

WHAT'S DOING

JULY
1990



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

CORNBROOK CHEER



The mild at the Pomona may be keg and the one-room layout of the Hope may be a sad sign of the times but changes at the Cornbrook can only be welcomed. This characterful, tiled Tetleys pub is now owned by Vaux. Samson bitter and Darleys mild have replaced the handpumped Tetleys mild and bitter. Vaux are gradually building up quite a presence in Greater Manchester as a result of the MMC Report.

The complete list of Tetley pubs sold to Vaux in this latest deal is as follows:

Bell, Manchester Rd East, Worsley	Boatmans Home, City Rd, Manchester
Cornbrook, Chester Rd, Manchester	Cross Keys, Jersey Street, Ancoats
Dressers Arms, Dawson St, Heywood*	Portland, Portland St, Bolton
Lever Bridge Inn, Radcliffe Road, Great Lever, Bolton	

Victoria, Market St, Farnworth Vulcan, Junction Rd, Deane, Bolton
Duke of Cambridge, Duke St, St Helens Mersey, Mersey St, Warrington*
Furnacemans Arms, Pocket Nook Street, St Helens*
Plough, Church St, Ormskirk Rope & Anchor, Bolton Rd, Atherton
(Those marked * are on keg beer)

In another deal, it is understood that Tetleys have sold the following to BodPubCo:

Cestrian, City Road, Chester; Cheshire Cheese, Lewin Street, Middlewich; Express, Mill Street, Crewe; Nags Head, Market Street, Crewe; Union Vaults, Egerton Street, Chester; Winnington Lodge, Winnington Lane, Northwich.

OUT IN THE STICKS

The annual North Manchester chara' trip to rural parts took place at the beginning of June and included the wilds of Ramsbottom, Tottington, Affetside and Entwistle. The first two pubs appear in "Vintage Pubs" - quite deservedly. The Old Dun Mare in Ramsbottom has an excellent layout - four rooms including a vault and bar parlour around a central bar with a sizeable rear lobby. The 1930s interior tiling may not be to everyone's taste but the elusive quality of pubness is certainly there.

The Dungeon in Tottington is to be altered. The two rooms on the right will remain intact with their original woodwork, screens and settles, but the bar is to be shifted to the side of the pub to increase the serving area and the rear room is to be incorporated into the licensed area. This is unfortunate; the bar, with its curved hardwood mouldings, is a feature of the pub. It has been somewhat spoiled by the addition of a red formica top but this could presumably be removed and the bar restored. The pressure for change comes not from the lack of space in the bar but from the way that space is used. Some 10 feet of bar serves a small vault and the remaining 6 feet serves the other three rooms, a relic perhaps of the days of waiter service. With a little more thought it would have been possible to improve service and incorporate the rear room without moving the bar and destroying the integrity of the pub's design.

Over in Affetside there is a stone-built Hydes pub on the Roman Road. It is an ancient hostelry of considerable character such that the various attempts at modernising the place to appeal to a yuppieish clientele have failed to destroy the essential character of a country

pub. The rear snug is still excellent but the built-on restaurant does detract even from this at times. Once again you can't help feeling that, with a little more thought, some of the more blatant excesses could have been avoided.

If the Pack Horse is something of a disappointment, then the Strawberry Duck at Entwistle is a nightmare. There are no complaints about the selection or quality of the beer, which are both excellent, but the sprawling layout of the pub is neither in accord with modern tastes nor faithful to the original railway hotel. This remote hostelry seems to attract a yuppie clientele, rather than the cross section which frequents the archetypal country pub.

In many ways it is sad to see the same pressures which have been changing pubs in the cities operating in outer suburbia. Even buildings with historical connections are treated with scant regard to their integrity by brewers who seem more concerned with following the conventional wisdom of modernising by destroying the multi-roomed, jostling nature of some of their tied estate. Neglect for decades followed by metamorphosis is not the only policy for running pubs.





