



# Royal Betrothal Issue

10p

# WHAT'S DOING

MAR  
1981

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## REBUILDING IN STOCKPORT



Robinsons are currently negotiating with Stockport Local Authority regarding the future of two of their pubs - Grapes, Spring Gardens and the Flying Dutchman, Hillgate.

The Flying Dutchman is in need of expensive renovation and the brewery are being encouraged to rebuild it on adjoining land as part of the planned redevelopment of the area. Dedicated Hillgate pub-crawlers will be anxious to know the future of the 'Dutchie', after recently losing the Shakespeare across the road.

It seems the Grapes was built in the way of a road widening scheme currently being considered. It is likely that a new pub will be built by Robinsons somewhere in the vicinity if the scheme comes about - details of this new site have yet to be finalised by the council.

Pete Ogden

## HOLTS LEAP INTO THE 1950s!

Holts have in one move broken into the 20th century and launched their Derby Keg Bitter on the market. This is expected to be joined shortly by Joan Keg Mild and the Bogbrush Advertising Agency is no doubt busy writing TV jingles like "Get pissed fast - it's cheap and gassed!"



# WHAT'S DOING



## PRESTWICH CHANGES

Two Prestwich pubs changed hands recently, the Farmers Arms (J W Lees), Simister and the Royal Oak (Hydes), Heaton Park.

The Farmers Arms said good-bye to Olwen Vickers, landlady since 1967. Ken and Alma Taylor, whose previous pub was the Gardners Arms, Middleton, did the village a good turn by reducing their mild and bitter prices by 2p a pint on their arrival. Ken and Alma have already raised £100 for the nearby Brookvale Settlement for Handicapped Children and plan several other fund-raising activities for various charities. A team from the Farmers will shortly be taking on Moston AFC at tug-of-war on a local pig farm. No doubt it will be the losers who will emerge covered in glory.

Ernie and Lily Elgar retired from the Royal Oak after 15 years in this pleasant little local. The new couple, Gordon and Chris Simpson, who are no strangers to Prestwich, came from the Nursery Inn (Hydes), Heaton Norris. Before that, they ran the Carlton and Liberal clubs in Prestwich - both real ale.

## RAIL ALE (94)

JW Lees and British Rail are organising a "Real Ale Train" (their words) on Saturday 26th September. The train will leave Manchester Victoria and arrive at Bangor and Holyhead in plenty of time for a boozy day among the JW Lees pubs (closing time in enlightened Anglesey is 3.30pm) Tickets will be £7.50, which covers the train fare, the cost of coaches which will take participants to four J W Lees pubs, a ploughman's lunch and vouchers for 4 pints of bitter.

Because of their inherent uprightness and sobriety, CAMRA members are being offered seats first. If you are interested, contact your local branch. Final date for bookings (with full remittance) is 30th April.

(There is no truth in the rumour that the Grotley branches are organising a rival Real Ale Train from Manchester Victoria to an unspecified siding at Middleton Junction)

### ROCK 'N' ROAD

The Rock House, Great Egerton Street, Stockport, closed on the 21st February. It is to be demolished for 'that bloody motorway', but the memory of this excellent pub will certainly, as they say, linger on.

### CHESTERS IN PRESTWICH

The Wilton Arms, Bury New Road, has become the second of the three Whitbread houses in Prestwich to serve Chesters bitter. The odd-man-out is the Turf Tavern, Heaton Park.

Landlord Alan Tynan, once a drayman for Marstons, asked the brewery to install the real variety and has been rewarded for his enthusiasm with good sales and an ever increasing demand.

There are 21 pubs in Prestwich and only 3 do not serve real ale, namely the Church Inn (John wash-your-mouth-out Smiths), Turf Tavern (Whitbread) and the St Margarets Hotel (Snones), which is also the most expensive pub in town at 49p for bitter and 47p for mild.

### OUT OF THE SOUP PAN...

A Greenall Whitley mole unearthed a secret plan to sell their GBG-listed pub, the Wheatsheaf, Wallgate, Wigan, to Wigan Metro, last month. It seems that the Metro were going to convert the pub into some sort of soup kitchen or coffee bar for Wigan's down-and-outs (including CAMRA members).

The uninformed landlord was understandably perturbed, but after checking with GW, management assures us that the plan has definitely been shelved.

So now the Wheatsheaf is only threatened by the Wigan Inner Ring Road scheme, which also affects five other pubs, including the highly-rated Whitesmiths (Boddingtons)

### ROCHDALE OBSERVATIONS

With the scandal of Greenalls' new Rochdale pub -the Merry Weaver - still fresh in the minds of local real ale lovers, a recent advert in the Rochdale Observer has been giving cause for concern. In the advert, Matthew Brown announced that their recent acquisition, the Oxford, Whitworth Road, now sells cask conditioned ales. Before the pub swap it was thought to be on chilled and filtered Wilsons beers. To comply with the Trades Descriptions Act, it is thought that the Weaver sold cask beer for all of five minutes before switching to the "trusty tank" variety. Since Matthew Brown and Greenalls are not exactly falling over themselves to put real ale back on the map, the Oxford needs to be "sussed out", and quickly!

Matthew Brown watchers have also noted that the Roebuck, Strinesdale, is now an all-keg pizza parlour. (Good grief!)

### MOVING ON

Licensees of the Wheatsheaf (handpumped Wilsons), Altrincham, Mr & Mrs Dillon, are on the move to the Hesketh Hotel, Cheadle Hulme, in March. The Hesketh at present serves tanked beer, but discussions are taking place as to the feasibility of installing real ale. New landlord at the Wheatsheaf will be Tommy Blease, who had the Axe and Cleaver at Dunham until about three years ago.



### HELPFUL SPIRITS?

It seems CAMRA has an unforeseen ally in the fight to save Burtonwood Light Mild - a ghost has appeared at the Woodhouses Inn in Woodhouse Lane, Wigan, one of Wigan's two light mild outposts. The spectre is thought to be that of an ex-landlord who was murdered by bargees from the adjoining Leeds & Liverpool Canal. It seems his body was never found; it was thought to have been smuggled away on a canal boat. The landlady has seen the apparition standing in the passage near the bar - returned to defend his light mild?

