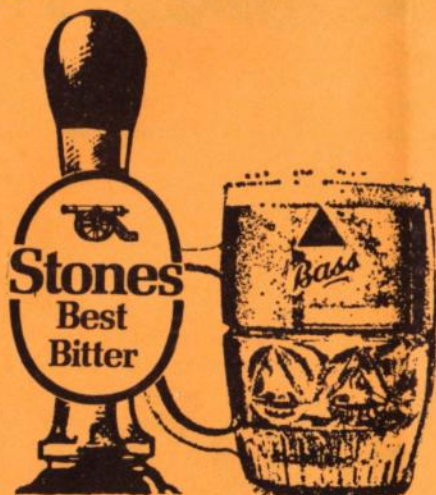


WHAT'S DOING



NOV
1986

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



BASS GO FOR CASK

Over the next six months Bass are installing at least one cask beer in hitherto keg-only managed pubs in the North West. This will mean that around 50% of Bass managed houses (some 300 pubs) will be serving real ale in the region - and in the Manchester area the figure is expected to be 70% real ale. Cask Stones is the favourite, although some pubs will be taking draught Bass and 4X mild.

This sounds very encouraging - particularly as it is expected that keg Stones will be taken out of the chosen outlets. Bass say they will be carefully monitoring the switch to real ale and managers will be given a comprehensive training in the handling of cask beer. They are spending around £250,000 on handpump dispense systems.

Three pubs in the Bolton area will soon be selling cask Bass - the New Inn, Ainsworth Road, Radcliffe; the Greyhound, Deansgate, Bolton, and the Freemasons, Market Street, Farnworth.

Stewart Revell

KING'S ALE

LEO KING

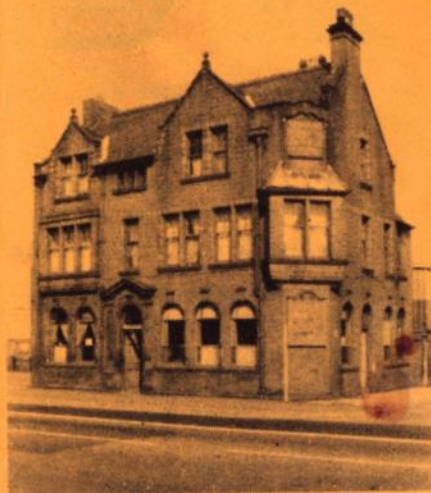
Boddingtons' new Wellington on Regent Road in Salford opened last month. It is somewhat larger than the old Wellington and I feel that the character and atmosphere of the new pub will not be the same as that of the old place. It is a straight-forward pub with no gimmicks, a large vault and a comfortable lounge. Boddingtons mild and



bitter are handpumped; the bitter retails at 72p, a bit over the odds for the area. (It can be compared with two other Salford Boddies pubs - Old Ship, Chapel Street, 70p, and the Railway, Broughton Road, 66p.)

If you like being fleeced in Manchester's city centre, why not visit Smithfield's on Shudehill? I have to admit there's a grand array of handpumped real ales: Tetley mild and bitter, Ind Coope Burton Ale and Jennings bitter. I ordered Jennings and was charged 84p. Point taken on my part - it's my last visit! In my opinion, rip-off pubs such as this one should not be recorded in any real ale guide (local, general or otherwise). Perhaps Smithfields should have stayed the way it was in bygone days - a bank - at least you got interest when you handed over your money.

The Spread Eagle (right) on Regent Road in Salford is closed and boarded up, the victim of yet another road-widening scheme. Regent Road was once a fine road, full of shops and pubs and bursting with activity. But like many other parts of Manchester and Salford it has gone to the dogs. Remember Stretford Road in Hulme and Alexandra Road (Alexandra Park district)? Who could forget! Alexandra Road wasn't a mecca for pubs (only two, one remains - the Little Alex), but what a great shopping area. Stretford Road, on the other hand, was well served with both pubs and shops - it was the



Cross Lane of Hulme. These fine areas have been mercilessly vandalised for the sake of the motorist. And they call it progress.

It was rumoured (wrongly) some time ago that the former Tetley pub, the King, on Oldham Street, Manchester, was to be acquired by Holts. The pub still appears to be closed. We could do with a Holts pub in central Manchester (after all, it is a Manchester brewery). Three Manchester breweries are poorly represented in the city centre. Hydes have just three small pubs - the Grey Horse, the Jolly Angler and the Dutton. The first is the only one highly noticeable, the second is hidden down a side street and the third is on the Strangeways/Cheetham boundary. Boddingtons can only offer two - the Old Garratt and the Fleece (sorry - Royal Central Hotel). So come on Holts, do the city proud and let's have a central outlet! And while you are at it, build one for me in Chorlton. I'm tired of gassy Bassy pubs.

