

# WHAT'S DOING

AUG  
1985

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## PUB PRESERVATION AWARDS

Three Greater Manchester pubs have been submitted for pub preservation awards and all are worthy of commendation. The **Raven** in Wallgate (Walkers), Wigan, has been preserved rather than refurbished and is much as it was 50 years ago, with four rooms, much wood and tiling, excellent food and handpumped beers.

The Howcroft (Walkers) in Bolton is not the sort of pub usually singled out for refurbishment, being a typical end of terrace Victorian pub. It was possibly the bowling green which gave





this urban pub a new lease of life. Alterations have improved the Howcroft without detracting from the amenities. A vault and a games room still remain, as well as a much improved bowling green.

The Hark to Towler (Thwaites) in Tottington is the most altered of the three. The bar has been moved giving an open plan area with two lounge areas off. There are also two games rooms - a darts room and a pool room with a TV. The pub is by no means traditional but vastly superior to its former incarnation.

Roger Hall

## TAKEOVER FEVER

Takeover fever in the brewing industry has returned. Why? Some reasons could be: (1) Overcapacity in the industry. (2) Drinkers are no longer so opposed to takeovers because of the revival of regional trading names. (3) The Government is not strongly opposed to takeovers. (The value of a takeover bid must now exceed £30,000,000, as opposed to £15,000,000 a year ago, before referral to the Monopolies Commission can take place.) (4) Breweries are trying to ensure their own survival from takeover by taking over other breweries.

Recent takeover movements such as Scottish & Newcastle's attempt on Matthew Brown/Theakston (only temporarily prevented by referral to the Monopolies Commission), Greenall Whitley's capture of Simpkins, Boddingtons' successful merger with Higsons and Sam Smiths' share increase in Jennings have added more fuel to the question WHO NEXT?

Why should we care about takeovers? What has it to do with us, the drinking public? The Campaign for Real Ale's policy is simple: all takeovers and mergers are bad. The reasons are straightforward and logical in the light of experience. Brewery takeovers and mergers eventually lead to: (1) Brewery closures. (2) Job losses. (3) Loss of local beers. (4) Higher prices. (5) Reduced competition. (6) Standardisation and/or closure of pubs.

You don't have to look far for examples of this. When Marstons took over Border Brewery last year, within six months Border's Wrexham brewery was closed and Marstons beers were the only cask beers available in Border pubs. Matthew Brown's takeover of Theakstons has been more enlightened so far: Theakstons beers have been made available in Matthew Brown's tied estate, and indeed some former Matthew Brown houses have become Theakstons. This is perhaps why the S&N bid is so worrying. If successful, S&N will increase their breweries from three to seven; one of the three, Holyrood in Edinburgh, is already marked down for closure; Carlisle(Theakstons) and Workington (Matthew Brown) would not last long.

SEN policy is that pubs with a low turnover (less than 5 barrels per week) will be closed - about 100 pubs in Cumbria would be in danger.

If you think that this has little to do with Greater Manchester you would be mistaken. Greater Manchester is famed as a beer drinker's haven, one of the lowest priced areas, serviced by nine local breweries all competing for the same trade, with a further nine breweries with a significant number of pubs in the area. Surely that wonderful choice and competition isn't in any immediate danger? This is apparently the case, although certain signs are there.

Wilsons' merger with Websters, for example, would appear to be good news on the surface, with two new beers added to our choice. But remember Watneys' apparent policy to make Websters a country-wide cask beer at the expense of other local brews (Norwich Brewery closed shortly after the advent of Websters there). One would hope that Wilsons will not share the same fate.

Boddingtons have retained Oldham beers, but will Higsons of Liverpool survive? It was publicly announced that Higsons were bought for their lager brewing capacity - what if Boddingtons rationalise their range in the future? This is not an unknown occurrence.

Further speculation on future events adds fuel to the flames. For example, Burtonwood's interests in Lees is well-known and consolid-

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ation of their similar tied estates would appear to make good business sense, especially as Lees appear to be financially overstretched. Denials and protestations of independence from Lees will not stop the rumours.

