

WHAT'S DOING

MAY
1992



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



NEW SALFORD PUB

The new Hyde Park Corner opened last month. This Holts pub is at the bottom of Adelphi Street and replaces the old former Tetley house (left) which stood derelict for a number of years.

The old part of Salford has seen a real ale revival in recent years, with a variety of beers being introduced. The choice will be further extended when the Dick & Puppet (ex Borough) opens.

NEW BREW

Thwaites, the Blackburn independent brewers, have introduced a premium beer called Craftsman (1042 og). The new brew has appeared in some of Manchester's free houses but as yet it is hard to find in Thwaites's own estate.

Two Thwaites pubs which are selling Craftsman are the Horseshoe at Ringley Bridge and the Royal Oak in Ramsbottom (see elsewhere in this issue).



A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

Salford pubs tend to stick to the same name for year after year (apart from the Rovers Return, the Albert Park, Byroms, the Park Royal, the Flat Iron, Sports, the Pen & Wig, Buskers, the Grosvenor, Jollies, the Welcome, Poets, the Golden Gate, Hobsons Choice and Jacks) so it's something of a surprise to see two pubs changing their names. The Globe (ex Wilsons, ex Lees) is now selling Boddies and has been renamed the Queen Victoria. Andy and Jo Davies of Crescent fame are to rename their second pub the Dock and Pulpit when it eventually opens. The former Borough in Encombe Place (ex Whitbread, ex Burtonwood) is close to the County Court, which doesn't have a pulpit or a dock, and St Philip's Church, which might have one of them. Already unkind wits are referring to the new enterprise as the Dick and Puppet, for reasons which are unclear.

TWO IN THE BUSH PREFERRED?

The Bird in Hand on Oldham Road, Miles Platting, which was burned out last July, reopened in mid April. The outside was plastered with a large banner, advertising Guinness for £1.10 a pint and Cains bitter was on sale at 85p a pint. On our reporter's visit the place was crowded and coherent speech was not apparent. Five other pubs in the vicinity - the Lancaster, the Heywood Arms, the Nottingham Castle, the Pack Horse and the Hope remain closed.

MESS HOUSE

The Old Mess House on Yorkshire Street, Oldham, reopened last month. The beers on sale are currently Pedigree, Boddingtons bitter and Chesters mild.

HIGHER IRLAM PUBS

Whitbread are thinking about putting a vault back in the Nags Head on Liverpool Road. The original vault was destroyed during one of their conversions in the eighties. Real ales currently available are Boddies bitter and Chesters mild.

The White Lion/Sports on Liverpool Road, a 1960s Watneys building, is up for letting again. The pub is open, but despite the handpump on the bar there is no real ale.

The Tiger Moth, another Watneys building on the Higher Irlam estate, has seen a revival of fortunes after the introduction of Holts bitter as a guest beer. John Smiths bitter should soon be on sale, which will be a welcome addition to the real ale choice in the area.

Boddingtons are planning to refurbish Irlam's best pub, the Boathouse on Ferry Road. At the moment the alterations are "on ice". The pub is continuing with its guest beer policy.

MILE HOUSE

BodPubCo have sold the Mile House on North Street, Cheetham, to the tenant.

ROYAL OAK, RAMSBOTTOM

This Good Beer Guide Thwaites house on Bridge Street has opened its doors again after a six-week closure. A modest extension at the back has provided room for new loos and a kitchen and a couple of feet or so have been added to the length of the bar. Thankfully the three-roomed layout of the pub remains unchanged.

Thwaites' new beer, Craftsman, is being served alongside bitter and best mild, and is apparently not yet available in other Thwaites pubs in the area.

MAKE MAY A MILD MONTH

Hurray, hurray, the first of May, drinking mild can start today. This is the time of year when we think particularly of that much ignored drink. If bitter is your favourite tipple, give mild a chance during May. Although it's disappearing from pubs of the big brewers, there's still a wide choice available from our local independents Holts, Lees, Hydes and Robinsons, plus good examples in Walkers, Tetleys, Bass, Chesters and Boddingtons. Give it a try before it disappears for ever - you might even enjoy it.

HOLTS AND THEIR PUBS

Last month we printed part of the Victorian Society's letter to Holts Brewery, which outlined their concern about the way the brewery is modernising its Victorian and Edwardian buildings. Mark McConachie tells us that he, too, wrote to Holts along similar lines...and he got a reply!

