

WHAT'S DOING

OCT
1991

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

NEW BREW AT TOMMY DUCKS



Coachman Bitter, the new brew from former Greenall Whitley employees, is on sale at Tommy Ducks in central Manchester (£1.22 a pint). The pub is now run by Colin and Lynn Golland and their other cask beers are Greenalls bitter (£1.19), Stones bitter (£1.21) and Greenalls Original (£1.31).

The new beer has appeared in some of the areas free houses and has also been sighted at the Church in Flixton.

It's
OKTOBERFEST

time at
THE CRESCENT
SALFORD

Starting
TUESDAY 15th OCTOBER

This Year:

ALL THE BEERS
FROM A to Z

*At least one real ale for each letter
of the alphabet*

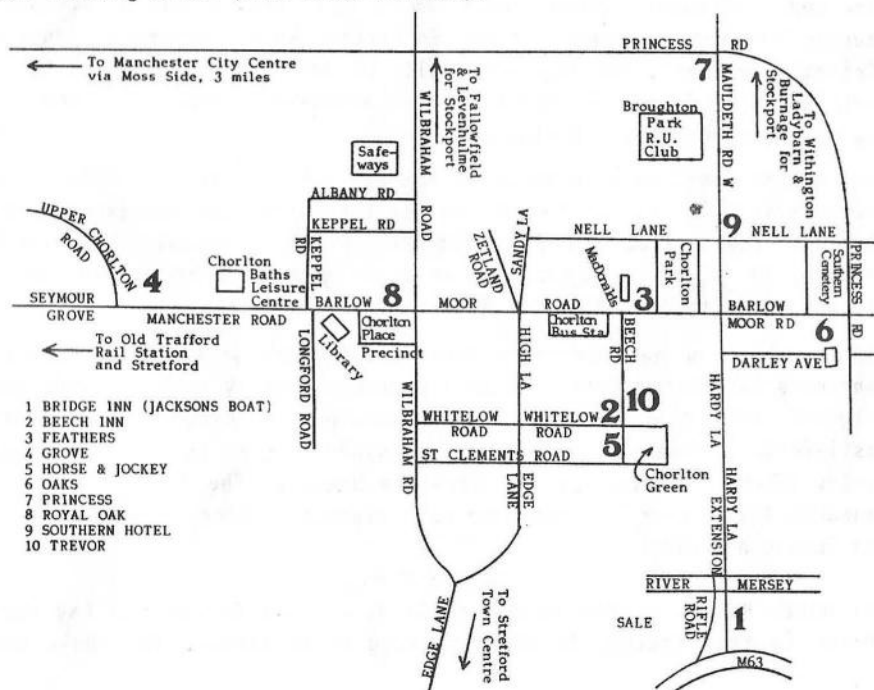
KING'S ALE

Leo King

Chorlton-cum-Hardy has gained another real ale outlet. After very many years, the Trevor on Beech Road now sells handpumped cask conditioned ales. This Greenalls pub has been refurbished to the highest degree - the new furnishing, lighting, brassware, etc, can only be described as ultra-smart. The popular vault has been retained and, like the lounge, has been transformed. The beers on sale are Greenalls bitter, Greenalls Original and Stones best bitter.

All but two Chorlton pubs now sell real ale. Nearest the Trevor are the Beech Inn (Whitbread/Chesters), Barlow Moor Road, and the Horse & Jockey (Websters/Wilsons) on Chorlton Green. The other seven pubs are the Bridge Inn (commonly known as Jacksons Boat or Boathouse) on Rifle Road (Tetley), Feathers (Whitbread/Chesters) on Barlow Moor Road, the Grove (BodPubCo) on Upper Chorlton Road (Whalley Range/Chorlton boundary), Oaks (Wilsons/Websters) on Barlow Moor Road, the Princess (Whitbread/Chesters) on Mauldeth Road West, the Royal Oak (Whitbread/Chesters) on Barlow Moor Road and the Southern (Boddingtons) on Mauldeth Road West/Nell Lane.

The only two pubs which insist on selling keg fizz are the Lloyds and the Bowling Green (both Bass outlets).



