

15p

WHAT'S DOING

JUNE
1984

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



TRIM HEDGES?

What was once the scruffiest pub in the city centre reopened last month as the plushiest. The Wheatsheaf on High Street now rejoices in the name of Bensons. Chesters must have pensioned off the loony who designed the Houses of Horror because Bensons is a most tasteful renovation. Lowered ceilings and alcoves make imaginative use of the space and the carpets, upholstery and 1930's decor give a much needed air of comfort and elegance to the city centre. The only discordant note is an over loud music system. Chesters three cask beers are on sale. On a recent visit the bitter (68p) and Trophy (68p) were excellent but the mild (64p) was not on top form.

MORE DUDLEY

Report of a meeting between Manchester branches of CAMRA and a representative from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries

The overwhelming impression which emerged from the meeting with Mr A P Craven-Smith at the Longsight Inn last month was that W&D have hogsheads full of cash that they are desperately trying to get rid of by investing heavily in new outlets outside their traditional trading area. Mr Craven-Smith had personally visited more than 80 houses in the Manchester area and expects to see about a dozen outlets for Banks within the first year of operations. Mr Craven-Smith promises that only "genuine materials" will be used for refurbishment - no plastic beams or fake embellishments, and there will be a strong emphasis on the traditional pub. However, they are converting the Brookhouse Hotel in Fallowfield into a "fun pub".

Although other areas of Manchester are being considered, W&D will be concentrating on South Manchester, since they consider this area to be less affected by unemployment. Their first outlet in the region was the Longsight Inn, which will be demolished in about eight months and a new Longsight will be built a few hundred yards away. Another new outlet will shortly appear in Burnage, where a petrol station on Burnage Lane has been purchased so that a pub can be erected on the

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WHAT'S DOING

WHAT'S DOING is edited by Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 2AY

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS THE 20th OF THIS MONTH

JOIN CAMRA

To join CAMRA send £7 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW

site. The plans involving a £600,000 purchase of the Red Lion in Salford have been shelved.

W&D are keen to promote their image as a traditional brewery selling traditional beer. A new keg bitter (Lion Bitter) has appeared recently and this will be sold only in outlets unsuitable for cask beer.

To begin with, only Banks's beers will be promoted, although there is a possibility that Hansons will become available. Although promoting a traditional image, don't expect to see any handpumps in W&D pubs, since only 2 of their 750+ outlets have beer engines, and these are strictly against company policy.

Final thought - since mild sales account for an incredible 75% of total W&D sales, what chance of Manchester's first mild-only pub, a few of which still exist in the West Midlands?

Alastair L Walker

WHAT'S DOING

WOODIES REVISITED

Following last month's challenge, intrepid CAMRA members have visited Woodies on Woodlands Road, Cheetham. Therein they found the bitter to be cask conditioned Wilsons, retailing at 66p a pint in the lounge (there is also a vault) and appears to be in good condition. Mild is ersatz. The decor is interesting; very RED with huge quantities of cloth potted plants suspended on chrome and glass trays from the ceiling and covering every nook and cranny. The jukebox/musak seems to come from all directions but is not excessively loud. Woodies is a welcome gain in this neck of the woods, where only Bass are still dragging their feet.

SHEARS

Cleaning, restoration and redecoration at the Old Shears, Greengate, Salford, should be completed as this WD goes on sale. The new licensee is Pat Gill, who comes to Wilsons after managing several Tetley pubs.

CAMPAIGN GETS MOBILE

The Sale Festival procession on Saturday 12th May included a float from Trafford & Hulme branch dispensing free glasses of Winkles and hundreds of leaflets to convert the great British Public. From what we can remember our efforts to spread the word were successful!

REVENGE

Ken McGarry, landlord of the George, Prestwich (Boddingtons), showed a customer the door recently. "Don't come back whilst my name is above the door," said Ken. The next morning the name board had vanished.

CHORLTON ALE

The Feathers (Whitbread Chesters) on Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, had a handpump installed on 16th May for dispensing Trophy bitter, when it arrives. If the beer proves a success then all four Whitbread outlets in Chorlton will be selling real ale. A couple of years ago Chorlton cum Hardy was a real ale desert and the only oasis was the Southern Hotel (Boddingtons). Now the real ale revival has brightened the real ale scene and the full list is as follows:

Beech, Beech Road (Chesters Bitter (H))

Feathers, Barlow Moor Road (Trophy pending (H))

Horse and Jockey, Chorlton Green (Wilsons (H))

Oaks, Barlow Moor Road, Barlow Moor (Wilsons (H))