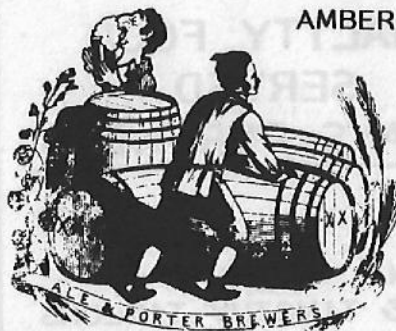
It is in our own interest as consumers to demand the continued existence of as many breweries as possible. Then we can choose what we drink, what we pay for it and in which surroundings, instead of having it dictated to us by big breweries' marketing departments. It should be noted that in areas such as East Anglia (where, since they moved in in 1963, Watneys have closed 1,200 pubs), and Barnsley (a true beer desert dominated by John Smiths and Bass, with no brewery and precious little choice of beers) it is seemingly too late for much to be done to relieve the situation. It is difficult to see what sort of campaigning is possible in these circumstances. The only possible relief from the Barnsley/Norwich predicament is to campaign strenuously to avoid takeovers and/or closures and to maintain choice and competition. It is always the consumer's voice that is the major preventative weapon in the fight to preserve our heritage and our right to it.

So, if you hear about takeovers in the offing, and you wish to do something about preventing them, let a few people know - like CAMRA, your local MP and the Office of Fair Trading. The more voices of protest the better. **Remember: it is in your own interest as a consumer to fight takeover fever, to maintain choice of beers, to hold down prices and prevent job losses.**

Rob Carder

## WHAT'S DOING

### AMBER NECTAR SHOW



CAMRA South Lincs are holding their eighth annual beer festival at Newton le Willows Town Show on Saturday 10th August. On sale will be over twenty different real ales from near and far plus the ever popular traditional cider. Subject to licence, the bar will be open from 11.30 until 5.30. If you wish to enjoy the full choice of beers you are advised to come

early as it soon gets busy. It is hoped the following will be on sale: Taylors Landlord; Theakstons bitter, best bitter and Old Peculier; Matthew Brown bitter and John Peel; Ind Coope bitter; ABC bitter;

Taylor Walker bitter; Oldham mild and bitter; Friary Meux bitter, Jennings bitter, Walkers best bitter and mild; Burtonwood bitter. The 39 bus from Manchester passes the show field or alternatively you can go by train to Newton or Earlestown stations.

### AMBER NECTAR SHOW (2)

If you find yourself at a loose end after the Newton Show do, why not sleep it off on the train to Brighton and join the rest of the nation's amiable drunks at CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival (August 13th-17th)? About 100 breweries will be represented at the Brighton Metropole, including many of those you only hear about at beer festivals - Baileys, Ballards, Bumces, Devanha, Duncans, Glenly, Moles and so on.

### JOHN SMITHS IN NORTH MANCHESTER

A survey of all the John Smiths pubs in (mainly) the North Manchester area revealed no real ale but an encouraging attitude from the licensees. The pub-by-pub account follows:

**Cheshire Cheese**, Oldham Road, Manchester: New licensee keen to get cask beer, but no approach from the brewery.

**Egerton Arms**, Gore Street, Salford: Our reporter could not get into this pub, which appears temporarily shut.

**Grapes**, Church Street, Eccles: Not averse to real ale, as a replacement for bright bitter, but the decision is the District Manager's. No approach from the brewery.

**Lord Nelson**, Newton Street, Manchester: Landlady, who has handled cask Benskins, is very keen to get real ale, but has heard nothing from the brewery.

**Marble Arch**, Rochdale Road, Manchester: This free house once sold cask John Smiths, but weekly sales fell in the ratio 3:2:1 before it was taken out. Any new beer in this pub faces strong competition from regular and guest beers.

**Oddfellows Arms**, Manchester Road, Clifton: The landlord had turned down the offer of cask beer by the brewery, believing the bright bitter to be superior. However, he would visit any local outlets of real ale to try it for himself.

**Peel Park**, Chapel Street, Salford: Landlord was familiar with CAMRA and recognised cask beer is superior. Very interested to have it but would want to talk to existing outlets first. No approach from the brewery, but he would make enquiries.

**Queens Arms**, Osborne Street, Manchester: Landlord would have installed real ale when proposed by the brewery, but the nearby railway vibrates the cellar of this modern pub.

**Vine**, Kennedy Street, Manchester: It is hoped to install John Smiths

cask bitter plus a guest beer in September/October. This plan was intended originally earlier this year.

**Footnote:** John Smiths have produced a selective guide, "Pick of the Pubs" in the North West and Midlands, price 50p. It is similar to many CAMRA local guides in layout and all facilities, including real ale, are listed.

The distribution of pubs is not very uniform; for example only one of our survey pubs (the Oddfellows) is listed, whilst there are 6 in Ashton under Lyne and no fewer than 11 in Chesterfield. Out of the 112 entries, just 14 are listed as selling cask conditioned bitter.

(A final thanks to our surveyors: Roger Bullock, Pete Cash, John Gudger, Roger Hall, Stewart Revell, Duncan Roberts, Pauline Wadsworth and everybody else who tagged along.)

