

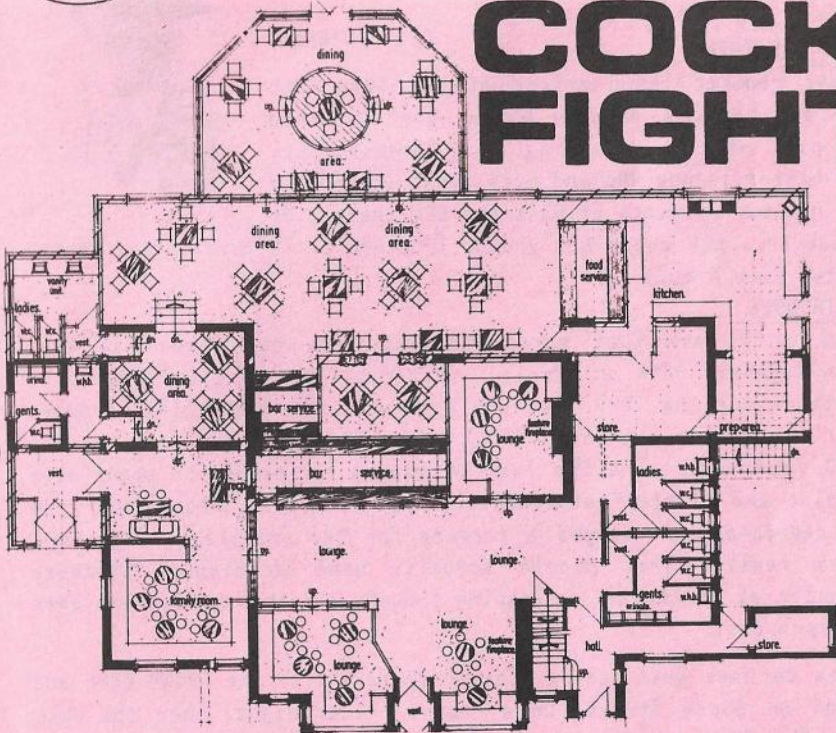
WHAT'S DOING

NOV
1987



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

COCK FIGHT



Boddingtons have announced their plans for the transformation of the Cock Hotel, Worsley, into a licensed restaurant. They plan to virtually rebuild the place, adding a large dining room and, as the plan shows, the vault area will become a dining room, reception and family room. Boddingtons apparently couldn't care less about the people who have been using the Cock for years and so the pub regulars have organised to fight the proposal. There are already plenty of restaurants in the area, and a transformation of the Cock Hotel into something like the awful Henry Boddington in Swinton is a change Worsley can well do without!

Boddingtons will be putting forward their plans at Eccles Magistrates Court on 20th November. There will be objections from the Cock's customers, who would be grateful for all the support they can get. If you know the Cock Hotel and like it the way it is, go to the hearing and object to the proposal. Or make your feelings known in writing to the Clerk to the Justices, Eccles Magistrates Court, Irwell Place, Eccles M30 0FN.

CITY DESK

IT MAKES YOU THINK

Peter O'Grady



Bass have reduced their prices at the TOWN HALL TAVERN, Tib Lane. A massive 4p has been deducted from a pint of Bass - making it a "modest" 96p. (Stones bitter is now 90p and Bass Light is 86p) So you can now buy 25 pints of Bass for £24 instead of 24. (However...£24 would buy you 30.77 pints of Tetleys at the nearby GBG-listed City Arms.)

DOUBLE TROUBLE

It's not only Bass that makes mistakes. The hot rumour is that Tetley's keg-only BANK on Mosley Street is due to close soon. The big mistakes are the very loud music played, the high prices charged (90p for keg bitter - when the City Arms sells the real stuff for 78p only 100 yards away) and the lack of places for people to stand with their "pint and platter" at lunchtime! Not everyone wants to sit down and be deafened and charged a fortune for the privilege. Why can't breweries realise that people actually need to discuss business occasionally at lunchtime - "leaning space", quietness and cheap beer help the process!

Bass seem to have just made a similar mistake with the CROWN CAFE and PIANO BAR on Booth Street. On a recent Friday night, when the City Arms and the Vine Inn over the road were bursting at the seams, there were 22 people in the five-years-out-of-date CROWN - where once again bitter is 90p a pint!

OSCARS on Cooper Street is due to reopen after a lengthy closure. Let us hope that Websters/Wilsons learn from the mistakes made by their nearby rivals (Crown, Bank, Town Hall Tavern). City Desk and friends can be contacted for free advice through the editor.

WHITBREAD IN SALFORD

On October 14th, Whitbread disputed a What's Doing claim that only 5 of their 29 pubs in Salford sold real ale regularly. Their estimate was 18. Three days later a small CAMRA team visited all the houses to update the information.

<u>NO REAL ALE</u>	<u>ONE REAL ALE</u>		<u>TWO REAL ALES</u>	<u>THREE REAL ALES</u>
Albert	Grosvenor	B	Dover Castle M B	Buskers M B T
Brass Handles'	Lowry	B	Lima	M B
Broughton	Swan	B	Salford Arms M B	
Flat Iron	Tallow Tub	M		
Flemish Weaver	Town Hall	B		
Golden Gate	Waverley	B		
Griffin				

Hobsons Choice

Langworthy

North Western

Oakwood

Regent

Sportsman²

Star

Two Brewers

Unicorn

Vavasour²

Weaste

Ye Olde Nelson

NOTES

1 A single pump offered Chesters bitter. The barman drew some off but wouldn't sell it: "The keg is not right". In any case, he maintained, it was no different from the other beers - the "hand-pump" was in fact electric.

