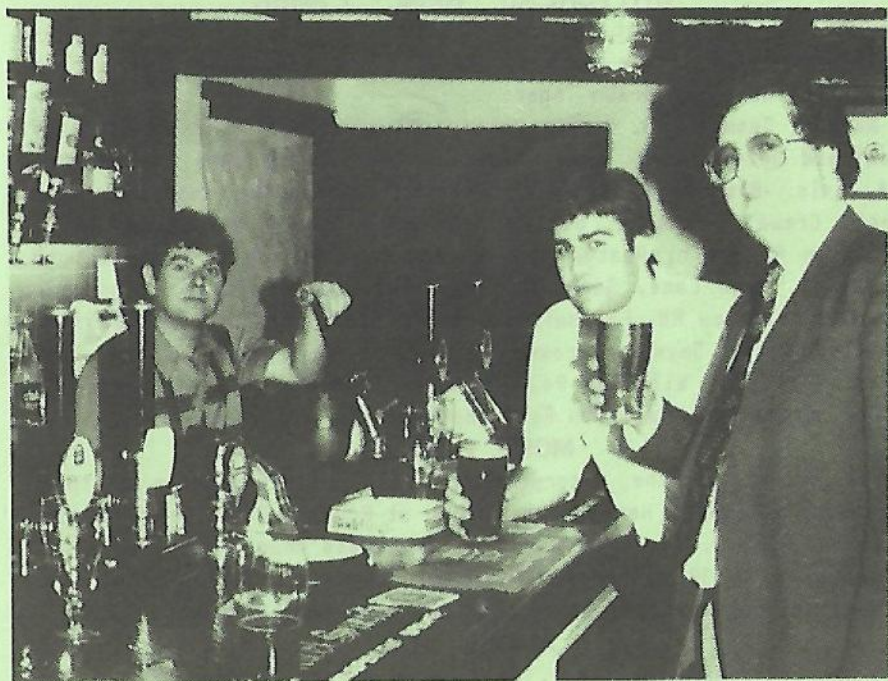


WHAT'S DOING



JAN
1985

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



HALF MOON SHINES ON

Things are progressing well for Tyldesley's newest pub, the Half Moon Inn on Elliot Street. Licensee and CAMRA member David Rowlinson (left) reports a steady increase in barrelage, with Boddingtons bitter the favourite. Oldham bitter (the real stuff) is catching on and there is a growing demand for Boddingtons mild. Marstons Pedigree is the current guest beer, and this will be replaced by Taylors Landlord in January.

WHAT'S DOING

NEW EYRIE?

It is now unlikely that the Spread Eagle (Holts) on Regent Road, Salford, will be rebuilt on an adjacent site, as was the original intention. Instead, Salford Council have made land available in Little Hulton for a new public house. (The other two remaining pubs on that stretch of Regent Road - the Wellington (Boddingtons) and the Live and Let Live (Wilsons) - are also to be demolished in the near future; Boddingtons will be rebuilding behind the present site.) Holts have made a provisional application to build their new pub at the top of Cleggs Lane close to the bridge across the M61.

WHITBREAD "REAL" LAGER

Contrary to the report in last month's WD, Whitbread are indeed talking to us and have come across with the following list of pubs selling the new hand-drawn lager:

Bay Malton, Seamons Rd, Dunham Massey. **Bleeding Wolf**, Ashley Rd, Hale. **Brookfield Hotel**, Brook Lane, Alderley Edge. **Brooklands Tavern**, Hope Road, Sale. **Brunswick**, Nantwich Road, Crewe. **Cumberland**, Middlewich Street, Crewe. **Feathers**, Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton. **Chapel House**, Wellington Rd North, Heaton Chapel. **Red Cow**, Princess St, Knutsford. **Lion Hotel**, High Lane, Sandbach. **Royal Oak**, Barlow Moor Rd, Chorlton. **Sherwood**, Wilmslow Rd, Fallowfield. **White Swan**, Bradbury Rd, Winsford. **Throstles Nest**, Seymour Grove, Stretford. **Red Lion**, Church Road, Gatley. **Old Cock**, Wilmslow Rd, Didsbury. **Griffin**, Lower Broughton Rd, Salford. **Green End**, Mauldeth Road, Burnage.

