

WHAT'S DOING

JUNE
1992



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

TALLOW TUB GOES UP IN SMOKE



The battle to save the Tallow Tub, an untouched Victorian pub on Chapel Street, Salford, seems to have been lost after a fire caused extensive damage a few weeks ago. Since it closed in March, the pub was systematically vandalised, fixtures and fittings vanished and a large hole appeared in the roof.

The story began in March 1991 when Whitbread Developments applied for planning permission to convert the listed Cook Street Brewery into offices and at the same time to demolish the Tallow Tub in order to create a new frontage to Chapel Street. Local CAMRA branches, with the Victorian Society, mounted a campaign to stop the demolition, lobbied members of the Salford Planning Committee and generated a large amount of publicity in the local press. Whitbread withdrew their application

for a rethink and the Tallow Tub's future looked a little more secure.

However, the pub closed in the New Year and was partly boarded up. Almost immediately CAMRA members reported that stained glass partitions and doors had been removed and the back of the pub was insecure. It seemed only a matter of time before a fire would finish the place off.

All this is, of course, normal in inner city areas, but the Tallow Tub is only 300 yards from a 24-hour Whitbread security guard office. It is even nearer the office of the company's regional manager with responsibility for the pub. Is there something we should be told?

Paul Mason

LOCAL BREWERS THREATENED BY WHITBREAD SELL-OFFS

In order to comply with the MMC beer orders, Whitbread Investments needs to reduce its holdings in other brewers to below 15%. If it does not, then pubs owned by those breweries will count towards Whitbread's total pub ownership, resulting in further disposals. Traditionally, Whitbread Investments has been a guardian of independent brewers, but since its acquisition of Strangeways Brewery that role has been in doubt. Whitbread Investments has a 44% share of Morlands and has pledged this to the hostile takeover from Greene King.

Marstons, in which WIC has a 32% holding, could be vulnerable to a takeover from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries and even Boddingtons PubCo, in which WIC has a 22% share, is not immune. Whitbread (the brewer) has reduced its 27% share in Brakspear by selling some shares to WIC and some to the brewery.

Some people may see the Greene King/Morland merger as desirable and even the amalgamation of WED and Marstons does make some sort of economic sense. Yet, every takeover (even Holts taking over Greenalls or Websters) reduces choice. Size, as we have seen, is no guarantee of invulnerability. Allowing such mergers and takeovers will not prevent the invasion by Anheuser Busch, Kirin, et al. Every brewery takeover must be resisted. It is not sufficient to take a pragmatic view that we're better off with, say, eight large brewers and thereby allow our heritage of regional distinctiveness to disappear. CAMRA must take action now to prevent all takeovers which lead inexorably to badge brewing and loss of choice.

Roger Hall

REAL ALE GUIDE TO THE TRAMWAYS

by Peter & Pauline
Wadsworth

PART TWO: MANCHESTER VICTORIA TO G-MEX

Last month we published the first part of this first-ever guide to the tramways and it was an instant success. Indeed, such was the impact on society that syndication rights had to be hurriedly agreed with several other eminent publications.

For Part Two, Victoria to G-Mex, the first tram left Victoria at 5.40am on Monday 27th April and once again our reporter was on it. The tram chosen for this particular trip was 1007, which was the number of the last tram to travel the city's streets in 1949!

Now to the guide. This time, because the City Centre contains such a wealth of real ale outlets, all cafe/wine bars/lodges have been excluded.

WALKING TIME (MINS)

<u>STATION</u>	<u>PUB</u>	<u>BEER</u>	
SHUDEHILL	This station doesn't exist yet. It has been suggested by the Shudehill Development Company and the Metrolink people have no objection, provided they don't have to pay for it! Considering the location, I think the station ought to be called the CASTLE & FALCON.		

HIGH STREET	Unicorn	Bass Light Mild, Draught Bass, Stones BB, Worthington BB	1½
-------------	---------	--	----

Left out of tram, 100 metres to Church Street and turn right. Pub is 60 metres on right.

MARKET STREET	Shakespeare	Websters Choice	1
---------------	-------------	-----------------	---

Unfortunately the pub was shut for complete refurbishment at the time of the survey, so try the

	Sportsman	Lees Mild & Bitter	2
--	-----------	--------------------	---

Left out of tram, straight down Market Street and the pub is downstairs on the left between Mr Minits and Eyeland Express.

MOSLEY STREET	The Bank	Tetley Bitter, Cains Bitter	1
---------------	----------	-----------------------------	---

Right out of tram, continue along Mosley Street, the pub is 100 metres on the left.

NB This appropriately-named pub sells the most expensive beer on the route - Cains bitter at £1.44 a pint!

