

# WHAT'S DOING



FEB  
1985

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



## TEN YEARS IN THE GOOD BEER GUIDE

The Old House at Home in Blackley is North Manchester's third pub to celebrate ten consecutive years in the national Good Beer Guide. A suitable award will be presented later this year. The first pub to reach the magic 10 was the Crown & Kettle in 1983, but no award was made because the pub had started to sell keg mild and the quality of the bitter was less than wonderful. Last year the White Swan in Swinton received the first 10 year plaque. One or two other pubs have just missed out on an award. The White Horse in Swinton was in for 8 years until 1981 and both the Jolly Angler and Harp & Shamrock have been in for 9 of the last 10 years. The Jolly Angler was missed out in 1982 but after much recommendation and an improvement in standards was reinstated the following year. The Harp & Shamrock was omitted in 1983 after Hughie retired but has regained its place since. The Union Tavern in Salford has appeared in 8 of the last 10 editions. 10 years consecutive entries is a praiseworthy achievement, as pubs which do not meet exacting standards of beer quality are ruthlessly cut out of the next year's guide.



# WHAT'S DOING

## TRAM TRAP

As well as the Britons Protection (WD last month), the Castle & Falcon, Bradshaw Street, Manchester, is also in the way of the new tramlines and is scheduled for demolition. Perhaps GMC will consider re-introducing sedan chairs instead - low on pollution and they don't take up as much room as trams.

## BANKS'S IN MANCHESTER

Two former Wilsons houses - the Falcon, just off the Manchester end of Plymouth Grove and the Mitchell Arms on Butler Street - reopened in mid-December selling Banks's bitter and mild through electric pumps. These are standard equipment for Banks's, who seem to disapprove of handpumps. The Falcon is a very modern pub and needed little alteration. The Mitchell has been tastefully improved. Another ex-Wilsons house, the Osborne on Rochdale Road, Collyhurst, is being refurbished by Banks's and is due to reopen shortly. Banks's are to build a new Longsight Inn at Belle Vue to replace the existing one. As part of the Cheshire Inns package the Albert in Whitefield has transferred to Banks's from Whitbread.

## CALEDONIA CHANGES

The Caledonia on Warrington Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, has changed licensees and now sells handpumped Robinsons Best Mild and Best Bitter. Previously only Best Bitter was sold on electric pumps. The new landlord's previous pub was the Station Hotel on Warrington Street and the new licensee of the Station was the steward of Guide Bridge Conservative Club, where Boddingtons bitter was the only real ale.

## GREENALLS IN BOLTON

Greenalls Original bitter is now on sale at the Artillery & Volunteer, Radcliffe Road, Darcy Lever, and at the Antelope, Manchester Road, Kearsley. However, the beer is no longer on sale at the Fourgates, Chorley Road, Westhoughton, leaving the GBG-listed Boars Head on Churchgate as the only one of the original 5 Bolton outlets still selling the beer.

Meanwhile, Greenalls have closed and boarded up the New Zealand Chief, Great Moor Street, Bolton, and put it up for sale. They hope to sell it to someone who might turn it into a restaurant. On the other hand, it might end up like other Greenalls disposals in Bolton town centre in recent years: The Anchor, Bury Old Road, and the Rose Hill,

Manchester Road, are both free houses selling handpumped Boddies bitter; the Alma, Bradshawgate now sells handpumped Burtonwood and the Ancient Shepherd, Bold Street, handpumped Thwaites.

### WHAT PRICE ALE HOUSES?

Two Joke Group houses recently converted to "Ale Houses" are the Salisbury near Oxford Road Station and the Bulls Head at Hazel Grove. These alterations meant the removal of all floor coverings and most of the seating, giving the impression of converted barns. The drinking public appear to be voting with their feet and on visiting both pubs at normally busy times our correspondent found no more than a dozen customers in each. And where has the competitive beer price gone? Wasn't this promised when Pennine Joke announced their "Ale House" plan?

### NEW INN

The New Inn on Walmersley Road, Walmersley, Bury, has been renamed the Walmersley Arms. The pub has been refurbished inside and a porch has been added. The Wilsons mild and bitter remains excellent.

### PUB COUNT

A recent survey of all the pubs in the boroughs of Rochdale, Oldham and Bury has revealed an amazing similarity in the distribution of real ale outlets. In Rochdale, out of a total 301 pubs, 199 were

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### WHAT'S DOING

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

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selling some real ale (67%). Of Oldham's 319 pubs, 216 sold real ale (68%), and the figures for Bury revealed that there were 217 pubs in total, with 145 selling the real stuff (67%). Of the grand total of 560 real ale pubs, the branch is instructed to select only 33 for inclusion in the national Good Beer Guide. No wonder so many licensees become upset!

