25p

What's Doing

APRIL 1998



The Manchester Beer Drinker's Monthly Magazine

New Hogshead for Manchester

Whitbread's latest Hogshead opened in an old office building on Deansgate, just along from the Sawyers, last month. Two others, on Wilmslow Road and in Didsbury, will open soon.



The Hogshead over in Oldham, like those in Bolton and Altrincham, will be seeing some changes. The Union Street pub is now controlled by an outfit called Destination Inns and the name will be changed to the Buck & Union (a name the place had way back). The other Union Street multi-real ale venue, the Beer Emporium free house, has been demolished.

Holts in Bolton

The Crown (ex-Greenalls, below) in Horwich opened as a Holts pub on Thursday 12th March, run by the former licensee of the Orion in Withington. This landmark building at the junction of Chorley New and Old Roads now has a large vault with pool and TV and a lounge made up of three former rooms around the central bar.

On the way back into Bolton, the Doffcocker on Chorley Old Road is another imposing building recently taken over by Holts. Here, the bar separates a large vault and pool room from an L-shaped, low ceilinged lounge.

To get to Horwich from Manchester, you can catch one of the hourly trains from Manchester to Blackrod, then walk the mile up Crown Lane to the Crown. Or go by train to Bolton and catch the 125, 126, 575 or 617 bus to the Crown. The 125 and 126 go past the Doffcocker.



Crumbling Coach & Horses

The long closed Coach & Horses on London Road appears to be in a worse state than ever. It is leaning badly and now part of the front is being held up by scaffolding. Can it be that this historic part of Manchester's drinking scene will be allowed to fall down?

Dukes '98

The Duke's 92 at Castlefield has reopened after a revamp which has involved shifting the bar and doubling the size of the premises. The expensive beer policy is likely to remain.

Central Manchester Prices Survey - Part Three

If the second survey across the Gay Village was poorly supported, then this was little better, although the tour from Castlefield to Spring Gardens included some decent pubs. The Oxnoble on Liverpool Road was serving Boddingtons at £1.55 and a range of stronger beers all at £1.80. On our visit these were Flowers IPA, Speckled Hen, Marstons Pedigree and Taylors Landlord.

Down the road at the Commercial, John Smiths real ale has been ousted by Smooth Flow. The Websters Yorkshire Bitter (£1.50) is still real ale and much tastier and fuller bodied than has been customary. The White Lion had Boddies at £1.50 and Wards and Taylors Landlord, both at £1.80. Round the corner at the Crown on Deansgate, Vaux mild was £1.45 and Samson £1.55. The Sir Ralph Abercromby near the police station on Bootle Street is, we understand, being considered for redevelopment, although what exactly is envisaged is unclear. The pub was crowded. Beers on sale were Boddingtons (£1.55), Castle Eden (£1.64) and Wadworth 6X (£1.70). There were also two guest beers - Flowers IPA (£1.66) and Cains (£1.60).

The Square Albert now serves only one real ale, a revolving guest. On the occasion of our visit this was Allsopp's Arctic at £1.90. It was described by the surveyor as fruity, cold and not very good. There was also a fake cider pump. Quite a change from the pub's heyday in the Good Beer Guide.



On Kennedy Street two pubs nestle side by side, quite an unusual arrangement these days. The Vine serves John Smiths at £1.30, Boddingtons at £1.60 and Courage Directors at £1.84. Next door at the City Arms, Tetleys bitter was £1.54 and the range of guest beers included Robinsons dark mild (£1.63), Allsopp's Spring Ale, Coach House Innkeepers (both £1.85) and Cains Formidable and Robinsons Old Tom, at £1.88. The latter was particularly good value.

Unsurprisingly, the best value for money for bitter was at the Ape & Apple, where Holts mild and bitter are both £1. Strangely, the place was deserted, as was Rothwells, where four draught beers were on sale, Batemans mild (£1.70), Marstons bitter (£1.75), Pedigree and Head Brewers Choice (both £1.85). The converted bank operates a differential pricing policy, whereby prices are reduced by around 15p a pint during the week. Or, if you look at it another way, prices are hiked up at weekends when it's busy.

You can't help wondering how such places are viable when there are six customers at 10.00pm on a Wednesday. Low prices seem to have little impact on demand, as even the Ape & Apple had few customers.

Slowly but surely we will complete our 1998 survey of the city centre. Any contributions are welcome.

