

WHAT'S DOING

March
1990



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

100% REAL ALE IN PRESTWICH

The Park Hotel (Whitbread) on Lowther Road, Prestwich, has gone over to real ale, the last of Prestwich's 22 pubs to do so. The Park had cellar tanks for donkey's years, and over the past five years landlord Norman Halsall repeatedly asked for cask beer. Handpulls were installed last month and are now dispensing Chesters bitter (87p) and Trophy (88p).

Prestwich has 22 different bitters and 7 different milds from 12 breweries - Tetley, John Smith, Lees, Holts, Boddingtons, Greenalls, Wilson/Websters, Hydes, Bass, Marstons, Whitbread and Thwaites.



HOLTS FOR HINDLEY

The lucky people of Hindley are in for a treat around May or June. The Leigh Arms will be reopened by John Eddington as a free house. Holts and possibly two other brews will be on sale.

It was John Eddington who opened the Drop Inn at Monton a few years ago and then sold it to John Smiths. The Leigh Arms is next to Hindley Station and not far from the golf club on Ladies Lane. Quite a lot of money is to be spent on refurbishing the pub before it reopens. Should be worth waiting for.

PUB SALES

Nazmu Virani's Control Securities has received much praise in the pages of What's Brewing, but its pubs in the North West seem to be characterised by closure, dilapidation and keg beer. You'd think they wouldn't want any more until they'd sorted out the mess they'd already got, but it's a funny old world. Control has just acquired another 200 pubs from Grand Met, bringing their total up to around 770 and into the same division as, say, Banks's or Boddingtons. 60% of the 200 pubs are in London and the South East, but that still leaves over 50 pubs in the North of England.

HIGSONS CLOSURE

The inevitable closure of the last remaining Liverpool brewery has met with stormy opposition on Merseyside. Over 10,000 people have signed the pledge not to drink Whitbread or Boddies beers if (when?) the brewery closes. Early in February wreaths were laid on the sites of breweries which Whitbread has closed, including Chesters in Salford. Later, the Merseyside branches of CAMRA discussed the situation with the new bosses at Strangeways. But the men in suits had already made up their minds and listened with



deaf ears to all the well-rehearsed arguments. "We're in business to make money." Well, how is it they don't make as much as, say, Holts, who've also got the cheapest beer and the most crowded pubs in the world?

GRAND MET TO GIVE UP BREWERIES?

Grand Metropolitan is expected to exchange its four remaining breweries - Ushers, Mortlake, Websters and Ruddles - for a number of Courage pubs from Elders IXL. Elders would then have the capacity to brew megagallons of Fosters ready for the European single market. Grand Met would be free to concentrate on what they do best, running pubs down and selling them off. The expected deal is a direct result of the MMC report which has done nothing to prevent non-brewers from owning over 2,000 pubs. There can be little advantage in A owning 20% of the pubs and B owning 20% of the breweries rather than both owning 10% each.

BITTER AT BODDINGTONS

Boddingtons' pub-owning company has embarked on a corporate resigning programme. Such is the emphasis of the signage that the passer-by could be forgiven for assuming that the group was called Boddingtons Bitter. What about the mild, or indeed Higsons and Oldham bitter and mild? Are they, as we suspected, going to be kicked into touch as soon as maybe?

You'd think that Boddies would be quite happy with the portfolio of ales which they can take, which includes the six beers from the old group plus Chesters mild and bitter, Castle Eden, Trophy and the new Bentleys bitter, which smacks of badge brewing, as well as guest beers from the rest of the Whitbread empire. But no, they want another one. OK, yes, so they could do with a premium bitter to compete with draught Bass and Burton Ale. Taylors Landlord, perchance? Not a hope! The bright guys at Boddies have entered into an agreement with Tetleys to take Tetleys bitter and Castlemaine XXXX. Just what they want - another middle-of-the-road bitter to go alongside Boddies, Oldham, Higsons, Chesters, Trophy and Bentleys. The poor consumer will be spoilt for choice, unless, of course, they give the chop to, say, Oldham, Higsons, Chesters and Trophy. Why on earth do they want to sell Tetleys as well? Unless they wanted an Australian lager and Tetleys would only let them have Castlemaine if they took the Warrington bitter as well. Now that might make sense.