ST PETER'S SQ	Tommy Ducks	Greenalls bitter and Original, Stones bitter	2
---------------	-------------	--	---

G-Mex bound tram: Turn right out of tram..

Victoria-bound tram: Turn left out of tram, cross Oxford Road, down Lower Mosley Street. The pub is soon seen. Left into Bale Street and you're there.

G-MEX The Crown Holts bitter, John Smiths bitter 1½
Right out of tram, right along passageway to staircase, down to
Deansgate, turn right and the pub is on the right.

Coming shortly in this magazine - Part Three of the Real Ale Guide to
the Tramways.

CLOSED FOR A CHANGE

The Horse & Jockey on Huddersfield Road, Delph, a well known real ale
free house, is closed for alterations.

NO BRAINS

The Crown & Anchor on Hilton Street, Manchester, did not receive
Brains beers after all. Hartleys XB and Fullers Chiswick Bitter have
appeared, displacing Castle Eden and Marstons Pedigree. The pub may
start taking guest beers on a regular basis once more. Flowers IPA may
therefore go and be replaced by a succession of guests. The pub's malt
whiskies include Glen Livet, Glenfiddich and Jamiesons.

It seems that beer and curry are inseparable. The pub is to start a
"curry club", with Indian food regularly available.

CAKE DECORATION

The Land o'Cakes, Great Ancoats Street, is getting a new kitchen and
the pub is to be redecorated.

Kendlegate Wine Cellars Ltd.

164 Northgate Rd, Edgeley. Tel: 477 3939

Wide range of Belgian & Continental Beers.

Cask beers to order, glass hire, delivery service.

Timmermans, Leifmans, Orval, Chimay, Duvel, Hooegarden,
Rodenbach, Kwak, Westmalle, St Sixtus, Pinkus, and more.
Worthington White Shield, Imperial Russian Stout, Taddy Porter

Westons Scrumpy & Vintage Ciders.

Wide Selection of Wines £2 - £20

Parties & Functions supplied.

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

Open: 8am-5.30pm Monday - Friday; 11am-3pm Saturday

Closed Sunday and Bank Holiday Weekends

Telephone orders accepted on a COD basis



ASIAN CORNER

THE YADGAR
HIGH STREET, MANCHESTER

by Murghi Massala

A quiet revolution seems to have taken place over the last couple of years on the central Manchester curry scene. Where once there was only the choice (in the city centre anyway) between the plush restaurant and the cheap takeaway, a clutch of good quality cafe-type establishments has appeared to fill the middle ground. The longest established of these, the excellent Cuckoo Chef on Oldham Street, has progressively increased its prices and is vying for restaurant status. The more recent Usman Cafe on Lena Street is still providing marvellous, good quality food, and recently a new curry cafe opened on High Street - the Yadgar.

Located midway between the Arndale Centre and the Cuckoo Chef, about fifty yards up from the 9 Til 7 Indian takeaway (no mean purveyor of the biryani itself), the newly fitted-out Yadgar would probably be described by an estate agent as "pleasantly appointed". The food itself is rather good too, although the range is limited. A good way to try the dishes is to have one of their special meals, three curries with rice, all for £1.80. The breads are good value too, so you can try one of their tandoories or curries prepared to order without breaking the bank. I did notice, however, that the prices were annotated "Opening", so they may have altered by the time you read this. To check this out, along with times of opening, you can phone the cafe on 061 834 7925.

I went to the place on recommendation and have no hesitation in recommending it to the world. So get down and try this serious rival to the Ulan Bator before the prices start to climb.

ANCOATS MILD

By the time you read this, cask Burtonwood mild should have arrived at the Moulders Arms on Heyrod Street. This pub had sold keg mild (Tetley and, more recently, Burtonwood) alongside cask bitter for some years.

Contributors to this issue: Paul Roberts, Steve Lawton, Stewart Revell, Roger Hall, Ralph Warrington, Paul Mason, Tony Buller, Peter Wadsworth, Dave White, D Busman, Duncan Roberts, Rob Magee, Graham Mason, Jim Bracken, Andy Davies.

GOOD BEER GUIDE 1974-1993

Roger Hall

The next Good Beer Guide will be the twentieth. The first guide in 1974 was compiled by people who got off trains and went in the nearest pub, so it's not truly representative. Only one pub survives from 1974 in 1993 - the Dutton, a Hydes pub in Strangeways. The Dutton has not been a consistent entry, the latest listing being the fifth in 20 years. Even if we take 1975 as a more realistic starting point, there are only two pubs which survive from that date - the Castle Oldham Street and the Star on Back Hope Street in Salford - both Robinsons pubs. Neither of them has been a consistent entry - the Castle chalking up eight entries and the Star nine over the 19 years.