### **ROBIN HOOD**

The Robin Hood (Boddingtons) on Barton Road/Urmston Lane in Stretford town centre (near the Arndale) has had its modernisation completed. This multi-roomed pub has been done up in extreme comfort and with no weird attachments. Meals are now available and electric dispense has been retained.

### **REAL ALE CAN BE FUN**

Columbia Leisure, owners of Tisbury Brewery and the General Havelock, Bolton, have bought (non-real ale) Blighty's nightclub in Farnworth and plan to install a "real ale fun bar" in one side. They also say they wish to acquire 50 or 60 pubs and clubs in the North West and Midlands and supply them with real ale.

### **CROWN ALE**

The Crown (Bass) on Booth Street, central Manchester, is now serving handpumped draught Bass and Stones bitter alongside the usual fizzy products.

### **OUTLOOK LESS MILD FOR MILNROW**

The Tim Bobbin (Wilsons) on Dale Street has reopened after a period of closure for "renovations". Gone are the two rooms with separating bar, dim lighting and cask mild. In are bright lights, large open spaces, plush seats and a tiled "public bar area". It's comfortable, but not really an improvement.

Lees GB mild has also gone from the Free Trade Tavern, New Hey Road, although this is promised to be temporary. Apparently it hardly sells during the winter and should return with the warmer weather.

### **MAGNUMS**

The Boot and Clogger in Bredbury, Stockport, has been altered and renamed Magnums. Real ale remains.

### **CLEVER BOY**

The improvements at the Shepherds Boy, Huddersfield Road, Waterhead, Oldham, have finally been completed. Contrary to many current examples of pub destruction, the work carried out has actually improved the pub, especially the bar area. The hand drawn Matthew Brown mild and bitter continue to be on form, but cask Theakstons is not yet available.

## GBG PUB ALTERATION

The White Lion, a small and cosy Whitbread Chesters house on Liverpool Road, Manchester, is to have some internal alterations to enlarge the drinking area. As a new entrant to the GBG, let's hope that the alterations are not too severe.

## WIGAN NEWS

Wigan's Ring Road scheme has claimed another pub. The Horseshoe Inn, which sold cask Burtonwood beers, closed just after Christmas. Two others - the New Star on Millgate (keg Tetley) and the Derby Arms, Chapel Lane (keg free) - have closed due to the Ring Road and another Wallgate inn, the Wheatsheaf (GW) has been demolished.

Now that the Horseshoe (Millgate) has closed, only the Saracens Head on Wigan Lane stands in the way of the Ring Road. But this GBG-rated Whitbread house hasn't had a CPO slapped on it at the time of writing and the new road may go through the nearby Swinley Labour Club. But it's unlikely.

Things haven't been too clever at the Royal, Golborne, of late. A recent visit to the first-ever Almonds free house revealed that Youngers IPA and No.3 had been withdrawn due to poor sales and though Tetley bitter was still available, it was "off". This left just Almond bitter and Burtonwood mild, making the Royal a free house that isn't. What went wrong, Burtonwood?

Greenall's Black Horse at Almond Brook, Shevington Moor, has reopened as Henry Africas. This fun pub tries to recapture the atmosphere of Livingstone's Africa - whoever thought this one up should take a one-way ticket to Ujiji. The beer (natch) is keg.

In the centre of Wigan, the old Alrar Hotel in Dicconson Street has reopened as a Tetley house (it used to be SEN). Now renamed the Charles Dickens Hotel, Tetley mild and bitter are available on hand-pumps and there is a promise of Ind Coope Burton Ale to come. It's worth a visit.

The Bridgewater Arms, Scot Lane, has stopped selling Greenalls Original bitter due to falling demand. This is not really surprising as the last time our reporter was there the pump clip was turned towards the bar, giving the impression that the beer was "off". Of course, it was on all the time, but they aren't going to sell very much beer with a ploy like that, are they?

Original beer has now vanished from the Wigan area. Following reports that Greenalls' Plough & Harrow in Newtown had gone over to chilled and filtered beers, three doughty CAMRA-philes went over to see for themselves. (The Plough & Harrow, by the way, is a bit like Salford's Eagle Hotel, without the handpumps.) When asked if the ale was cask-conditioned, the landlord replied: "Nay lad, it's in barrels". Confused, our reporters beat a hasty retreat.

