

# WHAT'S DOING

DEC  
1989



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE PRICE SURVEY



First the good news. Of the 113 pubs which were surveyed, no less than 89 served traditional beer. As the survey included wine bars, hotels and other establishments which we would not normally regard as pubs, this is an excellent achievement. Real ale is more readily available in city centre Manchester than it has ever been. There are one or two pubs which have bucked the trend, serving keg where once they served traditional beers. These include the City (Oldham Street), Lower Turks Head, Nick bys, Polars (formerly the White Bear), Royal George, Seftons and two of Yates's establishments. Neither the New York nor Central Park (ex-Village, Thompsons Arms) serves the genuine stuff any longer.

Now for the bad news - prices. In 1987 the most expensive pint in Manchester was at the Portland Hotel at £1.70. This year the £2 pint has been reached - for lager, of course, at the I Don't Know (formerly China Garden) on George Street in Chinatown. The Portland Hotel is a mere £1.85 in comparison. Back in 1987 the White House offered the cheapest pint in town at 66p for mild and 68p for bitter. Sadly the mild is no more and bitter was 75p. A Holts price increase since the survey will no doubt have increased this to around 79p.

The local independents still offer better value for money than the Big Six, Robinsons being particularly good value at the Castle and Hydes at the Dutton and Jolly Angler, but with Boddingtons over £1 at the Royal Central it's not true for every (former) local brewer. Lager prices have continued to increase alarmingly. It's difficult to find a pint for less than £1 and they offer even poorer value for money compared with draught bitters. Mild has continued its decline. Only 38 premises served cask mild compared with 43 two years ago.

The survey was not without its lighter moments. We were refused a survey at Rosie's Bar, as we were two years ago, and in Middle Yates's the barman, when he found out that a survey of prices was taking place, removed the price list from the wall and ran off with it. A disturbing number of pubs still do not display price lists, despite the legal requirements.

Finally, many thanks are due to those stalwarts who turned up on a wet and cold November evening to trudge the streets of Manchester with little time for more than the odd glass of ale.

The full results of the survey are as follows...

K = no traditional mild/bitter

<u>Pub</u>	<u>Brewer</u>	<u>Price List?</u>	<u>Mild</u>	<u>Bitter</u>	<u>Best Bitter</u>	<u>Lager</u>
Abercrombie, Bootle St	Chesters	Yes	85	90	95	110
					120	
Ancoats, Gt Ancoats St	Tetley	Yes	K79	81		95
Bank, Mosley Street	Tetley	No	K96	100	116	120,138
Beerhouse, Angel Street	Free	Yes		79		124,130
				95	(Strong Ale 130)	
Bensons, High Street	Chesters	Yes		92	94	112,129
Boardroom, Portland St	Wilsons	Yes	K96	100	102	118,128
Brahms & Liszt, Brown St	Free	No		105	115	110,140
Branagans, Royal Exchange	Free	No		100	115	115,145
				105	(Strong Ale 145)	
Brewers Arms, Gt Ducie St	Boddingtons	Yes	83	89		107,124
Bridge Inn, Fairfield St	Chesters	SHUT				
Bridge Street Tavern	Wilsons	Yes		100	110	118,128
Britannia, Newton St	Wilsons	No	80	84		100
Britannia Hotel, Portland St	Websters	Yes		180		180