MORE HEROES

Another branch of the enterprising real ale off-licence chain of Legendary Lancashire Heroes has opened at Bowfell Road, Urmston, near the Curzon Cinema. There is a choice of no less than 6 real ales at all times and up to 30 different throughout the year. The shop is also a further outlet for What's Doing and 1985 Good Beer Guides.

ANGEL ALE

The Angel (Greenall Whitley), Wellington Street, Gorton, has a very keen licensee dedicated to real ale. Handpumps have been installed to serve the well-kept traditional bitter. A large sign at the bar advertises "Real Ale" and the licensee would like to see a similar and bigger sign outside the pub. A sensible approach - please take note, Greenalls!

HANDPUMPS

The Britannia and the Assheton Arms (both Lees) in Middleton town centre have had handpumps installed to replace the pillar-type pumps common in many Lees outlets.



WHERE TO FIND THE BEST

THE COACH & HORSES, MANCHESTER. 1.	(B)
THE WALTZING WEASEL, BIRCH VALE.	(C)
THE LITTLE MILL, ROWARTH.	(C)
THE ROMPER INN, MARPLE.	(C & B)
THE CEMETERY, ROCHDALE.	(C)
THE CHURCH HOUSE, BOLLINGTON.	(C)
POYNTON FOLK CLUB, POYNTON.	(C)
THE FLOATING LIGHT, DOBCROSS.	(C)
THE BUFFET BAR, STALYBRIDGE STATION.	(C)
THE STATION, ASHTON-U-LYNE.	(C) *

* Guest Basis Only C = County B = Rutland Bitter

Why not add your name to the list?

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GOOD
BEER..."**





TOP JOB

Ewart Boddington, Executive Chairman of Boddingtons Breweries, has been elected Chairman of the Brewers' Society. He joined the family firm in 1947, aged 20, as a junior brewer. He succeeded his father, the late Geoffrey Boddington, as Head Brewer in 1953 and became a director in that year. In 1957 he became Joint Managing Director with his cousin John Boddington, and became Chairman in 1970 when Geoffrey Boddington retired to become President.

WILSONS CHANGES

Pennine Hosts have recently handed back five of their pubs to Wilsons, to the dismay of red light bulb manufacturers and plastic edelweiss and orchid cultivators. Four are in Greater Manchester: Ducie Bridge, Miller Street, Manchester; Crown & Kettle, Great Ancoats Street, Welcome, Pitts, Oldham; Robert Tinker, Collyhurst.

The Grenadier, Oldham Street, has been sold to J W Lees and the Falcon on Dryden Street (near the Plymouth Grove Hotel), the last of the batch sold to Banks's, was the first to open under new ownership last month. The Dancing Weasel, Great Ancoats Street, is still looking for a buyer.

WHITBREAD IN BURY CENTRE

Sadly the George Hotel has dispensed with its Castle Eden and cask Trophy, so reverting to a keg-only pub. The Trophy, of course, was sold alongside the keg version and no choice offered. Across the road, the Knowsley retains both ales, although in variable condition. This is now a "Light and Sound" pub after receiving its initial transformation in 1983 and has to be seen to be believed! Nearby, the Rayners Bar remains obstinately keg-only, whilst nearer the Parish Church the White Lion, although still selling Duttons bitter, has been doing so through an unmarked handpump for months.

PROTECTION

Manchester's new rapid transit system (trams) may mean the death of the Britons Protection, which seems to be in the way. Strange how it managed to survive 80 years of proper trams some years ago.

WINDMILL CHANGE

Stand by for yet another licensee at the Windmill, Pendlebury (where Sam Smiths new bitter sells for 59p a pint). The present incumbent leaves to take over the Bispham Hotel, Blackpool, in January.

BOLTON CHANGES

The Old Three Crowns, Deansgate, has had the Pennine Host treatment. The theme here is "The English Alehouse", which has involved ridding the pub of its carpets and open fire. The floors are now just wooden boards and the comfortable seating has been replaced by bare wooden stools and chairs. A 12-foot extension has been built at the back and the pub has a less congested look about it. Unfortunately the traditional mild has gone, but Wilsons Original bitter is still on handpumps - at 70p a pint.

Further up Deansgate, at the Junction with Marsden Road, the Gipsy's Tent has become Winston's free house. Extensive renovations have turned this three-roomed pub into what looks like an open-plan luxury bedroom. However, real ale remains at this ex-Tetley house in the shape of handpumped Boddingtons and Stones bitter.