INFLATION

Inflation, so HMG tells us, is now 3%. Why is it that brewers put up their prices by 6 or 7% a year? As excise duty hasn't risen, the real increase is nearer 10%. We should be told.

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! —

WIGAN & DISTRICT

DAVE WHITE

The Sir Robert Peel, a Whitbread pub on Manchester Road, Hindley, loudly proclaims "Traditional Ales" on the exterior. They must be talking about the bottled Guinness, as the draught beers are all Whitbread fizz. Traditional Whitbread beer - Chesters bitter - is available in Hindley, however, at the Derby Arms, Castle Hill Road.

Greenalls Original bitter is no longer on sale at the Railway Hotel, Garswood. The Local bitter and mild are still cask, but the handpumps, less than four years old, have been removed and "diaphragms" installed. Why?

More about handpumps. The wickets in the Bradley Hall Hotel, Bradley Village, have been made redundant. This remote free house has sold Walker Best and Lion bitter in the past, but only Tetley fizz was on sale recently.

Three Tetley houses in Atherton are up for tenancy. They are the Bay Horse, Bolton Old Road; the George VI, Flapper Fold Lane, and the Red Lion, Church Street. All sell real ale. Other tenancies up for grabs in the Leigh area include: the Tamar, Leigh (Walkers); the Stork, Marsh Green (keg), and the Manor Arms, Hindsford (keg, but due to be Walker-ised).

In Pemberton, the Enfield Inn, Enfield Street, was closed at the time of writing. Whether Watneys have any plans to Webster-ise the pub remains to be seen.

Finally, there has been an unaccountable omission from the 1987 Good Beer Guide. Namely, the Wheatsheaf Hotel in Appley Bridge, which sells excellent Greenalls mild and bitter on electric pumps. However, the pub will feature in the next edition of the Greater Manchester Good Beer Guide. The pub is just on the county boundary.

ELLESMERE

The Ellesmere in Walkden reopened on Thursday 16th October after a £150,000 facelift. This Tetleys pub was quite pleasant before it closed for alterations, but it did need something doing to it. The interior has been transformed, although the bar remains in the same place. The decor and embellishments are in the style of a typical 1986 Tetley conversion - lots of artificial greenery, soft lights, small raised areas and a shelfload of old books. Handpumped bitter will set you back 77p; mild is 74p. Food is available at lunchtime and a private room can be hired.



DROP INN FOR BREAKFAST

Monoton's newest real ale emporium, the Drop Inn, is serving breakfasts from 10.30am Monday to Saturday. These range from cereals to full English Breakfast, with egg and soldiers a speciality.

The bar opens at 11.30 and lunches are available from 12 to 2pm. From 5.30 to 8.30 there is a full a la carte menu. All this takes place in the smart dining area which is part of the recently opened extension to the left of the original pub. A second bar and new kitchen occupy the rest of the new premises.

Real ale still forms an essential element and Hydes Anvil Strong Ale has joined the Holts mild and bitter, Boddingtons bitter and guest beer.

Pete Cash

CONSERVATORY

The Old Bank Street Brewery, off St Ann's Square, Manchester, has re-emerged as the Conservatory. Handpumped Tetleys.

WHAT'S DOING is edited by Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 2AY. News, articles, letters, moans, etc, must arrive by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Send cheque/PO for £1.90, together with your name and address, to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester, for 6 issues. Cheques made out to "What's Doing".

BACK NUMBERS: 10p per copy. Send stamped, addressed envelope to Roger Hall, address above.

To Join CAMRA send £9 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

WHAT'S DOING ADVERTISING RATES: Enquiries to Phil Pearson, 16 York Street, Atherton, Manchester M29 9JD. Atherton 896569. Full page £25: ½ page £20: ¼ page £15: 1/8 page £7.50 Discount for 6 insertions: Full page £20: ½ page £16: ¼ page £12: 1/8 page £6

TAKEOVERS

PAUL ROBERTS

No news is good news. Nothing new to report this month, but the speculation continues with Matthew Brown at a new high of 555p (nearly £2 higher than the low following S&N's unsuccessful attempt). S&N have also been linked with a takeover bid for Vaux, but rumours of this are now fading. Trading in the shares of the Welsh favourite for a takeover bid - Buckleys - has slowed down.

REAL ALE IN SALFORD

In the three years since the last list of cask outlets was published, much has changed in the city. Despite all the demolitions there are now actually more real ale outlets. Even Whitbread have tied houses which serve traditional beer on a regular rather than spasmodic basis. Four new free houses have expanded choice in Salford and also in Eccles, where the proportion of pubs serving cask beer must be one of the highest in the country. Greenalls have switched the Duchy to handpumps but their record is nevertheless execrable with only $\frac{1}{3}$ of their pubs serving cask. John Smiths' four pubs are still all keg and Bass, the country's biggest brewer, sell real ale in only two of their 17 Salford outlets - what an abysmal performance! Real ale may be more widely available but we've still a long way to go - there are still 86 keg-only pubs in Salford.