The outright winner for the greatest number of entries in North Manchester is the Jolly Angler, which has been in every Guide since 1976 except 1982. This omission gave rise to much debate and accusations that the branch was trying to deprive licensee Dave of a Ten-Year award. Other long standing entries include the Old House at Home (16), the Union, Liverpool Street (16), the White Swan (14), the Dean Brook (15) and the Park in Monton (12). The Old House at Home in Blackley was a continuous entry from 1976 to 1991. During 1991 the turnover of Wilsons mild fell significantly so that only two 18's were being sold per week. This led to a deterioration in quality and the Old House's exclusion from the Guide. This year the quality problem has been resolved with the introduction of 11's. Although the pub just failed to get into the 1993 Guide it is, nevertheless, well worth a visit. Tucked away behind ICI, it has been run by Hartley and Linda Downs for the last 20 years and is an excellent example of a traditional pub which has survived despite the actions of the big brewers who own it.

The Union has missed a couple of years probably as a result of changing licensees and is an excellent little Holts boozer in a run down area of Salford. The White Swan was a continuous entry under the stewardship of George Fildes and was for many years the spiritual home of the North Manchester branch. Since George's departure the Swan has not been shortlisted for consideration.

The Dean Brook is our longest standing continuous entry. It's a Marstons pub on the Moston/Newton Heath boundary and has somehow managed to survive changes of licensee. The Park in Monton is a modern Holts pub without the megaethnic appeal of the Lamb, the Crown & Volunteer, the Grapes or the Stanley. It does, however, serve the most consistently good pint of mild of any Holts pub in the known universe.

Over the years the Good Beer Guide has contained the odd maverick

selection which, in retrospect, seems difficult to justify. The Wellington in Patricroft, the Greyhound in Ordsall, the Red Bull on Mason Street, the Hare & Hounds on Shudehill, the Live & Let Live on Regent Road, the Windmill in Pendlebury, the Coach & Horses on Eccles New Road, Buskers in Salford, the Church in Pendleton and the Oxford in Bexley Square may appear to be strange choices. Will any of the current entries seem equally strange in a few years' time?

NORTH MANCHESTER GOOD BEER GUIDE PUBS 1974-1993

17 times in the Guide

Jolly Angler, Ducie Street

16 times in the Guide

Union, Liverpool Street, Salford

Old House at Home, Blackley

15 times in the Guide

Dean Brook, Newton Heath

14 times in the Guide

White Swan, Swinton

13 times in the Guide

Lamb, Eccles

12 times in the Guide

Park, Monton

11 times in the Guide

Newmarket, Pendlebury

Stanley, Eccles

Harp & Shamrock, off Rochdale Rd

10 times in the Guide

Crown & Kettle, Great Ancoats St

White Horse, Swinton

Unicorn, Church St, Manchester

9 times in the Guide

Star, Higher Broughton

Boathouse, Irlam

Eagle, Collier Street, Salford

8 times in the Guide

Castle, Oldham St, Manchester

Railway, Newton Heath

7 times in the Guide

Queens Arms, Patricroft

Black Boy, Eccles

Braziers Arms, Salford

Dun Mare, Little Hulton

Spinners, Oldfield Rd, Salford

Royal Oak, Eccles

White Lion, Eccles

6 times in the Guide

Priory, Gardner St, Pendleton

Pleasant, Blackley

Football, Swinton

Egerton, Winton

Prince of Wales, Newton Heath

Duke of York, Eccles

Blue Bell, Monton

Derby Brewery Arms, Cheetham

White House, Great Ancoats St

Crescent, Salford

5 times in the Guide

Dutton, Park Street, Strangeways

Wellington, Irlams o'th'Height

Mile House, Cheetham

Cheetwood, Cheetham

Duke of York, Hightown

Horseshoe, Higher Broughton

Wheatshaf, Oak St, Manchester

Queens Arms, Cheetham

4 times in the Guide

King, Oldham St, Manchester

Church, Hilton St, Broughton

White Lion, Little Hulton

Welcome, Salford (original pub
in 1976)

Farmers Arms, Swinton

Crown & Volunteer, Eccles

Burton Arms, Swan St, Manchester

Fox, Blackley

Castle & Falcon, Manchester

Borough, Encombe Pl, Salford

Three Legs of Man, Salford

White Horse, Irlam

Waggon & Horses, IOH

Marble Arch, Rochdale Road

Golden Lion, Blackley

3 times in the Guide

Crown, Blackfriars St, Salford
Grosvenor, Newton Heath
King William IV, Salford
Prince of Wales (Littles) Salf'd
Lion, Cadishead
Robin Hood, Newton Heath
New Crown, Newton Heath
Sinclairs, Shambles
White Lion, Swinton
Grapes, Peel Green
Morning Star, Wardley
Smiths Arms, Ancoats
Crown & Anchor, Hilton St, M/cr
Coach & Horses, Irlam
Park, Swinton
Cross Keys, Ancoats
Drop Inn, Monton
Prince of Wales, Salford
Duke's Gate, Little Hulton
Cricketers, Swinton
Peel Park, Salford

