

WHAT'S DOING



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1985

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



WHITE MAGIC!

One of Greater Manchester's many derelict pubs has been saved for the drinking public. After being closed for almost two years the White House (122 Great Ancoats Street) reopened on 3rd October.

The building's interior had deteriorated considerably over the period, aided, no doubt, by the odd felon or six. Under the direction of the new owners, John and Jen Connolly, a considerable amount of work has been carried out. The pub now has a neat two-roomed layout, with a compact vault containing a pool table and dart board and a comfortable L-shaped lounge that literally looks out on to the main road. (The windows, unusually, are plain glass.)

The White House is the Connollys' first pub, though they both have considerable experience of bar work and cellar craft. Hot meals are available at lunchtime. In the evening snacks are offered and meals are usually available to order at reasonable hours.

Three cask conditioned beers are sold: Stones bitter and Holts bitter and mild. John and Jen have no immediate plans to add further traditional products to their range.

The White House gives the impression of being a tidy, well-run pub catering for most age groups. The opening of pubs such as this cannot but be a good thing for the consumer. We wish it success.

Duncan Roberts

TALLY HO!



The Cheshire Hunt on Hyde Road, Gorton, is due to reopen selling Sam Smiths beers at the beginning of November. This former Wilsons house has been closed for many months but now Mr Alan Stott has taken over and intends to bring it back to life. Mr Stott already owns the Bulls Head, the Failsworth Arms and the New Broadway Club (a pub) in Failsworth, and is in the process of adding the North End Working Men's Club, Middleton, to his collection. The catering side of the Cheshire Hunt will be strongly promoted; a manageress has been brought in from Kendal's restaurant.

Stewart Revell

BODDY BLOWS

Once upon a time Boddingtons could do no wrong. Their policy of providing value-for-money beer in honest-to-goodness boozers won them the support of the drinking public in their fight with Allied Breweries in the early seventies and later the emerging Campaign for Real Ale held them up as an example of everything a local brewery should be.

Sadly, times have changed. CAMRA's views on the quality of Boddingtons beer have been well documented in these pages. A more recent development, however, has been the brewery's attitude to its tied estate. No longer satisfied with the street corner local, or its modern equivalent, the "estate" pub, the company has seen fit to move "up-market" into such ventures as the Henry Boddington (Sept WD). In that case no harm was done, the building not having previously been a pub, but there must be cause for concern over the brewery's future plans. Luckily, they would seem to have suffered an early set-back, if the attitude of the Lytham St Annes Licensing Panel is anything to go by. The Grapes at Wrea Green, near Blackpool, whilst far from being a typical back street local, is an example of that equally traditional English institution - the village inn. Situated on the village green, in an extremely picturesque setting, the pub has managed to retain a traditional atmosphere and, most significantly, a public bar where locals can retreat in summer from the hordes of grockles that infest

the Fylde at that time of year. The Grapes is packed every night and must be an extremely profitable part of the Boddingtons empire. Not satisfied with this state of affairs, the brewery has applied for permission to convert the public bar into a restaurant. The locals, who can eat perfectly well at home, were not amused. The "District Catering Manager" for Boddingtons spouted the usual guff about being "sympathetic" and "not altering the pub...or wishing to lose any of the local people."

Encouragingly, despite the lack of any formal objection to the proposals, the magistrates threw out the plans and insisted the public bar be kept. Boddingtons are, of course, to appeal, but meanwhile it is to be hoped that more local licensing magistrates will take a firm line to restrain any local brewery intent on destroying what is left of our local, traditional pubs.

Jim Davies

(with information from West Lancs Evening Gazette)

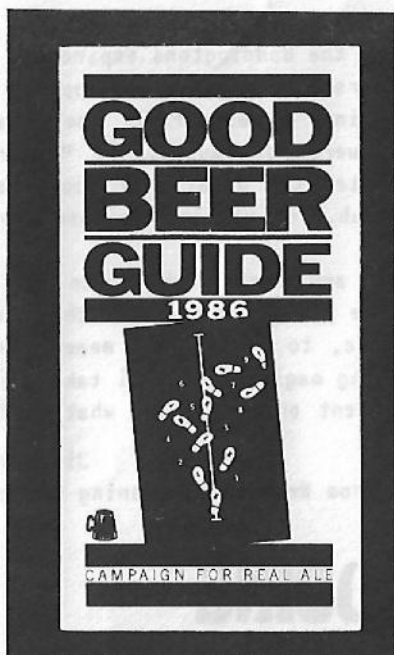
WHAT'S DOING

PENNINE HOST GET IT RIGHT

You'd never think What's Doing would ever speak in praise of Pennine Host's pub transformations, would you? Well you'd be wrong. The area's naughtiest pub wreckers have improved two pubs in Pendleton beyond belief.