SWINTON BLUES

The Football was once a pleasant four-roomed pub catering for a wide cross-section of customers. A bit tatty, perhaps, but nevertheless comfortable and inviting. The central lobby with rooms off and an economical bar helped to create the individuality which made the Football successful and popular. Alas, no more. Tetley's men have been in, knocked walls down and shifted the bar. They've left the pool room but the open layout is much like any other pub they've done. The pub's smarter and posher and the beers are still OK, but wouldn't the same amount of money have been better spent on redecorating and refurnishing? Multi-roomed pubs are excellent insofar as they can cater for a wider range of tastes - games, music, food, meetings - without impinging on other customers. Open planning means the brewery can pack in more punters per square foot and keep the profits rolling in whether their customers like it or not. Soon there won't be any decent pubs left.

NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee
No.10, part 2

ANGEL INN OLDHAM

Oldham's premier coaching house suffered some setbacks in the middle of the last century. The railways came, eventually wiping out the coaching business, and civic meetings were transferred to the newly-built Town Hall. William Hegginsbottom was landlord in 1854, when the inn was advertised as "Angel & Commercial Hotel (and Billiards and Assembly Rooms)". Mr Hegginsbottom's term as licensee ended abruptly when he committed suicide in 1859.



In 1881 Mary Addison (nee Yates) bought the Angel and set up Addison & Co. In 1884 there was a family split and Mary's two nephews, Simon and Peter Yates, established Yates Brothers & Co. The Angel Hotel became the first Yates's Wine Lodge and head office of the company. Peter Yates took the licence in 1884 and for a time lived at 293 Park Road, Oldham. Peter had very fixed views and a strong social conscience; as the company grew he distributed a newspaper encouraging health and moderation through their 20-plus wine lodges. He was licensee of the Angel on his death in 1944, aged 90.

Some Oldhamers will remember the Yates Bakery behind the wine lodge on the corner of Back Chapel Street, where delicious pork pies, cakes and wholemeal bread were made. One could eat a sandwich of beef from the Yates' farm, smoke a hand-rolled cigar from Yates' tobacco mill in Manchester and finish off with a sherry direct from Cadiz!

Charles P Yates, Simon's eldest son, was licensee until 1953. Richard D M Bird took over in that year and in 1986 he is the Metro's longest serving licensee. Richard Bird is also chairman of the Yates board, had a distinguished military career, was knighted in 1975 and became High Sheriff of Manchester in 1976.

In 1983 the wine lodge was halved in size, modernised and renamed the Angel - a name which it had not borne for 100 years! The latest

chapter in the history of Oldham's oldest licence began this year, when Yates's transferred the Angel to the former bank premises on Yorkshire Street.

PURE BEER



West Germany is seen by other Common Market countries as an opponent of free trade by hanging on to its centuries-old Reinheitsgebot (Purity Law) for beer and thus preventing the influx of beers which contain ingredients other than malt, water, hops and yeast. It's interesting to speculate on what may have happened in this country if we'd had a similar law governing the purity of beer. To start with, we would not have had the explosion of keg beers in the 1960s. This in turn would have led to a situation where local beers were of more importance than a national beer like Red Barrel (and the

series of takeovers and mergers which led to the Big Six may also have been averted.)

In more recent times a pure beer law would also have prevented the growth of Germanic-sounding ersatz fizz known as "lager". So if we'd had a pure beer law, we might now have had 600 local breweries brewing cask conditioned beer from real ingredients, no mega-breweries foisting junk on us and wrecking pubs, much more consumer choice and little or no lager at rip-off prices. But this, of course, would be in restraint of trade so it's just as well we didn't have a law, isn't it? We are now able to enjoy such delights as Heineken, Carlsberg, Fosters and Castlemaine XXXX, and shortly we'll be able to drink even cheekier amber nectars like Budweiser, Schlitz and Miller. What we should be doing is campaigning for an adulteration law which would encourage brewers to chuck potatoes, cornflakes and the odd dead sheep into the mash tun. This would encourage competition, see off our boring old beers, give us a much wider choice and make us the envy of Bavaria.

