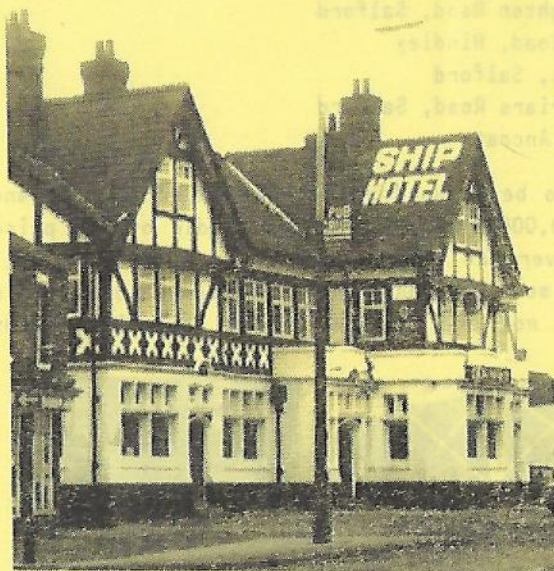


WHAT'S DOING



JAN
1991

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



SHIP RE-RIGGED

The Ship (Greenalls) at Irlam, which has been on keg beer for many a long year, will be selling the proper stuff soon. Landlord Eddy Stafford has been at the Ship for three years, during which time he has regularly asked for cask beer. Now someone at Greenalls has decided to do the decent thing and cask mild, bitter and Original are to be installed. Eddy also wants a guest beer in the form of Stones bitter. ("If it isn't cask Stones there'll be trouble!")

Of the 12 pubs in Irlam and Cadishead, the Plough (Greenalls, naturally) will soon be the only one not selling real ale.

Recently Greenalls appear to have been positively dynamic in convert-

ing pubs to real ale (the ones they're not flogging off, that is). Handpumps have been spotted in Wangy's (Oddfellows), Patricroft, and the Morris Dancers, Morris Green, Bolton.

JANUARY SALES

The Whitbread and Greenalls sell-off continues. This month Christie's are auctioning the following Whitbread pubs:

King William IV, Justin Close, Chorlton-on-Medlock
Town Hall Tavern, Cleminson Street, Salford
Mamas, Rochdale Road, Manchester
Waggon & Horses, Bury & Rochdale Old Road, Birtle

The Greenalls pubs under the hammer are:

Poets Corner, Lower Broughton Road, Salford
Lancashire Union, Wigan Road, Hindley
Railway, Liverpool Street, Salford
Broughton Tavern, Blackfriars Road, Salford
Fountain, Bradford Road, Ancoats

The Railway is expected to be snapped up for £125,000-£135,000, and the Poets Corner for £110,000-£120,000. In the middle of the price range is the Broughton Tavern at £75,000-£85,000, and the Town Hall Tavern can be had for a mere £40,000. Potential purchasers should check their bank balances now and, in some cases, have their heads examined.



MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE PRICES SURVEY

Since this survey in November 1990, Holts has gone up by 5p and Grand Met beers by around 12p a pint. It won't be long before a pint of



Holts costs the same as a half of other beers. Sadly, pub-goers, according to CAMRA's survey, are not price sensitive. However, perhaps the only people they interviewed were those who were still supping in the pubs. Perhaps the retired, the unemployed and the impecunious were sitting at home supping six packs. We are ripped off by the big brewers and it's little wonder that people have been leaving pubs in droves and pubs in price sensitive areas have been closing. It's perfectly possible to sell beer at a reasonable price and make a few bob at the same time. What

we don't want is vastly inflated prices which do little other than support advertising campaigns for shoddy products and pay for an army of clever dicks in suits who foist their half-brained ideas on a diminishing clientele.

(K = keg beer)

			<u>Mild</u>	<u>Bitter</u>	<u>Best Bitter</u>	<u>Lager</u>
Abercrombie	Bootle Street	Whitbread	98	104	108-125	124-134
Ancoates	Gt Ancoats St	Tetley	K90	K90		
Archies	Oxford Road	Tetley		K110		130-140
Bank	Mosley Street	Tetley	112	114	128	138-156
Beer House	Angel Street	Free	79	85-115	105-160	110-155
Bensons	High Street	Whitbread	K101	106-108		124-145
Brahms & Liszt	Brown Street	Free		110-120	120	130-150
Branagans	Royal Exchange	Free		115-120	120-150	130-160
Brewers Arms	Gt Ducie St	Boddingtons	95	101	119	138
Britons Protection	Gt Bridgewater St	Tetley		110-120	110-135	130-150
Britannia	Newton Street	Tetley	90	95		115
Brunswick	Piccadilly	Wilsons	K104	106-108	110	126
Bulls Head	London Road	Burtonwood	96	99		123-129
Burton Arms	Swan Street	Bass	K96		110	118-130
Castle	Oldham Street	Robinsons	88	88	94	130
Central Park	Sackville St	Websters		K105		125-135
Churchill	Chorlton Street	Greenalls		100		115
Circus	Portland Street	Tetley		100		
City	Oldham Street	Whitbread	90	100		120-135
City Arms	Kennedy Street	Tetley	105	108-109	123	127-133
City Road Inn	Albion Street	Whitbread	97	100		125-140
Conservatory	Old Bank Street	Free		100-135		145-155
Corbieres	Half Moon St	Free			112	130-140