Sports (formerly the Woodman) and the Woolpack are just off Broad Street in an area dominated by Lego/Baco keg pubs and fringed by a number of run-down, shabby older pubs. Sports sports a chromium ceiling, primary colours, three pool tables, two darts boards, a football table and a bar billiards table. It is clean, bright and attractive to young people. It is a vast improvement on the Woodman and will doubtless be successful as the area needs one pub like this. In contrast, the Woolpack has gone upmarket - presumably for the older people. Whilst retaining a vault, the pub's lounge has been completely restyled and refurbished to a high standard. The quality and level of comfort is unsurpassed anywhere in Salford. The kind of transformation which is incongruous in pubs like the Sawyers Arms seems to succeed in a building which has little inherent character. Space is carefully broken up and even the music is unobtrusive.

Both pubs serve a good pint of handpumped Wilsons - bitter in Sports and both bitter and mild in the Woolpack. Keep up the good work, Pennine, and we'll never call you Joke again.



GOOD BEER IN THE CITY

For the first time the 1986 Good Beer Guide entries for Central Manchester give a good cross-section of beers in the area, despite the continuing non-co-operation of the three branches involved. The twelve entries have between them some 20 beers from 10 breweries. Manchester's premier free houses - the Marble Arch and the Crown & Anchor - are both included and most of the local brewers get a look-in including Greenalls and Chesters. Burtonwood, Boddies, Sam Smiths, Lees and Robinsons have missed out, but then again, their town centre pubs aren't much to shout about. Four Tetley pubs is perhaps a little over the top, particularly as two of them don't sell mild. Hydes have probably come out on top with two entries. The

Jolly Angler is in for the umpteenth time - a most popular entry. The Grey Horse is described somewhat oddly as a seventeenth century pub - at the end of the eighteenth century that part of Manchester was a field and in the 1840's there was an undertaker's shop on the site. By 1870 the Grey Horse had opened - as a beerhouse. Nice try, boys; if you're going for historical detail, why not make an effort to get it right?

FAILSWORTH SHUT

After only a few years operation, the small Failsworth Brewery, Newton Heath, has brewed its last beer. The company had achieved consistency in production and their beers could rival Holts for bitterness, but the cut-throat competition existing in the "free trade" led to their downfall. With the bigger breweries effectively tying "free houses" to their own beers with conditional loans, etc, the door was closed to competition. Failsworth's own pub, the New Wellington in Hyde, has also closed.

This is a real loss to local drinkers and it gives an insight into the sad state of the brewing industry today.

PENNINE HOST

Manchester's most prolific modifiers of pubs plan to refurbish the Caught on the Hop in Whalley Range and to carry out elevational alterations to the Tudor Tavern in Wythenshawe.

BLACK SHEEP

A storm is brewing in the Midlands over Wolverhampton & Dudley's new beer, introduced in the second week of October. Following a price rise of 4p for their ordinary bitter, W&D realised that sales were falling and introduced a new, low gravity (1033/4) brew to sell at 2p a pint cheaper than the mild. So far, so good.

However, the choice of name for the new beer is less than tactful. It is Hansons Black Country Bitter - but it is brewed at Banks's brewery, which is outside the Black Country. In addition, Holdens, whose own Black Country Bitter has been long established, were not consulted about the name and are naturally somewhat displeased. WD's West Midlands mole tells us that solicitors' letters have been flying about all over the place. The sting in the tail may come later. If the new beer is successful, it is planned to transfer production to Hansons Brewery - which is in the Black Country. If it fails, though, what will happen to Hansons?

Hansons Black Country Bitter is currently on sale at all the Banks's pubs in the Manchester area - and according to one landlord it isn't selling too well.



WHITBREAD INN BUILD UP

A "fun pub/disco" is being built in Redclyffe Road, Urmston, just round the corner from the Barton swing bridge. There is little likelihood of the real stuff when the "Swinging Bridge" opens around Christmas time.

Whitbread have also invested in the "Riverside Complex", which is to be sited in the old Adelphi Convent School, bounded by Adelphi Street and the Crescent, Salford. The building will be converted into a theatre-conference-hall-film/TV-studio, with a pub on the terrace fronting the River Irwell - selling Chesters, natch!

Salford Council also have plans for the Boothstown Basin on the Bridgewater Canal, with a marina and a landscaped area incorporating a pub. Could Whitbread get this plum as well?

NO OARHOUSE

What's happened to the collection of oars which used to festoon the ceiling of the Crown & Anchor, Manchester? Is the once Noble Robin using them to propel his bus? Or have Whitbread repossessed them, married them up to a load of rowlocks and flogged them to the Henley Hoorays? We should be told.

HOLTS REGULAR

The Game Cock on Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, is to have Holts bitter as a regular beer.

