

WHAT'S DOING



AUG
1988

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



CASTLE CHANGES

This year Robinsons celebrate their 150th anniversary, and for Manchester what could be more appropriate than to improve their only city centre pub. The Castle Hotel on Oldham Street, recently listed by the Department of the Environment as a building of special architectural and historical interest, is back on form.

New tenants Jean & John MacBeath arrived at the end of June and began cleaning and redecorating the interior. They now sell an excellent pint of Best Bitter (79p) or Best Mild (75p). Coffee can be had at 25p a mug, and lunchtime food will soon be on sale. Entertainment comprises darts, a pool room and juke box, and there is a small function room for hire.

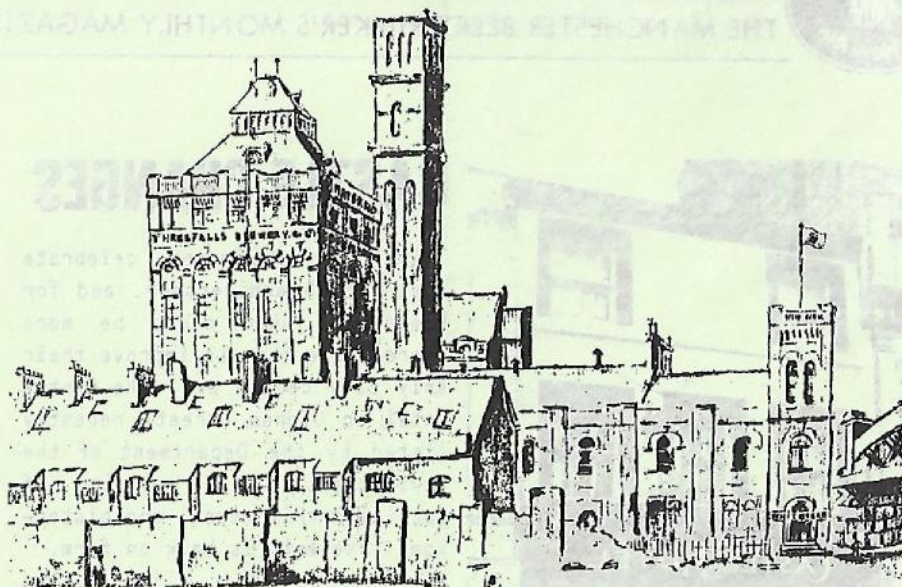
(Other Manchester pubs recently listed by the DoE are the Peveril of the Peak, Star & Garter, Marble Arch, Mitre Hotel and the Withington Ale House.)

Peter Wadsworth

WANT TO BUY A BREWERY?

The Chesters brewery in Salford, recently vacated by Whitbread, has just become a Grade II listed building. This means that it is a building of special architectural merit. It cannot be demolished or altered in any way which affects the character of the building without permission from the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The brewery was listed at the instigation of CAMRA, on the grounds that it is an impressive example of its type and a notable local landmark.



The problem for Whitbread is what to do with the site now that re-development is ruled out. Perhaps they should brew beer!

WELCOME BACK (2)

The new Welcome (ex-Chequerboard) in Ordsall opens on 4th August. It now appears that this is one of eight Wilsons pubs bought by J W Lees. The others include the Druids on Liverpool Street, Salford, and the Old Pack Horse on Oldham Road, Manchester.

BANKS'S

Building has recommenced on Moorside Road, Swinton, where an 18th century farmhouse fell down during the construction of a new Banks's pub. It looks as though traditional 18th century breeze blocks are being used.

REAL WIGAN PUBS

On 22nd June, armed with pies and passports, the massed members of CAMRA North Manchester set off on a tour of those Wigan pubs which

appear in "Vintage Pubs".

The first call was at the Holt Arms (left) in Billinge, an unspoilt 3-roomed pub with a bowling green. Great. But guess what? Burtonwood want to do it up.

The Springfield (below) is an enormous Peter Walker pub which has been opened up somewhat. Apart from letting some barmpot loose with a saw on the mahogany bar, the effect is quite acceptable. Well worth a visit.