Chorlton also has a variety of different brews (see map): 1 Tetley bitter, Burton Ale; 2 Chesters, Taylors Landlord; 3 Chesters (beware: the Boddingtons is keg), 4 Boddingtons bitter; 5 Wilsons, Websters Yorkshire bitter, Websters Choice, Ruddles Best Bitter; 6 Wilsons, Websters; 7 Chesters; 8 Chesters, Castle Eden Ale; 9 Boddingtons; 10 Greenalls bitter, Thomas Greenall Original, Stones Best Bitter.

Unfortunately, unlike Didsbury, Withington, Levenshulme and Openshaw, the pubs in C-cum-H are considerable distances apart (even by car). The only three near to each other are the Beech, Horse & Jockey and the Trevor.

WHOSE BEER ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE DRINKING?

It was reported in the September issue of What's Brewing that 90% of Theakston's beers are brewed at Scottish & Newcastle's Tyne Brewery, and not at Masham. This is really disturbing news. All Theakston pumpclips state the beer is brewed at Masham...with no mention of Tyneside. This is yet another example from the brewers' dirty tricks brigade.

There are many beers with obsolete brewery names on sale today. Halls (Oxford) is brewed at Ind Coope (Burton), which also produces Aylesbury Brewery Company beers. Benskins (Watford), Friary Meux (Guildford) and Taylor-Walker (London) are all brewed at Ind Coope (Romford). Flowers (Stratford-on-Avon) is brewed at Cheltenham; Courage Directors, formerly brewed in London, is now brewed at Courage (Bristol Brewery), so why not call it Bristol Directors Bitter? Worthington is brewed in Wales; Border Brewery's (Wrexham) beers are now brewed by Marstons (Burton-on-Trent).

Much nearer home, we have OB beers brewed in Manchester and Wilsons at Websters in Halifax, not forgetting Chesters brewed in Timbuktu. Here, Chesters pump clips carry a picture of the Threlfalls (Salford) Brewery. It is to be hoped that we never get Hydes brewed in Southampton and Holts brewed in Stockton-on-Tees!

Finally, we now have Bentleys Yorkshire Breweries' bitter brewed at Tennant's (Whitbread East Pennines) Exchange Brewery in Sheffield. The original BYB beers came from Woodlesford - between Leeds and Castleford. Incidentally, that strong stuff in nips called Gold Label Barley Wine is brewed at the Exchange Brewery. The label bears the Tennants trade mark but the beer is designated Whitbread Gold Label - you just can't win!

#####

The White House, at the corner of Great Ancoats Street and Laystall Street (a free house), is still selling Holts bitter. This beer has

been sold here for quite a few years now. It is kept in a consistently excellent condition and at 90p a pint, who can complain? The Dobbins best bitter is also well kept and good value.

OPENSHAW OCTOBERFEST



Over twenty beers, a Festival Special from Brendan Dobbin, cider and perry will be on sale at Openshaw College on October 25th/26th. The college is on Whitworth Street, off Ashton Old Road, near Ashbury's Station. The beer festival is open from 6pm to 11pm on Friday 25th and from 11.30am to 4pm and 6pm to 11pm on Saturday 26th.

MOSSLEY PUBS

and their licensees

1750-1991



Rob Magee

£2.50

NEW BOOK

The latest in Rob Magee's series on the region's pubs is "Mossley Pubs 1750-1991". The book is an account of all the public houses and beerhouses known to have existed in the town, from the earliest records to the present day. It is well illustrated with photographs and maps and can be obtained from all good bookshops for £2.50.

TIED UP

The Cemetery on Bury Road, Rochdale, a free house for many years, has been bought by Whitbread.

CAINS

Cains bitter continues to appear in the area. The Scouse brew was recently sighted in BodPubCo's Wilton at Rhodes,

TURF

Banks's Brewery have bought the Turf, Heaton Park, and the pub now sells a good pint of traditional Banks's bitter (£1.04), but keg mild.

BEER GONE

The unusual outlet for Ind.Coope Burton Ale in central Manchester, FG's Bar in the Dominion Hotel, is no more. The bar's still there but the beer ain't.