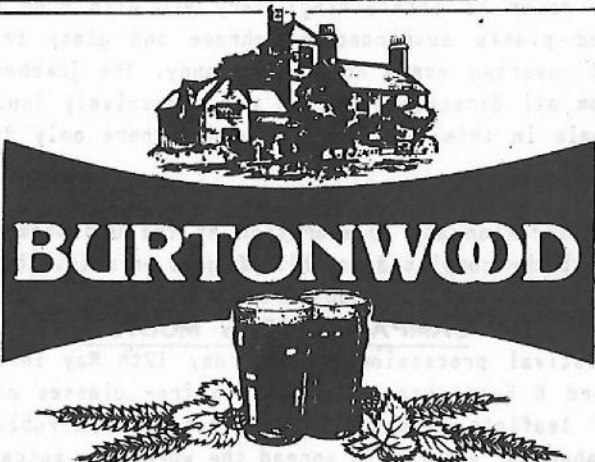
Princess, Mauldeth Road West (Chesters (H))

Royal Oak, Barlow Moor Road (Chesters Bitter (H): Bass (E))

Southern Hotel, Mauldeth Road West/Nell Lane (Boddingtons (E))

PUB OF THE NANOSECOND

Those who turned up at the Griffin, Heaton Mersey, on 30th April for the Pub of the Year Award may have wondered why there was no plaque and why the landlord and bar staff were in complete ignorance of what wasn't going on. Well, it seems that Mr Dumpty's full publicity blast was less than wonderful. The Griffin Pub of the Year Award is to be made a weekly event from now on.



BURTONWOOD

TRADITIONAL ALES

Forshaw's Burtonwood Brewery PLC. Burtonwood, Warrington,
Cheshire WA5 4PJ Telephone Newton-le-Willows 4281

RESIGNED TO IT

Pennine Hosts have thrown away the traditional wooden sign from the Monton Green, Eccles, and erected a concrete and neon guillotine in its place. Local residents are hopping mad, particularly as they believe that planning permission has not been sought.

CASK SAMs

Sam Smiths have reintroduced cask bitter into the Turf Tavern, Edenfield Road, Norden, Rochdale. This follows extensive alterations at the pub, which is now of the art deco variety. A bit better thought out than the Whitbread or Pennine Joke examples around.



HIGH PEAK BRANCH BEER BARS

SUNDAY 24th JUNE 2pm-5pm

Real ale bar at Globe Lane
Primary School Fete, Dukinfield, Tameside.

SUNDAY 1st JULY 1.30-5.00pm

Real ale bar at Hawthorns
Special School Fete, Corporation Road, Audenshaw/Denton Tameside.

Music, sideshows, entertainment etc at both events.

HANDPUMPS

Barrie and Chris Davies of the Red King (Boddingtons), Whitefield, have recently replaced their electric pumps with handpumps.

HOLTS v BODDINGTONS

The enterprising landlords of the Brigadier and the Huntsman in Ashton on Mersey have assembled over-30s football teams to play each other on Bank Holiday afternoons, extended licences applied for. Will this end the argument over which beer is better?

DEAR BEER

Nickelbys on Dale Street, Manchester, is probably selling the dearest pint of Wilsons bitter in town - 70p a pint!

SAME YET

Tasteful decorations to the extension of the Same Yet, Simister, Prestwich (J W Lees), have added to this one-time village pub. It is a pleasure to report a change for the better rather than the worse.

JOLLY GOOD

The Laughing Cavalier, Stalybridge, now sells handpumped Trophy bitter

GRAPE JUICE

The Grapes, Prestwich's only Greenalls outlet, may be extended into the adjoining shop. Does this herald a return to real ale?

GAY NEWS

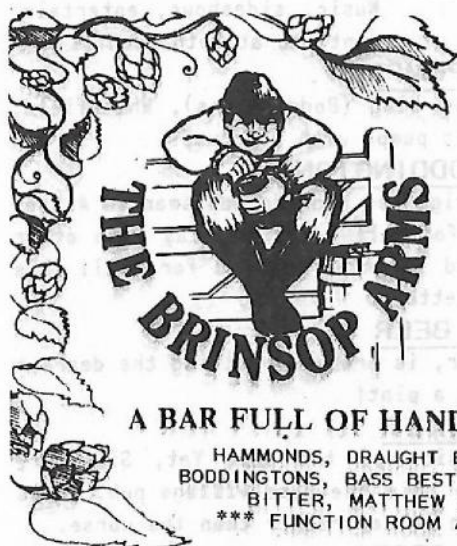
The Gay Willows, Clifton, is selling real ale again. This time it's Boddingtons bitter on handpump.

REAL SMITHS?

A preliminary survey of North Manchester's 7 John Smith's outlets suggests that two of the pubs may serve cask beer later this year. The Egerton near Salford Station and the Cheshire Cheese on Oldham Road are due for cellar alterations and there's a fair chance that cask beer will be introduced at the same time. The Oddfellows in Clifton, the Peel Park in Salford and the Queens Arms in Collyhurst are unlikely to be selling real ale in the foreseeable future. The Grapes in Eccles has had a recent change of licensee and the Lord Nelson in Manchester has yet to be surveyed. In order to make cask beer deliveries worthwhile a greater number of potential outlets need to be identified.

