick nacks. Price list well visible. Two 'Cellar of the Year' award notices on display.

Wishing Well:
We came, we saw (through window) we went away again. (The price you pay for not having fancy windows/drawn curtains and obvious keg M. Brown dispensers on the bar!)

Chamber House:
A darkened sign proclaimed a free house so we turned up the darkened drive. At the end was a huge stone edifice also all in darkness. Chamber House is an establishment with bars, restaurant and discos which only opens Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Entrance fee is £1. We had one volunteer to return provided the branch paid the expenses. (Speaking as R.O.B. treasurer, I think we will just leave this little gem unsurveyed — The Ed.)

Success to the Plough: J.W. Lees Bitter (H)
J.W. Lees Mild (H) no obvious price list!
Well up to Lees standard — better than the Boddingtons — wish I'd sampled the Tobermory Malt! Very plush and comfy pub but characterless. Prefer success to the bulldozer.

I cannot wait for the next trip to Heywood — remind me to be on holiday, volunteer for the next flight on the space shuttle, relocate to Russia, visit C. Heapy & Co. in Saudi Arabia, please make sure that 'they're coming to take me away . . . to Ruddles County (always loved Everards!)'.

Don't anyone dare suggest that R.O.B. GBG entries are too heavily loaded elsewhere — short of winning the pools and opening a Free House, or talking to TFC there's little we can do.

SUE CUNNINGHAM

HINDLEY NEWS

As mentioned previously (Beer Lines, February), the Traveller's Rest, Atherton Road, Hindley has been bought by a local Asian newsagent who intends to convert the premises into flats. We wonder why!!

The former Cross Keys Hotel, High Street, Hindley has been sold by Greenall-Whitley, de-licensed (of course!), to the licensee of the Strangeways Hotel. The Cross Keys will now be converted into a temperance fun bar (???) for the twelve to seventeen year old age group. The mind boggles!

PAUL TYRER & CARL HOLCROFT

WINSTON & CHURCHILL

The Rose Hill, Manchester Road, Bolton is now known as Churchill's. Renovations recently took place and draught Bass has now joined the Boddingtons bitter on sale there. Churchill's is owned by the Bandomatic pool tables people whose other pub, once the Gypsy's Tent in Bolton, is now known as . . . Winston's.

DES NOGALSKI

THE DON CHATTWOOD MEMORIAL STAG NIGHT

Don didn't invite Greater Manchester CAMRA on his stag night, so, as a "tribute" to him, on Saturday, June 14th, we shall have our own celebration. Starting at 5.30 p.m., the following pubs will be visited in order:

1. Harp & Shamrock, New Mount Street. 5.30 p.m.
Marstons mild, bitter, pedigree (H)
A popular pub near to the more famous Marble Arch. Probably the most difficult pub on the crawl to find.
2. Smithfields, Shudehill. 6.00 p.m.
Tetley mild bitter, Ind Coope Burton ale, Jennings bitter (H)
Opened recently, one roomed drinkery.
3. Castle and Falcon, Bradshaw Street. 6.30 p.m.
Burtonwood mild, bitter (H)
Charming pub near to the old prison, off Shudehill on the way down to Victoria station.
4. Sinclairs, Old Shambles. 7.00 p.m.
Sam Smiths Old Brewery bitter, Museum ale (H)
Elevated oyster bar behind Marks and Spencers.
5. Unicorn, Church Street. 7.20 p.m.
Bass 4X mild, Toby light, Stones bitter, Draught Bass (H)
Just up from the Arndale centre, delightfully preserved pub with extensive light oak panelling.
6. Grey Horse Inn, Portland Street. 7.45 p.m.
Hydes mild, bitter (E)
Small friendly seventeenth century pub near bus station.
7. Circus Tavern, Portland Street. 8.00 p.m.
Tetley bitter (H)
Small pub with minute bar. Doors may be closed when busy, but we'll find a way in somehow.
8. Peveril of the Peak, Great Bridgewater Street. 8.20 p.m.
Wilsons mild, bitter, Websters Choice (H)
Triangular pub with small rooms and tiled exterior.
9. Lass O' Gowrie, Charles Street. 8.50 p.m.
Chesters mild, bitter, LOG 35 & 42 (H)
A fair Whitbread conversion with hop pockets and gas lights. Two malt extract home brews. Popular with students and the B.B.C.
10. Coach and Horses, London Road. 9.20 p.m.
Burtonwood mild, bitter, Boddingtons bitter, Tetley bitter, Winkles bitter, Taylors Landlord (H)
The first free house of the evening, excellent "no-frills" boozer.
11. Jolly Angler, Ducie Street. 9.40 p.m.
Hydes mild, bitter (H)
Unique backwater near Rochdale canal basin. Basic and friendly.
12. White House, Great Ducie Street. 10.00 p.m.
Holts mild, bitter, Boddington bitter (H)
Excellent new free house.
13. Crown and Anchor, Hilton Street. 10.20 p.m.
Whitbread Trophy, Ruddles County, Taylors Golden Best, Ram Tam, Landlord, Chesters mild (H)
Open plan relaxed tie free house rescued from early sixties horror treatment.
14. Wheatsheaf, Oak Street. 10.35 p.m.
Tetley mild, bitter, Jennings bitter (H)
Comfortable oak panelled inn near craft market.
15. Marble Arch, Rochdale Road. 10.50 p.m.
Holts bitter, Marstons Pedigree, Fullers London Pride, plus six others (H)
The sublime left till the last. The best way to finish the very long evening. The timings are all very approximate. The idea being to get around them all and into the Marble Arch for last orders. Everyone is welcome to join us (except Don) but please don't even think about driving home. There will be plenty of late night buses.

ROB CARDER

BURTONWOODS JBA

Hot on the heels of Webster's Choice (see last month's Beer Lines), comes the new premium bitter from Burtonwood. Called JBA, this new brew is intended as a replacement for Almonds bitter which itself was introduced only two or so years ago.

However, whereas Almonds was only a hoppiest version of the standard Burtonwood bitter, this is an entirely new brew with a higher gravity of 1039-1042, which puts it somewhere between Holts bitter and Robinsons Best for potential strength.

The initial distribution is into about 40 outlets selected for their track record in keeping beer, but after then it will become available to any pub in the Burtonwood estate which considers it has a demand for a premium bitter. To accommodate smaller pubs, the beer is being made available in 18 gallon casks instead of the more usual 36 gallon.

Like the Websters product the emphasis is firmly on quality and it is I suppose inevitable that comparisons will be made. There is in fact a complete contrast between the two beers, JBA being a sharper beer with a much more distinct character than the Websters. The JBA definitely lives up to the breweries promise of quality.

The recommended price for JBA is 4-5p more per pint than the standard bitter, those wishing to sample it can find it in the following pubs:-

WIGAN

Park Hotel, Bryn
Royal, Golborne
Royal Oak, Standish
Squirrel, Ince
Old Pear Tree, Wigan
Raffles, Wigan

Alexandra, Hindley
Balcarres Arms, Haigh
Red Lion, Newburgh
Cherry Gardens, Wigan Lane
Prince William, Dalton
Boars Head, Standish