Pub	Brewer	Price List	Mild	Bitter	Best Bitter	Lager
Britons Protection, Gt Bridgewater St	Tetley	Yes		100	110	115,130
Brunswick, Piccadilly	Wilsons	No	K98	98	102	118,128
Bulls Head, London Rd	Burtonwood	Yes	87	90		108,110
Burton Arms, Swan St	Bass	Yes	K84	92	94	105,120
Castle, Oldham Street	Robinsons	Yes	80	84		94,110
				(Strong Ale 138)		
KCentral Park, Sackville St	Wilsons	?		K100		125,130
Chesters Pie & Ale House, Cateaton St	Freeish	Yes	K87	88	97	107,124
Churchill, Chorlton St	Greenalls	Yes	K88	92		110,115
Circus, Portland St	Tetley	No		86		
KCity, Oldham Street	Chesters	Yes	K84	K88		100,110
City Arms, Kennedy St	Tetley	No	85	90		115,120
Coach & Horses, London Rd	Free	No		95		
Commercial, Liverpool Rd	Wilsons	Yes		96	98	
Conservatory, Old Bank St	Websters	No		90		110,115
Corbieres, Half Moon St	Marstons	No		115		130,140
KCorner House, Oxford Rd	Websters	Yes		K90	100	114,120
KCotton Tree, Gt Ancoats St	Chesters	No	K79		K81	97
Crown Piano Bar, Booth St	Bass	Yes		104	110	118,132
Crown, Deansgate	Wilsons	Yes		87	104	105,115
Crown & Anchor, Hilton St	Chesters/free	Yes	85	87	96	106,123
				88	106	
Crown & Cushion, Corporation St	SHUT					
Crown & Kettle, Gt Ancoats St	Wilsons		91	97	107	117,135
					112	
KCrowne Plaza Midland, Peter St		No		K110		110,125
Dancing Weasel, Gt Ancoats St	SHUT					
KDaniels, Chapel Walks	Thwaites	Yes		K105		122,150
Ducie Bridge, Corporation St	Wilsons	Yes		87	101	105,116
				90		
Dutton, Park Street	Hydes	Yes	80	85		97
KGarden Hotel, Dale Street	Free	Yes		K110		120,130
Gemstone	Bass	No		104		126,139
Grand Hotel, Aytoun St	SHUT					
Grey Horse, Portland St	Hydes	Yes	88	90		100,130
Gullivers, Oldham Street	Lees	Yes	84	86		98,110
Hare & Hounds, Shudehill	Tetley	No	85	89		105
Harp & Shamrock, New Mount St	Marstons	No	84	87		99
Hat & Feathers, Mason St	Chesters	No	K84	88		107
KHenrys, Parsonage	Whitbread	No				140,150
I Don't Know, George St		Yes				180,200
Imperial, Piccadilly	Wilsons	Yes	90	94	115	114,128
KIsadoras, Hanging Ditch	Wilsons	Yes	K80	K90		110,120
John Willie Lees, Withy Grove	Lees	Yes	81	84		95
Jolly Angler, Ducie Street	Hydes	Yes	80	84		98,124
				(Strong Ale 144)		
King, Oldham Street	Tetleys	Yes	87	90		106,111
Land o'Cakes, Gt Ancoats St	Chesters	Yes	84	86		115,122
Lass o'Gowrie, Charles St	Chesters	Yes	90	92	103	114
KLower Turks Head, Shudehill	Tetley/Belhaven	No	K84	K90		
Lord Nelson, Newton Street	J Smiths	Yes	K81	84		96,100
Mamas, Rochdale Road	Chesters	No	80	84	84	104
Marble Arch, Rochdale Road	Free	Yes		85	99	100,130
				95		(Strong Ale 160)
Millstone, Thomas Street	Wilsons	No	K85	90		105
Mitre, Cathedral Gates	Wilsons	Yes	K85	90		102,114
				92		
Monroes, London Road	Chesters	Yes	85	90		110,120