Thursday 9th - Monday 13th April



3 Market Street, Stalybridge Tel. 0161 303 9157



1 Water Street, Stalybridge Tel. 0161 303 2288

Easter Beer Festival

OVER 70 REAL ALES FROM HART, PHOENIX, WYE VALLEY, EXMOOR, KELHAM ISLAND AND MANY OTHERS, AT THE Q BEER GARDEN AND IN THE WHITE HOUSE. UP TO 10 REAL CIDERS. RANGE OF ENTERTAINMENT. BENNY'S BARBECUE. BEER LIST AVAILABLE

Grand opening 7pm Thursday. Open all day Friday, with entertainment and Barbecue from 7pm. Open all day Saturday and Sunday from 11am with full programme. Open Monday from 11am until the beer and food run out! Barbecue and some entertainment subject to the weather

Lees Latest Paul Roberts

Pub openings in Middleton are like buses - nothing happens for ages and then three come along together. (Four if you include the recently opened non-real ale Life bar on Wood Street).

A week after the opening of Wetherspoon's Harbord Harbord, John Willie Lees reopened the Assheton Arms after major alterations and extending into the former bank next door. The new 'Ash' has been designed to appeal to the young and to compete with the weekend Wetherspoons trade. The lounge has been transformed, with a not unpleasant bare wood effect, and there are lots of areas for 'vertical drinking'. The lighting is on the subdued side and the light fittings are unusual, to say the least. There is a magic lantern effect with moving, distorted images projected on to the far wall of the new extension. I've only ever seen anything like it once before, and that was in the Vesuvio pub next to SFO Brewing Company in San Francisco ten years ago, so it's taken Middleton a few years to catch up! The 'Ash' now has skyboard signs and the exterior illumination ensures it can be seen from the far side of Middleton.

On the opening night the bitter was on fine form and at £1.22 per pint this represents very good value. Lees have supplied the pub with new 'Andy Capp' style straight glasses, but missed the opportunity to go for lined, oversize glasses.

Two days after the Grand Opening of the Assheton, there was a more subdued opening of the Middleton Archer. The renovations here took two months and a new roof has been fitted, but the pub remained open throughout. It is now much more appealing from the outside the new roof has made a big difference and the repainting in the new Lees livery and exterior lighting certainly make it more attractive. The lounge has been tastefully redecorated and is obviously aimed at a more mature clientele. Piped music at a low level does not hinder conversation and it seems a little strange therefore that there is live music on a Friday evening. Meals are available at lunchtime and early evening, but Lees have missed out on the opportunity to provide meals throughout opening times, leaving JDW a monopoly in this area. Handpumped Moonraker is now available alongside the mild and bitter.

The Greengate brewery has certainly been lavishing some readies around its estate. Whilst the two Middleton pubs were being reconstructed, Gullivers in Oldham Street, Manchester, was given a much needed lick of paint. A new etched Lees window has been fitted in the door, but one wonders how long that will last.

The Radclyffe Arms, the Burtonwood pub down the road from the Middleton Junction brewery, appears to be closed for a major refurbishment.

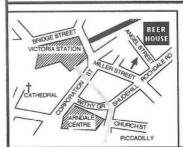
THE MAD MAY EXPERIENCE

or "They SHOOT Scratchers, Don't They?"

FIVE BEER FESTIVALS AND 200 NEW BEERS IN THE MONTH OF MAY

- 1. OPENING TIME THE MAY DAY HOLIDAY FESTIVAL THURSDAY APRIL 30 MONDAY (BANK HOLIDAY) MAY 4
 40 BEERS UPSTAIRS AND DOWN
- 2. THE BEER & CIDER EXPERIENCE
 FRIDAY MAY 8 SUNDAY MAY 10
 AT LEAST FIVE EXTRA CIDERS & PERRIES
 JOIN 30 NEW BEERS FOR YOUR DELECTATION
- 3. YET ANOTHER FESTIVAL GET CASK & BOTTLED AT THE BELGIAN EXPERIENCE FRIDAY 15 SUNDAY 17 MAY 30 NEW CASK ALES ARE COMPLEMENTED BY AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF BOTTLED BELGIANS!
- 4. SPRING BANK HOLIDAY MEGA FESTIVAL
 THURSDAY 21 MONDAY (BANK HOLIDAY) 25 MAY
 40 MORE NEW BEERS PRESENTED ON TWO FLOORS
- 5. THE "AND FINALLY..." FESTIVAL
 FRIDAY 29 SUNDAY 31 MAY
 30 MORE NEW CASK BEERS UPSTAIRS AND DOWNSTAIRS
 ALL FESTIVAL BEERS £1 A PINT ALL DAY SUNDAY MAY 31st!

OTHER NEW BEERS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE BAR EVERY WEEKDAY. SPECIAL FESTIVAL ALE (ALL MONTH) WILL BE BREWED BY SAL AND IDY AT SHUGBOROUGH - A SORT OF CRAZY, HOPPY, PREMIUM BITTER. MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH OF FOOD, BBQ's AND ENTERTAINMENT



ONLY AT

THE BEER HOUSE

Angel Street, Manchester 0161 839 7019

BRITISH BEERMAT COLLECTORS' SOCIETY SALE (PUMP CLIPS, TOO) SAT APRIL 25, 12 NOON



The centre of Wigan now has a greater range of real ales, courtesy of the Swan and Railway, Wallgate. Camerons bitter or Strongarm rotate with Marstons Pedigree as guest beers, whilst Banks's mild and bitter feature permanently at this longstanding GBG pub.