The residential Swan & Railway, selling John Smiths and Bass beers, was almost destroyed by fire. I think the present pub is an improvement. The Raven is well preserved rather than refurbished. Unfortunately the same could not be said for the beer on our visit. We ended up in Gem's free house, a converted double-fronted house selling Holts, Boddingtons and Hydes. The beer was excellent, but it was a bit like sitting in the front room of a boarding house on Blackpool front.

Roger Hall (photos D Busman)

PRICES

We've just received from CAMRA HQ results of our prices survey carried out in January. They're so up to date and riveting that self-indulgent scribblings may have to be chopped. Here goes:- Independents are between 1p and 5p a pint cheaper than the Big Seven for 1030-1045 beers and 2p a pint more for stronger beers. Beer's cheaper here than in London. That's it.

DISAPPEARING WILSONS

What's Doing has been predicting for some time that the marriage of Websters and Wilsons would be the kiss of death for the Newton Heath beers. The brewery's long gone and Eurobland is finding its way even into pubs like the Old House at Home in Blackley. Some pubs have thrown cask Wilsons out altogether (Culcheth Gates, Old Priory), and the Mitre in Manchester was promoting Websters bitter by knocking 20p a pint off. Wilsons cask mild is increasingly difficult to find, usually being replaced by keg or Websters Green Label (Ducie Arms). How much longer will it be before promotion of Websters makes Wilsons marginal so that Watneys rationalise by discontinuing it?

MOORHOUSE'S

BREWERS OF REAL ALE

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BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

The Wellington on Market Street, Farnworth, reopened at the beginning of July. The pub had been closed since January, when a fire damaged much of the interior. Real ale, in the form of Chesters bitter, was experimented with a few years ago, but now Chesters has returned as a permanent fixture, alongside handpulled Trophy, Castle Eden and a regular guest beer (Wethereds SPA during August and September).

Other pubs in the Whitbread Blackburn trading area taking Wethereds will be the Jolly Carter, Little Lever; Rose & Crown, Edgworth; Masons, Bury; House Without a Name, Harwood; Wagon & Horses, Hawkshaw; Lamb, Tottington; Clarence, Ramsbottom; Bridge Inn, Westhoughton; Black Bull, Bury; Bridge, Radcliffe, and the Duke William, Ainsworth.

At Maxims on Bradshawgate, Bolton, the latest guest beer is Belhaven 80/-, which, like Wadworth 6X before it, is reported to be on pretty good form.

Finally, Davenports has appeared at the Black Swan, Gate Fold, Harwood.

DIDSBURY DOINGS

One of the few keg pubs to get a creditable mention in "Vintage Pubs" is John Smith's Railway on Lapwing Lane. Yes, that's right, they want to knock through into next door and build new bogs at the back. No doubt they'll put handpumps in - real ale, unreal pub?

NEWTON HEATH

The New Crown (Marstons) no longer serves cask mild although the Newton House and the Robin Hood still do. The Culcheth Gates (Wilsons) no longer serves cask Wilsons beers, only Websters bitter. Over the boundary in metropolitan Oldham, Wilsons cask bitter, along with Websters Choice, can be enjoyed at the Nelson, an upmarket pub which has nevertheless retained a vault.

BROUGHTON AND ENVIRONS

Although the mild in the Horseshoe is now keg, draught Bass (80p) is now being served alongside the handpumped Stones. At the Old Priory it's all Websters now - Choice and Yorkshire Bitter. The Grosvenor might have a full size billiard table and draught Chesters bitter, but the beer was execrable on our visit on 29th June. A handpump in the Broughton Tavern (Greenalls) turned out to be dispensing Scrumpy Jack, so the pub's still keg. Higsons mild has made an appearance at the soon-to-be-altered Blackfriar.