Pub	Brewer	Price List	Mild	Bitter	Best Bitter	Lager
Mother Mac's, Back Piccadilly	Chesters		84	86	K90	105,116
Moulders Arms, Heyrod St	Tetleys	No	83	85		95,100
KNags Head, Jacksons Row	Greenalls	No	K87	K91		107,120
New Union, Princess St	Burtonwood	Yes	90	92		110,118
KNew York New York, Bloom St	Wilsons	Yes		K100		120
KNicklebys, Dale Street	Tetley/Belhaven		K88	K90		106,116
				K92		
Old Garratt, Princess St	Boddingtons	Yes	86	90		110,126
Old Grapes, Quay Street	Free	Yes		100	110	110,130
KOxfords, Oxford Road	Wilsons	Yes	K96	K100		118,128
Oxnohle, Liverpool Road	Chesters	Yes	88	89		106,116
Pack Horse, Deansgate	Greenalls	Yes	K84	87	98	99,106
Paddy's Goose, Bloom St	Wilsons	Yes	K94	94		118,130
				96		
Papillon, Arndale	Free	No		110		120,130
Pevenil of the Peak, Gt Bridgewater St	Wilsons	No	90	94	102	115,120
				95		
KPiccadilly Hotel, Piccadilly		No		K160		160
KPolars, Swan Street	Tetley	No		K90		110
Portland A, Portland Street	Tetley	Yes	104	106	114	112,116
Portland Hotel, Piccadilly	S&N	Yes		150		170,185
Portland Hotel Kicks Bar	Websters	No		100		110,120
Rembrandt, Sackville Street	Lees	Yes	85	90		100,110
Rising Sun, Queen Street	Wilsons	No		98	128	118,126
				100		
Rosie's Bar, York Street	REFUSED SURVEY					
Royal Central, Windmill Street	Boddingtons	Yes		102		115,130
KRoyal George, Lever Street	Websters	Yes	K92	K96		100
Sachas, Tib Street	Websters	Yes		120		130,140
KSt Vincent, Oldham Road	Bass	No	K82	K86		102
Salisbury, Wakefield Street	Wilsons	Yes	96	98		
Sam's Chop House, Back Pool Fold	SHUT					
KSawyers Arms, Deansgate	Wilsons	No		K98		118,128
				K100		
KSeftons, Corporation Street	Wilsons	Yes	K96	K98		118,128
				K100		
Seven Oaks, Nicholas Street	Chesters	No	88	93		107,118
Shakespeare, Fountain Street	Wilsons	Yes		100		120,130
				106		
Sinclairs, Old Shambles	Sam Smith	Yes	K89	92	109	107,124
Smithfields, Shudehill	Tetley	No	88	90	120	110,120
				100		
Square Albert, Albert Square	Tetley	Yes	95	97	112	112,137
Star & Garter, Fairfield Street	Chesters	Yes	K84	86	K89	105
Sportsmans, Market Street	Lees	No	90	95		110,125
Swan, Withy Grove	Wilsons	Yes	88	90		110,120
				92		
Swinging Sporrn, Sackville St	S&N	Yes	K88	92	98	110,120
Thomas's Chop House, Cross St	Boddingtons	No	K95	100		115
Tommy Ducks, East Street	Greenalls	Yes	K90	94	100	109,125
Town Hall Tavern, Tib Lane	Bass	Yes		104	110	118,132
Trafalgar, York Street	SHUT					
Unicorn, Church Street	Bass	Yes	86	94	100	108,122
KVictoria, Hardman Street	Tetley	Yes	K86	K88		102,125
Victoria Station Bar	Free	Yes		K100	116	110
				108		
Vine, Kennedy Street	J Smith	Yes	K88	94	106	115,126
Waggon & Horses, Southgate	Wilsons	Yes		98		118
				100		
Waldorf, Gore Street	Chesters	Yes	86	91	100	109,120
Wellington, Old Shambles	Bass	No	K87	95	101	111,127
Wheatsheaf, Oak Street	Tetleys	Yes	82	84	88	102,103
White House, Gt Ancoats St	Free			75	94	100,120

<u>Pub</u>	<u>Brewer</u>	<u>Price List?</u>	<u>Mild</u>	<u>Bitter</u>	<u>Best Bitter</u>	<u>Lager</u>
White Lion, Liverpool Road	Chesters	No	87	93		108,122
KYates's Grapes, Gt Ancoats St	Free	Yes		K92		110,120
KYates's Merchants, Oldham Street	Free	Yes		K96		100
Yates's, Oldham Street	HOSTILE RECEPTION					
Yates's, High Street	Free	No		92		110,120