## YOUNGER INNS

William Younger Inns (part of SEN) have recently acquired 4 pubs from property developer Joelcroft. All are in the Chorley area close to their distribution depot:

**Game Bird**, Southport Road. A converted farmhouse, opened July 1984.

**The Poacher**, Cuerdon, Preston. Opened November 1983.

**The Plough**, Euxton. An old country pub.

**The Mansion House**, Longton, Preston. Opened November 1984.

It seems likely that only the Plough at Euxton will switch over to real ale.



## FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION

The Seventh Saddleworth Beer Festival is to be held at the Uppermill Civic Hall over the weekend 10th - 12th May 1985. Further details next month.



## THE BRINSOP ARMS

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nr BOLTON  
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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  
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## NEW STYLE HOUSE OF HORRORS

The Unicorn at the Old Market Place, Altrincham, has re-opened in Whitbread's new House of Horrors style, complete with flashing neon lighting, traffic lights, fancy cocktails and fancy prices. Now named Peppards, all it needs is the A Team to complete the picture.

## BACUP HICCUP

Wilsons are set to close another pub in Bacup. The George was boarded up and sold delicensed last year and now the Swan on Newchurch Road is to follow. Wilsons' other pub on Newchurch Road, the Waterworks, was sold into the free trade in 1983. Another pub sold by Wilsons, the Craven Heifer on Burnley Road in Rawtenstall, has been extended and completely transformed. When it first re-opened only fizzy John Smiths was available, but now cask bitter is offered.

## PARK ROYAL

The Park Royal, Regent Road, Salford, reopened just before Christmas as a "Burtonwood free house". Much money has been spent on this former run-down pub and it now must rate as one of the most up-market in Salford. One problem still remains - a shortage of customers. This may soon be resolved as the pub is now being run by Salford University Students' Union. It is hoped that Almonds bitter and other beers will join the handpumped Burtonwood bitter and mild now on sale.

## PIFFLE

THE face of the leisure industry is changing rapidly as people look for new ways of spending their increasing amount of free time.

The Host Group — an arm of the Grand Metropolitan organisation — is one leisure company setting its sights on meeting the challenge this change represents with imagination and innovation. It is these twin characteristics of the Host Group approach which have spread an optimism and enthusiasm through its management and staff. Host's

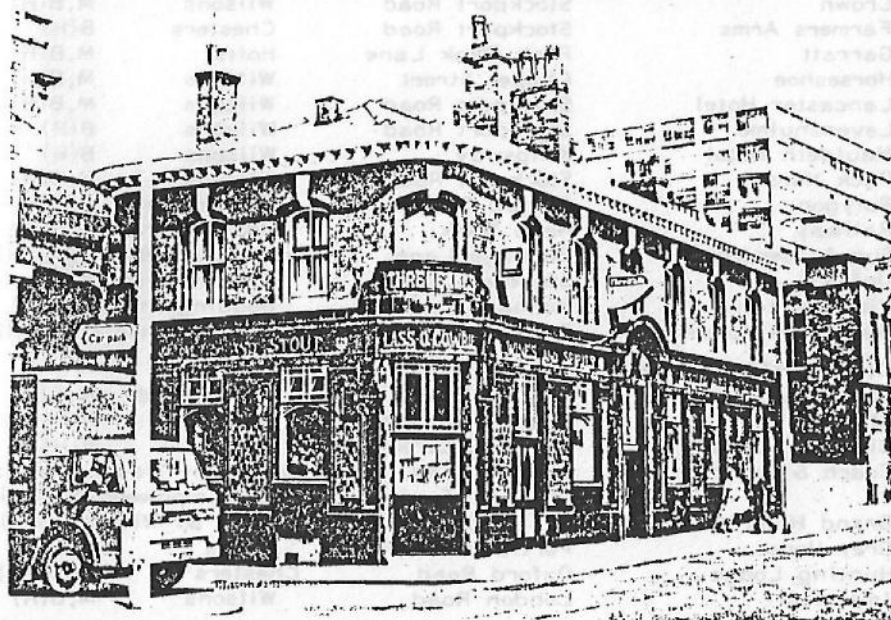
totally new and fresh approach to the management of licensed outlets has made them one of the market leaders and given a breadth and depth of scope for careers in the industry which is unrivalled elsewhere.