GALLEON REFLOATED

As reported in WD Sept, the Galleon, Drake Street, Rochdale, was auctioned. However, the reserve price was not reached and so the pub was taken off the market. Chris Dunphy, one of the pub's previous owners, now owns it lock, stock and kilderkin. Now known as "Dunphy's", the pub reopened a couple of weeks ago. Beers are Marstons and Burtonwood, with regular guest beers - currently Higsons. Lunch-time food will continue with a house special - "Gut Buster" sandwich. No man can eat two!

WHAT'S DOING IN WIGAN AND DISTRICT

Websters bland Yorkshire bitter comes to Hindley Green. The Golden Lion, Atherton Road, is now selling it alongside Wilsons Original Bitter, both on handpumps. Sadly, this seems to be at the expense of Wilsons mild, withdrawn recently.

The Lancashire Union, a Greenalls pub on Manchester Road, Hindley, has lost its traditional mild and is now an all-keg pub.

The Swan & Railway, Wallgate, Wigan, has re-opened. This former Good Beer Guide Tetley pub opposite North Western Station was closed for two years and following months of speculation involving Thwaites and Holts, it has reopened as a free house. Landlord Sam Holding, formerly of Burtonwood's Balcarres Arms at Haigh, is currently selling John Smiths bitter, draught Bass, Stones bitter and Bass 4X mild on handpump, with guest beers promised for the near future. The four-roomed pub has been very tastefully renovated, and a visit is highly recommended.

Following John Helsby's move to the GBG-listed Queens Head (Tetley) at Aspull, Ken Helme is the new landlord of Tetley's Bricklayers Arms, Hallgate, Wigan. This pub, which serves Tetley mild and Walker best bitter on air pressure, is Tetley's last traditional pub in Wigan town centre, although it has suffered because of its rough reputation. However, Ken has made great progress in cleaning the place up, and with handpumps promised for the near future, the Bricklayers is well worth a visit.

Websters Yorkshire Bitter is on sale at the Mount Hotel, Orrell Road, Orrell. This Berni steak house also has Wilsons Original mild and Tetley bitter. All three real ales are on handpump, though the quality of the beer seems variable.

The Wiggin Tree, a Whitbread "Brewer's Fayre" pub on Parbold Hill, Wigan, is now selling Boddingtons bitter and Whitbread Castle Eden, both on handpump. The pub is full of poseurs, though this is a good

thing as it keeps them away from the Stocks Tavern, Alder Lane, Parbold, a GBG Tetley pub which is now selling excellent handpumped Jennings bitter, and the Windmill, Mill Lane, Parbold, which is now Wigan's only Greenalls Original Bitter outlet.

The Imperial, Manchester Road, Higher Ince, is closed and boarded up. The pub has had a chequered past, being transferred from Tetleys to Walkers and then back again. In an area of slum clearance, the pub's future looks gloomy.

Following the renovation of Matthew Brown's keg Globe at Standish, the brewery's demolition squad has moved to another keg outlet, the Conquering Hero at Ince. What chance real ale after modernisation? Or is Matthew Brown's disgusting neglect of real ale in the Wigan area to continue?

In last month's report, our correspondent claimed that the Mountain Dew at Atherton had been closed and sold off by Tetley. It hasn't. Sincere apologies to all.

WINSTONS ALE

The range of real ales at Winstons (formerly the Gipsy's Tent) in Bolton has improved somewhat. Stones bitter and Boddingtons bitter and mild were joined by draught Bass on 16th October. The first two purchasers of the new beer at 8pm were Paul Roberts and Jim Davies, who just happened to be passing!

IRLAM NEWS

The White Lion, Irlam, is to be altered by Pennine Host into a pub with a "Sports" theme. This involves plenty of pool tables together with, one hopes, traditional pub games such as darts and dominoes. Traditional bitter at least should remain with perhaps a "quiet" area for people who aren't deaf. After the transformation, the "Nomads" darts team, currently exiled in the Nags Head vault, should be able to return. Perhaps some of the thousands to be spent could be set aside for tidying up the environs of the pub, which are a scruffy mess and a blot on the landscape.

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* St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW. *

ATHERTON ARMS

Holts appear to have bought the Atherton Labour Club premises on Tyldesley Road, Atherton, and they're seeking permission to turn it into a pub. (It seems the club was in big money trouble and Holts' offer came at the right time.) The licence application is to be made on 5th November for the "Atherton Arms" - fingers crossed!

Holts beers have recently been on sale at Astley & Tyldesley Welfare Club, Gin Pit.

DEATH KNELL II

Not only are Oldham Brewery beers disappearing into oblivion, as witnessed at the Grants Arms (WD Sept), now their pubs are following suit!

The Waggon & Horses, Rochdale Road, High Crompton, has recently undergone a facelift to emerge as a Boddingtons house. The OB keg beers remain, but the Boddies bitter is now on handpump. All point of sale publicity proclaims the virtues(?) of Boddingtons ales only. The sign-board outside announces that the pub is now a Boddingtons house.