REAL ALE in SALFORD

Including Swinton & Pendlebury, Eccles,
Irlam & Cadishead and Worsley



★ ★ ★ KEY ★ ★ ★

M = Mild B = Bitter H = Handpumps E = Electric Pumps
 Ped = Pedigree (Marstons) OBB = Old Brewery Bitter (Sam Smiths)
 TadB = Tadcaster Bitter (Sam Smiths) Orig = Greenalls Original
 OT = Robinsons Old Tom BB = Robinsons Best Bitter
 Taylors RT = Ram Tam LL = Landlord BA = Bitter Ale

CITY OF SALFORD

Albert Park	Great Clowes Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Albion	Ordsall Lane	Tetley	B(H)
Beehive	Holland Street	Greenalls	B(E)
Black Friar	Blackfriars Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Borough	Encombe Place	Burtonwood	B(H)
Braziers	Hodson Street	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Bricklayers	Ordsall Lane	Holts	M,B(H)
Bridge	Strawberry Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Britannia	Bank Lane, IOH	Wilsons	B(H)
Broadway	Broadway	Holts	M,B(H)
Brown Bull	Chapel Street	Marstons	B,Ped(H)
Buskers	Blackfriars Road	Chesters M,B,Trophy(H)	
Chequerboard	Fallowfield	Wilsons	B(H)
Church	Ford Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Church	Hilton Street	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Coach & Horses	Eccles New Road	Sam Smiths OBB,TadB(H)	
Corporation	Cross Lane	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Crescent	Crescent	Holts M,B + guest (H)	
Crown	Blackfriars Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Dover	Fenney Street	Greenalls	B(E)
Druids Home	Silk Street Wilsons M,B:Websters Green Label,B(H)	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Duchy	Brindleheath Road	Greenalls	M,B(H)
Duke of York	Marlborough Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Eagle	Collier Street	Holts	M,B(H)
Feathers	Laundry Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Grey Mare	Eccles New Road	Greenalls	B(H)
Horseshoe	Back Hope Street	Bass	M,B(H)
Inn of Good Hope	Eccles Old Road	Wilsons B, Websters B(H)	
Irwell Castle	Great Clowes Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Jollies	Oldfield Road	Lees	M,B(H)
Jubilee	Tatton Street	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Kersal	Moor Lane	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Kildakin	St Kildas Drive	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Kings Arms	Oldfield Road	Holts	M,B(H)
King William IV	Springfield Lane Bodd B, Banks' B, Tetley M(H)	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Lord Nelson	Chapel Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Mariners	Liverpool Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Mark Addy	Stanley Street	Boddingtons	B(H)
Oakwood	Lancaster Road	Chesters	B(H)
Old House at Home	Whit Lane	Holts	M,B(H)
Old Priory	Priory Grove	Wilsons B, Websters B (H)	
Old Ship	Chapel Street	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Old Veteran	Eccles New Road	Greenalls M,B,Orig(H)	
Ordsall	Ordsall Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Oxford	Bexley Square	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Paddock	Cross Lane	Boddingtons M,B: Higsons B(H)	
Park Royal	Regent Road	Burtonwood	M,B(H)
Pen & Wig	New Bailey Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Prince of Wales	Oldfield Road John Smith B, Bodd B, Hydes M,B(H)		
Prince of Wales	Lower Broughton Road	Sam Smith Tad B(H)	
Priory	Gardner Street	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Punch Bowl	Chapel Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Railway	Broughton Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Railway	Oldfield Road	Greenalls	B(H)
Red Lion	Bolton Road, IOH	Holts	M,B(E)
Red Lion	Chapel Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Sabre	Taylorson Street	Holts	M,B(E)

Ship	Cross Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Sports	Belvedere Road	Wilsons	B(H)
Sportsmans Tavern	Regent Road	Chesters	B,Trophy(H)
Star	Back Hope Street	Robinsons	BB(E):M,OT(H)
Swan	Eccles New Road	Chesters	M,B(H)
Three Legs of Man	Greengate	Robinsons	M,B,OT(H)
Town Hall Tavern	Cleminson Street	Chesters	B(H)
Unicorn	Broughton Road	Greenalls	B(E)
Union Tavern	Liverpool Street	Holts	M,B(H)
Waggon & Horses	Bolton Road, IOH	Holts	M,B(H)
Wallness	Wallness Lane	Tetley	M,B(H)
Waverley	Eccles New Road	Chesters	B(H)
Wellington	Bolton Road, IOH	Holts	M,B(E)
Wellington	Regent Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Winston	Churchill Way	Holts	M,B(E)
Woolpack	Belvedere Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)