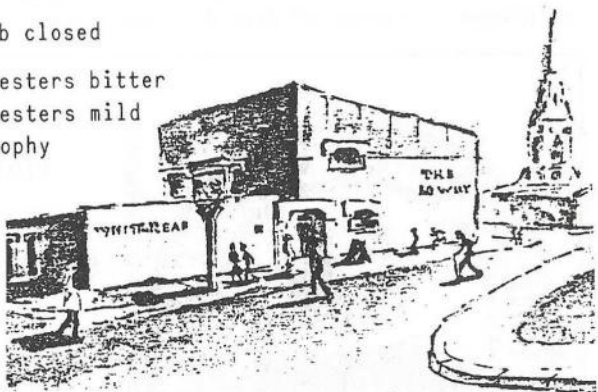
2 Pub closed

B Chesters bitter

M Chesters mild

T Trophy

Mild had been tried at the Swan and the Lowry but didn't sell. The latter has been pleasantly refurbished and has a keen landlord committed to real ale.



The Salford Arms is commended for selling 100% cask beer - not a keg in sight. The Dover Castle had better quality beer, but ask for Chesters or you are likely to get keg Trophy or light.

Buskers is unique in Salford in selling traditional Trophy as well as Chesters mild and bitter.

Overall, then, slightly better than we feared, but nowhere near the official claim of 18. Only 4 out of 29 offered a choice of real ale, with another six providing just one. Compared with local competitors

such as Boddingtons and Holts, who offer a choice in every pub, this hardly represents a strong commitment to real ale in the city where the now doomed brewery operates.

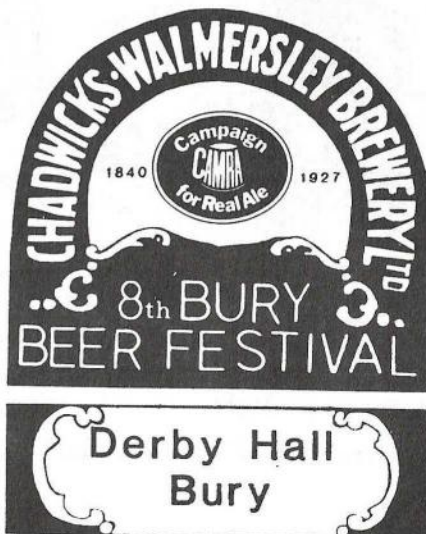
Pete Cash

WINDMILL MUSEUM

In an attempt to regain its beer drinkers in preference to young persons who swill Pils lager and then either fall over or cause trouble, a promotion night is to be held at the Windmill, Manchester Road, Carrington, on Thursday 12th November. Three Sam Smiths beers will be available on handpump - Tadcaster Bitter, Old Brewery Bitter and Museum Ale. There may also be competitions such as the yard of ale and beer mat flicking, and there is even the possibility of cheap beer on the night - turn up and find out for yourself!

MORE CHESTERS LOST

Chesters mild has now been withdrawn from the Volunteer, Cross Street, Sale, due to abysmal sales of less than 18 gallons per week. The landlord had done well to keep it in good form at such a poor level; don't drinkers like beer with flavour any more? The pub is scheduled to be closed in the New Year for 6-8 weeks for yet another refurbishment - after which it is possible that Chesters bitter may also be withdrawn in favour of tank beer all round.



FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER
&
SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

Sessions:

11.30am - 3.00pm
5.00pm - 11.00pm

Over 30 different Real Ales

Good quality local food

Entertainment

Commemorative Glasses

Admission:

Lunchtime 50p
Evening £1.00

Free to card carrying
CAMRA members

BODDIES GO FOR NON-TRADITIONAL BEER

Boddingtons are now producing brewery-conditioned bitter for sale to the free trade. At the Pubs 'n' Clubs Show at G-Mex it was dispensed by handpump. The brewery are evidently cashing in on their good name - but will point-of-sale advertising make it clear that this is not the traditional beer on which their reputation is based?



THE WEDGE THICKENS

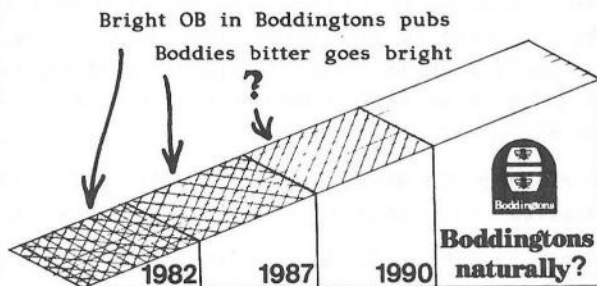
In 1982 Ewart Boddington said: "Boddingtons' locally-brewed, traditional bitter and mild, with their faithful and still growing following, are the core of our business, and I have no doubt that they will continue to be so for many long years to come."

At the same time Boddies introduced OB chilled and filtered mild to 30 Boddingtons houses. What's Doing described this as the thin end of the wedge.

For years Boddies sold only real ale on draught in their houses. Having established the principle of serving other beers, we wondered how long it would be before a non-real Boddies beer emerged from Strange-ways. And now that brewery conditioned beer is on sale in the

free trade, how long will it be before the tied houses are selling it? Will a bright Boddies mild be introduced? Will bright bitter replace OB beers or Higsons beers? Will volume production of Higsons and OB be threatened? Will their breweries survive? Five years is a long time in Brewing.

