

# WHAT'S DOING

The Newsletter of the North Manchester Branch of CAMRA  
Number 2. December 1975.

The Branch Social was held in the Boathouse, Irlam, on Saturday 13 December. There was a good turnout of both CAMRA members and locals with live entertainment from our branch troubadours, Pete Cash, Ken Birch and Bill Collier (otherwise known as The Vapours), who also laid on a generous hotpot. It would be fair to say that the evening was enjoyed by all—even those who had to endure the singing of the branch secretary as he aspired to the higher notes of 'Mr Tambourine Man'. The evening was felt to be better than last year's which was a little too formal.

At the last Branch meeting, Pete Cash gave an informative talk on home brewing which stimulated some lively discussion. While a number of us wouldn't have recognised a flocculating molecule if one had hit us on the head, we came away with a renewed understanding of the complexities of the subject. We also came away with the first issue of 'What's Doing' which was given away free to those who attended the meeting. Anyone who wishes to have the newsletter posted to them should contact the editor.

An interesting article on pub signs appeared in the December issue of 'In Britain'. There are some excellent colour pictures too. The editor has a copy which he will bring to the branch meeting.

The last issue contained a statement that the Birmingham Beer Festival seemed to have made a loss. Latest news is that costs were just covered as a result of breweries taking back unsold beer, plus the sales of souvenir glasses at local branch meetings.

Finally, as we look forward to the New Year, a number of matters come to mind. First, there is the Manchester Beer Guide, which is in an advanced state of preparation and should be ready for early spring. Second, there is the local beer exhibition for which the Town Hall, Bolton, has been suggested as a possible venue in February or March. Opinions on this are welcomed. Third, there are a number of trips to be arranged, particularly that to Ulverston which was cancelled in September. Last but not least, we must concern ourselves with the fortunes of two pubs in our area—the Derby Arms and the Castle and Falcon. We hope to bring news of these in the next issue.

Meanwhile, have a good Christmas!



## NORTH MANCHESTER PUB CRAWLS. Greengate-Salford

Within easy reach of Central Manchester, this walk takes in beer from five breweries in pubs which are varied and interesting but by no means trendy or smart. Perhaps the best place to start is the Old Ship, a Boddington's house next to Victoria bus station. This is one of the few pubs in or near Central Manchester which still has the atmosphere of a local (other notable exceptions being the King on Oldham St., the Hare and Hounds on Shudehill and the Britons Protection on Lower Mosley St.) The pub is wood panelled in pre-war fashion and serves hand pumped beer in both the vault and lounge.

Turn right out of the Old Ship and walk along Chapel St. to Victoria St. Turn left and under the railway bridge go into the Crown, a Tetley's pub frequented by young people who enjoy the football machines as well as the beer, which is hand pumped and of good quality.

The Royal Oak and the Ducie Arms are the next pubs on the route. They are the two Boddington's houses nearest the brewery and serve an excellent pint. They are, however rough and attract drinkers from a local men's hostel perhaps because of the excellence and cheapness of the beer.

Down New Bridge St., at the side of the Ducie Arms is the Old Shears on Greengate next to the Greengate and Irwell Rubber Cos. The pub is remarkable only for the quality of the hand-drawn Wilsons beer and is frequently

deserted in the evenings.

The Three Legs of Man is a huge pub on the corner of Gravel Lane. It has been much altered over the years and has lost much of its former glory. There is a pool table and a live pop group but the pub does not seem to have decided what kind of customer it is aiming for. It is however one of only three Robinsons pubs in Salford and worth a visit if you can bear the noise.

Further along Greengate towards Broughton is the Flying Horse. This is probably the only true 'local' on Greengate and has maintained its character in an area which has changed considerably. The hand pumped Tetley beer is amongst the best available in Manchester.

Springfield Lane is on the right further down Greengate and here hidden from the casual passer is the King William IV, a Marstons pub which is never crowded but which serves an excellent pint. The careful observer will notice next to the King William a building which was previously a pub. This was the Springfield, a Groves and Whitnall pub which closed some years ago. The name can still be made out on the fascia.

Return down Springfield Lane and cross Greengate into Collier St. Here, again hidden from view, is the Eagle Inn, a hand-pumped Holt's pub which shows similar signs of decline to its neighbourhood.



From the front door of the Eagle the observant will notice what used to be another Groves and Whitnall pub, the Mechanics Arms.

Those who have been drinking natives may make it to two Boddington's pubs off Blackfriars Rd., the Braziers Arms on Hodson St. and the Black Friar on King St. Both pubs sell excellent hand-pumped beer in traditional working class surroundings. The Braziers has live music at weekends and both pubs have a lively communal atmosphere.