**WE'RE IN
THE
GOOD BEER
GUIDE**



THE STATION

FREE HOUSE

PEDIGREE · BORDER MILD · BODDINGTONS

PLUS WEEKLY GUEST BEERS FROM
THE INDEPENDENT BREWERIES

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LUNCHEONS TRY OUR HOT MEALS
& SUPER COLD BUFFET

Conservatory & Rooms

For Meetings & Parties

WARRINGTON ST · ASHTON-U-LYNE

**NEXT TO
BY-PASS**

WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

Draught Bass returned to the WHITESMITHS ARMS, Standishgate, Wigan, after an absence of twenty years. Before all you ageing nostalgics stampede down there, let me tell you that the Bass was dropped again, because it didn't sell - not even at the giveaway price of £1 a pint. However, the landlord hopes to introduce another guest ale to complement the Boddingtons and Theakstons bitters, providing it comes in a firkin.

Elsewhere on Standishgate, the WHITE HORSE remains boarded up and the MARKET TAVERN, Mesnes Street, is still being gutted. GEM'S free house on Upper Dicconson Street, though, is only going to be slightly blitzed, and the upstairs bar will remain open to the public. Once the renovation at Gem's is complete, one of the Tetley milds is expected to replace the Chesters mild currently on sale.

Greenalls Original bitter seems to be disappearing from the area faster than GW can put up posters to advertise the stuff. In Upholland alone, Original has been removed from the BRITANNIA, Hall Green, and the HARE & HOUNDS on Ormskirk Road. Surprisingly, the beer has popped up in the BAY HORSE, Warrington Road, Ashton in Makerfield, but is nowhere to be found in Wigan town.

Finally, traditional Burtonwood ales have returned to the MARKET GATE, Sandy Lane, Skelmersdale, after many years. The mild remains keg, but the Forshaws and best bitter are now kosher.

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: 15p per copy. Send stamped addressed envelope to Roger Hall, address above.

To join CAMRA send £10 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

WHAT'S DOING ADVERTISING: Enquiries to the editor, address above. Full page £25, $\frac{1}{2}$ page £20, $\frac{1}{4}$ page £15, $\frac{1}{8}$ page £7.50. Discount on bookings for 6 months or longer.



ASIAN CORNER

Murghi Massala

It's a funny old world, as certain oversalaried TV personalities are inclined to remark at annoyingly regular intervals.

And just to prove it, the unlikeliest events do happen at times, even here in Greater Grotley. Just such an occurrence was the recommendation to yours truly of a new outlet for exotic subcontinental fare in the city centre, with that timeless appeal for Drabs drinkers: cheapness.

At the earliest opportunity, little old Drabs drinker me scurried along with a few friends to this intriguing establishment. It trades as the Usman Cafe and is situated on Lena Street, which runs between Dale Street and Piccadilly, near the beginning of London Road. As the name suggests, there are no plush velvet seats tucked into alcoves, flock wallpaper or piped music; in fact, the decor doesn't stretch to tablecloths. The food and the prices easily make up for this, however. The menu caters for omnivores (halal included) as well as vegetarians, and although basic and of limited choice, is of a high standard, with the breads (chappati 20p and nan 30p each!) being especially good. Most customers tend to eat with their hands; rice and cutlery are available, but not much in evidence. The staff are friendly, approachable and give good service, if overdoing it at times. (Probably the first rush of liveliness on opening the business: they'll lose it after dealing with a few "characters".)

All in all, the Usman Cafe is worth a visit. It is one of the local curry emporia similar to those in Bradford, spoken about in hushed tones to friends - no licence, no frills, but an enjoyable and filling meal for about £2.80 (or less, if you try!).

HOLTS CORNER

November will see the annual price increase for Holts products. Will a pint of bitter reach the dizzy heights of 90p? (An increase of 6p on the present managed house price.) This would mean that for every four pints of other brewers' beers, at a cost of £4.50, you could get an extra pint if you were drinking Holts.

Did you recently have a pint of Holts bitter that was somewhat darker than usual? A few weeks ago there was a brew of the amber nectar which, whilst perfectly OK in every way, had a bit more amber in it.