			Mild	Bitter	Best Bitter	Lager
Cotton Tree	Gt Ancoats St	Whitbread	K90	K92		110
Crown	Booth Street	Bass		114	120	128-142
Crown	Deansgate	Websters		80(Holts)	116	116-128
Crown & Anchor	Hilton Street	Free	97	100-102	111-113	118
Crown & Cushion	Corporation St	Holts	71	76		82-130
Crown & Kettle	Gt Ancoats St	Websters		105		130
Dancing Weasel	Gt Ancoats St	Free		K90		115
Ducie Bridge	Corporation St	Wilsons		96-100	110	115-128
Dutton Arms	Park Street	Hydes	92	97		110-137
Grand Central	Oxford Road	Free		100-110		125-140
Grey Horse	Portland Street	Hydes	96	98		108-140
Gullivers	Oldham Street	Lees	94	98		110-122
Hat & Feathers	Mason Street	Whitbread	95	99-100		118
Hare & Hounds	Shudehill	Tetley	99	103		118-134
Harp & Shamrock	New Mount St	Marstons	95	98	112	105
Imperial	Piccadilly	Websters	K100	104	126	124-140
John Willie Lees	Withy Grove	Lees	92	95		106
Jolly Angler	Ducie Street	Hydes	90	95		112-139
King	Oldham Street	Tetley	K100	103		120-125
Land o'Cakes	Gt Ancoats St	Whitbread	97	99-101		117-138
Lass o'Gowrie	Charles Street	Whitbread	103	108	119	125-147
Lord Nelson	Newton Street	John Smiths	K90	93		110
Lower Turks Head	Shudehill	Tetley	100	100		120
Mamas	Rochdale Road	Whitbread	90	95		114
Marble Arch	Rochdale Road	Free	85-90	95-105	110-160	115-140
Monroes	London Road	Whitbread	95	100	100	130
Mother Macs	Back Piccadilly	Whitbread	95	100		120-130
Moulders Arms	Heyrod Street	Tetley	92	95		112-116
New Union	Princess Street	Burtonwood	98	100		120-135
New York New York	Bloom St	Wilsons		K105		125
Nicklebys	Dale Street	Wilsons	Refused	Survey - All		Keg
Old Garratt	Granby Row	Boddingtons	96	100-105		120-135
Old Nags Head	Jacksons Row	Greenalls	K96	K100		117-128
Pack Horse	Deansgate	Greenalls	K95	95	100	110-120
Paddys Goose	Bloom Street	Wilsons	K98	102-106		124-134
Parkers Hotel	Corporation St	Marstons		K120	K120	130-140
Peveril of the Peak	Gt Bridgewater St	Wilsons	98	105-108	120	124-138
Polars	Swan Street	Tetley		105	105	130
Portland Bar	Portland St	Tetley		110	120	126-128
Portland Hotel	Portland Street	S&N		K150		150-185
Rembrandt	Sackville St	Lees	95	100		110-120
Rising Sun	Queen Street	Wilsons		104-108	140	126-140
Rosies Bar	York Street	Wilsons	K100	104-108		126
Royal Central	Windmill Street	Boddingtons		114		130-144
Royal Crown	Swan Street	Whitbread		100		125-135
Salisbury	Wakefield Street	Websters	106	110-112		120-132
Seftons	Corporation St	Wilsons	K104	K106-108		126-136
Seven Oaks	Nicholas Street	Whitbread	K100	105		120-130
Shakespeare	Fountain Street	Wilsons	K104	106-110		126-136
Smithfields	Shudehill	Tetleys	100	105-110	130	128-140
Sportsmans	Market Street	Lees	90	100		120
Square Albert	Albert Square	Tetley	K108	111	126	130-150
Stage Door	Oxford Street	Wilsons	K90	K94		106-124
Star & Garter	Fairfield Street	Whitbread	92	95		114
Swan	Withy Grove	Wilsons	92	96-102		118-132
Swinging Sporrán	Sackville Street	S&N		100	100	115
Thomas's Chop House	Cross St	Whitbread	K105	115	120	135-145
Tommy Ducks	East Street	Greenalls	K99	103	108	117-128