### HANDPUMPS

Handpumps were introduced at the Woodthorpe Hotel, Heaton Park, on 1st July to dispense the Holts mild and bitter. The electric pump dispense is also still in use.

### IMPROVED PARK

The Park, Sledmore Road, Northern Moor, is at last having the lounge refurbished after months of waiting. The tap room was extended to

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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**

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double its size some time ago and sports two darts boards and a lively social climate. This is Lees' highest barrelage pub, serving excellent beer and lunchtime snacks; it's very busy at night but new customers are always welcome.

### COVER-UP

The Blue Boar (Whitbread) on Deansgate, Bolton, is now selling hand-pumped Boddingtons bitter. The pub has got rid of its bare board and sawdust image with the installation of a carpet. Rumour has it that Pennine Joke plan a similar improvement at the much-criticised Old Three Crowns further down Deansgate.

### JENNINGS

Tetley have provided the following list of pubs now selling Jennings bitter on handpump:

Golden Ball, Burnley Rd, Colne	Ramsden, Talbot Rd, Blackpool
Princess Royal, Yorkshire St, Burnley	Blowick, Norwood Rd, Southport
Spinners Arms, Prinnet Bridge, Colne	Farmers Arms, Church St, Garstang
Stork, Westgate, Burnley	Grapes Inn, Goosenargh, Preston
Commercial, Bury Old Rd, Prestwich	Royal, Marine Square, Morecambe
Bradford Arms, Bradford St, Bolton	Bull, Lines Street, Morecambe
Albert, Derby St, Bolton	Wheatsheaf, Water Lane, Preston
Junction, Bury New Rd, Whitefield	Live & Let Live, Freckleton St, Kirkham
Prince Rupert, Holmeswood Rd, Bolton	Uncle Peter Websters, Central Prom, Blackpool
Albion, Moor Lane, Bolton	
King William III, Manchester Rd, Bolton	Railway, Station Rd, Kirkham
Foresters Arms, Bury Rd, Rochdale	Highgate, Blackpool Rd, Kirkham
Abbey, Red Cross St, Rochdale	Stocks Tavern, Alder La, Parbold
Fox Inn, Milnrow Rd, Rochdale	Fleetwood House, Hole Lane, Banks
Carrion Crow, Huddersfield Rd, Oldham	Wellington, East Bank St, Southport
Falcon, Church St, Littleborough	Railway, Appley La, Appley Bridge
Bulls Head, Halifax Rd, Rochdale	Spinners, Church St, Adlington
Crooked Billet, Smith St, Worsethorn	Railway, Market St, Adlington
Clifton Arms, Newport St, Bolton	Kings Arms, Haskayne, Ormskirk
Red Lion, The Square, Whitworth	Queens, Chapel St, Chorley
	Albion, Bolton St, Chorley

### GOOD LAGER GUIDE?

Picture the scene. Early doors at the Spinners Arms, Woodbrook, Springhead, an out-of-the-way, Good Beer Guide listed J W Lees house. Two young men enter, one clutching a copy of the GBG. The approach the bar. "What'll it be, gentlemen?" asks the licensee, reaching for the real ale pumps. "A half of lager and lime and a coke, please," comes the devastating reply. Landlord goes into a state of shock and our two explorers sit down to discuss further the usefulness of the guide. Who says that CAMRA's work is over?

### TEETHING PROBLEMS

An application for a licence for the Red Dragon (Crescent) is to be made to Salford's licensing magistrates in August. The long-closed pub is owned by one Herbert Lydiate.



# BANKS'S

THE BEER DRINKER'S MILESTONE

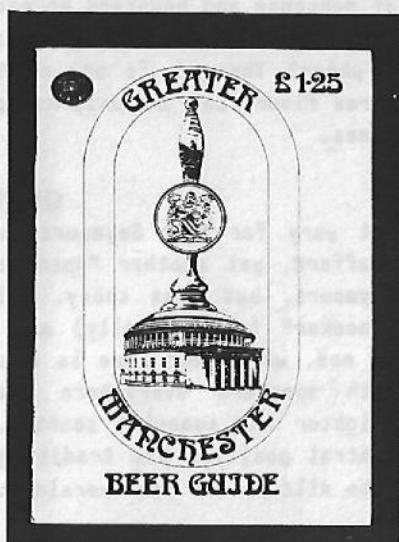
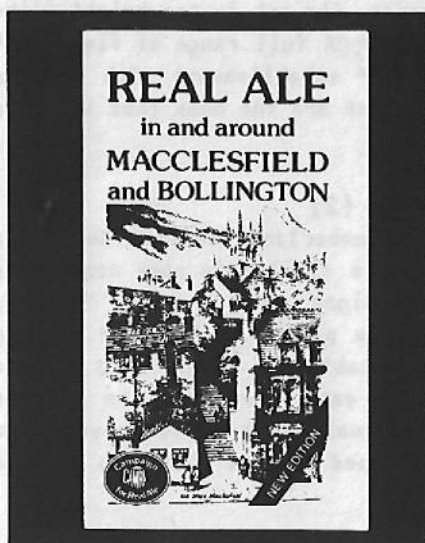


