

25p

# What's Doing

JULY 1993



The Manchester Beer Drinker's Monthly Magazine

## Pubs threatened by new tramway



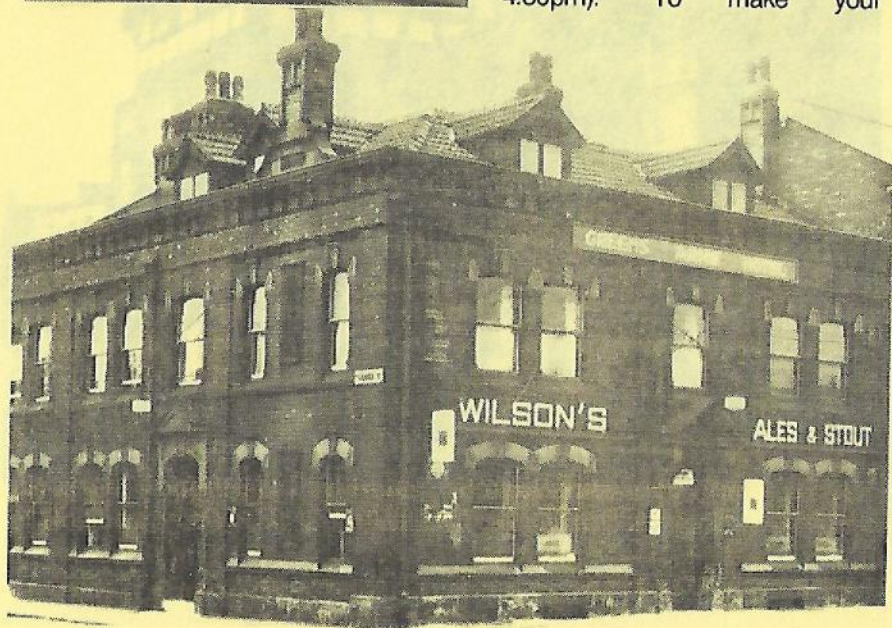
The chaps at the Passenger Transport Executive who draw new tramlines on maps of the Manchester area have managed to draw them through five pubs for the proposed Metrolink extension to Ashton.





There aren't many pubs left on Ashton New Road and it's already mostly grass, new road and building site in Bradford and Beswick - sorry, Eastlands - but if the plans are accepted the Sir Humphrey Chetham (Whitbread), the Grove (Holts, shock horror!) and the Greens Arms (now the 'Star Showbar') in Clayton will come down. In Ancoats, the Auld Lang Syne (Blezards) and the Pollard (Lees, but shut for ages) on Pollard Street will also go. Work on clearing the site could start in 1995/6.

The PTE is exhibiting its plans for the Ashton and the Airport Metrolink extensions in the areas affected and these can be seen at Manchester Town Hall until 2nd July (from 8.30am to 4.30pm). To make your



objections known you can phone the Metrolink Hotline, 061 242 6777, or write to Freepost, GMPTE, Dept 439, 9 Portland Street, Manchester M60 1HX.

*(The photo on the cover shows some of the threatened buildings on Pollard Street - the Pollard is the white building on the right. The photo of the Greens Arms was taken in the 1950s.)*

## Whoops

One day the pub was there, the next it wasn't. A Manchester landmark gone forever. Sound familiar? No, not Greenalls and Tommy Ducks, but Holts and the former Queens Arms on Portland Street. Apparently, when the place was gutted and ready for rebuilding as the Old Monkey, the remaining walls weren't strong enough to support a roof, floors, beer, customers and other essentials. The whole lot was then pulled down and cleared away so the builders could start afresh. That's their story anyway. Put the pub up quick lads, before Metrolink wants the corner for a tramline.

## Romiley

Readers who venture into the wilds of Stockport and beyond will be interested to hear that the Duke of York in Romiley has a new tenant. The place has been much improved and now sells guest beers as well as John Smiths and Courage Directors.