BOLTON

Swan, Bolton
Trafalgar, Bury

York, Bolton
Alma, Bolton

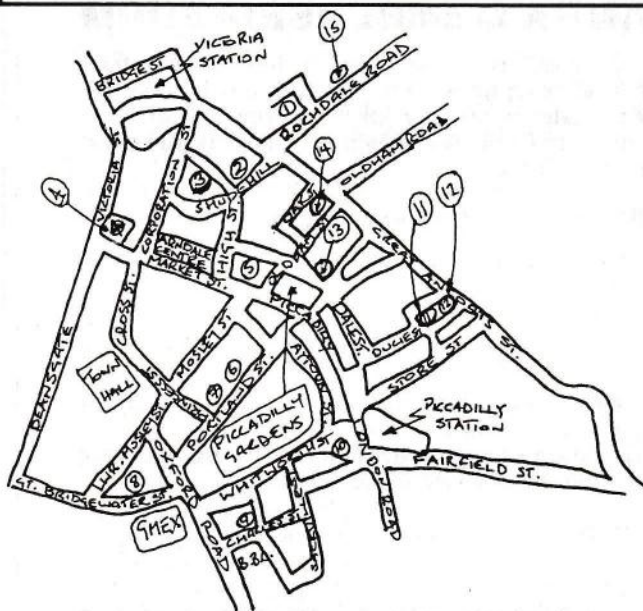
MANCHESTER

Grove, Blackley
Albert, Rochdale
Radcliffe Arms, Middleton Junction

Bulls Head, Manchester
New Union, Manchester

Watch this space for new outlets.

Information supplied by JOHN CLARKE,
L.A. FEELEY and WHAT'S DOING



CENTRAL MANCHESTER

B R A N C H D I A R Y

BOLTON

JUNE

Wednesday 4th: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting, The George (Wilsons) Great Moor Street.
 Sunday 22nd: 12 noon — Sunday Social, in Daisy Hill. Meet 12 noon in the Grey Man, 12.45 p.m. the Three Crowns, 1.30 p.m. the Rose Hill Tavern.
 Wednesday 25th: Greet our North Manchester Branch comrades on their Farnworth survey. Welcoming committee assemble at the Bridgewater (Sam Smiths), Buckley at 7.30 p.m.

JULY

Wednesday 2nd: 8.30 p.m. — Branch meeting, Falcon (Tetley's) Kay Street.
 Thursday 3rd: 7.30 p.m. 'D-DAY' Social, Des and Dave's joint Birthday crawl. Start Boar's Head (Greenhall Whitley), Churchgate. Gifts optional.
 Sunday 13th: 12 noon Social, Gallagher's (Tetley's), formerly the New Inn, Little Scotland, Blackrod.
 Contact: Dave Fleming 0204 389918 (h) 0204 75111 X207 (w)

SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE

JUNE

Saturday 7th: Trip to Furness Beer-ex. Details from contact.
 Friday 13th: 8.00 p.m. AGM Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh. All members are urged to attend.
 Saturday 28th: North Wales social, possibly Bangor and Llandudno. Details from contact.
 Sunday 29th: 1.00 p.m. Branch meeting, Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh.

JULY

Saturday 12th: Trip to Goose Eye Brewery details from contact.
 Contact: Ray Kruup, Atherton 876884 (h) 061-736 1537 (w)

WIGAN

JUNE

Wednesday 4th: 8.30 p.m. Campaign meeting, Millstone, Wigan Lane, Wigan.
 Wednesday 11th: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting, Swan and Railway, Wallgate, Wigan.
 Contact: Dave White Wigan 37389 (h) Padgate 826515 X303 (w)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

JUNE

Tuesday 3rd: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting, White Lion, Bury.
 Tuesday 10th: Radcliffe Crawl — yet another jaunt round the little known reaches of the branch. Start 8.00 p.m. in the Wellington, Stand Lane, then 8.30 p.m. in the Morning Star, Thomas Street.
 Tuesday 17th: 8.00 p.m. Committee meeting Rose and Crown, Bury.

JULY

Tuesday 1st: Branch meeting, The Bridge, Lees Road, Sale.
 Tuesday 15th: Committee meeting, The Friendship, Oldham Road, Sale.
 Contact: Steve Lawton 061-620 9239 (h) 061-928 6311 X7111 (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 £9.00

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.