Campus Ale



*A guide to the pubs and real ale
around Manchester and Salford*



Campus Ale

The twin cities of Manchester and Salford are home to the largest student population in Europe - close on 40,000. Out of term, there are numerous conferences, seminars and conventions held at the Universities of Salford and Manchester, at UMIST and at the Poly. There is, in other words, a large number of visitors and temporary residents, many of whom may appreciate good beer and traditional pubs. This brief guide aims to point those aficionados in the right direction.

* * * * *

Beer in Greater Manchester

Despite the best efforts of the big brewers, the county still retains four long-established independent brewers: Holts, Hydes, Lees and Robinsons. Beer is also available in the tied houses of many other independent brewers, including Banks's, Burtonwood, Marstons and Sam Smiths, as well as from the national brewers - Allied, Bass, Courage, Scottish & Newcastle and Whitbread. A couple of home brew pubs and a number of free houses serving beer from far and wide complete the picture of a large urban centre with perhaps the widest choice of traditional beers in the country. In addition, Manchester boasts the country's cheapest pint. Holts mild is still only 79p a pint in their managed houses.

The City Centre

Manchester City Centre is easily accessible from all the local universities and colleges. Although much has been lost of the old city and its quaint pubs by developments such as the Arndale Centre, there are still many pubs well worth a visit. The area between UMIST and Portland Street is Manchester's gay area and, although the beer is acceptable in most of the pubs, it is not the major attraction.

Portland Street houses two pubs in a terrace - the Grey Horse, one of three Hydes pubs in the City Centre, and the Circus Tavern - a relic from the past with the smallest bar imaginable and only one draught beer - Tetleys bitter. A short distance away, two ancient pubs stand next door to each other on Kennedy Street. The City Arms, recently renovated, nevertheless retains much of its character and serves a variety of Allied beers including Ind Coope Burton Ale. The Vine, which seems to have expanded into a nearby warehouse, sells John Smiths and Courage Directors bitter.

On Great Bridgewater Street, near G-Mex, the Peveril of the Peak (The Pev) is worth a visit (Wilsons), as is the Britons Protection (Tetley), although the latter tends to be a little expensive. The nearby Tommy Ducks on East Street is one of the few City Centre pubs serving traditional Greenalls, which is now brewed by Tetley-Walker.

On the Ancoats side of Manchester there are several outlets which merit consideration. The Jolly Angler (Hydes) on Ducie Street, at the side of Piccadilly Station, has long been a Mecca for real ale aficionados from near and far. The Crown & Anchor on Hilton Street was one of Whitbread's first ventures into free houses and still has Marstons, Taylors and guest beers on sale as well as in-house beers. The Castle on Oldham Street is Robinson's only city centre outlet, sells all four of Robinson's cask beers on handpump and has a well-deserved reputation. Across the road, behind Gullivers on Oak Street, is a surviving market pub - the Wheatsheaf (Tetleys), whilst a five-minute walk away are two free houses which are a must for the beer drinking visitor to Manchester: the Beerhouse on Angel Street, just off Rochdale Road, and the Marble Arch on Rochdale Road itself. Both serve a continually changing variety of guest beers. A little further out of town, but still worth the walk, is the Queens Arms on Honey Street, Red Bank, a free house serving Taylors and Batemans, plus a range of guest beers.

Back in the City Centre, the Crown & Anchor on Cateaton Street, near the Cathedral, is Holts' only central Manchester pub with the lowest prices in town. Across the road, adjacent to Marks & Spencers, are the Shambles, housing two old pubs - the Wellington (Bass) and Sinclairs Oyster House (Sam Smiths). Towards Albert Square, on Cross Street, is Mr Thomas's Chop House, a free house in a listed building.

Around UMIST

The Bulls Head on London Road (Burtonwood), the Swinging Sporrán on Sackville Street (Youngers), the Old Garratt on Granby Row (Boddingtons) and the Mawson on Francis Street (Tetleys) are useful ports of call, but the intrepid imbibor should consider a visit to the Kings Arms, a home brew pub tucked away in the middle of a housing estate in Chorlton-on-Medlock. The address is 4A Helmsore Walk but that isn't very helpful. The pub is best approached on foot. From UMIST, negotiate the Mancunian Way roundabout and continue down the A6 towards Ardwick Green. At the George & Dragon, turn right and follow your nose through paths and passages until you come across the pub. A good range of home brewed beers of excellence is there to be savoured.