Town Hall	Tib Lane	Bass		114	120	128-142
Unicorn	Church Street	Bass	96	104	110	118-132
Victoria Station Bar		Free		K110-118	126	120
Vine	Kennedy Street	John Smiths	K100	106	120	128-140
Waldorf	Gore Street	Whitbread	93	99-100	114	120-130
Wheatsheaf	Oak Street	Tetley	96	98	102	115-139
White House	Gt Ancoats St	Free	K86	82-85		110-130
Yates's	High Street	Free		102		120-130
Yates's (P J Bells)	Oldham St	Free		K100		120-140
Yates's (Grapes)	Oldham Street	Free	K100	K102		120-130
Yates's (Merchants)	Oldham St	Free		K100		120

TRAFFORD & HULME COUNTRY NEWS

There must be something in the air in the countrified region of Trafford & Hulme's CAMRA branch area. First, Mike Pennington of the Windmill, Carrington, has left to become an area manager for Belhaven/Control Securities. In February Brian and Tina Welch of the Rope & Anchor at Dunham are returning to catering lecturing after a short but traumatic time in the licensed trade. They saw a major refurbishment of their pub, improved the quality of the beer to a consistently high level, but unfortunately became disillusioned on learning the true nature of breweries, or pub-owning retailers. Mike Darrow, manager of the Axe & Cleaver, also at Dunham, is considering leaving this Chef & Brewer (or whatever they are called this month) house to take up a tenancy elsewhere - no doubt to earn money for himself instead of the brewery.

And finally, after over 12 years, Derek and Nan Taylor of the King William IV at Partington are retiring in February. They will be a very hard act to follow as, despite the difficulties that other pubs in the area seem to suffer, they have managed to keep this Marstons house as a proper, almost village-type pub and have deservedly been in the national Good Beer Guide for several years. A presentation will be made by the branch on Thursday 17th January in recognition of their support for the cause and the local community. We wish them well in their retirement.

Keith Egerton

GREENALLS MOVE

Former employees of Greenalls have, in agreement with the brewery, decided to set up a micro brewery close to the Wilderspool site. Two traditional beers are to be brewed and a turnover of around 400 barrels a week is planned. Agreement has also been reached with another brewer and it is expected that at least two pubs will be purchased in the Warrington area. Will they, you may wonder, be using the same formula as Greenalls did?



HOLTS NEWS

During the last few weeks of 1990 Holts went on a spending spree and added three more pubs to their collection. The first was the Chesters Pie & Ale House (as reported last month), followed by the Blue Bell, Bell Lane, Bury, and the Kings Head, Market Street, Droylsden (both

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ex-Wilsons). The Blue Bell was expected to be selling the amber nectar by 18th December, whilst the Kings Head will be shut for a few weeks for refitting. Chesters Pie & Ale House (Cateaton Street, Manchester) will probably revert to the old name - the Crown & Anchor - and is expected to be open and selling Holts beers by January 8th.

Rumours abound that Holts have also bought the Golden Gate on Cross Lane, Salford, but nobody at the brewery is saying anything.



The opening night at the Ashley Brook, Seedley, on 4th December saw locals and visitors queuing three and four deep at the bar, even though extra staff were on duty. The licensees are Eric and Gwen Whitworth (left, with barmaid Ann), who have come from the Duke of York, Hightown.

The Seven Stars, Ashton Old Road, reopened after an extensive refit on 14th December and work at the White Swan, Swinton, is expected to be finished soon. On the down side, it looks as though the Apollo in Cheetham is shut for good.

Stewart Revell

ROCHDALE AREA NEWS

The Queens, Littleborough (Thwaites) has reopened after extensive alterations. The bar has been re-sited and the small games room has gone. However, the larger bar and tasteful redecoration have resulted in an improved pub. In Heywood, the extension of Brown's No.1 into the former shop next door has been completed, virtually doubling the size of the place. On Oldham Road, Rochdale, Tophams Again (Robinsons) has also had a refit and reverted to its former name of Prince Albert.

Clive Taylor

ARCHES ALE

The new licensed premises under the old Exchange Station Approach in what was Salford Bus Station opened recently. Called the Cathedral Arches, real ale in the form of Flowers, Bass, Boddingtons and Pedigree is advertised.

WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

The only news of any significance this month concerns STANLEY'S TRUE FREE HOUSE, Powell Street, Wigan. Only last summer, this club came within an ace of carrying off the "North West Club of the Year" award, but since then, Stanley's had been pretty deserted during the week and recently rumours abounded that the place would convert to keg beer. Thankfully, this isn't strictly true. In a curious move, the Tetley beers - far and away the biggest sellers - are now fizzy, but the guest beers remain traditional. Recently, these have included Taylors Landlord, Moorhouses Pendle Witch and Wells Eagle Bitter and Bombardier. This range seems likely to rotate on a fairly regular basis. So, unless you prefer Tetley bitter to Pendle Witch or Landlord (!), there is little cause for concern.

Further to last month's article on the HINDLEY ARMS (ex-HAND & HEART, Market Street), I can now confirm that no real ale is available. This means that Greenalls, like Matthew Brown, have several pubs in Hindley, all serving gassy gunge. An enviable achievement, to be sure. Thank God for the EDINGTON ARMS...

Clarks Wakefield ales keep turning up on a guest beer basis in Wigan town centre. The ordinary bitter and light mild have been on sale at the CHARLES DICKENS HOTEL, Dicconson Street, alongside the usual Whitbread/Tetley range, while Burglar Bill and Hammerhead appeared recently at the TUDOR HOUSE HOTEL, New Market Street. Ask the landlord for his list of forthcoming guest beers - assuming you can wean yourself off his draught Bass, that is!

Finally, the BIRD I'TH'HAND, Gidlow Lane, Wigan, is planning to get a guest beer on, following the tasteful renovation there (see Dec WD). Now for the bad news: it'll probably be Boddies bitter. Oh, well...

MIDDLETON MOONSHINE

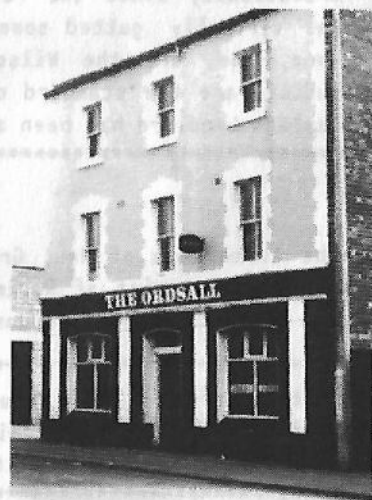
During late November and early December, Joe Kelly was selling the cheapest beer in Britain. The landlord of Tetley's Moonraker on Langley Estate has upset brewery bosses by selling real ale at less than half the price of his Tetleys! Hydes bitter was just 40p a pint and other low-cost real ales included Walkers Winter Warmer, Thwaites and Friary Meux. Despite the brewery's annoyance, Joe pledged to sell all nine barrels (or 2,592 pints) at knock-down prices. Perhaps other enterprising landlords will follow his lead?

Paul Roberts



INNER CITY CLOSURES

The Top Derby in Harpurhey, which was boarded up in November, has reopened. Across the road, planning permission is sought to convert the Foresters Arms into an hotel. Holts' Apollo in Cheetham is a more permanent closure, having lost its licence. In an area which has seen the fire-bombing of a pub, this is not surprising. Across the river in Salford two pubs have been vandalised. The Regent and the Ordsall are both closed. Ordsall, which once seemed to have a pub on every corner, is a large area with a considerable number of houses. There are now only eight pubs in the whole of Ordsall - the Liner and the Greyhound (keg Greenalls), the Bricklayers and the Sabre (Holts), the Jubilee (Boddies), the Rovers Return (Wilsons), the Welcome (Lees) and the Park Royal (Burtonwood). On the fringe there are two further pubs, the Wellington (Boddies) and the Broadway (Holts). The St James, the Albion, the Ordsall, the Regent and the Sportsmans are all closed. Altogether in Salford, there are 15 pubs which are closed. This figure does not include Kersal Cell or Byroms, which was not open at half past seven on 15th December.



The closure of inner city pubs is continuing at an unprecedented pace. This is not limited to areas which have changed from residential to commercial, but is also prevalent in largely residential districts. Ancoats, Miles Platting, Cheetham and large tracts of Salford have all suffered significant losses in the last few years. Marginal pubs have survived in hands other than those of the big brewers. Perhaps the salvation of the inner city pubs lies in the sale of pubs by the big brewers. Yet only if the new owners have both the expertise and an intimate knowledge of the difficult areas in which the pubs are located can this be a formula for success.

Roger Hall

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

The York Hotel on Newport Street is now selling Burtonwood's new Forshaw's bitter. Hook Norton Old Hookey Ale has had to make way.

Boddingtons bitter is making its way into some of Whitbread's keg pubs. The Railway on Derby Street sells the beer, as does the Lord Raglan on Halliwell Road. Boddies has also been added to the range at the Bulls Head on Bradshaw Road.