Twice in the Guide

Britannia, Irlams o'th'Height
Kersal Hotel, Kersal
Greyhound, Ordsall
Red Lion, Eccles
Royal Oak, Pendlebury
Waterloo, Cheetham
Old House at Home, Salford

Red Lion, Irlams o'th'Height
Bricklayers, Salford
Kenyon Arms, Little Hulton
Beer House, Rochdale Road
Black Friar, Salford
Ashley Brook, Seedley
Lord Nelson, Pendlebury
Kings Arms, Bloom St, Salford
Buckley Arms, Swinton

Once in the Guide

Bridgewater, Worsley
Royal Oak, Gt Ducie Street, M/cr
Wellington, Patricroft
Red Bull, Mason Street, M/cr
Broadway, Salford
Milan, Rochdale Road
Packet House, Patricroft
Hare & Hounds, Shudehill
Kings Arms, Oldfield Road
Live & Let Live, Regent Road
Windmill, Pendlebury
Pied Piper, Little Hulton
Britannia, Newton Heath
Church, Newton Heath
Buskers, Salford
Church, Pendleton
Oxford, Bexley Sq, Salford
Duke of Wellington, Patricroft
Beehive, Brindleheath
Olde Nelson, Chapel St, Salford
Crown & Cushion, Cateaton St, M/c

WATERGATE TOLL

Near Junction 4 on the M61 and off Watergate Lane, which connects Plodder Lane, Farnworth, to the A6, Over Hulton, is a new establishment called the Watergate Toll. It's an "Owd Nell's" type of pub, catering for families and providing food all day. There are already two "Owd Nell's" in Lancashire, both are in the Good Beer Guide and they are run by Roy Wilkinson, a former Matthew Brown director.

The Watergate is more upmarket than the other two, which are more like leisure complexes, with restaurants, shops, craft centres, etc. The pub is signed as a "Boddingtons Free House", so Whitbread have put some money into it, as they have at the other Owd Nell's. On a recent visit the beers were Chesters mild, Boddingtons bitter, Flowers Original, Marstons Pedigree and Hartleys XB.

REAL ALE GAIN IN OLDHAM

The Hark to Topper on Bow Street has gone over to cask Sam Smiths bitter.

ROCHDALE NEWS

Graham Mason

When the Flying Horse reopened at the end of May, the centre of Rochdale got something it had needed for many a year - a true free house. The pub stands next to the Town Hall and it is now owned by a local consortium. Two members of the consortium, Kevin and Val Robinson (from the Navigation, Drake Street) are running the place. Under previous owners, Whitbread and Grand Met, the Flying Horse was messed about and the pub was ruined when it was turned into a "Sports"-type fun pub. Ten weeks were spent on refurbishment work and this has resulted in a tasteful restoration.

The Flying Horse serves Robinsons Best Bitter, Holts mild and Taylors best bitter alternating with Landlord. A couple of guest beers are planned. Home cooked food will be available in the restaurant, which is to the rear of the bar and separate from the three main drinking areas. Upstairs is a function room with its own bar which can accommodate up to 200 people.

The McGuinness micro-brewery at the Cask & Feather on Oldham Road is now producing regular brews of bitter. After a few teething problems the beer seems to be selling well and has even appeared in the free trade and at the odd beer festival. It is also on sale at the two nearby pubs, Whittingtons and Gullivers.

Vaux have been busy in the Rochdale area, adding a number of pubs to their estate. Among these are the ex-BodPubCo Citizen, Drake Street, and Bonnie Dundee, Fishwick Street. The latter had seen a decline in trade but this has now changed and business is steadily picking up. It is likely that another cask ale will be on sale alongside the Samson in the near future.

The Dog & Partridge, Oldham Road, Buersil, has reopened after being closed for alterations. The bar has been moved back about six feet and the interior has been decorated with wooden panels and floral wallpaper. The range of cask beers has been extended and the pub now serves Vaux bitter, Samson, Wards dark mild and a guest, which on a recent visit was Mitchells best bitter.

LOXLEY PULPIT

From a knave to a nave. Alterations at the ill-fated Robin Hood in Moss Side promise to convert it into a church if the Seventh Day Adventists have their way. This would be following in the footsteps of Salford's Lowry. Let's hope the service improves.

WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

After several years of being closed and boarded up, and following a legion of rumours and counter-claims, the WHITE HORSE on Standishgate has reopened under the guide of HARTLEY'S of WIGAN. Despite the rather poncey soubriquet, the pub's old name can still be seen in the porch mosaic and the interior has changed very little. Hartley's has retained the old multi-roomed structure (three main drinking areas and a back room), though the ledge where I used to sit has gone forever. Beer engines have returned after a lengthy absence to dispense the full range of Burtonwood beers (mild, bitter and Forshaws) and although the decor is a little twee, Hartley's is, by and large, one of the better refurbishments we've seen in these parts. At the time of writing, it was not known if Burtonwood had retained the tie, or whether Paramount, etc, were running the show.

Things are looking up in the Springfield area. The PAGEFIELD HOTEL on the corner of Park Road and Gidlow Lane is selling Cains bitter as a guest ale, which is fairly unusual for a Greenalls pub. "Is this the Pagefield Hotel with the celebrated revolving door?" I hear you ask. It surely is...Elsewhere, on Frog Lane, the GUARDIANS is selling hand-pulled Tetley bitter. This Whitbread house hasn't sold the real stuff for years, and Chesters bitter is expected shortly as well. Tetleys' dismal COLLIERS ARMS (still Frog Lane) is now the only pub in the area still on keg beer.

Over to Bryn now, and Craftsman Ale, the exciting new brew from Thwaites, is available at the PIT PONY, Low Bank Road, alongside the best mild and bitter. The BRITANNIA, next to the railway station, is selling keg Greenalls via handpump, so beware. Further down Wigan Road, the GOLDEN BALL (GW) remains closed and boarded up.

Another Greenalls pub to be hit by closure is the ill-starred GEORGE & DRAGON, Main Street, Billinge. The pub reopened a couple of years ago as the PAVILION, but has been closed for several weeks. Future plans uncertain.

Finally, dear reader, ponder upon this. Have you ever been threatened by marauding yobs who thought you were a member of the drug squad? Or drunk iffy beer in some godforsaken pub while an out-of-tune live act sang his heart out? For ten years I've been doing just that to keep this column going, but I've decided to call it a career. If anyone out there wants to take up what I've left off in the Wigan area, you're more than welcome to try. Don't all rush at once...

NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.66

RAILWAY & COMMERCIAL

25 Railway Road
Oldham

The Railway & Commercial stood on the corner of Railway Road and Pass Street, facing the main entrance to Werneth Station. It was built by Joseph Pass (who gave his name the the side street) and he also had the licence when the pub opened in 1852.

Joseph Cheetham was in charge in 1856, when he was fined ten shillings plus costs for selling beer on a Sunday morning. A few years later Joseph was in court again for the same offence and was told that if it happened again he would lose his licence. By the 1860s the Railway & Commercial had gained something of a reputation. When Joseph Wild applied for a music licence the police objected, saying the house was a haunt of thieves and prostitutes and there had been reports of women dancing on the tables - without music!

William Taylor took the pub in 1870 and promised to clean the place up, so the magistrates gave him a music licence. By the 1880s the Railway & Commercial was owned by Stopford's Brewery of Manchester. A survey of 1894 found the pub was in good condition and very clean. There were five drinking rooms, two bedrooms, a bathroom and two horse stalls in the open yard. The yard was shared with two adjoining cottages and the inspector noted that the cottages and the pub used


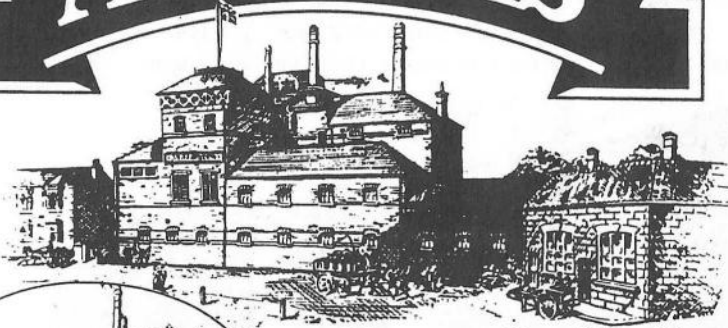



the same ashpit. He also commented that the pub's urinal was close to the back doors of the cottages. When Mr Pass built the property 40 years before, the sanitary arrangements for his tenants were rather basic!

Walker & Homfrays Brewery of Salford acquired Stopfords Brewery and its 79 pubs in 1927, but the Railway & Commercial survived for only a few more years. An April 1935 the licence was referred to the Compensation Authority on the grounds that the pub was no longer needed. The licence was allowed to lapse on 16th July and Walker & Homfrays were paid £2,230 in compensation. Their tenant, Edward Hargreaves, received £20.