Mark made the same point about the opening out of multi-roomed pubs, when the character and atmosphere of the individual rooms are lost along with architectural features such as carved doors, architraves, friezes, etched glass screens and even fireplaces. Like the Victorian Society, he cites the changes at the Seven Stars, Ardwick, and the Church Inn, Whitefield, among others. Where next? Perhaps Holts have designs for the Lamb at Eccles, the Grapes at Peel Green, the White Lion at Westhoughton or even the Old Cross at Radcliffe.

As could be expected, the reply from the brewery was somewhat vague. The company's objective is to continue selling its excellent beers "in an unaltered form in pubs which promote the traditional image of the company but provide comfortable surroundings for our customers". It is not company policy to create one-bar houses - the recently-acquired Gardeners Arms at Middleton has been converted back to a two-room pub. All newly-built pubs have at least two separate rooms. Holts are happy with their "customer profile" and the beers will continue to be brewed in the same unaltered form.

There is no mention in the reply of company policy towards messing about with the Victorian and Edwardian buildings, which is the main issue to many of us. So the message from Holts is clear - the buggers need watching!

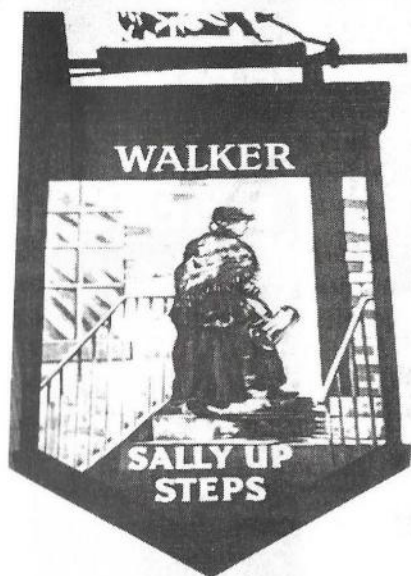
WHAT'S DOING contributions should be sent to the editor c/o 88 Ringley Road, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 9ET. News, articles, letters, etc, must arrive by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

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".

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The book I refer to most when I am trying to discover the origin of a particular pub's name is "A Dictionary of Pub Names" by Leslie Dunkling and Gordon Wright, published in 1987. It lists some 5,000 different names but there are many, often unique, names that are not in the book.

"Up Steps", described by Rob Magee in the March edition of WD, is not there, although the origin of this name is obvious from the photograph. There is, however, a "Sally Up Steps" in Chorley Old Road, Bolton, and the sign shows a woman in cloth cap and shawl going up the steps to the pub

carrying a jug. She is undoubtedly on her way to collect a quart of draught ale from the "Jug & Bottle", a common enough sight some years ago, but who was Sally? *

Also in the March edition of the magazine, Dave White refers to the demise of the Anderton Arms and its nickname, "The Long Neck". It seems a pity that this name will now be lost.

Now that the search for revolving doors is nearly over, maybe readers would like to write in with examples of pubs with unusual names or nicknames. As a start, I'd like to offer the "Spinner and Bergamot" in Comberbach, Cheshire. Bergamot was a type of tapestry made of a mixture of flock and hair. The hair came from oxen or goats when it was first produced in Bergamo, Italy, and presumably it was once produced locally. The sign of two horses' heads suggests that horse hair was used instead of ox hair.

Ron Ricketts

(* One of our more ancient Bolton readers tells us that the Stanley Arms on Chorley Old Road was known as "Sally Up Steps" to generations of boozers before Tetleys extended and modernised it and changed the name. "Sally" was Sarah Jane Kay, who kept the beerhouse about a century ago.)

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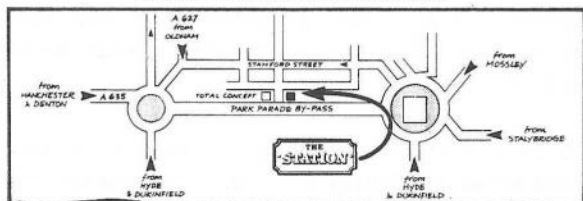
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Titanic
Lifeboat

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REAL ALE GUIDE TO THE TRAMWAYS

by Peter Wadsworth &
Roger Bullock

PART ONE: BURY TO MANCHESTER VICTORIA

After nine years and several false starts, Greater Manchester's brave new transportation system began operations with the departure of the 6.00am tram from Bury, and our intrepid reporter was on it!