To the Editor:

375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27

LETTERS



THE BODDINGTONS DEBATE (Chapter XXXV111)

Sir - Oh dear! The impassioned writings in May's edition of WD seem to have stung Malcolm Bee into a waspish retort (last month's WD). I cannot speak for Messrs Lerner and O'Grady, but I can assure him that nobody among our beer-drinking circle has missed any points. As I live, and work, in the harshly-realistic world of commerce, big business, finance, etc, etc, I am only too aware of what makes the brewing, and other industries', wheels go round.

Notwithstanding all that, our "awareness of commercial reality in our dealings with Boddingtons" merely brought us fait accompli plans to change, at a stroke and on a massive scale, our traditional local and the only true pub in our area, into a 90-seater restaurant. (The Cock Hotel at Worsley.) Our further "awareness of commercial reality..." brought us even larger modified plans for the development of the site with the addition of a 30-bed motel tacked on to the proposed restaurant. Fortunately, the local council would have none of this and forced Boddingtons to go away and re-plan in a sensible manner. This has been done, and all parties now seem reasonably happy.

All this has not come about through "an awareness of commercial reality...", rather from MB's figurative "knee jerk to the groin", administered by us in the form of our sustained campaign to preserve, at least a large part of, our local. Be assured, but for this action "good traditional beer" in this particular "good traditional pub" would not be being served in 1988, let alone in 1998.

I'm sorry, Malcolm, but you still sound like an apologist for the "Big business rules, OK/ Loads a Money" school of thought currently so fashionable.

Alan Stewart, Chairman, Save the Cock Campaign

RAILWAY WRITE UP

Sir - As a regular buyer of WD, I was in even more of a rush to get the July edition when friends told me that our local had at last got a mention. My joy, however, was short-lived. I refer, of course, to the Railway in Eccles. It does indeed have Irish music on a Tuesday, and very good it is too; a nice crowd and good musicians. However, I would like to inform you that the Railway is also open the other six nights, when the locals enjoy themselves. In fact, the only night when

the regulars don't visit is probably Tuesday! It's a good night, but not our scene. Why no mention of the quiz team or the darts or the football team?

I've been asked why Peter (the landlord) lost all the old characters. May I take this opportunity to answer that. It was because that was what the regulars wanted - a pub without fights or detailed explanations of gynaecological operations (sorry, Vera) and a rabble which at one time even got the darts team barred from playing at home. May I also point out that when the characters frequented the Railway, CAMRA was also noticeable by its absence.

We like our pub, we like our beer and we are glad you enjoy your Tuesdays. But do us a favour - tell everyone they are welcome every night!

Bill Emerson

RUPERT (1)

Sir - Like Peter Alexander I am a regular purchaser of WD. I, too, write to express my reservations. (My reservations about Peter Alexander's reservations, that is, expressed in June WD.) Maybe Rupert's Page is codified and, not being one of the cognoscenti, I must confess puzzlement at times. However, as "through a glass darkly ", I sometimes discern the hidden events and characters alluded to therein; mainly from an awareness of recent true events and characters which have some bearing on CAMRA, or happenings - usually via breweries' "dirty tricks" departments - affecting us locally.

For me it is an amusing, well-written, "Beachcomber"-like bright spot. As for being a "waste of space", well...I am sure that if more space is needed then it is automatically created by the publishers. An alternative suggestion (if Peter Alexander is so concerned about more constructive page usage) is for him to contribute a "non-codified" (or even slightly codified) article, which we can all understand, every month.

'Til then, Rupert (whoever you are!), keep your monthly oblique nonsenses coming.

Charles Connor

RUPERT (2)

Sehr geehrten Herrn! - After reading Mr Alexander's criticism of Rupert in July's WD, I feel I must raise my Kugelschreiber in defence. I presume that Mr Alexander cannot be a regular reader of WD, as he implies that Rupert takes up space that could be used for material campaigning against the 'closure of Chesters, Boddingtons' policies and unsympathetic pub conversions. All three issues have been given much

coverage in recent editions. In short, WD has been far more outspoken in its criticism of brewers' actions than any other local CAMRA magazine.