BODDY BANK

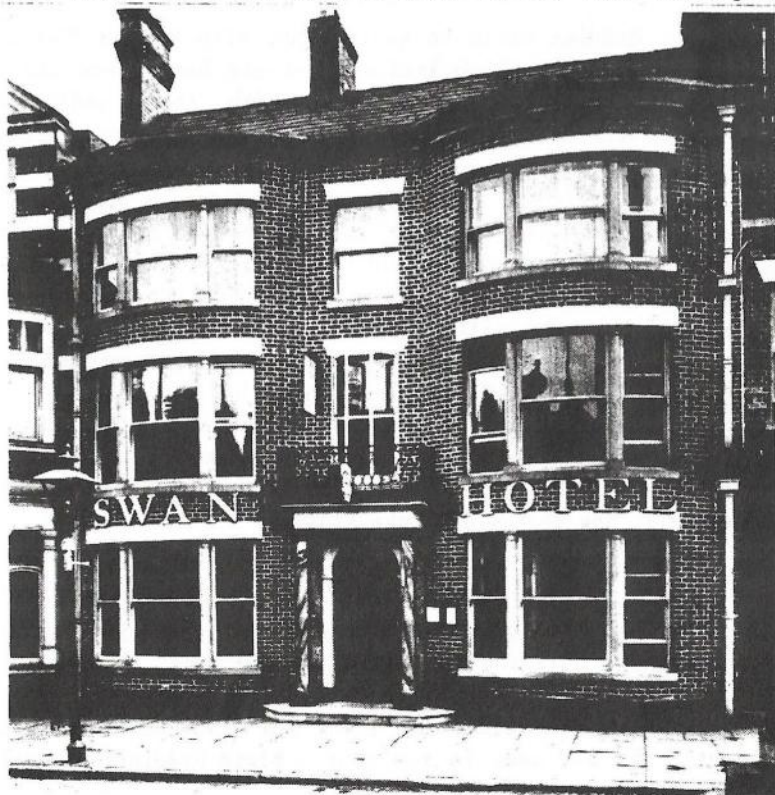
A former bank building in Spring Gardens has been turned into a public house, "Greens". The building is very impressive, with a high, ornate ceiling and lots of marble and wood panelling. The large central bar allows plenty of standing space and there are also seated areas with "snob screens". The bad news is the beer - bland Boddingtons at £1 a pint.

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

Burtonwood have applied for planning permission to demolish the Swan Hotel on the corner of Churchgate and Bradshawgate. The brewery hope to replace the Swan with offices, a car park and a cellar wine bar. The present building is Grade II listed and dates back to 1845, although there was a Swan Inn on the site at least a century before that. The pub came into Burtonwood's ownership thanks to a deal with former owners Bass in 1980. There are four bars open to the public. Two of these make up "Swannies" wine bar, including the cellar bar which would survive the demolition. The two others, the Buttery Bar and the Malt & Hops Bar, serve real ale.

It is difficult to see how Bolton Metro could grant planning permission to demolish a listed building. The resulting offices would not add to the character of a particularly historic part of town. The 7th Earl of Derby was executed near the site of the Swan in 1651 and it is believed that a Swan Inn existed then. Further down Churchgate is a



conservation area with property dating back to 1721. Part of this, including the Boars Head pub, Greenalls want to turn into a five-storey office block!

The most puzzling aspect, though, is Burtonwood's claim that the hotel is losing money. This at a time when, just half a mile away, Queen's Moat Houses are building a 130-room hotel to bring much-needed overnight accommodation to the town.

Elsewhere, the Moss Rose on Manchester Road, Kearsley, was closed down by Clifton Inns on 6th February. Another ex-Wilsons pub, the Bowling Green on Bury Road, is being turned into a fun pub much to the dismay of the locals. Despite their enrolling the aid of a prominent local councillor and attracting local publicity, the pub's new owners seem to be getting their own way. Another example of desecration without consulting the locals.

The Brown Cow, closed last year by Greenalls, has now been sold. We await further developments. Meanwhile, the Boars Head on Churchgate (see above) has been linked with Holts. Finally, the Brinsop Arms is holding a beer festival during the first few days of this month, with around 30 beers on sale. Be quick. It ends on 4th/5th March.

PRICEY HOLTS

Further to the news (Dec WD) of the imminent change from tenancy to management at the Roebuck in Urmston, the outgoing tenant has felt obliged - "due to a 100% increase in rent"-to bang 3p on a pint of mild and bitter. This takes the prices to the previously unheard of (in Joey Holts pubs at least) heights of 76p and 80p. Expect the prices to drop by 6p when the manager takes over in April.