The village of Almond Brook doesn't get too much ink in these pages, though two of the three pubs there offer a number of beers. The Charnley Arms, Almond Brook Road, now has competition from the Foresters Arms on Shevington Moor Road. Despite a marked emphasis on food, the Foresters had Theakstons bitter and Marstons Pedigree on tap when I visited recently, as well as Greenalls bitter and Original. In contrast, the **Hesketh Arms**, Hesketh Drive, is now down to just one traditional beer, Greenalls bitter.

The onslaught of nitrokeg has seen a remorseless decline in the number of pubs in Hindley selling (drinkable) cask conditioned beer. The Cumberland Arms, Chapel Green Lane, has given up the ghost, and now offers only gassy Theakstons and John Smiths products. Come back Tetley, all is forgiven!

Over the border in historic Westhoughton, the eponymous **Daisy Hill Tavern** has gone over to real Hydes ales; a welcome change from the Greenalls fizz that was available for so long. Just down Hindley Road, a decent drop of Lees bitter can be had at the **Grey Man**. Cask Tetley bitter and dark mild are on sale as well.

Buxton Beer Festival

The recently reopened Old Sun Inn, a multi-roomed, Grade Two listed building in Buxton, is presenting its first real ale festival from Wednesday 1st to Monday 13th April. At least eight ales will be on at any one time, from the likes of Bank Top, Bathams, Enville and Kitchen. There will be one-off festival ales from Whim (Old Sun Buxton Bitter) and Marstons (Union Taps Festival Ale). The complete Whim range will be on sale during the festival, along with Marstons Oyster Stout, several cask ciders and the pub's range of foreign bottled beers.

Hydes Oriental

Hydes have an unusual free trade outlet in the Orient Express in Crewe. This free house, run by a couple from Fallowfield (hence the Hydes) doubles as a Chinese restaurant. It was originally a pub, then became a Chinese restaurant and now real ale (handpumped mild and bitter) and Chinese meals can be enjoyed together. The Orient Express is next to the railway bridge near Crewe bus station, about fifty yards from the GBG-listed Kings Arms.



BANK HOLIDAY
REAL ALE
EXTRAVAGANZA



THURS 30th APRIL MON 4th MAY

IN EXCESS OF ALES



也是是他的,我们是我们的,我们是我们的,我们们的的,我们们的一个,我们们的一个,我们们的一个,我们们的一个,我们们们的一个,我们们们们的一个,我们们们们们们们们

FECENT BREWS

RECENT BREWS

ONE OFFS

FESTIVAL SPECIALS

FOREIGN BOTTLED BEERS

SCRUMPIES & PERRIES

JAZZ on the platform

Saturday evening:
Stalybridge

HOME COOKED FOOD always available

NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION

Pendlebury

Two Pendlebury pubs have recently reopened free as The first houses. was Magowan's Beehive on Rake Lane, Clifton. No major changes inside, but the real ales are now Theakstons Best Bitter and Websters Yorkshire Bitter. The second pub is the Bowling Green on Bolton Road, which was closed for over twelve months. A solitary handpump dispenses Websters Yorkshire Bitter.

Over the road at the Royal Oak, there's a 'To Let' sign over the door, whilst two hundred yards away at the closed and boarded Black Horse, a 'For Sale' sign can now be seen. On Station Road, Sanders Wine Bar, which opened in September, appears to be shut.

Mat Meet

The British Beermat Collectors' Society meets at the Beer House, Manchester, on Saturday 25th April at 12 noon.



New issues, swop shop, auction, charity raffle and pump clip sale, with proceeds to Manchester Children's Hospital. Also, Playing Card Society, Badge Collectors' Society. Pub crawl afterwards.

Mooching round Milnrow

Mark McConachie's recent trawl of the pubs of Milnrow, outside Rochdale, turned up the following...

The furthest out from Rochdale is a new building, the **John Milne**, a Brewer's Fayre outlet on a triangle of land between the railway line and Newhey Road. This is a typical example of Whitbread's idea of a country pub - big on food, small in character and appeal. The beers were Boddies, Flowers, 6X and a guest, with prices 155p and up.

Across the road is a much older and smaller pub, J W Lees' Free Trade Tavern. Three reasonable rooms packed with polished brass and pictures. Lees mild and bitter are available, the latter at 125p. Continue towards town, under the M62 motorway and a hundred yards along on the right is the Slip Inn. A Sam Smiths pub, so you half expect it to be keg, but no - Old Brewery bitter at 113p, very nice and the cheapest in Milnrow to boot. A good pub, stone-built and set back, with a comfortable lounge, separate snug and popular tap room on the left.