It's not difficult to see why Boddies should want to move into the bright beer market. At the moment their share of the free trade real ale market is almost 50% in this area. The tank/keg market in the free trade is six times greater and Boddies' share of this is tiny. An increase to, say, 10% would give them greater volume than their current free trade sales. Their existing bright beers, OB and Higsons, don't have the same clout as the heavily advertised Boddies bitter - hence the move.



WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

Wigan town centre has gained a real ale outlet and lost one in the last few weeks. The good news is that the TUDOR ARMS HOTEL, New Market Street, is now selling draught Bass and Stones Best Bitter on hand-pump, after a generation on keg Tetleys. The Bass products, I am told, are in good condition.

On the minus side, the FLAMINGO, a Greenalls pub in Scholes, has gone over to keg beer, courtesy of the new landlord. The uninspiring pub-crawl that I drew up in June's WD is now worse than ever, with only the BLACK BULL (Tetley) and the SILVERWELL (Walkers) selling real ale; and this in an area of Wigan once famed for its pubs.

Elsewhere in Wigan, however, there is a chance of things improving. The WHITESMITHS ARMS, Standishgate, has been closed these last eighteen months; but I understand that an interested party has approached Boddingtons about the pub, one of the most famous in Wigan.

Meanwhile, up the Wiend, Thwaites JOHN BULL CHOPHOUSE could possibly be converted to traditional beer in the foreseeable future. The BULL is perhaps the best pub in Wigan to sell keg beer; Thwaites would have a goldmine on their hands if cask ale was available, so wake up there in Blackburn!

Further up the Wiend, LET'S WINE BAR remains closed. Tetleys were once bruited as possible buyers, but they appear to have lost interest now.

Sorry to rub it in, but outlets of Burtonwood JBA premium bitter are getting fewer by the week. The ale has disappeared from the OLD PEAR TREE, Frog Lane, and the ROYAL, Bank Street, Golborne. The latter pub was the original flagship for Almonds bitter a few years ago when Burtonwood resurrected the name. JBA is still available at RAFFLES on Millgate, Wigan, and the ALEXANDRA, Swan Lane, Hindley Green.

Still with Burtonwood, cask mild has been replaced by the chilled and filtered variety at the OLD ORIGINAL SEVEN STARS, Preston Road, Standish. Cask bitter remains.

More pubs selling keg beer, but advertising traditional ale (see Oct WD), have been uncovered. The Wooden Spoon this month goes to the ANGEL HOTEL, Warrington Road, Ashton in Makerfield (Burtonwood) and BLAIRS, Wallgate, Wigan, a Greenalls outlet. There ought to be a law against it...

Tetley bitter has replaced Walker Best at the CUMBERLAND ARMS, Chapel Green, Hindley. There are now very few Tetley houses left in Wigan

Metro that still serve Walkers. The BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Hallgate, Wigan, is a rare example.

Another rare brew round here is Greenalls Original Bitter, but it is now available at the FORESTERS ARMS, Shevington Moor Road, Almond Brook. Despite the absence of a pump clip, the beer is selling well at 82p a pint. The "Local" bitter is also very good in the FORESTERS, and the food is recommended.

Finally, a word on how a possible SEN takeover would affect the Matthew Brown pubs in Wigan. From Abram to Garswood and from Coppull Moor to Winstanley, you will find a Matthew Brown pub selling processed beer. There are nearly a score of keg Brown pubs scattered around the district and they are as much a part of Wigan as is Lancashire hot-pot, or the Pier. When Matty Brown have made changes to their pubs, the refurbishments have reflected the needs of the local community, such as the ROCK ROCK CAFE in Lower Ince. The message to Scottish & Newcastle, then, is simple but heartfelt - stop bugging about with our tradition!

NEW BOOK

Mike Ogden's history looks at brewing in the town over the last 200 years. There are articles on Stockport's "Big Six" breweries (Robinsons, Clarkes, Bells, Worralls, Cliftons and Showells), 16 small breweries and many "home brew" pubs. Well illustrated, the book will soon be available from all good bookshops or by post from Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester, for £2.65.

DROP OUT

The Drop Inn, Monton's popular free house selling Holts and Boddingtons, is no more. John Smiths have bought the place. What a shame - it was nice while it lasted!

UNLUCKY FOR SOME

The GBG Horseshoe on Back Hope Street in Broughton has had a change of tenant. The new licensee kicked out the cask mild and switched the Bass Special for Stones. After complaints by the customers, Bass assure us that the cask mild has been restored but that cask Stones will remain as this is Company Policy. Yet another National cask beer?

A HISTORY OF STOCKPORT BREWERIES



Mike Ogden

£2.25

KING'S ALE

Leo King

The Victoria (Boddingtons), Mauldeth Road/Burnage Lane, Burnage, has had handpumps for some time now, replacing the electric pumps. Believe me, the beer tastes much better since the installation - so there must be something to be said for handpumps! Over in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, the proposed modernisation of the Southern Hotel (Boddies again) has not yet materialised. This pub, on the corner of Mauldeth Road West and Nell Lane, had a £250,000 modernisation some time ago which, if anything, made the place more drab! The electric pumps are of the same type which were in use when the Southern was a Swales pub (a brewery acquired by Boddingtons in November 1970). I wonder if they are the same ones?

Earlier this year WD reported that Bass were to change a number of pubs to real ale. The Bowling Green in Chorltonville was mentioned but the beer here is still the fizzy stuff. I don't think this place or the Lloyds on Wilbraham Road have sold a teaspoonful of real ale since they were Hardys houses, years ago.