Greenalls Original is now on sale at the Crofters Hotel, St George's Road, but has disappeared from the Queen Elizabeth, Fletcher Street.

PICCADILLY NEWS?

The Black Horse (Robinsons) on Manchester Road, Oldham (opposite Werneth Fire Station), has been taken over by Oliver Parkinson and his brother John (the overnight news reader on Piccadilly Radio). This formerly dingy pub has recently been liberated from a compulsory purchase order relating to some long-forgotten road scheme. After closing the doors for 10 days to remove the grime of 20 years or more this multi-roomed pub appears to be back to something like its former glory. The Best Bitter and Mild are in excellent nick and Old Tom (gravity) was due last month.

LESS REAL ALE IN NORTH MANCHESTER

1984 showed a decline in the number of real ale outlets in North Manchester and Salford. There were 11 real ale gains (Greenalls 1, Wilsons 1, Tetley 2, Whitbread 6, free 1) but these were more than offset by 7 losses (Greenalls 1, Wilsons 1, Whitbread 2, Bass 1, Tetley 1, free 1) and 13 closures (Greenalls 1, Wilsons 8, Whitbread 1, Tetley 2, S&N 1). Two keg pubs also closed but strangely there were no new pubs and no demolitions during the year.

ROYAL OAK

The Royal Oak (Whitbread), Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, has reopened free from the "House of Horrors" treatment. The transformation has resulted in a comfortable pub which now houses a large central bar. A public bar forms part of the extremely large, open-plan lounge and contains a dartboard and pool table. For the first time, probably for many, many years, a juke box has been installed. There are no raised seating areas, no adverse lighting and no awkward steps to fall over. Traditional Chesters bitter has been retained on

handpumps and, as before, the rest is not real ale. Unfortunately draught Bass has not returned.

BEST CELLAR

Frank Spacey, landlord of the Coach & Horses, a 1985 Good Beer Guide pub on Eccles New Road, Salford, was recently presented with his trophy for winning the "Cellar of the Year" award for the second year running in a competition organised by Sam Smiths.

JOHN SMITHS

The Crowthorn on Crowthorn Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, is now selling cask John Smiths.

UPMARKET ORDSALL

The Globe on Regent Road, Salford, is now a Burtonwood "free house" rejoicing in the name Park Royal.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Two Rochdale pubs have recently undergone internal alterations. Following many months of closure, the New Bricklayers on Whitworth Road has been sold by Wilsons. Now reopened as a free house, supplied by John Smiths, it is called Baileys. Handpumped bitter is available. Over on the other side of town at Sudden, another Wilsons pub, the Martins Nest, has been upgraded and is now known as the Waggon and Horses.



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A BAR FULL OF
HANDPUMPS
SERVING:

BASS CASK BITTER (HAMMONDS), DRAUGHT BASS,
HARTLEYS XB, BASS 4X MILD, MATTHEW BROWN JOHN
PEEL BITTER, BODDINGTONS BITTER, JENNINGS
BITTER, THEAKSTONS BEST BITTER & XB, ROBINSONS
BEST BITTER and REGULAR GUEST BEERS

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WIGAN AND LEIGH NEWS

Two pubs in Leigh have stopped selling Ind Coope Burton Ale - the Railway on Twist Lane (Tetley Walker) and Tropics, Railway Road (Tetley), both due to poor sales. In the case of Tropics this is hardly surprising - a pint of humble Tetley bitter costs 70p there! Greenalls have installed handpumps in the Mechanics Arms, Westleigh, for mild and bitter.

Greenalls Original bitter has disappeared from the New Inn, City Road, Orrell, but the landlord is hoping to get it back on again soon. "Local" mild and bitter (electric) are still available.

GOLDEN NEWIE

Holts have just spent £28,000 on Ye Golden Lion in Blackley village. There have been no structural changes, but everything has been renewed - carpets, upholstery, wallpaper, curtains, etc. It is all very smart.

