

WHAT'S DOING

The Newsletter of the North Manchester Branch of CAMRA
Number 4 February 1976

The main news this month is of the small beer exhibition which the branch is holding on the evening of Wednesday 3rd March. The exhibition will be part of a social evening for the residents of the 'Adelphi' area of Salford which is organized yearly by the Salford University Students' Union; and it will be held in the canteen of the Farmer Norton works, on Adelphi Street.

The four branch members who were asked at the last meeting to make the arrangements for the exhibition have made good progress. Eleven firkins of beer have been ordered from the following brewers: Thwaites - 1 best mild, 2 bitter; Boddingtons - 2 bitter; Hydes - 1 bitter; Robinsons - 1 best bitter, 2 best mild; Marstons - 1 Pedigree, 1 mild. The beer will be collected or delivered on Monday 1st March to allow 2 clear days for the beer to settle before being sold Wednesday

night, 3rd March. The Students' Union will finance the purchase of the beer so that the only commitment the branch will have will be to reimburse the Union for the cost of the eleven firkins. The beer will probably be sold - by ticket - for 20p a pint and we have estimated that approximately 200 beer drinkers will be there to sup four pints each. If we sell out, as we hope, there will be a modest boost to branch funds, but the exhibition is designed more for publicity than profit.

The canteen at Farmer Norton is a good place for an exhibition. There is a cool, lockable room where the beer can be stored and the canteen itself will have a better atmosphere than a Covent Garden or a Bingley Hall. There will be some form of entertainment provided by the Students' Union, and solid refreshments. We intend to decorate the bar area with appropriate posters and banners, and would appreciate any

contd. back page.....

CAMRA in OXFORDSHIRE

One county in which CAMRA has scored some notable successes is Oxfordshire. Unlike the Manchester area, the chances of stumbling on a good pint in Oxfordshire have not been good. However, due to the hard work of the CAMRA branches, the huge success of the local Good Beer Guide and extensive campaigning in free houses, the situation is improving.

The Oxfordshire Beer Guide has enjoyed success for a number of reasons:

1. It is an attractively designed and informative booklet.
2. A number of pro-CAMRA landlords have actively promoted its sale in their pubs.
3. The price (25p) is considerably below that of the national guide.
4. In an area where real ale is sometimes hard to find it is invaluable to the serious beer drinker.

A great deal of hard campaigning in the free houses has improved choice greatly as a number of pubs have been persuaded to sell the 'real' article and breweries like Wadworths, Youngs and Ruddles have

shown great willingness to extend their free trade into new areas.

Oxfordshire has four local independent breweries. Brakspears of Henley deservedly enjoy a high reputation for the excellence of their draught beers and the traditional atmosphere of the majority of their 130 tied houses.

Hook Norton, in the north of the county, also brew high quality draught beers for consumption in their 34 locals.

Morrell's, Oxford city's only remaining independent brewery, is one brewery who have responded well to the revival in traditional draught beers and are re-equipping many of their pubs with beer engines.

Morlands of Abington, unfortunately, have continued to dispense their often excellent beers by top pressure in the majority of their pubs. However, from personal experience the following pubs dispense an excellent pint by beer engine:- 'The Wallingford Arms', Charles St., Reading;

'The Bird in Hand', Chimor;
'The New Inn' (gravity
drawn) Hampstead Norreys,
Berkshire.

NATIONAL BEER GUIDE

Sales of the National Beer Guide
in 1975 to pubs in our area which
were included were as follows;

Bolton Alma 0
Sweet Green Tavern 4
White Lion 1
York 6

Farnworth Market 0
Saddle 1

Newton Heath Railway 0

Patricroft Queens Arms 6

Salford Church 0

Kersal 0
Priory 10
Star 2
Wellington 1

Stoneclough Lord Nelson 1

Swinton White Horse 10

White Swan 14

TOTAL 56

GREATER MANCHESTER BEER GUIDE

At the January meeting
it was decided that the sale
of the guide would be hand-
led as follows:

Bolton - Dave Smith
Eccles - Duncan Roberts
Worsley/Swinton - Pete Cash
North Manchester - Roger Hall
Salford 3,6,7 - Jem Callaghan
Salford 5 - Rob Telfor
Central Manchester - Paul
Roberts

The Guide will be on sale
or return but constant
monitoring would be re-
quired. All publicans would
be asked to sign for the
guides which they took.
Bookshops as well as pubs
would be contacted in
each of the areas.

contributions from branch members. The one thing we lack is help on the night to serve the beer. At least a dozen members will be needed altogether so please come forward in droves and let Neil Richardson know you are willing to help .

Latest news on the Greater Manchester Beer Guide is that it will not be published until March at the earliest. There is also news that the National Good Beer Guide will be late this year, partly as a result of delays in returning proofs by branches not a thousand miles away from our own.

Finally, I should like to draw attention to the meeting on Friday night at the Greatstone Hotel, Chester Road, Stretford. This is an 'appreciation' evening for Sam Smiths' who are making the real thing available for the first time in ages in Manchester. The cost is £1.20 per head, but this includes a buffet and there is a bar extension until 2.00 am. If we turn up in force we may be able to convince Sam Smiths that there is a demand for their excellent beers on this side of the Pennines and that would be a notable success.

BREWERY NEWS

Bass

The original gravity of Draught Bass is 1040

Hydes

The original gravity of the strong ale is 1068. It is available in 9 houses.

CAMRA NEWS

It has been suggested that a new branch be started in Tameside and Dave Easton has asked for our comments.

Sorry for the brevity and typing errors. The usual production team could not be sobered up in time.