Whilst on the subject of Chorlton, why are almost all of its pubs so gloomy? The Bowling Green, the Lloyds, the Trevor (Greenalls) and the Feathers (Whitbread) are dismal places - and there's no real ale. The Horse & Jockey (Chef & Brewer) has been torn apart and it is a very expensive place indeed. Chorlton is the biggest Manchester district and it has the largest shopping centre outside the city centre, but its allocation of pubs in the centre is terrible - just three. Chorlton's nearest shopping centres - Withington and Didsbury, can boast a grand selection of pubs.

* * * * *

The Holts bitter appears to be in great demand at the White House (free house) on Great Ancoats Street. It is kept in excellent condition, along with the Holts mild and Black Country Bitter. All the beers are reasonably priced. Just up the road, the Ancoates has dropped Holts bitter in order to encourage sales of the Tetleys. Surely there are enough Tetley tied outlets in the town?

The new Holts pub on Broom Lane, Levenshulme, is expected to open just before Christmas.

STEAMING AWAY

An application has been made to build an extension to the Locomotive Hotel in West Gorton to form a take-away hot food shop.



REAL ALE

A STUDENTS' GUIDE

Greater Manchester offers the best choice and the keenest beer prices of any part of Britain. The best value for money is given by the local independents - Boddingtons, Hydes, Holts, Lees, Oldham Brewery and Robinsons.

Boddies are the largest of the local brewers; they also own Oldham Brewery and Higson's Liverpool brewery. They are going slightly upmarket but still have a lot of authentic, old fashioned pubs serving a decent pint. Hydes, with only about 50 pubs, are the smallest of the independents. Most of their pubs are concentrated to the south of the city. The Jolly Angler on Ducie Street near Piccadilly Station is worth seeking out.

Holts, with around 90 pubs, is certainly an acquired taste, but seasoned beer drinkers reckon it's the best Manchester has to offer. It's certainly the cheapest. There are heavy concentrations of Holts houses in Eccles, North Manchester and Prestwich, but most districts have one or two. Lees pubs are mainly around their Middleton Junction brewery and Oldham Brewery pubs are almost all in Oldham. Robinsons, based in Stockport, have pubs in most areas but with more presence in the South.

Other independents like Marstons, Burtonwood, Taylors, Banks's, Sam Smiths and Thwaites also have a number of pubs in the area and these are usually worth a visit.

The greatest proportion of Manchester pubs are owned by the Big Seven brewers who tend to follow trends to woo the public and usually offer poor value for money. They do, nevertheless, run many pubs which are still traditional in terms of both layout and beers.

Bass is the largest brewer in the UK and they have a significant presence in Manchester but with a poor record for real ale. Greenalls is the latest member of the Big Seven club; they've just closed their Wem brewery and their Warrington beers are not the most characterful. Their real ale record is poor and their treatment of pubs leaves much to be desired.

Wilsons brewery was closed last year and the beers are now brewed in Halifax. The treatment of the Pennine Host managed houses has been appalling and prices excessive. Most pubs serve real ale. Whitbread have just announced the closure of their Salford brewery - Chesters. The number of pubs selling real ale is around 50% and many people would suggest that their beers have lost their former character.

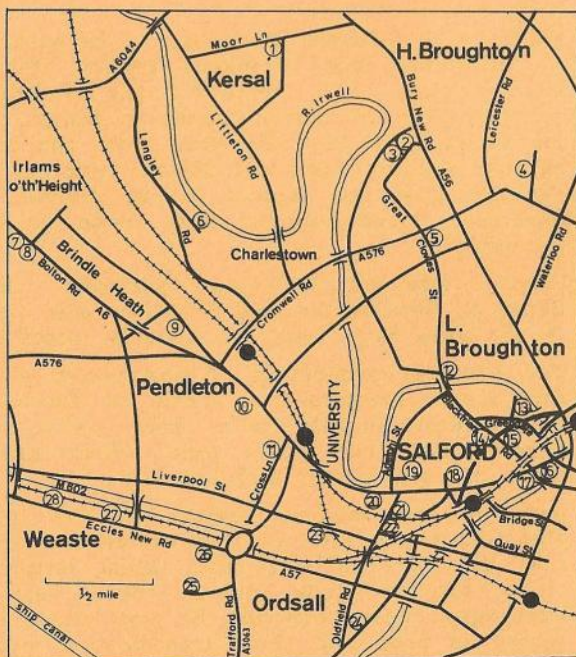
Tetleys have a fair record on real ale and some of their pubs have been refurbished in a sensitive and traditional way. Others have, however, been ruined and beware keg or tank beer. John Smiths have a few pubs in this area but there is a trend towards cask beer. Scottish & Newcastle have even fewer pubs but are threatening to take over a local independent - Matthew Brown of Blackburn.

All the local independents, with the exception of Oldham, sell real ale in all their pubs. Most of the other independents serve cask beer in most of their Manchester houses. With the Big Seven, handpumps are the best indicator of traditional beer, but the independents use all sorts of dispense systems to serve real ale.

Manchester does not have many free houses but there are a number worth a visit which sell a variety of real ales - including the Marble Arch, the Queens Arms, the White House, the Crescent and the Prince of Wales.