Is this the shape of things to come?

QUIZ

Which Stockport brewer wrote the following about which analytical and campaigning CAMRA news-sheet? "Unfortunately Mr Higgins did not even have the courtesy to reply to my letter, which perhaps was not altogether surprising in view of the total rubbish and inaccurate remarks made in his News Sheet."

LION'S IN THE ROAD

The Inner City Relief Road has claimed its first Salford pub victim. A CPO has been served on the Red Lion (Wilsons) on Chapel Street. Devotees of the back street beerhouse will be delighted to know that the new road just misses the Eagle on Collier Street.

NO OIL PAINTING

The Rembrandt (Lees) on Sackville Street, Manchester 1, has reopened after being altered considerably. The emphasis is on chrome - hand-rails, lamp supports, footrests, bar supports and even the beer pumps. Lees traditional mild and bitter are on sale. Bitter is 75p a pint and the usual 40p-for-a-half rip-off is in force. Handpumps which were installed a couple of years ago have been replaced by the familiar Lees pillar taps. Our inspector's visit to the Rembrandt was a cautious affair; the gents' toilet must be the most perfumed of all the pub toilets in Manchester (and probably anywhere else for that matter). Why the brewery has acquired a bouncer is baffling! With unexceptional bitter at 75p a pint (it is an excellent drink at the John Willie Lees at only 68p), this was our inspector's first and last visit!



WETTERGOTT SCHEINT ÜBER DEM RIESEN-WIES'N

With the help of the usual assemblage of North Manchester drunks plus the landlord and landlady of Manchester's favourite amber nectar shop, the 175th Oktoberfest again broke all records.

7,100,000 visitors managed to drink 5,200,000 litres (1,150,000 gallons or 32,000 barrels) of Märzenbier helped by the best weather since 1961. Sixteen days of temperatures in the eighties and clear blue skies are a good excuse to down the odd "mass" or six.

So much for the good news - now the bad. Since the EEC ruled against Germany's famous Reinheitsgebot earlier this year, several Munich breweries have installed tank containers in the beer halls. Löwenbrau and Hacker-Pschorrbräu are now both 100% container beer, whilst Thomas-Paulanerbräu is half container and half wooden barrel. Augustinerbräu, Hofbräuhaus and Spatenbräu are still 100% straight from the wooden barrel.

As the attendance has increased by almost 50% in the last ten years, it is to be hoped that more licences will be granted to set up new beer halls. The 1986 Oktoberfest will take place between Saturday 20th September and Sunday 5th October.

BODDY COUNT

Manchester's favourite brewers reported increased half-year profits - up from £4.1 to £4.7 million. However, volume sales have decreased. The profit increase was due to improved margins and a 10% growth in lager sales. The acquisition of Oldham Brewery and Higsons means that Boddies' organisational structure is no longer appropriate and details of reorganisation will shortly be announced. What can this mean?

DEER DO

Bass plan to extend the Roe Cross at Mottram to provide a cocktail bar, restaurant kitchen and beer cellar.

CRUMPSALL CHEER

The Egerton, Hanlon Street, Crumpsall, is undergoing refurbishment. No structural changes are evident, but re-upholstered seats and wall-paper no longer dependent upon sellotape are promised. A welcome development in a friendly Holts pub!

THE END OF AN ERA?

Josephine and David Atherley, licensees of the Eagle on Collier Street, off Greengate, Salford, are retiring from the trade in the New Year. They have 26 years of pulling pints behind them; 9 years with Wilsons, four of them at the Grapes in Weaste, and seventeen at the Eagle. They are inviting CAMRA members and friends to a pint and a bite on Wednesday evening, January 8th. As it is such a small pub, it could get a little crowded.

Contributors: Ian McDermott, Leo King, Dave Shelton, Bill Collier, Phil Pearson, Steve Lawton, Paul Roberts, Jim Davies, Roger Hall, Stewart Revell, Ken Birch, Dave White, Paul Gaskell, Dave Hale

WHAT'S DOING - THE FIRST TEN YEARS

As What's Doing celebrates its 10th birthday, a new beer drinker's magazine is poised to hit the pubs of Greater Manchester. Judging by progress so far it's likely to come out every Christmas rather than every month - a sort of non-Rupert Annual. The magazine will be run by the massed CAMRA branches of Greater Manchester with the exception of North Manchester, who are carrying on with What's Doing. Back in February a meeting was held to discuss What's Doing. The minutes of that meeting say that the general consensus was that "the current publication was little more than a ragbag of information with a significant lack of analytical comment and little or no campaigning done." The more voluble critics were asked to submit analytical/campaigning articles and in the subsequent six months one such article was received and published. What a load of bollocks! What's Doing has been both campaigning and analytical since its first issue ten years ago.