On a more earthy note, a petition to the brewery is being organised at the Woodhouses, an interesting little pub with good beer.

### MOSTON MOVE

Chris and Les Pannell are leaving the Blue Bell, Moston Lane - a GBG Holts pub - to take over a wine shop in Ordsall Shopping Precinct. We are sorry to lose them from the pub, but if anyone wants a good bottle of wine they will probably do well to seek out "Cellar 5".

We extend our best wishes to the new managers, Jackie and Dave Williams, who took over on 27th February.

### MOORHOUSES

Moorhouses bitter is now available at Tom's Tavern, Heatley Street, Preston. This brings the total number of real ales available in the town to 23 (excluding seasonal strong ales) from 15 breweries.

### VAULT FAULT

The Victoria Vaults, King Street West, Stockport, has been closed by Wilsons for 'structural repairs and internal redecorating'. The brewery say it will be 'closed for quite a considerable time and the work is going to cost several thousand pounds'.

### QUARRY CURRY WORRY

After a period of famine, the Quarry Bank, Bloomsbury Lane, Timperley, is



serving lunches again. I gather an unreasonable request from VATman was responsible for a re-assessment of the pricing structure. It's still good value and customers travel some distance for the curry. The beer is Hydes, which at present is as much as 10p a pint cheaper than other local competitors.

#### NEW MAN

The new Head Brewer at J W Lees is Mr Giles Dennis. Mr Dennis replaces Peter Cole, now Managing Director of Yates & Jackson, Lancaster. The new man comes to Middleton Junction via Scottish & Newcastle and Vaux breweries, but then nobody's perfect and we are sure traditional beers will continue to flow unabated from the Greengate brewery.

#### SWISS PISS

As reported in February's What's Brewing, Watneys are test marketing Birell, a non-alcoholic lager from Swiss brewers Hurliman, in 50 Wilsons pubs in the North West. A quick survey locally showed a pub in Altrincham selling 'about one bottle a week' (and a Trafford & Hulme committee member drank one of those) and a very busy pub in Sale getting through as many as two a week. That should boost Grand Met's profits.

#### MORE CHESTERS IN OLDHAM

The Nelson, Union Street, is now selling Chesters cask bitter alongside all the usual fizz.

#### PITY WHITTY

The Whitworth Hotel on Moss Lane East, Rusholme, which gleans much of its custom from the student population of the area, has had to go over to keg mild. Previously, the cask mild was knocked off only during student holidays, due to poor turnover. But now the sales have declined so much even during term-time that the beer was spoiling. However, the "Whitty" is still well worth a visit for a pint of well kept Burton Bitter and excellent Pedigree.

#### PRINCESS PLEA

The Princess, on the corner of Princess Road and Mauldeth Road West, is closed and is being re-processed by Whitbread. It will re-open as a "Beefeater" restaurant. What chance Chesters real ale?

#### POETRY CORNER

We, the customers in the Carters Arms  
Like old Dave and Mary's charms  
We like the booze - we think it's great  
But the decor there is in a state

Just last week, my mind recalls ...

I saw a mouse in overalls!

It does need cleaning, I have no doubt

You wipe your feet - when you go out

So come on Marstons - don't hesitate

Get down the Carters and decorate

Smarten up and add some cheer

You never know - might sell more beer!

( This plea comes from the  
regulars of the Carters Arms, a  
Good Beer Guide pub on  
Northenden Road, Sale Moor.  
Perhaps the brewery would  
consider a lick of paint in  
time for its reward as pub of  
the month for April)

## YARN

After weeks of sporadic opening, selling a variety of beers, the Spinners on Oldfield Road, Salford, is now open on a more permanent basis with a new licensee. Problems of gas flow should disappear now that handpumped Marstons is once more available.

## BODDIFICATIONS

The Bowling Green, Ormskirk Road, Wigan, adjoining the old Farrimond Brewery, is to be Boddified, using the cottage and the old Post Office next door. When complete, the "knock through" will make a very large lounge. Work is expected to start in the next two or three months. If the sight of work bothers you, the Bowling Green sells take-home beer in two and five gallon containers.

## ICI IRKS PUB CUSTOMERS

ICI have closed their car park next to the River Irk, which is used by customers of the Old House at Home. During the day, cars which formerly used the unpaved riverside plot are littered all over Blackley. ICI have applied for permission to tunnel under Bottomley Side - God knows why. The Old House is an isolated pub with room for only two or three cars at the end of Bottomley Side. The permanent closure of the car park could mean a serious loss of trade to the pub, which only two years ago was saved from demolition by a campaign against, guess who, ICI.

## FRIARING LINE

The Jolly Friar, Lloyd Street, Altrincham, is under new management yet again. Bob Morrall took over in mid January to become the fourth landlord since it re-opened as "the first pub/old style fish restaurant in the country" in September 1979. Bob comes from the New Long Bar Club in Manchester and says he sees this new position as being "definitely permanent". The restaurant has re-opened at lunchtimes (the 'chippy' idea went out months ago) and traditional Sunday lunches will soon be available. The Friar serves a good pint of Greenalls cask bitter, but the mild is keg.

## SADDLEWORTH '81

For the third successive year the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch of CAMRA are to titillate the palates of the beer swilling masses at their beer festival in Saddleworth. The venue, as

before, is the Civic Hall, Uppermill, near Oldham. The festival will be open Friday 1st May (evening session), Saturday 2nd May (lunchtime and evening) and Sunday 3rd May (lunchtime only). Good food at reasonable prices will be available throughout, with entertainment (Brass and Oompah) during the evening sessions. There will be a small charge at the door (free to card-carrying CAMRA members, of course!) plus a returnable glass deposit. Proceeds once again go to the Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery extension fund. So come and get legless for charity; it will give you a purpose in life. Details of beers available, admission charges, public transport, etc, next month.