## An Endangered Species?

The booklet on the conservation and protection of Victorian pubs in Manchester, 'An Endangered Species? - the Public House' is now available, price 50p. It was produced by university students Debbie Hickey and Jackie Norwood with the backing of the Victorian Society and CAMRA. It is available from Waterstones Bookshop or send a 9"x6" s.a.e. to Jim Flynn, 66 Downham Road, Heaton Chapel, Stockport.

## Tenants wanted

An 'ear' on the streets informs us that Holts are offering three of their pubs with tenancy agreements, an about-turn which is aimed at improving the flagging performance of the pubs. Two are the Kings Arms on Oldfield Road and the Eagle on Collier Street, Salford. The supergrass was unable to remember the name of the third!

# Weaker Beer

Roger Hall

Since 1st June, when the excise duty system changed, the big brewers have begun to reduce the strength of beer in order to reduce their tax liabilities. Weakening the British Pint is nothing new. The original gravity of beers has declined considerably this century as brewers have converted taxation into profits. In addition, price increases have been greatly in excess of the rate of inflation. It has always seemed odd to me that petrol, which needs to be extracted from distant and often hostile parts of the world, which is processed in expensive refineries and which bears more tax than beer can still be bought for less than £2.50 per gallon whilst beer is around £10 a gallon and is made largely from water using simple technologies.

The recent change in the way in which excise duty is calculated is a result of a comprehensive survey of beer production carried out in 1990. The existing system of duty dated back to 1880 and was reinforced by the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979. It was based on the strength of the wort before fermentation; that is, on the original gravity of the beer - its potential, rather than actual, alcohol content. An allowance of 6% was made for wastage during the brewing process, largely as a result of evaporation and it was this 6% allowance which caused problems. Smaller brewers were perhaps unable to bring their wastage down to 6% whilst larger brewers, through economies of scale, managed to achieve wastage levels nearer 2% than 6%. Surprisingly, the big brewers admitted that the system was manifestly unfair insofar as small brewers were paying duty on beer they hadn't produced and big brewers were selling 3-4% of their production excise duty free.

The government agreed to introduce a 'brewery gate' tax, based on the alcoholic strength of beer as it leaves the brewery. The new system was designed to result in total taxation as before, although the distribution

## **DRINKERS are in for a double shock from brewing giant Courage - watered down beer at higher prices.**

The company said yesterday that its beers and lagers are to cost around 6p a pint more from June 21.

The move comes just five days after the brewery confessed its top brews are weaker in alcohol.

No formal announcement has been made about the price rises.

But Courage said yesterday: "Yes, it's true. And we expect other breweries to do the same."

"We are adding an average 2.8p a pint and when retailers have added their own increase we expect prices to be 4p to 6p higher."

Courage said brews were weakened to help make up an extra £20 million in taxes.

DAILY MIRROR



would be different. It would also be significantly simpler to administer. However, despite the 1990 survey, it didn't work out like that and the big brewers calculated that they'd lose £64m as a result of the changes.

One wonders what might have happened if the calculation had gone wrong the other way and the brewers had found themselves with a £64m bonus. Would they have said anything? Would they have increased the strength of beer to compensate? Of course they wouldn't. Would the government have changed the rules to claw back the 3% that was missing? Of course it would. As it is, the government's strapped for cash and the brewers are conscious of the bottom line. They've stretched the elasticity of demand to breaking point and don't feel they can jack the price up any more at the moment. So, they reduce the alcohol content in the hope that Joe Public will not notice. When Holts can still produce a pint of 4% ABV bitter to retail at less than £1 it's a nonsense that Carlsberg Tetley will be reducing the ABV of Skol to 3.4% and still selling it at £1.50 or more.

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## **Take more water**

According to the Salford City Reporter, the licensee of the Bricklayers in Ordsall has been charged with serving a pint of Holts bitter with at least 6% more water than is permitted. There can be no truth in the story that this was drawn to the attention of the police because the upright denizens of that fair suburb were more upright than usual. Strange, isn't it, that whilst publicans may be prosecuted for watering their beer, the brewers seem to get away with it?