In Conjunction with

Huddersfield Canal Society

Celebration of *Independent* Local Brewers

The CAMRA Beer Tent at this year's Ashton Canals Festival will also coincide with CAMRA's national celebration of independent brewers of traditional beers.

To mark this event, up to seventeen different beers will be available at various times over the festival weekend. Furthermore, it is hoped that all the Greater Manchester independent brewers will be represented by at least one of their beers, (that is: Holts, Hydes, Lees, Robinsons, and West Coast Breweries).

The Beer Tent will be open during the following times:

<i>Friday</i>	<i>6th July</i>	<i>7.00pm-11.00pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>7th July</i>	<i>12.00pm-5.00pm & 7.30pm-11.00pm</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>8th July</i>	<i>12.00pm-5.00pm</i>

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

Apologies this month to the licensee of the King William IV on Manchester Road, Bolton, who was surprised to read on this page last month that his is one of four Tetley pubs to be transferred to Vaux. It isn't. The Portland Hotel, Halliwell, is, in fact, the pub in question.

Boddingtons bitter is now available in a number of Whitbread pubs, the latest being the Volunteer Inn at Bromley Cross. Alongside the Boddies is handpulled Trophy and Bentley's Yorkshire Bitter.

Meanwhile, how about this for a tale of woe? CAMRA member Dave Barnes was recently refused entry to Sam's Bar on Bradshawgate one Friday night, despite being quite smartly dressed. Suspecting age-ism, Dave, a regular at the old Prince William for over twenty years prior to its conversion to Sam's Bar, wrote to the owners, the Boddingtons Pub Co. The reply confirmed Dave's fears. On Friday nights, apparently, Sam's Bar "is aimed at the 18-30 year-olds" and it was felt wise "to advise" Dave of that. Dave, who admits to being somewhat over 30, is understandably miffed, particularly when Sam's Bar seems perfectly willing to allow him entry and take his money early on in the week when it is struggling for custom.

It would be nice to report a happy ending, but sadly things have got worse for Dave, a college lecturer who commutes to Blackpool every day. Occasionally, on his way home, he calls in at the Kings Head, the Higsons pub opposite Blackpool North Station and Dave's favourite pub in the town. Recently the pub was renovated and has just reopened. As a "Sam's Bar"!

HARE & HOUNDS

The Hare & Hounds on Shudehill, Manchester, has been taken over by John and Marion Thompson, who previously had a cask John Smiths pub in Lancaster. Burton Bitter (£1.18) is now available as well as the Tetley mild (93p) and Tetley bitter (97p). Tetley have done much work to the cellar and there are plans to decorate and repair the rest of the pub. We are assured that there will be no changes to the layout, the attractive tiling or the bar fittings.

WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

The eagerly-awaited new Holts pub in Hindley - formerly the LEIGH ARMS - was still closed and boarded up at the time of writing, but there are still changes afoot in the town. The good news is that the WORTHINGTON HOTEL, Market Street, has decided to give cask mild another try. This Burtonwood pub - once a stalwart of the Good Beer Guide - is packed most weekends, which can only be good for the turnover and quality of said beer.

The bad news in Hindley relates to the HOCKERY BROOK on Manchester Road. This tavern, bought by Paramount Inns (see April WD) had, on a recent visit, dropped cask Burtonwood bitter in favour of keg Snotes. The mild, though still real ale, seemed older than your correspondent. If this is the shape of things to come, let's hope Paramount don't buy too many pubs around here.

Meanwhile, Whitbread's SIR ROBERT PEEL, Wigan Road, still sells only keg beer, despite what the pub exterior would have you believe. For now, at any rate, your best bet for a decent pint in Hindley has to be the ELLESMERE, a GBG-rated Burtonwood pub in Lancaster Road, and the CUMBERLAND ARMS, Chapel Green (Tetley).