## COMPETITION CORNER

The Borough of Trafford are offering the grand prize of £25 for the most appropriate name for the licensed bar at Sale Leisure Centre. The competition is sponsored by John Smiths brewery, to whom the bar is tied. Trafford & Hulme branch offer four free pints (of the real stuff) for the most amusing suggestion. Entries to Mick Rottenbury, 50 Poplar Grove, Sale, Cheshire M33 3AY

Contributors: David Rowlinson, Brian Gleave, Steve Lawton, Roger Hall, Alan Ball, Pete Ogden, Humphrey Higgins, Haggis Eater, Peter O'Grady, Mick Rottenbury, Jimmy Ribble

## CITY DESK



THE BREWERS, Pall Mall, has now closed (the rest of the building is also boarded-up) It seems as though the whole site is up for sale - and the telephone number given for enquiries produces the "number unobtainable" tone. What a strange to-do!

A welcome addition to the range of beers available at the COACH AND HORSES, London Road, opposite Piccadilly Station, is handpumped Saxon Cross bitter. This maintains the presence of Saxon Cross in Manchester following the demise of the St Ann's Tavern, still closed.

The SEVENOAKS, Nicholas Street, has added Chesters Bitter to the Draught Bass available in the ground floor bar. City Desk's "mole" said the launching party was a gas - although that word seems inappropriate somehow.

Changes seem to be afoot at the SMITHFIELD VAULTS, Swan Street. On a very recent walk around the area this Greenall's pub was closed up - a state of affairs that one hopes won't last too long. More news as and when available.

Peter Gildes, the manager of the TOWN HALL TAVERN, Tib Lane, off Cross Street, despite professing an allegiance to "Chemical beer" serves a wonderful pint of Draught Bass and pours a perfect White Shield. Rumour has it that enquiries are to be made into the possibility of providing cask conditioned 4X mild at this famous city centre hostelry, which in the past has been used as a Coroner's Court. You can be assured, however, that present day customers are not kept 'hanging about'.

SINCLAIR'S OYSTER BAR, Old Shambles, is due to open at the beginning of March. The former free house is to retain many of the features which made it such a popular venue and Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter (handpumped) will be available in the bars on both levels. This is the only Sam Smiths outlet in the city centre.

JUST FANCY THAT! Once Sinclair's opens its doors, Central Manchester will be provided with real ale from no fewer than sixteen different brewers:- Bass, Boddingtons, Burtonwood, Greenalls, Holts, Hydes, Lees, Marstons, McEwans, Pollards, Robinsons, Sam Smiths, Tetleys, Whitbread, Wilsons, Winkles.

Peter O'Grady

# PUB OF THE MONTH

The South Manchester Pub of the Month for March is the Bulls Head, London Road, Manchester. A comfortable and busy pub, the Bulls Head was one of the Wilsons/Burtonwood pub swaps last year, and the Social Night at which the presentation of the Pub of the Month award will be made, Thursday March 26, is the first anniversary of the change to Burtonwood.

There's an emphasis on food in the pub, with full meals served at lunchtime and hot snacks available throughout the evening. There is also a very active social club and the darts team welcome friendly matches, on either London or Manchester boards, against all comers.

George and Vera Fitzhugh have been tenants at the Bulls Head for eighteen months and George has spent 12 years in the trade, having previously been licensee at the Pineapple in Shaw and the Plough in Werneth. George and Vera's Oldham origins will be reflected in the buffet on the 26th, with the provision of "Duck-a-Muffin".

Also available on the night will be the much underrated Burtonwood Light Mild. As part of the effort to save the beer, which is under threat due to low sales, George is laying in an 18-gallon cask for sale as a 'special' for CAMRA.

Humphrey Higgins

(The photo shows the pub in the days of Wilsons ales and trams - Courtesy Wilsons Brewery)





# GROTTY GREENALLS

South Lancs Branch have been surveying all their real ale pubs for a new local beer guide. It is two years since the last guide was published and in that time it is quite disturbing to see what damage Greenall Whitley have done to the cask beer cause. Below are listed all the closures/conversions, and it is clear that if the same pattern is shown throughout the Greenall empire, the future for real ale, particularly cask mild, looks very bleak.

## CLOSURES

Pig & Whistle, St Helens  
Scarbrick Arms, St Helens  
Fleece, Ashton-in-Makerfield  
(Temp - tank on reopening)

## CASK TO KEG

Queens Arms, Platt Bridge  
Owls Nest, Haydock  
British Queen, Pemberton

## CASK TO TANK

Grange Park Hotel, St Helens  
Griffin Inn, St Helens  
Bay Horse, Ashton-in-Makerfield  
Alexandra, Wigan

Golden Ball, Bryn  
Owl Inn, Upholland  
Balcarres Arms, Wigan



In addition, chilled and filtered mild has replaced real mild in the following pubs:

Lingholme Hotel, St Helens  
Black Horse, Shevington  
Britannia, Bryn  
Windmill, Parbold  
Robin Hood, Orrell  
Hand and Heart, Hindley

Mechanics, Bickershaw  
Forresters, Shevington  
Star, Rainford  
White Swan, Lower Ince  
Millstone, Wigan

It can be seen, therefore, that 24 pubs owned by Greenalls have lost at least one real ale inside two years in the South Lancs area. Surely it is time for a concentrated CAMRA campaign against this most malicious and monopolistic of brewers.

Ian Ogden

# BOOKS



The Pubs and Breweries of Macclesfield is the first of a three-volume history, dealing with the public houses in Market Place, Mill Street and the streets off in a wealth of detail - and there were 52 of them in 1891!

Among the fascinating tales unearthed by the authors is the one about the landlord of the Angel, Market Place, being taken hostage by supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Then there was the Derby Street landlord who took such a dislike to Irishmen after a group of them broke his windows that he refused to sell Irish whiskey ever after.