## **Beer in Berkshire**

The Berkshire, an enormous Grand Met house on Victoria Avenue East, Higher Blackley, is now selling a tasty pint of Wilsons bitter at 105p through handpumps. It is some time since this pub sold anything but the fizzy stuff. There are now only four pubs in Blackley selling only keg beer - Red Lion, Lion & Lamb (both Grand Met), Charlestown (Tetley) and the Pikefold (Bass).

## **Late late revolving door news**

A pub often overlooked, the Halfway House, on the corner of Middleton Road and Bury Old Road, Crumpsall, has two (yes, two) fully functioning revolving doors. Incidentally, the pub also sells cask bitter.

## Salford Unitary Development Plan

CAMRA's North Manchester Branch has made some formal objections to the City's plan, largely concerned with omissions from the plan. We believe that the Council should consider buildings of local interest when allowing development proposals. These buildings may not be 'listed' or in conservation areas, but nevertheless they are of local importance. A list of about thirty pubs of interest was included in the submission. Among these are the Coach & Horses in Cadishead, the Packet House and Lamb in Eccles, the Dun Mare in Worsley and the Bulls Head in Swinton. The Salford pubs include the Braziers, the Star (Higher Broughton), the Black Horse (Crescent), the Duke of York (Hightown), Ye Olde Nelson and, of course, the Eagle.



CAMRA's second proposal concerned the relaxation of normal highway standards to secure the retention of buildings of local interest. Such a proposal could save pubs like Ye Olde Nelson.

The third proposal addressed development plans affecting pubs in particular. The availability of alternative public houses should be considered when plans are put forward involving the demolition of a public house.

The final proposal concerns the explanation of 'listing' given in the council document. There is considerable misunderstanding about what 'listing' means. Buildings are listed in their entirety, insides as well as out, and this should be made clear.

A Public Enquiry is to be held commencing 5th October. Branch members are meeting with the newly appointed Council Conservation Officer on 12th July to discuss our proposals.

## Holts Corner

Stewart Revell

On 1st June the government changed the way that excise duty on beer is calculated. The tax had always been based on original gravity; now it is calculated using ABV (alcohol by volume). This method is more accurate and, as widely reported in the national press, some of the big breweries are lowering the strengths of their beers and at the same time taking the opportunity to increase the prices! Holts bitter has been quoted as having an og of 1039.5, or 4% ABV, but in fact it is stronger. If it means paying extra duty, then Holts probably will, rather than reduce the strength. There are no plans to increase the prices of the beers until later this year, as normal.

I have often been asked how long Holts can keep a pint of bitter under £1. The answer is that Joeys could reduce the price by as much as 20p if the (new) Chancellor of the Exchequer were to bring down excise duty to a level more in common with the Common Market. However, it is doubtful that this will happen at the next Budget in November. Just imagine, a pint of Holts bitter back to 75p and mild even less! Why not write to your MP and tell him/her how you feel about the duty charged on your pint of Holts? Other breweries would, I think, welcome a reduction, but they probably wouldn't pass on the full benefits.

The Holts AGM was held at the Roebuck Hotel on 16th June and the chairman stated it was their intention to open the Old Monkey in November.

Trade increased during 1992 by 14.2% and the profit before taxation showed an increase of £670,961 to £7,039,743. The profit after taxation improved by £562,349 (13.7%) to £4,667,162. Interest from monies loaned to banks fell by £115,381 during 1992. Fortunately, Holts have been able to place some money elsewhere in reputable preference stocks giving higher yield. So now you know.

The Kings Arms in Hollinwood (Letters, June) is indeed still trading, although it is on borrowed time. The pub could close any time now, so if you want to have one last drink (or two), get along there PDQ. The brewery is still looking for a replacement site in Chadderton.

## Good Value

The Royal Crown on Swan Street in Manchester (formerly the Smithfield) is selling Castle Eden at £1 a pint and Landlord at £1.15.