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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MANCHESTER'S LOST PUBS

Just to reinforce the points raised in last month's WD about our disappearing pubs, here is a list of 61 Manchester pubs which, for one reason or another, are no longer with us. They all disappeared during the last 25 years so, given that we have about 120 pubs left in the city centre, a bit of simple arithmetic indicates that by 2040, if we are not careful, we will not have any pubs left – just clubs, cafe bars and perhaps one or two superior establishments on the banks of the Irwell.

Albert Hotel, 31 Lower Mosley St
Bay Horse, 91 Corporation Street
Bolton Arms, 83 New Bridge Street
Concert Inn, 17 Lower Mosley St
Crescent Inn, Great Ancoats St
Crown Hotel, 25 Newton Street
Crown Inn, 49 Lord Street
Dog & Partridge, 298 Deansgate
Exile of Erin, 18 Goulden Street
Queens Arms, 47 Gartside Street
Red Bull, 45 Mason Street
Robin Hood, 53 London Road
Rose & Crown, 13 Rigel Street
Royal George, 7 Rochdale Road
Royal Oak, 84 Brook Street
St Matthews Tavern, 6 Tonman St

Barley Mow, 34 Turner Street
Bay Horse, 35 Thomas Street
Church Inn, Jersey Street
Corporation, 45 Liverpool Road
Cross Keys, 13 Minshull Street
Crown Inn, 12 Byrom Street
Crown & Sceptre, 210 Gt Ancoats St
Douglas, 2 Fennel Street
Prince of Wales, 37 Edge Street
Railway Hotel, 1 Whitworth St West
Red Lion, 89 London Road
Rose & Crown, 164 Gt Ancoats St
Royal Brew, 33 Charles Street
Royal Oak, 7 Downing Street
St Georges Tavern, 8 Dawson Street
Seftons, 12 Corporation Street



Sherwood Hotel, 93 Temple Street
 Thatched House, New Market Place
 Volunteer Inn, 40 Baring Street
 Fatted Calf, Cromford Court
 Gaumont Long Bar, Oxford St
 Gog & Magog, 6 Downing Street
 Grey Mare, 3 Cannon Street
 Grove, 42 New Brown Street
 King George IV, New George Street
 Kings Arms, 58 Boundary St East
 Manchester Arms, 83 Corporation St
 Mosley Arms, 16 Shudehill
 New Theatre Hotel, 52 Hardman St
 Oxford, 80 Oxford Street
 Pine Apple, 120 Water Street
 Sugar Loaf Inn, 17 Sugar Lane
 Victoria Hotel, 22 Hardman Street
 Ye Olde Wheatsheaf, 282 Deansgate
 Garrick Hotel, 49 Fountain Street
 George & Dragon, 8 Bridge Street
 Grapes, 238 Deansgate
 Griffin Inn, 113-115 York Street
 Haymarket Hotel, 12 Tonman Street
 Listons Bar, Swan Court
 Lower Ship, 34 Withy Grove
 Medlock Hotel, 32 Brook Street



New Boars Head, 2 Hydes Cross
 North Western, 46 Long Millgate
 Pickwick Inn, 76 Brook Street

FULL CIRCLE

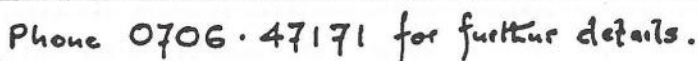
The oddly named Franklyns (late Chadderton Arms) on Broadway is shut for another renovation! Shortly after taking over the pub, named in their honour, Frank and Lynne split up. But the name has stuck for the past few years in their absence. When new managers Conrad and Dominique take over, expect the pub to be known as the Chadderton Arms once again.

This once beautiful pub was ruined some fifteen years ago by Grand Met/Pennine/Whatever. The skip outside is overflowing with chrome, glass and green hangy things. Wonder whether the oak panels will be re-installed?

Other contributors to this issue: Paul Roberts, Roger Hall, Peter Barnes, Glenn Worth, Stewart Revell, Michael Robinson, D Busman, Peter Alexander, Steve Lawton



ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE FESTIVAL

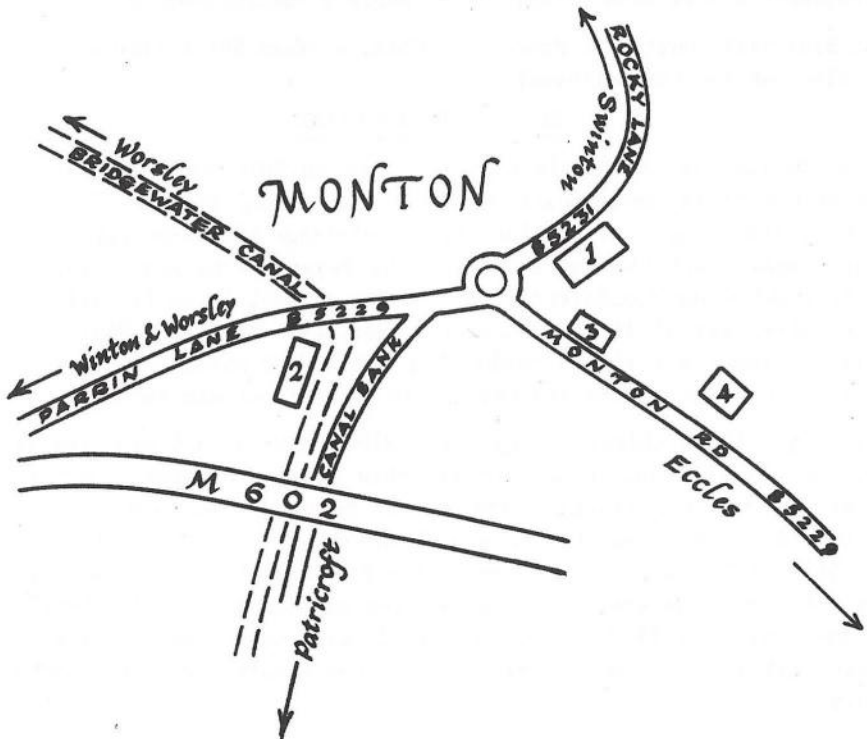


MONTON BEER

With the opening of Monton's latest pub, no less than $9\frac{1}{2}$ real ales can be sampled within this compact village on the outskirts of Eccles. Start at the Bluebell (1), a large, smart, open-plan Chef & Brewer pub, restored to its former name after a spell as the "Monton Green". Websters Yorkshire bitter (£1) and Ruddles bitter (not County, £1.02) are on sale here. A quick half of Ruddles is recommended.

Next, go beyond the roundabout and over the bridge across the Bridge-water Canal. If on foot, turn sharp left at the first gap over the bridge; drivers must go further, round the back of the Labour Club. The Bargee (2) is Monton's latest outlet to obtain a full licence. Once an off-licence and then a restaurant, car access problems hindered earlier plans to go public. Comfortably appointed and with a reasonable pub-like atmosphere, the Bargee sells Robinsons mild(73p), best bitter (83p) and Hartleys XB (86p) on handpump. A curiosity here is Boddingtons bright bitter.

Back to the roundabout, turn right and cross the road. The Drop Inn (3) is another relative newcomer. Originally a shop, then a wine bar,



it evolved into a free house pub and was extended into the shop next door. This resulted in an unusual H-shaped layout, with the central of the three doors leading not into the pub, but upstairs to an empty accountant's office. Now a John Smiths tied house, the Drop Inn offers three real ales, always on good form: bitter (86p), Magnet (88p) and Courage Directors (98p).

Since it is de rigeur to end any decent crawl with Joseph Holts, the Park Hotel (4) has been left to the last. This comfortable sixties pub has a small snug with a canal theme, providing a welcome addition to the otherwise standard lounge and vault layout. Mild (69p) and bitter (74p) are served through electric pumps. If the beer has stirred the pangs of hunger, there is an excellent Indian take-away across the road and even a restaurant just up the road.

Pete Cash

WHITEFIELD/PRESTWICH NEWS

The Bee Hive (Whitbread), Bury Old Road, now has Marstons Pedigree alongside Chesters bitter. Both are on handpumps.

The Foresters (Holts), Prestwich village, has changed from tenancy to management and is soon to undergo a complete refurbishment.

The Blue Bell (Holts) on Manchester Road, between Whitefield and Bury, is also due for refurbishment.

MILES PLATTING

It might seem inconceivable that the pubs in this inner city area of Manchester could deteriorate further. But sadly that is the case. Such is the climate of criminality and violence that some pubs cannot remain open. Both the Lancaster and the Heywood Arms are closed; the latter, which was Manchester's first Websters pub, is up for sale. The Pack Horse, one of the city's oldest pubs, was done up by Wilsons and sold to Lees. It's closed again. The White Hart opens only sporadically. Only the Grey Mare and the Apollo seem to operate normally.