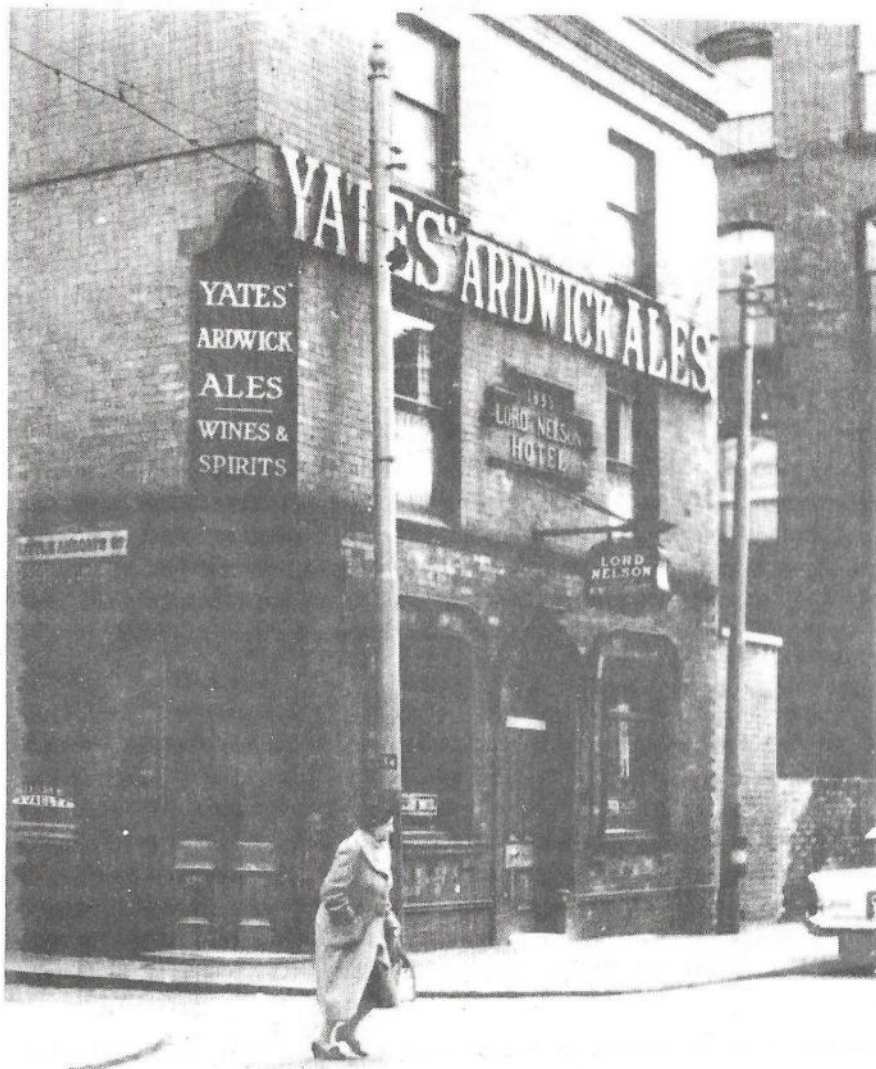
## KING'S ALE

Leo King

Following the conversion back to real ale of the Peel Park Inn, Chapel Street, Salford (WD September), comes the news that two more Manchester John Smiths houses have gone over to cask. These are the Lord Nelson on Newton Street in the city centre and the George & Dragon on Ardwick Green South (not far from Brendan Dobbin's Kings Head). At the Lord Nelson, don't be alarmed by the illuminated keg 'bitter' pump, as this dispenses mild (keg, of course). At the George & Dragon, I hear that Courage Directors is to be installed as an additional cask ale. John Smiths' Cheshire Cheese on Oldham Road, not far from the Lord Nelson, is still on keg beer. This pub is more of a fun palace for younger drinkers; perhaps they would appreciate the proper stuff?

I notice the Pack Horse on Oldham Road (Ancoats/Miles Platting boundary) is closed and boarded up yet again. The last time I visited the place it was selling gassy beer from Lees, the brewers who acquired this ex-Wilsons pub. Other pubs along Oldham Road which remain closed are the Ram (ex-Tetley), Bird in Hand (ex-Bass). The two ex-Wilsons outlets, the Lancaster and the Swan, now display the Belhaven name - replacing Blezards. On Rochdale Road, the Royal George, a Whitbread/Chesters pub close to Miller Street and the city centre, is still shut.

The Marble Arch is taking on a different outlook. This fine Victorian pub is really improving. Practically one whole wall has been stripped of paint and plaster to reveal the original tilework in all its beauty, although some work still has to be done to replace parts of the tiling destroyed in Watneys days. The bar counter is now positioned at the far end of the room, creating more space. A lot of restoration work has yet to be done on the tiled floor to restore it as much as possible. The new back room is almost complete and will become the pub's lounge. Fourteen handpumps serve real ales in the two bars.



You can now expect to pay £1 a pint for draught Bass at the Unicorn on Church Street in Manchester city centre. The much weaker Stones bitter is just 6p cheaper. Never mind, the Crown & Cushion (known as the 'Muckmans') will soon be open and selling Joe's amber nectar. There you will get some change for your £1 coin (quite a lot of change, in fact).

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# WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

A leaflet which came my way recently from Greenalls revealed that there are two new outlets for their premium-strength Original bitter; namely, the EAGLE & CHILD, Heath Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, and the RAILWAY HOTEL, Station Road, Garswood. I searched in vain, however, for any mention of the WHITE CROW, Chorley Road, Worthington. I called in here not long ago, only to be told by the landlord that Greenalls couldn't supply him with Original bitter because...he didn't have a black handpump to serve it with. Mine host is keen to sell the ale, but Greenalls know best, I guess. Leigh and Earlestown are nearby places with more than their fair share of Greenalls pubs, but, according to this leaflet, they don't have an Original outlet between them. Granted, the brewery won't want their new product in any old pub, but isn't there any publican out there interested? Or is there a dearth of black handpumps in Leigh as well?

