

WHAT'S DOING



MAR
1985

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

LONGER HOURS

In March and April new licensing hours come into effect. Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Stockport, Ashton and Stalybridge pubs will now be able to open until 11.00pm every night except Sunday. The Manchester and Salford application has been turned down and the decisions on Eccles and Wigan were made after this What's Doing went to press.

WEBSTER, Fountain Head Brewery, Ovendon Wood, Halifax, W. Yorks.
£ 63451.

Dark Mild (1032) – dark and medium-sweet.

Yorkshire Light (1033.8) – best mild in the land.

Yorkshire Bitter (1037.5) – undistilled.

A hundred of the 280 houses serve real ale, but 80 per cent of the brewery's trade is bright beer for clubs.



WILSONS, Monsall Road, Newton Heath, Manchester 10.
£ 061 205 2345.

Original Mild (1032.1) – a malty brew.
Original Bitter (1036) – well-balanced bitter.

About 600 of the 720 houses serve real ale, with the emphasis, even in the free trade, on traditional beers.

WILSONS MERGE WITH WEBSTERS

On 19th February Wilsons merged with Websters of Halifax to become "Samuel Webster & Wilsons Ltd". We are assured brewing will continue at both breweries "backed by further investment to ensure the on-going quality of their traditional brands".

During the week before this announcement, North Manchester CAMRA members met representatives from Wilsons. In brief, this is what we were told:

In the last couple of years around 45 uneconomic pubs have been sold, about half of them delicensed. Apart from the Banks's swap only one has gone to another brewer - the Grenadier, Oldham Street, Manchester, to J W Lees. This slimming down of the estate has almost finished and no more than two or three per year will be disposed of from now on.

Wilsons are working through their estate, improving the pubs and dealing with each one individually with consideration for the location, customers, etc. (They've now got a computer containing 60,000 items of information on the pub estate.)

It should soon be possible to distinguish between Wilsons and Pennine Host houses as revamped Host pubs do not display the name "Wilsons" (those that still do will be developed in the next couple of years).

There are no plans to sell "guest beers" in Wilsons houses, although by the end of last month handpumped Websters went on sale in 30 selected outlets. The new draught bitter, promised a couple of years ago, may turn up by the end of this year, or maybe not.

As for particular pubs: The Old Abbey near Manchester University has been served with a Compulsory Purchase Order as somebody wants to turn the area into a "science park". Wilsons are fighting the order. The Live and Let Live in Salford has shut for demolition and the Clowes down the road has closed because of a fire. The Cheshire Hunt on Hyde Road is still for sale, but blighted by a road widening scheme, and the Malcolm on Ashton Old Road is being sold delicensed. The Crown & Kettle in Manchester is in for a £50,000 "sensitive refurbishment" and the Pack Horse on Oldham Road will reopen as a "traditional local" in about three months. The George, Great Moor Street, Bolton, will be refurbished with the help of the fittings from a Royton Club.

LIGHT SINKS INTO DARKNESS

Real ale choice in Saddleworth will diminish this month as the Floating Light at Standedge has been sold to Thwaites for a reputed £185,000. A free house for a number of years, the Floating Light has greatly expanded choice in the area during the 21 month sojourn of the current licensee, having offered beers from Tetley, Ruddles, Taylors, West Riding, Theakstons, Failsworth and Sair Inn. Some of these may continue to appear occasionally as guests down the road at the continuingly independent and popular Horse and Jockey.

The sale of the Floating Light seems to be continuing a worrying trend begun when Bass were enterprising enough to sell off a number of their "uneconomic" pubs to the free trade in the mid-1970s. These houses

flourished, but one by one they have either been bought up by brewers or effectively turned into tied houses by the device of low-interest loans. The list below shows the changes that have taken place in the free trade in the area over the last few years:

HOUSES WHICH WERE FREE OF BREWERY TIE IN SADDLEWORTH IN 1980
AND THE POSITION IN MARCH 1985

| | <u>BEERS OFFERED</u> | <u>1985 OWNER</u> | <u>BEERS</u> |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Church Inn, Uppermill | Youngers IPA | Free | Youngers IPA, No.3, M Brown Mild & John Peel Special |
| Cross Keys, New Delph | Theakstons BB, Old Peculier, Wilsons B, Pollard B | M Brown | Lion Mild & Bitter, J Peel Special |
| Diggle Hotel, Diggle | All Keg | Free | Taylor's Golden Best, Landlord |
| Floating Light, Standedge | Oldham Bitter | Thwaites | Mild & Bitter |
| Golden Fleece, Denshaw | Theakston B, Oldham B, Bodd B, Pollards B | Wilsons | Mild & Bitter |
| Horse & Jockey, Standedge | Oldham M & B Draught Bass | Free | Theakston M & B, Marston Owd Rodger + 3 guests |
| Printers, Denshaw | Thwaites M,B, Tetley Walker M,B | Free* | Wilsons M,B |
| Rams Head, Denshaw | Theakston M,B, Old Peculier | Free | Youngers Scotch IPA, No.3, Theakston OP |
| Roebuck, Strinesdale | Oldham M,B, Pollard B | Free | M Brown Lion M,B, John Peel Special |
| Royal Oak, Heights | All Keg | Free | Taylor BB |

*Currently for sale at £190,000

It can be seen that now, in addition to the Horse and Jockey, only the Church Inn at Uppermill and the Rams Head at Denshaw are truly free and selling a range of beers likely to interest real ale drinkers.