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### BEER GUIDES

The new Macclesfield guide (the first for 6 years) is published this month. It lists all 108 real ale pubs in the Macclesfield and Bollington area, together with a selection of ten of the best just outside the area. As well as maps to guide you to the amber nectar emporia of your choice, the guide is illustrated with pub photographs. There are introductions to the towns, information on the brewers and their beers, suggestions on where to go when the pubs shut and an informative history of brewing in Macclesfield. All for £1.20 (including p&p) from **Jim Bowden**, Dale View Farm, Jumper Lane, Rainow, Macclesfield SK10 5UT

Don't forget your copy of the Greater Manchester Beer Guide. Send £1.25 and self addressed A5 envelope with 22p stamp or cheque for £1.50 to **Roger Hall**, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 2PW. Cheques and POs payable to What's Doing.

### PEDIGREE REAPPEARS

The King Billy at Partington is reintroducing Marstons Pedigree on handpump for a trial period, this time in the "cocktail lounge". Let us hope that it meets with more success than the last time, when Pedigree was withdrawn from the main bar due to poor sales.

### OPEN HOUSE (1)

After the great fire at the Seymour Hotel (Wilsons) on Upper Chorlton Road, Whalley Range/Chorlton/Stretford boundaries, the pub was given a complete modernisation. It is now called "Seymours", with a ridiculous concoction of flashing lights, plastic, dazzling displays

of nonsense and bouncers at each entrance. The pub is too bright (like the beer). Outside, the signboard reads: "A full range of fine ales" - where? The pub is now an "Open House" establishment with bars on three floors and the only handpumps evident are the ones that dispense wines.

## OPEN HOUSE (2)

Not very far from Seymours is the Northumberland, Chester Road, Old Trafford, yet another "Open House". It is similar in some aspects to Seymours, but less showy. Illuminated signs direct you to "Darts", "Snooker" (pool, really) and "Pool". The plasticated ridged seating in red, white and blue is most uncomfortable and an overloud jukebox with speakers everywhere pounds your ears. However, the pub is brighter and somewhat smarter, the original bar has been moved to a central position and traditional handpumped Wilsons bitter is on sale (the mild is the tank version).

## WHAT'S DOING IN WIGAN AND DISTRICT

The Alison Arms, a John Smith pub in Appley Lane, Appley Bridge, reopened in June as Th'Owd Fettler. Cask bitter is on sale.

The Queens Arms, a Greenalls pub in Bolton Road, Atherton, has, it seems, been selling keg beer for some time. So has Buckleys, a Whitbread house in Castle Street, Tyldesley

Still in Tyldesley, the Half Moon Inn, Elliot Street, has replaced Boddingtons mild with (real) Oldham mild. Both bitters are also available alongside a guest beer. In June, landlord David Rowlinson was presented with the Pub of the Month award by South Lancs CAMRA. This will be the last such award before Wigan and Leigh CAMRA members go their separate ways.

Further to the Jennings list (see elsewhere in this issue), Jennings bitter is now available in the Railway Hotel, Leigh. A drop of the Cumbrian stuff wouldn't go amiss in Wigan pubs such as the Ball and Boot, the Orwell and the Bird in Hand, to name a few. Contrary to last month's report, we are told from reliable sources that cask, not drum Tetleys is now available in Cumbria.

Back in Wigan now. Youngers No.3 has gone from the Turnkey Cellars, King Street. Evidently the odd gallon or two drunk by our reporter and his mates at weekend was not sufficient turnover. IPA is still on sale. On the other hand, IPA has been dropped from the range at Raffles, Millgate. No.3 is still selling well, though, in this "Almonds" free house.

Whitbread have taken over the old All Saints Tavern (more recently the NALGO club) in Hallgate and incorporated it into their Grand Hotel, next door. Still keg.