In Wigan town centre, the CROFTERS ARMS, Hallgate, and the SHIP HOTEL, Millgate, were the kind of pubs our parents used to warn us about when we first started drinking. How times change. The Crofters is now known as EDISONS, following a face-lift, and sells Ind Coope Burton Ale, a lone handpump amidst a sea of gas. Meanwhile, the Ship (more recently RAFFLES) is set to open anytime now as a Yates's Wine Lodge. Beware the bouncers at Edisons, by the way.

There has been a minor shake-up on the free house scene, with the CHARLES DICKENS HOTEL, Upper Dicconson Street, forsaking its S&N products in favour of Marstons Pedigree and Boddingtons bitter. Tetley ales prevail, however. Over the road, GEMS dabbled with Oak best bitter, but then the Boddies bitter returned and, in view of Whitbread's vice-like grip on this pub, has probably come home to stay. STANLEYS on Powell Street still leads the free trade, with amber nectars from Hardy & Hanson, Adnams, Oak, Jennings and Mitchells all passing through, to name a few.

The GRAND HOTEL (RILEYS BAR), Dorning Street, is still trying to make a go of real ale and is now selling Ruddles Blue. This beer is also available at the PARK HOTEL, Manchester Road, Higher Ince, but isn't going down too well. However, the Wilsons mild and bitter are said to be in pretty good nick.

Bass have lost a couple of cask outlets and gained one. The POACHER, on Winstanley estate, near Billinge, dropped its Stones bitter due to lack of demand, while the KILNEY COURT, Chorley Road, Worthington, is

now firmly in the Whitbread camp. However, the aptly-named BOUNDARY, between Astley and Leigh, has been selling draught Bass for some time.

The HONEYSUCKLE, Swan Meadow Road, Poolstock, has a plethora of beer engines, but rarely any cask ale on. Clips for Marstons Pedigree, Chesters mild and bitter and Hartleys XB can be seen, but on a recent visit I was served a half of fizzy gunge. The lad behind the bar seemed miffed when I refused it! This would be a pretty good pub if only it had a regular supply of beer. What's the problem? Pedigree is also available at the BRADLEY HALL HOTEL, Bradley village.

Club news, and Tyldesley Conservative Club now sells cheap, excellent quality Lees mild and bitter through wickets. Well worth a temporary swing to the Right. The 'Green Welly' brigade may wish to drink their Lees in the Bowling Club down the lane. The atmosphere here is, erm, unique! Meanwhile, not far away at the Atherton & Tyldesley Botanical Club, Holts bitter (72p a pint) joins the range of ales from Boddingtons, Moorhouses and Thwaites. This part of the world is well worth the price of a No.33 bus fare.

News in brief, to end things...the now-notorious GEORGE & DRAGON, Main Street, Billinge, has reopened as the PAVILION, selling the full range of Greenalls cask beers (a real ale gain)...the ROSS'S ARMS, Astley, has Mitchells ESB alongside its Allied cask products...the VENTURE, Merton Road, Highfield, near Orrell, has replaced McEwans 70/- with Theakstons XB; this remains very much a keg/lager drinkers' pub, though...as is the WARGRAVE, a Tetley pub on the edge of Earlestown, having a fling with cask mild...the SIMMS END, an erstwhile keg Brown pub in Garswood, is now believed to be selling traditional ale. But what? Watch this space...the WHEATSHEAF, Butts Bridge, Leigh, sells Ind Coope Burton Ale, but the Tetley mild and bitter here remains fizz...Tetley Dark Mild is to be had at the QUEENS ARMS, Fingerpost, Aspull...in Hindley, the ELLESMERE HOTEL on Lancaster Road has been closed recently. This popular Burtonwood inn has featured in the 1989/90 Good Beer Guides. That's it - I'm going for a lie-down...

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### GOOD BEER GUIDE

The entries for the 1991 Good Beer Guide will be selected in about three months time. Readers who would like to recommend pubs in North Manchester and Salford for shortlisting may do so by writing to the branch secretary at 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, M9 2PW. Don't delay, so that your choice can be given every consideration.



## TETLEYS AT IT AGAIN

The Britons Protection is one of Manchester's oldest pubs, opening in 1808 or even earlier, according to licensing records. Today, its 1920s interior has a lot of 'gin palace' character, with glazed tiling and glazed timber screens. The multi-roomed layout is unchanged since at least the Second World War.

In recent years the Britons Protection lost favour in certain CAMRA circles because it went upmarket, but the important thing is that the pub retained its multi-roomed layout. Social trends ebb and flow, but once a pub has been gutted, its former character is almost irretrievable.