The very first issue took Boddingtons to task for their rebuilding policy and the indiscriminate removal of handpumps. 1976 saw a Whitbread Campaign, a meeting with Boddies, the first Salford survey, campaigns about Sam Smiths and Wilsons, a regular radio spot and regular articles in the Salford Champion as well as articles analysing local brewers, the quality of real ale, lager and planning. CAMRA HQ were urged to do more campaigning and comprehensive lists of real ale pubs were first conceived.

In 1977 campaigns were waged about Whitbread, the Welcome Inn (which received national TV coverage) and Mild; articles were published about licensing hours, plastic pubs, the price of a pint and ale in clubs. The first comprehensive list was produced.

The following year the Whitbread campaign continued and there were spirited efforts to save the Old House at Home (Blackley), the Priory, the Old Veteran and the Grèy Mare (Salford), all of which received

considerable publicity in the press. Other articles concerned the declining quality of Boddies, John Smiths and beer strengths. Articles in 1979 concerned the state of breweries, the allocation of new pubs, pub swaps, prices, clubs, real lager, Oldham Brewery and John Smiths - the John Smiths article was republished in the Morning Advertiser and caused quite a furore.

In 1980 prices, opening hours, tied houses, mild and clubs were examined. A campaign began to save the Griffin in Heaton Mersey and an item about a road scheme which meant the demolition of several central Manchester pubs was reprinted in the Manchester Evening News.

In 1981 there were further pieces on mild, clubs, prices and Compulsory Purchase Orders, together with a Greenalls survey, a report on CPOs on Regent Road in Salford and articles critical of both Chesters mild and Bass's abysmal record in Greater Manchester.

1982 was when What's Doing first suggested inter-branch co-operation on central Manchester Good Beer Guide entries - which has still not occurred. Concern was also expressed about Boddies and Oldham Brewery, pub closures, Bass, Whitbread, prices, the Park Hotel (Wigan), the quality of real ale, "Houses of Horror", Greenalls, Tudor Taverns, mild, new pubs, measures, the aims of CAMRA and sartorial ejection. Quite a campaigning year!

In 1983 surveys were carried out into both Whitbread and Boddingtons, who were suitably buried on the front page. And there was still concern about doomed pubs, measures, Houses of Horror, tenants, pub preservation, the Park Hotel and Cook Street Brewery.

John Smiths began brewing real ale again in 1984 but there was still a lot to be worried about - mild, takeovers, beer quality, misleading adverts, Pennine Hosts, the Park Hotel, lager, Robinsons, listed buildings and closures in Salford.

1985 has been concerned with sartorial ejection, Boddingtons, Whitbread, Pennine Host, Matthew Brown, Greenalls and John Smiths as well as the old perennials - opening hours, prices, lager, pub preservation and takeovers.

What should What's Doing have been campaigning about and analysing for the last 10 years if it wasn't these things? As a result of their articles in What's Doing some contributors have been asked to write for numerous magazines and newspapers, as well as publishing books, being commissioned to write brewery histories and appearing on radio and television.

What's Doing will continue to be a "ragbag of information", if that's what it's been over the years. It will continue to circulate in Greater Manchester and the content will reflect the pub and ale news of the county. Perhaps in November 1995 we'll be able to see how campaigning and analytical the first 120 issues of the new magazine have been.

Roger Hall



It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a decent drink. Indeed, real aficionados of the hop have long made the annual pilgrimage away from these shores with their silly beers and pretend beer festivals to the real thing - the Krautley Amber Nectar Show. Year after year Beinlos, the barrel-

shaped accountant and other luminaries could be seen staggering about the beer tents of South Krautley.

Beinlos is nothing if not selfless and has endeavoured to spread the message to all and sundry. This year he persuaded mine host of Leech's, Charlie Bass, to accompany him. Charlie was surprised how quickly the weak, gassy Krautley beer made Beinlos quite incapable. Beinlos, who speaks the language like a native, was seen to disappear into taxis uttering instructions like, "Nehmen Sie mich zu Peel Green, bitte!" to nonplussed cabbies. This is comparable to his command of English in Grotley cabs: "Take ush to the Hofbräuhaus, pleaseh!"

Charlie, convinced that the amber nectar was about as strong as Grünhale, imbibed far too freely and could not be woken up until afternoon the following day, to the disgruntlement of the local Basil Fawty and the annoyance of Captain Goering of Lufthansa, who had to take him home. It was a shame that he does not have the stamina of the stalwart Beinlos, who stayed in a state of obfuscated bonhomie for another week.

It would be lovely if everybody lived happily ever after but sadly when Beinlos arrived chez-lui, Mummy Beinlos had changed the locks and left his belongings in a bin bag on the doorstep. Charlie Bass thought this was very funny until Beinlos moved in with him - not so far to stagger off to bed.