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

JUNE

Tuesday 3rd: 9.00 p.m. Committee meeting Railway, Doveholes.
 Sunday 8th: Lunchtime social with Macclesfield branch at the Bulls Head, Kettleshulme.
 Tuesday 17th: Branch AGM, 8.30 p.m. Andrew Arms, Compstall. All members welcome, buffet provided.
 Wednesday 18th: Brewery Trip — WEM. Details from branch contacts.
 Sunday 29th: 1 p.m. — 5 p.m. Beer Classroom, Hawthorns Special School, Corporation Road, Audenshaw (see elsewhere for further details).

JULY

Tuesday 1st: 9.00 p.m. Committee meeting, Halfway House, Droylsden.
 Friday 4th: Derbyshire Coach Trip, times to be arranged, calling at the Quiet Woman, Earl Stendale, Three Stags Heads, Wardlow Mines, all in Tideswell Village.
 Tuesday 8th: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting, the Bush, Hyde.
 Friday 11th: 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
 Saturday 12th: 12 — 5 p.m. & 7.30 p.m. — 11 p.m.
 Sunday 13th: 12 — 5 p.m.
 Beer Tent at Ashton Canal Festival, Portland Basin, Ashton Under Lyne.
 Contacts: Tom Lord 061-427 7099 & Geoff Williamson 06632 5634

TRAFFORD AND HULME

JUNE

Thursday 5th: 8.00 p.m. Committee/Social at the Church, Cambridge Street, Hulme.
 Thursday 12th: 7.47 p.m. White Lion Action meeting at the White Lion, King Street, Knutsford.
 Thursday 19th: 8.00 p.m. Alfresco branch meeting at the Chapel House, Pepper Street, Mobberley.
 Saturday 21st: All Day Famous Trafford & Hulme Chester Trip. Catch 10 a.m. train from Manchester Oxford Road, (10.08 Sale, 10.15 Altrincham) to arrive Chester 11.30 a.m. Further details from branch contact. Evening crawl calling at Northwich.

JULY

Thursday 3rd: 8.00 p.m. Committee/Social at the Melville, Barton Road, Stretford.
 Saturday 5th: Provisional date for Tyldesley Trip. Details from branch contact.
 Contact: David Shelton 061-795 2113 (h) 061-224 7341 X54 (w)

STOCKPORT & SOUTH MANCHESTER

JUNE

Monday 2nd: 8.30 p.m. Social, the Grapes, Hazel Grove.
 Tuesday 3rd: 8.00 p.m. Open Committee meeting, Swan with 2 Necks, Princes Street, Stockport.
 Wednesday 4th: Joint Social with North Manchester Branch, Mitchells Arms, Ancoats.
 Monday 9th: 8.30 p.m. Social, Manor House, Withington.
 Thursday 12th: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting, Gorton Arms, West Gorton. There will be a speaker from Banks's Brewery, please be prompt as he wishes to start on time.
 Monday 16th: 8.30 p.m. Queens, Cheadle, (NB Robbies Ordinary Bitter).
 Friday 20th: Abbey Hey crawl. Start 7.00 p.m. in the Waggon & Horses, Hyde Road, 8.30 p.m. Prince of Wales, Abbey Hey Lane.
 Monday 23rd: 8.30 p.m. Social, Rampant Lion, Rusholme.
 Thursday 26th: Pub of the Month, Boars Head, Market Place, Stockport.
 Monday 30th: Three way social. 8.30 p.m. The Comfortable Gill, King Street West, Stockport, 9.30 p.m. the Crown, Heaton Lane, 10.11 p.m. the Bridgewater, Chestergate (if open!)
 Contact: John Clarke 061-477 1973 (h) 061-832 2468 X385 (w)

MANCHESTER

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)

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BUMPER SUMMER ISSUE OF BEER LINES, COVERING JULY AND AUGUST MUST BE SENT TO THE EDITOR, 35 HAYFIELD CLOSE, PENNINE MEADOWS, MOORSIDE, OLDHAM OL4 2LX, BY JUNE 15th.