PUB VIOLENCE

Salford 3 has suffered more than usual in the last month. The Kings Arms on Bloom Street was ram-raided with a Range Rover, the Salford Arms was fire-bombed and the hapless Tallow Tub has been stripped of its roof and fittings.

From Suffolk's
Oldest Brewery
Britain's Finest Beer

ADNAMS & CO PLC, SOLE BAY BREWERY, SOUTHWOLD, SUFFOLK IP18 6JW
TELEPHONE SOUTHWOLD (0502) 722424

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION NOW VIA:
J A COOPER & SONS (GLOSSOP) LTD. Tel. 0457 852596

LETTERS



SPINNER & BERGAMOT

Sir - I don't know about it being a type of tapestry or, indeed, about any locally-produced tapestry, but I do know that bergamot is a citrus tree. It is also a kind of fine pear.

However, the sign of the two horses' heads depicts two winners of the Chester Gold Cup. Greenalls have long been sponsors of horse racing at Chester and so named the pub after "Spinner" and "Bergamot".

Sorry, Ron, but you seem to have fallen at the first fence. (All right, you racing types, I know that Chester is flat!)

Brian Waine

Sir ...if your correspondent had toured the inside of the pub (where excellent Sunday lunches are popular) he would have found that Spinner and Bergamot were racehorses, rather than accepted the fanciful explanation he gleaned from Dunkling & Wright. I think the sign gives the clue.

Richard Daglish

TRAFFORD

Sir - In a recent issue of WD I read that Trafford was the most boring licensing district in Britain because there were no guest beers (apart from Boddingtons) in its pubs. Well, Jackson's Boat sells Jennings and the Moss Vale, Davyhulme, has Courage Directors and John Smiths bitter, so perhaps Trafford isn't quite as boring as your correspondent thought!

Walter Bee

HIGH PRICES

Sir - Those who have visited the Irish Republic will know that not only is a pint expensive, but a half pint is even more expensive. Two years ago, a Dublin pub was charging £1.50 for a pint of Guinness, but 95p a half (i.e. £1.90 a pint).

It has come as a surprise to me to find that this practice has come to Manchester. At the Briton's Protection, an excellent pub, but well known for its high prices, a pint of the guest beer is £1.40 and a half is 75p (i.e. £1.50 a pint). Ind Coope Burton Ale is £1.55 a pint, but 85p a half (£1.70 a pint).

I think it should be made known that CAMRA disapproves of this form of Irish mathematics.

Jim Bracken

WHISKY CHASERS

Sir - I enjoy both good beer and good whisky, but I can do without the twaddle from D Busman that asks me to consider if my drinks are compatible. The Grey Horse on Portland Street in Manchester sells excellent Hydes mild and bitter, but nestling beneath the optics is a bottle of Laphroaig, which is a superb malt. If this is not compatible with Hydes in Mr Busman's eyes, I couldn't give a tuppenny. I shall continue to drink both.

L W Chaser

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Sir - Ron Ricketts (WD May) asks for examples of pubs with unusual names. How about the Sabre (Holts) in Ordsall? HMS Sabre was a warship on which the company's chairman served. According to "Jane's Fighting Ships" (1941) it was an Admiralty S Class destroyer. This type rode well in head seas but tended to "throw spray over bridges". I have a friend who can do that.

Signboard Sam

LITTLEBOROUGH

The Royal Oak, Littleborough, is now a Robinsons pub. It's one of the 22 Robinsons announced they were buying from Bass a few months ago.

That elusive new brew from Thwaites, Craftsman, is on sale in the Queens.

NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THAT

Whitbread have had an internal reorganisation. Their Delamere Inns division has ceased to exist and the estate has been split between their Bowland and Severn Divisions.

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, $\frac{3}{4}$ page £20, $\frac{1}{2}$ page £15, $\frac{1}{4}$ page £7.50. Discount on bookings for 6 months or longer.

GUEST BEERS

D Busman

When people think of guest beers they usually consider bitters, often premium bitters. Several pubs have taken Holts bitter (Holts don't do a premium bitter. Could you imagine one - Holts Empire Bitter, OG 1049, 5.2% ABV!) only, surprise, surprise, to see sales of their own cooking bitter slump as the guest beer undercuts it significantly in price.

The chances are that these pubs serve only keg mild. Sales of mild have dropped considerably over the last few years, partly, I feel, because mild's price differential with bitter has been eroded. Pubs should therefore consider a cask mild as a guest beer. A pub offering, say, Holts mild alongside its own bitter would give the customers a choice of different products at very different prices. It may, I suspect, generate enough extra trade to justify cask mild without threatening the sales of bitter greatly.

