

WHAT'S DOING

The Newsletter of the North Manchester Branch of CAMRA

No. 7 MAY 1976

MODERNISATION

The Church Inn, Hilton Street, Salford 7, is to be modernised in September. The pub will be enlarged by taking over the cottage next door and electric pumps will replace the handpumps. It has been suggested that the enlarged pub will cater for Boddingtons drinkers dispossessed when the Sun Inn on Great Cheetham Street East closes.

DEMOLITION

Another pub scheduled for demolition in this part of Salford is the Papermakers Arms, a Greenall Whitley house on Back Roman Road. It is expected to come down in the next year along with the remaining houses in the area. The Papermakers is a good pub (as all on

the inaugural Salford 100 pub crawl will remember, if only hazily) so further information is being sought from Salford City Council.

BYE BYE BASS

Cask SB was taken out of the Royal Oak, Pendlebury, three weeks ago, marking the end of a four week test. The experiment has been a failure according to Bass-Charrington.

SAME AGAIN, SAM

The first real Sam Smiths ale to return to our area is in the Windmill on Bolton Road, Pendlebury. The handpumps were fitted on the 5th May and bitter and mild were available about a week later.

BASS NORTH WEST

At the April meeting we were pleased to have as a speaker Alex Omand of Bass North West who talked about the company.

Bass North West covers an area extending from Barrow-in-Furness in the north to Macclesfield in the south and from the Pennines to Portmadoc in North Wales. Bass-Charrington have a high concentration of pubs in areas where they have taken over local breweries. There are 80 pubs around Barrow where R F Casey's brewery was acquired and 220 ex-Masseys pubs in the Burnley area. Bents brewery yielded 150 pubs in Merseyside and in Greater Manchester the takeover of 4 breweries - Cornbrook, Gartside's, Openshaw and Hardys Crown Brewery - gave them another 353 tied houses.

This makes Bass North West a considerable influence in the area. The number of tied houses is greater than Wilsons, Thwaites or Matthew Brown. Only Greenall Whitley with almost 1500 houses is appreciably

bigger.

The breweries currently supplying beer to the North West are Tadcaster, Runcorn and Burton.

Runcorn is a keg only brewery whilst the Tadcaster brewery supplies the regional cask beers - Brew 10 bitter, Toby Light and XXXX Mild. The Burton brewery produces Bass and Worthington best bitter for sale in the North West and in North Wales. Mitchells & Butlers mild is sold for the benefit of holidaying midlanders. Distribution of beer is handled through the depot in Bury.

Mr Omand emphasised that 56% of Bass Charrington pubs in Greater Manchester sell cask conditioned beer. In future the dispense systems will indicate the type of beer (eg. keg, draught) but the existence of top pressure will not be shown. Bass do use both unmalted barley and pelleted hops in brewing.

Mr Omand answered members questions about top pressure, dispense systems, future policy, Cask SB and pub improvements and promised to look into the accuracy of the list of pubs selling cask-conditioned beers.

MEMBERSHIP

Circulating What's Doing to all members in the area attracted possibly an additional 8 people to the April meeting at a cost of £13.00. Perhaps the sale of the Greater Manchester Beer Guide will be a cheaper and more effective means of gaining members.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

In response to your editorial criticising the comments in the Good Beer Guide may I suggest that the following interpretations might help?

Comment

A watering hole for thirsty working men.

Dickens is reputed to have written parts of Pickwick Papers in the breakfast room.

Surrounded by new housing development.

A basic local.

Well-preserved Tudor frontage.

Popular old country pub with horse brasses.

A pleasant pub built before 1600

At a dead end on the banks of the Severn.

Translation

A piss-house in all possible senses.

Avoid- popular with pseuds.

Lock petrol cap and tyres, put radio aerial down.

Bails coca (anag.)

Ageing barmaid.

Expensive.

Duck.

Don't try to drive home.