Meanwhile, back in the wilds of Spewham, Bert and Nora Tackler have been hard at it, burning the midnight oil, sharpening their John Bull kit to prepare the first edition of the Lesser Manchester Beer Drinker's Magazine - "Manky Ale" - which should be on the pub counters in time for the Coronation.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HULME

In the 1960's we enjoyed the finest modern music ever to have been made and it still lives in our memories to this very day. And at the same time who could ever forget the drastic takeovers of our favourite and famous breweries? - Chesters, Clarkes, Cornbrook Brewery, Groves & Whitnalls, Gartsides, Hardys, Openshaw Brewery, Rothwells, Swales, Threlfalls, Walkers (Warrington) and Yates - to name a few. Who could also forget the demise of our once-popular pubs of character? To add insult to injury, many of these former pubs have been replaced by new establishments near the sites of the originals. Some have retained the names of the originals, there are imaginative new names (Iron Duke, formerly Wellington) and inappropriate ones (Sir Henry Royce, formerly the Nelson). I am referring, of course, to Hulme and St Georges, once the most densely pubbed of districts, which has suffered a great loss. The replacement pubs have no character or atmosphere and of the 14 replacements, ten sell no real ale. Here is a list of the present-day pubs replacing the one-time greats:

PRESENT PUB

Boatmans Home (Tetley), City Rd E
Chequered Flag (Tet) Boundary La
Eagle (Wilsons) Hulme Walk

FORMER PUB OR PUBS

Boatmans Home (Walker), Chester Rd
Burlington (Walker) Greenheys La
Eagle (Wilsons) Stretford Rd

MOORHOUSE'S

PRIZE BURNLEY ALES

PREMIER BITTER (O.G. 1036°)
Silver Medal Award Winner, Brewex 83

PENDLE WITCHES BREW (O.G. 1050°)
Believed Strongest Bitter Brewed in the North-West

Both delivered weekly direct from brewery to cellar
Tel: Burnley (0282) 22864 - ask for Max Taylor

BREWING STRONG SINCE 1870!

*Falstaff (Wilsons) Jenner Close
Grey Parrot (Greenalls) City Rd
*Hussar (Wilsons) Arnott Cres

Iron Duke (Bass) Hulme Walk
Manchester Regiment (Greenall
Whitley) Hulme Hall Rd

*Red Admiral (Robinsons) Hulme Wk
Sir Henry Royce (Whitbread),
Royce Rd. (Vault modified from original Nelson)

Spinners (Wilsons) Rolls Cres

*Star (McEwans) Bentinck St

Unicorn (Greenalls) Erskine St

White Horse (Tetley) Hulme Walk

Falstaff (Wilsons) Clopton St
Grey Parrot (Groves) Bedford St
Ellesmere (Wilsons) Coupland St
York (Wilsons) Renshaw St
Wellington (Hardys) Stretford Rd
Hulme Hall Inn, Chester Rd
Ivy Leaf, Chester Rd; Chester Road
Inn (Mug Shop), Chester Rd (all
Groves & Whitnall)

Stretford Road Hotel (Robinsons)
Nelson Inn, Upper Jackson St

Unicorn (Wilsons) Chorlton Rd
(same name, site and brewer)

White House (Groves) Erskine St

White Horse (Walker) Stretford Rd

*** real ale**

None of these new pubs is a patch on the one it replaced and five of the most dismal pubs must surely be the Eagle, Iron Duke, Spinners, Star and the White Horse. Some compensation for such unimaginative pubs would have been the supply of traditional beer; all three Tetley and all three Greenalls pubs do not sell real ale - what a gloomy attitude to life!



The old Eagle.....

Never mind, we still have the good stuff from 19 outlets in the area. This comes from Bass (Last Hop), Boddingtons, Greenall Whitley (Pack Horse), Hydes, Lees, McEwans, Marstons, Robinsons, John Smiths, Tetley (Cornbrook Inn) and Wilsons. There are three non-real ale old pubs - Bulls Head (Whitbread), Chester Road; Crown (Bass), Epping Walk, and Railway (Bass), Cornbrook Park Road. It is pleasing to report that 7 pubs transferred to real ale from bright beer: Crown (John Smiths), Falstaff (Wilsons), Gamecock (Wilsons), Hussar (Wilsons), Last Hop (Bass), Platford (Chesters) and Star (McEwans), with just one loss, the Manchester Regiment (Greenalls).

We have lost Greenalls' only real ale outlet (Albert) and Lees mild at the Church, although Marstons Pedigree and Owd Rodger has been introduced at the Mancunian (Marstons).

The present real ale situation in Hulme and St Georges is very good. Out of 32 pubs, 19 sell real ale (60%). Bass, Whitbread, Greenalls and Tetley are exceedingly poor as real ale merchants; Wilsons perform much better with 5 of their 7 pubs selling real ale - the Eagle is still selling bright beer and the Spinners reverted to the fizz after only a very short period.

Leo King



.....and the new.