A recent trip to Bolton's only John Smiths pub proved fruitful. The Belle Vue on Halliwell Road now serves John Smiths bitter through a handpump.

The Three Crowns on Fletcher Street, Little Lever, has changed dramatically since the retirement of the previous landlord. The pub was virtually gutted some time ago and is now completely open plan. Gone, too, are the Wilsons beers - Websters Yorkshire Bitter and Ruddles are the standard cask ales, but a guest beer in the form of Taylors Landlord has been added.

GET LEGLESS

The Three Legs of Man, Greengate, Salford, is offering what must be the cheapest pint of Robinsons in the known universe. On Wednesdays, all day, mild or bitter can be had for only 75p. What a bargain!

Contributors to this issue: Stewart Revell, Roger Hall, Ken Birch, Paul Roberts, Des Nogalski, Clive Taylor, Bill Collier, Peter Barnes, Dave White, Rob Magee, Keith Egerton.

A TALE OF OUR TIMES

We don't want much from a pub - decent beer and somewhere where we can talk without music blaring in our ears or have a laugh without upsetting people who like peace and quiet. We drank in the Football when Sid had it, a four-roomed pub with a bar and lobby in the middle. One of the front rooms had a telly, the other a dart board. One back room was a dining room during the week and a concert room at weekends. The other held about fifteen people and was half-timbered with polystyrene busts of the kings of England. Not in the best possible taste, but that's where we met until Sid left and the new tenant put a pool table in the dart room and the dartboard where we used to sit. Reluctantly we left, thinking we'd return when the licensee changed again. But the brewery have knocked all the walls down, leaving a tiny pool room and a huge open-plan lounge.



On a Sunday we met in the Cock vault, a thriving spit 'n' sawdust oasis in a suburban desert, full of character and characters. The brewery (a different one) decided to turn the Cock into a restaurant and scrap the vault entirely. The locals were up in arms and campaigned to save the Cock but the brewery got their way and turned it into a brass and mahogany-plywood lounge with a token locals' bar.

Irene Hill had kept the Farmers for as long as anyone could remember and it hadn't altered much since

the 1830s. When she retired the brewery transformed it. There's still a vault and the lounge is divided by walls and fireplaces but the back room where we met every Monday for the best part of twenty years has gone and there's piped music everywhere. We still meet there as we wouldn't know what day it was if we went anywhere else, but it lacks the atmosphere of the old Farmers.

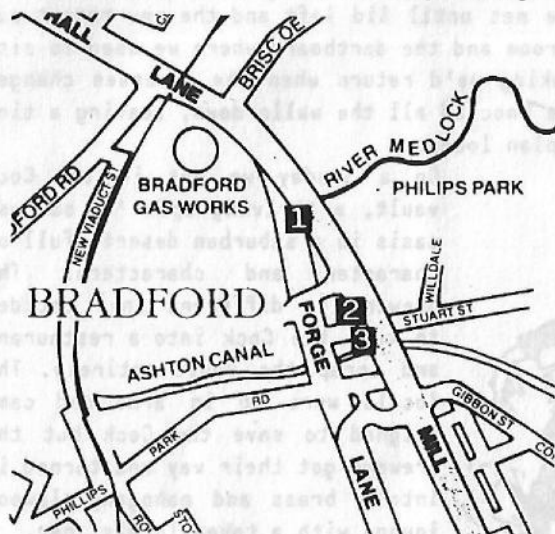
On a Friday, we meet at the Queens, the oldest railway pub in the world, with four rooms and a lobby. The Queens is a listed building and it's unlikely that the brewery will knock it about. But car parking's difficult, the rent is fairly high and it's not easy to make a good living. The Queens has had a lot of licensees and there's a danger that the brewery might close the pub, listed building or not.

There's little chance that we'll be able to hand down to our grandchildren a centuries-old heritage of multi-roomed public houses which can cater for everyone. Our only hope is that at least one will remain until the last of our generation is pushing up the daisies.

Roger Hall

RING ROAD NEWS

Work on Stage Two of the "East Manchester Intermediate Ring Road" will begin early next year, cutting through Miles Platting, Bradford and



Beswick. The dual carriage-way will run from Oldham Road down Hulme Hall Lane and Mill Street to Grey Mare Lane and Pottery Lane. Two pubs in Bradford will be lost - the Park (1), a Whitbread house at the junction of Mill Street and Forge Lane, and the Alexandra (2), a Tetley "free house" on the corner of Mill Street and Stuart Street. By the canal bridge, the Navigation (3), an ex-Greenalls pub which has been shut for some time, will also go.