WHITE SWAN

Much criticism has been levelled at the way Holts have refurbished the White Swan at Swinton (WD passim). Love the new White Swan or hate it, a recent visit to the pub found the Holts ales in excellent form. It has a new manager, Jason Bryan, who took over early last month.

Jason has worked for the brewery for about two years, starting as bar cellarman at the Roebuck, Flixton, and then doing holiday and other relief work at several Holts pubs, including the infamous Brigadier on the Racecourse Estate in Sale. (Yes, he escaped unhurt!) Lunchtime snacks are available at the White Swan and plans for the future include the opening of a beer garden and lunchtime meals. A keen real ale fan, Jason would welcome all (well, most!) CAMRA members and hopes to sell WD on a regular basis.

REBUILDING

The frontage of Holts' Egerton Arms in Cheetham Hill is in a bad way and the brewery is planning to take it down, mend it and put it back again.

FOR SALE

Yates's are looking for someone to buy their Wine Lodge on the corner of Oldham Street and Great Ancoats Street. It is a new building which replaced the old "Yacht Club" of fond memory.

THE STATION

Ashton's Premier Free House offers a friendly, juke box free atmosphere with an evergrowing collection of railway & brewery bric-a-brac.

Handpumped Pedigree, Boddies and Border Mild are always available, along with GUEST beers from smaller or more distant independant breweries.

We're open all day ~

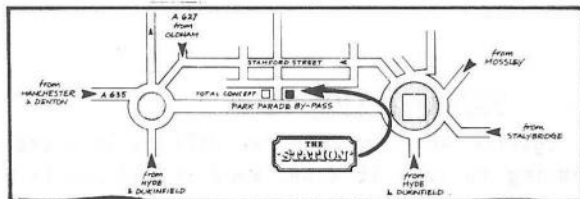
MONDAY TO FRIDAY

SATURDAY 11.30 - 3.00 / 7.00 - 11.00

SUNDAY USUAL HOURS

...and there's a pleasant GARDEN for the warmer weather!

**LUNCHEONS TRY OUR HOT MEALS
& SUPER COLD BUFFET**



Conservatory & Rooms

For Meetings & Parties

**WARRINGTON STREET · ASHTON-U-LYNE
NEXT TO THE BY-PASS**

RECENT GUEST BEERS

Bushy's
Best Bitter

Hopwood Bitter

Jolly Roger Ale

Captain Smith's
Strong Ale

Adnem's
Broadside

Wobbly Bob

Smiles
Exhibition

Banks & Taylor
Black Bat

Coachman's
Best Bitter

Titanic
Lifeboat

Robinwood
I.P.A.

BEINLOS IN BAVARIA

MAIBOCK & FRUHLINGSFEST



Spring has finally sprung. Not only are there lots of fests, it is now Biergarten time here. I had often wondered why every hostelry was always so full off season - now it has finally dawned on me. In winter the capacity of Munich's amber nectar emporia is a fraction of that in the summer. Biergartens are the Bavarians' favourite watering holes. They range from just a dozen

tables under the shade of a few trees to ones the size of a football stadium. Tens of thousands of litres are served on a typical summer weekend. Radlermass ($\frac{1}{2}$ Helles and $\frac{1}{2}$ lemonade) or Russe mass ($\frac{1}{2}$ weissbier and $\frac{1}{2}$ lemonade) are excellent thirst quenchers for hot summer days. The most popular biergarten is the Augustiner Hirschgarten which, as its name suggests, has its own field of deer.

Spring naturally deserves a beer festival and of course gets one - in each town! The Frühlingsfest in Munich took place from Saturday 25th April until 10th May on the Theresienwiese - the same meadowland as the Oktoberfest, but it occupies only a fraction of the site. There are only two beer halls and both are much smaller than the ten Oktoberfest main halls.

On May 16th the airport at Munich Riem closed and transferred to the new Franz Joseph Strauss airport near Freising, which opened on May 17th. Naturally, such a monumental event could not pass without a beer festival, so the Flughafenabschiedsfest took place on May 15th and 16th, with the Spaten Oberland Festhalle fresh from the Munich Frühlingsfest. During the months of May and June there are beer festivals in most suburbs of Munich.

May 1st sees a festival by almost every maypole (and there are an awful lot of maypoles in Greater Munich!). It's a tricky and thirsty job to manoeuvre a 100-foot tree trunk into position and the maypole is erected to the accompaniment of the statutory band and, of course, a dray full of beer. Some fests serve Maibock - a special strong beer, but light in colour (7.0-7.5% ABV). This could be had for the ridiculously low price of DM11 a litre (77p a pint) in some villages. The Hofbräuhaus had been serving Maibock since mid-April. Their Maibock is the original and it is darker than most others.