Greater Manchester has long been recognised as an area which offers the real ale drinker a fine variety of choice, but brewery takeovers and pub acquisitions may bring this to an end. The new micro-breweries bring variety, but need a truly free trade to survive, as few can afford to compete with the sort of money currently spent by the Big Boys.

Mind you, Thwaites' latest purchase, following so closely the acquisition of the tied estate of Yates & Jackson, seems to have left them a bit short - they have had to refuse the opportunity of advertising in the forthcoming Greater Manchester Good Beer Guide (cost £40) due to lack of budget and the "prevailing economic situation".

Adrian Cunningham

WHAT'S DOING



STOCKING YATES & JACKSON

This photograph was taken to commemorate the sale of the last pint of Yates & Jackson bitter in the Marble Arch, about a week after the Y&J "Wake" trip to Lancaster.

Bringing decorum to the occasion are landlord John Worthington and barmaid Maria, demonstrating one of the many interesting uses for a Yates & Jackson beermat.

NO SALE

Bidding for the Cheshire Ring, the Hyde free house, stopped at £85,000 and the pub was withdrawn from auction since this did not match the owner's reserve price, which was thought to be £120,000.

JOHN SMITHS

The Grey Mare, Charlesworth, near Glossop, now has John Smiths cask conditioned bitter.

SIC

Are the people at Wilsons who are responsible for the name BRITTANIA in Newton Street, Manchester, unpatriotic, illiterate, or both?

(Perhaps Wilsons employed the same chap responsible for Holts' ELLSMERE at Winton and Sam Smiths' BRIDGWATER at Farnworth.)

LAGER LOSS

The new handpumped Whitbread lager has been withdrawn from the Feathers on Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, due to exceedingly poor sales. The pub was also unsuccessful last year in promoting cask Trophy.

PUMPS

The Wellington (Holts) in Eccles has changed from handpumps to electric pumps, while the Vulcan (Boddingtons) in Walkden has gone the other way and handpumps now grace the bar.

ALTERATIONS

The Cock Hotel, Two Trees Lane, Denton, is shut for alterations. The Boundary on Guide Lane, Audenshaw, has had extensive alterations completed and real ale remains - Wilsons mild and bitter on handpumps.

LION'S SHARE

Whitbread have been granted planning permission for a single storey extension at the Golden Lion, Manchester Road, Clifton.

TAYLORS DIG INN

In a welcome move, the Diggie Hotel, Saddleworth, has ousted the Scottish & Newcastle fizz which it long purveyed and in its place offers Taylors Golden Best mild and Landlord on handpump. This is believed to be the sole outlet for Golden Best in the Oldham borough. For many years the pub has served Oldham bitter and mild through hand-pumps, although the beer is believed to be re-racked and is certainly kept under a low carbon dioxide pressure. This practice is continuing for the present but is under review. Perhaps pressure of a different kind in the right areas will see it abandoned.

JOLLY FISH AND CHIPS

The Jolly Angler, Ducie Street, Manchester, besides providing excellent Hydes best mild, bitter and old ale, now offers lunchtime



**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
Ruddles County, Oldham Bitter, Old Peculier

We are renowned for our superb luncheons
(hot & cold buffet plus tasty 'brown-dish' meals)

All served in a Victorian setting.

*if the weather's nice,
enjoy a pint in the
beer garden!*

* Organise an excursion & we'll provide *
a room & food if you wish.

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

food. While Dave and Kath continue to run the pub, their daughter Mary operates a small sandwich bar at the back. Meals of the pie-and-peas or sausage, egg and chips variety are available at very reasonable prices. The sandwich bar is open from 8.30am, but it is unlikely that pints of old will be for sale with the bacon butties at that hour.

TOWER TOPPLES

Following a recent mistake in delivery, Draught Bass appeared briefly at the Navigation, Dobcross, instead of the normally available Tower Cask Bitter (otherwise known as Brew 10). This mistake proved to be so popular that Draught Bass has now permanently replaced the Tower and is on offer at the not unreasonable price of 70p a pint. Only the King William IV at Greenfield and the White Hart at Lydgate are known to serve the beer in the area, so its arrival at Dobcross is welcome.

OPEN AGAIN

The Lord Nelson (Wilsons), Chapel Street, Salford, may now be in business on a permanent basis. The pub has been cleaned up and decorated - handpumps have been installed dispensing cask conditioned mild and bitter (59p a pint). Nearby on Greengate, the Old Shears (Wilsons), opened its doors to the drinking public once again on Monday 10th February, selling traditional handpumped mild and bitter.

ASHTON ALE

Hydes mild is now on sale at the Station Hotel, Warrington Street, Ashton. The Seven Stars, J W Lees' newest pub in the town, now sells Moonraker. As from April 5th the pubs in Ashton-under-Lyne, Droylsden, Audenshaw and Mossley will be open until 11pm throughout the week.