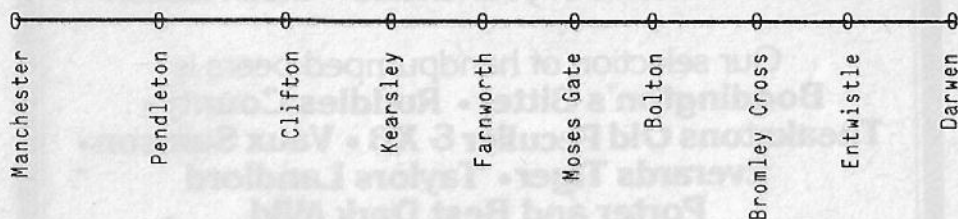
Whitbread Trophy bitter has replaced Castle Eden Ale at the Guardians Inn, Frog Lane.

By the time this goes to print, Wigan's Ring Road scheme will have claimed another pub. The Horseshoe Inn, an ex-Burtonwood pub on Millgate, closed just after Christmas and at the time of writing was covered in scaffolding. The Horseshoe once claimed the novelty of being a cask mild only outlet! The only pub in the way of the ring road still open is the Saracens Head, Wigan Lane, and that's due to close in the autumn.

Another Matthew Brown pub in the Wigan area is now keg - the Leigh Arms, near Hindley Station. It's not the done thing to slate Matty right now, but, to be frank, their commitment to cask ale in Wigan area is doleful. Only two pubs supply the real stuff: the Royal and Strangeways, both in Hindley. S&N actually have three outlets in Wigan, all providing real ale. Food for thought?

### TAKE THE TRAIN

For those who like a trip out, Peak Wayfarer tickets are now valid for Entwistle and Darwen on the Blackburn line. Trains are quite well timed for drinking sessions at lunch and evening, Monday to Saturday.



In Darwen the Crown on Redearth Road (10 minutes from station) has been enlarged and now serves Boddingtons mild and bitter, Thwaites mild and bitter, and Taylors BB (although the range may vary) all on handpump. Within five minutes of Darwen Station are the Millstone, White Lion and Albion (all Thwaites, mild and bitter).

The Strawberry Duck next to Entwistle Station is under new ownership and is selling Taylors BB and Landlord, Ruddles County, Hartleys BB, Pendle Witch and Old Peculier (all handpump).

### BITTER ALMONDS

Almonds bitter, currently on sale in two Burtonwood "free" houses, is to be tested in six pubs with a new recipe to make it more distinguishable from the Burtonwood bitter it will sell alongside. The test pubs are believed to include the Old Pear Tree, Wigan; the Spinners, Hindley, and the Park, Ashton in Makerfield. Two of the test pubs are outside the normal "Almond land" around Wigan. There are also rumours that a Burtonwood premium cask beer will be launched in 50 pubs in September.



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## LACK MAGIC

The Summer Solstice was a pretty bad time for Druids. Stonehenge was closed for ceremonies and the Druids Arms on Liverpool Street, Salford, was closed for drinking. It has since been observed to open sporadically.

## BOLTON ALE

A Tetley pub selling real ale but which was omitted from "Real Ale in Bolton" (WD June), is the Lostock Arms, Lostock, which dispenses cask mild and bitter through handpumps.

## AND A CAR PARK, TO BOOT

Boddingtons have applied for permission to construct a car park, alter existing access and landscape the land around the Wellington on Regent Road, Salford. Does this mean that the old pub is to remain?

## WEBSTERS

Websters Yorkshire Bitter is now available at the Mauldeth (Wilsons), Kingsway/Mauldeth Road, Manchester 19. The traditional beer is dispensed by handpump and sells for 72p a pint. The Withington Ale House (Pennine Host) sells the same beer for 76p a pint.



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## FOOLS GOLD

Remember that Whitbread handpumped lager that made a brief appearance in "selected outlets" last year? Well, it's back. This time it is heralded by a glossy leaflet and called "Gold Label", but there's no need to rush out and try it. The leaflet proudly announces that, "It's less gassy and not quite as chilled as ordinary lagers..." Good grief!

## A TRIP TO CADISHEAD

On a recent trip to Cadishead a real ale gain was discovered at the George - Whitbread Trophy on handpump. Further investigations revealed that turnover was low and that the beer could be taken out. Sales promotion both inside and out was nil.

The Cadishead Railway is a real pub selling non-real Greenalls. This is hardly the sort of competition to upset the Lion (Tetleys) and the Coach and Horses (Boddies). Both pubs have been on traditional bitter and mild since Adam was a lad and both are in the Greater Manchester Good Beer Guide.

## GAMECOCK OPENS

The Gamecock, Old Street, Ashton under Lyne, opened on 18th July with the following beers: Taylors Landlord, Marstons Pedigree, Old Mill bitter and Bulldog, Everards Tiger, Ruddles County, Boddingtons mild and bitter and Oldham bitter.