SALFORD

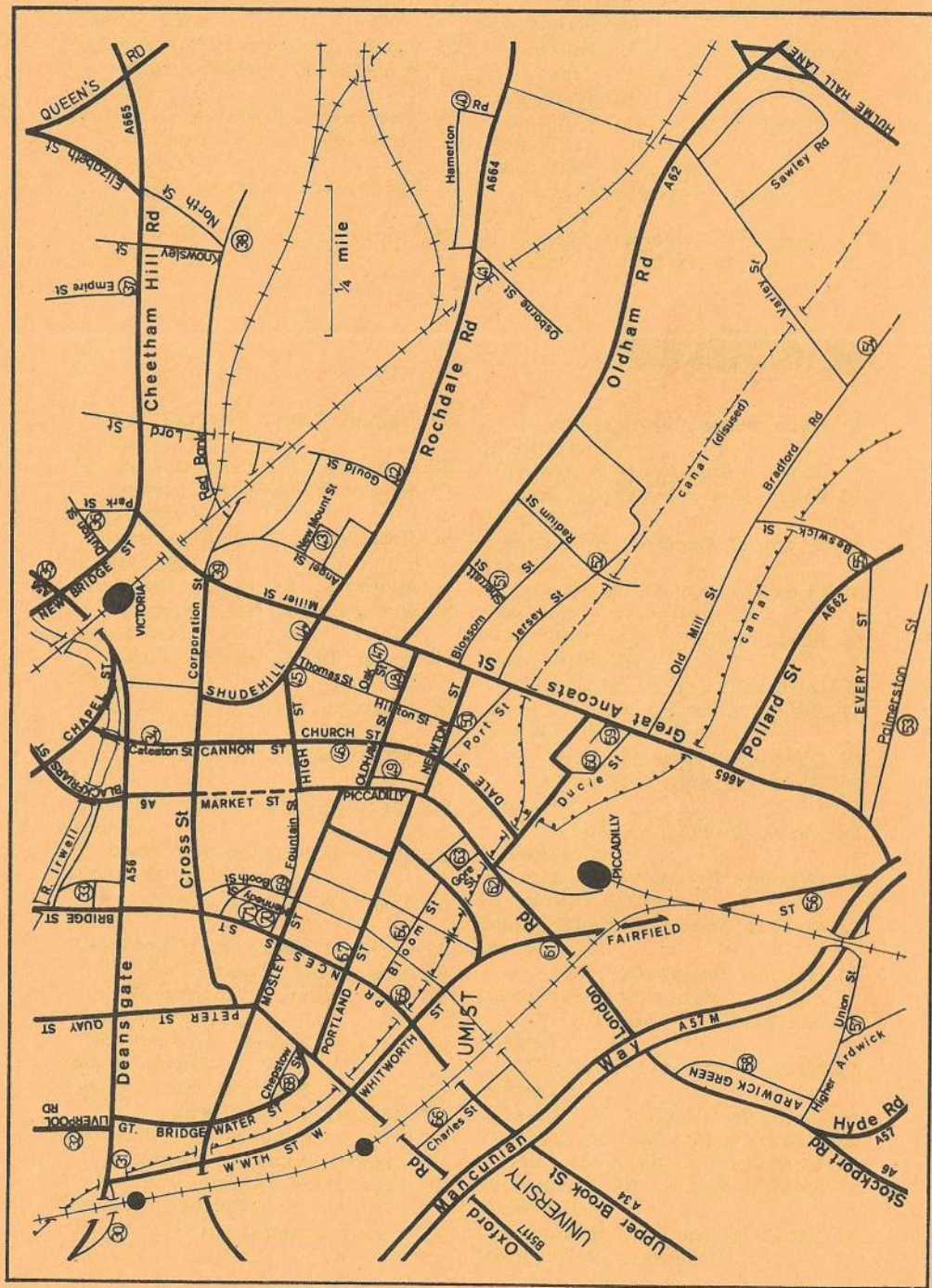
- 1 Kersal, Moor Lane
(Boddingtons)
- 2 Horseshoe, Bk Hope
Street (Bass)
- 3 Star, Bk Hope
Street (Robinsons)
- 4 Duke of York,
Marlborough Rd (Holts)
- 5 Albert Park, Gt
Clowes St (Tetley)
- 6 Old House at Home,
Whit La (Holts)
- 7 Waggon & Horses,
Bolton Rd (Holts)
- 8 Wellington, Bolton
Road, (Holts)
- 9 Duchy, Brindleheath
Rd (Greenalls)
- 10 Woolpack, Belvedere
Rd (Wilsons)
- 11 Paddock, Cross
Lane (Boddingtons)
- 12 Irwell Castle, Gt
Clowes St (Wilsons)
- 13 King William IV,
Springfield La (free)



- | | |
|---|--|
| 14 Braziers Arms, Hodson St,
(Boddingtons) | 22 Prince of Wales, Oldfield
Road (free) |
| 15 Eagle, Collier St (Holts) | 23 Union, Liverpool St (Holts) |
| 16 Old Ship, Chapel Street,
(Boddingtons) | 24 Bricklayers, Ordsall Lane
(Holts) |
| 17 Punch Bowl, Chapel Street
(Tetley) | 25 Broadway, Broadway (Holts) |
| 18 Oxford, Oxford St (Wilsons) | 26 Waverley, Eccles New Road
(Chesters) |
| 19 Borough, Encombe Place
(Burtonwood) | 27 Old Veteran, Eccles New
Road (Greenalls) |
| 20 Crescent, Crescent (free) | 28 Swan, Eccles New Road
(Chesters) |
| 21 Kings, Oldfield Rd (Holts) | |