NO DRABS

The Grafton, a 1985 GBG Holts pub on Grafton Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, has now closed for good. A new pub will be built on the same site in the near future.

TADDY BYE-BYE

After a brief stay, Sam Smith's Tadcaster Bitter is no longer sold at Sinclairs, central Manchester.

BYE-BYE BOLTON

The Bolton Arms, New Bridge Street, Manchester, has been sold off and it is very unlikely that the place will reopen as a pub.

MILDLY PLEASURABLE

The Clarksfield Hotel, Ronald Street, Oldham, an Oldham Breweries Good Beer Guide pub, now offers Boddingtons mild on handpump alongside the bitter and both Oldham beers. The pub was recently taken over by Kevin Platt, formerly of the Dog and Partridge at Greenacres (also GBG listed), who is a keen mild drinker. It is believed that this is the first time Boddies cask mild has been offered in an OB house, and is certainly a more welcome appearance than the bitter.

NOTES FROM WIGAN, LEIGH & DISTRICT

The Brewery Inn, Brewery Street, Leigh, now sells Tetley mild and bitter on handpumps. As the names imply, the pub was once the tap for Shaw's brewery, now a Tetley-Walker depot. Cask Tetleys has also hit the Leigh club trade; the Labour Club and the Miners' Club are now selling the real McCoy.

The Bulls Head, Warrington Road, has been selling handpumped John Smiths cask bitter for some time now and Ind Coope Burton Ale is back on at the Railway (Tetley-Walker) after a brief absence.

Now for Wigan. Further to last month's WD, the New Star Inn and the Derby Arms, two ex-pubs on the Wigan ring road route, have been demolished. Another pub standing in the way of "progress" is the Park Hotel, Hope Street. Wigan's boozier "par excellence" shouts "time" on Saturday 13th April, after months of speculating over the inevitable. A tragedy.

Unsubstantiated rumour dept: The word is out that Burtonwood have bought the Swan & Railway on Wallgate. The ex-Tetley house closed about 2½ years ago and was damaged by fire a while back. It isn't known yet whether the brewery will give the S&R the Almonds treatment, like Raffles on Millgate.



THE BRINSOP ARMS

584-592 CHORLEY RD
WESTHOUGHTON
nr BOLTON
0942 812007

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

WEDDINGS, PARTIES, BUSINESS MEETINGS CATERED
FOR IN OUR HILTON SUITE
LUNCHES AVAILABLE EVERY DAY
THE FREEHOUSE FULL OF FINE TRADITIONAL ALES
AND STOCKED HIGH WITH WHOLESOME FOOD



FILLED BAKED POTATOES OUR SPECIALITY

The Honeysuckle, Pool Street, Poolstock (keg Whitbread) is closed and boarded. Plans were afoot to turn it into a "fun pub" but the residents objected.

Rumour also has it that Tetley might use the land next to the Bird in Hand, Gidlow Lane, and extend the pub on to it. The "Hen Hole" has been in the GBG for a few years now, and deservedly so, but it is rather cramped. The brewery own the land in question and it hasn't been used for anything now for at least thirteen years.

Handpumped Greenalls Original is now on sale at the Windmill, Mill Lane, Parbold, at 70p a pint.

PENNINE JOKE?

The Cemetery ROCHDALE

Rochdale has long been a place where people and events take on a larger than life quality - you need look no further than its MP Mr Cyril Smith for an example.

Some of the rows that break out from time to time have something of the same quality.

One was when real ale crusaders CAMRA bought the Cemetery Hotel and created a dining place upstairs which was christened Deadlegs.

It caused rather an outrage among those visiting the cemetery as opposed to those on their way to The Cemetery.

The name has been buried, sorry, I mean changed, and the controversy laid to rest.

CAMRA deserve a lot of credit for the way in which they have retained the original character of the building, spelling out the eloquent message that real ale tastes best in a "real pub".

It's basically a typical late 19th century pub: small rooms, plenty of corners and some good tile and woodwork. But the brewery designers who

are so busy creating pub interiors that have nothing in common with their exteriors would find a visit very educational!

And while they're here, there's certainly no shortage of good ale.

Alongside the good local standards there's a guest beer which quite often provides a chance to sample something you've never even heard of let alone tasted.

On my last visit this was certainly the case with Darley's Thorn Bitter.

How to get here: Follow any hearse or go to the corner of Bury Road at its junction with Sandy Lane.

Richard Catlow.

PENNINE MAGAZINE

PARK ROYAL

The Park Royal (Burtonwood "free house" and formerly the Globe), Regent Road, Salford, has had two more handpumps installed to serve Thwaites bitter (68p a pint - same as Burtonwood bitter). Burtonwood mild is also on sale.

WHITBREAD IN SALFORD

In the 14 months since Salford's 38 Whitbread houses were last surveyed, real ale has appeared in one pub and has been removed from 3. The Salford Arms purports to sell cask bitter but this is frequently unavailable, as indeed it was on 23rd January. The Star on Greengate still boasts a magnificent sign announcing cask beers but alas these have been withdrawn. The Amsterdam Bar in Walkden never seemed a suitable outlet for traditional beers and it comes as little surprise that Castle Eden has been discontinued. One welcome addition to Whitbread's cask houses is the former Three Crowns, now revamped as Buskers. Although to some extent an upmarket house of horrors, the pub does have a certain quality about it and the three cask beers are in excellent condition. Keg Trophy is still kept for the brewery

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)* |
| THE BRINSOP ARMS, WESTHOUGHTON | (C)* |

* Guest Basis Only C=County B=Rutland Bitter

Why not add your name to the list?