Has Mr Alexander complained to Mersey Drinker about their Graffiti page and their constant praise of Boddingtons? Or to Tyke Taverner about page after page on curry shops when the bulk of the pubs in their area serve Allied gunge? The glossy London Drinker has its "Dear Dipsy" page for perverted yuppies. What's Doing without Rupert would be like the Daily Mail without Nigel Dempster, the Telegraph without Peterborough or the Sun without page three.

BrUder Beinlos, Kloster Andechs, 8138 Andechs Ub Starnberg, Bayern

VINTAGE PUBS

Sir - Having just perused "Vintage Pubs", the latest CAMRA publication, may I make the following observations? Why is one of the ladies on the front cover drinking a pint of Guinness and the other a bottle of diet pils? Surely shome mistake?

How come the Union Tavern, Liverpool Street, Salford, is not included? It is a brilliant example of a spit'n'sawdust boozer with possibly the best pint of Holts in Salford. Could it be that the compiler wouldn't get away with using phrases like "Je ne sais quoi" or "ambience" without meeting hoots of derision from hardened Salfordian Holts drinkers?

Regarding the juke box in the Queens Arms, Patricroft. It is described as being "not ubiquitous". Correct. It is a Wurlitzer.

David Jacobs

ENTERTAINMENT

Sir - Once upon a time when pub entertainment was "real" and didn't come out of a box, people made music for themselves. We had sentimental ballads in the snug with Uncle Joe and Aunt Flo (who could have been a singer only for her voice!) Then there were those good old naughty choruses, sung with good company and a pint of the real stuff. It was a time when people enjoyed themselves and a time when there was a lot less loneliness around. Those were the real nostalgic days, when a pub pianist played those beguiling tunes that, once heard, seemed to have been with you all of your life. Happy days. What the hell happened?

Glenn Worth

HOLLINWOOD'S LOSSES

Sir - I refer to Stewart Revell's article "Holts Corner" (July WD). In passing, he mentions the loss of the Bridgewater and the Kings Arms on Manchester Road, Hollinwood, due to the M66 motorway scheme.

Earlier this year, you splashed on the front page the news that the Boat & Horses on Broadway had been reprieved from a burial under the M66. It was hailed as a great victory for CAMRA. It is certainly a victory for J W Lees, but only a hollow one for CAMRA. In order that the Boat & Horses can remain, two more families must lose their homes if the motorway is built. The motorway scheme means the loss of six Hollinwood pubs - the Crown & Mitre, Hollins Road, has already been demolished.

I like Lees beers, but I also enjoy Holts, OB and Marstons. I thought one of CAMRA's principal aims was to maintain choice. Why, then, did CAMRA not oppose the motorway scheme in toto? From the start NOMORR has objected - and continues to object - to the scheme as a whole.

T Gaunt, NOMORR

WHAT'S DOING OUTLETS

Alf and Joan Greene at the Royal Oak (Hydes), Whittaker Lane, Prestwich, have sold 25 copies of WD in the first month the magazine has been on sale in the pub. Well done, Alf and Joan! Your support is very much appreciated by the ROB branch.

Other Prestwich outlets for WD are the Coach & Horses on Bury Old Road and the Ostrich on Bury Old Road.

ROSE & CROWN

Draught Bass, Stones bitter and Oldham bitter are now on sale at the Rose & Crown, Manchester Old Road, Bury. Hydes bitter has gone and the Thwaites mild is now keg only.

A TALE OF TWO SMITHFIELDS

Sales appear to be improving in one of Manchester's most attractive pubs, the Smithfield, a "free house" on Shudehill. "Happy hour" is featured Monday-Thursday evenings from 5.30 to 7.00 and on Friday and Saturday evenings the timings are a very novel 9.00-9.30 and 10.00-10.30. During all these periods the handpumped Tetley bitter and mild, Jennings bitter and Ind Coope Burton Ale are 70p a pint. This is excellent value for the Burton Ale. At the time of writing a draught Guinness promotion means Guinness Happy Hour 6.30-7.30 Monday to Wednesday, when the Guinness can refuel for 50p per pint. Surely one of the best offers of all time!