The group is maintaining its recent significant growth with continuing investment, amounting to millions of pounds each year, in new marketing concepts aimed at giving today's more discerning, more demanding and more mobile customers what they want. But the investment by





# REAL ALE in SOUTH MANCHESTER



**ARDWICK/BRUNSWICK**

Bowling Green	Grafton Street	Greenalls	B(E)Orig(H)
Church	Ardwick Green North	Wilsons	M,B(H)
City Gates	Hyde Road	Chesters	B(H)
Cleveland	Stockport Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Falcon	Dryden Street	Banks's	M,B(E)
Grafton Arms	Grafton Street	Holts	B(H)
Kings Arms	Helmsore Walk	Tetley	M,B(H)
Kings Head	Chancellor Lane	Greenalls	B(H)
Plymouth Grove Hotel	Plymouth Grove	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Sherwood	Mosscoot Walk	Wilsons	B(H)
Star	Hyde Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Steam Engine	Tonge Street	Chesters	M,B(H)
Union	Union Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)

**BESWICK/BRADFORD/CLAYTON**

Britannia	Rowsley Road	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Derby Arms	Ashton New Road	Chesters	B(H)
Drop Forge	Greenside Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Duke of Edinburgh	Mill Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Folkestone	Folkestone Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Greens Arms	Ashton New Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Grove Inn	Ashton New Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Old House at Home	Ashton Old Road	Wilsons	B(H)
Openshaw Inn	Ashton Old Road	Chesters	B(H)
Seven Stars	Ashton Old Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Travellers Call	Ashton Old Road	Bodd B: Thwaites	M,B(H)
Victoria	Croft Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Why Not	Ashton New Road	Chesters M: Thwaites B	Boddingtons B(H)

**BURNAGE/LEVENSHULME/LONGSIGHT**

Albion	Burnage Lane	Hydes	M,B(E)
Bay Horse	Stockport Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Crown	Stockport Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Farmers Arms	Stockport Road	Chesters	B(H)
Garratt	Pink Bank Lane	Holts	M,B(H)
Horseshoe	Chapel Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Lancaster Hotel	Stockport Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Levenshulme	Stockport Road	Wilsons	B(H)
Mauldeth Hotel	Kingsway	Wilsons	B(H)
Pack Horse	Stockport Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Polygon	Barlow Road	Boddingtons	B(E)
Railway	Rona Walk	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Sun in September	Burnage Lane	Sam Smith OBB, Tad	B(H)
Union	Stockport Road	Boddingtons	B(H)
Victoria Inn	Burnage Lane	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Waggon & Horses	Stockport Rd	Wilsons M,B: Bulmer	Cider(H)

**CITY CENTRE SOUTH**

Bulls Head	London Road	Burtonwood	M,B(H)
Churchill	Chorlton Street	Greenalls	B(H)
Circus Tavern	Portland Street	Tetley	B(H)
Coach & Horses	London Road	Bodd B: Tetley B: Winkle B:	Ruddles B: Taylors L'lord: Burtonwood
Grand Hotel (Vineyard Bar)	Aytoun Street	Bodd B: Wilsons	B(H)
Grey Horse	Portland Street	Hydes	M,B(E)
Hunting Lodge	Oxford Road	Chesters B, Trophy	(H)
Imperial	London Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)

Lass o'Gowrie	Charles Street	Home Brew B,BB:
	Chesters	M,B: Bulmers Cider (H)
New York	Bloom Street	Wilsons M,B(H)
Nip & Tipple	London Road	Chesters B(H)
Old Garratt	Princess Street	Boddingtons M,B(E)
Paddy's Goose	Bloom Street	Wilsons B(H)
Portland Bar	Portland Street	Tetley B, Burton (H)
Rembrandt	Sackville Street	Lees M,B(H)
Salisbury	Marlborough Street	Wilsons M,B(H)
Thompson Arms	Sackville Street	Wilsons M,B(H)

#### DIDSBURY/WITHINGTON

Albert	William Street	Hydes M,B(E)
Albert	Wilmslow Road	Wilsons M,B(H)
Bilko's	Burton Road	Chesters B(H)
Crown	Wilmslow Road	Greenalls Orig(H),M,B(E)
Didsbury	Wilmslow Road	Wilsons B(H)
Gateway	Wilmslow Road	Hydes M,B(E)
Manor House	Wilmslow Road	Tetley M,B, Burton(H)
Nelson	Barlow Moor Road	Wilsons B(H)
Olde Cock Inn	Wilmslow Road	Chesters B(H)
Old Grey Horse	Wilmslow Road	Wilsons M,B(H)
Old House at Home	Burton Road	Chesters B(H)
Orion	Burton Road	Chesters B(H)
Parrswood	School Lane	Boddingtons M,B(E)
Pavilion	Wilmslow Road	Wilsons B(H)
Red Lion	Wilmslow Road	Marstons M,B,Ped(H)
Royal Oak	Wilmslow Road	Marstons M,B,Ped(H)
Station	Wilmslow Road	Marstons M,B(H)
Victoria	Wilmslow Road	Hydes M,B(E)
Waterloo	Burton Road	Wilsons M,B(H)