Armed with a Commemorative Issue ticket valid for travel all day, he carried out a survey for CAMRA's first ever Real Ale Guide to the Tramways. And here it is...

Having chosen your start and finish points along the line, buy a return ticket and travel straight to your destination. The reason for this is that the first part of a return ticket must be used within 1½ hours, but the return part is valid for the rest of the day. You may break your return journey as often as you like, provided you keep heading towards your starting point.

This first part of the guide details only the nearest pub to each station, and happily they all sell real ale.

<u>STATION</u>	<u>PUB</u>	<u>BEER</u>	<u>WALKING TIME</u> <u>(MINS)</u>
BURY	The Knowsley	Boddingtons Bitter	1
Turn left out of Station to Haymarket St, then right to junction with Moss Street.			
RADCLIFFE	Morning Star	Thwaites Mild & Bitter	4
Straight out of station, left down ramp to Church St West. Right to Thomas St, right again. Pub 100 metres on left.			
WHITEFIELD	Church	Holts Mild & Bitter	½
Straight out of Station. Can't miss it!			
BESSES O' TH' BARN	Coach & Horses	Holts Mild & Bitter	3
Down ramp to Bury Old Road. Left under bridge, then 100 metres on right			
PRESTWICH	White Horse	Holts Mild & Bitter	2
Left out of station. Past Sainsbury's to main road. Pub is on right.			
HEATON PARK	Turf Tavern	Banks's Bitter	1
Straight out to main road, turn right and you are there.			
BOWKER VALE	Belmont Tavern	Websters Choice*	6
Down ramp to Middleton Road. Right up to Chef & Brewer pub on right.			
*Shortly to be replaced by Courage Directors Bitter			
CRUMPSALL	Cleveland Hotel	Holts Mild & Bitter	3
Right out of Station to Crumpsall Lane. Right again to pub 100 metres on left.			

WOODLANDS ROAD The Griffin Wilsons & John Smiths Bitter 12
Up ramp to Woodlands and Wigmore Road. Straight on following Wigmore Road, crossing Cardinal Street on to Shaftesbury Road. Cross Shirley Road, passing on to Birkdale Street. Left at Greenhill Road to main road (Cheetham Hill Rd). Right up to pub, 100 metres on left.

VICTORIA Station Bar Beer changes $\frac{1}{2}$
Right into Station Foyer and straight on.

Part Two of this guide will cover the city centre section from Manchester Victoria to G-Mex.

HOLTS CORNER

Stewart Revell

Steve & Louise Doran have taken on the Grafton Arms, C-on-M. For the last 12 years they have been running a bar called El Open Arms on the Costa del Sol, selling el cheapo wine to the tourists. Steve & Joyce Travis are now looking after the recently opened Hyde Park Corner, Salford. Mr and Mrs Manning are leaving the Melville and moving south. The licensee of the Brigadier (Sale) may be taking over the Melville.

At the end of May we should see the extensive work at the Griffin, Heaton Mersey, completed. Holts tell us that they have spent huge amounts of money on making the bar extension fit in with the original.

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NOW & THEN

No.65

GRAPES INN

by Rob Magee

161 St John Street,
Hey

There have only ever been two pubs in Hey Chapel - the Grapes Inn and the Queen Ann, which was on Den Lane. Trade at the latter suffered after the new road was cut through Lees, making Den Lane a backwater, but it lasted until 1841.

The Grapes Inn was opened in 1741 by John Houghton and four years later he had the dubious privilege of entertaining some stray Highlanders belonging to Bonnie Prince Charlie's army. When the alarm was given that the Highlanders were on their way, the people of Hey Chapel hid their valuables and even moved their cattle out of the way. When the men approached the inn, Catherine Houghton hid a valuable silver pot in a mixture of clotted cream and then began to feed her baby from the breast. The visitors were said to have been as hairy as baboons and as ragged as hedgehogs, but when they entered the Grapes and saw the domestic scene it had a calming effect. After a quick look in the cellar for hiding Hanoverians, they left.