Around the Poly

The Salutation on Higher Chatham Street (Allied) is evident to anyone visiting the Poly and the Old Steam Brewery on York Street (Tetley) is also a haunt of students and visitors alike. The Lass o' Gowrie, a home brew pub down the side of the BBC on Charles Street, may be less well known. Hulme holds few delights, although the Church (Lees) is an excellent little pub quite close to the Poly on Cambridge Street.

Around Owens

The Grafton on Grafton Street is the only Holts pub in the area and excellent value for the impoverished connoisseur. The Whitworth on the corner of Moss Lane East and Wilmslow Road offers Marstons ales in a basic and unaltered pub. Most of the pubs in Moss Side are keg, but for the adventurous a trip to the Claremont (Claremont Road) and the Robin Hood (Lloyd Street South) can be recommended, not only for the beers (Holts, Robinsons), but for a unique experience.

Around Peel Park

Most visitors to Salford University will be familiar with the Wallness on the campus. The Crescent on the Crescent and the Prince of Wales on Oldfield Road are two of the city's free houses serving a range of beers. The Crescent serves Holts. For those in Castle Irwell, a walk is necessary to obtain a decent pint. A walk down Gerald Road or across the footbridge off Littleton Road will bring you to the nearest Holts outlet, the Old House at Home on Whit Lane, whilst a trip in the opposite direction up Lower Broughton Road will bring you to the Star on Back Hope Street, a Robinsons pub of immense character. Pendleton has few pubs of character, but the Holts pubs at Irlams o'th'Height are worth seeking out (Red Lion, Wellington, Waggon & Horses). On the Manchester side of the University, the Peel Park on Chapel Street serves John Smiths beers and the Kings Arms on Bloom Street is a free house operated by the Boddington Pub Co, serving a range of cask conditioned beers. Boddingtons is not included.



This brief guide has been produced by the North Manchester branch of CAMRA. If it has whetted your appetite for beer and pubs in the area, you may wish to find out more.

Further information about pubs is available in two publications from bookshops:

Vintage pubs and Real Ale in the Manchester Area .. £2.50

Ale of Two Cities £2.95

Full details of CAMRA membership, beer festivals, brewery visits and other activities are published in WHAT'S DOING, a local monthly newsletter available in pubs throughout North Manchester, Salford and the City Centre.

Finding your way about

An A-Z is invaluable. Buy the big one. It costs a bit more and it's a little cumbersome but it's easier to follow when you've had a few.

OLDHAM, MIDDLETON & BURY NEWS

Peter Alexander

A major free house development brings good news to Oldham beer drinkers. The BEER EMPORIUM opened in early July with an excellent selection of real ales.

Owned by Alan Pepper, who is well known as a wholesaler of beer through his Beer Agency, the Beer Emporium has no less than eight beers on offer at any one time. Regulars are Theakstons best bitter, Theakstons XB, Taylors Landlord and Dobbins best bitter. Four guest beers from around the country complement the range.

The pub is located in Union Street and was formerly the Nelson, but latterly had a half life as Butterflies Club. Much work had to be done on the premises to turn it back into a proper pub and the general effect is quite pleasing. Brewery posters decorate the walls and there is even a piano for the traditional singalong. (Who needs karaoke anyway?)

Among many other attractions, a fine selection of bottled foreign beers is available. For those requiring reading material, "What's Doing" is on sale, as is the Oldham Athletic Fanzine. The Beer Emporium is handy for the bus and rail stations.

Another new development in Oldham is the reopening of the Assheton Arms. Although signed prominently as a free house, all the beers hail from the Scottish & Newcastle stable. In July, these were Theakstons best bitter, Youngers Scotch bitter and Matthew Brown mild. When I called, renovation was still under way, but things were shaping up well. The beer sampled was in excellent condition.