## Licensing Reform

CAMRA Greater Manchester has responded to the Home Office's Consultative Paper. CAMRA recognises that the proposals are mere tinkering with the law and that fundamental changes to our archaic and arcane laws are required. Nevertheless, it is necessary to respond to the proposals as they are made, not least because they are likely to become law. The proposals cover four areas:

1. *Licensing justices' discretion over grants of applications for licences.*
2. *Children's Certificates.*
3. *Café bar licences.*
4. *Welsh Sunday Opening Polls.*

CAMRA's response is in favour of specifying in statute the grounds on which applications may be refused and that those grounds should be similar to those in use in Scotland. The ground of need should be retained but there should be a strong presumption in favour of new licences which offer increased choice in terms of products sold or the type of premises.

The confusion experienced by many over legislation concerning children in licensed premises may be reduced to some extent by the introduction of Children's Certificates for bar premises. The 'opening up' of licensed houses to incorporate what were separate rooms into bar areas, together with the widespread availability of bar snacks and meals in licensed premises has made the current law difficult to interpret. Technical breaches are common and are condoned by licensees and customers alike. Children's Certificates provide a way forward whereby accompanied children may continue to frequent suitable premises without contravening the law. The certificates would be issued at the discretion of the licensing justices, who would take a number of factors into account. It is unlikely that spit'n'sawdust hovels would apply for, let alone be granted, such a certificate. Those of us who want to be free of screaming brats would have little difficulty in finding premises which didn't want children.

Separate café bar licences are both unnecessary and undesirable. Café bars with a full 'on' licence and a Children's Certificate would be able to operate as required. Café bars with a Part IV restaurant licence can continue to operate within the legislation for restaurants. If café bars with restaurant licences were allowed to serve alcohol without meals this



would lead to a proliferation of premises without the normal controls afforded by applications for full licences. It would also offer unfair competition to existing restaurants and pubs which were not café bars.

No representation has been made on Welsh Polls.

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## **Arch Ale**

*Leo King*

The Marble Arch, Rochdale Road, Manchester, is holding a beer festival for a fortnight in July and will be featuring the launch of a new brew from Oak Brewery - "Midsummer Madness". With 14 handpumps and 6 beers on gravity, there will be up to 20 beers on the go at any one time, and about 50 different beers altogether. A selection of traditional cider and perries will be available from July 7th. There will be entertainment in the form of live music and, of course, hot curries!

Many towns and cities stage beer festivals and Manchester fails in this respect. However, with mini beer festivals at places like the Marble Arch and the Beer House, we are well taken care of.

## **Squealing Pig**

*Mark McConachie*

The Lima on Peru Street, Salford, reopened a few months ago as the Squealing Pig. The pub has been styled a 'free house', but on a recent visit it still appeared to be tied to Whitbread, with Boddies, Trophy and Flowers Original on sale from the wickets. No prices were displayed, but the Boddies at 115p was very good. The mild was keg Whitbread.

Not too many of the customers were drinking cask ale on my visit, preferring the lagers instead. On this evidence it may not be too long before the real ale choice is reduced to just Boddies. The Squealing Pig is a modern estate pub, with a long, open-plan lounge complete with loud TV. At the end of the lounge is a small 'games area' featuring a pool table and to the rear is a function room.

## **Brewery Action Group**

The next meeting of the Region's think tank will take place at the Castle on Oldham Street at 8.00pm on Tuesday 13th July. All committed campaigners are welcome.

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# Letters

## Mild

Sir - I should dearly like to establish whether the Campaign for Real Ale, nationally and particularly locally, has any genuine conviction for its professed policy of campaigning for the survival of mild beer. In my opinion this does not appear to be the case!