Meanwhile, the other Smithfield on Swan Street (also a free house), is up for sale after being closed for several weeks. At the neighbouring Burton Arms cask Stones is again being stocked, but unfortunately, despite the Bass pump, draught Bass has not been available in the last year or so.



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NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.30

RED BILL'S

Daisy Nook

This old cottage is recorded as belonging to the widow of Miles Bould in 1617; there was an inscribed date stone over the door, but this had flaked away many years ago. The building was licensed and given the name Medlock Tavern by Nathaniel Spencer.

It achieved fame in the latter half of the nineteenth century through the work of local writer Ben Brierley and an artist acquaintance, Charlie Potter. Ben asked Charlie to paint a view of "Daisy Nook", the scene of his famous work entitled "A Day Out, or a Summer Ramble to Daisy Nook". Charlie agreed and asked Ben where Daisy Nook was. Ben said that he had no actual site in mind and that Charlie could pick his own spot. So Charlie made a sketch of Waterhouses and whilst he was there called on Nathaniel Spencer at the Medlock Tavern and asked him if he would stand in for "Red Bill", the innkeeper in Ben Brierley's story. Nathaniel agreed and Charlie provided him with a new inn sign - "Red Bill's, Daisy Nook". Once a "real" Red Bill's was established, visitors came from near and far to picnic at "Daisy Nook" and Nathaniel's beer sales increased accordingly!

At the turn of the century Red Bill's was owned by brewer Charles



Greatorex, who sold it to J H Lees' Moss Side Brewery in 1908. Nathaniel Spencer left in 1880 and was followed by a succession of licensees until Ellen Bates in the 1930s, when the photograph was taken. The beerhouse was closed on 21st March 1936, bringing to an end the tradition begun by Ben Brierley many years before.

The house is still standing, and now has coloured electric lights around the edges. I must go and look at it at night some time.

PENDLEBURY PERAMBULATION

Bitter at the Henry Boddington is now 84p, an indication of what regulars at the Cock can expect if plans go ahead. The Butchers, after an expensive but imperceptible revamp, is now serving both mild and bitter (Thwaites) at 78p and 80p. Across the road, Boddies bitter at Nadgers (Albert) is 78p. Stones at the chintzy refurbished Royal Oak is 84p. But who cares when you can get a pint of Holts in the Newmarket or the Lord Nelson for 68p?

NEW BULL

The newly smartened Bulls Head in Swinton reopened on 7th July, complete with tuxedoed chuckers-out. Real pubs don't have bouncers.

THE LAST NEWTON BEER FESTIVAL

1978 1988



11
REAL ALES + CIDER
incl. Elgoods, Batemans, Taylors, Moorhouses
at
NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS TOWN SHOW
Selwyn Jones Lower School, Crow Lane, Newton
on
Sat 6th August 1988
11.30am-5.50pm
Traditional Jazz with the Lazy River Band
(Kindly sponsored by Burtonwood Brewery)

TAYLORS AFLOAT

Last month's heavy rainfall brought problems to the owners of the Buckstones Lodge, situated high on Saddleworth Moor at Scammonden - some four miles out of Denshaw (A640). A burst culvert flooded the cellar to a depth of five feet and the recently introduced Taylors Landlord was bobbing around merrily in the torrent. Owners Clive and Kath Pedlow, who also own the GBG-listed Bank Top Tavern in Oldham, now have a full licence at the Buckstones, so a meal is not obligatory. However, with a fine menu and an offer to bring your own wine (no corkage), plus Taylors Landlord on handpump, a visit does seem tempting.

COCKSURE?

So confident were Manchester's favourite brewery that all had been done and dusted with the Cock, that they didn't even bother to turn up to the Planning Committee meeting on 23rd June. However, an objector (guess who) did and the committee decided that a site visit would have to be made before a decision could be taken. Boddingtons' plans could still be chucked out if common sense prevails against big business interests. It would be a nice irony if they'd shot themselves in the naughty parts and snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. Pity Ridiculous Nimby doesn't live next door.