On the same side of the road further down is the **Commercial**, an Enterprise pub which is currently closed and boarded. Keep walking and four hundred yards further on is Enterprise's **Woolpack**, a tidy looking building, but without cask ale, unfortunately. Carry on past Kwik Save and take the unnamed lane to the left, which becomes Whitworth Street. At its head, on the corner of Equitable Street, is

the **Freemasons Arms**, another keg Enterprise pub.

Continue left over the railway and cross Elizabethan Way to the Poachers Den. This is a large, rambling farmhousekitchen style pub operated by Banks's on Harbour Lane. Food comprises a large part of the trade and you may dine in one of several rooms. Most of these have different furnishings, but all follow the bucolic theme. Despite the country pretensions, the pub expensive - 159p for bitter and more for Pedigree.

Retrace your steps to Dale



Street, turn left and 150 yards down is the **Tim Bobbin** (Websters). The pub has a rather odd layout, with the bar on the left side and the rest is opened out. Fairly unremarkable really, but three beers are available - Yorkshire bitter, Taylors dark mild and Landlord (140p).

Turn right out of the Bobbin and go up Kiln Lane for a quarter of a mile to the Gallows (Bass). Do not be put off by the Bass sign, as apart from Worthington BB the pub also sells Lees bitter at 140p. This is a small, L-shaped house that seems to do a good trade in lunchtime and early evening meals. This and the next pub can be reached via the 452 bus from Rochdale; the 58 also goes to the Gallows.

The Birchinley Manor (Banks) is a half-mile further along Wildhouse Lane to Littleborough. It is the bar and restaurant complex of the equestrian centre. Outside, you get good views over Rochdale; inside the small bar you can watch the horses being put through their paces. Banks's mild, bitter and Strongarm are on handpull, with the mild at 135p.

The last two pubs are on Rochdale Road - a half mile from the Tim Bobbin. J W Lees' Crown & Shuttle is a small, mid-terrace house that has been a consistent Good Beer Guide entry over the years. At the front there is a small vault to the left and snug to the right, and to the rear is the lounge with the main bar at one end. Good beer is available in the form of Lees mild and bitter, the latter at 120p. Further on still is Enterprise's Nelson Inn, and almost inevitably for



Enterprise, it is keg.

Milnrow rail station is sited in the village centre, with the Poachers Den (left) and Freemasons being the closest calls.

There are trains every hour from Manchester Victoria Station and Rochdale. Buses are numbers 181/2 Manchester to Rochdale direct and 58 from Middleton.



1ST-13TH APRIL 1998

25 PLUS ALES

featuring
FESTIVAL ALE FROM WHIM
& BEERS FROM
BUTTERKNOWLE,
ENVILLE, CAINS, HOPBACK
& WOODFORDES

EIGHT ALES AVAILABLE
AT ANY TIME

ALES DIRECT FROM THE CASK

A CHOICE OF CASK CIDERS FOREIGN BOTTLED BEERS & SPECIAL FESTIVAL MENU

THE OLD SUN INN, 33 HIGH STREET BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE SK17 6HA TELEPHONE: 01298 23452

Winter Ales '99

If all goes well, Manchester will be hosting the 1999 Winter Ales Festival. In 1996 the inaugural Manchester Beer Festival was held at the Upper Campfield Market Hall Liverpool Road. The IRA bomb shifted the Royal Exchange Theatre into that venue and put paid to any 1997 festival. The Royal Exchange should be ready in November to rehouse the theatre company, the Campfield venue should be free next year and a provisional booking has been made for a beer festival

It would make sense to combine this event with the National CAMRA Winter Ales Festival and preliminary discussions have taken place. Other contenders are Burton-on-Trent and Bristol. The Market Hall is a cracking venue, so Manchester is certainly in with a shout. Watch this space.

Planning News

New pubs are planned in the following locations in Manchester:
City Road East/Albion Street
10 Tib Lane, down from what was the Town Hall Tavern
73-79 King Street, near Brown Street (Bass Taverns).

The 'closely guarded' secret about the ownership of the Burton Arms on Swan Street is now out. An application for elevational alterations has been made by an outfit called Northwest Inns Ltd. This isn't in the GBG index. Any ideas? So far, all is going swimmingly at the Harbord Harbord. A measure of its early popularity is that on Sunday 1st March, I counted over 200 customers at half past four in the afternoon. Astonishing! (By contrast, at around the same time the Assheton Arms had 24 and the Middleton Archer 11). The pub is formulaic J D Wetherspoon, and none the worse for that. One big bar on the left as you go in and the usual booths, no smoking area (hooray), no music, cheap food and a wide range of reasonably priced drinks. A good mix of ages has been attracted and the pub is busy at most times. The beer quality has been excellent, although some may find the beer a little cold. Among guests so far have been Hopback GEB, Woodfordes Wherry, Smiles Best and Ringwood Old Thumper - all firsts for Middleton, I would guess - and, on one occasion anyway, two milds - Theakstons and Thwaites.