One bright light shines through. The Bird in Hand, a former keg Bass pub on Oldham Road, opened in December and closed again ten days later. It has now reopened and serves Youngers IPA, Scotch Bitter, Matthew Brown Mild and Bitter and Theakstons XB, which is shortly to be replaced by Taylors. The new landlord is keen to make a success of the pub and is determined to resist the not inconsiderable pressures of the area. The Bird in Hand is within walking distance of the city centre (15 minutes) or the Marble Arch (10 minutes) and well worth a visit.

NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.45

HARE & HOUNDS

Lumb Lane, Littlemoss, Ashton

The Hare & Hounds, "a queer old ivy-covered inn", was a farm building first licensed to sell beer in the 1830s. The farm of 16 acres and the beerhouse were run by the Shaw family for over 70 years. In 1873 there was a rate revaluation (remember them?) and Mrs Ann Shaw was told that her premises didn't have sufficient value for a beerhouse licence. She objected, and increased the size of the pub by making a doorway into an adjacent cottage.

The Hare & Hounds survived another 60 years, and in 1935 the police objected to the licence, saying that the pub was not a proper place for people to congregate and imbibe intoxicants. The rooms were small with low ceilings, and the "club room" was at the top of a rickety, twisting staircase and through a four-foot-high door! (This room was the venue for potato and dahlia shows - entrants exhibited 6 potatoes and 6 dahlias.)

The beerhouse closed on 14th March 1936. The Hare & Hounds was nicknamed the Lamp & Candle - it was said that at night customers played dominoes by the light of oil lamps and candles on alternate tables.



To the Editor:

375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27



LETTERS

ENTRANCE FEE

Sir - Could you please help me with a point of information? Before the Manchester Derby at Old Trafford last month I was refused entry at the Toll Gate public house because I would not pay a 50p entrance fee.

On complaining to the police I was told that they could not help. I will be writing to the brewery about this, but would like to know if the practice is illegal and what CAMRA's view on this is.

R M Plunkett

(The practice is not illegal but is, nevertheless, in CAMRA's view, unacceptable. As well as writing to the brewery, perhaps some consideration should be given to complaining to the licensing magistrates with a view to finding out their policy on such practices.)

JOE'S TROUGH

Sir - Having just recovered from a marathon session on Joey Holt's amber amnesia, I had the misfortune to read the rather bilious article by Paul Roberts (Jan WD) concerning Holts' foray into the restaurant game.

Yes, the Cheadle Hulme is unlike anything else in the Holts empire. Yes, it is plush. Yes, it has a large restaurant and yes, the uniform fetishist will appreciate the bar staff. But no, you can't enjoy authentic squalor. No, there isn't a vault, and no, they don't charge 90p-£1 per pint like all the local competition. CAMRA should be supporting the brewery as they move boldly into the eighties. (Just a joke, Mr Kershaw, sir.) They do happen to brew the best beer available in Manchester at prices that must make the directors at Whitbodds shake with anger.

I trust that Holts will remain as idiosyncratic as ever and I am sure that CAMRA will love them all the more for this.

Steve Lawton

PS: Paul should keep his eye on the Woodthorpe at Prestwich after April. Indications are that the residential accommodation is to be extended and a restaurant added.

AILING ECCLES

Sir - With reference to your article "Ailing Eccles" last month, I admit to having missed the original review of "Ale of Two Cities" in

the local Bugle, but if what you say is true, I must protest! "Gangs of abusive, leering, tanked-up men on Church Street"? Tanked-up, certainly - there are a lot of good pubs, and perhaps he picked Giro day. But abusive and leering? Whatever was he doing - or wearing?

Sue Richardson

AILING ECCLES (2)

Sir - In your riposte to Mike Huggins' criticism of "Ale of Two Cities" (WD last month), you single out for derision his statement that Banks's is "unpleasant Midlands beer". So what's wrong with that? I found the description admirably suitable and much better than all that "well balanced and cabbagey" crap.

Marmaduke Malt

OLDHAM/ROCHDALE NEWS

Oldham drinkers have a rare chance to sample Higsons bitter. The Liverpool beer is on sale at a modest 84p per pint in the recently renovated ROBIN HOOD, Lees Road, Oldham. The Higsons is intended to be a permanent part of the beer range and complements the OB bitter and mild.

In nearby Failsworth, Greenalls' HALFWAY HOUSE on Oldham Road has lost its Original bitter due to low sales. Mild and bitter remain on hand-pumps. Thomas Greenall Original can, however, be had a few hundred yards away in the CLOGGERS ARMS, also on Oldham Road.