#### FALLOWFIELD/RUSHOLME

Albert	Walmer Street	Hydes M,B(E)
Clarence	Wilmslow Road	Bass Bass(H)
Derby Arms	Exbury Street	Wilsons B(H)
Doctor Fosters	Upper Brook Street	Chesters M,B(H)
Fallowfield	Wilbraham Road	Wilsons B(H)
Friendship	Wilmslow Road	Hydes BM,B(E)
Osborne House	Victory Street	Hydes M,B(E)
Rampant Lion	Anson Road	Tetley M,B(H)
Sherwood	Wilmslow Road	Chesters B(H)
Talbot	Mauldeth Road	Chesters M,B(H)
Welcome	Rusholme Grove	Greenalls Orig(H),B(E)
White Swan	Green Street	Robinsons M,OT(H),B(E)
Whitworth	Moss Lane East	Marstons B,Ped(H)

#### RUSHOLME (WEST)

Beehive	Claremont Road	Hydes M,B(E)
Claremont	Claremont Road	Holts M,B(H)
Robin Hood	Lloyd Street South	Robinsons M,B(E)

#### GORTON/BELLE VUE/OPENSRAW

Aces	Clowes Street	Chesters B(H)
Angel	Wellington Street	Greenalls B(E)
Coach & Horses	Belle Vue Street	Robinsons M,B(E)
Concert Inn	Fairfield Road	Boddingtons M,B(H)
Cotton Tree	Cross Lane	Wilsons M,B(E)



Crown	Ashton Old Road	Boddingtons	B(E)
Foresters	Ashton Old Road	Robinsons	M,B(H)
Friendship	Hyde Road	Marstons	M,B(H)
Gorton Mount	Mount Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Grove	Ashton Old Road	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Halfway House	Ashton Old Road	Chesters	M,B(H)
Hamlet	Falmer Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Hare & Hounds	Abbey Hey Lane	Boddingtons	B(H)
High Bank	Ogden Lane	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Horseshoe	Hyde Road	Robinsons	M,B(E)
Locomotive	Ashton Old Road	Boddingtons	B(H)
Longsight	Redgate Lane	Banks's	M,B(E)
Lord Nelson	Hyde Road	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Lord Raglan	Ogden Lane	Wilsons	B(H)
Metropole	Ryland Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Nags Head	Hyde Road	Boddingtons	B(H)
Oddfellows	Abbey Hey Lane	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Pack Horse	Ashton Old Road	Greenalls	B(H)
Pineapple	Garratt Way	Hydes	M,B(E)
Plough	Hyde Road	Robinsons	M,B(E)
Prince of Wales	Abbey Hey Lane	Chesters	B(H)
Prince of Wales	Ashton Old Road	Bass TL, Stones	(H)
Railway	Chapman Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Railway	Manshaw Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Rock Inn	Hyde Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Royal Oak	Cross Lane	Boddingtons	B(H)
Royal Oak	Ogden Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Staff of Life	Ashton Old Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Suburban	Gorton Cross Street	Lees	M,B(E)
Travellers Call	Hyde Road	Hydes	M,B(E)
Unicorn	Hyde Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Vale Cottage	Kirk Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Vulcan	Gorton Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Waggon & Horses	Hyde Road/Far Lane	Holts	M,B(H)

#### MOSS NOOK/RINGWAY

Airport Hotel	Ringway Road	Robinsons	M,B(E)
Romper	Pinfold Lane	Boddingtons	B(H)
Tatton Arms	Ringway Road	Robinsons	M,B(E)

#### NORTHENDEN

Church Inn	Church Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Crown Inn	Boat Lane	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Farmers Arms	Longley Lane	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Jolly Carter	Royle Green Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Tatton Arms	Ford Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)

#### WYTHENSHAW 22

Anvil	Greenwood Road	Hydes	M,B(E)
Greenwood Tree	Greenwood Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Royal Thorn	Altrincham Road	Wilsons	B(H)

## LITTLEBOROUGH LEARNINGS

The Wheatsheaf, Church Street, has dispensed with Castle Eden Ale and replaced it with Chesters bitter. This hardly renders the semi-Horrors house with attic disco any more exciting.