13th century hotel with a river running through the garden	Don't try to walk home,
Excellent farming pub.	Sow your own barley?
Popular pub with scrubbed tables.	Full of dirty old men?
A pub which favours spirits trade.	Avoid ghosts.
A lively pub with African decor in the lounge.	War dances every Wednesday.
Well kept and clean.	Beer contains soapsuds.
Regular visits from cockle and whelk seller.	Smells of fish.
Friendly and well run.	Stays open after hours.
15th century roadside pub with low beamed ceilings; musty in a pleasant sort of way. In the family for 100 years.	Still run by original land- lord?
An intriguing old pub with friendly service.	Writer fancies barmaid.
A friendly pub with small rooms and low ceilings.	Midgets and children only.
A 300 year old pub in a setting which is superb in summer and eerie in winter.	Writer effeminate and pretentious?

I hope these are of some assistance.

Yours faithfully,

A sympathiser.

WHATS DOING COMPETITION No. 1

Describe a beer in no more than ten words, without using any of the boring old cliches standardised by CAMRA. The most amusing entry will receive a lifetime subscription to Whats Doing. Entries to the editor by 9th June.

SALFORD 100 CLUB

The next three pub crawls in the 1976 Salford 100 series are given below. Anyone is welcome to join in at any point of the crawl, the idea is to eventually have had a drink of every draught real ale in every pub in Salford. All crawls start at 7.00pm

WEDNESDAY 26 MAY TRAFFORD ROAD

1 St James Tavern	Markendale Street	GW
2 Salisbury	Trafford Road	GW
3 Broadway	Dock Road	Holts
4 Trafford	Trafford Road	Wilsons
5 Clowes	Trafford Road	Wilsons
6 Railway	Cross Lane	GW
7 Wellington	Cross Lane	Wilsons

WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE LOWER BROUGHTON

1 Albert Park	Duke Street	Marstons
2 Duke of York	Duke Street	Boddingtons
3 Carlton	Camp Street	Tetley
4 Alexandra	Lower Broughton Road	GW
5 Brunswick	Union Street	GW
6 Original	Lower Broughton Road	Wilsons

WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE GREENGATE

1 Old Ship	Chapel Street	Boddingtons
2 Old Shears	Greengate	Wilsons
3 Three Legs of Man	Greengate	Robinsons
4 Flying Horse	Greengate	Tetley
5 Waterloo	Greengate	Wilsons
6 Eagle Inn	Collier Street	Holts
7 King William IV	Springfield Lane	Marstons

TREND UNIVERSITY

EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BF

(Imbibing Pseudology)

TIME 3 HOURS

Candidates should answer not more than FOUR questions

1 Give an account of the methods available for the production of seething apoplexy amongst regulars in a pub being visited by Camra members. Discuss critically the mechanisms proposed and their experimental validity.

2 The following indisputable definitive descriptions have been applied to the beers of Greater Manchester:-

Light and smooth; a light creamy brew; thin and pale but well balanced; a fairly rich flavour; dark and hoppy; thin and light; a well balanced brew; pleasant light and hoppy; well balanced and creamy; thin and malty.

Indicate to which beers these descriptions apply and demonstrate how the possession of this technical vocabulary improves the drinkers appreciation of his beer.

3 Evaluate the success of high gravity beers with particular reference to Hendersons L.J.

4 "The handpump and the wooden barrel are as essential to beer drinking as Keg Buster T-shirts and Camra cufflinks" Discuss.

5 Write a letter to either:-

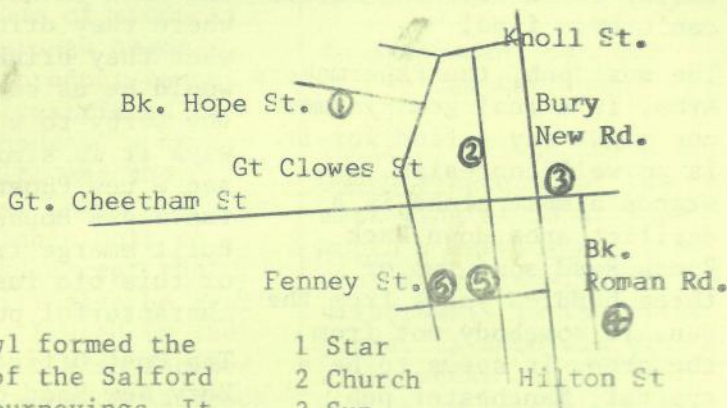
(a) Our teetotal Prime Minister recommending immediate implementation of the Errol Report in order that pubs can be open all the time and full of screaming children.