It would appear that the majority of CAMRA branches, including my own (Rochdale, Oldham & Bury) are sadly lacking in that old fashioned commodity known as 'conviction'. Most of the regional branch stalwarts seem to drink bitter and turn a blind eye to the 'unavailability' of mild in many of the so-called free houses! Pubs that don't sell mild regularly (because profits from mild are not as great as those that can be gained from overcharging on guest bitters) are still regularly nominated for the Good Beer Guide. More sickening is the fact that such pubs are quite often used for CAMRA meetings.

Many pubs nowadays have impressive rows of handpumps dispensing plenty of fine brews, but all too often there is not a mild to be seen. CAMRA should not support the 'mildless' pubs in any way. The sooner the Campaign gets its act together on this issue the better.

I appeal to all North West branches to stop holding meetings in 'mildless' pubs and to stop nominating such pubs for the Good Beer Guide, or any other guide. The Campaign has already been branded as an hypocritical organisation for 'slagging off' Whitbread, Boddingtons and others too numerous to mention whilst at the same time taking their money for full page adverts in CAMRA publications! It seems it's the same attitude with mild. On the face of it the Campaign declares its concern over the beer's availability, but does nothing positive about it. Well, it's time it did!

Glenn Worth

## Duke of York

Sir - Following S Costello's letter in May's WD regarding the Duke of York in Eccles, I would like to clarify the matter.

When I delivered What's Doing to the Duke of York every month I was able to monitor the ever-changing beer range and report this through the pages of WD. Unfortunately the landlord banned the sale of the magazine after the publication of a letter complaining about high prices. Because I no longer visit the Duke of York every month, I did not find out about the beer festival until it was too late to publicise via WD. I did attend the festival and all the beers I tried were excellent.



I can state quite categorically that CAMRA has nothing against the Duke of York, CAMRA members drink there regularly and it is featured in our 'Ale of Two Cities' guide, along with the Bridgewater, Stanley, Crown & Volunteer, Lamb and White Lion.

*Michael Robinson*

### **New Brew?**

Anybody heard of Shiners bitter? I sampled a pint (116p) a couple of weeks ago in the Prince of Wales, Oldfield Road, Salford. The bar staff couldn't tell me anything about its origins. Other beers on sale were Chesters mild, Boddingtons bitter and Hartleys XB.

*Mark McConachie*

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## **Burning ambition**

For many years, under the control of John Lamb, a long standing licensee, the Langworthy Hotel in Salford was a well run pub. In the last few years it has had a succession of short-term licensees who have fallen victim to a protection racket which thrives in parts of the city. The place was smashed up earlier this year and after refurbishment has again been damaged in an arson attack. The cost of repair has been estimated at over £25,000. The police seem unable to tackle what can only be described as serious organised crime and large brewers seem unwilling to select licensees who know the problems and have the skills to deal with them.

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# Now & Then

by Rob Magee

No.77

## Blue Ball

Bowlee

The Blue Ball was an old public house which stood on Heywood Old Road, about 250 yards south of the Jolly Butcher, near the end of the lane which goes up through Simister to Prestwich. Years ago, the villages of Bowlee and Birch were popular places to visit on summer weekends - indeed, Birch was known as one of the prettiest villages in Lancashire, rather than a service station on the M62!

The Blue Ball was in existence in 1822 and may have been there many years before that. J W Lees acquired the pub in the early 1900s, a few years before this photograph was taken, and at that time there were two other pubs in the village - the Jolly Butcher and the Royal Oak. Just up the road there were three pubs and a beerhouse in Birch and Middleton's licensing authority decided that seven licensed houses in a rural area were too many.

The first attempt to close the Blue Ball was made in 1919, when the police reported that it was a poor house, small and badly appointed and there were three convictions for licensing offences - two for opening on a Sunday morning and one for drunkenness. Lees employed a barrister to put their case at the licensing meeting and he stated that the pub's takings amounted to £1,144 a year and catering alone accounted for £520. The tenant, George Hill, had a three-monthly tenancy, paid £36 a



year rent and made a profit of about £6 a week. There was a good pull-in for carters and several lorries could be parked without encroaching on the highway. Picnic parties of over thirty people sometimes arrived at weekends and on summer evenings. The wet sales amounted to one-and-a-half barrels of beer and three gallons of spirits a week.