GOOD NEWS UP THE JUNCTION

After months of closure the Radcliffe in Middleton Junction (opposite Lees Brewery) has reopened its doors. Fears that this Burtonwood pub would "go fizz" proved unfounded. The mild and bitter are now hand-pumped and the previously dowdy pub is quite plush. The brewery have resisted the temptation to completely gut the building (to those of us who saw the place a couple of months ago when it was a bare brick shell this will come as something of a surprise) and the interior layout is relatively unchanged; the overall effect is quite pleasant.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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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

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL MANCHESTER

(Amendments to the list in last month's What's Doing)

The Brunswick on London Road has at last reopened and is selling hand-pumped Wilsons bitter (74p a pint!). The Burton Arms has stopped selling both draught Bass and 4X mild. Sinclairs is now selling Taddy bitter alongside the Old Brewery bitter. The Red Bull is now permanently shut. Sams Chop House was missed out deliberately as it shuts at 7 o'clock and doesn't open at weekends. Cheers was missed out by accident. The Old Bank Street Brewhouse doesn't serve real ale - it's under blanket gas pressure. Deerings still sells Tetleys; the strongale at the Jolly Angler is on gravity; the Holts and Boddingtons at the King Billy are handpumped; the Land o'Cakes and the Royal George (Wilsons) both sell mild but the Mark Addy doesn't and the Weavers after its refurbishment is still on handpumps. Despite rumours, neither the Harp & Shamrock nor the Wheatsheaf is serving keg beer through beer engines. The Church in Ardwick and the Salisbury have both been closed for alterations. The Nelson on Oldham Road is shut and the signs have been removed; builders are in the Pack Horse, further up Oldham Road.



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REAL ALE in NORTH MANCHESTER



INCLUDING BLACKLEY, CRUMPSALL, CHEETHAM HILL,
STRANGEWAYS, MOSTON, NEWTON HEATH, MILES
PLATTING, BRADFORD, COLLYHURST, HARPURHEY AND
ANCOATS

CENTRAL MANCHESTER

Bensons	High Street	Whitbread
Brewery Arms	Great Ducie Street	Boddingtons
Britannia	Newton Street	Wilsons
Castle	Oldham Street	Robinsons
Castle & Falcon	Bradshaw Street	Burtonwood
Crown & Anchor	Hilton Street	Free
Crown & Cushion	Corporation Street	Whitbread
Ducie Arms	Great Ducie Street	Boddingtons
Ducie Bridge	Miller Street	Wilsons
Dutton Arms	Park Street	Hydes
Hare & Hounds	Shudehill	Tetley
Harp & Shamrock	New Mount Street	Marstons
Hat & Feathers	Mason Street	Whitbread
John Willie Lees	Withy Grove	Lees
Lower Turks Head	Shudehill	Wilsons
Mamas	Rochdale Road	Whitbread
Marble Arch	Rochdale Road	Free
Millstone	Thomas Street	Wilsons
Mitre	Cathedral Yard	Wilsons
Mother Mac's	Back Piccadilly	Whitbread
Nickelby's	Dale Street	Wilsons
Old White Bear	Swan Street	Tetleys
Royal George	Lever Street	Wilsons
Royal George	Rochdale Road	Whitbread
Seftons	Corporation Street	Wilsons
Sinclairs	Old Shambles	Sam Smiths
Smithfield	Swan Street	Boddingtons
Swan	Withy Grove	Wilsons
Unicorn	Church Street	Bass
Victoria Station Bar	Victoria	Boddingtons
Weavers	Angel Street	Tetley
Wellington	Old Shambles	Bass
Wheatsheaf	Oak Street	Tetley
Yates's	Great Ancoats Street	Free
BLACKLEY		
Alliance	Rochdale Road	Boddingtons
Berkshire	Victoria Avenue East	Wilsons
Clough Hotel	Hall Moss Road	Whitbread
Duke of Wellington	Weardale Road	Holts
Farmyard	Rochdale Road	Whitbread
Flying Horse	Crab Lane	Boddingtons
Fox	Old Market Street	Holts
Golden Lion	Old Market Street	Holts
Grove	Rochdale Road	Burtonwood
Heaton Park	Middleton Road	Whitbread
Hilltop	Heaton Park Road	Tetley
Lion & Lamb	Victoria Avenue	Wilsons
Millstone	Blackley New Road	Tetley

New White Lion	Middleton Old Road	Wilsons
Old House at Home	Bottomley Side	Wilsons
Pleasant	Chapel Lane	Robinsons
Red Lion	Rochdale Road	Wilsons
Top Derby	Rochdale Road	Wilsons

CRUMPSALL

Belmont	Middleton Road	Wilsons
Cleveland	Crumpsall Lane	Holts
Swan	Waterloo Street	Wilsons
Woodies	Woodlands Road	Wilsons