## WALKDEN CHEER

The Ellesmere on Walkden Road, Walkden, is now selling traditional Tetley bitter (66p) and mild (65p). The new licensee (since March) is Bob Coleman, who used to have the Church in Wythenshawe.

## UPMARKET?

The Market Hotel in Brackley Street, probably the most attractive pub in Farnworth, is having the Walkers treatment. The pool room and snug are being merged, although the basic style of the pub will remain. As far as we understand the public is to be little altered. The mention of "redevelopment" is normally enough to give any honest CAMRA member the shakes, but such has been the quality of the Walkers improvements in the Bolton area - at the Ainsworth, the Cross Guns, the Howcroft and the Hare and Hounds - that this should be a development to be welcomed.

## MASONS CHANGE

The Masons Arms, a free house at Nangreaves, Bury, has been acquired by Derek Harrison, a CAMRA member who also has the Bridge Inn at Ewood Bridge. Tetley mild and bitter, Walkers BB and Burton Ale are now



available on handpump, replacing an all-keg range. The pub has a restaurant which has enjoyed a high reputation locally.

### GREENALLS GAIN

Tom Hilsley has left the Boars Head, Churchgate, Bolton, for another Greenalls pub - the Royal Oak, Bradshaw. So far he's managed to install cask mild and handpumps, and he hopes to have Greenalls Original bitter on handpump before very long.

### GREATER MANCHESTER BEER GUIDE

The guide is now being distributed to pubs. The last pubs were surveyed by the end of January, so the guide is already six months out of date, and it is intended to publish a quarterly update in What's Doing, with new information, deletions of pubs which have changed for the worse and perhaps suggestions of new pubs. The first update will be in next month's WD, and to make it successful we need copy! Please send contributions to the editor at 35 Hayfield Close, Pennine Meadows, Moorside, Oldham.

**Contributors:** Dave White, Bill Collier, Rob Carder, Dave Fleming, Peter Wightman, Jim Rayner, Steve Lawton, Roger Hall, Leo King, Peter Cash, Brian Gleave, Barry Chemney, Keith Egerton, Des Nogalski.

### PRICES



Sir - Why must we have to put up with such variation in the price of a pint? In May's WD I reported that the difference in price of Ind Coope's Burton Bitter: 84p at the Portland Bar and 72p at the City Arms on Kennedy Street - 12p cheaper in a pub with a much brighter atmosphere. The Rembrandt (Lees) on Sackville Street sells bitter for

75p a pint (and 40p per half pint!) in what must be one of the most dismal pubs in town. The Woodman just over the Failsworth boundary in Hollinwood sells the same beer for a modest 64p in a pub with a good atmosphere.

The Albert (Hydes) in Didsbury sells bitter at 72p. The same beer can be had for just 66p at the Grand Junction in Hulme. At the Cheshire Ring in Hyde, Taylors Landlord costs 80p a pint. No wonder the place was empty on a Saturday afternoon when we visited it! Surely, the high prices charged here must be helping to bring about the probable, unfortunate demise of this fine pub. Landlord is a more down to earth 72p at the Crown & Anchor, Hilton Street, Manchester 1. What with 80p a pint of rubbish at the Sawyers and 90-95p a pint for guest beers at the nearby Old English Ale House we could almost call Manchester "Little London"!

Leo King



Whilst some of us, somewhat unfairly described as "hypocritical wallies", were preparing to go up to Jockville and shout at Honker and McNasty for their rapacious intents vis a vis a Clogshire brewery about which nobody really gave a monkeys, what happened? That's right, the cunning Mr Brobdingnag stole up on the blindside and bought his own brewery in Scousely. And a good thing too, I should think. If only the good and kind Mr Efrem were to push up the Scousely taverns he's acquired and to throw out the sartorially inelegant, Scousely would soon be a better place instead of a crumbling hovel full of foul-mouthed smelly tramps.

I'm totally in favour of tavern-smartening. There are far too many Rat and Handbags and Gungesmeaters Arms and the sooner they're all turned into Charlies' or Olivers' or Arthurs' the better. After all, the English Public House is not the sort of place where ordinary people should be allowed to go in ordinary clothes to talk to their friends in a convivial atmosphere and perhaps play a game of dominoes or darts. Certainly not - the public house is an entertainment experience which should emphasise food rather than beer and stock a vast range of lagers for the discerning palate of today's young drinkers. And who in their right mind wants to go somewhere where you meet a cross section of age groups and social classes? Geriatric fuddy-duddies should be forced out of pubs, which are recreated for the poseur circuit of the 16-23's, and go instead to the salubrious steak house where they can enjoy a gourmet food experience.