The barrister also mentioned that a new road from Prestwich to Bowlee had been suggested in 1914, but the plans had been shelved because of the war. If the road was built, the pub was well sited to cater for the increase in trade. The magistrates were persuaded to renew the Blue Ball licence and instead closed another Bowlee pub, the Royal Oak.

There was another objection to the Blue Ball in 1929. The police again stated that the building wasn't suitable, being old-fashioned with low ceilings. The mayor was on the licensing bench and he didn't like the Blue Ball at all! He said the place was in a bad state of repair and he believed that sixty of the hundred households in the village were teetotal anyway. He also said that he had heard that many years ago the pub was frequented by men involved in horse-baiting!

Mr Pitt, the brewery manager, said he did not agree that the house was badly appointed; it was a "farmhouse beerhouse" and some alterations

had been carried out since 1919. Unfortunately takings were down to £949 a year and the barrelage had dropped from 67 in 1926 to 49 in 1928. The mayor had his way and George Hill closed the doors for the last time on 4th January 1930.

## MIDDLETON PUBS 1737-1993

*and their  
licensees*

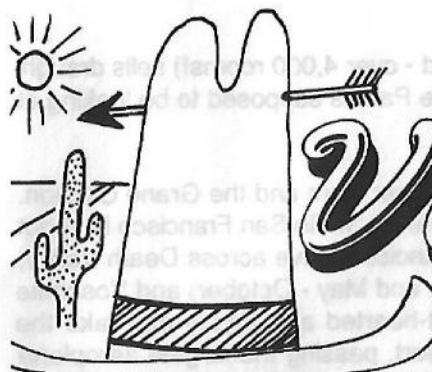


Rob Magee

£3.50

Rob Magee's latest book is "Middleton Pubs 1737-1993", an account of around 140 licensed houses which have existed in the area. It is well illustrated with old photographs and is on sale in Middleton pubs and some bookshops. The photograph of the Blue Ball is reproduced courtesy of Giles Dennis, Head Brewer, J W Lees.





# Beinlos in Vegas

Paul Roberts



Over the last few years I have described in detail the delights of the micro-breweries and brewpubs of California. However, no tour of the West Coast is complete without a visit to Las Vegas - the twenty-four-hour day, seven-day week city. All the main attractions never close. The bad news was that until recently there was a distinct lack of decent beer.

The situation has now been dramatically rectified. The **Holy Cow** is the first Vegas brew-pub/casino and is located at the junction of Saraha Avenue and Las Vegas Strip. The owner is Tom Weisner, a former NFL full-back who played with the Colts, Rams and Chargers. Weisner already had a pub/restaurant chain (Big Dog's Hospitality Group), but it took a recent change in Nevada law to allow the establishment of brew-pubs. Holy Cow's 162-seat capacity is minute by Vegas standards and the price of the beer (\$2.25 per US pint) is extortionate compared to the usual Vegas give-away prices. Three regular beers are produced: a fruity pale ale, a rich and hoppy red ale, and a filtered wheat beer. In addition, there is a rotating 'guest' brew - past examples have included Holstein Hefer, Bovine Bock, Udder Ur-Bock, Angus Ale, Milk Pale Ale and Moo Munich Gold. The full range available at any time can be sampled for \$2.75 for four 'tasters' (4oz glasses).

Other recommended places in Vegas include the two **Mad Dogs & Englishmen**. These are at 515 South Las Vegas Boulevard (22 draught beers and bottles from around the world) and U755 Spring Mountain Road (21 draught and 30 bottles). They also serve a real Sunday lunch - roast beef and Yorkshire pud for \$5.95. The **Golden Nugget Casino** has 40 bottles and **Spago's Bar** in the Forum in Caesar's Palace sells Anchor Steam and Sierra Nevada (the original, not the one sold in Chorlton-on-Medlock!). The **Village Pub** in the

Excalibur (the largest hotel in the world - over 4,000 rooms!) sells draught Bass. The new MGM Hotel and Theme Park is supposed to be looking at establishing a brew-pub there.