Further down Oldham Road towards Manchester, the BULLS HEAD, which previously sold keg Sam Smiths beers, has been resigned in the colours of Tadcaster neighbour John Smith. The beers are currently keg but new lines have been installed for traditional handpulls. The range is expected to include John Smith bitter and Courage Directors bitter.

In Castletown, the excellent New Inn on Rochdale Road has Robinsons Old Tom on gravity dispense at 48p for an unusual third-of-a-pint measure. For those who find the vinous Stockport brew too powerful, Taylors Landlord and bitters from Robinsons, Boddingtons and Thwaites complete the range. An open coal fire and friendly atmosphere make this boozer well worth a visit.

Finally, Boddingtons' WILTON HOTEL in Rhodes, which has been torn to pieces in the process of being turned into yet another Henry's Table, was still not open early in February. Rumour has it that the promised public bar may not appear. Watch this space.

GREAT NORTH WESTERN BEER FESTIVAL

9th - 12th May 1990, at the Sports & Exhibition Centre, Silverwell Street, Bolton. Provisional Beer List:

<u>Brewer</u>	<u>Beers</u>	<u>o.g.</u>			
Archers	Village	1035	Greene King	XX Mild	1031
	Best Bitter	1040		IPA	1036
	Special	1049		Abbott	1048
	Headbanger	1066	Hall & Woodhouse	Badger	1041
Arkells	Bitter	1034	Harvey	Pale Ale	1033
	BBB	1038		BB	1040
	Kingsdown	1050	Higson	Mild	1032
Ash Vine	Bitter	1039		Bitter	1038
	Tanker	1048	Holt	Mild	1033
Batemans	Mild	1033		Bitter	1039
	XB	1036	Hoskins &	Best Mild Ale	1035
	XXB	1048	Oldfield	Tom Kelly Stout	1043
	Victory	1056		EXS	1051
Butcomb	Bitter	1039		Old Navigation	1071
Clarkes	GSB	1036	Hydes	Strong Ale	1080
	Trad. Bitter	1038	Jennings	Mild	1034
	Burglar Bill	1044	Larkins	Traditional	1036
Cotleigh	Harrier	1037		Sovereign	1040
	Tawny	1040		Best Bitter	1045
	Old Buzzard	1048			
Crouch Vale	Woodham Bitter	1035	Lees	Moonraker	1074
	Best Bitter	1039	Marstons	Owd Rodger	1080
	SAS	1048	Mitchells	Bitter	1035
	Essex Porter	1050		ESB	1050
	Willie Warmer	1060	Moorhouses	Premier	1036
Eldridge Pope	Dorchester	1033		Pendle Witch	1050
Everards	Burton Mild	1033	Nethergate	Bitter	1039
	Beacon Bitter	1036		Old Growler	1055
	Tiger Bitter	1041	Oldham	OB Mild	1032
Exmoor	Exmoor Ale	1039		OB Bitter	1037
	Exmoor dark	1042	Oak	Best Bitter	1038
	Exmoor Gold	1045		Old Oak	1044
Fullers	Chiswick Bitter	1035		Double Dagger	1050
	London Pride	1041		Porter	1050
	ESB	1055		Wobbly Bob	1060
Goachers	Light Maidstone Ale	1036	Palmer	Bridport Bitter	1030
	Dark Maidstone Ale	1040		IPA	1039
	Old Bill	1066		Tally Ho	1046

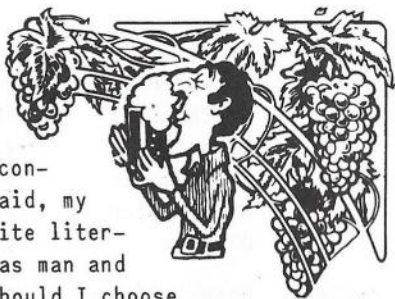
Oak Hill	Farmers Ale	1038	Taylor	Golden Best	1033
	Yeoman Ale	1050		Dark Mild	1033
Pitfield	Hoxton Best	1048		Best Bitter	1037
	Dark Star	1050		Landlord	1042
Ringwood	Best Bitter	1040	Wadworth	IPA	1035
	Old Thumper	1060		6X	1041
Robinson	Old Tom	1080		Old Timer	1055
			West Coast	Dark Mild	
St Austell	Bosuns Bitter	1034		Mild	1035
	XXXX Mild	1037		Bitter	1038
	Tinners Ale	1038		ESB	1060
Shepherd	Master Brew	1037		Sierra Nevada	
Neame	Best Bitter	1040		Festival Beer	
Smiles	Brewery Bitter	1037	Yates	Bitter	1035
	Best Bitter	1042		Premium	1048
	Exhibition	1052	Youngs	Best Bitter	1037
				Special	1048

CHEETHAM CHANGES

The Temple, a quasi-free-house on Cheetham Hill Road, is up for sale. Formerly a keg Bass pub, it was sold into the free trade and offered mainly Whitbread real ales but was never very crowded. Not far away on Woodlands Road, Woodies is boarded up. Evidently no dynamic entrepreneur has been willing to take on this large licensed retail opportunity.