Any minuses? Well, a few, mostly in the area of staff training. It's surely not too much to ask that bar staff should be aware of the guest beer's name, so that requests for it are not met with blank stares. Also, the confusing system of staff badges, where everyone seems to be either a duty manager or a shift manager, makes it difficult to



know who the boss is. This was illustrated by a noisy and entertaining altercation between one such bebadged 'manager' and a customer who was stonewalled as she tried to find out who was actually in charge, in order to register a complaint. Still, it's early days yet.

Elsewhere in Middleton centre. evening but not lunch trade has been affected by various goings on. At Whitbread's Dusty Miller in Middleton Gardens, introduction of three bottom range keg beers (to be sold more cheaply to counter JDW prices) has not affected sales of cask beers (Chesters mild, London Pride, Pedigree, Boddies and 6X). Landlord Charlie Ashton tells me all continue to sell well. Deservedly, the Britannia (Lees, left), Middleton Gardens again, has been nominated for the Good Beer Guide 1999. This is an excellent and popular pub, with a good mix of clientele, friendly atmosphere, enthusiastic landlord and very fine beer. No loss of trade there, I am told, and I am not surprised.

I understand that Lees' GBG-listed Crown on Long Street may be in for some refurbishment. This is another outstanding local with excellent beer. In Rhodes, the Waggon & Horses is now selling Holts $\min(\pounds 1)$ as well as the bitter $(\pounds 1.20)$ and the pub is being extended.

Finally, I understand there have been mutterings from the well-heeled patrons of the Lancashire Fold (Lees), Kirkway, about the variable quality of the cask beers, which are no longer up to Good Beer Guide standard. My experience backs their views up.

Marble grows

The production capacity of the Marble Brewery at the Marble Arch will soon be doubled when two new fermenters are commissioned. This should go a long way towards sorting out the problems caused by the great demand for the beers.

Marble Porter (5%) should be ready for sale in early April.

THE MIDLAND BEER COMPANY

826 Manchester Road Castleton, Rochdale near Castleton BR

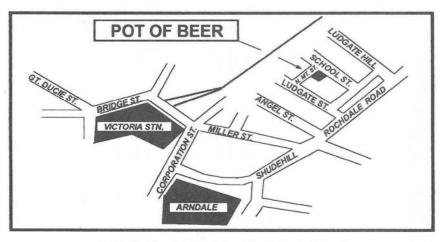
FOUR REAL ALES

Burtonwood 99p a pint
Theakstons, Taylors and Guest Beers
Thatchers Cider
plus German and Belgian Beers
Lunchtime food Monday - Friday
01706 750873 Open all day

POT OF BEER

36 NEW MOUNT ST. 0161 834 8579

- √ 4 GUEST ALES EVERY WEEK
- ROBINSONS DARK MILD
- HOEGAARDEN WHEAT BEER
- TRADITIONAL CIDER
- ✓ SELECTION OF WINES &
 MALT WHISKIES



FOOD NOW AVAILABLE

12 TO 2 PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY!

Over the hills and not so far away

Marsden

Marsden, just over the Greater Manchester border in West Yorkshire, is the home of the Riverhead Brewery, which was featured in WD August 1997. Now Steve Smith looks at some of the pubs...

Riverhead Brewery Tap, Peel Street

This is the home of the micro brewery, part of which can be viewed through glass partitions. There is a raised seating area and an upstairs room. The accent is on wood - bare floorboards, bar panelling, handrails and wheel-back chairs - and some button-back seating and subdued lighting give an intimate feel. The decor includes an old clocking-on machine, cast iron notice plates from former waterworks companies and framed prints. The brewery produces seven beers, all named after local reservoirs, and there are festival brews and seasonal specials.

The beers are served in oversize glasses and go down well with locals and visitors alike. My own favourite is Black Moss Stout (4.3%). The pub is open on Mondays to Fridays from 5pm to 11pm, Saturdays 11am to 11pm and Sundays 12pm 10.30pm.

Swan Hotel, Station Road

A stylised rustic Wm Stones pub on the opposite side of the river, selling up to four guest ales from breweries far and wide. Of interest here is the etched swan on a mirror, a brass golden eagle and photos of a post-war flood. Accommodation available.

Shakespeare, Peel Street

Pleasant local along the main street selling Tetley mild and bitter. Toby jug collection and real fire.