--- ECCLES & PATRICROFT ---

Airport	Liverpool Road	Chesters	B(H)
Albert Edward	Church Street	Sam Smiths	OBB,TadB(H)
Barton Inn	Cawdor Street	Chesters	B(H)
Bird in Hand	Liverpool Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Black Boy	Liverpool Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Bridgewater	Liverpool Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Brown Cow	Worsley Road	Robinsons	M,B,BB(H)
Church	Church Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Cross Keys	Church Road	Bass	Bass(H)
Crown & Volunteer	Church Street	Holts	M,B(H)
Diamond XX	Liverpool Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Dog & Partridge	Liverpool Road	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Drop Inn	Monton Road	Holts	M,B:Bod B(H)
Duke of York	Church Street	Ches M,B:Ped:TayRT,LL,BA:ThwB(H)	
Dutton Arms	Barton Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Egerton Arms	Worsley Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Ellesmere	King William Street	Holts	M,B(E)
Ellesmere	Liverpool Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Fox Vaults	Church Street	Greenalls	B(E)
Golden Cross	Liverpool Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Golden Lion	Barton Lane	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Grapes	Liverpool Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Jolly Carter	Worsley Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Kings Head	Barton Lane	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Lamb	Regent Street	Holts	M,B(H)
Monton Green	Monton Road	Wilsons M,B:Websters	B(H)
Oddfellows	Church Street	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Old Bulls Head	Church Street	Holts	M,B(H)
Packet House	Liverpool Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Park	Monton Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Queens Arms	Green Lane	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Railway	Church Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Red Lion	Chapel Street	Boddingtons	B(H)
Royal Oak	Barton Lane	Holts	M,B(H)
Ship Canal	Barton Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Stanley Arms	Liverpool Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Star	Barton Lane	Greenalls	B(E)
Town Hall	Church Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Unicorn	Liverpool Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Waggon & Horses	Liverpool Road	Tetley	M,B(H)

Wellington	Church Street	Holts	M,B(H)
Wellington	Worsley Road	Greenalls	M,B(E)
White Horse	Gilda Brook Road	Robinsons	M,BB(E)
White Lion	Liverpool Road	Holts	M,B(H)

WORSLEY (including Walkden & Little Hulton)

Albion	Manchester Road East	Tetley	M,B(H)
Bell	Manchester Road East	Tetley	M,B(H)
Bridgewater	Barton Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Cock	Walkden Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Dun Mare	Salford Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Ellesmere	Walkden Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Greyhound	Boothstown	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Kenyon Arms	Manchester Road West	S&N	70/-, IPA(H)
Morning Star	Manchester Road	Holts	M,B(E)
Pied Piper	Eastham Way	Robinsons	M,BB,OT(E)
Royal Oak	Leigh Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Spa	Old Lane	Wilsons	B(H)
Vulcan	Worsley Road North	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
White Lion	Manchester Road West	Boddingtons	M,B(E)

SWINTON & PENDLEBURY

Albert	Bolton Road	Boddingtons	B(E)
Beehive	Rake Lane	Tetley	M,B(H)
Bowling Green	Bolton Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Buckley Arms	Partington Lane	Tetley	M,B(E)
Bulls Head	Chorley Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Butchers	Bolton Road	Thwaites	B(H)
Cricketers	Manchester Road	Holts	M,B(E)
Farmers	Manchester Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Football	Swinton Hall Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Foresters	Chorley Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Golden Lion	Bolton Road	Chesters	B(H)
Henry Boddington	Bolton Road	Boddingtons	B(H)
Lord Nelson	Bolton Road	Holts	M,B(E)
New Cross	Swinton Hall Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Newmarket	Bolton Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Park	Worsley Road	Holts	M,B(E)
Robin Hood	Bolton Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Weavers	Swinton Hall Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
White Horse	Worsley Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
White Lion	Worsley Road	Robinsons	M,B,OT(E)
White Swan	Worsley Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Windmill	Bolton Road	Sam Smiths OBB, TadB(H)	

IRLAM & CADISHEAD

Boathouse	Boat Lane	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Coach & Horses	Liverpool Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Lion	Liverpool Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Nags Head	Liverpool Road	Chesters	M(H)
Railway	Liverpool Road	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
White Horse	Liverpool Road	Tetley	M,B(H)

WHAT DOES CAMRA DO?



PETER BARNES

Last month's article, "What is CAMRA" - a re-statement of its aims and ideals - is now followed by an explanation of what CAMRA actually does.....

At the national level the main functions, carried out by the National Executive and CAMRA headquarters in St Albans, are as follows:

LOBBYING of Government departments and other official bodies. Over the years CAMRA has made submissions to such bodies as the Food Standards Commission, the Price Commission, the Director of Fair Trading, the Home Office and the EEC, and has helped to bring about many reforms in the brewing industry affecting the choice of beer, the information given to beer drinkers in pubs and the monopoly powers of the larger brewers.

PUBLICITY in support of CAMRA's ideals and to counteract the misleading mass media advertising of the brewers. The publicity machine is especially active in helping to resist brewery takeovers and the inevitable loss of choice which results.

PUBLISHING the Good Beer Guide, which lists the best 5,000 pubs serving real ale. Also a full-time publications editor produces or sponsors a range of useful publications and promotional material and publishes the excellent monthly "What's Brewing".