MANCHESTER

- | | |
|--|--|
| 30 Pack Horse, Deansgate
(Greenalls) | 51 Smiths Arms, Sherratt St
(Tetley) |
| 31 Crown, Deansgate (Wilsons) | 52 Cross Keys, Jersey St (Tetley) |
| 32 White Lion, Liverpool Road
(Chesters) | 53 River, Palmerston Street
(Greenalls) |
| 33 Wagon & Horses, Southgate
(Wilsons) | 54 Cricketers, Bradford Road
(Marstons) |
| 34 Chesters Pie & Ale House,
Cateaton St (Chesters) | 55 Mitchell, Every St (Banks) |
| 35 Brewers Arms, Gt Ducie St
(Boddingtons) | 56 Bridge, Fairfield Street
(Chesters) |
| 36 Dutton, Park St (Hydes) | 57 Kings Head, Hr Ardwick
(Greenalls) |
| 37 Derby Brewery Arms, Cheet-
ham Hill Rd (Holts) | 58 Church, Ardwick Green N
(Wilsons) |
| 38 Queens, Honey St (free) | 59 White House, Gt Ancoats St
(free) |
| 39 Ducie Bridge, Miller St
(Wilsons) | 60 Jolly Angler, Ducie Street
(Hydes) |
| 40 Swan, Hamerton Road
(Greenalls) | 61 Bulls Head, London Road
(Burtonwood) |
| 41 Osborne House, Rochdale
Road (Banks's) | 62 Coach & Horses, London Rd
(free) |
| 42 Marble Arch, Rochdale Road
(free) | 63 Waldorf, Gore St (Chesters) |
| 43 Harp & Shamrock, New
Mount St (Marstons) | 64 New York, Bloom St (Wilsons) |
| 44 Smithfields, Shudehill
(Tetley) | 65 New Union, Princess St
(Burtonwood) |
| 45 Hare & Hounds, Shudehill
(Tetley) | 66 Lass o'Gowrie, Charles St
(home brew) |
| 46 Unicorn, Church St (Bass) | 67 Circus, Portland St (Tetley) |
| 47 Wheatsheaf, Oak St (Tetley) | 68 Peveril of the Peak,
Chepstow St (Wilsons) |
| 48 Gullivers, Oldham St (Lees) | 69 Crown, Booth St (Bass) |
| 49 Mother Mac's, Bk Piccadilly
(Chesters) | 70 City Arms, Kennedy St
(Tetley, Walker) |
| 50 Crown & Anchor, Hilton St
(Chesters & Taylors) | 71 Vine, Kennedy St (J. Smith) |



NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee



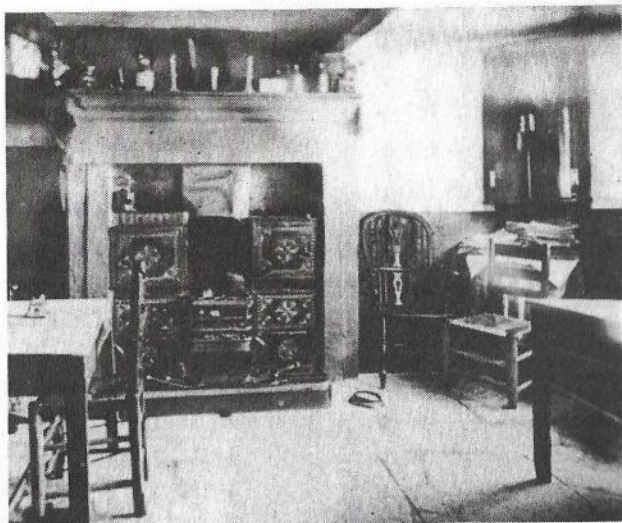
No.21 ROYAL TIGER 757 Huddersfield Rd, Austerlands, Saddleworth

In 1831 Ralph Turner, a rope and twine maker, opened the Royal Tiger beerhouse on land between the recently built New Road and Old Lane, the original road, almost opposite the Red Lion. Ralph had a small ropeworks nearby, where he was employing five men in 1861. His widow continued to run the beerhouse and the ropeworks after his death in 1869 until 1896. Mary Jane Turner took over in that year and she stayed at the Royal Tiger until her death in 1925. She is pictured at the front door of the pub about 1910.

Saddleworth historian Ammon Wrigley and his companion Sam Fitton adopted the Royal Tiger as their local and in 1931 the Ammon Wrigley Fellowship formed here. As the membership grew the Fellowship moved to other meeting places and eventually settled at the Greaves Arms, Oldham.

Following Miss Turner came John Bardsley (1925-34), Wilfred Moran (1934-35) and then Fred Brown, a bricksetter's labourer, in 1935. Around this time the authorities decided to close the beerhouse. Fred was running the place part time - his labouring job took up three days a week - and gross takings were down to £10 a week - 2 barrels of beer, 6 dozen bottles and 4½ dozen mineral bottles. The Royal Tiger closed on 29th December the same year.

This photograph shows the old parlour of the Royal Tiger, with its rush-bottomed chairs, scrubbed-top tables, stone flagged floors and old fireplace. This is just as it was when Miss Turner served beer to Ammon Wrigley and his pal Sam Fitton.



LEES AT THE BROOK

Traditional Lees mild and bitter will soon be available at the Brook, Brooklands Road, Sale. Proprietors are Myles and Christine Foley, well known to North Manchester CAMRA members from their days at the Monton Green, Monton, Eccles.

Contributions to this issue: Duncan Busman, Roger Hall, Brian Gleave, I Brough, Steve Lawton, Keith Egerton, John Schofield, Alan Stewart.

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: Enquiries to the editor, address above. Full page £25, $\frac{3}{4}$ page £20, $\frac{1}{2}$ page £15, $\frac{1}{4}$ page £7.50. Discount on bookings for 6 months or longer.