Meantime, back in Middleton, Holts is now on sale in the Oddfellows Arms on Oldham Road. I think this is the first time this beer has been sold in Middleton and it currently retails at 88p per pint. Alongside Holts is Ruddles County at £1.30 and Wilsons bitter at £1.05. The Holts was in pristine condition when I called. Rather surprisingly, the Wilsons sales are holding up well, but it seems the locals are slowly becoming acclimatised to the much more bitter taste of Holts.

Readers may have detected that I have a soft spot for the Brunswick in Middleton. Good news is that Jim Mellor has acquired two new handpumps and is intending to sell a cask mild (probably Tetley dark mild). Jim will be setting the new pumps up in the next few weeks, so watch this space for developments.

Moorhouses have reopened the Dusty Miller in Bury after a five week or so closure for refurbishment. It has been a sympathetic job, with both

lounge and tap room remaining. The toilets have been closed in and upgraded. To help with the cost, Moorhouses have come to an agreement with John Smiths, who now supply their lagers. John Smiths cask bitter is on sale alongside the full range of Moorhouses beers: Premier Bitter, Pendle Witches Brew and Black Cat Mild.

Although Moorhouses are brewing more or less at capacity, they have high hopes of adding to their estate in the near future.

Finally, Holts' latest pub, the New Bridgewater on Manchester Road, Hollinwood, is now open. It is an excellent addition to the area, although the old Bridgewater, which it replaces, will be missed by many.

GBG

The 1992 Good Beer Guide will be published on 21st October.

WHAT'S IN A PINT?

Food labelling law is presently being reviewed and CAMRA has asked for the ingredients of beer to be listed, as with other products. If you buy a pint of beer, an orange juice, a low alcohol lager and a packet of crisps, you have the right to know what goes into everything but the beer. What are the brewers trying to hide? It's time for a bit of glashnosht in the brewing industry.

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Note: We operate under Wholesale Licensing Regulations, therefore minimum purchase is 24 bottles beer or 12 bottles wines/spirits, which can all be different.

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LETTERS



LICENSING FREE-FOR-ALL

Sir - I have no argument with Roger Hall (Sept WD) about the role of licensing benches in vetting the fitness of the licensee, the suitability of premises and the location, as I said in my original letter (Aug WD). But I do not agree with his assertion that "there is little evidence to suggest that magistrates' consideration of need acts in restraint of trade."

Roger seems to be basing his views on local experience and there may be less of a problem in the North Manchester area, but there is no doubt that, in general, licensing can restrict competition at a local level and so contribute to the restriction of competition within the brewing industry. CAMRA has had some feedback from their letter to all licensing benches and this indicates that most benches have wide discretion to reject applications because they feel there is no "need" for a new public house, without regard to whether this might provide wider choice.

The Stoke on Trent licensing committee, for instance, actually state that they believe there are already sufficient outlets to meet demand. They are not qualified to say this. Another example is Birmingham, where the historic Bass/Allied duopoly has been entrenched by a conservative licensing bench, only relieved by some pub swaps which brought a few Courage pubs into the city. A freer licensing system would have ensured more competition and wider choice over the last decade.

In the London area, the J D Wetherspoon free house chain has been praised for its low prices, sympathetic refurbishments and conversions and a no-music policy, but the company's basic problem is the battle through the courts in trying to acquire new licences. This is despite the fact that the owner of Wetherspoons is a barrister! What chance does the ordinary punter have? We should be encouraging the formation of more pub companies like Wetherspoons and removing impediments such as current licensing court attitudes.

Peter Barnes

INASMUCH INsofar AS NOTWITHSTANDING

Sir - What's Doing is getting hard to read. Please will you make it simpler? Last month in one six-line paragraph I counted fifteen words of eight letters or more. What exactly is going on between Roger Hall and his dictionary? I think we should be told!

B Gascoigne

THE NEWSPAPER OF BODDINGTONS' BREWERIES LIMITED

THE BODFAN

SPRING 1988

CONFIDENT HIGSONS SET TO SOAR INTO 1990s

Increased investment, along with the continuation of Higsons 200 year-old brewing tradition, looks set to take Liverpool's only brewery into the 1990s.