WHAT'S DOING contributions should be sent to the editor c/o 88 Ringley Road, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 9ET. News, articles, letters, etc, must arrive by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Send cheque/PO for £2.40, together with your name and address, to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 2PW, for 6 issues. Cheques made out to "What's Doing".

BACK NUMBERS: 10p per copy. Send stamped addressed envelope to Roger Hall, address above.

To join CAMRA send £9 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

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NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.52

BOARS HEAD

Market St, Stalybridge

About the year 1806 one Melling Woolley opened an inn called the Lord Nelson in Hydes Fold, which was then little more than a bend in the road through the village of Stalybridge. As well as the inn (one of the nine in the village), there was a smithy, stables and a watering trough. In 1815 Mr Woolley renamed his inn the Boars Head.

Stalybridge grew rapidly in the first half of the nineteenth century and by 1829 the old market place outside the Angel Inn (where the bus station is now) had become too small. A new market place was built at Hydes Fold, near the Boars Head, which was probably rebuilt at the same time.

Wilsons Brewery bought the Boars Head in 1890 and a few years later plans were made to change Hydes Fold once again. Stalybridge Corporation decided to accommodate electric trams, but the narrow winding Market Street wasn't suitable for a twin tram track. A new road was built - Waterloo Road - which left Market Street near the railway arches, cut through some old and derelict buildings and rejoined Market Street at Hydes Fold, opposite the Town Hall. The Boars Head survived the changes and Wilsons gave the pub the brick frontage it has today.



Hydes Fold, the cobbled market place, the tramlines and the Town Hall have all gone. The Boars Head closed in 1990 after 184 years but, for the moment, the building still stands.

REAL ALE IN NORTH MANCHESTER & SALFORD

The table below shows the current state of play in the North Manchester CAMRA branch area. In the year to December 1990 the number of real ale pubs increased by 5, but there has been an overall loss of 16 pubs. Choice has been widened with the appearance of Vaux pubs and an increase in the number of free houses (this includes tied "free houses").

"Tetley" includes Walkers and Belhaven and "Wilsons" includes Websters and Ruddles. No account has been taken of guest beers unless these have appeared in an otherwise keg pub.

	<u>North Manchester</u>		<u>Salford</u>		<u>Eccles</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Real Ale</u>	<u>Non-Real Ale</u>	<u>Real Ale</u>	<u>Non-Real Ale</u>	<u>Real Ale</u>	<u>Non-Real Ale</u>	<u>Real Ale</u>	<u>Non-Real Ale</u>
Brewery								
Banks's	3	0	0	1	3	0	6	1
Bass	7	9	4	4	3	6	14	19
Boddingtons	13	0	10	0	21	0	44	0
Burtonwood	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Greenalls	3	3	7	10	5	6	15	19
Holts	15	0	13	0	20	0	48	0
Hydes	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Lees	3	0	4	0	0	0	7	0
Marstons	8	0	1	0	0	0	9	0
Robinsons	4	0	3	0	3	0	10	0
John Smiths	2	1	2	0	3	1	7	2
Sam Smiths	1	0	2	0	1	1	4	1
S&N	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Tetley	14	4	4	4	19	7	37	15
Thwaites	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Vaux	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Whitbread	24	9	10	12	7	1	41	22
Wilsons	24	5	10	2	11	1	45	8
Free	7	5	11	1	1	0	19	6
Totals	133	36	82	34	99	24	314	94

LETTERS



MANCHESTER ALE

Sir - As a longtime member of CAMRA, I still maintain an interest in real ale events and pubs in Manchester. The Mawson (off Brunswick Street) was my local and Bill O'Reilly was the landlord at the time. Could he be the same Bill I read about as licensee of the now defunct Coach & Horses on London Road? In Bill's day the Mawson had a very large selection of Irish music on the juke box and the pub had a good atmosphere. The Kings Arms (Brendan Dobbin's pub) in the old days was a bit of a dive and completely surrounded by sixties-type flats and maisonettes. A damn good pint of Boddies was served at the Plymouth Grove, and the only Higsons pub I knew in the Manchester area was in Stockport - the Manhattan, opposite Merseyway shopping centre.

Alas, where are the brews of yesteryear! Three pints of Plymouth Grove Bods bitter got me decidedly squiffy. The colour and taste belied its strength. I wouldn't drink it these days.

Along with many other members of the Bradford branch of CAMRA, I have occasional outings to Bigger Mancunia and on the most recent of these we slipped over the border into Rochdale. It was an excellent night out, taking in Lees, Burtonwood, Holts and the excellent ales served by the Tap & Spile pub. The only black spot of the night was the Pot o'Beer. Of fourteen or so handpumps, only one was in operation, serving what we believed to be bright Banks's bitter. I didn't finish mine, and for a Yorkshireman to admit that, it is serious.