TRADE ENQUIRIES TO

J.A.COOPER AND SON (GLOSSOP) LTD
58 SURREY STREET
GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE
TEL: GLOSSOP 2596 or 64906



"RUDDLING
GOOD
BEER..."



draymen, which says a lot about the brewery's public relations! 14 months ago the Duke of York in Eccles was 2p cheaper than its cheapest rival, with bitter at 56p. The most expensive pint was 67p. Today there is less variation - the Duke of York is no longer the cheapest, with bitter at 63. Other prices vary from 62p to 66p per pint. Whitbread are no longer totally out of step with the other brewers, even if Holts is still more than 6p per pint cheaper.

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL 1985



The Conference Halls behind the Metropole Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton, will be the venue of the GBBF from Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th August, inclusive. During the Festival, some 30,000 people will sink about 100,000 pints of real ale of some 200 varieties from all over the country. Opening hours have still to be finalised but will probably be Tuesday 13th 7-11pm, other days 11-2.30 and 5-11pm.

Free entry at lunchtimes (probably) and about £1 in the evenings. There may be cheap entry on Tuesday evening, and a special offer on entry in the early evenings is possible.

Anyone getting bored with all the beer and entertainment (there will be live music, but in short doses), can cool off on the beach, leer at the nudists, stagger around the Pavilion, Pier and Aquarium and get back to the Festival just in time for the evening session.

Brighton is less than 1 hour from London Victoria, and there will be chartered coaches from Victoria Bus Station as well. There's a mere 10 minute walk from Brighton Station to the Festival.

Brighton Tourist Board (0273 23755) can fix up accommodation, or the affluent can stay at the Metropole at the special price of £19.50 (£30 double) bed & breakfast. For reservations ring 0273 775432.

DRABS

Hot on the heels of the sale of the Grenadier to Lees comes the almost substantiated rumour that Holts have bought the King (ex-Tetley) on Oldham Street, Manchester. Looks like Oldham Street could once again become a bijou boozing area.

SHUT

Greenalls have closed another Bolton pub - the Black Dog on Halliwell Road.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

An application has been made to change the Trough Horse Hotel, Audenshaw, from a residential hotel to a fully licensed house.



7th SADDLEWORTH BEER FESTIVAL

The 7th Real Ale Extravaganza will be held over the weekend 10-12 May (Fri-Sun) at the Civic Hall, Uppermill, Oldham. Licensed Sessions will be: Friday 5.30-11.00, Saturday 11.30-3.00 & 5.00-11.00 and Sunday 12.00-2.00

Admission is free to current card carrying CAMRA members. Non-Members 30p lunchtimes, 50p evenings (before 7.00) and 70p thereafter.

Around 30 real ales, ciders and perries will feature from a total of 25 countrywide breweries. Entertainment will be provided throughout in the form of brass bands and jazz.

Food will be available at all sessions. Children will be admitted at all times in the downstairs room only.

Details of beers next month. For any further details please ring the ROB branch contact (See Branch Diary)

Contributors: Roger Hall, Des Nogalski, Steve Lawton, Roger Bullock, Dave Hale, Leo King, The Whingeing Sartorial Scot, Rob Dunford, Dave White.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you want to be sure of getting **WHAT'S DOING** every month, why not subscribe? It costs £1.90 for six issues, postage paid. Fill in the form below and send it together with a cheque or postal order made out to "WHAT'S DOING" to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester

Name.....

Address.....

Please send me the next 6 issues, starting with.....(month)

BACK NUMBERS

These are available from the above address at 10p a copy. Please send a large stamped, addressed envelope.

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



PUB NOTES

Sir - Just a few items I have noticed which have not appeared in WD:

1 A recent visit to the Waltzing Weasel on Hayfield Road, Birch Vale, found the Youngers No 3 and Ruddles County no longer available, apparently due to slow turnover. Both Marstons bitter and Pedigree were still on handpump and the bitter sampled was in excellent condition.

2 A new off-licence, the Bottle Shop, has opened on Ack Lane, Cheadle Hulme, selling Ruddles County on handpump. The owner apparently hopes to sell one of the Theakstons range of beers in the future.

3 A new pub, the Rampant Lion, has opened on Anson Road, Rusholme, selling Tetley mild and bitter on handpump.

John Brearley

GUIDELINES

Sir - I was unlucky enough to be at the All-Manchester Regional Meeting in Wigan in January. This undignified mess left me wishing I had been somewhere else (like Trafford or Hulme, perhaps?). An awful lot of hot air was wasted by people going on and on about the Greater Manchester Beer Guide. Speakers waffled on about "deadlines", "commitment", etc, as though the future of the world depended on the guide!