The breweries covered in this volume are Lonsdale and Adshead, North Cheshire and the Lion Brewery and here too, interesting and sometimes amusing personal histories are revealed alongside the technical detail. Picture John Adshead, for example, cycling to work with two Yorkshire terriers in his coat pockets or the dismay of the directors of the North Cheshire Brewery when they heard that a cow had collided with one of their drays!

The book will be of interest to locals for its precision in recording names, events and places, and to outsiders for the remarkably successful way in which it recreates the atmosphere of Macclesfield as it was. The many old photographs, advertisements and beer labels with which it is illustrated help towards this.

Written by Paul Wreglesworth, with help from Neil Richardson and Alan Gall, the book is well worth the cover price of £1.50 and I for one shall be first in the queue for volume two.

JG

(Available from Paul Wreglesworth, 81 Thornton Ave, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7XL for £1.70 including postage)

## CHESHIRE REAL ALE GUIDE

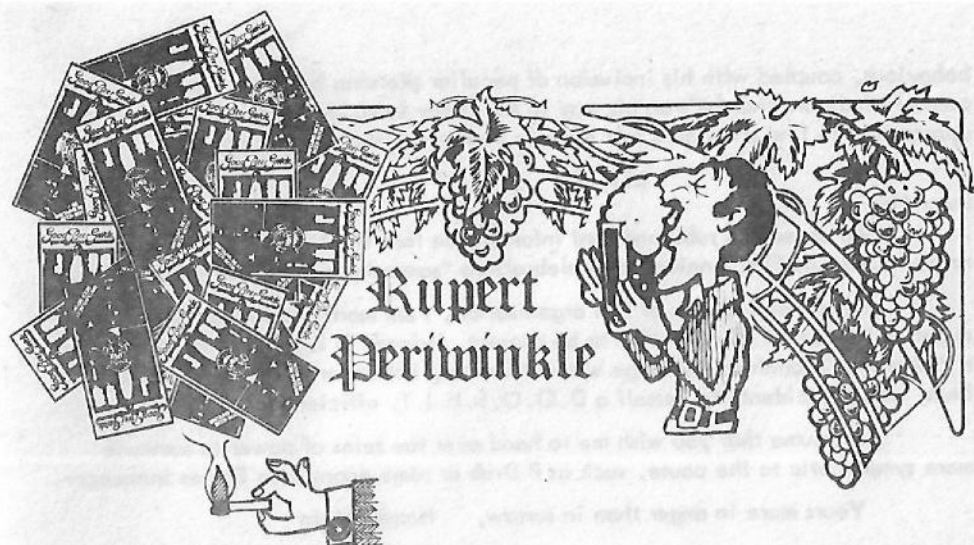
The first all-Cheshire real ale guide will be published this month. It is comprehensive - 600 pubs - and gives pub description and facilities. Towns have street maps and there are also district maps. There are tourist descriptions of each district, brewery descriptions and a brewery nostalgia section.

The cover price is 75p (£1.00 inc postage & packing) but CAMRA branches can get them cheaper. All enquiries to Roy Walker, Highfield, Chester Road, Little Budworth, Tarporley, Cheshire CW8 9ER

## The PUBS and BREWRIES of MACCLESFIELD



1 Paul Wreglesworth, Neil Richardson, Alan Gall £1.50



I'd like to take this opportunity of putting one or two things straight. In certain quarters pernicious rumours have been circulating which erode the unity of the Campaign. Only the other night Tish and Fiona were suggesting that Tom Android had lost both his marbles and his grip on the Campaign. This is pure malicious gossip, taking advantage of someone who's not yet found his feet. Tom evidently rules the Campaign with a bar of iron. A case in point is the new Smash the Big Six booklet which was launched in complete secrecy. No cabinet leaks here. He also commands the respect of a talented team which includes Hamish Himmel, Peter Hammerstein, Dick Head and the dynamic trio of Bogbrush, Clockwork-Nun and Zimbabwe-Talbot, who are doing a grand job of boring breweries into not phasing out marginal beers.

As though it were an established fact rather than a wild rumour, Fiona went on to talk about a scandal concerning the 1979 Amber Nectar Guides. It is simply not true that Boomerang Books pulped 17,000 copies of this toper's vademecum after they'd appeared in the Campaign's accounts as sold. It therefore follows that vicious accusations about hiding the deficit in the accounts for the 1980 version are similarly unfounded. This guide just didn't sell very well and that's why the over tall Boris Pratt's job is on the line - nothing to do whatsoever with Machiavellian machinations at the top and ongoing Watergate-like situations. It's obvious that the depletion of the funds is as a result of inflation rather than mismanagement and incompetence. Tom Android has his finger on the pulse.

Simple expedients to make the guide more profitable, like selling it before Christmas, are somewhat naive. The books would be snapped up by the hoi polloi and our select hostelrys would be crammed with whippet breeders and pigeon fanciers in cloth caps and braces, accompanied by their ugly wives drinking bottles of Mackeson and pouring tomato ketchup all over their chicken-in-the-baskets. No wonder Boris has flipped and started talking about his impending chop to his hack acquaintances. He even arranged, in conjunction with the Noble, two North West launches of this year's guide in two pubs on the same day at the same time. This



behaviour, coupled with his inclusion of peculiar sketches between the hostelries, seems to indicate that he's on his way to the funny farm, or perhaps it may be more appropriate to find a suitable salt mine in Northwich that he can manage.

#### LETTER

Dear Sir,

An obese and rubicund bird informed me that D.O.G.S.H.I.T. has recently held its First Anniversary celebrations "somewhere in Grotley".

As self-styled Boss of this organisation, I am mortified to hear about this event as I received no invitation to be present. Indeed, it is tantamount to holding a World War II anniversary binge without inviting Hitler (or at least E Clockwork-Nun, who is incidentally herself a D.O.G.S.H.I.T. aficionado).

I assume that you wish me to hand over the reins of power to someone more sympathetic to the cause, such as P Drab or some anonymous Eccles innkeeper.

Yours more in anger than in sorrow, Hammerstein

## TWADDLE

☐ **Courage** is going national with its John Smith's bitter in 16 ounce cans. The bitter is brewed and canned at the company's Tadcaster brewery and it is supporting the national launch with a £1m television campaign. The move into cans is the result of demand for regional beers.