SMACK

What's Doing has had its wrists slapped for publishing details of pubs chosen for the 1985 GBG. Neil Hanson says it's very naughty because it lessens the impact of the GBG launch and because some entries might be removed and offend the landlords. Well we're very, very sorry and shan't ever do it again, honest.



THE BRINSOP ARMS

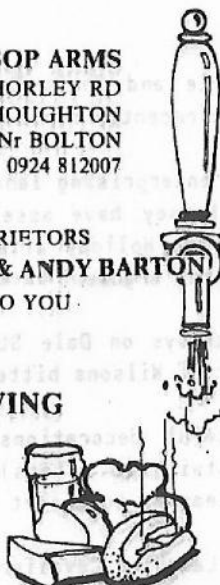
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THE PROPRIETORS
JIM HARDY & ANDY BARTON
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A BAR FULL OF HANDPUMPS SERVING

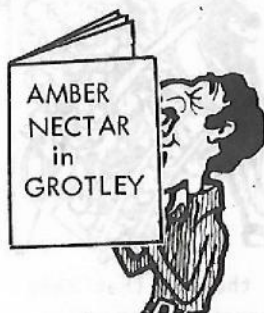
HAMMONDS, DRAUGHT BASS, HARTLEYS
BODDINGTONS, BASS BEST MILD, JOHN PEEL
BITTER, MATTHEW BROWN MILD
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AND STOCKED HIGH WITH WHOLESOME FOOD



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Real Ale Guides



The following publications are available from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester. The guides are updated from time to time so if you know of any changes please contact the relevant branch - see Branch Diary.

REAL ALE IN SOUTH MANCHESTER - Gorton, Openshaw, Clayton, Didsbury, etc. 10p+sae

REAL ALE IN STOCKPORT - Hazel Grove, Cheadle, Heaton Mersey, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN SALFORD - Swinton, Eccles, Irlam, Worsley 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ROCHDALE - Heywood, Littleborough, Middleton, etc 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ROSSENDALE - Bacup, Haslingden, Helmshore, Rawtenstall etc 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN TRAFFORD & HULME - Altrincham, Sale, Urmston, 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL MANCHESTER - A comprehensive guide to real ale outlets within 1 mile of St Peter's Square. Map, illustrated 60p + sae

REAL ALE IN OLDHAM - Failsworth, Royton, Chadderton, Shaw, Saddleworth 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN BURY - Ramsbottom, Radcliffe, Tottington, Whitefield, Prestwich, 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER NORTH - city centre, Ancoats, Collyhurst, Newton Heath, Moston, Blackley, Cheetham, etc 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL AND NORTH CHESHIRE - Warrington, Widnes, Runcorn, Lymm, Frodsham, Northwich, Middlewich & Winsford 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ST HELENS - Sutton, Peasley Cross, Thatton Heath, Moss Nook, Eccleston, Parr, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN GREATER GROTLEY - Slumley, Smarmford & Slutch, Poshton & Pseudley. 10p + s.a.e.

GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD BEER GUIDE - A selective guide to about 1,000 pubs in Greater Manchester - Bury, Stockport, Oldham, Salford, Wigan, Trafford, Bolton, Rochdale, Leigh, Tameside, etc 64pp £1.00 + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN BURY METRO - A 20-page guide to Whitefield, Ramsbottom, etc, with maps, illustrated, brewery history, etc. 50p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN N.W. DERBYSHIRE - Buxton, Glossop, New Mills, Whalley Bridge, Disley, Chapel-en-le-Frith, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN HIGH PEAK & N.E. CHESHIRE (TAMESIDE) - Marple, Hyde, Denton, Ashton, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, etc. 10p + s.a.e.



The AGM was like watching paint dry. At first I thought that this might be because of the depressing effect of the assembled McNasties, dour and doomladen as they are. On reflection, however, it must be the disappearance of dynamic wonderpersons and raving eccentrics which has made the Campaign look like the Church of England Synod or a Canadian chess society. Where are Peter Podge, Bogbrush and Humphrey Dumpty, the president of the Elsie Clockwork Nun appreciation society? Who will replace them? I suppose that as an organisation becomes staid and established the founding crackpots go off to do other weird and wonderful things and their positions are peopled by hum-drum hooray Henriés and wassocks. That's the way things are.

But the retirement of the delectable Elsie Clockwork Nun was devastating and, in recognition of her tremendous superstar status, a special memorial presentation of chocolate Elsies will be made in June. Nominations in the various categories so far include:

The World's Nicest Tavernkeeper: Islam Deafwater, Robin Bence, The Live and Let Live, Bernard Mulroy, two pubs in Appletreewick in Pudshire, Miles Foley

Drabs Drunk of the Month: 88 nominations from all parts of Gtr Grotley

The Rosie Buttock Spanking Prize: 7 Nominations sealed envelopes

Burton's Window Cup: Alastair Walker, Bazza Primp, Stewart Rubble, Robin Bence (Daft Hat Section)

Goosegrease and Dishwater Vomit Bowl: Duncan Busman, Royal Hall

Grotley's Loveliest Brewmaster: Peregrine Drab, Efrem Brobdingnag, Percy Boringsod, Norbert Brasso, Chrysanthemum Sikh, Betty Kepple

Golden Labrador Gobbledegook Scroll: Bogbrush, The Televisual Divorcee, The Verbose Railperson, Clever Pubarbiter, Ian Macmillan, Garrulous Gingerbeard.