CHEETHAM HILL / STRANGWAYS

Apollo	Heywood Street	Holts
Cheetwood Arms	Derby Street	Holts
Crumpsall	Bury Old Road	Holts
Derby Brewery Arms	Cheetham Hill Road	Holts
Egerton Inn	Hanlon Street	Holts
Empress	Cheetham Hill Road	Whitbread
Fifty Three	Queens Road	Whitbread
Griffin	Cheetham Hill Road	Wilsons
Grove Inn	Bury New Road	Boddingtons
Mechanics Arms	Waterloo Road	Boddingtons
Mile House	North Street	Boddingtons
Robin Hood	Cheetham Hill Road	Wilsons
Tanners Arms	Fairy Lane	Holts

MOSTON

Bluebell	Moston Lane	Holts
Bricklayers	Moston Lane	Wilsons
Broadway	Broadway	Whitbread
Gardeners Arms	Chain Bar	Boddingtons
Kestrel	Hugo Street	Wilsons
Zoots	Moston Lane	Wilsons

NEWTON HEATH

Britannia	Robert Street	Tetley
Clarendon	Pinehurst Road	Marstons
Church	Droylsden Road	Holts
Copenhagen	Oldham Road	Wilsons
Culcheth Gates	Culcheth Lane	Wilsons
Dean Brook Inn	St Mary's Road	Marstons
Gibraltar	Grimshaw Lane	Wilsons
Grosvenor	Goddard Street	Lees
New Crown Inn	Old Church Street	Marstons
Newton House	Culcheth Lane	Marstons
Prince of Wales	Oldham Road	Wilsons
Railway	Dean Lane	Holts
Railway	Berry Brow	Boddingtons
Robin Hood	Droylsden Road	Marstons
Royal Oak	Oldham Road	Wilsons
Swan	Oldham Road	Wilsons

MILES PLATTING AND BRADFORD

Apollo	Varley Street	Boddingtons
Bradford Inn	Bradford Road	Holts
Cricketers	Bradford Road	Marstons
Grey Mare	Varley Street	Tetley
Heywood Arms	Oldham Road	Wilsons
Lancaster	Oldham Road	Wilsons
Maggie	Bradford Road	Whitbread
Navigation	Holland Street	Greenalls
New Inn	Cambrian Street	Greenalls
Victoria	Oldham Road	Wilsons
Wheatsheaf	Oldham Road	Bass
White Hart	Oldham Road	Wilsons

COLLYHURST AND HARPURHEY

Ark Royal	Conran Street	Robinsons
Billy Green's	Talgarth Road	Whitbread
Boddingtons 200	Carisbrook Street	Boddingtons
Golden Lion	Rochdale Road	Whitbread
Golden Tavern	Rochdale Road	Wilsons
Junction	Queens Road	Tetley
Manhattan	Collyhurst Street	Wilsons
Milan Inn	Rochdale Road	Robinsons
Sparrow Inn	Thornton Street North	Tetley
Swan	Hamerton Road	Greenalls
Vine	Glendower Avenue	Boddingtons

ANCOATS

Auld Lang Syne	Pollard Street	Wilsons
Brick House	Great Ancoats Street	Whitbread
Bridge Inn	Pin Mill Brow	Whitbread
Brown Cow	Woodward Street	Wilsons
Church	Jersey Street	Wilsons
Cob o'Coal	Winder Avenue	Whitbread
Cross Keys	Jersey Street	Tetley
Crown & Kettle	Great Ancoats Street	Wilsons
Edinburgh Castle	Blossom Street	Whitbread
Jersey Lily	Jersey Street	Greenalls
Jolly Angler	Ducie Street	Hydes
Land o'Cakes	Great Ancoats Street	Whitbread
Mitchell Arms	Beswick Street	Banks's
Moulders Arms	Heyrod Street	Tetley
Nelson	Oldham Road	Wilsons
Pollard	Pollard Street	Lees
River	Palmerston Street	Greenalls
Shamrock	Bengal Street	Burtonwood
Smiths Arms	Sherratt Street	Tetley
Star & Garter	Fairfield Street	Whitbread

RAMSBOTTOM NEWS

The Rose and Crown has ended its brief flirtation with real ale. The Jennings bitter has disappeared from this Bass pub as the landlord apparently found it difficult to handle. On the credit side, the Good Samaritan, once a Good Beer Guide pub but in recent years fallen from grace, is now under new management. This Wilsons house is undergoing alteration and although only keg mild is at present available, the bitter is now served in excellent condition.