As for the impecunious and impoverished, they are hardly worth pursuing by the brewers except of course by eccentric barmpots who are still living in the last century. When people are ejected from Drabs pubs for being incorrectly dressed, I shall know that the millennium has arrived. When that happens, all those who don't comply with the Adman's consumer profile will have to sit at home drinking meths and real ale, leaving pubs to the Marketing Man's ideals. I'm happy to see that Brobdingnags are not alone in bringing about nirvana. Pennine Joke and Percy Boringsod are both doing their best.

It won't be long now to the wonderful Dullville amber nectar show, but when is Ben Chestnut going to announce the Grotley do for the aficionados of the hop? I think we should be told.

## ORDSALL 1985

One hundred years ago this area of Salford bounded by Trafford Road, Regent Road and the River Irwell contained 80 pubs and beerhouses. Today there are only 11 pubs in the area. Demolition, brewery closures and the Compensation Acts have all taken their toll but there are now signs that the erosion has stopped. The Globe, a former Manchester Breweries house on Regent Road, was acquired by Burtonwood in a pub swap with Wilsons but is now leased to Salford University Students' Union. The pub, now called the Park Royal, which had been run down, has been decorated and furnished in a 1930's theme which may not appeal to everyone. It is, nevertheless, comfortable and sells traditional hand drawn beer from both Burtonwood and Thwaites (although, in deference to the lessors, the Thwaites is not heavily advertised). Meals are served both at lunchtime and in the evening but the pub is less popular than it deserves to be.

Around the corner from the Park Royal, another run-down pub has received a facelift. £30,000 has been spent on the Albion, a small Tetley pub with an open-plan lounge area and a separate tiny vault. Air conditioning equipment has been installed in the cellar which ensures an excellent pint of handpumped bitter. The licensee is committed to cask beer and hopes soon to introduce mild alongside the bitter.

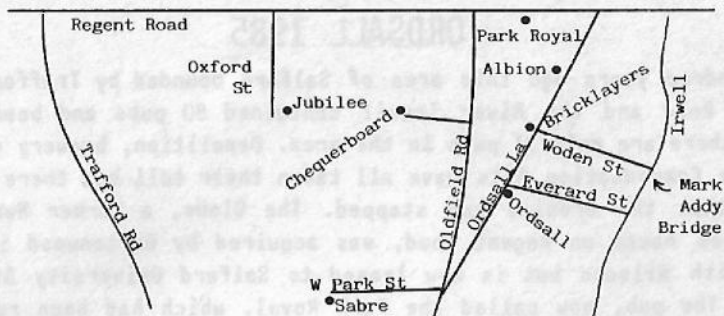
Holts have two pubs in Ordsall - the Sabre, which is a late 70's two-roomed building in the new development, and the Bricklayers, an early 80's renovation on Ordsall Lane. Both serve an excellent pint and the only criticism is a tendency for over-loud music in both pubs and vandalism at the Sabre which makes the outside look like the aftermath of the Ixoteth riots.

Wilsons have three pubs in the area. The Rovers Return, despite an array of handpumps, no longer serves real ale. The Chequerboard near the site of the famous "Big Derby" is a two-roomed pub from the early 70's which serves handpumped bitter and keg mild. The Ordsall was, at one time, one of the best pubs in the area. It is still traditional, with a large vault and a somewhat tastelessly decorated lounge, but recent improvements at the Bricklayers, Albion and Park Royal mean that the Ordsall must also be improved if it is to compete successfully with its neighbours.

The Jubilee, Boddingtons' only Ordsall pub, was opened in 1979 and is a typical two-roomed building from that era. The remaining pubs are all keg. The Regent on Regent Road has replaced a pub of the same name. The Moonrakers is a depressing tank Greenalls establishment near the Ordsall Centre and the Greyhound is a former Groves pub just off Ordsall Lane which at one time featured in the Good Beer Guide.

One feature of Ordsall which was useful to the dedicated pub crawler





was the existence of Mark Addy footbridge which made accessible pubs in Hulme like the Hope, the Pomona Palace and the Star. Sadly the bridge is presently closed but should soon be reopened so that beers from nine breweries can be sampled in the area.