Nominations close on 20th May. Final selections will be made by the committee on 30th May at the Rat and Handbag and the presentations will be made on 20th June at a venue to be announced.



FOURTH
EDITION

REAL ALE in TRAFFORD & HULME



ALTRINCHAM

Axe and Cleaver	Stamford New Road	Wilsons	B(H)
Bakers Arms	Pownall Road	Hydes	M,B(E)
Barrington	Barrington Road	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Bay Malton	Seamons Road	Chesters	B(H)
Bricklayers Arms	George Street	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Broomwood	Mainwood Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Cheshire Cheese	Manchester Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Faulkners Arms	Stamford New Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Gardeners Arms	Deansgate Lane	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Grapes	Regent Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Hare and Hounds	Wood Lane	Marstons	M,B(E)
Jolly Friar	Lloyd Street	Greenalls	B(E)
Malt Shovels	Stamford Street	Sam Smiths	B(H)
Moss Trooper	Moss Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Old Hall	Stockport Road	Chesters	B(H)
Old Packet House	Manchester Road	Wilsons	B(H)
Old Roebuck	Victoria Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Orange Tree	Old Market Place	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Quarry Bank	Bloomsbury Lane	Hydes	M,B(E)
Railway	Manchester Road	Boddingtons	B(H)
Railway	Stamford Street	Marstons	M,B(E):Ped(H)
Sylvan	Woodhouse Lane East	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Tatton Arms	Tipping Street	Boddingtons	B(H)
Unicorn	Old Market Place	Chesters	M,B(H)
Victoria Tavern	Victoria Street	Bass	Bass(H)
Wheatsheaf	Church Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)

ASHLEY.....

Greyhound	Ashley Road	Greenalls	B(H)
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BOWDON.....

Stamford Arms	The Firs	Boddingtons	B(E)
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CARRINGTON.....

Windmill	Manchester Road	Sam Smiths	B(H)
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DUNHAM MASSEY.....

Axe and Cleaver	School Lane	Wilsons	B(H)
Rope and Anchor	B5160	Boddingtons	M,B(E)

HALE AND HALEBARNs.....

Bulls Head	Wicker Lane	Robinsons	M,B(E)
Cheshire Midland	Ashley Road	Sam Smiths	B(H)
Railway	Ashley Road	Robinsons	M,B(E):OT(H)
Unicorn	Hale Road	Hydes	M,B(E)
Wellgreen	Grove Lane	Chesters	B(H)
Ye Olde Bleeding Wolf	Ashley Road	Chesters	M,B(H)

LITTLE BOLLINGTON.....

Nag	Chester Road	Bass	Bass(E)
Stamford Arms	A56	Chesters	B(H)
Swan with Two Nicks	off A56	Chesters	M,B(H)

MERE.....
 Swan Hotel Chester Road Greenalls M,B(H)

MANCHESTER 2 and 3 (Central).....

Abercrombie	Bootle Street	Chesters	M,B(H)
Britons Protection	Great Bridgewater	St Tetley	M,B(H)
Branigans	Exchange Arcade	Chesters	B(H)
		Branigans	B(H)
City Arms	Kennedy Street	Tetley	Burton Ale (H)
			Gold Cross Lager (H)
Corbieres	Half Moon Street	Marstons	Ped(H)
Cox's Bar	Windmill Street	Boddingtons	B(E)
Crown	Deansgate	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Crown	Fountain Street	Bass	Bass, Stones (H)
Grapes	Little Quay St	Bodd B: Wilsons	M,B(H)
Midland Butty Boat	Peter Street	Tetley	B(E)
Old Bank Street Brewery	Old Bank Street	Old Bank St	B(H)
Oxnoble	Liverpool Road	Chesters	B(H)
Pack Horse	Deansgate	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Peveril of the Peak	Great Bridgewater	St Wilsons	M,B(H)
Rising Sun	Queen Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Salisbury	Oxford Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Sams Chop House	Back Pool Fold	Marstons Ped: Wilsons	B(H)
Square Albert	Albert Square	Tetley	M,B(H)
Stage Door	Oxford Road	Bass	Stones (H)
Town Hall Tavern	Tib Lane	Bass	Bass(E)
Trafalgar	York Street	Bodd B(E): Tetley	B(H)
Waggon and Horses	Southgate	Wilsons	B(H)
White Lion	Liverpool Road	Chesters	M,B(H)

MANCHESTER 15 (HULME).....