Rumour has it that Tetley are planning to turn the BEN JONSON, Warrington Road, Goose Green, near Wigan, into a Peter Walker outlet. The pub sold real ale briefly - very briefly - in 1986. Pub historians should visit the BJ, if only to see the cottages adjacent...which used to be the original Ben Jonson pub. I am reliably informed that the pub is one of only two in the whole country to be named after the famous playwright.

Having exhausted that topic, some news in brief. The LOCOMOTION on Appley Bridge railway station is, as feared last month, selling keg-only Bass beers...the ROSS'S ARMS, a Tetley outlet in Astley, is now selling Holts bitter as a guest beer, as well as Jennings...the CRAWFORD ARMS, Red Rock Lane, near Haigh, has lost its cask mild. This Greenalls pub still has its own traffic lights, though...in the town centre, GEM'S free house in Upper Dicconson Street now has Marstons Pedigree on the bar in place of Castle Eden Ale, but the Hartlepool brew has turned up in the BELLINGHAM HOTEL, Wigan Lane, alongside the Boddies and Thwaites beers.

Editor:

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LETTERS



BODDIES

Sir - As a CAMRA member of some 17 years standing I was appalled to read Roger Hall's article "Boddies Boycott" (June WD). Have our campaigning issues now to cease on the grounds that they are likely to prove ineffective? If the early stalwarts of the Campaign had adopted such an attitude the Red Revolution would have triumphed and cask conditioned beer would today be a rare specimen indeed.

The closures of Fremlins and Higsons are simply the latest in a long series of despicable acts by Whitbread, the most reprehensible of our major brewers, a company with a cynical disregard for the interests of the drinking public. I shall happily support any legitimate campaigning activity aimed at these people and would expect all fellow CAMRA members to follow suit.

Yes, the Good Beer Guide is "first and foremost just that". Why, then, should it include "cheat" beers of mediocre quality masquerading under famous names of breweries destroyed years ago, with no resemblance to the products whose names they bear? Let us not delude ourselves that OB mild has not already been eliminated, as have Higsons bitter and mild, although all these products are still available in name.

If Whitbread choose to close Castle Eden or Strangeways, make no mistake they will do, public demand notwithstanding. No one wants to see these breweries closed any more than the many others which have come under the axe.

Boddingtons is not by any stretch of the imagination the same product as it was 15 years ago. Then it was a distinctive local product from a rightly proud and highly successful family brewery. Since then there has been an ever steepening decline, culminating in the sadly inevitable events of 1989. A once-famous bitter, Boddingtons is a pale shadow of its former self. Mr Hall's most absurd assertion is that Boddingtons "can be compared not unfavourably with our other local brews". Having read his article over a pint of Holts amber nectar I can categorically state this is arrant nonsense. A favourable comparison with Greenall Whitley, perhaps, but certainly not with any of the North West independents.

Let us do all we can to uphold the fine traditions of our Campaign. Let us not accept the closure of Higsons as a fait accompli. It is no

use saying to Whitbread, "That was naughty, don't do it again, but we'll carry on supporting your beers". Let us hit them as hard as we can and, who knows, they might even think twice about such actions in the future. There is more chance of keeping Strangeways open that way than any other.

Ken Hargreaves

HOLTS

Sir - Has no-one told Stewart Revell that his position as Brewery Liaison Officer is to put CAMRA's case to the brewery and not simply to act as a mouthpiece for any old rubbish they care to feed him? (WD June) His latest offering really takes the biscuit. Its tone of smug complacency and its dismissal of CAMRA's concerns about the future of the Seven Stars could just as easily have been written by a brewery PR hack (indeed, there are some who would suggest that it was!)

Yes, some CAMRA members have expressed concern about what is proposed here - I thought that was what we were in business for. So what if Holts have a reasonable record on pub refurbishments of late? The plans for the Seven Stars (which I understand Stewart Revell hasn't actually seen) involve a knock-through into adjoining shops and moving the bar, which will not only serve to create a vast open-plan lounge but will also involve the removal of much woodwork and etched glass, not to mention the destruction of some fine tiling. I, for one, don't care that it is intended to re-use the wood and glass in the new-look pub. I don't want the pub knocked about at all, especially for something as speculative as this. Openshaw is already over-pubbed, so just where do Holts expect the additional trade to come from?