BRANCH OFFICER CHUCKED OUT OF PENNINE JOKE PUB

Roger Hall, North Manchester Branch Secretary and Brewery Liaison Officer for Wilsons was refused admittance to the Monton Green on Wednesday 5th December because he was wearing training shoes. The normally mild mannered Mr Hall was incensed by what he referred to as "a callow youth who looked as though he'd been let loose in an Oxfam shop with a half-crown postal order, acting as a sartorial arbiter". Footnote: Mr Hall was narrowly beaten into 3rd place by Rhys Jones and Stewart Revell in last year's CAMRA's Best Dressed Man competition and is described by Paul Roberts as "jobber as a sudge".

Contributors: Paul Roberts, Dave Hale, Roger Hall, Roger Bullock, Steve Lawton, George Glass, Peter O'Grady, Leo King, Des Nogalski, Peter Wightman, Dave White, Ken Birch, Keith Egerton, Stewart Revell.



ASSAM
GOURMET

ASSAM GOURMET
Discover the spice of India

Manchester's latest Indian Restaurant is in the tradition of the Rajdoot, the Gaylord and the Kathmandu. The upmarket Assam Gourmet, next to Paddy's Goose on Bloom Street, offers authentic cuisine from Assam in North East India. Although the decor and atmosphere is somewhat austere, the food is excellent and good value for money. The spiced prawns and vegetarian thalis are particularly recommended but it's worthwhile experimenting with what to many people will be a novel and unfamiliar menu.

Recently the Asian restaurants in Manchester seem to have polarised with four high quality restaurants in the city centre and a number of much cheaper ethnic cafe/restaurants in the Rusholme area. Although the standard Indian Restaurant still survives, particularly in the suburbs, its future now seems less secure as people become more knowledgeable and discriminating in their choice of food, even when their judgement may be marginally impaired by the odd gallon of Drabs.

Asa Fetida

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Bring a party and we can provide you
with a private room - bar sports as
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and even the Ale of your choice - within reason!

Our selection of handpumped beers is
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Theakstons Old Peculier & XB • Vaux Samson •
Everards Tiger • Taylors Landlord
Porter and Best Dark Mild
& 3 guest beers & 2 Lagers
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COMPETITION

Win a gallon! (or so) As much beer as you can drink in one night in your favourite pub. List the following breweries in order of merit in terms of beer quality and describe your favourite pub in not more than ten words.

Brewery	Order of Merit
BANKS'S	
BASS	
BODDINGTONS	
MATTHEW BROWN	
BURTONWOOD	
FAILSWORTH	
GREENALL WHITLEY	
HOLTS	
HYDES	
LEES	
MARSTONS	
OLDHAM	
ROBINSONS	
SCOTTISH& NEWCASTLE	
JOHN SMITHS	
SAM SMITHS	
TAYLORS	
TETLEY-WALKER	
THWAITES	
WHITBREAD-CHESTERS	
WILSONS	
WINKLES	

My favourite Greater Manchester pub is:

Name _____

Address _____

because _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

All entries must be received by the editor by 20 January 1985. The winner will be announced in February's WD. The judges decision is final. If you think Greenalls is the best beer in Greater Manchester put a 1 alongside Greenalls. If you think Bass is 2nd best put a 2 alongside Bass and so on. Use your skill and judgement to select the best pub in Greater Manchester and describe in not more than 10 words why it appeals to you.

The judges' grandmas, etc, can't take part and anyone arguing with the right answer will be forced to drink Red Barrel for ever. The presentation will take place in the winner's favourite pub on a date in February to be announced.





CUISINE CRITICISM

Sir - I recently attended the 1984 Amber Nectar Show in Manchester, organised by CAMRA. The event, although not particularly well advertised outside the pages of your organ, promised to be quite a comeback after an absence of five years. Although my friends and I had an enjoyable time, I feel that pen must be applied to

parchment to draw to your attention a number of points where we felt that CAMRA fell below its usual standards.

Having attended a number of festivals in various parts of the country over the last few years, I have found that they have all tried to produce examples of local gastronomic delicacies. Where, then, were the black puddings, Hollands pies, Lancashire hot pots and tripe and onions of my youth? Not even a small piece of Lancashire cheese could be found hidden behind the mountains of fat-sodden chips, cardboard bangers and slimy pizzas, so tastefully displayed. Is this your idea of traditional food, or has the beer jaded your palates? If the standard cannot be improved upon in future years, at least give the punters warning of what to expect so we are not obliged to spend the evening drinking on an empty stomach.