The point is, however, do we really need a **selective** guide like this? Who is it aimed at? The ordinary beer drinker? He or she is more likely to use the national Beer Guide as a yardstick. The discerning drinker, then? Well, he or she would probably want a comprehensive list of Greater Manchester pubs. Regular What's Doing readers can soon collect this, from the centre pages of this magazine, for most of the county.

Fact is, there is no real use for a selective Greater Manchester Beer Guide, is there? So stop taking yourselves so seriously, lads, and drop this turkey of an idea before an ego epidemic breaks out!!!

Prince Ali Ben Hassan, Muscat & Oman Branch

WAGGON & HARDFACE?

Sir - The Waggon & Horses, behind Kendals, is now an "Old English Ale House". Nothing much old or English about the prices, however. In addition to Wilsons bitter, Everards Tiger at NINETY pence per pint and Ruddles County at NINETY-FIVE pence are currently on offer. Give it a wide berth!

I.O.O.Bright Esq, Runcorn

BULL BUTCHERY

Sir - It was with a measure of disbelief that I read your article concerning the Bulls Head, Hazel Grove (Feb WD). In particular:

Have a pint on the House..

For a night to remember
in a cosy, unspoilt traditional pub,
The Cemetery is unbeatable.

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

Our selection of handpumped beers is
Boddington's Bitter • Ruddles County •
Theakstons Old Peculier & XB • Vaux Samson •
Everards Tiger • Taylors Landlord
Porter and Best Dark Mild
& 3 guest beers & 2 Lagers
PLUS - the worlds strongest Ale EKU
+ many foreign & bottled beers

Each of your party receives
THE FIRST PINT ON THE HOUSE!

**The
Cemetery
Hotel**

**BURY ROAD
ROCHDALE
TEL: (0706) 43214**

UNSPOILT BY PROGRESS

- 1 "All" floor coverings have not been removed
- 2 "Most" of the seating has not been removed.
- 3 The conversion is to a "Tavern" not an "Ale House"

Indeed, so comprehensive are the inaccuracies that it can only be wondered whether your anonymous correspondent visited the pub at all and if he/she did one can only hope that there were sufficient facilities for his guide dog!

J Clarke

GUIDE GRIPE

Sir - What use is the new listing of "Real Ale in North Manchester" (WD January) without any indication of which beers are actually sold and how they are dispensed? The name of a brewery alone tells nothing of interest to the people who might be expected to consult these lists.

It looks, for example, as though Yates's might be comparable to the Marble Arch since they are both "free". Yet the former is currently selling only one token, overpriced real ale, whereas the latter has an average of 9 different and reasonably priced beers.

What about the mild drinker? Several pubs have already stopped selling real mild, and now he is not even helped by CAMRA's local guide. It is a similar situation for someone in search of old ale.

The handpump/electric pump indicator was also valuable, because if you found there had been a change to electric pump you would be alerted to the possibility that the beer might now be pressurised. Also, some people prefer to make for the pubs with handpumps.

Finally, the scant information provided seems to contain some inaccuracies as well. The Brunswick on London Road is within the North Manchester area, yet is omitted. The Crown & Anchor, although selling Taylors beers as well, is surely still a Whitbread house? And have Boddingtons really taken over British Rail?

Roger Bullock

AMBER NECTAR ARGUMENT

Sir - I feel I must write to object to certain biases which have been developing in What's Doing lately. I refer specifically to the reference to the Marble Arch as "Manchester's favourite amber nectar shop". Is the reason that John Worthington is a CAMRA stalwart while, say, the landlord of the Coach and Horses or Jolly Angler or countless other excellent hostelrys is not?

There is nothing more certain than that the Marble Arch will appear in next year's GBG, and it would be undeserved! Excellent though John Worthington's ideals are, I have yet to taste a really good pint of mild in his pub - indeed, he only sells one. Not his fault, perhaps, and is it an indictment of CAMRA itself that there is room for only one mediocre mild amongst an array of 8 beers?

If the Marble Arch were a little less ambitious, with perhaps 4 or 5 beers on draught, we would be certain of good ale from John at all times I am sure, and then perhaps it would become worthy of the title "Manchester's favourite amber nectar shop".

To harp on a bit more, it was very creditable of John to bring us Yates & Jackson bitter, but we didn't get to taste their excellent mild. I wonder how many passengers on the bus to Lancaster even bothered to try the darker brew.

So come on John Worthington, CAMRA et al - let's see a couple of renowned mild ales on your list of guest beers instead of the torrent of "cult" over-strong bitters. What about Hansons mild, Marstons Merrie Monk or some of the south of England milds?

Ian J Maule

P.S. I must also echo your previous correspondent's objection to the 1985 GBG launch happening in the Marble Arch rather than at one of those pubs which actually made it into the guide.

DENIAL

Sir - There is no truth in the rumour circulating the local folk music scene that the reason for the discontinuation of the Friday evening folk club at the Duke of York, Eccles, lies in the performers' and audience reluctance to gather in the fridge-like upstairs room. Anyone doubting this should try playing guitar in gloves or singing finger-in-ear style whilst wearing a balaclava.