MARKETING WEEK

Dave and Maureen will be delighted to see you, and you can sample a fine selection of beers (including Stones Bitter, Toby Light, Carling Black Label and Hemeling Lager on draught).

WEST MANCHESTER NEWS

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# NORTH MANCHESTER CLUBS SURVEY

## Swinton & Pendlebury

Beer in clubs is receiving much attention from CAMRA at national level and a survey is being conducted throughout the Manchester region. As a first step a small group of North Manchester members visited all ten major political and social clubs within a single town in the course of two evenings. (There are also about 7 works, sports or religious clubs)

The town also has 29 pubs, 19 of them serving real ale and representing 9 different breweries, so it would be interesting to see how this wide choice and availability of real ale compared with the picture in the clubs.

We did not contact the clubs in advance to tell them we were coming, but on arrival we explained who we were, the purpose of the survey and asked to see the Secretary, Steward or somebody who could answer our questions. Despite our unannounced arrival, we found all the clubs very co-operative and willing to talk to us. In quite a number we were invited to try the beer and we gladly availed ourselves of the real ale which we found in fair supply.

We gathered details of all bulk beers; real ale, tank beer, keg, drum and lager: availability, price and, where significant, turnover in terms of barrels per week. (One club \* was unable to give us barrelage but ranked the beer in order of popularity). It is important to know the details of non-real beers as well as the real stuff if we are to build up a meaningful picture of the clubs.

The results of the survey are shown here in the form of a table, but the main findings can be summarised as follows:

- 1 Real ale was available in half the clubs visited
- 2 In all these clubs real ale sold well, although it was not always the most popular single beer.
- 3 As a proportion of total sales in those clubs where it was available, real ale accounted for 37% of barrelage. Over the whole town it represented 24% of volume.
- 4 With few exceptions, mild was more popular than bitter irrespective of whether it was real ale or not. Total sales of mild were  $86\frac{1}{2}$  barrels per week, compared with  $54\frac{1}{2}$  barrels of bitter. Real bitter surpassed real mild only because it was more widely available. In the one club where real mild and bitter were both on sale (and from the same brewery), the mild sold  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times as much as the bitter.
- 5 Lager sales accounted for 13% of total volume. Sales of "Lite" and "Pils" were abysmal.
- 6 Prices were generally lower than in pubs, in a few cases significantly lower, but there are several reasons for this which are discussed below.
- 7 Those clubs with real ale were happy with the way it was selling. In the clubs with only tank or keg beers there was no indication that they would wish to change,

although such decisions are usually made by a committee. One club with high sales expressed concern at the prospect of managing some 30 casks per week if it were to change over completely.

PC

CLUB	REAL ALE				TANK BEER				OTHER										BULK BEERS (DRAK & CO)										LAGERS		
	Mod's Mitter	Ord's Mild	Hyde Bitter	Pet's Mild	Pet's Mild	Pet's Mild	Webster D. Mild	Pet's Mild	Pet's Mild	Webster's D. Mild	Ben Smith Mild	Tommy Mitter	John Smith Mild	Stones Mitter	Bess Mild	Thwaites's L. Mild	Hitt Mild	Greenwell Mild	Robson Mild	Onlons Stout	Ordinary	Lite	Mil's								
SWINTON LAGER	40p 8 B				50p 8 B				40p		30p 40p									40p	Alpine 44p 5 B Wynker 44p		40p								
SWINTON STOUT				50p 5 B					40p																						
BRACKLEY COGS.								30p 3 B	40p 2 B				34p 5 B	34p 2 B	41p 14 B	50p 4 B					Orkney 43p 14 B	Ham 43p 14 B	47p 14 B								
PARLIAMENTARY COGS.																		30p 2 B 1 B	41p		Orkney 46p										
SWINTON COGS.	40p 4 B							50p 5 B	40p 2 B	(Revell) 30p										50p	Reinsum 48p	Arctic 48p									
PARLIAMENTARY BRITISH LAGER		50p 9 B	34p 2 B		37p 10 B	30p 7 B														45p 1 B	Indusa 57p 5 B	Arctic 48p 2 galls									
SWINTON BRITISH LAGER	50p 12 B				35p 10 B				50p 23										55p 2 B	46p	Harv 47p 5 B	Arctic 47p 7 galls									
PARLIAMENTARY KINGS'										50p 24 B	30p 6 B					37p 4 B	37p 6 B	30p 1 B			Arlington 44p 4 B		54p 1 B								
BROOKH SOCIAL					40p 9 B				50p 24 B	40p 2 B				40p 2 B							Orkney 46p 24 B										
MOORHILL SOCIAL					37p 10 B	30p 10 B								30p 4 B	37p 3 B		30p 2 B		37p 3 B		Skol 40p Orkney 46p Alpine 44p										
TOTAL	24 B	9 B	2 B	5 B	36 B	7 B	9 B	6 B	6 B	24 B	2 B	24 B	5 B	2 B	34 B	4 B	6 B	1 B	2 B	1 B	24 B	14 B	20 B	14 B							
TOTAL REAL MILD = 14 Barrels				TOTAL TANK MILD = 45 Barrels				TOTAL OTHER MILD = 275 Barrels																				TOTAL LAGER = 24 Barrels			
TOTAL REAL BITTER = 26 Barrels				TOTAL TANK BITTER = 7 Barrels				TOTAL OTHER BITTER = 214 Barrels																							
TOTAL REAL ALE = 40 Barrels				TOTAL TANK BEER = 52 Barrels				TOTAL OTHER BEERS = 50 Barrels																							

There is a considerable difference between the prices of beer in the clubs and the prices in pubs in the area. On average, clubs sell beer at about 3p or 4p a pint cheaper than the pubs. In some cases the difference can be as high as 8p. There are three main reasons for the lower prices in clubs:

1 Brewery loans and subsidies Many clubs receive loans from breweries at preferential rates in exchange for a partial tie to the brewery for a number of years. A £40,000 interest free loan might be worth £8,000 per annum to the club.