Around 300 tenants, managers and free traders have been invited to visit the Stanhope Street brewery to see for themselves the company plans to boost Higsons strong brand portfolio into the next decade and beyond.

Licencees will hear about Higsons investment plans, be able to put any questions they like to senior management before touring the brewery, followed by a buffet, and not forgetting — of course — to sample the famous Higsons brands themselves!

Licencees will hear that:

- Higsons ales and Kaltenberg Braumeister will continue to be brewed at Liverpool.
- Investment in production for tenanted, retail and free trade

outlets will be increased.

- Higsons brands will be supported by TV, radio and poster advertising coupled with tailor-made promotional support.
- The introduction of the new corporate livery will be continued to be rolled out.
- A firm commitment to maintain and improve customer service.

This year the tied trade will see 15 managed houses refurbished with 12 tenanted pubs undergoing major redecoration, and the free trade estate will also receive substantial investment.

So, whatever rumours are flying about, these are the facts: Higsons Brewery, its brand portfolio and outlets plan to be around for another 200 years.

rupert



Some people have had the effrontery to suggest that all is not well in the world of cakes. This could not be further from the truth. I can remember quite clearly a situation not so many years ago when it was quite impossible to buy a vast range of exotic wares from your average street corner cake shop which tended to sell a variety of purely local products, catering to esoteric minority tastes. Such eccentric atrocities as Eccles cakes, Chorley cakes, Wakes cake, Welsh cake, Wiltshire Lady cakes and Yorkshire parkin have thankfully long since disappeared. Such manifestly inferior products have been replaced by truly international confections. Thanks to the efforts of such organisations as Welttarte GmbH, Gateau Gargantua SA and Vastcake plc it is now possible to enjoy an identical range of excellent gourmet-rated cakes in shops from Naples to Aberdeen, from Helsinki to Lisbon.

As the boundaries of taste have been expanded, palates have become more discriminating and rejected locally produced and consequently internationally unpopular products. Cakes of repute have now transcended national boundaries so that Sachertorte, Apfelstrudel, Chocolate Fudge cake, Profiteroles, Pavlova, Eclairs, Meringues and Black Forest

Gateau are available throughout Europe. It is difficult to follow the arguments of those who complain about the situation. They concede that all these products are of high quality - indeed, they are all made to exacting standards with no variation in all locations. Idiosyncratic individuality has been eradicated. Yet these Jeremiahs continue to whinge and whine. They still want to eat Chelsea buns and Grasmere Shortcake, even when demonstrably superior products are available.

It is surely pseudo-choice when the choice is between cakes for the ignorant and uneducated palate and cakes for the refined tastes of connoisseurs. Real choice lies in offering the best which the world has to offer in every single outlet, by standardising and maintaining quality and careful attention to detail. We should be grateful that the future of the industry is safe in the hands of internationally recognised corporations who have broadened the horizons of the insular and narrow minded. Would that the same were true in the world of amber nectars, where obstructive stick-in-the-muds threaten to prevent the fulfillment of the brewer's vision in bringing brands of excellence to a much wider audience.



Branch Diary

BOLTON

Thur 3 Oct 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Toll Bar, Chorley New Road, Horwich
Thur 7 Nov 8pm, AGM, Maxims, Bradshawgate, Bolton. All members please attend.

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 2 Oct, Boothstown. Woodside (E Lancs Road) 7pm, then via Boundary Stone to King William for 8.30.

Wed 9 Oct, Regional Meeting, Kings Arms, Helmsshore Walk, Ardwick. 8pm.

Wed 16 Oct, Branch Meeting, Royal Oak, Barton Lane, Eccles, 9pm.

Wed 23 Oct, Setting up at Openshaw Beer Festival until 8pm, then visit to Little Bradford and Seven Stars.

Fri & Sat 25th/26th Oct, Openshaw Beer Festival (see elsewhere in this issue for details).

Wed 30 Oct. Ashton New Road: Halfway House 7.30, Strawberry Duck 8.30, Grove (Holts) 9.30.