ORGANISING THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL, which has been held in various parts of the country. This is a major CAMRA event; a shop window for the Campaign, attracting new members and providing an opportunity to sample from over 200 different beers.

PUB PRESERVATION AWARDS are made each year by the Campaign's Pub Preservation Group for the best new pub and the best refurbishment. The group, which includes architects, solicitors and planners, has also successfully opposed some demolitions and has gained the DoE listing of several buildings of special merit.

All this high-level activity is complemented by the work of a grass-roots army of 20,000 members contained within 170 branches. The members have an intimate local knowledge of the pubs and breweries in their area. They provide the raw material for the Good Beer Guide and make recommendations for Pub Preservation Awards. They conduct surveys, monitor prices, produce comprehensive local guides and local magazines. Specific local campaigns are mounted, such as the recent "Ask for Wilsons" campaign. And local CAMRA groups have supported

applications to licensing sessions for an increase in permitted opening hours.

In addition there is a lively social scene: socials and games nights; local beer festivals; trips to breweries; visiting speakers and, of course, the occasional pub crawl.

If you are interested in campaigning on the social side, come along to our meetings (see Branch Diary). In addition to North Manchester (including Salford) and Wigan, the other branches in the Greater Manchester area are: Bolton; Rochdale, Oldham & Bury; Trafford & Hulme and Stockport & South Manchester (including Tameside).



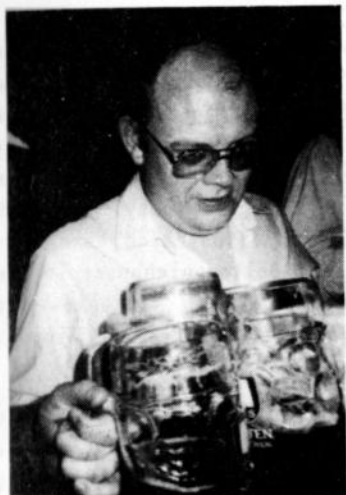
ANOTHER NEW HOLTS PUB

The Dukes Gate, Little Hulton, opened its doors on Friday 3rd October. The licence for this new pub comes from the Spread Eagle on Regent Road, Salford, at the time of writing waiting for the demolition men. The Dukes Gate is the third new Holts pub to be opened this year, the others being the Grafton Arms, C-on-M, and the Atherton Arms.

The design and layout of the Dukes Gate is very pleasing. There is decorative panelling inlaid with leaded glass around the large lounge and near to the entrance is a framed map on the wall. This depicts the area of Little Hulton around the year 1765 and explains the pub's name - Dukes Gate Farm once occupied the site.

The Dukes Gate is on Cleggs Lane, just after the houses and before the bridge over the M61. Handpumped bitter is 62p and mild 59p (lounge prices), but prices usually go up before Christmas. Licensee is Mrs Margaret Bailey, formerly of the Lord Nelson, Urmston.

Stewart Revell



DRUNKEN DECADE IN DEUTSCHLAND

Paul Roberts

Being a true glutton for punishment (or, as some would say, just a glutton), this year's jaunt to the Munich Amber Nectar Show was my tenth consecutive visit.

Despite a determined effort by the regular Manchester drunks (some even more drunk than usual), last year's record of 5,200,000 litres could not be bettered. Only 5,000,000 litres were consumed this year by the 6.7 million visitors (7.1 million last year). Records were set in the food - 75 oxen, 1,400,000 half chickens and 77,000 knuckles of pork were eaten.

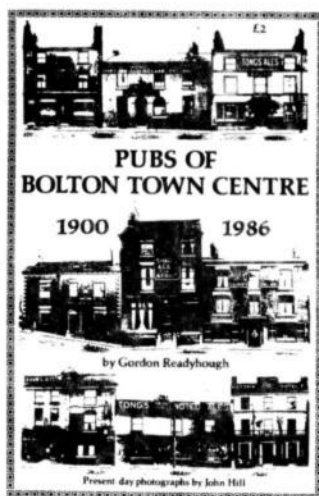
The price this year was DM6.50 per litre, which compares favourably with DM4.25 ten years ago - an increase of 50%. Back in Grotley ten years ago Holts was 24p, Boddingtons 25p and Wilsons 27p - they have almost trebled in price.

The Oktoberfest is a mere dot on the Bavarian beer map. Although Munich boasts only six breweries, another 100 or so are situated in the villages around the city. These include the oldest brewery in the world at Weihstephan (right), near Freising. This has been on the same site since 1040. Other less ancient breweries worthy of note are Erdinger Weissbier (below), Ayinger (as in Sam Smiths), Prince Luitpold's Kaltenberg Castle Brewery



and the two monastic breweries of Markt Inkersdorf and Andechs. The latter is a true gem and lies near Herrsching on Lake Ammersee. Although only a small monastery, it boasts a large beer hall and beer garden where the Spezial Helles and Dunkles Doppelbock are served straight from the barrel (DM5 and DM5.40 per litre). Here a pleasant afternoon can be spent in alcoholic oblivion.