**2 Fruit Machines** The maximum payout from a pub fruit machine is £2.00, compared with £400 in a club. Jackpot machines in a fairly busy club can easily bring in profits of over £10,000 each per annum.

3 Rates The rates which pubs pay are based on the barrelage of beer which the pub turns over. Our discussions with club officials indicated that clubs are not assessed in this way and that their rates would be significantly higher if they were assessed on the same basis as public houses.

A club with a turnover of, say, 20 barrels per week may, because of brewery loans and fruit machine profits, be able to subsidise the price of beer by 4p or 5p



per pint, which would result in an annual subsidy of £10,000 - £12,000. Of course, reduced prices often lead to increased turnover and a reduction of overheads per pint served, so that reduced prices may actually increase rather than decrease profits.

RH

## LETTERS

Dear Sir,

Readers, especially female readers, might be interested to know that the landlord of the Oddfellows, Abbey Hey Lane, Openshaw, has apparently never heard of equality - he refuses to serve women in the bar, as I discovered to my embarrassment and disgust a couple of weeks ago, being the only female with a group of six blokes.

After I had walked out, he apparently said that he was 'afraid I would be offended by the language I might hear'. Surely that's my decision? So a word or warning to any unsuspecting females who might happen to go there - or perhaps we should go there in force?!

Yours, Lindsey Hutchinson

Dear Sir,

In response to a suggestion in the February issue of What's Doing, concerning recommended real ale hostelrys near football grounds outside Greater Manchester, I would offer a few possibilities:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Aston Villa:         | Sacks of Potatoes, Gosta Green, Birmingham  |
|                      | M&B Mild, Draught Bass  |
| Stoke City:          | Uncle Tom's Cabin, Corporation Street   |
|                      | Marstons Pedigree (and excellent pies!)   |
| Middlesbrough:       | Do your supping in Stockton-on-Tees!  |
| Coventry:            | Biggin Hall Hotel, Binley Road  |
|                      | Marstons  |
| Crystal Palace:      | The Ship, Norwood High Street   |
|                      | Wethereds   |
| Derby County:        | The Red Lion, Hollington (off A52 west of Derby - well worth finding)                               |
|                      | Marstons Pedigree   |
| Newcastle:           | Trent House, Leazes Lane; The Haymarket, Percy Street   |
|                      | Both McEwans 80/-   |
| Bristol Rovers:      | The Ship, Lower Park Row. Various brews, including Smiles, Hook Norton, Wadworth. Also 'guest' ales |
| Liverpool & Everton: | The Anfield, Church Street (nearer to Goodison Park) Higsons  |
| Partick Thistle:     | (Should your team ever enter the Anglo-Scottish Cup)  |
|                      | Kessington, Maryhill Road, Glasgow. MacLays   |



This idea was apparently initiated by Peterborough supporters. I should like to nominate one of their 'home' pubs, the Elephant and Castle, Bridge Street. However, it appears unable to cater for a large number of visiting supporters: when City were

in town on 14th Feb, the supply of Wethereds bitter could not match Mancunian thirsts.

Yours, Rob Dunford

PS: Experience has shown that the best way to get on with 'home' supporters is to discuss over a pint your mutual dislike of Man United.

Dear Sir,

As the author of the original article entitled "Leyland's Loss" (Aug WD), may I be allowed to comment on the alterations to the Eagle & Child, Leyland, as reported in February's issue.

Whilst agreeing that "virtually nothing is left of the old pub", in the physical sense, in my opinion Burtonwood have kept their promise to "retain the essential character" of the pub. Whilst the small rooms have gone, intelligent use of lighting and retention of dividing walls manage to recreate the "small room" atmosphere, whilst at the same time removing the feeling that by entering such a "room" one is intruding on a private party, which was a feature of the old pub. Whilst the pub is, temporarily at least, being invaded by what passes for the trendy set of Leyland, this is presumably merely due to its novelty value. On the credit side, a bar billiards table has been installed rather than the ubiquitous pool. The new Eagle and Child is not better than the old, neither is it worse. It is merely different.

Yours, Jimmy Ribble

## KNOW YOUR ENTERPRISE ZONES

Keen followers of local government affairs may have yawned in their pints at the recent announcement designating parts of Trafford Park and Salford Docks area as an "Enterprise Zone". Whilst the scheme is ostensibly designed to encourage industrial entrepreneurs, the commercial sector will not be immune from its effect - and will be able to take advantage of some of the incentives.

In Salford, a number of public houses are within the boundaries of the 375 acre zone. They are:

Eccles New Road: Waverley, Osborne

Trafford Road: Clowes, Trafford, Broadway

Regent Road: Gas Tavern, Live & Let Live, Duke of York, Albert, Spread Eagle, Gloucester, Grove, Wellington

The majority of these currently sell real ale.

As the scheme is still in the embryonic stage, the implications for existing - and future - public houses are not yet clear. Some of the benefits include: exemption from rates on industrial and commercial property and from Development Land Tax; 100% capital allowances for industrial and commercial buildings; simplified and relaxed planning procedures.

The response of 'free market forces' has been predictable. Land and property prices, both sale and rental, have risen considerably in parts of the Zone compared with outside locations. This could create pressure for disposal of existing licensed

premises on desirable sites, encouraging breweries to sell, followed by demolition. On the other hand, the overheads of running a pub may be reduced with the non-domestic parts of the building no longer subject to rates.

Reports have indicated that any type of shop will be allowed to set up business within the Zone. According to the MEN (9.12.80) "... dotted about the Zone would be smaller premises like chip shops, bookmakers and banks to supply the day-to-day needs of the workers." It is to be hoped there will be more pubs, to refresh the toiling masses in the sweat shops!

It would be welcome if the breweries were encouraged by the financial incentives to repair and improve existing premises and invest their wealth in building new pubs to aid the social and economic regeneration of the area. However, it is surely too much to hope that the rate of construction of new pubs will go anywhere near to matching the numbers lost by demolition in this part of Salford.