Now, presumably because of rising property prices and because of the influence of G-Mex and the Central Manchester Development Corporation, Tetleys want to build a hotel on to the pub, inevitably changing the character of the place. Another retrograde aspect of the brewery's proposals is to remove the present successful tenants and replace them with a manager. Managers do not have the same stake in a pub; they do not make good stewards of our pub heritage.

Tetleys have recently spoilt two good pubs: the Railway in Eccles and the Pack Horse in Stockport. Don't let them get away with any more of this. If you do not already know the Britons Protection, why not visit the pub to see for yourself and then write to:

Mr W Bentley,  
Tetley Walker Ltd,  
The Brewery, Dallam Lane,  
Warrington WA2 7NU

and also write to the Central Manchester Development Corporation, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU.

The Development Corporation is the planning authority for the area. They are asking everyone to respond to their proposed strategy for central Manchester. Tell them to protect our pubs.

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## NEW BOOK

Rob Magee's latest publication is a comprehensive directory of the pubs of Ashton-under-Lyne. It is similar in style to his Oldham pub directory, recording all known Ashton pubs together with lists of licensees. The book is on sale in all good bookshops, or can be had by post for £3.75 from Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 2AY.

## HOLTS UP

On Tuesday 14th November Holts put 4p on a pint of bitter and 2p on a pint of mild, giving a 5p differential between the two brews. That's very good news for mild drinkers.

## **A DIRECTORY OF ASHTON PUBS**

**and their licensees**



**Rob Magee**

Present-day photographs by John & Kate of Royton

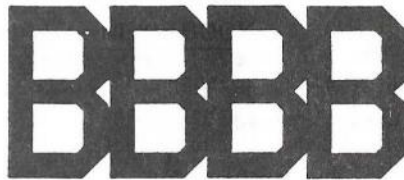
## ROPE REFIT

After a few months of temporary managers, Brian and Tina Welch have taken over at the Rope & Anchor at Dunham, near Altrincham. Brian was a catering lecturer at Salford College of Technology so there will obviously be an emphasis on food. A major refit is planned by the brewery which will involve closing the pub for three months from January. We are assured that the Rope & Anchor will not become a Henry's Table, but will be a 'family orientated pub'.

## ALE OF TWO CITIES

A new CAMRA beer guide is about to hit the bookshops. ALE OF TWO CITIES would make a good Xmas present - for yourself, perhaps. It comprises 100 pages of listings of all 550 real ale outlets in Manchester and Salford, but it is more than a simple beer guide. It is also a pub guide along the lines of the successful 'Vintage Pubs', featuring extensive entries for 100 of the best pubs in the two cities. Price £2.95 from bookshops and CAMRA members or, for bulk orders, from Glenn Worth, 061 798 7639

## FESTIVAL OF BEER AND WINTER ALES BENT & BONGS BEER BASH



**Supported by CAMRA**

**25-27 January 1990: Formby Hall, Atherton M29  
(7 minutes' walk from Atherton Central Station)**

**Beer Exhibition featuring 20 Winter Ales  
plus around 20 other real beers and cider**

**Thursday & Friday 5.00-11.30: Saturday 12-4.00, 7.00-11.30  
Entertainment and Food available. Admission £2.50 (£1.50 for  
card-carrying CAMRA members) including commemorative glass  
and programme. (Organised by Atherton & Tyldesley Round  
Table in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind and local charities)  
Contact Brian Gleave 0942 892965**

**NORTHERNERS COULDN'T GIVE A BBBB  
for any other beer festival**



## NEW FREE HOUSE FOR STOCKPORT

The Stanley Arms on Newbridge Lane, a former Wilsons house, is to re-open as a free house on December 6th. New owner Mick Belsham has had to refit the interior completely after a disastrous fire only days after he bought the building.

Opening sessions are planned to be 11.00-3.00 and 5.00-11.00 Mondays to Thursdays, 11.00-11.00 Fridays and Saturdays and normal Sunday hours. Food will be available at all sessions, and breakfasts from 7.00am to 9.00am. Mick hopes to be able to provide bed and breakfast accommodation in the future.

Five traditional beers are planned - initially Tetleys mild and bitter, Matthew Brown mild and bitter, and Marstons Pedigree. A guest beer may be added if demand is sufficient.

## PRESTWICH NEWS

The Church Inn, Prestwich Village (John Smiths) has a new manager. And Courage Directors has joined the cask John Smiths bitter.