To the Editor:

375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27

LETTERS



LAGER BUBBLE

Sir - They came to talk about the closure of Cook Street, not about advertising. But some of the replies from Whitbread executives to questions about publicity at the recent meeting with CAMRA confirmed what I suspected.

"Cask ale is a quality product," said one; "it sells itself." The inference being that British "lager" isn't, and doesn't. So vast sums of money are spent by all breweries - not just Whitbread - in promoting it. But "people aren't all that influenced by advertising; we follow the market, not lead it." Shome mistake, shurely? If not, why bother at all? Well, all right, then, young people are influenced by advertising and they respond to the young, sharp image of lager. But older people aren't, so there's no point in advertising cask ale (because the miserable old fuddy-duddies who drink it don't look that good on the posters - and won't put their hands into their pockets to pay the inflated prices charged for lager).

All this is, of course, sweeping generalisation - which is, after all, what advertising deals in. The truth is that the lager market is growing, at least partly as a result of massive advertising campaigns, and that brewery companies like it that way. The profit margins are far greater and the stuff is a lot easier to handle than cask beer. Breweries are in business to make money.

Where I think they are short-sighted - not to say greedy - is in the very area of quality (or value for money). British cask beer is still, by and large, a quality product and can still be sold at a reasonable profit. British "lager" (with one or two notable exceptions) gives neither quality nor value for money, so short-term profits are huge. But Continental lagers are good quality, and are becoming increasingly available in this country at prices not that much higher than what's being charged for the rubbish.

The danger is that when the brewers have finished pouring their money into the "growth area", they will find that people have, in the end, gone for quality and are drinking the Continental lagers instead. In the meantime, lack of investment in cask beer - which as yet they still know how to make - will mean the loss of valuable skills, plant

and customers. British breweries, like British textile manufacturers, might find themselves acting merely as importers and retailers of foreign goods.

An imaginative attempt to sell cask ale to a younger market is unlikely to be a panacea for all these ills. But it would be interesting to see what happened, wouldn't it?

Cassandra

STOCKPORT

Rumpledshirtscream and his chums in the Stockport & South Manchester branch of CAMRA got a bit grumpy after reading WD's recent survey of the decline of Stockport pubs. They make the following points in a rather long letter:

1. The Gladstone was selling keg beer because Tetley's computer was broke; the pub is being redecorated and cask mild and bitter will then be on sale.
2. The excessive noise at the Boars Head and Bakers Vaults is made by performing musicians and that's how the customers like it.
3. The listing of such pubs in the Good Beer Guide has nothing to do with the fact that they advertise in "Opening Times" (a newsletter).

ADDITIVES & ADJUNCTS

Another brewery has replied to our survey of what exactly goes into our beer (see WD Sept and Oct. The relevant part of Burtonwood's letter is reproduced here.



- water from our own wells which has its ionic balance modified by the addition of naturally occurring salts
- malted barley as pale ale malt, crystal malt and black malt
- hops
- yeast

A small proportion of the extract is derived from Brewing sugars and a limited quantity of torrifified wheat is added to enhance head characteristics. Caramel is added to adjust the colour where necessary.

The only other ingredients added to our beers are those that have been associated with the process for many years, namely Irish Moss, Auxilliary Finings, White Finings and Priming Sugar to produce secondary fermentation.

LANGTONS

Langtons Wine Bar, opposite the Peveril of the Peak, Manchester, is still selling the only handpumped Banks's bitter in Greater Manchester. Manager Alan Smith hopes to introduce another one, possibly two, traditional bitters before Christmas.

CHESTERS

The Regional Meeting of CAMRA branches on 14th October was host to seven visitors from Whitbread who spoke about forthcoming changes at the brewery. They talked about the rationale for closure and about their commitment to traditional beer: problems of the site, growth of lager, old brewery, Sheffield much better, best use of resources, etc. In other words, the old PR guff we've heard so many times before. They also said that 18 pubs in Salford sold cask ales and that half of their tied estate do as well. Their market share of cask beers in the free trade had increased by 40%, presumably from a low base. The Sheffield brewery was traditional, dating back to 1847. Some beers will disappear from Salford by December and the rest in May. The match at Sheffield should be perfect. We'll have to wait and see.

LYDGATE CHANGES

High on the hills above Oldham, the White Hart at Lydgate has been the subject of much debate amongst the locals. Bass North wanted to gut the old building and turn it into a "fun pub" - type establishment. The locals got together and petitioned the brewery, who took umbrage and decided they didn't want the pub any more - so there!

The tenants, Dennis and Elsie Jackson, decided to purchase it and now sell draught Bass and 4X mild through handpumps. Well worth a visit, the White Hart is situated on Stockport Road opposite the church.

HANDPUMPS

The Good Beer Guide listed White Horse at Walshaw, Bury, is to be fitted with handpumps early next year. The consistency of the Thwaites will then be matched by the traditional image of the beer engine. The pub is located on Hall Street in the centre of Walshaw. Excellent meals are available at lunchtimes.