A new landlord has taken over at the Queens, Church Street (Thwaites). He is a firm believer in cellar temperature control and keen on cask mild. It should make a nice change from all the sub-zero, teeth-cracking pints around at present.

Meanwhile, around the corner at the Railway, Ingrams Lane, poor winter sales have forced draught Bass into hibernation. It is promised that come warmer days the beer will rejoin the 4X dark mild and cask bitter.

## TAMESIDE NEWS

The Cheshire Ring, Manchester Road, Hyde, was auctioned on 31st January. It will be interesting to see what the future has in store for this real ale free house.

Tameside LVA are applying for an extension of the weekday opening hours from 10.30pm to 11.00pm to match their Derbyshire neighbours.



### THE STATION

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

**Our range of hand pumped real ales include  
Marstons Pedigree, Merrie Monk, Mercian Mild,  
Owd Rodger (when it's cold), Boddingtons Bitter.**

**Recent Guest Beers have included  
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beer garden!*

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a room & food if you wish.**

**2 WARRINGTON ST., ASHTON-U-LYNE. 061-330 6776**

BODDINGTONS are committed to the brewing of traditional beers, Chairman Mr Ewart Boddington told this year's Annual General Meeting. In fact, he said, that is the basis of our business.

And in reply to a question on the strength, taste and brewing of Boddingtons' beers, Mr Boddington stressed that:

- BODDINGTONS last changed the strength or original gravity of their bitter beer in 1971—at midnight on April 5 to be precise.

- BODDINGTONS have not changed the recipe.

- BODDINGTONS do not chill, filter or centrifuge any draught beers.

- BODDINGTONS continue to use the same strain of yeast that they have used since 1948.

- BODDINGTONS continue to use the finest ingredients to brew their beer.

- BODDINGTONS continue to condition their beers in casks.

Boddingtons' policy of producing a good pint at the right price holds just as much today as it has ever done, Mr Boddington added.

And our commitment to cask-conditioned beers is such that we have been re-introducing Oldham cask beers selectively into Oldham Brewery houses during the past 12 months.

*Good news for all of us.*

(From "Bodfan" Winter 1984)

Why, then, do people think it's not as good as it was and how come Boddies fared so badly in What's Doing's poll?

### ASHTON ALE

Handpumped Whitbread Trophy bitter has disappeared from the Ashton Hotel, Katherine Street. The Station Hotel, Warrington Street, now sells Chesters mild in addition to Boddingtons bitter, Marstons Merrie Monk and Pedigree. All are served through handpumps.

### MANCUNIAN

The Mancunian (Marstons), an estate pub on City Road, Hulme, is now selling Pedigree and Owd Rodger. The traditional ales are served by electric pumps apart from Owd Rodger, which is on gravity. These two additions are not available in many Marstons outlets.

### SURVIVAL FOR BATTLE

Boddingtons Waterloo Hotel in Hightown has reopened after being closed for much of last year.

### OB LOSSES

The Horton Arms, Middleton Road, Chadderton (opposite town hall), has stopped selling real Oldham ales. The beer is now all keg.

The Friendship, Manchester Street, Werneth, Oldham, is now selling keg Oldham mild through an electric pump, alongside the traditional hand-pumped bitter. Is this the first time that such a situation has occurred?



# RUDDLES TRADITIONAL BEERS

## 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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**"RUDDLING  
GOOD  
BEER..."**





Grotty Hardman and the overtaill Boris Pratt, the first overlords of the Topers' Vademecum, were not exactly self-effacing. But these power-crazy megalomaniacs were by no means hypocrites. Mind you, neither of them ran their own hostelry. Our new blue pencil man, the equally overtaill Nellie Oogley, combines his editorship with hostelry ownership. An invidious position? Or an ideal opportunity to demonstrate the wonders of real ale to the hoi polloi? Well, if you venture into Nellie's pub in, say, January, there might not be any real ale and if you ask for a pint of bitter you'll as likely as not get a pint of keg without choice or explanation - just the sort of thing which CAMRA has been bellyaching about for a long time. This actually happened to a GBG licensee in the Tan Hill Inn last month.