Tunnel End Inn, Reddisher Road

Welcoming, three-roomed local and free house near the canal and picnic area, well worth the walk along the canal or roadway. Comforting real fire with ornate surround, lots of brass, copper and an old 'Joanna'. Tetley mild and bitter, plus guests.

Railway Hotel, Station Road

A Burtonwood house opposite the station, so a good place to finish. Bitter, Buccaneer and Forshaws on handpump.

Marsden can be reached by North West Trains from Manchester Victoria, departing at 1855 and returning from Marsden at 2207 or 2307. Journey time is approximately 35 minutes and the fare should be no more than £4.50, by combining an Evening Ranger ticket to Greenfield with a return to Marsden.

Letters

Middleton Moonshine

Sir - I was surprised to read Paul Roberts' eulogy about the Ring o'Bells in Middleton (WD March). While it is certainly a fine pub and Harry, the landlord, is a splendid fellow, to claim, as Paul did, that it has 'the best pint for miles around' is fanciful nonsense. Paul does not say how many miles he has in mind, but I can think of two with better beer within half a mile, namely the Britannia and the Crown, both nominees for the 1999 Good Beer Guide. There are many others.

Why this advert for Paul's 'local' was given such prominence is not clear, but I think Paul (not for the first time) has let his objectivity slip. Such partisan claims should be made in the letters column, not on the front page.

Middleton Moonshine indeed!

Peter Alexander, Chairman, Rochdale, Oldham & Bury Branch

Two Men and a Dog write

Sir - Contrary to last month's Rupert column, the Two Men & A Dog branch may be floundering, but it has not yet gone completely belly up. It is encouraging to see that neighbouring branches are prepared to 'fight over the spoils' to ensure that campaigning continues.

To appease the empire-building tendencies of neighbouring branches wishing to encroach into (or reclaim, as they see it) parts of the area, TM & AD donate Hulme, Whalley Range, Alexandra Park, Manley Park, Newall Green and Roundthorn to anyone who wants them, and in exchange will amend their branch area to include Mobberley and Knutsford to the south and the block enclosed by Portland Street/Newton Street, Great Ancoats Street/Swan Street/Miller Street and Corporation Street to the north.

Now everyone should be happy. Woof! Woof!

Keith Egerton

Moulders music

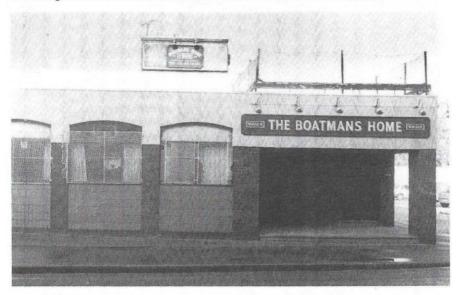
The new Hydes seasonal beers will be joining Hydes Light (WD March) at the Moulders, Heyrod Street, Ancoats. For those who like a tune to sup to, there is now live country & Irish music on Fridays (lunch and teatimes) and Sundays.

Guests at the Crown

The Crown (Vaux) on Deansgate, Manchester, has been doing a weekly guest ale for some time now. These have continued to be popular and complement the two Vaux beers, mild and Samson.

Boatman sunk

The Boatmans Home (Vaux, below) on City Road East, a candidate for the title of the city's grottiest pub, was demolished on February 23rd. It was a typical seventies pub, built for Tetley Walker to replace an old pub of the same name on Chester Road (below right).

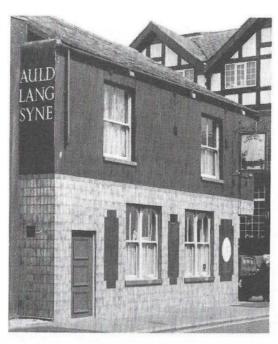


Bank on the quay

Banks's are due to open their Quay Bar, a new café bar /eaterie at the side of the Bridgewater Canal between Chester Road and Old Deansgate.

Contributors to this issue: Paul Roberts, Ian Kenny, Mark McConachie, Keith Egerton, Pete Cash, Peter Alexander, Rob Magee, Steve Smith, Dave White, Peter Wadsworth & Roger Wood.





Should old acquaintance be forgot...

Landlady Peggy retired from the Auld Lang Syne (Ascot/ Mayfair, left) on Pollard Street, Ancoats, and it is likely that the pub will not reopen. It was a popular Wilsons house many years ago, but went into decline when Blezard assumed ownership and had not sold cask ale for some time

Tib Street tipple

Centros (formerly Straight Eights) on Tib Street is selling Ruddles bitter.

LAUREL AND HARDY

Classic comedies shown on Super 8 and 16mm upon 36 square foot of silver screen. Each reel lasts around 20-25 minutes after which there is a short break while you replenish your glasses!