*****Desmond A Walsh*****

REGIONAL OUTING - 26TH JANUARY 1991

A tour of famous Black Country pubs - unusual ales likely to be encountered are Sarah Hughes Sedgley Surprise, Holt, Plant & Deakin Entire, Bathams Old Ale and Highgate Old Ale, together with lots of others.

The approximate cost is £6 per head. Depart from under the arches, Greengate, Salford (opposite ex-bus station) 9.30am. Arrive back in central Manchester 10.15pm. Contact Ken Birch 020488 7356 (h) or 0204 35414 (w). Pre-booking only. Non-CAMRA members welcome.

RUPERT'S PAGE



It's an ill wind, as they say. I suppose that the manufacturers of Mammoth Mercury Beds will be doing cartwheels in the street as our late regional bossperson celebrates her betrothal to Hippo Vistula or, as he is known to those few people who feign friendship, Geo Graphia. ~

Quite seriously, though, Nora Tackler's name is now inscribed on the roll of honour of those who have served us in this exacting role. Her name will be added to those illustrious predecessors, whose fading gilt belies the enormous contribution they have all made to the thrusting dynamism of our campaign throughout Greater Grotley.

Who can ever forget the effusive charm of Max Wall, the charismatic ebullience of Martin Boreman, the diplomacy and coruscating repartee of Badge Fairplastic, the self-effacing democratic approach of Dermatitis, the mixture of sober judgement and quiet efficiency which was the hallmark of Ben Chestnut, or that tall, thin bloke who cocked up the Snobley Amber Nectar Show? Nora has served us well and is in good company. I'm sure that both our readers will join with me in wishing Nora and Hippo all the best in their new life together.

Sadly we are left with a veritable chasm in our organisation to fill. I'm sure that, as in the past, talents will emerge from our ranks to step into the breach and fulfil with accomplishment this important and crucial role. Despite the prattlings of some, the Regional Bossperson is more than a rubber clown with a weighted base to be punched about as part of a running farce. Already we have some very creditable contenders on the scene. Unfortunately the most suitable person for the task, with his vivacity and wry wit, Stan Craap, is unavailable. However, in Billy Bogg from Friggin and Billy Shippon from nether Slumley we have two excellent candidates, either of whom could serve us well as both model and ambassador for the future. So, gentle reader, eschew thoughts of abdication and apathy; seek out those who would lead us, talk to them, understand their aspirations, select the candidate of your choice and vote for him. It is a self-evident truth, universally acknowledged, that we get the leaders we deserve, or, perhaps more to the point, that we deserve the leaders that we get. If Grotley is to remain at the cutting edge of our thrusting movement, it is imperative that we take great care over the selection of our new figurehead.

STRENUOUS RUMOUR DENIAL

There is absolutely no truth whatsoever at all in vicious stories that a famous former tavern-keeper is attempting to buy Daddio's (the former Prince Albert) next door to his former hostelry. Even further from the truth is the suggestion that he might be putting in a bid for a former Goosegrease hostelry in deepest Slumley.

GOOD BEER GUIDE

Survey time is with us once again. Yes, only just 1991 and we're surveying for 1992 already. If you want any particular pub to be considered for the Guide, please get in touch with the local branch concerned. If you'd like to take a more active role, come along to a branch meeting where you might be asked to carry out some surveys. Most entertaining of all is the final selection meeting prior to the deadline of March 16th. Come along to an event which makes superheavy-weight mud wrestling seem like a night at the ballet.