(b) Ms Jill Tweedie explaining that women who wear overalls and swear profanely are upsetting the male patrons of the vault.

6 Outline a motion for the 1977 AGM of Camra Inc. suggesting that racked, filtered, chilled, pasteurised, sterilised and pressurised beer, draught sherry, liquid paraffin BP, Creme de Menthe and methylated spirits should be officially accepted as real ale.

NORTH MANCHESTER PUB CRAWLS

HIGHER BROUGHTON



This pub crawl formed the first 'leg' of the Salford 100 Club's journeyings. It takes in six pubs in the area of Higher Broughton and can be comfortably covered on foot or bicycle. Start from the corner of Bury New Road and Knoll Street, easily accessible by bus.

The Star, Back Hope Street, is one of the three Robinsons pubs in Salford. It is an interesting old building, low and unobtrusive, with large window bays used for seating. Being close to the University campus, the Star is often full of students who seem to mingle happily enough with the locals of whom there are still plenty. It has two small rooms, one containing a pool table, and a larger room where the ladies play darts on a Monday night. One extremely pleasant feature of the pub is its outside tables and chairs contained in an open, three-sided 'room', which the sun's rays warm up delightfully on summers

- 1 Star
- 2 Church
- 3 Sun
- 4 Papermakers
- 5 Post Office
- 6 Dover

evenings. Live music is sometimes available from folk groupson a Wednesday evening. The handpumped mild and best and ordinary bitter are consistently good.

Crossing Great Clowes Street, twist and turn your way to the Church on Hilton Street. This is an old fashioned beer only Boddingtons pub standing almost on the border of the old houses of Higher Broughton and the newer buildings across Bury New Rd. Handpumped mild and bitter are the order of the day. It seems a fairly quiet pub with three rooms, the larger one with a coal fire. The Sun, across the main road on Gt. Cheetham Street, is also a Boddingtons pub, but less well kept than the Church. It is, nonetheless, noisy and

popular and has the distinction of a gents toilet which half the locals can't even find!

The next pub, the Papermakers Arms, is a real gem - almost one might say a find for it is so well concealed. It stands almost alone in a derelict area down Back Roman Road some two or three hundred yards from the Sun. To somebody not from the area, it seems to be a typical Manchester pub. Three rooms separated from one another by a narrow corridor, all with plain seats and tables and all small enough to seem crowded with a half-dozen regulars in. Etched glass, tiled corridors, wood panelling around the bar. The Greenall Whitley mild and bitter served through metered electric pumps are as good as any I've tasted and the landlord and landlady are both very friendly.

Sadly, the Papermakers is due for demolition in about a years time. It seems hard to understand why. The local trade is not huge, but the area must surely be due for new housing from which trade would benefit. To the planners in brewery and Council it no doubt just seems an ordinary pub the licence of which could profitably be transferred to somewhere newer and brighter with plastic and stainless

steel replacing the wood and the porcelain. But to those who have an interest in where they drink as well as what they drink, its passing would be as sad as that of the Derby to which in some ways it is similar. Will we see a new Phoenix like the tasteless House That Jack Built emerge from the ashes of this old fashioned characterful pub?

The Post Office, back across Bury New Road on Hilton Street, would probably give most less call for mourning. It is a rather dingy Wilsons house with electric pumped mild and bitter in no way out-of-the-ordinary. The decor contrasts sharply with the electronic gadgetry of the cigarette machine and juke box which rather dominate the lounge.

The Dover on Fenney Street is a large Greenall pub with an interesting (I think!) interior and beer dispensed through electric pumps. If you've come this far on a bicycle, take your lamp in with you or be prepared to push your bike home as such things tend to disappear from outside the pub. If, however, you are a sucker for punishment, you can go on to the Albert Park (Marstons) and the Duke of York (Boddingtons), both on Duke Street. If you're like me, you'll be glad to stumble home.