With the Seven Stars, Holts have one of the very few gems left in inner-city Manchester. Sadly they don't seem to care, and neither, it seems, does Stewart Revell. Incidentally, I seem to recall Mr Revell being told by Holts that they intended to re-use the "wood and glass" in the refurbished Junction in Cheadle Hulme - perhaps he would ask the brewery what became of that?

John Clarke

HOLTS AGAIN

Sir - I wish Stewart Revell would confine his Holts Brewery Liaison role to beer matters. When he comments on pub issues he seems to put his foot in it. I agree that Holts have generally had a good track record with their pub schemes over the last few years, and it does not do to compare Holts' record to other brewers, as Stewart does, because they are in a different league anyway.

However, there are signs that this might be changing. For years Holts

have, consciously or unconsciously, followed the old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". They have respected the multi-room layout, taken care to preserve traditional architectural features and allowed their pubs to, shall we say, mature into comfortable, homely boozers. When a pub has got beyond this point Holts have usually carried out minimal decorating and re-upholstering work to revive it. I would say this track record is fairly exemplary and so when they begin to deviate from it, as seems to be the case with proposals for the White Swan, Swinton, and the Seven Stars, Beswick, they should be taken to task. After all, it is a form of flattery. There are other brewers who do not get any earache at all about their schemes because we have given up on them.

Peter Barnes

RUPERT

Sir - May I say what a joy it is to find that Rupert has returned to your august journal. The steady and sobering influence of his measured, meticulous and above all comprehensible prose has been sadly missed of late.

Lesser luminaries might fall into the easy trap of exploiting their exalted position to expound their own particular bias, criticise people who are unable to answer back, or even (heaven forbid!) descend to personal abuse. How lucky, then, that we can safely leave the column in Rupert's trustworthy hands, happy in the knowledge that he will, without fear or favour, explain to us all exactly what we think about all the important issues.

Magnus Portentious, Salford

LONDON BEER

Sir - England is now supposed to be well provided with good real ale, therefore its capital, particularly Central London, should reflect this. ("A dismal lot", according to Mr McIvor in WD June.) On my infrequent journeys to London, I have made a point of visiting real ale outlets and generally I have been disappointed. The last visit in January (WD Jan) being a particular example. Friends and acquaintances have had similar experiences. Criticisms are that beer is flat, tepid and uninspiring as well as overpriced. There must be good beer in London, but is this the exception rather than the rule? And do you have to have a beer guide and go on a route march to find a decent pint? If tepid beer is the rule, then no doubt "Northern" Boddingtons and Websters will continue their advance in the capital, on the back of the myth that all Northern beers are better than Southern brews.

"Bigoted Bill"

BLAND BEER

Sir - Sue Richardson (Letters, June) is right to deplore the lack of a low gravity "session beer" in many free houses. I see no logic, though, in arguing from this that CAMRA should not denigrate the insipid beers of the national combines - what is being criticised is their lack not of strength but of taste.

Instead of the Chesters bitter your correspondent implausibly claims to miss at her local, let's see free houses and national brewery tenants putting in, say, Taylors Golden Best. At the same gravity as Chesters, this would be just as suitable for the occasions which she rightly identifies, and who would argue that it is not a vastly more characterful, pleasanter, in fact just plain better beer?

Rhys P Jones

REGIONAL MATTERS

Sir - After the June Regional Meeting at the Marble Arch I felt I must bring to the attention of those CAMRA members who did not attend just what they missed.

The Regional Director, Paula Carder, is streets ahead of her predecessor when it comes round to entertainment. The meeting was pure knock-about comedy, with the usual star performers in attendance and really on form. The beer was in good nick, free snacks, good company (mostly), loads of rib-tickling hilarity plus the occasional mention of beer, pubs and breweries. All we needed was Ken Dodd to make it a perfect evening.