CAMRA CONDEMNATION

Sir - As a dweller on the vague border between North and South Manchester, as defined by British Telecom, I already need two telephone books to make good use of the phone. Now, on picking up the September issue of something called "Opening Times", I find that I will henceforth have to read two publications in order to find out about ale in the areas I

inhabit - Hazel Grove in the south up to Bolton and Rochdale in the north. This is daft.

Both are decent publications, apart from the awful Periwinkle page, which is puerile beyond imagination, so why not one publication - combining the talents and virtues of both?

Certainly as long as CAMRA members behave publicly in this manner - washing their dirty linen - outsiders like me will keep well out of the organisation itself, preferring to reap the benefits of CAMRA publications without the annoyances of political infighting in the

THE STATION

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

It's all been happening here
at the Station.....
Bill & Sylvia have settled in
and introduced various guest beers:
S&N 80/- Bitter, Hydes Anvil Mild & Bitter,
T. Taylors and Old Mill Bulldog to name but a few.
Spell binding Pendle Witch (0.1050) is our latest guest.
The "Upstairs" is now open for parties/trips -
your choice of food & favourite tipples provided - if we can.
So why not look in and give us a try!!

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

organisation itself.

Stan Beale

PS. I was pleased to read a favourable mention of the superb Gamecock in your Ashton Pub Crawl piece. It's the best thing to happen in Tameside since Labour regained power!

GETTING PISSED THE HEALTHY WAY

Sir - Your correspondent MAG of Levenshulme may be interested to learn that the "International Vegetarian Handbook", published by the Vegetarian Society, goes into some detail on the subject of beers acceptable to vegetarians and vegans.

It recommends a wide range of such beers which do not contain finings. Unfortunately these are by definition brewery conditioned and include such gems as Skol (except in southern England!!), most other lagers, Burtonwood and Greenalls keg and tank beers.

This list is perhaps more interesting for its omissions. Holts Brown Stout, for example, is fining-free, but the rest of the bottled range is not. Lees, Burtonwood and Greenalls bottled beers are recommended but there is no mention of Boddingtons or Hydes.

If MAG's "moral code" prevents the consumption of real ale from now on, brandy, gin, rum, vodka and whisky are all considered acceptable to vegans, as is the Britvic range of soft drinks.

A Crank

EARLY ALE

Sir - In recent local, regional and national beer guides it has been noted that most Wigan pubs open at 7pm, though licensing hours begin at 5.30pm. Recently, however, more pubs in and around Wigan town centre have reverted to 5.30pm opening, and in the interests of visitors and locals alike I have listed these below:

Seven Stars (Thwaites), Wallgate, Wigan
Swan & Railway (free), Wallgate, Wigan
Turnkey Cellars (Youngers), King Street, Wigan
Old Pear Tree Inn (Burtonwood), Frog Lane, Wigan
Bowling Green (Tetley), Wigan Lane, Wigan
Bricklayers Arms (Tetley), Hallgate, Wigan
White Horse (Burtonwood), Standishgate, Wigan

All the above serve at least one real ale, and in the case of the Turnkey Cellars a "Happy Hour" operates from 5.30pm to 7.00pm.

Paul Gaskell

ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page	£25.00 for 1 insertion	£20.00 per month for six insertions
$\frac{3}{4}$ Page	£20.00 for 1 insertion	£16.00 per month for six insertions
$\frac{1}{2}$ Page	£15.00 for 1 insertion	£12.00 per month for six insertions
$\frac{1}{4}$ Page	£7.50 for 1 insertion	£6.00 per month for six insertions



ASIAN CORNER

THE KOREANA

Previous reports have been of restaurants which reflect the cuisine of the Indian Subcontinent and of South-East Asia. Manchester now has two restaurants with cooking from the Far East - Japan and Korea.

The Koreana opened at 40a King Street West at the beginning of September and after some problems with the air conditioning is now fully operational. Korean cuisine owes much to both its neighbours China and Japan but is nevertheless distinctive in the same way that Provencal cookery is distinctive. Flavours are perhaps more subtle than Chinese restaurants produce and much use is made of marinades and barbecuing. As you would expect from a country almost surrounded by sea, fish and seafood feature prominently on the menu.

Some concession is made to western tastes by splitting the menu into appetisers, soups and main courses, whereas in Korea all three would be served together - the appetisers serving as side dishes and the soup to clear the palate. Unlike China and India, there seems to be no Korean vegetarian tradition and there is only one vegetarian main course on the menu. However, it would be possible to amalgamate several side dishes to produce an appetising meal.