R S Dunford

(NB Another incentive is relaxation of the criteria applied to private customs warehouses in the Zone. Now there's a thought: smugglers up the Ship Canal and cheap spirits in the Broadway!)

## PUB SWAPS

HAMERS ARMS, Summerseat (Wilsons - Matthew Brown)

Matthew Brown have replaced the cask Wilsons with cask Lion, served by pillar taps. The John Peel (if you can read the pump clip) and Matty's Light are both keg. A strange pub to swap; the only immediate competition is the Footballers (Whitbread) across the road. The Hamers has been steadily doing more trade, more than anything due to the dissatisfaction of the locals with the Footballers.

TURF HOTEL Bury (Wilsons - Matthew Brown)

Again cask mild and bitter have been retained on electric metered pumps. The handpumps still remain, disused, on the vault bar.

LORD RAGLAN Radcliffe (Whitbread - Tetley)

Always a popular pub, the tanks have stayed for the mild and bitter; Warrington Ale has been introduced at 50p a pint. It's difficult to understand why Whitbread wanted rid of this pub. Though they do have 13 others in Radcliffe, this was probably the best of the lot.

Don Chattwood

**Pseudos  
Corner**

For your information, Bogbrush is one of the most celebrated correspondents of Mersey Drinker, the local beer boys rag affiliated to the Campaign for Real Ale. Editor Ian MacMillan (31), tells me that Bogbrush is "a man about town... a sort of professional drop out" and as the chatty and well-spoken Mr. Mac has driven buses, run a real ale off-licence and is currently working as a British Rail guard, I popped the inevitable question: is it thee? "Ooh... aaah" came the reply, fol-

**MERSEYSCENE**



(ILLUSTRATION  
IN 1981  
GOOD BEER  
GUIDE)



## Real Ale Guides

The following publications are available from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester. The guides are updated from time to time so if you know of any changes please contact the relevant branch - see Branch Diary.

### REAL ALE IN HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Including Marple, Hyde, Ashton, Audenshaw, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Mossley & Denton. 10p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN SOUTH MANCHESTER

- Gorton, Openshaw, Clayton, Didsbury, etc 10p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN STOCKPORT

- Hazel Grove, Cheadle, Heaton Mersey, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN SALFORD

- Swinton, Eccles, Irlam, Worsley 10p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN ROCHDALE

Heywood, Littleborough, Middleton etc 10p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN ROSSENDALE

- Bacup, Haslingden, Helmshore, Rawtenstall etc 10p + s.a.e.

### INNS OF MAN

- Illustrated comprehensive guide to the island's tied houses 50p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN TRAFFORD & HULME

- Altrincham, Sale, Urmston etc. with maps 10p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN CENTRAL MANCHESTER

A comprehensive guide to the real ale outlets within 1 mile of St Peter's Square. Map, illustrated 50p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN OLDHAM

- Failsworth, Royton, Chadderton, Shaw, Saddleworth, 10p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN BURY

- Ramsbottom, Radcliffe, Tottington, Whitefield, Prestwich, 10p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER NORTH

- city centre, Ancoats, Collyhurst, Newton Heath, Moston, Blackley, Cheetham etc 10p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN CENTRAL AND NORTH CHESHIRE

- Warrington, Widnes, Runcorn, Lymm, Frodsham, Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford 10p + s.a.e.

### THE ROAD TO WIGAN BEER

- Leigh, Atherton, Standish, Skelmersdale, Newton etc, fully illustrated, maps. 35p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN ST HELENS

- Sutton, Peasley Cross, Thatto Heath, Moss Nook, Eccleston, Parr, etc 10p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN GREATER GROTLEY

- Slumley, Smarmford & Slutch, Poshton & Pseudley 10p + s.a.e.

### GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD BEER GUIDE

A selective guide to about 1,000 pubs in Greater Manchester - Bury, Stockport, Oldham, Salford, Trafford, Wigan, Bolton, Rochdale, Leigh, Tameside, etc. 64pp. £1.00 + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN BURY METRO

A 20-page guide to Whitefield, Ramsbottom, etc, with maps, illustrated, brewery history, etc. 50p + s.a.e.

### REAL ALE IN HIGH PEAK

Inc. Glossop, New Mills, Whalley Bridge, Buxton 15p + s.a.e.

## Pub & Brewery Histories

The following publications are available from Alan Gall, 22 Stoneleigh Drive, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 9HA

SALFORD'S PUBS NO 1 95p inc postage

SALFORD'S PUBS NO 2 80p inc postage

SALFORD'S PUBS NO 3 80p inc postage

SALFORD'S PUBS NO 4 95p inc postage

NOVEMBER SKIES (200 years of licensing in Salford)

£1.44 inc post

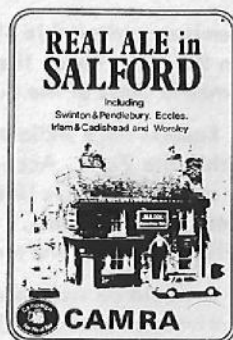
THE PUBS OF BLACKLEY £1.20 inc post

WIGAN'S PUBS NO 1 50p inc postage

WIGAN'S PUBS NO 2 50p inc postage

THE PUBS AND BREWERIES OF MACCLESFIELD

NO 1 £1.70 inc post





## Branch Diary

### SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs Mar 12 Branch Meeting, Gateway, Wilmslow Road, E Didsbury: Discussion on Durham AGM Agenda  
 Thurs Mar 26th 8.00pm: Pub of Month, Bulls Head, 84 London Road, Manchester 1 (Burtonwood)  
 Thurs April 9. 8.00pm Gateway, Wilmslow Road, E Didsbury: Branch AGM  
 Contact: Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

### BOLTON

Fri 20 March. Coach to Macclesfield Leave Moor Lane 6.45pm  
 Weds 1 April. Trip round Holts Brewery. Coach from Moor Lane 8.00pm  
 Weds 8 April. Branch Meeting, Gypsies Tent, Deansgate 8.30pm  
 Contact: Bert Kerks Bolton 388172

### ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 10 March Branch Meeting Stonemasons (Thwaites) Bridge St, Heywood 8.00pm  
 Tues 24 March 8.00pm Committee Meeting Healey (Robinsons) Shawclough, Rochdale  
 Tues 14 April 8.00pm Branch Meeting White Hart (Lees) Long Street, Middleton  
 Tues 21 April 8.00pm Committee Meeting Wilton (Boddingtons) Manchester Old Rd, Rhodes  
 Wed/Thur 29/30 April (day & evening): Setting up Saddleworth beer fest. Civic Hall, Uppermill, nr Oldham  
 If you can spare the time give us a hand  
 Fri/Sat/Sun 1/2/3 May BEER FESTIVAL OPEN (See elsewhere in this issue)  
 Contact: Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 or 061 236 4411 ext 7236

### SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Weds 11 Mar 8.00pm Bamfurlong Hotel. Pub of the Year Presentation and Branch Meeting  
 Fri 20 Mar 8.00 Pemberton Crawl. Hare and Hounds 8.00  
 Contact Ian Ogden Wigan 79534

### TRAFFORD & HULME

Sun 8 Mar 12.00noon Darts/Doms match v Central & N Cheshire Branch, Windmill, Carrington La, Carrington  
 Thurs 19 Mar 8.00pm Branch Meeting, Melville, Barton Rd, Stretford  
 Thurs 26 Mar 8.00pm Pub of the Month with S Manchester at Bulls Head, London Rd (junction with Whitworth St)  
 Thurs 2 Apr 8.00pm Committee/Social, St Matthews Tavern, Tonman St, Deansgate  
 Contact: Mick Rottenbury 061 969 7013 (home)

### HIGH PEAK AND NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Weds 11 Mar 8.30pm Branch Meeting Navigation, Hyde (please note change of place and date)  
 Tues 7 Apr 8.30pm Branch AGM at the Rams Head, Disley (Please try to be prompt)  
 Sat 11th Apr Trip to Bridgnorth, Salop, and possibly Lichfield, Staffs. For details see Branch Contact)  
 Contact: Tom Lord 061 427 7099

### NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 1 April: All Fools Crawl, Regent Road. NO 10 Dock 7.00pm, Dolls House 8.00pm  
 Weds 8 April: Social Bolton Arms (Scotch Bitter), Manchester. Other branches welcome  
 Weds 15 April 8.00pm Duke of York, Eccles  
 Weds 22 April 7.00pm Clubs survey of Eccles. Meet Duke of York  
 Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

## WASHBROOK'S

Specialist Home Brew Shop  
 59 Halifax Road, Rochdale

MALTED BARLEY GRAIN Lager Malt, Pale Malt, Crystal Malt

26p 1lb £1.65 7lb £11.50 25kg (55lb)

CRUSHED MALT GRAIN 28p 1lb £1.76 7lb £12.50 25kg (55lb)

DRIED MALT EXTRACT Light, Medium, Dark. 66p 1lb £30.30 25kg

LIQUID MALT EXTRACT 2lb £1.16 4lb £2.20 14lb £6.57 28lb £11.75 25kg(55lb)

HOPS 6 varieties 2oz 28p 16oz £2.15 £23.70

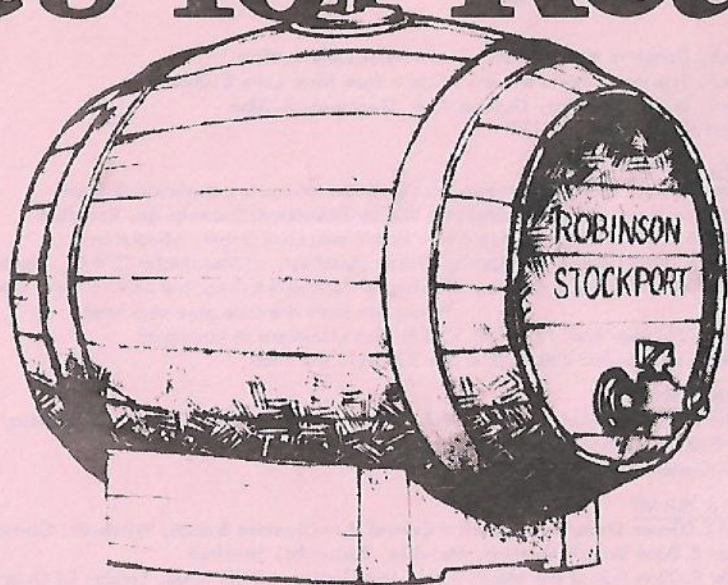
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We at Robinson's think that what matters most about beer is its flavour. That's why we are still brewing beer the same way that we did a hundred years ago. Natural ingredients, the same time-honoured brewing ways, even on the same site - not many can say that!

And you can buy at least one, usually two and sometimes more of the traditional ales listed here in any Robinson's pub within 100 miles of Stockport. Not many can make that sort of claim either.

Now you can have Real Ale at home for parties or just for your own enjoyment. Available in Firkins and Pins\*, complete with tap, stillage and detailed instructions. You can order from any Robinson's On or Off-Licence or Unicorn Wine Shops.

## **Old Tom Ale Best Bitter Ale Bitter Ale\* Best Mild Ale**



Always available from Unicorn Wine, Lower Hillgate, Stockport, (just by the Brewery) 061-480 6571. And it's the cheapest way of buying beer. A little more trouble perhaps but we think you will agree with us that it is worth it.

There are deposits on the casks, stillages and taps, returnable in full when you bring them back. You can borrow glasses, paying only for those you break or fail to return providing you also make appropriate purchases of items to fill them.

We strongly recommend that you place your order as soon as possible for Christmas or New Year use.

It's Robinson's . . . for Real.

\*Bitter Ale not available in Pins

## **When you buy any of these Robinson's Ales, you are buying Traditional Draught Beer -at its very best.**