Church	Cambridge Street	Lees	M,B(H)
Clynes Wine Bar	Cavendish Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Cornbrook	Cornbrook Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Denmark	Moss Lane East	Hydes	M,B(E)
Ducie Arms	Devas Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Falstaff	Jenner Close	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Gamecock	Boundary Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Grand Junction	Rolls Crescent	Hydes	BM,B(E)
Grants Arms	Royce Road	Boddingtons	B(H)
Hope Inn	Chester Road	Hydes	BM,B(E)
Hussar	Arnott Crescent	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Last Hop	Chester Road	Bass Stones, Toby	Lt. (H)
Mancunian	City Road	Marstons	M,B(E)
Old Abbey	Guildhall Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Pomona	Cornbrook Road	Marstons	M,B(H)
Red Admiral	Hulme Walk	Robinsons	M,B(E)
Star	Ellesmere Street	McEwan	70/-, 80/- (H)
Talbot	Stretford Road	Wilsons	B(H)
Three Legs of Man	Stretford Road	Wilsons	B(H)

MANCHESTER 16 and 21 (WHALLEY RANGE AND CHORLTON).....

Alexandra Park	Alexandra Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Beech	Chorlton Green	Chesters	B(H)
Great Western	Sedgeborough Road	Greenalls	B(H)
Horse and Jockey	Chorlton Green	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Oaks	Barlow Moor Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Pepper Hill	Exmouth Walk	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Royal Oak	Barlow Moor Road	Chesters	B(H)
Southern	Mauldeth Road West	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Talbot	Bold Street	Chesters	B(H)

MANCHESTER 23 (WEST WYTHENSHAW).....

Eagle	Greenbrow Road	Marstons	M,B(E)
Firbank	Firbank Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Gardeners Arms	Wythenshawe Road	Robinsons	M,B(E)
Jolly Butcher	Butcher Lane	Lees	M,B(E)
Park	Moorcroft Road	Lees	M,B(H)
Pear Tree	Ferndown Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Yew Tree	Yew Tree Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)

PARTINGTON.....

King William IV	Manchester Road	Marstons	M,B(E)
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SALE.....

Bridge Inn	Dane Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Brigadier	Firs Way	Holts	M,B(H)
Carters Arms	Northenden Road	Marstons	M,B,Ped(E)
Huntsman	Firs Way	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Legh Arms	Northenden Road	Holts	M,B(E)
Old Plough	Green Lane	Hydes	M,B(E)
Railway	Chapel Road	Robinsons	M,B(E)
Sale Hotel	Marsland Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Vine	Washway Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Volunteer	Cross Street	Chesters	M,B(H)
Waggon and Horses	Cross Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Woodcourt	Maple Road	Wilsons	M,B(E)

STRETFORD.....

Melville	Barton Road	Holts	M,B(E)
Northumberland	Chester Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Quadrant	Great Stone Road Wil	B(H): Bulmers Cider(H)	
Robin Hood	Barton Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)

URMSTON.....

Bent Brook	Broadway	Chesters	M,B(H)
Fox and Hounds	Woodsend Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Garricks Head	Moorside Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Greyhound	Church Road	Chesters	B(H)
Lord Nelson	Stretford Road	Holts	M,B(E)
Roebuck Hotel	Church Road	Holts	M,B(E)
Urmston	Stretford Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Yates Wine Lodge	Moorfield	Holts, Youngers, Wilsons	B(H)

RAMSBOTTOM NEWS

Summer trekkers over Holcombe Hill will be glad to hear that at the bottom of the hill Castle Eden sle is available at the Shoulder of Mutton. Further down, in Ramsbottom, the Rose and Crown is the latest Bass house to acquire Jennings bitter. Look for the solitary (unmarked) handpump. OB bitter has been removed from the Railway Hotel, leaving the Boddingtons mild and bitter on handpump.

SALFORD TOPS PUB LIST

Preliminary figures from Kevin Pardoe of Hull showing the number of people per pub put Salford top of the list with 389 and Bradford second with 524. Towns like Ipswich, Derby and Wolverhampton have well over 1,000 people per pub. It looks as though Salford will lose a good few more pubs in the next ten years or so.

HYDEAWAYDAY ON THE WAY?

The long closed Hydeaway on Manchester Road in Hyde is undergoing alterations. Perhaps this means that a reopening is on the way?

Contributors: Leo King, Don Chattwood, Roger Hall, Rob Dunford, Peter Wightman, Dave Shelton, Dave Hale, David Rowlinson, D R Lees, Keith Egerton



**THE
STATION**

You'll find us
at the end of
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next to
the by-pass

**Our range of hand pumped real ales include
Marstons Pedigree, Merrie Monk, Mercian Mild,
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**Recent Guest Beers have included
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**We are renowned for our superb luncheons
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beer garden!*

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For a night to remember
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Bring a party and we can provide you
with a private room - bar sports as
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Our selection of handpumped beers is
Boddington's Bitter • Ruddles County •
Theakstons Old Peculier & XB • Vaux Samson •
Everards Tiger • Taylors Landlord
Porter and Best Dark Mild
& 3 guest beers & 2 Lagers
PLUS - the worlds strongest Ale ECU
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Each of your party receives
THE FIRST PINT ON THE HOUSE!