I am finding the branch/committee meetings rather boring these days, with serious discussions, decisions being made and masterful chairpersons spoiling people's fun, and so I am suggesting that the Regional Meetings be held at least once a month so we can get away from the usual boring "let's get pissed and discuss the Poll Tax/mad cow disease/the next election" evenings. So come on, Paula, let's have more Regional Meetings and continue to bring light into the dull old world of Manchester drinkers.

Ian McDermott

BASS BOOZERS

Sir - I was most concerned to read about the "scurrilous lies and defamations" which Mr Blaney of the Honourable Order of Bass Drinkers claims to have found in ALE OF TWO CITIES (Letters, June). I published the information in good faith after consulting with my mole, Mr Byre, and our solicitors, Messrs Bulldog & Barreller. Mr Byre actually attended a HOBOD meeting some years ago disguised as a loud, inebriate

Blackpool innkeeper so that he would blend in with the company and I have full confidence in the veracity of his report.

With regard to the proposed consanguinity, I suggest that we need to deliberate on this, and that CAMRA and HOBD attend a joint jamboree around Central Manchester Bass outlets on a Wednesday evening in the near future to enable us to discuss the possibility of further deliberations.

Peter Barnes

IT DIDN'T TAKE THEM LONG, DID IT?

Whitbread, that is. Only a few weeks after taking over Boddies brewery, the giant brewer has rammed all its prices up by 7p a pint. Boddies bitter is now typically £1 a pint and over £1 a pint in many upmarket outlets. Just two years ago it was about 75p a pint. At this time Holts was 67p. Holts is now 76p so it's gone up 9p. Boddies has gone up 20-25p. No further proof is necessary of the maxim Big is Bad. Local independents do provide value for money. Whitbread's greed may be a valid reason for voting with your feet.

HIGHER IRLAM PUBS & CLUB

The Boathouse is now under new management, but nothing has really changed as yet. Handpumped Boddingtons bitter is available at the Nags Head (Whitbread), complementing the Chesters mild and bitter.

Handpumped Wilsons bitter is now the major beer at both the Tiger Moth and Sports (ex-White Lion). Wilsons is also available at the Higher Irlam Social Club at a reported 78p a pint.

PENDLEBURY ALE

Tetley have converted two of their Pendlebury pubs to real ale - the Shepherds (bitter and dark mild) and the Station (bitter). Tetley dark mild is now on sale at the Bowling Green and at the Robin Hood Jennings bitter alternates with Burton Ale alongside Tetley bitter, mild and Walkers best bitter. Boddies bitter has replaced Chesters at the Golden Lion and Directors is on sale alongside John Smiths bitter at the Oddfellows.

Other contributors to this issue: Ian Kenny, Bill Collier, Roger Hall, Stewart Revell, Graham Mason.

NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee



No.49

BLUE BELL

10 Scotland Street, Ashton

This photograph of the Blue Bell was taken in the 1970s, some twenty years after it closed. The building dates from 1882, when it replaced a much older pub which stood on the corner of Scotland Brook Lane.

The first Blue Bell was one of Ashton's earliest licensed houses, although its origins cannot be pinned down with any certainty. It may have been known as the Cross Keys, recorded in 1718, or the Ring o' Bells (1780). In 1817 the pub was known as the Two Brothers, then it was the Lord Nelson for a time. In 1856 the Blue Bell was described as being in a very tidy condition, with a brewhouse and spirit vault, and free from brewer. Just twenty years later, when it was decided to open up the street and demolish some of the old property in the area, the Blue Bell was found to be in a dangerous condition. It was pointed out that the dimensions of the building were such that an average-size man could not walk into the pub with his hat on!

The new Blue Bell was built on the corner of Bedford Street and Scotland Street. It was an Openshaw Brewery pub until 1926, when Macclesfield's North Cheshire Brewery took over. The Blue Bell closed in the 1950s.