***** FESTIVAL OF BEER AND WINTER ALES *****

BENT & BONGS BEER BASH

BBBB

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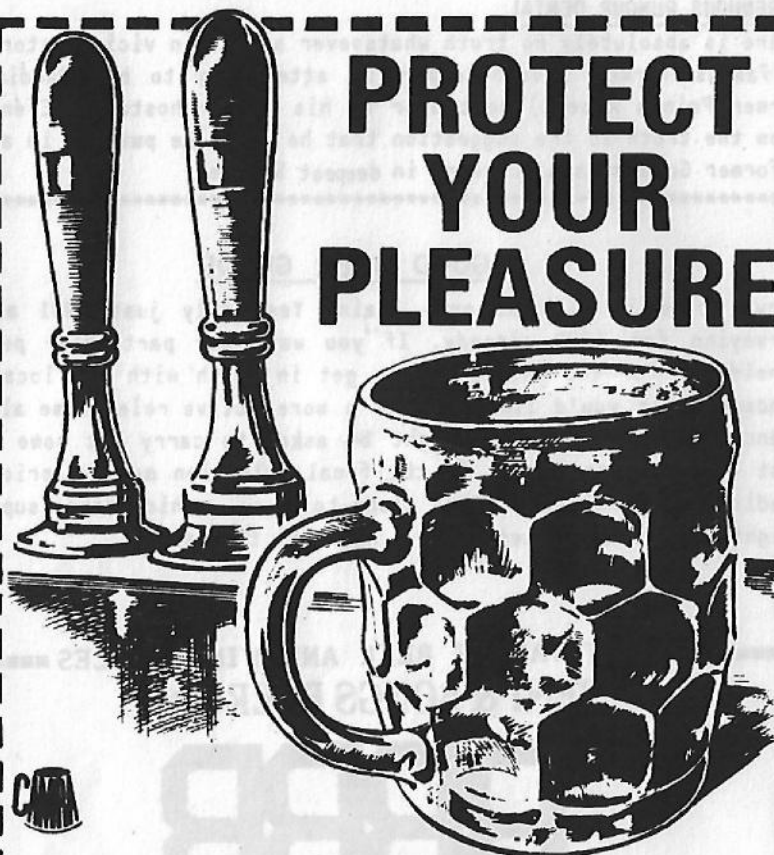
24-26 January 1991: Formby Hall, Atherton M29
(7 minutes' walk from Atherton Central Station)

Beer Exhibition featuring 20 Winter Ales
plus around 30 other real beers and ciders

Thursday & Friday 6.00-11.30: Saturday 12-4.00 and 7.00-11.30.
Entertainment and Food available. Admission £2.50 Thursday &
Saturday: £3 Friday. (£1.50 for card-carrying CAMRA members.)
Price includes commemorative glass and programme. Organised
by Atherton & Tyldesley Round Table in aid of Pendlebury
Children's Hospital and local charities. For further information
contact Brian Gleave 0942 840658

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APPLICATION FORM

NAME

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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



Branch Diary

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 3 Jan 8pm, Visit to the new Quarry Bank, Timperley

Thurs 10 Jan 8pm, Broadheath Survey, starting at the Cheshire Cheese. Then Railway, Packet House, Navigation, Wheatsheaf and finishing at the Orange Tree.

Thurs 17 Jan 8pm, Branch Meeting at the King William IV, Partington

Sat/Sun 19/20 Jan, Branch trip to York. Further details from branch contact.

Thurs 24 Jan 8pm, Deansgate Survey, starting at the Crown. Then visiting the Pig & Porcupine and finishing at the Kings Arms, Salford.

Thurs 31 Jan 8pm, Cornbrook Survey, starting at the Pomona. Then visiting the Hope, Mancunian, and finishing at the Toll Gate

Thurs 6 Feb 8pm, Committee Meeting at the Railway, Hale

Thurs 21 Feb 8pm, GBG Selection Evening, Kings Arms, Salford. This is always a lively event, so come early.

Contact Allan Glover, 061 962 9890 (h), 061 876 0340 (w)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 8th Jan 8.30, Branch Meeting, Tap & Spile, Hope Street, Rochdale

Tues 15 Jan 5pm, Trip to Sam Smiths Brewery, Tadcaster. Leaving R.O.B area 5.00-5.30pm. £1.50 plus transport. Phone 061 665 3032 for details

Tues 22 Jan 8.30, Committee meeting, Royal Hotel, Buersil, Oldham Road, Rochdale.

Sat 26th Jan, Day/Evening coach trip to West Midlands (probably!) Ring 0204 887356 for details.

Tues 5 Feb 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Masons Arms, Sion Street, Radcliffe

Sun 10 Feb 12noon, Lunchtime Social, the Swan, Dobcross, Saddleworth. Food available.

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

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 2 Jan 8pm, Ashley Brook, Liverpool Street, Seedley

Wed 9 Jan, Hollinwood Crawl. Kings Arms, Manchester Road, 7pm; Old Post Office 8pm

Weds 16th Jan, Branch Meeting, Marble Arch, 8pm. Proposed amendments to constitution and standing orders should be tabled (decisions in March).

Wed 23 Jan, Irlams o'th'Height Crawl: Dog & Partridge 7pm, Wellington 8pm.

Wed 30 Jan, Holts speaker at Royal Oak, Eccles, 7.30

Wed 6th Feb, Blackley. Old House at Home 7pm, Golden Lion 8pm.

Tues 12 Feb, Regional Meeting, Marble Arch, 8pm.

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

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*and weekly guest beers from around
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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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