HOLTS CORNER

New licensees are due at the Sabre in Ordsall, the Blue Bell in Moston and the Eagle & Child, Whitefield. I have it on good authority that the departing licensee of the Eagle & Child will not be rolling up the bowling green and taking it with him. On the contrary, Holts promise to sprinkle plenty of TLC on to it for ever and ever.

At the time of writing, Holts have 52 managed houses and 44 tenanted ones, together with 20 free trade outlets. The trend is towards managed houses.

Stewart Revell, Holts BLO

ELLENBROOK MANOEUVRINGS

Ellenbrook, part of Worsley near the Wigan boundary, has never been well-endowed with pubs, but just after the conversion of the Red Lion into a carpeted barn where you can't chuck a double top without grazing your knuckles, comes news of other developments in the area. Not only is some leisure group knocking the King Billy about, but a new pub is planned for the yuppie estate being built and Bass have applied for permission to convert the large house on the corner of Ellenbrook Road and the East Lancs into a pub. What with the proposals at the Cock, we're going to have a plethora of licensed premises with not a real pub among them.

KING'S ALE

Leo King

Yates's on High Street, Manchester, with its luxuriously carpeted and furnished interior, is very welcoming, and so is the selection of real ales now on offer. Handpumps adorn the long bar and the choice is Holts bitter, Stones bitter, Tetleys mild and Websters Yorkshire bitter. The effect of the nice refurbishment and real ale is somewhat offset by the ear-splitting trash emitted from a room full of loud-speakers. And, if you can take that, there is still the matter of paying 86p for a pint of Holts bitter (I kid you not). I wholeheartedly welcome traditional beer, but I deplore having to pay high prices for it. Somebody has to pay for the bouncers, I suppose.

The newly refurbished and renovated Yates's in Urmston town centre deserves credit for the miraculous transformation. This very large establishment (it has to be in this pub-starved town) is without doubt much brighter after its 15-week closure. Previously, it was like a candlelit semi-Black Hole of Calcutta. Real ale continues, but at a price, and there is now no Holts - just Boddingtons, Websters and Tetleys. I ordered a pint of Websters Yorkshire bitter and it cost 88p. So now you know. Originally, this place was called "The Peter Yates", after its founder. Now it is simply known as Yates's Wine Lodge. Well, why not? It is well worth a visit, if only to view the remarkable alterations. As with the Manchester Yates's, it comes complete with bouncers.

In the same area, save your shoe leather, bus fare or petrol and forget the Nags Head in Davyhulme, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away (keg Greenalls). Forget also the Victoria (Bass) on Victoria Parade (Urmston town centre), but rest a while at the Lord Nelson on Stretford Road (just outside the town centre) for a decent pint of Holts. The only other alternatives nearby are the Urmston Tavern (Chef & Brewer), selling traditional Websters and Wilsons, close to the Stretford boundary, and in the opposite direction, on Church Road, there is the Roebuck (Holts), in the Flixton area.

AN EVENING IN LADYBARN

Ladybarn has its own shopping centre, park, parish church, Methodist church, British Legion, pubs and rail station (even though it is called Mauldeth Road). The first call was at the Talbot (Whitbread), formerly a real ale house but selling the Samlesbury-brewed beers now the Salford brewery has closed. The beer was tasteless. Chesters mild and bitter was really improving rapidly at Salford. Undaunted (I don't know why), I went across to the Brewers Arms on Ladybarn Lane (never known for real ale in its Whitbread days). The same oddly-shaped

illuminated bar mountings were in evidence and the Chesters bitter was more gaseous.

Next, the newly renovated Derby Arms; an open-plan bar and pleasantly decorated throughout. Plaques outside advertise Websters, but the Derby sells Wilsons bitter on handpumps at 80p a pint. On to the White Swan on Green Street. This Robinsons outlet is as busy and popular as ever. The pub has been slightly refurbished - no structural changes or Robinsonisation, thank goodness. The only differences are new lighting and seats instead of the old rickety cane chairs. Illuminated bar mountings replace the "invisible" dispense system, so your beer no longer appears like magic from behind the bar! The ledge over the bar counter still displays the collection of colourful toby jugs. (Remember the many bottled beers all around the pub shelves that were owned by former licensee Steve Weston?) One handpump still exists to dispense Old Tom.