BEINLOS on BEER

Paul Roberts

Further to the remarks in last month's WD I would like to offer my suggestions for the compilation of the Good Beer Guide.

My first comment is that the best five thousand pubs in the country should be included, regardless of their location. This would obviously leave areas like Greater Manchester with nil coverage as it is an unfortunate geographical fact that although we have much real ale in this region, we do not have any classic brews - all the best beers are to be found in the southern counties or around the Black Country.

I've just spent an enjoyable week or so working down in Bath and managed to find time to partake of the local amber nectars in this beautiful city. I was amazed to find every pub in the city centre offering a multitude of wonderful real ales, all served in excellent condition. During my stay I must have consumed close on one hundred pints and I did not have one in less than 100% condition - I challenge anyone to wander into two dozen or more pubs in the North Manchester area and find one hundred consecutive excellent pints from well over a dozen breweries.

Enough diversification. Assuming a Northern Good Beer Guide was produced to allow the best pubs in the North to be listed, I will make my suggestions brewery by brewery:

ALLIED Only one beer worthy of mention - **IND COOPE BURTON ALE** - but sadly, with its demise in the Smithfield there are no consistent outlets in the North Manchester area.

BASS Cask Stones can hardly be called traditional as it bears no resemblance to the original excellent Stones of Sheffield. **DRAUGHT BASS**, although a shadow of its former self, can still be an excellent drink in certain parts of the country. Unfortunately in this area it is not given the attention and cellar "lagering" it needs to be served on top form.

COURAGE In this region by far the best of the Big Six. **JOHN SMITHS** bitter is a tasty, quaffable low gravity session beer but the **COURAGE DIRECTORS** is still a classic brew and mid-gravity **MAGNET** is worth a try. The **PEEL PARK INN** on Chapel Street, Salford, is worthy of inclusion for serving all these in consistently fine form.

GRAND MET Produce a range of totally bland beers with the exception of the **RUDDLES** range. The **SWAN WITH TWO NECKS** on Withy Grove,

Manchester, offers excellent value Ruddles Best alongside the totally bland Websters bitter, Wilsons bitter and mild.

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE Produce some quite decent beers but their tied house in this area is not worthy of mention.

WHITBREAD The villains of the piece. They have destroyed so many classic beers - Castle Eden, Flowers, Fremlins, Higsons and Wethereds to name just a few. Boddingtons is still the same today as it was fifteen years ago - absolutely bloody awful! Avoid at all costs.

GREENALLS Produce cleaner tasting beers with fewer adjuncts than their Warrington neighbours, but they are still too bland to merit inclusion.

HYDES A lovely small brewery producing good beer and many outlets in South Manchester consistently serve excellent pints. Unfortunately all outlets (both tied and free) in North Manchester are nowhere near the mark.

HOLTS What's gone wrong this year? Holts have started the decade by producing some of the worst beer ever. Things seem to have improved now and it is hoped that the brewery has got its act together. Assuming that they start to produce consistently good beer again, the best bets are the LAMB INN, Eccles; PARK, Swinton, and STANLEY, Patricroft.

JOHN WILLIE LEES The best beer north of Birmingham, when served correctly. Available in excellent condition in many pubs around the brewery, but as the beer is so hard to care for it can be nasty when ill-treated. The beer is normally consistently good at the JOHN WILLIE LEES in the Arndale Centre, but still not as good as in its Middleton home. Together with Holts, Lees provides the best value for money of any beer in the area.

ROBINSONS Excellent in most South Manchester and Peak District pubs, but often served well below par in many outlets in this area. The CASTLE, Oldham Street, Central Manchester, always offers an excellent pint and the THREE LEGS OF MAN, Greengate, Salford, merits inclusion for serving consistently good, rare ORDINARY BITTER.

THWAITES An electronic brewery which produces a beer which tastes like Smithwicks AFB with added alcohol. OK for catching snails, but certainly not for human consumption.

BURTONWOOD Makes Greenalls taste exciting.