To be fair, it's pretty remote in Tykeleydale moor and Nellie's been very busy clearing up the feathers which Ted moulted during a K2 double glazing advert and trying to find the coal which he painted white to prevent pilfering and picketing. I'm sure that Bilko, Dobermann and Charlie Bass wouldn't even accept freebie windows and peat, never mind rush to the keg pump every time a punter walked through the door. The only thing which can be said in Mr Oogley's favour is that at least he had the decency to miss his own pub out of the Vademecum, or perhaps Elsie Clockwork-Nun et al didn't pick it in the first place.

There is a strange and ominous silence about who stole the money from the Amber Nectar Show. Financial supremo Mr Tattlecopse is bemused by the whole affair and Regional Mandarin Ben Chestnut is doing his best to fritter away what paltry profits were made on freebie knees-ups, farting competitions and real ale wrestling in mud sponsorships. Further information should be forthcoming after my visit to the Costa del Sol later this month, where no doubt I shall also come across the bold mugger who bound and gagged and then robbed one of Slumley's better-known tavern keepers in his own palatial hostelry, although the sum claimed to have been stolen would hardly support that kind of lifestyle. Stories that the police left the gag in position are totally unfounded.

## MARBLE ARCH

Higsons bitter and Failsworth Brewery bitter are being introduced on a trial basis in Manchester's favourite amber nectar shop. They will replace Wards bitter, sales of which had declined, and the now defunct Yates & Jacksons bitter. Guest beers so far in 1985 have included Archers Golden, Arkells BBB, Berrows BBB (a new brewery from Burnham), Davenports bitter, Hoskins and Oldfield bitter, and Wadsworth 6X. Guest beers due to appear in the near future include Trough from Bradford and various brews from the Black Country and the Midlands.

**Contributors:** Don Chattwood, Steve Lawton, Leo King, Dave White, Ken Linkman, Adrian Cunningham, Keith Egerton, Roger Hall, the Whingeing Sartorial Scot, Chris Tucker, Stewart Revell, Paul Roberts, Des Nogalski, Dave Hale.

## BEST BEER COMPETITION

Nobody quite got the right answer but Phil Pearson of Tyldesley came nearest and wins as much beer as he can drink in the Marble Arch on 27th February. The order of merit for the beers calculated from the entries received is as follows:

- |                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Holts (easily) | 13 Lees                    |
| 2 Taylors        | 14 Oldham                  |
| 3 Marstons       | 15 Bass                    |
| 4 Hydes          | 16 Boddingtons             |
| Thwaites         | Matthew Brown              |
| 6 Robinsons      | 18 Failsworth              |
| 7 Burtonwood     | 19 Chesters                |
| 8 Wilsons        | 20 Scottish & Newcastle    |
| Winkles          | 21 Greenalls               |
| 10 Sam Smiths    | John Smiths                |
| 11 Tetley-Walker | (Joint last by a long way) |
| 12 Banks's       |                            |

This result is obviously totally biased and unrepresentative, coming as it does from demented weirdoes who read What's Doing, so those brewers who came near the bottom shouldn't worry too much as normal people will still love their wonderful quality beers. How on earth could silly little breweries like Holts and Taylors brew a decent pint anyway?





### CENTRAL MANCHESTER ALE

Sir - In the January issue of WD you published a number of amendments to the "Real Ale in Central Manchester" list. May I add the following:

Grey Horse, Portland Street (Hydes): best mild has replaced the ordinary mild and Anvil strong ale is again available (on gravity). This brew has been on sale here

for at least the past four winters, but I do not recall this being mentioned in WD.

Royal George, Rochdale Road (Chesters). Handpumped mild is now available alongside Chesters bitter. (This is certainly the best Chesters mild I have tasted in recent years.)

Salisbury, Wakefield Street (Wilsons). Now re-opened with Wilsons mild and bitter still on handpumps and none the worse after the "improvements".

Stage Door, Oxford Street (free). Cask Stones bitter has been on sale for at least the last eight months, but may not be available for much longer.

AND, according to an "informed source", the Shady Lady (Oxford Road) is to undergo the Pennine Host treatment, eventually reopening with cask Wilsons.

C M Oates

### WIND

Sir - As a new CAMRA member I went along with my fiancée to the Regional Social at the Brinsop Arms in December. We were both disgusted by what I can only describe as a flatulence competition run by the Regional Organiser. This is not the way to attract new members to what should be a campaigning organisation.