RUPERT'S PAGE



This is my one hundred and forty-sixth contribution to What's Doing and, I am afraid, my last. I have toiled my naughties off quite literally for this cheeky little periodical as man and girl for over a dozen years. Why then should I choose this moment to throw it all in? Well, I can tell you it's not the diagnosis of terminal brain disease, nor the death of my live-in Filipino masseur, distressing as both these have been. Nor is it entirely the lack of appreciation from readers, publicans and members of the hierarchy. After all, I have over the years been excoriated and detested by all and sundry.

Bilko, Charlie Bass and Nigel Hummingbird have all misunderstood my constructive suggestions, as have Ms Von Trapp and her troupe of cloth-eared barpersons. Rumpledshirtscream, the Whinging Sartorial Scot, Madge and Badge Fairplastic, Max Wall, Dermatitis and Nora Tackler have all been involved in the covert operation Chocolate Fireguard in an attempt to silence me. Even Eddy Nestfeather has been less than totally sincere in his treatment of me, listening to the bletherings of stooges and being persuaded to sack me on more than one occasion. Only Beinlos has stood by me through thick and thin and as he's seldom sober I'm unsure whether this can be considered as support or not.

No, all these things I consider as part of the cut and thrust of life as a shy, transvestite dwarf. What has really cut me to the quick is the lack of understanding of Red Max and his Scousley mob. Have they not heard of irony? Do they really believe that I'm pleased they're going to lose their lovely brewery? Don't they realise that when I'm nice about people I really mean it, but when slight criticism creeps in it is meant with heavy irony? So I don't really believe Dillons will brew super Scousley amber nectars in Tykeley. Sadly, the brain-dead dimbos seem incapable of grasping this. Mind you, as they're incapable of running the proverbial piss up in a brewery I'm not entirely amazed. They came to Grotley three hours early to bury Dillons and then went to the former Brobdingnags plant where the Colonel's men in suits plied them with Scousley ale in their hostility suite. Was it any good? Well, they played a canny game. They didn't know whether it had been manufactured in Tykeley or Scouseley so they were, let us say, non-committal. Not so unsure about me. Should be

banned, have his naughties chopped off, etc. Before I'm hauled before the Campaign Disciplinary Committee to be blanded I'm going to resign. Look, Eddy, I don't really want to resign but I thought I might get some sympathetic letters, OK?



The 4th OLDHAM BEER FESTIVAL



Friday 30th March - Sunday 1st April, Werneth Park, Frederick Street, Oldham. Open Friday 6pm-11pm, Saturday 11.30am-4pm & 6pm-11pm, Sunday 12noon-4pm (extension applied for). Entertainment in the form of jazz on Friday night and brass band on Saturday night. Food will be available. Admission: £1 in the evenings; 50p Saturday lunchtime; Sunday free. Free admission at all times for card-carrying CAMRA members. For further information contact Mike Robinson 061 678 4525 (w).

LEES IN LEES

J W Lees have opened their first pub in Lees. This is the Swan on High Street, which they acquired from John Smiths. The pub has been closed for a year and has been extensively renovated. The living accommodation has been moved to the top floor and a function room is being made on the first floor.

GBG LICENSEES MOVE

Terry and Carol Joy have moved from the Stanley Arms, Liverpool Road, Patricroft, to another Holts pub, the Park Inn, Worsley Road, Swinton. Under their tenancy, the Stanley appeared in no fewer than six editions of the Good Beer Guide. We await developments at the Park with interest.

The Stanley is now in the capable hands of their daughter and son-in-law, Tracy and Neil Houter.



Branch Diary

BOLTON

Thur 1 Mar 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, York Hotel, Newport Street, Bolton

Thur 8 Mar, Trip to Wigan Beerfest. Meet rail station 6.30pm for 6.41 train.