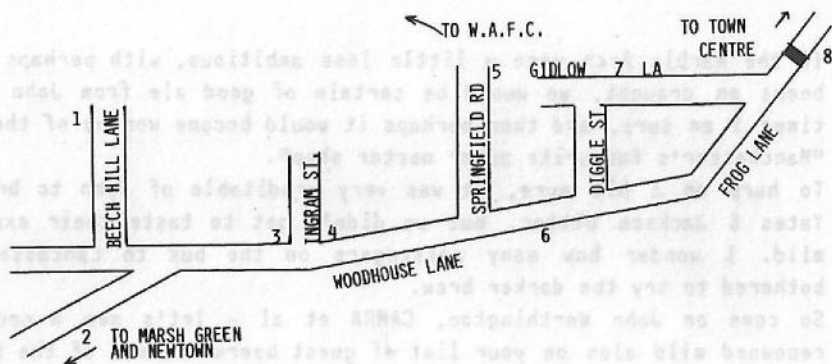
Chilly Willie

WIGAN PUB CRAWL

There are better things to do in the Springfield area of Wigan, than watch the 'Latics struggle at home. This neck of the woods offers the best choice of pubs and beer outside the town centre.

A good place to start is the Beech Tree (1) in Beech Hill Lane. This is a rather nondescript, large estate pub selling Greenall Whitley beers on electric pumps. Beware keg mild. Once you've got over that, the rest of the crawl gets progressively better! Backtrack down Beech Hill Lane until you come to St Andrew's Labour Club, which you can't miss. Hidden just behind here is the Keepers Inn (2), slightly off the main road. Handpumped Burtonwood mild and bitter are on sale here, in this recently renovated little pub, an improvement on the days when it was the Woodhouses Inn.

Further up Woodhouse Lane are two pubs practically next door to one another. The Belle Vue (3), like the Keepers, has just been tastefully done up and Whitbread Trophy and Castle Eden are served on handpumps. This was one of the better Tetley-Whitbread swaps of 1981. Once you've staggered out of here you can fall into the Prince of Wales (4).



Tetleys have recently taken to advertising this pub's excellent traditional mild and bitter outside the building. Strongly recommended. Handpumped.

Now walk as far as the traffic lights and turn left, going up Springfield Road to the Springfield Hotel (5). Stop to admire this magnificent pub before going inside. As the name might suggest, this Walkers house is the nearest pub to the football ground. Go back down Springfield Road, back on to Woodhouse Lane, where you will see the solitary Brickmakers Arms, a smart little Greenalls pub selling reliable bitter and mild on electric pumps (6). The surrounding houses were demolished a few years ago, which made this little pub look rather imposing.

After that, cut down Diggle Street, but watch out in the dark - it's treacherous! Still, it's the quickest way to get to the Bird in Hand, Gidlow Lane (7), a GBG entry for the last few years, and rightly so. The "Hen Hole", as it is known, is a bit cramped, but sells excellent bitter and mild.

Walk to the bottom of Gidlow Lane, avoiding the Guardians (keg Whitbread) and past Frog Lane bridge, keeping clear of the Colliers Arms (keg Tetley). Last but not least is the Old Pear Tree, selling Burtonwood mild and bitter (8) on handpump. It's been in the GBG for the last eleven years, so you won't need me to tell you about it!

By now you will be practically back in the centre of Wigan, but all of these pubs are within walking distance of Springfield Park. And the above pub crawl is much better than watching twenty-two men kick a ball around for ninety minutes!

Dave White

THE BASS CASK LIST

The public relations people at Bass are not outstanding in their field when it comes to providing up-to-date information about the availability of real ale in their pubs. This is the latest list covering Greater Manchester. Local branch committees would be interested to hear from readers who can update the information.

KEY TO BEERS: B=Draught Bass, C=Cask Bitter, J=Jennings Bitter, X=4X Mild, S=Stones Bitter, T=Toby Light

MANCHESTER

Last Hop, Chester Rd, Hulme
Abbey Hey Hotel, Gorton
Clarence, Wilmslow Rd, Rusholme
Wellington, Shambles, Manchester
Unicorn, Church St, Manchester
Burton Arms, Swan St, Manchester
Town Hall, Tib Lane, Manchester
Church Inn, Clayton La, Clayton

TAMESIDE

Oxford, Stockport Rd, Ashton-u-Lyne
Pineapple, Stockport Rd, A-u-L
Bowling Green, A-u-L
Waggon & Horses, Margaret St, A-u-L
Corporation, Stockport Rd, A-u-L
Trafalgar, William St, A-u-L
Ring o' Bells, A-u-L
Corporation, Penny Meadow, A-u-L
Robin Hood, Oldham Rd, A-u-L
Greyhound, A-u-L
Cambridge, Cambridge St, A-u-L
Warrington, Stamford St, A-u-L
Windmill Hotel, Denton
Angel Hotel, Hyde Road, Denton
Cottage Inn, Hyde Road, Denton
Jolly Hatters, Stockport Rd, Denton
Jolly Carter, Droylsden
Butchers Arms, Droylsden
Mechanics Arms, Guide La, Audenshaw
Bottom Gate, Newton, Hyde
Stone Jug, High St, Stalybridge
King William IV, Newton, Hyde
Buxton Inn, Mottram Old Rd, Hyde
Duke of Sussex, Victoria St, Newton
Hare & Hounds, Mottram Rd, Staly
Hare & Hounds, Hudd'field Rd, Staly
Feathers, Stalybridge
Commercial, Manchester Rd, Mossley
New Butchers, Mossley
Fleece Inn, Mossley
Park Hotel, Crescent Rd, Dukinfield
New Market, King St, Dukinfield
Royal Oak, Hollingworth