The Houghtons handed the Grapes over to a son-in-law, Benjamin Wrigley, in 1789. The Lees Musical Society had been meeting at the inn



since 1746 and Benjamin encouraged the establishing of a number of other societies. Among these was a Society of Females, founded in October 1797, for women living in Ashton, Saddleworth and Oldham who were over 18 and under 44 years of age. One of the society's rules was that unmarried women were forbidden to have children by married men. It was said that after three gills each, the women's tongues wagged at both ends! Catherine (Kitty) Wrigley took over in 1802 and five years later the Grapes hosted a Beauty Show and Marriage Market for widowers, widows and bachelors.

The Grapes was a meeting place for local Whigs during Kitty's tenancy and for a short time it was known as the Punch Bowl. (Punch was the drink favoured by gentlemen of this political persuasion and the sign of the punch bowl was sometimes used to identify a pub's affiliation.) However, politicians come and go and by 1822 the inn at Hey Chapel was the Grapes again.

Today the Grapes is a Greenall Whitley house. The brewery purchased the then quaint pub in 1964 but over the years have extended it into cottages on either side. The Grapes and an adjoining barn are now Grade II listed buildings.

NEW BANKS' S OUTLET

The construction of the new Banks's pub on Eccles New Road (not far from the Waverley) is progressing well. This site was given to Banks's by Salford City Council in a deal after the brewery bought the Druids (Wilsons) on Silk Street, then wanted a better location. It seems strange that within half a mile of the new site many pubs in Ordsall have closed because of vandalism or poor trade and Banks's are building a new pub in the hope of better times to come.

UNITY BROOK

The Unity Brook (Bass) on Manchester Road, Kearsley, reopened last month after extensive alterations. Two handpumps advertise Worthington Best Bitter, but only keg beer was on sale when our inspector called.

Contributors to this issue: Roger Hall, Keith Egerton, Stewart Revell, Peter Wadsworth, Paul Roberts, Ron Ricketts, Mark McConachie, Barbara Lee

LETTERS



1993 GOOD BEER GUIDE

Sir - I would like to comment on Roger Hall's article about consideration of choice, variety and location when selecting entries for the Good Beer Guide (WD April). I agree that it is anomalous that we do not have any Boddingtons pubs listed when, like Holts, they constitute 15% of our real ale pubs. Perhaps the absence of S&N, Bass, Sam Smiths and Banks's pubs is understandable when together these breweries have only 4% of real ale pubs, and with Wilsons pubs you never know when they are going to be Websterised.

With regard to geographical coverage, I do not agree with Roger's call for a good spread across the North Manchester branch area. I feel that the 1993 spread of pubs is about right. I do not think that the GBG is necessarily more "user friendly" if it directs users to such places as Miles Platting, Collyhurst, Newton Heath and Irlam. Let's face it, it is difficult enough to get CAMRA members to do their duty and check out the pubs in some of the more grotty and inaccessible inner city areas, so why send GBG readers there? Good Beer Guide sales stand at 60,000. This figure represents twice the CAMRA membership and in less recessionary times the sales have been four times CAMRA membership. I suggest that the average GBG user is not so dedicated to searching out good beer outlets that he/she needs an even geographical spread through the North Manchester branch area. If we can find worthy entries in the central business areas of Manchester and Salford, on the city centre fringe and in one or two locations such as Eccles where there are clusters of good pubs with good beer, then I submit this is much more helpful to GBG users. If we can achieve a balanced spread of breweries as a secondary objective, so much the better.

Peter Barnes

Sir - I was interested in the article by Roger Hall in April's WD about Good Beer Guide entries, most of which I agreed with. It does, however, pose as many questions as it answers. The purist would argue that the best pubs should be included regardless of location, and indeed this argument is tempting. The down side of this is, of course, that the Guide is a commercial enterprise which will surely lose its appeal if it fails to provide a balance in both geographical spread and variety of entries.