Vegas lies within easy reach of the Hoover Dam and the Grand Canyon. LA is about five-and-a-half hours drive away, while San Francisco is about thirteen hours away. To reach San Francisco, drive across Death Valley, the 13,000-foot-high Tiago Pass (open end May - October) and Yosemite National Park. Alternatively, the faint-hearted and thirsty can take the direct freeway across the Mojave Desert, passing the largest aeroplane park in the world - 200+ Jumbos, DC10s, etc, in a gigantic 'Arfur Daley' style second-hand plane lot! - and have an overnight stop in Fresno - home of the superb Butterfield Brewing Co. A very reasonably priced Best Western Motel is three-quarters of a mile away.

The first priority on arriving in the USA is to pick up a copy of the Celebrator, available in all micro-brew pubs and multi-beer free houses (or ring 510 670 0121). This bi-monthly newspaper lists all West Coast brew-pubs and multi-beer pubs and I am grateful to them for all the latest information on Las Vegas.

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## Dear Beer

Last month our financial editor wrote to Whitbread about the high prices and the lack of adequate price lists at the new Hogshead in Manchester. We have had a reply from an outfit called Bowland Inns, the company responsible for the Hogshead, saying that in future all cask ale prices will appear on chalkboards in the pub.

**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 £2.70 together with your name and address to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 2PW, for six 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 £30 or £135 for six months, half page £20 or £90 for six months. 10% discount for advance payment.

# Rupert

As Lord and Lady Bog are kicked upstairs, not only must Dr Lawrence J Peter revise his Peter Principle, that 'In a hierarchy every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence,' but a new era dawns in Greater Grotley as our home-grown amber nectar show virtuoso takes over the mantle of supremacy, following in the footsteps of such luminaries as Max Wall, Badge Fairplastic, Dermatitis, Ben Chestnut and Nora Tackler. But, such is the depth of expertise within Greater Grotley that we have someone to step into Wayne Bluto's shoes - namely Tubs Caries, whose performance at the Snobley Gateau Noces amber nectar show was unparalleled. He was able to withstand an onslaught of missiles from the gallery with calm and equanimity. When struck by a paper aeroplane he managed to contain his histrionic apoplexy to a mere 35 minutes and hardly dirtied his Gestapo uniform when he bit the carpet.

In Slumley things have also changed. Billy Cosh, like the leper with a king high at poker, has thrown his hand in and Duncan Busman has taken something of a backseat. Hass Brickie has taken over as vice chairperson. But, worry not, Hattie Nightingale remains as Membership Person to welcome new members into her ample bosom. Sadly Eastwood Chef failed to make the new committee.

I see from the June edition of Opening Tripe that Charlie Super manages to give away 4,300 copies of his organ every month. Now, Eddy Nestfeather



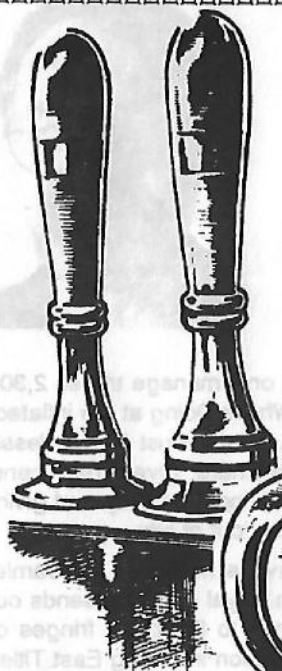
can only manage to sell 2,300 copies of What's Doing at the inflated price of 25p. There must be a lesson there somewhere, given that licensees are shredding it anyway and giving us the money out of pity.