The 1987 Festival will take place from 19th September until 4th October.



BOLTON BOOZING

This month sees the publication of Gordon Readyhough's "Pubs of Bolton Town Centre 1900-1986". It is a directory of all the public houses and beerhouses within easy walking distance of the town hall - over 150 of them in 1900, 43 today. The book is extremely well illustrated, and also contains lists of Bolton alehouses in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and articles on Bolton breweries and licensing hours.

Copies can be had from all good bookshops or from Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Rd, Swinton, Manchester, for £2.25 (including postage).

TRUE GRIT

In an interview on the Business Programme (Ch 4 19 Oct) Michael Delahooke, representing Watney Mann, said that Australia had the same gritty image for lager as Yorkshire (sic) has for bitter. Last time I got grit in my mouth I spat it out.

RINGING THE CHANGES

Holts have applied for permission to alter the Bluebell in Moston. Built at the turn of the century, the Bluebell has already undergone one transformation when the billiard table was removed. It's certainly in need of a lick of paint and Holts these days tend to carry out their renovations with some care.

MACC GUIDE

REAL ALE
in and around
MACCLESFIELD
and **BOLLINGTON**

1986
UPDATE

The Macclesfield and East Cheshire Branch of CAMRA are re-launching their local beer guide with an update. Chesters, Taylors and - you guessed it - Websters have arrived in the area and choice appears to be improving. The guide, together with the update, can be had for £1.20 (inc p&p) from Jim Bowen, Dale View Farm, Jumper Lane, Rainow, Macclesfield SK10 5UT. Send s.a.e for the update only.

WILSONS

There have been a number of complaints about the quality of Wilsons bitter since production moved to Halifax. Strangely, the mild does not seem to have deteriorated, although it does seem to be both darker and yeastier than hitherto. If your licensee complains to the brewery, they may send a representative down to hear your grievances, even though they seem keener on promoting lager. Managed houses have been offered special discounts to encourage sales.

SWINGING

The Swinging Bridge, which WD accused of masquerading as a free house some time ago, now really is a free house. There is a partial tie with Whitbread and their three draught beers are still sold, but an additional three real ales are now also on permanent sale - Thwaites bitter, Marstons Pedigree and Taylors Landlord. There's no likelihood of mild and the prices are on the top side in what is an upmarket pub. There's no vault and the emphasis is on food - lunch can cost from 65p (sandwiches) to £13 (lobster) and there's an early evening special at £3.95. In addition to the 6 draught beers, which are always in excellent condition, owner Chris Browning has an enormous range of exotic bottled beers and over 40 wines. The Swinging Bridge has been so successful that Chris now plans to build a motel behind the car park.

PRIZE PUFF

Websters have won 6 gold medals in an international brewing competition held in Geneva, it says in this press release. As some of the prizes were for keg and tinned beer as well as the ubiquitous super-bland, you can't help thinking that the judges didn't know what they were doing, particularly as Holts' PR people have kept an ominous silence about their brewery's performance at the jolly.



Branch Diary

WIGAN

Wed 12 Nov 8.30 Branch Meeting, Swan & Railway, Wallgate, Wigan
Wed 26 Nov 8.30, Social, Red Lion, Gerrard St, Ashton-in-Makerfield
Contact Brian Gleave, Atherton 892965 (h), Atherton 876200 (w)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 12 Nov Committee meeting, Lancaster, Oldham Road, 8pm
Wed 19 Nov, Osborne, Rochdale Road, 8pm. Speaker from Banks's Brewery
Wed 3 Dec. Brindleheath. Feathers 7pm, Church 8.30pm
Wed 10 Dec Gardeners Arms, Moston 8pm
Wed 17 Dec, Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton, 8pm
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

RUPERT'S PAGE



If, gentle reader, you are having difficulty reading this through binoculars and a seebakroscope, I can only apologise and hope you don't end up slitty-eyed (copyright Phil the Greek 1986). My less exalted position is, I think, due to a missive received by Mr Nestfeather. A crumpled, crayoned note in Eddy's rubbish bin could only have come from Sir Tom Duckfoot. It asks Eddy to "replace this wally" and refers to my erudite outpourings as "cobbled together from a couple of old egg boxes". Bunty was incensed and wanted to set off for Sheepshaggings straight away to nail Sir Tom's head to a coffee table. I pointed out that all the furniture was rubber and that the act of vengeance might rebound on him. I can't say that I'm as happy as a bastard on Father's Day either, but time is a great healer.