## ALTERATIONS COMPLETE

By the time WD hits the streets, the internal alterations at the Navigation, Drake Street, Rochdale, will be complete. The brewery, Holts, in conjunction with tenants Val and Kevin Robinson have split the single room to create a vault. The 'well' which contained the pool table has been filled in and the new lounge completely refitted using quality materials. The pub is conveniently located near to the bus and railway stations and very handy for the several Milkstone Road curry houses. What more does one need?

## NEW BRIDGE ROLE

The recent survey of central Manchester pubs revealed that the Bridge Inn on Fairfield Street was closed. Plans have been submitted to turn this former Chesters pub into offices.

## TOMMY BAR

Preparations are well advanced to convert Tommy Ducks into, of all things, a London Tavern. It seems unlikely that the essential pubness will survive the transformation.

## HOLTS IN URMSTON

Work is under way at the Lord Nelson in Urmston. Judging by the plans, which had been posted on the wall of the vault for so long that everyone thought it was a joke, the alterations should not be too far-reaching and the place was ready for a clean-up.



Just down the road at the Roebuck, landlord Vic Loughhead is ready to hand in his notice in the New Year. This extremely busy tenancy is expected to go managed. What chance of a second "Joe's Trough", along the lines of the Cheadle Hulme? This pub is Holts' answer to "Henry's Tables", complete with piped musak in the lavatory! Is this the end of the world as we know it?

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Other contributors to this issue: Glenn Worth, Stewart Revell, Roger Hall, Steve Lawton, Keith Egerton, Peter Wadsworth, Peter Barnes.  
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# WALKER *Winter* WARMER

A dark rich ruby-  
coloured extra strong ale,  
sweet to the palate with a  
distinctive taste.

Original Gravity  
1058 -1062

## WHERE TO GO FOR A WARMER WELCOME

Listed here are the selected Walker Pubs  
where our strong ale is exclusively available.  
Don't say you haven't been warmed.

Limited  
Availability

### BOLTON

Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road.  
Sally Up Steps, Chorley Old Road.  
Stag's Head, St Helens Road.

### CHORLEY

Market Tavern, Cleveland Square.

### CREWE

Ashbank, Pym's Lane.

### GOLBOURNE

Sir Charles Napier, High Street.

### LEIGH

Boar's Head, Market Place.

### WARRINGTON

Lower Angel, Buttermarket Street.

### WIGAN

Kings Arms, Ashton in Makerfield.  
Raven Hotel, Wallgate.  
Springfield, Springfield Road.



Editor:

375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27

# LETTERS



## GOOD TASTE

Sir - What a load of undiluted drivel! I refer not to your esteemed organ of good taste, but to the comments in the 1990 Good Beer Guide on the beers available in this noble land.

How dare these so-called beer-tasters refer to Holts as cabbage-like! May the wrath of Joseph descend heavily upon their heads. I presume they had all had a heavy session on Belgian lambic beers before classifying Robinsons' wares as 'aniseed' and 'tangerine'. Surely the only definitive way to describe a beer is that it is hoppy, malty, bitter, sweet, or that it tastes like gnat's piss.

Why do none of the Greater Manchester local brewers get an award? Holts, Hydes, Lees and Robinsons all produce distinctive, good value beers. I can only presume that Burtonwood and Thwaites received their 'Tankard' awards for products which are the nearest thing to the former Whitbread Tankard - over-priced, over-rated and nasty.

By all means list the beers. Give their gravities and ABV, but leave the drivel out. That way 10% more pubs could be included in the Guide. Now that editor Andrea Gillies has retired, perhaps the 1991 edition will contain more facts and less fiction.

Arthur Holz

## BAD TASTE

Sir - When the 1990 Good Beer Guide came out the newspapers were full of articles by CAMRA's professional beer bores, who bleated on about banana-flavoured bitter and mild with the subtle nuances of kiwi fruit. Unfortunately, my untutored palate cannot discern such flavours. All I get from reading such articles is a quite definite whiff of bullshit.

Henry Hop

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## CROSS KEYS

Kilroy is here, alive and well and serving handpumped Tetley mild and bitter in the Cross Keys, Jersey Street, Ancoats. Elaine and Paul Kilroy have taken over at one of Manchester's best boozers and got off to a flying start with an entry in the 1990 Good Beer Guide. Tetleys are about to redecorate and undertake 'essential' maintenance and it is hoped that the character that has made the Cross Keys a TV star will not be lost.



### ASHTON ALE

The Red Lion free house on Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, has reopened selling Boddingtons bitter, Youngers No.3, Marstons Pedigree and Holts bitter. This former Bass pub became a free house in 1984 and before it closed earlier this year was called the Toad & Tulip.