MARSTONS The flagship Pedigree is a shadow of its former self and only a small proportion of it is brewed by the unique Burton Union system. No suitable outlets worthy of inclusion.

WEST COAST BREWING CO Produce excellent beers, especially the Sierra Nevada ale (copied from a brew in Chico, CA). While these are always on fine form at the brewery tap, the KINGS ARMS in Chorlton-on-Medlock, they are well below par when served in the North Manchester free houses.

BANKS/HANSONS Good beers in the West Midlands/Black Country areas, but do not seem to travel well.

SAMUEL SMITHS Produce quite a distinctive OLD BREWERY BITTER and excellent MUSEUM ALE. SINCLAIRS, Shambles Square, is probably worth a "try also".

TIMOTHY TAYLORS Probably the best thing to come out of Yorkshire (apart from the M62). Always on excellent form in the QUEENS, Honey Street, Manchester.

There you have it. I can suggest ten entries in the North Manchester area. I could probably suggest treble that in the neighbouring Rochdale, Oldham & Bury and South Manchester areas, which are both blessed with better beer and better pubs.

It seems a dog-in-the-manger attitude to submit a list of 27 pubs for the Good Beer Guide, just because North Manchester is allowed this number. Would it not be more noble to stick to a few decent pubs and transfer the rest of the allocation to more worthy areas - such as Rochdale, Oldham & Bury, South Manchester or, better still, the South of England?

HOLTS CORNER

The Bridgewater Hotel, Hollinwood, has been bought by Oldham Metro under a CPO for road widening. Work on a new pub adjacent to the old site will begin in September and the pub will be open by summer 1991.

Two more pubs offering Holts as a guest beer are the Woolpack (Tetley) in Radcliffe and the Rising Sun (Wilsons) in Bredbury.

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

The Navigation Hotel (Holts) on Drake Street, Rochdale, is holding a Charity Quiz Night on July 11th. This follows the recent successful fund-raising evening when £260 was collected for Christie's Hospital. The local CAMRA branch will be signing-up new members that evening and a donation will be made to the charity. All welcome.

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The greatest selection of milds, bitters and strong ales ever assembled under one roof!



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Genuine traditional ciders and perris. Most are usually unavailable outside their own local areas.



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With special children's entertainment including magic and Punch and Judy. Open lunchtimes and until 9.00 pm.

Beer Books and Guides

Opening Times

Tuesday 7th	5.00 - 11.00
Wednesday 8th	11.30 - 3.00
Friday 10th	5.30 - 11.00
Saturday 11th	11.00 - 11.00

(subject to Police agreement)

No admission after 10.00 pm any evening

Admission

Lunchtimes and up to 6.00	50p
After 6.00	£2.00

Accompanied children — FREE.
Group bookings of 10 or more
FREE before 6.00 £1 after 6.00 if
booked in advance — address below.

The organisers reserve the right of admission. No dogs except Guide Dogs.



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Selection of the finest brews from
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Channel 4's 'Beerhunter'
programme.



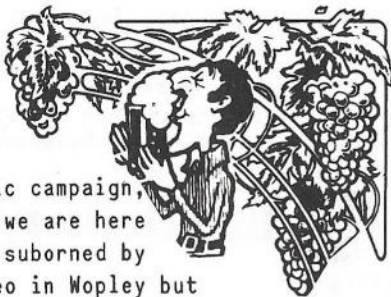
Pub Games

Selection of well known and not-so-
well known games from all over the
UK.



Food Camra T-shirts

RUPERT'S PAGE



It makes you proud to be part of a dynamic campaign, for make no mistake about it that's what we are here in Grotley. Our stalwarts were not to be suborned by the rival attractions of humanoid subbuteo in Wopley but flocked in their masses to the highly wonderful Mrs Tiggy-winkle's to consider matters of moment. Such is the concern in Grotley for serious campaigning that some local branches know where most of their pubs are and who owns some of them, just the kind of in-depth knowledge which will help stave off takeovers and help make a case to the MMC or indeed assist in the compilation of structured, analytical articles for local newsletters. Campaigning takes such priority that few people, including Regional Bosspersons Nora Tackler and Hippo Vistula, could find time to come to a group set up to discuss such matters.