A Scottish visitor to our fair city made a comment that I would like to reiterate. As a stranger attending the "Greater Manchester Beer Festival", he expected to be able to drink at least a pint of beer brewed within the county boundary. With Moonraker quite sensibly being available only in halves, he was sorely disappointed. We are justly proud of our fine local brews, and CAMRA have done so much to promote them in our pubs, so why not at the festival? I am sure that a barrel of Oldham mild would not have been returned.

I think we must be told.

Andrew J Pearce

PUB PRESERVATION GROUP GETS IT RIGHT

The Boars Head in Leigh is a worthy recipient of the PPG award. They seem to have learned their lesson after last year's Lass o'Gowrie fiasco. They do wax a bit lyrical with a lot of Pseud's Corner drivel, but the pub's OK and popular with local people. Let's hope that other brewers look at what Peter Walker have done and try to follow suit instead of turning pubs into Houses of Horror, licensed junkyards or Pennine Joke instant theme pubs.



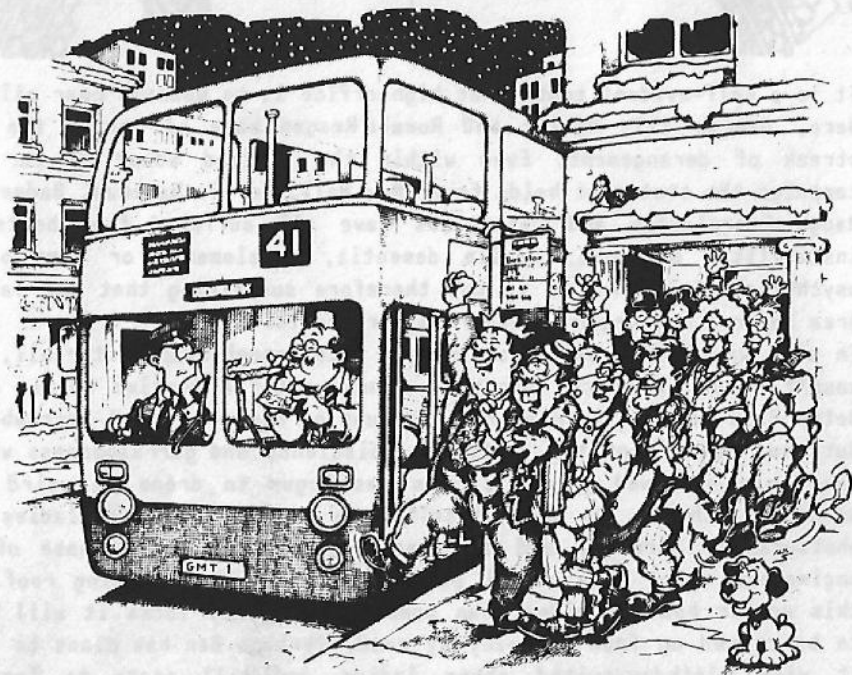
It is a self-evident truth that high office is to madness near allied. Nero, George III, Hitler and Ronald Reagan have all shown the odd streak of derangement. Even within the limited scope of our own campaign the statement holds true. Max Wall, Martin Boreman, Badge and Madge Fairplastic and Dermatitis have all suffered from bouts of instability, paranoia, senile dementia, megalomania or some other psychological quirk. It is not therefore surprising that our latest Area Supremo has begun to show similar traits.

In many ways young Ben Chestnut is a nice enough chap. After all, who hasn't thrown a brick through a window after a furtive sortie with Betty Bass or practised pairs press-ups on top of a canal narrowboat? But now, apart from the gifts of omniscience and garrulousness which have been bestowed upon him, Ben has begun to dream up weird and wonderful schemes. He sees himself as a procurer of naked ladies for photographic purposes and is also negotiating the purchase of an engineless model Mississippi paddle steamer with a rotting roof. As this wonder boat is wider than some of our canal locks it will have to be carted up from Smokeley by road. Perhaps Ben has plans to fill it with birthday-suited young ladies and sell seats to leering amateur David Baileys and assorted apprentice carrot buffers. As a warning to young Ben, it should be mentioned that the Noble Robin's barge was last seen semi-submerged in a brackish backwater with water lapping round the curtains. Furthermore his bus, parked in the hostelry yard, is little better, but without goldfish in the windows yet.