The names of dishes on the menu may be totally unfamiliar - Gyeran Chim, Tuenjang Guk and Ojing-o Bokum aren't in most people's vocabulary, but the dishes are all described very well - for example, Sogogi Pa Sanjuk is "Marinated meat and spring onions, placed alternately on small skewers, soaked in beaten egg and shallow fried." If you fancy something out of the ordinary, give the Koreana a try. It's slightly more expensive than your average Chinese/Indian (£6-£7 without service), but well worth it. The Koreana is open from Monday to Saturday from 12.00-3.00pm and from 6.00pm-11.30pm, so you might have to forgo your last pint to ensure you get there in time.

HARP & SHAMROCK

Kim Chi

October's WD, whilst mentioning Barbara and Tony's move from the Harp & Shamrock, New Mount Street, Manchester, to Oldham, omitted their old pub from the comprehensive list of North Manchester's outlets for the magazine.

The new hosts, Sue and Malcolm, not only supply Manchester's favourite Beer Drinker's Magazine, but also sell handpumped Marstons mild, bitter and Pedigree at value-for-money prices in a traditional setting. Tucked away just off Rochdale Road, the pub, which has featured in the Good Beer Guide for most of the last ten years, is well worth a visit.



Branch Diary

WIGAN

Wed 20 Nov Branch Meeting, Flamingo Hotel (GW), Scholes, 8.30

To be confirmed - Coach trip to Cemetery free house, Rochdale, pending final dates and arrangements.

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

HIGH PEAK AND NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Sat 9th Nov Social with ROB branch, Game Cock, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne (free)

Tues 19 Nov 8.30pm Branch Meeting, Old Pack Horse, Guide Lane, Audenshaw (Robbies)

Tues 3 Dec Committee Meeting, Halters Arms, Church Lane, Marple (Robbies)

Tues 10 Dec Branch Meeting 8.30pm, Crown, Market St, Hyde (Robbies)

Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 6 Nov Awayday to Didsbury. Red Lion 7.30, Royal Oak 9pm

Weds 13 Nov Prince of Wales, Oldfield Rd, Salford, 8pm

Weds 20 Nov Crown & Kettle, Gt Ancoats St, 8pm. What's Doing's 10th Birthday Party

Tues 26 Nov Regional Meeting, Unicorn, Church Street, Manchester

Weds 27 Nov Price List Survey of central Manchester pubs. 7pm for 7.30pm start at the John Willie Lees, Withy Grove

Weds 4th December The Miles Platting Crawl (evening dress optional) Pack Horse 7pm, Lancaster 8pm

Weds 11 Dec Royal Oak, Boothstown, 8pm.

Weds 18 Dec White Swan, Swinton, 8pm

Fri 22nd Dec Branch Christmas Banquet. Meet Marble Arch 8pm

Weds 1 Jan 1986 Acronymous/Acrimonious Pub Crawl. Details next month

Contact Roger Hall 740 7930

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM AND BURY

Tues 5 Nov 8pm Branch Meeting, Bluebell (Holts), Manchester Road, Sunnybank, Bury

Fri 8 Nov Joint social with Stockport & South Manchester at Bridgewater, Stockport

Sat 9 Nov Lunchtime social with High Peak branch at Gamecock, Old Street, A-u-L

Tues 19 Nov 8pm Committee meeting, Help Me Thro' (Thwaites), Crostons Road, Bury

Sat 30 Nov Day out to Bradford including beer festival/curries/pub crawl

Tues 3 Dec 8pm Branch meeting Albert (Wilsons), Spotland Road, Rochdale

Tues 17 Dec 7.30pm Christmas party time at the Castle, Manchester Road, Rochdale

Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 928 6311 xt7111

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thur 7 Nov 8pm Committee/Social, Old Roebuck, Victoria Street, Altrincham. Come and meet the new committee. All welcome

Thurs 21 Nov 8pm Branch meeting, Pack Horse, Deansgate, Manchester city centre

Thurs 28 Nov 8.30pm Pub of the Month Award, Swan With Two Nicks, Little Bollington.

Note This is not the Bollington near Macclesfield

Thurs 5 Dec 8pm Committee/Social, Cheshire Midland, Ashley Road, Hale. All welcome

Contact David Shelton 061 795 2113 (h) 061 224 7341 x54 (w)

BOLTON

Sun 10 Nov 12 noon Sunday Social, Three Crowns (Tetley), Lower Leigh Road, Daisy Hill. 1pm Rose Hill Tavern (Holts), Leigh Road, Daisy Hill

Wed 13 Nov 8.30 prompt. Branch AGM, George (Wilsons), Great Moor Street, Bolton. **Will all branch members please make the effort to attend this meeting**

Wed 27 Nov 8.30 Committee meeting/Social, Derby Arms (Whitbread), Derby St, Bolton

Sun 8 Dec Pre-Christmas Crawl of Bolton Town Centre. Meet 7pm York (Burtonwood), 7.45

Clifton (Tetley & Jennings), 8.15 Ancient Shepherd (Thwaites), 8pm Prince William

(Boddingtons). Rest of the crawl to be decided on the night.

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

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