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Cemetery
Hotel**

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UNSPOILT BY PROGRESS

BULLS HEAD



Sir - I wish to correct the correction printed in April WD. Unfortunately the Bulls Head on Brideoak Street, Waterhead, Oldham, has not sold Boddington traditional mild by any means of dispense for some time. The pub now serves keg Oldham mild by handpump, because the locals prefer it that way, being "less fizzy" than the usual keg dispense. It's a shame that their taste

buds were not so discerning over the sadly all-too-rare Boddies mild. To his credit, the landlord does not promote this deception, as the handpump in question is completely unmarked.

Adrian Cunningham

ORDINARY BITTER

Sir - Recently I dropped in to the Dog and Partridge in Denton to renew my acquaintance with Robinson's Ordinary Bitter, and was pleased to find the brew still in existence, well kept and as refreshing as ever. I would not wish to disagree with Roger Protz's estimation of Robbies BB as one of the country's "stand-out beers" (GBG 84), but the Ordinary is also an excellent brew, and the lower OG means that a couple of lunchtime pints still leaves you capable of doing a little work in the afternoon.

Why, then, are Robinsons so reluctant to promote this beer? Their advertisement in WD fails even to mention its existence, and I understand that it is now limited to three outlets. Perhaps WD readers who agree with me could lobby Robinsons to ensure that they do not allow this beer to slip into extinction.

Cliff Davies

MOAN

Sir - Whilst it is always pleasant to see a new feature in WD, it came as something of a shock to realise that, to the best of my knowledge, neither of the first two pubs featured in "Strange Pub Names" actually sells real ale. I understand the "Pub Preservation" argument that many fizz pubs have features of note which should be recorded against the day when they come back into the fold, but surely it was an error of judgement to start the series off with two non-real ale pubs. It's not as if there's a shortage of real ale pubs with interesting names - just off the cuff I can think of the Milan in Collyhurst, the Standard Mower in Leigh and, my personal favourite, the Railway and Naturist (sorry, Naturalist) in Prestwich. At the very least, if any more fizz pubs are covered in this series could the article carry a "What's Doing Health Warning", making clear that real ale is not available? This would protect the unwary purchaser who might naively assume that a CAMRA publication is in the business to promote real ale.

Rhys P Jones

TRADITIONAL?

Sir - Over the last few months What's Doing has carried news items about some pubs proclaiming to dispense "traditional" beers. These pubs are in fact dispensing keg or tank beer, a far cry from what all CAMRA devotees, or even your Mr Average, would consider "traditional". For the last ten years, ever since CAMRA was formed, the use of the word "traditional" has been given the meaning of cask conditioned, or real, ale. All reputable breweries have marked their cask conditioned beers at the point of sale (pump clips, beer mats, etc) as "traditional". The term "real ale" is even give a place in the Oxford English Dictionary. Now it would appear that one or two breweries are abusing and debasing the word "traditional" to imply cask conditioned ales. This is misrepresentation at its worst and is a despicable form of advertising for tank (or keg) beer. The Manchester Regiment, a Greenalls pub, is a classic example (tank beer coupled with fake hand-pumps). So just what can be done? The short answer is - probably not a lot.

It is really up to the Brewers' Society to put their own house in order and "jump" on member brewers who are misusing the term "traditional". Sadly, this won't happen. What chance would traditional brewers like J W Lees or Hydes have in getting (say) Greenalls to stop using the word "traditional" and bringing the trade into disrepute? Very little chance indeed.

Could the Trading Standards Office help? Sadly, no. They require "case law" to have already been established before coming down heavily on those misusing the term "traditional". So where do we go from here? Probably the best thing is to draw up a blacklist of offenders, hold them up to ridicule and bring to the attention of the general public just what they are doing. Please write to the editor, giving all known outlets who are misusing the word "traditional". CAMRA could then perhaps take it up with the Brewers' Society.

Stewart Revell

THE PARK HOTEL, WIGAN, AND THE WIGAN INNER RING ROAD

Readers may recall that the Park Hotel, Hope Street, Wigan, was threatened by a Compulsory Purchase Order arising from the Wigan Town Centre Redevelopment Plan. Readers may also recall that the Park is one of the best loved traditional pubs in Wigan, serves one of the best pints in town and certainly has the best range of beers in the

centre (Peter Walker mild, bitter, best bitter and draught Bass). The pub's character has been skilfully preserved by the licensee Mrs Brown and her team of efficient waitresses.

Last May CAMRA South Lincs, together with Peter Walker Ltd and Mrs Brown, made submissions to the Department of the Environment Inspector when he sat to hear objections. This was done after mounting a lengthy publicity campaign.

On 19th April 1984 we heard that the Secretary of State for the Environment, after considering his Inspector's report, had decided to confirm the CPO without any amendment, despite the many objections. In effect, this means that the Labour-controlled Borough Council has carte blanche to proceed to destroy Wigan's town centre, in the process sweeping away the Park, the town's market hall, museum and other valued buildings.