What fortunes are in store for Opening Tripe? Bill Taxdaughter is retiring to the wilds of Taffylund and the Whingeing Sartorial Scot has become a hermit in the Peak District. Can Humphrey Dumpty and his Celtic assistant forge ahead unaided? Watch this space.

Further news about who stole all the money from the Amber Nectar Show should be available next month.

The drinkers best friend!



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be breathalysed on a bus!

Take the bus!





Branch Diary

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Wed 16 Jan Coach trip to Cemetery free house, Rochdale
Wed 23 Jan 8pm Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh
Contact Brian Gleave Atherton 892365 (h) 876200 (w)

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 3 Jan 8pm Committee/Social. Church, Cambridge Street, Hulme. All welcome
Thurs 10 Jan Liverpool Trip. Details from Branch Contact
Thurs 17 Jan 8pm. Branch Meeting. Details from Branch Contact
Thurs 24 Jan 8pm. Pub of the Month. Details from Branch Contact
Thurs 31 Jan 8pm Committee/Social at Shell Carrington Social Club. All welcome
Contact: David Shelton 061 795 2113 (w) 061 224 7341 (h)

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Tues 8 Jan Open Committee Meeting 8pm Gateway, Kingsway, E Didsbury (note change of date)
Thurs 10 Jan Branch Meeting 8pm Castlewood, Bridge Street Brow, Stockport
Fri 11 Jan Edgeley Pub Crawl. 7pm Alexandra, Northgate Road; 8.30 Prince Albert, Castle Street; 9pm Pineapple, Castle Street
Thurs 24 Jan Pub of the Month with Trafford & Hulme branch
Sat 26 Jan Minibus to Bathams Brewery. Contact J Clarke (061 477 1973)
Tues 5 Feb Open Committee meeting 8pm Swan with Two Necks, Princes Street, Stockport Shopping Precinct
Wed 13 Feb Trip to Lees Brewery. Details from B Pryme (061 225 6606)
Thurs 14 Feb Branch meeting 8pm Gateway, E Didsbury
Contact Sue Sproson 061 225 4058

HIGH PEAK

Tues 8 Jan Committee meeting, Duke of York, Romiley (J Smiths)
Tues 15 Jan Branch Meeting, Andrew Arms, Compstall (Robinsons)
Tues 12 Feb Committee meeting, Grapes, Glossop (Boddies)
Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

BOLTON

Wed Jan 9th Branch meeting, the George, Great Moor Street 8.30
Weds 23rd (was 30th) Social at Lion of Vienna (Sam Smiths), Chorley New Road, 8.30

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 8 Jan Branch Meeting Royal Oak (Lees), Boarshaw Rd, Middleton
Tues 22 Jan 8pm Committee Meeting, Kenyon (Wilsons), Kenyon Lane, Middleton
Tues 5 Feb 8pm Branch meeting Black Swan (Lees), Bottom o'th' Moor, Oldham
Tues 19 Feb 8pm Committee meeting, Royal Oak (Robinsons), Manchester Rd, Werneth, Oldham
Contact: Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 775 3351 x 248

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed Jan 2 New Year Crawl of City Centre. 7pm Crown & Anchor, 8pm Smithfield Vaults. Finish Marble Arch, Rochdale Road
Wed 9 Jan 8pm Horseshoe, Back Hope Street, Higher Broughton, Salford
Sat 12 Jan 10.00am Bus leaves Marble Arch for Yates & Jackson wake. Contact John Worthington 061 832 5914
Wed 15 Jan 8pm Branch Meeting, Newmarket, Pendlebury
Wed 23 Jan Whitbread survey of Salford. Duke of York 7pm, Salford Arms finish
Wed 30 Jan Regional Meeting, Park Hotel, Wigan 8pm
Wed 6 Feb The Miles Platting Crawl! Swan, Oldham Road 7pm, White Hart, Oldham Rd, 8pm
Weds 13 Feb Brunswick, Piccadilly 8pm
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

HAVING A PARTY?

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TRADITIONAL DRAUGHT BEER

OLD TOM ALE

Available in Pins
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Firkins (9 Gall.)

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Available in Pins
and Firkins.

BEST MILD ALE

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and Firkins



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When you haven't time to allow our
Traditional Draught Beers to settle

* * * * *

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