Although the Mauldeth could be in Ladybarn, Burnage appears to claim it. Anyway, real ale is available here. The remaining Ladybarn pub, the Old House at Home at the corner of Braemar Road and Lindleywood Road, is a Greenalls pub and as far as I can gather it still sells pressurised beer. I don't think that this place has sold real ale since its Groves & Whitnall days..

PICK OF THE PUBS

If you do not already have one, you can obtain a copy of "Vintage Pubs and Real Ale in the Manchester Area" from CAMRA members or the following stockists:

All Manchester City Centre bookshops

All W H Smith shops in Greater Manchester

W H Smith at Piccadilly and Victoria stations

Tourist Information Centres at Manchester, Rochdale and Wigan

Newscentres Bookshop in Eccles

Most of the free houses in Manchester and Salford have a stock. We are gradually getting around the 150 pubs which are in the guide and at this stage about half of them have copies for sale. As a last resort, send £2.75 (inc p&p) to Graham Mason, 760 Rochdale Road, Royton, Oldham OL2 6XG

Other contributors to this issue: Peter Barnes, Paul Roberts, Keith Egerton, Steve Byrne, Steve Lawton

RUPERT'S PAGE



It's a strange thing, serendipity. I had always imagined that the attributes of a good licensee were the capacity for hard work and a degree of affability coupled with skill in looking after beer, customers and the pub. A brick, or rather its wrapping, has shaken my naive beliefs. I was in the penthouse of Nestfeather House, assisting Eddy to tear up constructive, analytical contributions and replace them with scurrilous claptrap, when the sound of breaking glass sent us both rushing down to the foyer. Inside the shattered plate glass door lay a rustic house brick wrapped in paper. Removing the paper, I noticed a crayoned note which read "Lay off you bashtards its not you're living", which I cannot begin to understand. The reverse side of the note, however, which we were able to copy, before handing it to PC Mycroft, made interesting reading.

It was nothing less than the curriculum for the intermediate certificate of the Institute of Tavern Keepers. We were both dumbstruck by the breadth of topics which the modern mine host has to master. Strangely, there was little mention of cellarmanship and the art of keeping traditional beers, but this was more than compensated for by sections on catering and dress sense. Aspects of social psychology, including the studied insult, dumb insolence and customer snubbing seemed inappropriate until we realised that this could form part of strategy of market segmentation by customer selection. Presumably the section on dress would not necessarily be concerned with the sartorial elegance of the tavernkeeper himself, but with the tuxedoed propriety of his doorkeepers and the suitability or otherwise of green wellingtons, Levis, spats and cummerbunds for his customers.

I don't think either of us fully grasped the part concerned with portion control and cover turnover analysis, but we noted with interest the handy tips for landlords - how to put keg beer through handpumps, how to increase prices, maximising machine income, advantages of the one-room pub, how to remove undesirables like pensioners, domino players, darts teams, walkers, dog owners, mild drinkers and CAMRA members. "Thank goodness none of our pubs are run by people who've been on this course," said Eddy. He hadn't noticed that my thumb was over the name of the brewery sponsoring the course and that it didn't begin until September 1988.

Mind you, he's never been very observant. At our visit to our

Wealthshire tavern, the activities of the boss group donning black caps and deliberating went unnoticed and, with a bit of luck, he'll not notice that all the letters in praise of self-indulgence are from paid stooges and print them anyway.

VINE

Peter White, mine host at the Vine, Kennedy Street, Manchester, must be entitled to an award for being the first landlord in Manchester to clearly display his new all-day opening times inside and outside the pub. Once the new hours finally come into force, the Vine will remain open all day Monday to Friday, with "Happy Hour'n'Half" 4.30-6.00, Tuesday and Thursday.