### SUB-CONTINENTAL DRIFT

The Lahore Cafe has been closed for some time but the Cafe Yaqub, which has been trying to acquire larger premises on Thomas Street, has now moved into the former Lahore. This leaves us with three gig-ethnic curry shops in the Smithfield area - The This & That on Soap Street, the Shalimar on Back Turner Street and the Yaqub on Union Street. A relative newcomer to the fringe of the area has a somewhat anglicised name - the Cuckoo Chef on the corner of Thomas Street and Oldham Street - but is nevertheless of equal ethnicity and has been pronounced excellent by flesh eaters and vegetarians alike. It has the added advantages of being open after the shops have shut and it's not far from the Castle.

## RUPERT'S PAGE



Well, they're all behaving like leprous card players and throwing their hands in. Campaign stalwarts, that is. No sooner had we heard about Stan Craap snapping his own sword in two and chopping off his epaulettes, than news was buzzing around about the overtaill Ms Ossenpfeffer, editrix of the Amber Nectar Imbibers' Vademecum. She, who had in two short years turned this publication from a characterless lexicon into a literary cornucopia, an anthology of timeless prose essays interspersed with delightful hostelries and sponsored by British Coal, whose logo is so pretty that it appears on the front, has, it seems, decided to forsake her burgeoning career and marry a rabbit.

For many a long year, nasty people in Grotley have been trying to get rid of Red Max, our contact with Efrem, Hoppy and their cronies. I've always believed that our Scously friend had the right approach. Trying to point out the error of their ways, criticising their beers, their marketing, their closure of breweries, their desecration of pubs and their general strategy was hardly conducive to amicable relationships. What's Doing has been getting up Brob's nose for ages and all to no avail. Red Max had a more positive approach, not quite the yes sir, no sir, three bags full Mr P.R Smarmbastard approach, believing everything they say and brown-nosing around but never reporting back, which has been suggested unkindly in some quarters, but, nevertheless, a more conciliatory approach which promised understanding and compassion.

It must have come as a great shock to Max, as indeed it did to us all, when Brob's got choked off with the whole scene and flogged the entire shooting match to Dillons. All Max's behind-the-door shenanigans over the last decade have been wasted. Some ungrateful people have been heard to mutter 'I told you so' but not me. I shall be eternally grateful to Max for his unstinting efforts and to Seamus Spud and the Campaign hierarchy for standing by him when a deranged Scously mob were baying for his blood. To accuse him of bad judgement is unfair. He obviously feels so shabbily treated by Brob's that he's had to resign what now must be a non-post. So, vacancies arise for a gerontologist to speak to the rump of Brobs and a chemist to chat to Dillons in their newly-acquired brewery.

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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).

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# Branch Diary

## WIGAN

Weds 6 Dec 8.30 Branch Meeting, Swan & Railway, Wallgate, Wigan  
Wed 13 Dec 8pm. CAMRA Xmas Social. Stanley's, Powell Street, Wigan.  
Plenty of nosh and more guest beers than you can count.  
Fri 29 Dec New Year Crawl round Manchester. 7.30 Beer House, Angel St.  
Contact Brian Gleave, Atherton 876200 (w), 892965 (h)

## NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 6 Dec, Farnworth. Clock Face 7.00. Finish at Freemasons.  
Wed 13 Dec Regional Meeting, Marble Arch 8pm  
Wed 20 Dec, Christmas Social, Crescent, Salford, 8pm  
Wed 27 Dec, Irlams o'th'Height. Red Lion 7pm  
Wed 3 Jan, Crown & Cushion, Corporation St, Manchester 8pm  
Sat 6 Jan, Swinton lunchtime crawl & curry. Buckley Arms 12.00. Park  
1pm. Finish at Cricketers and Far Pavilions  
Wed 10 Jan, City Centre Crawl & Curry. Derby Brewery Arms 7pm, Marble  
Arch 8pm. Finish Deansgate Indian Restaurant  
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

## TRAFFORD & HULME

Fri 1 Dec, Cheese Butty Crawl. Meet Royal Oak, Didsbury, noon.  
Thurs 7 Dec, Hare & Hounds, Shudehill, 8pm  
Wed 13 Dec, Regional Meeting, Marble Arch, 8pm  
Thurs 14 Dec, Stretford Crawl, Robin Hood 8pm, Melville 9pm  
Thurs 21 Dec, Branch Meeting, Marble Arch 8pm  
Contact: D Yates 0565 53978

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*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.*

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