Pat O'Mahony

### SOFT SHOE SHUFFLE

Sir - What is happening to the man Hall? (WD last month) If he's not producing magazines without staples, our once sartorial leader is now roaming the streets in TRAINING SHOES (a vital part of the fizz-topper's uniform) and seeking vulgar altercations with respectable, reputable public house doormen. The chap has more effrontery than Paul Roberts has ties! Much more of this and ill-informed observers will be heard to shout: "I bet he drinks Carling Black Label!" as the ruffian is led away from further skirmishes by loudly-attired Host Group security boys hastily hired by Grand Met in a last ditch effort to control his ebullience. BLO for Wilsons? The chap must be transferred to the Boddingtons job at once - that should keep him off the streets - and probably off the beer as well!

T.O.O.Bright Esq, Runcorn



# Branch Diary

## SOUTH MANCHESTER

Tues 5 Feb Open Committee Meeting, 8pm Swan with Two Necks, Princes Street, Stockport Shopping Precinct

Weds 13 Feb Visit to Lees Brewery. Details from B Pryme (061 225 6606)

Thurs 14 Feb Branch Meeting, 8pm, Gateway, Kingsway, East Didsbury

Fri 15 Feb GBG Survey Crawl of Cheadle. 7pm White Hart, 8.30 Star

Thurs 28 Feb Pub of the Month, Seven Stars, Ashton Old Road, Beswick

Tues 5 Mar Open Committee Meeting, 8pm, Gateway, E Didsbury (NB Committee recommendations for 1986 GBG to be made)

Wed 6 Mar Minibus trip to Sair Inn and brewery. Details from J Clarke (061 477 1973)

Thurs 14 Mar Branch Meeting, Manchester Arms, Wellington Road South, Stockport, 8pm. (NB Selections for 1986 GBG to be made)

Contact Sue Sproson 061 225 4058

## HIGH PEAK

Tues 5 Feb Committee Meeting, Seven Stars, Ashton-under-Lyne (Lees)

Tues 12 Feb Branch Meeting, Grapes, Glossop (Boddies)

Sat 16 Feb. Rail Trip to Stourbridge

Fri 22 Feb Trip to Marble Arch, Rochdale Road, Manchester (free house)

Contact: Tom Lord 061 427 7099

## NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 6 Feb The Miles Platting Crawl! Swan, Oldham Rd 7pm, White Hart, Oldham Rd, 8pm

Weds 13th Feb Wilsons Brewery visit

Weds 20th Feb Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton 8pm

Weds 27th Feb. What's Doing Competition Award. Marble Arch 8pm.

Wed 6 Mar Crawl of Blackley 7pm Top Derby, Rochdale Rd. 8pm Alliance, Rochdale Rd.

Wed 13 Mar Dun Mare, Manchester Road, Little Hulton

Wed 20 Mar Branch AGM, White Lion, Eccles

## BOLTON

Wed 6th Feb Branch Meeting 8.30pm Derby Arms, Derby Street (Whitbread)

Thurs 14 Feb Valentine's Day Social at the Howcroft (Tetleys). Red roses optional.

Contact Dave Fleming Bolton 389918 (h). Bolton 75111 x207 (w)

## ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 5 Feb 8pm Branch Meeting, Black Swan (Lees), Bottom o'th' Moor, Oldham

Tues 19 Feb 8pm Committee Meeting - note new venue - Black Horse (Robinsons), Manchester Road, Werneth, Oldham

Tues 5 Mar 8pm R.O.B. 10th Anniversary Meeting, Floating Light, Stanedge (A62), Delph, Oldham

Tues 19 March Committee Meeting, Waggon Inn (Burtonwood), Butterworth Hall, Milnrow  
Contact: Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 775 3351 x248

## TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 31 Jan 8pm Committee/Social at Shell Carrington Social Club. All Welcome

Thurs 14 Feb 8.15 Survey of City Centre pubs commencing at Salisbury, New Wakefield Street, near Oxford Road Station

Thurs 21 Feb 8pm. Branch Meeting at the Old Roebuck, Victoria Street, Altrincham

Thurs 28 Feb Pub of the Month - See South Manchester entry.

Thurs 7 Mar 8pm Committee/Social at the Pack Horse, Deansgate, Manchester. All welcome  
Contact Dave Shelton 061 795 2113 (h) 061 224 7341 x54 (w)

## SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Branch AGM Park Hotel, Hope Street, Wigan. Monday 25th February 8pm. Will as many people as possible attend, please?

Contact: Brian Gleave Atherton 892965 (h) Atherton 876200 (w)



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