OLDHAM

Darker Hotel, Oldham
Bulls Head, Ripponden Rd, Oldham
Hope & Anchor, Sandy La, Royton
Moorside Hotel, Ripponden Rd, Oldham
Sportsmans, Denton La, Chadderton

ROCHDALE

Lark, Durham St, Rochdale
Grapes, Norden Rd, Bamford
Burns Tavern, Norden Rd, Bamford
Bulls Head, Ogden La, Newhey
Drakes Wine Bar, Rochdale
Bridge Inn, College Rd, Rochdale

ST Reed Hotel, Yorkshire St, Rochdale BCX
X Roys Arms, Rooley Moor Rd, Spotland CX
B Woolpack, Drake St, Rochdale CX
B Gale, Whitworth Rd, Shawclough CX
BXST Harrows, Bolton Rd, Marland CX
BX Industry, Sladen St, Rochdale CJX
B Commercial, Manchester Rd, Castleton X
X Directors, Heywood Old Rd, Castleton X
Gale, Valley Rd, Ashfield Valley X
T Top House, Manchester Rd, Castleton X
T Woolpack, Halifax Rd, Smallbridge X
T Waggon & Horses, Halifax Rd, " CJX
T Whitbrook, Boarshaw Rd, Middleton X
XST Bricklayers, Market Place, Middleton ST
T Gallows, Kiln La, Milnrow C
T New Inn, New Rd, Dearnley CX
T Huntsman, Summit Rd, Littleborough CX
T Ox & Plough, New Rd, Dearnley CX
T Royal Oak, Church St, Littleborough CJX
T Royal Exchange, Featherstall Rd, " CJX
T Summit, Summit Rd, Littleborough CJX
B Railway, Inghams La, Littleborough BCX
B Rake Inn, Blackstone Edge, L'boro' B
CT Jolly Butcher, Heywood Old Rd, Bowlee CX
BT Railway, Yorkshire St, Rochdale X
X George & Dragon, M/cr Rd, Castleton X
X Yates Wine Lodge, Yorkshire St, R'dale S
T New Inn, Edenfield Rd, Cheesden CJX
S Horse & Jockey, Bury St, Heywood S
T Our House, Manchester St, Heywood X
T Starkie Arms, Manchester Rd, Heywood X
T Tanners, Rochdale Rd E, Heywood X
T White Hart, Heywood Old Rd, Birch BX
BT Woolpack, Birch St, Heywood XT
ST Black Bull, Rochdale Rd E, Heywood X
T Brown Cow, Bamford Rd, Heywood X
WIGAN
ST Royal, Wigan Rd, Atherton B
ST Standard Mower, Chapel La, Leigh CX
XT Kings Head, Atherton X
T Spinners, Firs La, Leigh CX
T Yew Tree, Boothstown CX

BOLTON

ST Brinsop, A6, Westhoughton BCX
BCT Lord Clyde, Folds Rd, Bolton X
XT BURY
T New Inn, Ainsworth Rd, Radcliffe CXT
XT Wellington, Stand La, Radcliffe X

SALFORD

CX Horseshoe, Back Hope St, Salford CX

STOCKPORT

CJX Old King, Gt Portwood St, Stockport C
J George, Stockport B

TRAFFORD

CX Victoria, Victoria St, Altrincham BX



It's been an eventful year so far in the Campaign. The trip to see the Prunes and mourn the death of Lodge & Stonewall's brewery was a jolly caper in Charlie Bass's buses. Disappointingly, despite mega-quaffing and AT's, nobody was anacathartic over the drivers and nobody was left behind in Garstang or elsewhere. Presumably technicolour yawning was done discreetly as there was none in transit.

At the end of January Ben Chestnut had the novel idea of holding the Greater Grotley symposium in a wonderfully central locale - Friggin. Sadly, the Smarmford & Slutch Branch sulked and clutched their teddies and didn't come. Consequently they missed the assembled pie - gobblers who are as handsome as they are intelligent. Young Kevin Roolager had been disinterred for the occasion and muttered predictably about the latest excesses of Goosegrease & Dishwater.

I have had brought to my attention the traumatic and yet rejuvenating effect which tavern keeping has on individuals. Former curates, insurance clerks, lion tamers and merchant seamen are magically transformed as soon as they begin to tap and vent their own hogsheads and pull their own pints of amber nectar. Weight falls from them, baldness disappears and opportunities beyond the ken of ordinary folk begin to present themselves. Spanking nubile young barpersons and nudist leapfrog in the cellar will no doubt be followed by propositions from Bo Derek lookalikes which might involve the luckless mine host presenting himself to a bevy of houris wearing little but a wan smile and a coating of maple syrup and sherbet.

It has always been my ambition to have a tavern of my very own, but after seeing what ownership has done to others, I am now more than a little apprehensive. You never know what you might encounter. Only last week, Pinky Brown, the upstairs barman at the Gay Hussar, was bitten by a rabid dog which subsequently died of AIDS. I have no wish to expose myself to such risks.