Instead, everyone found themselves at the Greater Grotley talking shop, where, I'm happy to see, constructive criticism is still the order of the day. Charlie Dolcis, who'd just resigned as chief badger to Percy Boringsod, was less than nice to the apologist for the Drabs. Furthermore, the chief paster of Opening Tripe went on to decry any involvement in supporting our local purveyors of fine ales and carried the meeting with him. On reflection, I suppose that most people, particularly in go-ahead branches like Smarmford & Slutch, would be too busy with their own important campaigns to be bothered with a regional effort to promote the works of our lacklustre brewers. Does it really matter if nobody knows about Brasso's, Drabs, Sikh's and Boringsods? If the truth were known, we'd be better off without them. After all, the same people did precious little about Brobdingnags, who, now that they've been released from the chore of running a grotty little brewery, have been able to concentrate on improving their taverns. Dillons have closed down the horrid Scousely brewery and have driven the impecunious scum from their hostelries by charging realistic prices.

Perhaps, all in all, a more contemplative stance is what's required. Nostalgic art calendars endorsed by the Campaign, gongs for pub design and media sycophancy are self-evidently more rewarding than the kind of strident bellyaching that some of the passe old fogeys still seem to imagine is needed. If the Campaign is to succeed in attracting

30,000 members it's important that they can enjoy themselves. They'll want to be involved in amber nectar shows and gong presentation freebies and other jollies, not foot-slogging, boring surveys and fruitless fights against the wise and the good.



Branch Diary

WIGAN

Wed 4 July 7.30. Independents Day crawl

Wed 18 July 8.30 Branch Meeting, Hare & Hounds, Upholland Rd, Billinge

Contact: Brian Gleave, Atherton 876200 (w), 840658 (h)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 11 July, Hindsford & Tyldesley Crawl. Carders Arms 7pm, Union 8pm

Wed 18 July, Branch Meeting, Marble Arch, Rochdale Rd, Manchester, 8pm

Wed 25 July, Higher Broughton. Star, Back Hope Street, 7pm; Albert Park 8pm.

Wed 1st August REGIONAL MEETING, Marble Arch, 8pm

Wed 8 Aug, Irlam & Cadishead.

Coach & Horses 7pm, Railway 8pm.

Wed 15 Aug, Branch Meeting, Crescent, Salford, 8pm

Wed 22 Aug, Cricketers, Bradford Road, 7pm; Bradford 8pm

Wed 29 Aug, Pendlebury. Robin Hood 7pm, Oddfellows 8pm

PRATT CRAP

The beer has a strong biscuit and hop resin aroma, a tart palate of dark grain and chocolate and a deep finish with coffee, fresh leather and gooseberry notes.

Roger Protz

Guardian 1.4.90

BOLTON

Sat 21 July, Blackpool Crawl. 11am York, Newport Street. 11.23am train from Trinity Street.

Thur 2 Aug 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Oddfellows, St Helens Road

Contact: Barbara Kerks, Bolton 658458 (h), 22494 x2211 (w)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 3 July, Branch Meeting, Old Boars Head, Long Street, Middleton, 8.30pm

Tues 17 July, Committee Meeting, New Inn, Manchester Road, Castleton, Rochdale

Tues 7 Aug 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Dusty Miller, junction Crostons Rd/Tottington Rd, Bury. Come and sample Moorhouses beers at their new (ex-Whitbread!) outlet.

Contact: B Lee 061 766 6601 (w), 0706 824407 (h)

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

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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).

Signed Date

THE QUEENS ARMS

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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

A selection of hot & cold
food at lunchtime and
early evening, including
chilli and curry.

We're in the Good Beer Guide
and CAMRA's Good Food Guide

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