What's Doing is still banned from Leech's but Charlie Bass seems to be out of favour with Ben Chestnut, who's launched the Toper's Vademecum from a rival hostelry which doesn't even have a real fire. Perhaps we can sell this organ in Snobley where Humphrey Dumpty's upset the tavern keepers. He had the temerity to suggest in Opening Tripe that Snobley's hostelries were scabby grotholes full of slovenly snotty staff with tortoise-like dynamism and Grade II listed food. The unreasonable boring old farts reacted by burning millions of Opening Tripes and back numbers of Manky Ale, chucking bricks through their CAMRA mirrors, divesting themselves of their CAMRA cravats, sweat-shirts, cufflinks, split crotch pantiehoose, ponchos, kimonos, Mao suits and revolving cummerbunds and ripping up their Good Beer Guide stickers.

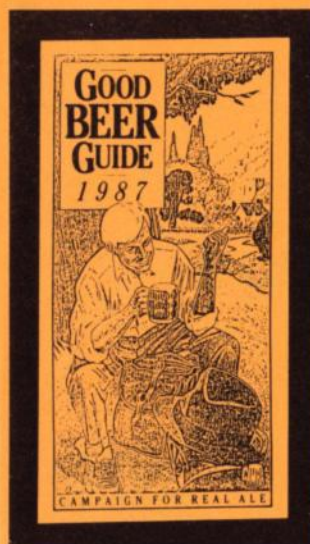
Snobley Hotel, Inns and Taverns Union (SHITU) said that they wouldn't have anything to do with the Campaign, which was just a bunch of ignorant bastards who knew bugger all about pubs, not like what they did. Quite right too. What on earth can people who spend their time surveying pubs, tasting beers, selecting pubs for beer guides and writing about pubs know about pubs? Mr Dumpty and his crew obviously haven't got a clue about half of what goes on.

This only goes to prove that criticism is wrong. When the hostelries are given bouquets and pub-of-the-minute awards everything's hunky-dory, but mention ever so slightly a minor fault like dirty glasses, rotten food, squalor and pediculous staff or even cloth-eared bar-persons and what happens? The brown stuff hits the fan and you're

knocked off your pedestal and treated like something the dog brought in.

Let this be a lesson to us all. If you're in Snobley, hide your CAMRA badge and if you're served short measure of overpriced rank beer in a filthy glass by a dishevelled megalomaniac with a dog end in his mouth don't say a word - just sup up and be grateful. You are, after all, only a customer, so get what you're given and smile. And don't bother going in the Iron Horse either because Ollie's fallen out with the rest of the Laurel & Hardy branch and kicked out Stan Craap for not drinking the residues of the amber nectar show.

Oh, and don't try to buy a Manky Ale from Charlie Bass. He's banned that as well. The young naughties said he shouldn't sell lager. He's not paranoid at all; he's a reasonable human being just like his oppos in Snobley.



GOOD BEER GUIDE

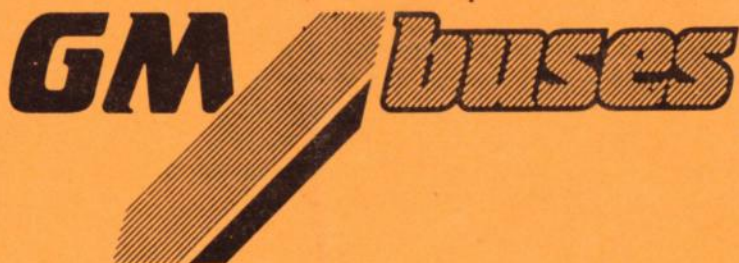
Yes, it's out again and what good value it is too! 5,000 pubs from all over the country selected by a band of dedicated pissartists (sorry, volunteers). Balanced political jokes, this time, as well. An essential companion for the traveller and it's only £4.95, or even less if you go along to a branch meeting. But who on earth selected the Spinners in Salford, which has been burnt out?

MODERNISATION

Two of Farnworth's Tetley pubs will be shut for a few weeks for refitting. They are the Saddle (King Street) and the White Hart (Albert Road). The Saddle has suffered several half-hearted modernisations in the past, and the White Hart is rather a good pub. Wonder what Tetleys have in store for us?

TANNER'S WORTH

Innocently making his way down Market Street, Manchester, the other day, our correspondent was stopped by a lady with a clipboard. Did he drink beer? On reassuring her that he did have the occasional glass, he was invited to pass judgement on a sample she offered him. It was cold, wet and very gassy. It was SEN's new low alcohol "Half Shilling". Our correspondent made his excuses and left.



Late evening buses
now even later –
last buses up to 2330
on main routes

Don't drink and drive



Go by bus



061-273 5341