As the editorial content of this organ is to be reviewed by the committee of the secretariat of Snoot Magna, I may well soon be sent back to Mummy's place to throw bricks at the lions - so a provisional farewell, gentle reader.



Branch Diary

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Tue 5 Mar Open Committee Meeting, 8pm Gateway, Kingsway, E Didsbury. (NB Committee recommendations for 1986 GBG will be made)

Wed 6 Mar Minibus to Sair Inn and brewery. Pick up at 6.15 Pineapple, Stockport

Thur 14 Mar Branch Meeting, 8pm, Manchester Arms, Wellington Rd South, Stockport. (NB 1986 GBG Selections will be made)

Thur 21 Mar Coach trip to Winkles Brewery. Pick up 6pm White Swan, Fallowfield; 6.15 Pineapple, Stockport; 6.30 Bulls Head, Hazel Grove.

Thurs 28 Mar. Pub of the Month, Nelson Tavern, Wellington Rd South, Stockport

Fri 29 Mar City Centre GBG Survey Crawl. Details from J Clarke (061 477 1973)

Tue 2 April Open Committee Meeting, 8pm, Swan with 2 Necks, Princes Street, Stockport Shopping Precinct.

Wed 10 April Minibus farewell trip to the Park (Wigan) and pub crawl. Details from J Clarke

Thurs 11 April Branch AGM. Gateway, E Didsbury, 8pm. (NB Current CAMRA membership cards must be produced for voting)

Wed 24 April Return minibus trip to Sair Inn. Places available. Contact J Clarke.

HIGH PEAK

Tues 5 Mar Committee Meeting, White Lion, Hyde (Robinsons)

Tues 12 Mar Branch Meeting, The Crown, Market Street, Hyde (Robinsons)

Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

TRAFFORD AND HULME

Sun 3 Mar 12 noon. Social at Sale Wardens Club, Wardle Rd, Sale. Details from branch contact.

Thurs 7 Mar 8pm Committee/Social at the Pack Horse, Deansgate, M/cr. All welcome

Thurs 14 Mar Chapel Street Crawl. Details from branch contact.

Thurs 21 Mar 8pm. Branch meeting, White Lion, Liverpool Road. Final Selection of 1986 GBG entries.

Thurs 28 Mar Provisional date for Pub of the Month. See South Manchester Entry

Thurs 4 April 8pm Committee/Social at the Faulkners Arms, Stamford New Rd, Altrincham

Contact David Shelton 061 795 2113 (h) 061 224 7341 ex54 (work)

BOLTON

Wed 6 Mar Meeting at Cross Guns, Deane Rd, Bolton (Walkers). 8.30pm

Wed 20 Mar Brewery trip to Hydes - 25 places. See Dave Fleming or Bert Kerks (Bolton 388172) for details

Wed 27 Mar Social at Clock Face, Kearsley (Tetley). Note change of date

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

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 6 Mar Blackley Crawl. Derby 7pm, Alliance 8pm (Rochdale Rd)

Wed 13 Mar Dun Mare, Manchester Road, Little Hulton 8pm

Wed 20 Mar Branch AGM, White Lion, Eccles, 8pm

Wed 27 Mar - 10 years in GBG award - Old House at Home, Blackley

Wed 3 April Regional Meeting. Brewers Arms, Great Ducie Street, by Boddingtons Brewery

Wed 10 April Pennine Host Pub Crawl. Details next month.

Wed 17 April Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton 8pm

Sat/Sun 20/21 April CAMRA AGM, Southport

Wed 24 April. Tyldesley Crawl. Gatehouse 7.30, Black Horse 8.30

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Thurs 5 Mar 7.30 10th Anniversary Meeting, Floating Light, Stanedge (A62), Delph

Tues 19 Mar 8pm Committee Meeting, Waggon (Burtonwood), Butterworth Hall, Milnrow

Mon 25 Mar 7.30pm 10th Anniversary Pub Crawl of Rochdale Centre. Meet Citizen Inn, Drake St.

Wed 27 Mar Visit to Lees Brewery

Sat/Sun 30/31 March. Branch Trip to Bridgnorth

Tues 2 April 8pm. Branch Meeting, Blue Bell (Holts), Manchester Rd, Bury

Tues 16 April 8pm Committee Meeting, Hark to Towler (Thwaites), Market St, Tottington

Fri/Sun 19/21 April Branch Trip to Southport AGM

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

HAVING A PARTY?

Why not try a cask of our
TRADITIONAL DRAUGHT BEER

OLD TOM ALE

Available in Pins
(4½ Gall.) and
Firkins (9 Gall.)

BEST BITTER ALE

Available in Pins
and Firkins.

BEST MILD ALE

Available in Pins
and Firkins



ALSO AVAILABLE

Polypins (4½ Gall.) of UNICORN BITTER

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

* * * * *

HARTLEY'S XB

Available in
Firkins only.
(Subject to
Special Order)



A Taste of the Real Lakeland

* * * * *

All available from UNICORN WINE,
LOWER HILLGATE, STOCKPORT
(Next to the Brewery)
Telephone 061 480 6571