Our objections to the plan were based on an argument that the roof-top car park slip road, which the Park was to make way for, could be moved to allow the pub to remain. The brewery called in a highways expert to state how the proposed traffic plan could be altered. This argument was rebutted by the Council, who contended that their proposed traffic flow was superior on the grounds of safety. This argument was accepted by the Inspector and in his report he said that "Traffic safety considerations have contributed to the decision on the positioning of the ramp in the approved scheme...the avoidance of a cross-roads where cars might be expected to queue in the carriageway is prudent."

It is difficult to blame the Inspector for coming to this conclusion, if we take the Park in isolation. However, the Park is only a small piece in the Town Plan jigsaw. We knew from the beginning that the only way to save the Park was for the Plan to be dropped or substantially altered. Everything was done which could be done to save the Park but the odds against us were too great - fighting the Council, the Developer and many influential supporters of the scheme.

If what has happened to the Park was not bad enough, we face a second large CPO of property to make way for the Wigan Inner Ring Road. This time six pubs are affected. They are the **New Star**, Wallgate (non-real Tetley Walker), the **Grapes**, Wallgate (real Burtonwood), the **Wheatsheaf Hotel**, Wallgate (real Greenalls), the **Derby Arms**, Darlington Street (free - non real), the **Horseshoe Hotel**, Millgate (real Burtonwood) and the **Saracens Head**, Wigan Lane (real Whitbread). The branch have lodged objections, and we are particularly interested in saving the **Wheatsheaf** and the **Saracens Head**.

In the meantime, other Wigan pubs continue to cause concern. Recently the Buck i'th' Vine, Clayton Street (real Burtonwood) finally closed, the Swan and Railway (Tetley Walker) has been sold to an unknown buyer and the Colliers Arms, Frog Lane (non-real Tetley Walker) is up for sale without a brewer's tie.

Steven Foster

UNUSUAL PUB NAMES No 3

"THE 53"

This Whitbread pub on Queens Road, Cheetham, derives its name from the tram route that served Queens Road until 1930, when it was converted to buses. It still operates to this day.

The service was inaugurated on 16th July 1901, running between Cheetham Hill Road and Rochdale Road only. A series of extensions took the route to Oldham Road in 1902, Bradford Road in 1903, Belle Vue in 1904 and Brooks's Bar in 1907. The final extension was in 1924, when the route was taken through to Stretford Road.

The vast majority of Manchester trams were double-deckers. The 53 was the Corporation's only major, regular single-deck route, which is probably why its distinctive cars are still remembered after fifty years.

The pub occupies a new site, not directly replacing a previous house, was opened in late 1979 and its sign boxes depict one of the 53 route trams.

The first motorbuses operated on the 53 route on 3rd March 1930, and sounded the death-knell for the trams - the last tram ran on 19th March. One car is preserved in working order in Heaton Park.

D Busman

(I wish to acknowledge the help of Mr C J Bowles of GMT and Mr P L Jowett of Whitbread-Chesters in preparing this article)



Branch Diary

HIGH PEAK AND NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues 5th June General Knowledge Quiz Night, George, Marple Bridge (Robinsons) 8.30pm
Wed 6 June, Committee Meeting, Foresters (Pig Muck), Greave, Romiley (Bodd'tons) 8.30
Tues 12 June Branch AGM, Andrew Arms, Compstall (Robinsons) 8.30pm
Sun 24 June Beer Classroom at Globe Lane Primary School, Globe Lane, Dukinfield
Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

MACCLESFIELD

Tues 12 June Visit to Hydes Brewery. Assemble Nags Head 5.30

Thurs 14 June Pub Crawl. 8.45 Brocklehurst Arms. 9.30 George Hotel. 10pm Brambles

Mon 25 June Branch Meeting, White Swan, Rodney Street, Macclesfield 8.00pm

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Tues 5 June Open Committee meeting. 8pm Swan with Two Necks, Princess St, Stockport

Monday 11th June Inaugural Pub of the Year Award (second Attempt!) Griffin, Didsbury Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport

Thurs 14 June Branch meeting, 8pm, White Swan, Green St, Fallowfield. Guest speaker from Robinsons Brewery

Thurs 28 June Pub of the Month, Florist, Shaw Heath, Stockport

Tues 3 July Open Committee Meeting, 8pm, Gateway, Kingsway, East Didsbury

Contact Sue Sproson 061 225 4058

TRAFFORD AND HULME

Thurs 7 June 8.00. Committee/Social, White Lion, Liverpool Rd, Manchester

Thurs 21 June 8.00pm. Branch meeting, Railway, Mobberley (near BR Station)

Sat 9 June 9.45 Bradford & Keighley Cultural tour. Depart Victoria Station 9.45am

Thurs 14 June 8pm. Chester Road Survey. Meet Northumberland

Thurs 5 July 8pm. Committee/Social. Proposed venue Stetford Cricket Club, Lesley Road, Stretford.