In my experience it is difficult to reconcile the need to include only

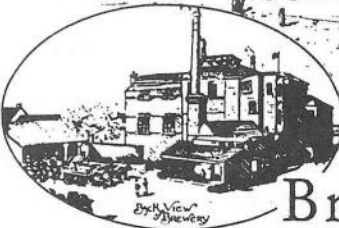
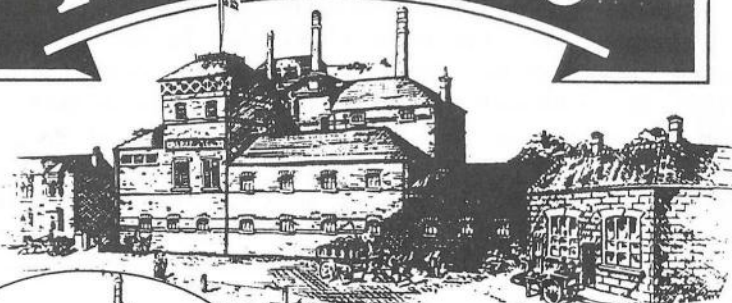

those pubs whose beer is beyond reproach and the desire to maintain Good Beer Guide entries which give the Guide user a fighting chance of getting decent beer and reasonable choice wherever he may find himself.

As anyone who has attended a GBG selection meeting will testify, the meeting is often highly volatile and balance is often overcome by prejudice and emotion. Proceedings are not helped by lack of guidance from CAMRA HQ.

It is my feeling that the Good Beer Guide is drifting somewhat and a clear direction is needed to enable it to go forward strongly in the future. The main strengths of the GBG are the commitment and enthusiasm of the CAMRA members who compile the entries. Conversely, we are also its greatest weakness. Do we actually consider the end user requirement - the needs of the purchaser - when we cast our votes for and against GBG candidates?

The subject needs careful thought. Roger Hall has opened up a worthwhile debate.

Peter Alexander



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BEINLOS IN BAVARIA



It's amazing who you meet in the Hofbräuhaus. Last month I was rubbing shoulders with Gorby and the other night I happened to get talking to a Dutch Beer Baron. Herr Swinkels from the Bavaria Brewery in Lieshout, Holland, was on his way to Vienna to sell his products to an Austrian supermarket chain and had stopped off in Munich for decent beer. I pointed out to him that German supermarkets would not sell inferior non-Reinheitsgebot rubbish. He retorted that

the Germans knew nothing about beer and that additives not only enhanced the flavour of beer, but also were healthier! Were they not also far cheaper to use, I asked? The cost was irrelevant, came the reply! It seems the Dutch use the same argument as the British brewers!

The new common duty policy in the EEC means dearer beer here in Germany. From 1st January 1993 tax on beer rises to DM18 per hectolitre (= 3.5p a pint!) - quite a jump from the present DM14.30, but still a fraction of the current British tax. If this rate is applied in Britain, surely the price of a pint would fall by about 50p!

Friday 20th March saw the public opening of Starkbierzeit - the strong beer season. Fasching may have been Munich at its most foolish, but Starkbierzeit is Munich at its most drunken! The centre of Starkbierzeit is the Salvator Keller at Nockherberg, near the Paulanerbräu brewery. This colossal hall is converted into an Oktoberfest-style hall and the 4,000 or so drinkers down Salvator Doppelbock (8% ABV), served only in pot litre Masskrugs - DM8.50 per litre (£1.67 a pint). This is quite good value, as for under DM30 one can get quite merry! All the various Munich breweries celebrate the event with sixteen day-long festivals in their beer halls (again, litres only). All Doppelbock beers end in -ator, for example: Triumphator, Maximator, Animator and Spaten's hopeful, Optimator. When drinking Spaten you've got to be an optimist - one day you might get a decent litre!

In all my visits to Munich over the past sixteen years, this is the first time I have experienced Starkbierzeit and never have I seen so many totally paralytically drunken people. "Bierleiche" is the correct word; literally, 'beer corpse'! The imbibers just do not realise the strength of the brew until they fall over! Sometimes this is after having drunk about six litres (the equivalent of 11 pints of Old Tom!)

rupert

I was delighted to see that the Titley conference unanimously endorsed the concept of a Greater Grotley condominium. It is a timely decision which will enable this dynamic crucible of campaigning to move forward apace. It should help to forge links between branches which themselves may be falling apart. In Snobley and Snoot Magna, for example, a minor difference of opinion between an editor and a contributor led to a major rift involving much teddy clutching, toy throwing and cupboard skulking. Thank God that's something which couldn't happen here, where hacks are quite content to toady to Nestfeather (you bastard). Anyway, the Whingeing Sartorial Scot, who was also boss-person of the Snoot Magna branch, penned a considered piece for Opening Tripe which Charlie Super emasculated before sticking it in a prominent position in his organ. The WSS was livid and took his bat and ball home, thereby threatening the convivial bonhomie of their pub of the nanosecond gatherings and the future of their Snobley amber nectar show.