THE MARBLE ARCH on ROCHDALE ROAD, just ten minutes walk from the City centre, on the THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

THE BEER ENGINE, POOLSTOCK, WIGAN on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of every OTHER month (4 Feb, 1 Apr, 3 Jun, 5 Aug, 7 Oct, 2 Dec)

The shows all begin around 8.15pm. ADMISSION IS FREE

SATURDAY 5th SEPT 1998

THE 6th ANNUAL LAUREL AND HARDAY

Noon till night in the Beer Engine Concert Room. Admission £3.

You don't have to be in The Sons of the Desert (the L & H Appreciation Society) to come along, but if you do want to join, membership is £12 a year (£3 a quarter if you pay by Standing Order). You will have posted to you our own quarterly magazine, plus the quarterly world-wide magazine plus the bi-annual U.K. magazine. For further info ring 01744 817130.

4.6 Beever Street, Oldham

was no backyard and the gents' urinal was inside the house.

No. 104

The Musicians Arms was opened in cottage property at 4 Beever Street in 1857. The first licensee was Josiah Thornton, a mainstay of the local Beersellers' Association who had earlier been in business as a beerseller on Yorkshire Street. Thirty years later the Musicians had been extended into the house next door and it was owned by a Rochdale brewer called Thomas Sutcliffe, who doesn't appear to have been looking after the place. The police complained that it was in a filthy state; there were still two front doors and two back doors, there

The Rochdale & Oldham Brewery was formed in 1887 and when they took over the Musicians Arms they must have found some money to spend on it. In 1894 the building was in a fair state of repair, but police supervision was difficult because of the location and layout. There were then five drinking rooms, four bedrooms and a bathroom, but no yard and the back door opened into Back Beever Street. The

Musicians Arms survived until 1911, when there was an objection to the licence and the then owners, the Rochdale & Manor Brewery, gave it up.

In its later years, the beerhouse probably drew a lot of custom from Joseph and George Jagger's Model Lodging House, which the brothers had established in the 1880s on the other side of Beever Street, between Street and Rhodes Cardinal Street. By 1901 the Jaggers had bought the cottages next to the Musicians Arms from the brewery. The site of the beerhouse and these cottages is now a coach park and picking-up point, but the Jaggers' Model Lodging House can still be seen at 11 Beever Street.



Home Brewing Revisited Part Ten: Cooling the Wort

Right at the top of the tower of the Cook Street Brewery in Salford were a number of large, shallow open tanks, protected from the industrial atmosphere outside by wooden louvred windows. They were the old wort cooling tanks and even on our visit twenty years ago, they had not been used for decades. Originally, the hot wort from the coppers would be pumped up from below, when it would cool by natural heat loss, the steam escaping through the louvres to the world outside.

Obviously this was not very good for hygiene or quality control, since wild yeasts and other organisms could easily enter through the louvres and establish themselves in the wort even before the brewery yeast was pitched. These days, the philosophy is to cool the wort as quickly and efficiently as possible. Large breweries use a heat exchanger or paraflow - cold liquor on one side of a conductive metal plate picks up heat from hot wort on the other. By having a series of such plates and feeding hot wort and cold liquor in from opposite ends, the maximum amount of heat is extracted and used in the next mash.

used in the next masn.

A couple of microbreweries which I have visited use old milk coolers. In these, the milk (or wort) runs down the outside, exposed to the atmosphere, and the coolant is on the inside. Whilst having been

outlawed for milk production (on hygiene grounds) they are apparently still tolerated for brewing and possibly will help with wort aeration, which is important for yeast growth.

As well as reducing the risk of contamination, rapid cooling brings another benefit. Just as boiling throws out a protein 'hot break' (see Part Nine), fast cooling helps the 'cold break'. A clear, hot wort, so cooled, will produce a second precipitate of unwanted protein matter. Considering how important



this is, it is surprising that all the authors on home-brewing give it scant attention. No satisfactory methods are suggested.

Reference

5 The Big Book of Brewing by Dave Line, Amateur Winemaker/Argus Books

My solution was to visit the local D.I.Y. store and buy a ten-metre length of 8mm

copper tube. I wound this into a coil about ten inches in diameter, using a glass demi-john as a former. (Note that if you are going to do this, get it right first time. The copper as purchased is soft annealed and bends easily. The bending process work-hardens it, making it resistant to further manipulation.) A thick-walled rubber tube is secured to one end with an O-clip, and a long. flexible plastic tube to the other end. The rubber tube is clamped to the cold water tap with a jubilee clip.

The coil sits inside a seven-gallon plastic bin, into which the hot wort is run. Cold water is run through the coil and the wort gently stirred to help heat transfer. Six gallons of near boiling wort can be cooled to room temperature within about twenty minutes. I then remove the coil and put a lid on the bin, which is left to stand for a few hours.