Roger Hall



**SHAPLA TANDOORI**  
261 Liverpool Road, Eccles

## ASIAN CORNER



Eccles, with its 13 Holts pubs, has long been regarded as the real ale drinkers' Mecca; it may have seemed appropriate after a visit to Mecca to stagger into the Medina Restaurant named after another Saudi town. But now a new establishment has opened which threatens to supplant the Medina as Eccles' premier Indian restaurant. Situated in Patricroft, within tottering distance of the White Lion, the Stanley and the Golden Cross, the Shapla Tandoori offers a wide range of traditional Indian fare with some specialisation in Karahi dishes - cooked and served in a small cast-iron pan similar to a wok. The food is reasonably priced - a meal with starters and accompaniments will set you back between £4 and £5 - how better to finish off a night on the Holts?

The picture shows branch assistant drunk Duncan Busman enjoying a dish of Karahi meat



# Branch Diary

## HIGH PEAK AND NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues 13th Aug Branch Meeting, Old Hall, Whitehough, Chinley  
Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

## WIGAN

Sat 10th Aug: Newton le Willows beerex, Selwyn Jones Lower School, Crow Lane, Newton  
(Final details to be arranged)

Sat 17th Aug: Visit to York

Wed 21st Aug: Branch Meeting, Silverwell Hotel (Walkers), Darlington St E, Wigan 8.30  
Contact Brian Gleave Atherton 892965 (w) Atherton 876200 (h)

## NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 31 July Eccles mild and prices survey. White Horse, Gilda Brook Rd, 7pm. Cross  
Keys, Church St, 8pm

Sat 3 Aug Macclesfield. Train 6.40 from Piccadilly. Return 11.14

Wed 7 Aug Swinton Crawl, White Horse 7pm, Park 8pm

Wed 14 Aug, Duke of Wellington, Weardale Rd (off Victoria Ave), Hr Blackley 8pm

Wed 21 Aug White Swan, Swinton 8pm

Wed 28 Aug Sartorial Ejection Night

Wed 4 Sept Blackfriars Crawl. Irwell Castle 7pm, Black Friar 8pm

Wed 11 Sept Bowling Green, Pendlebury, 8pm

Wed 18 Sept Branch Meeting, Ellesmere, Walkden Rd, Walkden, 8pm

Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

## STOCKPORT AND SOUTH MANCHESTER

Tues 6 Aug Open Committee Meeting, Crown, Heaton La

Thurs 8 Aug Branch Meeting, 8pm, Longsight, Belle Vue

Tue/Wed 13/14 Aug Provisional dates for Oldham Brewery visit (Final details at Branch  
Meeting or contact Andy Cooper 445 4953(h): 0625 872641 (w))

Thurs 22 Aug Pub of the Month: Castlewood, Stockport (Wilsons)

Wed 28 Aug Hyde Night Out (details from Andy Cooper)

Fri 30 Aug GBG Survey Crawl of Hyde Rd. 7pm Rock, 8.30 Plough

Tues 3 Sept Open Committee Meeting 8pm, Longsight, Belle Vue

Contact John Clarke 477 1973 (H) 832 2468 x385 (w)

## ROCHDALE, OLDHAM AND BURY

Tues 6 Aug 8pm, Branch Meeting, Ring o'Bells (Lees), St Leonards Sq, Middleton

Tues 20 Aug 8pm, Committee Meeting, Windmill (Burtonwood), Manchester Rd, Sudden,  
Rochdale

Tues 27 Aug 8pm, Preliminary meeting to discuss forthcoming Bury Beer Festival (18-  
19 Oct)

Tues 3 Sept 8pm, Branch Meeting, Cross Keys (Lees), Uppermill

Tues 17th Sept 8pm, Committee Meeting, Dog & Partridge (Lees), Middleton Rd, Royton

Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) 061 775 3351 x248 (w)

## BOLTON

Sun 4 Aug Horwich Social: Old Original Bay Horse (Whitbread) 12pm, Toll Bar 1pm

Weds 7th Aug Branch Meeting, Howcroft (Walkers) 8.30

Sun 18th Aug Social at the Royal Oak, Bradshaw (Greenalls) 12pm

Wed 5 Sept Social at the Crofters (Greenalls) 8.30pm

## TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 1 Aug 8pm, Committee/Social, Pack Horse, Deansgate, Manchester. All welcome

Thurs 15 Aug 8pm, Branch Meeting at Rope & Anchor, Railway Rd, Dunham Massey

Thurs 22 Aug, Pub of the Month

Thurs 29 Aug 8pm, The Lymm Crawl. Details from branch contact

Thurs 5 Sept 8pm, Committee/Social at King William IV, Manchester Rd, Partington

Contact David Shelton 061 795 2113



# HAVING A PARTY?

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TRADITIONAL DRAUGHT BEER

OLD TOM ALE

Available in Pins  
(4½ Gall.) and  
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Available in Pins  
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BEST MILD ALE

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