To my mind this is exactly the sort of thing in which the Regional Bossperson should get involved. If Billy Bog had any guts, instead of eating pies, he'd bang their heads together and close down one or two branches who ponce about

getting pissed instead of doing things. I can't imagine any of his predecessors allowing this sort of thing to go on if they'd found out about it. Nora Tackler would certainly have nipped it in the bud. I was sad to see that she failed to become a national boss-person. She was, however, a good loser as she has always been. She can now concentrate on doing what she does best, comforting Hippo Vistula in his obesity and launching a local newsletter which should enjoy the success which Manky Ale enjoyed in Grotley in those halcyon days of yore.

Dermatitis would have sorted it out by taking someone outside and Ben Chestnut would have shpoken to them sheverely. So, come on Billy, pull your socks up and sort the buggers out! You can safely leave the Amber Nectar Shows in the hands of the current incumbents after the last mega-success and after Titley, how could Slumley '93 possibly be any worse? Chin up. Be interventionist. You now have the mandate to kick donkey, as they say on the other side of the pond, know what I mean? Where's this new Dick and Puppet pub everyone's talking about? I really must pay a visit.

* * * * *



Branch Diary

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 5th May 8pm Branch AGM, Woodthorpe Hotel, Bury Old Rd, Prestwich.
All members welcome.

Tues 12 May 8pm. Social evening, Dusty Miller, Crostons Road, Bury

Tues 19 May 8pm, Committee Meeting, Eagle & Child, Higher Lane, Whitefield.

Tues 26 May 8.30pm, Bury Beer Festival meeting, Napier, Bolton Street, Bury. All those interested in helping to organise this year's festival are welcome.

Tues 2 June 8pm. Branch Meeting, Halfway House, Rochdale Road, Royton

Sat 6th June 12 noon REGIONAL MEETING, Blue Pitts, Manchester Road, Castleton, Rochdale.

Contact: G Mason 061 665 3032

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thur 7 May 8pm, Committee Meeting, Moss Trooper, Moss Lane, Timperley, to be followed at 9pm by surveying of Gardeners Arms, Hare & Hounds, Stonemasons and Quarry Bank.

Thur 14 May, Chorlton Survey. 8pm at Southern, followed by Feathers, Royal Oak, Lloyds, Horse & Jockey, Trevor and Beech

Thur 21 May, Branch Meeting, 8pm. Unicorn, Hale Barns, followed by survey of Bulls Head, Bleeding Wolf and Railway, Hale.

Thurs 28 May, Branch trip to Stockport Beer Festival.

Thur 4 June, Committee Meeting, 8pm, Vine, Kennedy Street, City Centre. At 9pm proceeding to City Arms, Crown Piano Bar, Town Hall Tavern, Mr Thomas's and Abercrombie.

Contact: Allan Glover 061 962 9890 (h): 061 428 7930 (w)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 6 May, Greengate, Salford. Old Ship 7pm, Three Legs of Man 7.30, Eagle 8pm

Wed 13 May, Irlam. Red Rose 7pm, Ship 8pm, then on to Higher Irlam

Wed 20 May, Branch Meeting, Kings Arms, Bloom St, Salford 8pm

Wed 27 May, Daytime setting up Stockport Beer Festival. Evening, Crawl of Stockport. Arden Arms, Millgate, 7pm; Stanley, New Bridge Lane, 7.30; Manchester Arms, Wellington Road South, 8pm; Turners Vaults, Lower Hillgate, 9pm.

Wed 3 June, Committee/Social, Queens Arms, Green Lane, Patricroft 8pm

Wed 10 June, Monton. Blue Bell 7pm, Bargee 7.30, Drop Inn 8.30

Wed 17 June, Branch Meeting, Crescent (or Borough if open) 8pm

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

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Thur:	12.00-11.00	
Fri:	12.00-11.00	
Sat:	12.00-4.00	7.00-11.00

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