Contact Dave Shelton 061 795 2113

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 20 June Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton

Wed 27 June Branch visit to Chorlton on Medlock. Meet Grafton, Grafton Street 7.30pm

Weds 4 July Collyhurst - Junction, Queens Road, 7pm. Milan, Rochdale Rd 8pm.

Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM AND BURY

Tues 5 June 8pm. Branch Meeting, Cotton Tree (Lees), Boarshaw Road, Middleton

Tues 19 June 8pm Committee Meeting, Gardeners (Lees), Grimshaw La, Middleton Junct.

Tues 3 July 8pm Branch Meeting, Healey (Robinsons), Shawclough Rd, Rochdale

Tues 17 July 8pm. Committee Meeting, Merrie Monk (free), College Rd, Rochdale

Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 775 3351 xt 248

BOLTON

July 6th "Friday Special", Halliwell Road Pub Crawl. Ainsworth 7pm. Stragglers meet at the Peel at 9pm.

Weds 11 July. Deferred Burtonwood Brewery trip. Contact Dave Fleming or Bert Kerks for further details.

Weds 18 July Branch Meeting at the Derby (Whitbread), Bolton 8.30pm

Sunday 22nd July Sunday Social, Bury Road. Hare & Hounds (Walkers) 12 noon. Bowling Green (Wilsons) 1pm.

SOUTH MANCHESTER BRANCH COMMITTEE

At the S Manchester AGM on Thurs 12 April, the following people were elected to the committee for the 1984/85 session.

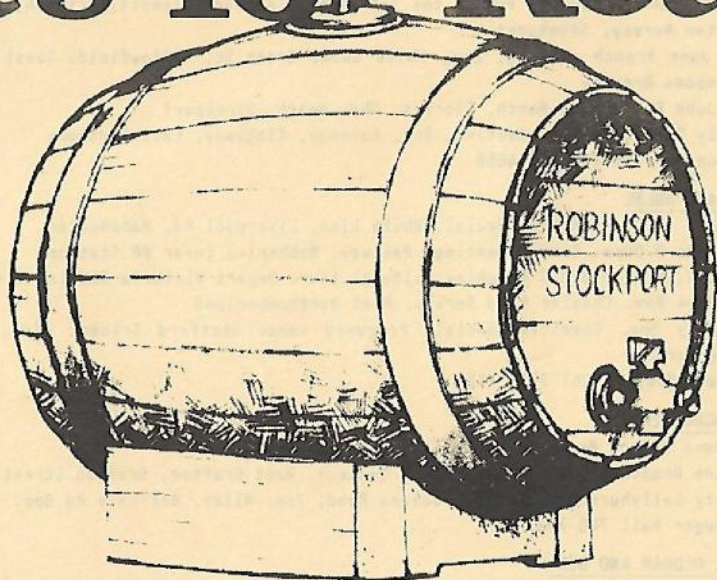
Chairman: Rhys P Jones. **Secretary** Alastair L Walker. **Treasurer** Sue Sproson. **Ordinary**

Members: P Levison, J Clark, H Higgins, D Eckett

WHAT'S DOING IN NORTH MANCHESTER AND SALFORD

What's Doing is on sale in the following outlets: IRLAM White Horse, White Lion. ECCLES Duke of York, Red Lion, White Lion, Stanley, Monton Green, Park, Lancashire Heroes. SWINTON White Horse, White Swan, Newmarket, Foresters. BOOTHSTOWN: Royal Oak WALKDEN Lancashire Heroes. SALFORD: Ordsall, Union. MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE: Crown & Anchor, Jolly Angler, Millstone, King. CHEETHAM: Derby Brewery Arms. CRUMPSALL: Lancashire Heroes. MOSTON: Blue Bell.

It's for Real



We at Robinson's think that what matters most about beer is its flavour. That's why we are still brewing beer the same way that we did a hundred years ago. Natural ingredients, the same time-honoured brewing ways, even on the same site - not many can say that!

And you can buy at least one, usually two and sometimes more of the traditional ales listed here in any Robinson's pub within 100 miles of Stockport. Not many can make that sort of claim either.

Now you can have Real Ale at home for parties or just for your own enjoyment. Available in Firkins and Pins*, complete with top, stillage and detailed instructions. You can order from any Robinson's On or Off-Licence or Unicorn Wine Shops.

Old Tom Ale
Best Bitter Ale
Best Mild Ale



Always available from Unicorn Wine, Lower Hillgate, Stockport, (just by the Brewery) 061-480 6571. And it's the cheapest way of buying beer. A little more trouble perhaps but we think you will agree with us that it is worth it.

There are deposits on the casks, stillages and taps, returnable in full when you bring them back. You can borrow glasses, paying only for those you break or fail to return providing you also make appropriate purchases of items to fill them.

We strongly recommend that you place your order as soon as possible for Christmas or New Year use.

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**When you buy any of these Robinson's Ales,
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