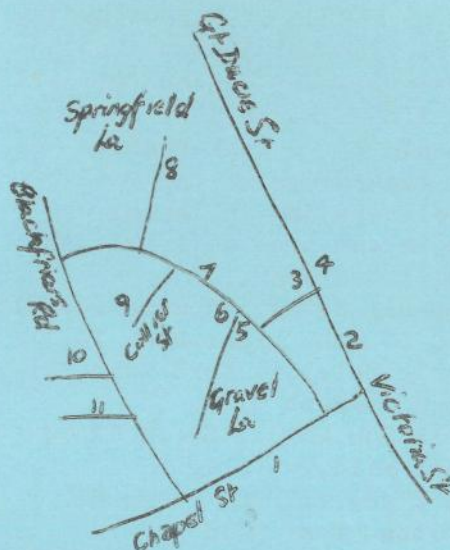
The pubs of Greengate and Black Friars represent much of what Salford used to be. Many pubs have disappeared and those that remain are in some cases unviable. Several are however thriving against the odds and will hopefully continue to do so.

Roger Hall.

## BREWERY NEWS

### Burtonwood

The Castle and Falcon, Bradshaw St, Manchester, is being renovated following a change of licensee. As this is one of only two Burtonwood pubs in Central Manchester it is to be hoped that real ale will still be available and one branch member who enquired was assured by the acting



- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Old Ship          | 7 Flying Horse    |
| 2 Crown             | 8 King William IV |
| 3 Ducie Arms        | 9 Eagle Inn       |
| 4 Royal Oak         | 10 Braziers Arms  |
| 5 Old Shears        | 11 Black Friar    |
| 6 Three Legs of Man |                   |

manager that this would be so and also that the hand pumps would be retained. The changes are to make the pub more comfortable and to lay on hot meals at lunchtime. It was hoped that the conversion would be completed within a month.

J.W. Lees

Rumours are circulating concerning a possible takeover by Boddingtons. Dave Easton, our area organiser,



would appreciate any further information.

### Bass Charrington.

Members from the Greater Manchester branches met representatives from Bass-Charrington on Tuesday 9 December at the Unicorn on Church St. Bass-Charrington claims that 56% of its 353 pubs in Greater Manchester sell real ale—although they consider real ale to be cask-conditioned beer regardless of the method of delivery. The following are pubs in our area selling cask-conditioned beer:

Crumpsall Hotel, 135, Waterloo St.

M/C 8—Toby Light, Brew 10.

Maypole Hotel, 11 Ford Lane, Salford 6—Best Mild.

Albert Inn, Regent Rd., Salford—Best Mild, Toby Light.

Lord Clyde, 107/109 Folds Rd., Bolton—Best Mild.

Prince of Wales, 165, Oldfield Rd., Salford 5—Best Mild.

Unicorn Hotel, 26, Church St., M/C—Best Mild, Bass.

Berwick Arms, Caernarvon St.,

Cheetham, M/C—Best Mild, Brew 10.

Britannia Inn, 2, Rayson St., Blackley—Best Mild, Brew 10 (hand-pumps)

Burton Arms, Swan St., M/C.—Best Mild, Brew 10.

St. Vincent's Tavern, Oldham Rd., M/C—Best Mild, Brew 10.

Wheatsheaf Hotel, 208, Oldham Rd., M/C—Best Mild.

Town Hall Tavern, Tib Lane, M/C—Bass.

Welcome Hotel, Madamswood Rd., Little Hulton—Bass.

Brinscop Arms, 590, Chorley Rd., Westhoughton—Best Mild, Brew 10.

General Havelock, 110, Sydney St., Bolton—Best Mild, Brew 10.

Grapes Hotel, 47, Market St., Stoneclough—Best Mild, Brew 10.

Greyhound Hotel, 146, Deansgate, Bolton—Best Mild, Brew 10.

Freemasons Arms, 72, Market St., Farnworth—Best Mild.

New Inn, 34, Halliwell Rd., Bolton—Best Mild.

Unity Brook, 454, Manchester Rd. Kearsley—Best Mild, Brew 10.

Yew Tree Inn, 55, Bridgewater Rd Boothstown—Best Mild, Brew 10.

Cross Keys Hotel, Church Rd., Eccles—Bass.

As many of these pubs serve cask beer under carbon dioxide pressure it would be useful if they could all be visited to check whether any merit inclusion in the Manchester Beer Guide. The Britannia, Blackley, is already included together with the Burton Arms.

### Samuel Smiths.

The brewery suggests that the reason for cask ale not being delivered in the Lancashire area is entirely due to distribution difficulties. Richard Greenhalgh, the treasurer of the South Manchester branch, has suggested that we might be able to change this policy if sufficient people were to write to the brewery saying that they believed that Sam Smiths excellent ale may soon be available in real ale form. He has also suggested that we might wish to contact the landlords in our area to see where their sympathies lie.



## Hydes.

Following pressure from David Hall, the draught strong ale is shortly to be reintroduced.