I have a message for Jamie Frotter from Royal Hall who sends out What's Doings to the outer fringes of known civilisation including East Titley, where Jamie currently resides, suffering from Carthorses' Old Nobthrutcher withdrawal symptoms having fled from his creditors and the moral police:-

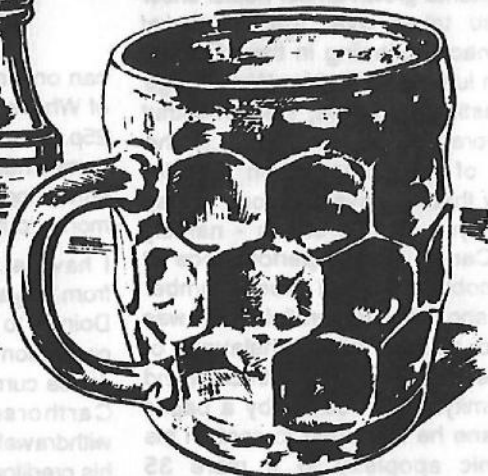
*'Pay your subscription or we'll print your address.'*

So sad that it should come to this. Jamie will be sadly missed, particularly as it's the time of year when he could often be seen wandering about à la Baden Powell and being set upon by footpads at tram stops. Fortunately, in the interests of sobriety, the brewers have done a public service by weakening our beer, so you'll have to drink a lot more to become totally obfuscated as a rat. Furthermore, you'll be able to do it in the cosmopolitan ambience of a café bar surrounded by screaming brats when the new licensing laws come in.





# PROTECT YOUR PLEASURE



## JOIN CAMRA NOW

Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque for £10 (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to  
Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 34 Alma  
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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for £10 (£14 if overseas).

Signed ..... Date .....

# Branch Diary

## Bolton

Thur 8 July 8.30pm. Branch Meeting, Hope & Anchor, Chorley Old Road.  
Thur 22 July, Social and crawl of Bromley Cross. 7.15pm train from Bolton, 7.30pm Railway, 8.15pm Volunteer, then Sportsman and finishing at Flag.

Thur 12 Aug 8.30pm. Branch Meeting, Churchills, Manchester Road (upstairs).

Thur 26 Aug, Social and crawl of Westhoughton. Meet White Lion, then to Rose Hill Tavern and other pubs!

Contact: Judith Spragg 0204 595342 (h), 0204 397350 (w)

## Rochdale, Oldham & Bury

Thur 1 July 8.30. Bury Beer Festival Organising Meeting. Tap & Spile, Bury

Sat 3 July, all day. Independents Day Event - phone contact for details.

Tue 6 July 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Welcome, Bury Old Road

Tue 20 July 8.30pm, Committee Meeting, Old Cock, Oldham Road, Middleton

Thur 22 July 8.30pm, Bury Beer Festival Organising Meeting, Napier, Bolton Road, Bury.

Tue 27 July 8pm, What's Doing Collation Meeting, Flying Horse, Town Hall Square, Rochdale.

Tue 3 Aug 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Royal Oak, Werneth.

Contact: Peter Alexander 0532 324023 (w), 061 655 4002 (h)

## North Manchester

Wed 7 July, Bolton Crawl. Sweet Green Tavern, Soho Street, 7pm; Dog & Partridge, Bank Street, 8pm; Maxims, Bradshawgate, 9pm; finish Malt & Hops.

Wed 14 July City Centre Crawl: Moulders Arms, Heyrod Street, 7pm; Jolly Angler, 8pm; Castle, Oldham Street, 9pm

Wed 21 July, Branch Meeting, Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford

Wed 28 July, New Members' Social: Quiz Night, Queens Arms, Honey Street, Cheetham, 8pm.

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

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Contributors to this issue: Roger Hall, Paul Roberts, Pete Barnes, Jim Grindrod, Michael Robinson, Leo King, Pete Wadsworth, Ian Hillaker, Mark McConachie, Stewart Revell  
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# THE QUEENS ARMS

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Weds: 12.00-11.00  
Thur: 12.00-11.00  
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