MOORHOUSE'S

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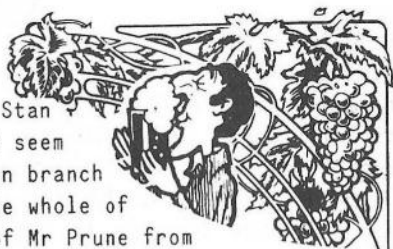
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Pendle Witches Brew

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RUPERT'S PAGE



It's a topsy-turvy world we live in. Stan Craap, who makes the chocolate teapot seem essential, has been spurned by his own branch but has applied to be supremo for the whole of Clogshire, following the retirement of Mr Prune from Lunesdale. Mind you, this pales into insignificance when compared with events on a more global scale. Campaigning seems to have taken a back seat and intercenine (© Dermatitis) warfare and agrimony (© Ben Chestnut) now seem to be the order of the day. I suppose it all started when Billy Cosh and his chums set off on a little foray to Snobley, heartland of the Snoot Magna branch. Now it had always been assumed that Snobley had the best hostelries in the world and that Percy Boringsod spent ages titivating his taverns to the height of loveliness. The boys from Slumley found that this was a slight economy of truth and dared say so. As they themselves were used to the back-hander economy (how else do you think that the Rat & Handbag got into the Topers' Vademecum?) they naturally assumed that others did the same, particularly as some of the hostelries were to the traditional public house what Rumpleshirtscream is to the world's best dressed man.

Humphrey Dumpty and his pals really took offence and will doubtless be passing and talking motions to remedy the situation. Quite frankly, a second opinion helps to keep people on their toes. Habituation is the kiss of death.

From the unsubstantiated rumour department comes the news that one of Grotley's famous tavernkeepers is cheesed off with the Campaign and tavernkeeping in general. Continual sniping about the lovely hostelry got on his nerves and finally came to a head when an epistle in this august journal from some disaffected chappie from Pudshire was less than complimentary about his pride and joy. So incensed was our hero that he consulted m'learned friends, who didn't really think he had a case, so, the story goes, he decided to sell up, lock, stock and barrel and go and live in a tree house in the Patagonian rain forest. So, if you've got lots of readies and feel like becoming the owner of a magnificent tavern, send the loot c/o What's Doing in a brown paper bag and we'll forward most of it to the tavern owner in question. Perhaps Jack Smugs will cough up; they seem to have more brass than sense. But then again, they'd desecrate the place, which would never do, would it? Or Brobdingnags could lend the money so they could sell lots of fizzy beer in the free trade.

ENTREPRENEURS' CORNER

The Weavers, Angel Street, off Rochdale Road (WD October), is not the only Manchester Tetley pub looking for new management. The brewery is also offering the Ram, Oldham Road, Miles Platting, and the Kings Arms, Helmsore Walk, Manchester 13.

The October list from Grand Metropolitan Estates Ltd includes:

Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford (around £50,000)

Feathers, Laundry Street, Salford (around £35,000)

Wheatsheaf, Oldham (for sale delicensed - £25,000)

Victoria, Oldham Road, Miles Platting (delicensed - around £25,000)

Church, Jersey Street, Ancoats (around £55,000)

East Ward Working Men's Club, Heywood (around £30,000)

Lamplighter Club, Dane Street, Rochdale (around £25,000)



Branch Diary

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thur 5 Nov 8pm, Committee/Social, Old Cock, Chester Rd, Stretford

Thur 12 Nov 8pm, Museum Ale promotion at the Windmill, Manchester Road, Carrington

Thurs 19 Nov 8pm, Branch Meeting, Old Roebuck, Victoria St, Altrincham

Thur 26 Nov 7pm, Special Social. Meet at Albert, Rusholme, for Branch Curry Night

Thur 3 Dec 8pm, Committee/Social, White Lion, Liverpool Rd, Manchester. All welcome.

Thur 17 Dec 8pm, Branch Christmas Dinner, Railway, Mobblerley. Bring your own cracker.

NEW TRAFFORD & HULME COMMITTEE, as a result of the October AGM: Chairman: David Shelton. Treasurer: Keith Egerton. Committee: Mike Goode, Gary Yates, Mick Rottenbury and Dave Ward. Vacancy for Secretary. Branch Contact Dave Shelton 224 7341 x27 (w), 795 2113 (h)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 11 Nov Ashton survey. Meet Gamecock, Old Street, 7.30

Wed 18 Nov Branch Meeting, Crescent, Salford 8pm

Wed 25 Nov Manchester City Centre prices survey. Meet Unicorn, Church St, 7.00-7.30.

Wed 2 Dec Wellington, Regent Road, Salford, 7pm. Ordsall 8.00pm.

Wed 16 Dec Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton

Sat 19 Dec Branch Christmas Crawl and Curry in Eccles. 11.30-12.00 Packet House; 1.00 Bridgewater.

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

WIGAN

Wed 11 Nov Beer Guide Meeting, Millstone, Wigan Lane, Wigan. 8.30

Wed 18 Nov 8.30 Branch Meeting, Ellesmere Inn, Lancaster Road, Hindley

Thur 26 Nov, Visit to Tetley Walker Brewery, Warrington. Congregate at Gem's, Upper Dicconson Street, Wigan, at 6.30pm.

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

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 3 Nov 8pm, Branch Meeting, Eagle & Child, Higher Lane, Stand, Bury

Fri 6 Nov, Rochdale Pub Crawl: 8pm Alpine Ayingerbrau Gasthof (Sam Smiths), Whitworth Road: 9pm Cross Yates (Holts), Whitworth Road: 10pm Spread Eagle, Cheetham Street.

Tues 17 Nov 8pm, Committee meeting, Sparking Clog, Radcliffe Moor Rd, Radcliffe

Fri 21 & Sat 22 Nov, Bury Beer Festival. Derby Hall, Market St, Bury. Open 11.30-3.00 and 5.30-11.00.

Contact: John Burns 061 653 8361

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OPENING HOURS

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12.00 to 2.00 Sunday

EVENING: 7.00 to 11.00 Monday to Saturday
7.00 to 10.30 Sunday

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and early evening, including chilli and curry

Special menu for weekends available