Weds 6 Nov, Bradford Crawl. Cricketers Arms, Bradford Road, 7pm; The Bradford 8pm, Magpie 8.30.

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tue 1 Oct 8pm, Branch Meeting, Blue Pitts, Manchester Road, Castleton, Rochdale.

Thur 10 Oct 8.30pm. Social Evening, Masons Arms, Sion St, Radcliffe, Bury. All welcome

Tues 15 Oct 8pm. Committee Meeting, Tandle Hill Tavern, Thornham Old Lane, Slattocks (Royton/Middleton boundary).

Sun 27 Oct 11.20am. 10 K Fun Run (walk/cycle/whatever turns you on). Tandle Hill Tavern, address as above. Tel. M Robinson 061 678 4525 (work) for details.

Tues 5 Nov 8pm. Branch meeting, Blue Bell, Manchester Road, Sunnybank, Bury.

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

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thur 3 Oct 8pm, Committee Meeting, Railway, Altrincham. Also visiting the Malt Shovels and the Old Mill.

Thur 10 Oct 8pm, Survey Night in Manchester City Centre. Starting at the Salisbury, then Grand Central, Peveril of the Peak, Tommy Ducks and Britons Protection.

Thurs 17 Oct 8pm, AGM, Queens Arms, Red Bank, Manchester. All to attend, or else!

Sat 19 Oct: Day trip to Wakefield by train. Details from branch contact
Thur 24 Oct 8pm, Altrincham Survey: Staring at Tatton Arms, then the
Bakers, Park, Downs, Grapes, Faulkners and Malt Shovels.

Thur 31 Oct 8pm, Cornbrook Survey, staring in the Hope, then the
Cornbrook and the Pomona

Thur 7 Nov 8pm, Committee meeting at the Manor Hey, Urmston. Also to
visit the Nelson.

Other diary notes

29 Nov: Branch three-day trip to Brussels

15 Dec: Christmas Dinner at Market Restaurant, Manchester

Contact: Allan Glover 061 962 9890 (h) 061 872 2373 (w)

WIGAN

Sat 5 Oct: All Day Trip. Leave 9am, Tudor

Wed 9 Oct, Branch Meeting, 8.30, Tudor

Weds 23 Oct, Quiz. 8.30 Seven Stars

Thur 24 Oct, Wards visit. Leave 4pm, Tudor

Weds 6 Nov, Branch Meeting, 8pm Colliers, New Springs.

Thur 7 Nov, Cains visit, leave 5pm, Tudor

Fri 22 Nov, Social to Croston

Wed 4 Dec, Branch Meeting 8.30, Orwell.

WAKEFIELD BEER FESTIVAL

The first Wakefield Beer Festival takes place on Friday-Sunday, October 18th-20th. The venue is the Town Hall, Wood Street, five minutes from Westgate BR Station. Beers from independent brewers, including five special festival brews; ciders, live entertainment and food.

Opening hours are: Friday 6.30-11pm; Saturday 11am-4pm, 6.30-11pm; Sunday 12-3pm (if there is any beer left). Admission is £2, which includes a souvenir glass and programme. (£1 for CAMRA members). Free admission Sunday lunch.

The beer festival is an all-ticket event because of fire regulations. Tickets are available in advance from the Town Hall, Wakefield, or from Neil Clarke, 15 Soho Grove, Wakefield. (send s.a.e.) If you can help at the festival, please phone Neil on 0924 383539 (evenings).

Contributors to this issue: Peter Wadsworth, Stewart Revell, Paul Roberts, Roger Hall, Dave White, Walter Bee, Peter Alexander, Peter Barnes, Leo King.



18/11/77

6.30

Friday
very quiet
Beer Festival

THE QUEENS ARMS

FREE HOUSE

4/6 HONEY STREET (off Red Bank)
MANCHESTER

Tel. 061 834 4239



Serving a range of
traditional ales from



BATEMANS & TIMOTHY TAYLORS

XB, XXXB, Best Bitter
Landlord

and weekly guest beers from around
the country

A selection of Continental
bottled beers also available

* * OPENING HOURS * *

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

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

Your hosts,
DAVE & JO