Paul Roberts

rupert

Much of what I report this month lies in that strange limbo between truth and fantasy. I cannot, with any degree of certainty, declare that the fading images in my mind actually took place. "So what's new?" I hear you cry. It all started when I agreed to take part in a virtual reality amber nectar tasting. I went to the studio in Grotley city centre which had been fitted out with the appropriate modem, helmet and interactive body-stocking and taste probes. I believe that the studio may previously have been used for other purposes because, as I put my first hologram pint to my lips and took a long draught, the sensation was not of an explosion of hoppiness but of a banana bockwurst being rammed down my throat.

I reached for a (real) glass of water, which, in my anxiety, I spilled over the electronic control box. This made a number of seemingly random calls via the modem and I was transported to a Bangkok massage parlour, a sumo wrestling training school, the ecole Marquis de Sade in Haiti, an Irish bishopric gossamer wings experience, an evening with Sharon Stone complete with silk scarf and ice pick, and a variety of seedy halls peopled by hirsute, adipose imbibers, which I can only imagine were beer festivals.

As I say, my memories are not crystal clear and some of my experiences were painful in the extreme. I shall not try to

recollect the more bizarre and irrelevant episodes of my teledildonic transportation, but merely attempt to reconstruct some of those images which seem appropriate to the Campaign, although I still can't say what is virtual and what is actual reality. I can still see Charlie Super and the tonsured Whingeing Sartorial Scot kissing and making up in time for the Snobley amber nectar show to be a roaring success. And what's this.... Rumpleshirtscream in some southern spa town waxing lyrical, waving his arms about, non-sotto-voce, knocking mine host's menus into bowls of provender, being declared persona non grata and being thrown unceremoniously into the gutter.

And at our own dear amber nectar show, was it an ex-Tory councillor with a silly beard who called in plod to look for the missing handbag of his innamorata? The image in my mind is of a distraught, squeaking person accusing his colleagues of a phantom theft. And, finally, was Ben Chestnut really incontinent in his sleeping bag? Was it really he who paraded on a narrow boat in a giant nappy? Surely not! After my experience of teledildonics I sure know what a megabyte is. I'm sure that sooner or later I'll be able to separate out truth from falsehood, but until then it may be wise to treat my outpourings with more than a little scepticism.



Branch Diary

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 27 May. Stockport Crawl. Arden Arms, Millgate, 7pm
Wed 3 June 8pm, Committee/Social, Queens Arms, Green Lane, Patricroft
Wed 10 June, Monton Crawl: Blue Bell 7pm, Bargee 7.30, Drop Inn 8.30
Wed 17 June 8pm, Branch Meeting, Crescent (Borough if open), Salford
Wed 24 June, Bury Crawl: Crown & Anchor, Cateaton St, Manchester 7pm.
Tram to Bury. Help Me Thru 8pm, Dusty Miller 8.30pm
Wed 1 July, Ringley Crawl: Spread Eagle 7pm, Lord Nelson 7.30, Horse Shoe 8pm.
Wed 8 July, City Centre Crawl: White House 7pm, Jolly Angler 7.30, Crown & Anchor 8pm, Millstone 8.30, Castle 9pm, John Willie Lees and Crown & Anchor to finish.
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 2 June 8pm, Branch Meeting, Halfway House, 613 Rochdale Road, Royton, Oldham
Sat 6th June 12 noon. REGIONAL MEETING, Blue Pitts, Manchester Road, Castleton, Rochdale
Tues 9 June 8.30pm, Social, Greyhound, Elly Clough, Holden Fold, Royton, Oldham
Tues 16 June 8pm, Committee Meeting, Rifle Range, Burnley Lane, Chadderton
Sun 28 June 12.30pm, Social, Dog & Partridge, Summit, Littleborough
Sat 4 July, Independents Day Event. Ring for details.
Tues 7 July 8pm, Branch Meeting, Ring o'Bells, St Leonards Square, Middleton.
Contact: G Mason, 061 665 3032

WHAT'S DOING GRAND COMPETITION

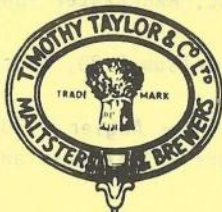
Andy and Jo's pub is due to open sometime. They could do with a sign. Why not design one? The best outline design will win a gallon of beer of the winner's choice in the pub when it opens. Don't forget you can use the pub's real name, whatever that is, or any of its nicknames: The Dick and Puppet, the Cock and Pullet, the Brick and Duck it, the Sod and Fuckwit or the Wok and Cook it. Entries by 20th June. No relations, unidexters or deceased persons may enter.

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: 12.00-11.00
Thur: 12.00-11.00
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**