A general price increase has now put up the price of a pint of John Smiths cask bitter to 88p. Punters can always nip next door to the City for a chaser of Burton Ale at 87p a pint. Compared to the other pubs in the vicinity - the Town Hall and the Crown Cafe Bar - the prices in the Vine are still well below par.

NEW PUB PLANNED FOR SALE

Oaklands House Developments Ltd have applied to turn a shop, presently empty, on the railway bridge opposite the town hall in Sale, into a pub. Plans include extending the premises both sideways and backwards. At present there is no brewery backing, and it is assumed that once planning permission has been given the developers will hawk it round the brewers to find the highest bidder. Further details will be published when known.

MORE ROOM

Holts are knocking a wall down in the Grapes, Peel Green, to enlarge the room at the back, to the left of the stairs. We'll let you know what they do with the bricks.

HICKORY DICKORY DOCK

Peppars in the Old Market Place, Altrincham, has been renamed Hickorys and now boasts illuminated mouse faces in the windows. The sign on the door dictates that only over 20s in smart casual dress will be admitted. There are not a lot of these people in Altrincham, judging from our visit at 10.30pm during the first week of opening. There were no customers at the bar and only around 20 in the whole pub. Or perhaps it is the £1 per pint that is being charged for mediocre Chesters bitter that is putting them off.

PROTECT YOUR PLEASURE



JOIN CAMRA NOW

Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque for £9 (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to Sally Bennell, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

APPLICATION FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

..... POST CODE

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for £9 (£12 if overseas).

Signed Date

VICTORY?

The Lord Nelson on Chapel Street, Salford, has got the builders in. Anything they do would be an improvement. (Well, nearly.)

TAKE HART

The White Hart on Albert Road, Farnworth, is selling traditional Tetleys. This pub, along with the Saddle on King Street, was bought by Regal Knight Hotels a couple of years ago.

DUN UP

The Dun Mare on the A6, on the outskirts of Little Hulton, has become a Walkers pub once again. The "Tetley" boards have been removed, to reveal an old black and white mosaic advertising Walkers Ales. On closer inspection, an earlier brewery name can be made out - "Shaws". (Shaw's Leigh brewery was taken over by Walkers in 1931 and 30 years later Walkers merged with Tetleys.)

Inside the pub, handpumped Walkers bitter and mild are on sale. The place has been quite nicely done up and the overall effect is quite pleasing. The original character has certainly not been destroyed. The only black mark goes to the inevitable juke box. Bitter is 79p, mild 75p. (Best room prices; 2p cheaper in the vault.)



Branch Diary

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 24 August, 7pm, Mawson Hotel, off Brunswick St. 8pm, Plymouth, Plymouth Grove.

Wed 31 August. Treasure Hunt, Salford/Manchester. Staggering start, Eagle 7.30 to 8pm

Wed 7 Sept, 7pm, Red Lion, Ellenbrook Rd; 8pm, King William, Mosley Common.

BOLTON

Sat 6 Aug, GBBF Trip. Phone contact

Tue 9 Aug, 8.30, Branch Meeting, Rock House (Banks's), Duke St, off Topp Way

Sun 14 Aug, 12 noon, Bowling Green Beer Festival, Bury Road, Bolton. Up to 20 beers on sale. (Continues to 29th)

Sun 21 Aug, 12 noon, Sunnyside Hotel, Adelaide St

Sat 10 Sept, Trip to Preston Beerex

Contact Dave Fleming, Bolton 389918 (h)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 2 Aug, 8pm. Branch Meeting, Dungeon Inn, Turton Rd, Tottington, nr Bury

Tues 16 Aug, 8pm, Committee meeting (all welcome), Swan & Cemetery, Manchester Rd, Bury

Tues 6 Sept, 8pm, Branch Meeting. Eagle & Child, Higher Lane, Whitefield.

Contact: Barbara Lee 0706 82 4407

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12.00-2.00 Sunday**

**Evening: 7.00-11.00 Mon,
Tues, Weds & Sat
5.30-11.00 Thurs
& Friday
7.00-10.30 Sunday**

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early evening, including
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