Normally, it is then possible to siphon off a bright, clear wort, leaving behind the cold protein break. This again is something on which most home-brew books are silent. Dave Line (5) certainly mentions it, but fails to indicate whether it should be removed. Having toured a number of large commercial breweries I have failed to spot any point in the process where it could be removed prior to pitching the yeast. Presumably, with a top fermenting yeast, much of it would be carried to the surface and removed when the yeast was skimmed.

Next time, hops.

WHAT'S DOING contributions should be sent to the editor c/o 88 Ringley Road, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 1ET, to arrive no later than first post on the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

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Rupert

It's always useful for editors of magazines to write letters themselves, whilst pretending to be someone else. Another helpful spacefiller is to recycle ideas and articles from the past. It has not been unknown for the artful Eddy Nestfeather to carry out either one of these ploys.

He has, however, been surpassed by the editor of What's Doing's sister rag, Opening Tripe. In fairness, it was not Charlie Super himself but one Tubs Caries, son of Trev the Elder, who did both these at the same time in the March edition of what Slumleyites refer to as 'the freebie Chipwrapper'.

Writing via e-mail, he wanders on about the division of Central Grotley, the meaningless sharing of the amber nectar aficionados' mecca between three branches of the Campaign.

Very clever, but haven't we heard all this before? I seem to remember ideas to set up a city branch and select wondertaverns for the topers' vademecum being promulgated many moons ago, but they fell on stony ground. Could it be that Tubs wants to fuel his ambition by heading up a Grotley

megabranch? Given the decline of Smarmford and Slutch and the poor attendance at assemblies of erstwhile popular branches like Snobley & Snoot Magna and Slumley, this may happen sooner rather than later.

What could be more fitting for a campaign in its death throes than radical rationalisation? There's a pleasing symmetry in the

thought that, as hostelries increasingly switch to the ubiquitous smooth, the number of branches will dwindle until. eventually, selections for the topers' vademecum are chosen by a group of four and posted on a website for nerds. Tubs seems to thinking in terms of more branches rather than fewer, such is his logic, you need to enliven

Before WD is swallowed up by Tubs' and Charlie's tumescent organ, a few bits of news. Hass Brickie's got a proper job at last, so this may be the last chance to see him with his girly locks. Who's going to run the Grotley beerfest? An outbreak of apathy in Slumley has rendered the branch temporarily leaderless. What will happen next?

recycled material with the odd

bizarre perspective, or it'll never

seem original.

Branch Diary

Rochdale, Oldham & Bury

Tues 7 April 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Woodthorpe, Bury Old Road, Prestwich

Fri 17 April 8.30pm, Manchester City Centre pub crawl. Contact has details

Tues 21 April 8.30pm, Committee Meeting, Good Samaritan, Peel Brow, Ramsbottom

Tues 28 April 8.30pm, What's Doing Collation, Flying Horse, Town Hall Square, Rochdale

Contact: Peter Alexander 0113 232 4023(w), 0161 655 4002 (h)

Trafford & Hulme

Thurs 2 April 8pm, Britons Protection, Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester, followed by Crown, Deansgate; Oxnoble and White Lion, Liverpool Road

T & H branch are out most Thursday evenings - for details contact

Dave Ward, 0161 980 1170 (h)

North Manchester

Wed Apr 1, Fools crawl: Forgery & Firkin, Mosley St 7pm; Old Monkey; Old Garratt, Granby Row 8.30; Lass o'Gowrie; Salisbury, Wakefield Street 9.30.

Wed Apr 8 Committee & Social, Bar Fringe, Swan Street, Manchester, 7.30, Smithfield, Swan Street, 9pm

Wed Apr 15 8pm, Branch Meeting and SGM, White Lion, Worsley Road, Swinton

Wed Apr 22 7.30pm, Manchester 'mopping up' survey. Meet Castle, Oldham Street

Tues Apr 28 6pm onward, What's Doing Collation, Queens Arms, Honey Street, Cheetham

Wed Apr 29, Student Treasure Hunt, Crescent, Salford. 7-7.30pm

* Free pint to all members of competing teams

* Free grub * Prizes for winning team

Wed May 6, Swinton Crawl. Football, Swinton Hall Road, 7pm; Buckley, Partington La, 8pm; White Swan, Worsley Road, 9.30. Contact: Roger Hall 0161 740 7937

Wigan

Wed 15 April 8pm, Branch Meeting, Springfield Hotel, Springfield Road, Springfield Contact: John Barlow 01257 426464 (w), 01257 427595 (h)

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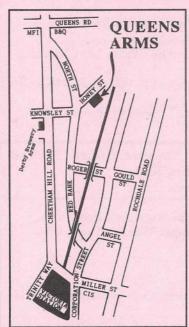
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