Sun 11 Mar, 12 noon, Beer Festival Meeting, York Hotel

Sat 17 Mar, Trip to Fleetwood Beer Festival. Details at Branch Meeting

Sat 31 Mar, Trip to Oldham Beer Festival. Details at Branch Meeting

Thur 5 April, 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Rock House, Duke Street

NB The Theakstons trip on Sat 10 March is now being run by the East Lancs Branch

Contact: Barbara Kerks, Bolton 658458 (h), 22494 x2221 (w)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 7 March, Crab Village, Blackley. Flying Horse, Crab Lane, 7 & 8pm

Sun 11 March, Beer Festival Committee, York, Bolton, 12 noon

Wed 14 March, Good Beer Guide Final Selection, Crescent 8pm

Thurs 15 March 7.30pm, Brewery Action Group, Castle, Oldham Street, Manchester

Wed 21 March, Branch AGM, Marble Arch 8pm

Wed 28 March, Collyhurst: Milan, Rochdale Rd 7pm, Osborne 8pm

Sat 31 March, Mild Awards, Marble Arch, about 3pm

Wed 4 April, Edgeley. Train at 7.15 from Salford Crescent, 7.26 from Piccadilly to Stockport. The Old Vic, Chatham Street, Royal Oak, Castle Street, 8.30 approx.

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 6 Mar 8.30 Branch Meeting, Cloggers Arms, Oldham Road, Failsworth

Fri 16th March 8pm, Heywood Pub Crawl. 8pm Engineers, Aspinall St: 8.30 Wishing Well: 10pm Browns No.1

Sat 17th Mar 1pm, Mild Marketing Board presentation to the branch. Robin Hood, Lees Road, Oldham

Tues 20 Mar 8.30. Committee Meeting, Westbourne Hotel, Middleton Road, Oldham

Thurs 22 Mar. Post Bury Beer Festival discussion. Navigation, Drake Street, Rochdale

Fri 30 Mar - Sun 1st April **OLDHAM BEER FESTIVAL** - see elsewhere in this issue.

Tues 3 April 8.30, Branch Meeting, Crown & Shuttle, Milnrow Road, Rochdale

ADVANCE NOTICE OF AGM

Tues 1 May 8pm, High Sheriff, Halifax Road, Rochdale. All members please try to attend.

Contact: B Lee 061 766 6601, 0706 824407

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 1 Mar 8pm, Committee Meeting, White Lion, Deansgate, Manchester

Thurs 8 Mar 8pm, Deansgate Survey, starting at the Crown

Sat 10th Mar (am) Wigan Beer Festival. Train times to be confirmed.

Thurs 15 Mar 8pm, Branch Meeting at the Marble Arch to decide 1991 Good Beer Guide entries. Promises to be a lively evening!

Thurs 22 Mar, Timperley Survey. Starting at the Gardeners at 8pm, then on to the Moss, Hare & Hounds, Stonemasons and finish in the Quarry Bank.

Thurs 29 Mar, Northern Moor Survey. Starting at the Jolly Butcher at 8pm, then on to the Pear Tree, Gardeners, the Park and hopefully the Carters Arms

Thurs 5 April 8pm, Committee Meeting, Carters Arms, Sale Moor

Contact: Allan Glover 061 962 9890

MILITANT TENANCY

I Quaffam's febrile imagination (Letters, January WD) runs to more than just his name. What's Doing is as critical of Holts turning pubs into managed houses as it is of Boddingtons. Until recently Holts have achieved their reduction in tenancies by stealth. As tenants have retired, so pubs have been put into management. This has now changed and Holts, just like Boddingtons before them, are encouraging tenants to go.

Whilst it is undeniable that some managed houses are excellent and some tenancies awful, it is also true that, in general, tenanted pubs are more in keeping with CAMRA's concept of decent, traditional pubs. You wouldn't find many tenants theming their premises or turning them into licensed junkyards. You might disagree with the licensee's taste in wallpaper or flights of plaster ducks, but at least it's individual.

Managed premises are frequently subjected to the stereotyping treatment favoured by big brewers - a sort of wall-to-wall licensed muzak. Any move towards more managed houses will inevitably reduce individuality and diversity and lead to increased homogeneity and conformity. As such it must be regretted and opposed, whether it's the Boddingtons pub-owning group or our own beloved Holts (who can do wrong).

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Sun: 12.00-3.00. 7.00-10.30

Mon: 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

Tues: 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

Weds: 12.00-4.00 6.00-11.00

Thur: 12.00-4.00 6.00-11.00

Fri: 12.00-11.00

Sat 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

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