## Boddington's.

The brewery is committed to a policy of replacing hand pumps with electric pumps in its pubs. When pubs are rebuilt, renovated or replaced, the new pattern will be the two-roomed pub.

Anyone considering giving a party near Christmas should note that Boddington's do not deal direct with the public in December. Although they have a good reputation for dealing quickly and efficiently with casual customers at other times of the year, it is regrettable that they do not do so during the festive season.

## Wilsons.

There is no intention to market Olympic in real ale form until the results of the test marketing of bright Olympic have been evaluated.

## CAMRA NEWS.

### 1976 Good Beer Guide.

Proofs have been returned to St. Albans. In addition to the pubs mentioned in the November news letter, the Welcome, a hand-drawn Lees pub in Ord-sall Lane, Salford, has been included.

### Regional Conference.

The conference will be held at the Priory (a Mitchells house), Lancaster, on Saturday, 24 January 1976. Discussions will be held on the following subjects:

1) Regional and area organisers

2) HQ administration and communications

3) Liaison between branches and breweries

4) Local guides and branch bulletins

5) Branch boundaries in the region

We have been invited to send the names of two delegates and any other subjects which we feel should be discussed by the end of December.

### CAMRA Ltd.

A letter has been sent to the editor of 'What's Brewing' protesting about the formation of a limited company. This is being considered for publication.

WHAT'S DOING? CHRISTMAS QUIZ  
(see back page for answers-  
but not yet!)

1. How many real ale pubs are there in the area bounded by Deansgate, Market St., Moseley St. and Peter St?

2. Which of Boddingtons' Salford pubs is omitted from Boddingtons' own pub guide?

3. Which of the following breweries have no pubs in Salford?

Burtonwood

Higsons

Hydes

Lees

Marstons

Thwaites

4. What are the present names of the following pubs?

The Fusiliers Arms-Cross Ln

The Mechanics Arms-Chorlton St

Kingston Hotel-Bloom St

Wellington Inn-Bk Piccadilly

Albert-Oldham St

Princes Tavern-East St;

George & Dragon-Swan St

5. Which Road or Street in Greater Manchester has the most real ale pubs?

6. Where is Boddington's sold by both electric and hand pumps?

7. Where is the nearest Holts pub to Manchester Town Hall?

9. Which is the oldest pub in the north Manchester area?

10. Which is the smallest pub in the North Manchester area?

QUOTE FOR DECEMBER

Iago. I learn'd it in England, where indeed they are most potent in potting: your Dane, your German, and your swag-bellied Hollander-drink, ho!-are nothing to your English.

Cas. Is your Englishman so expert in his drinking?

Iago. Why, he drinks you with facility your Dane dead drunk; he sweats not to overthrow your Almain; he gives your Hollander a vomit ere the next pottle can be fill'd

Othello II(iii)



# COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF LOCAL BRANCHES

## High Peak and North-East Cheshire

Chairman Rodney Oliver, 6, Lockside, Marple 427 6966  
 Secretary Tom Lord, 45, Leigh Avenue, Marple 427 7099  
 Treasurer Peter Broadbent, 11, Woodville Ave., Marple 427 5119  
 Soc. Sec. David Dawson, 6, Stockport Rd., Marple 427 3457

## North Manchester

Chairman Roger Hall, 123 Hill Ln., Blackley, M9 2PW 740 7937  
 Secretary Paul Roberts, 50, Silver St, Irlam, M306HR 775 3890  
 Treasurer David Dodd, 5, Half Edge Ln., Eccles 789 1121  
 Committee Jem Callaghan, 30, Stafford Rd., Ellesmere Park, Eccles,  
 M30 9HW. 789 3808  
 Pete Cash, 225, East Lancs Rd., Swinton 794 5143  
 Dave Smith, 6, Southleigh Drive, Bolton Bolton 382628

## Rochdale, Oldham and Bury

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 work 998 5341  
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## Macclesfield & East Cheshire

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## Regional Organiser

Barrie Pepper, 58 Elmete Hill, Leeds LS8 2NT Leeds 39782

## Area Organiser

Dave Easton, 125 Prestbury Road, Macclesfield Macc 24574

## QUIZ ANSWERS.

1. None—Sam's Chop House not a pub.
2. Derby Arms, Derby St., Salford 5.
3. Burtonwood, Higsons, Hydes, Thwaites.
4. The Paddock, the Churchill, Paddy's Goose, Mother Mac's, the Grenadier, Tommy Duck's, the Band on the Wall.
5. Open to argument but there are twelve on Liverpool Rd. Eccles.
6. Old Garratt, Princess St., Manchester.
7. The Eagle, Collier St., Salford.
8. King William IV, Springfield Lane, Salford.
9. Open to argument—White Horse, Swinton, is over 400 years old.
10. Suggestions—Circus Tavern, Jolly Angler, Church Inn, (Jersey St.)—Manchester. Red Cow, Derby Arms—Salford.