Jem Callaghan

NATIONAL NEWS

The N E has decided to cut down the number of products being sold through headquarters. The product range is now to be restricted to ties, lapel badges, a new style tee-shirt and the CAMRA mirrors. These products will be available only to CAMRA members, except that the mirror will also be available to pubs listed in the GBG. The NE has also decided to produce a members handbook for those who join the Campaign to include a definition of real ale with background information on CAMRA's beginnings, history, successes, aims and objectives.

In future, press releases will be sent to all daily newspapers (national and local, morning and evening) by the NE every week or so. Copies of each press release will also be sent to all branches and area organisers at the same time so that local officials can be prepared to comment if approached by journalists.

PINT TAKEN

Our Brussels Correspondent writes....

The EEC Commissioner for Competition has announced that British beer drinkers will not have to change their pints for litres when most weights and measures are standardised in 1978.

BASS NORTH WEST & CASK SB

An assessment by
Jem Callaghan

Those of us who heard Alex Omand's account of the test marketing of SB at last month's meeting won't be that surprised with its withdrawal. In the first place, is some six or eight weeks really long enough to assess whether the beer is likely to sell? Drinkers are hardly likely to be weaned away from their regular tipples overnight and it doesn't seem that landlords were exactly pushing the stuff. Nor, secondly, were Bass North West who heralded in their new brew with all the publicity that you or I might give to a bad visitation of piles. If just one percent of the cash that has gone into persuading people that 'E' goes down easily had been diverted into letting them know that SB is fairly palatable and competitively priced, things might well have been different. But that then would have taken away from the sales of the keg beer which would never have done. It can be fairly asked whether Bass had any real heart in the launching of this new beer. Was it the same old sop to real beer

drinkers that has been tried elsewhere - don't let anyone know about it so that it fails and then claim the demand doesn't exist?

Bass North West have however recently re-introduced or extended the range of cask beer in four houses. The Old King, Great Portwood Street, Stockport now sells draught Bass, Worthington bitter and XXXX mild by electric pump. The Queens, Rawtenstall Black Bull, Great Ecclestone and Sparrowhawk, Fence, have also been converted, the latter using handpump dispense.

CLIFF-HANGER

The latest dispatch from the front indicates that preparatory work on the Greater Manchester GBG is almost complete. Intelligence sources suggest that it almost could well be possible that the Guide will be sent for printing within the next few weeks. Further news on progress next month.

CORRESPONDENCES

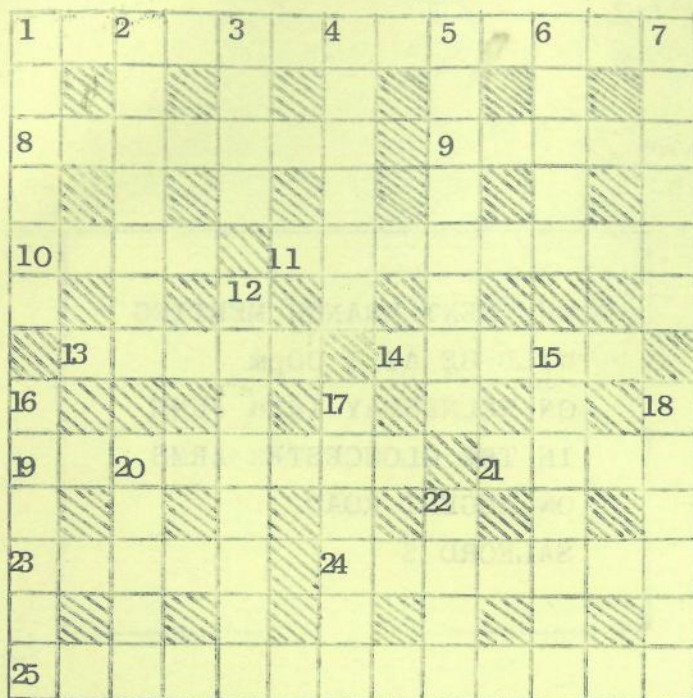
Alex Omand of Bass North West has written to clarify Bass's position regarding top pressure on cask beer. The C.O.2 valve is set at 21lbs pressure by a Technical Services employee at the brewery, and the valve is then sealed.

Roger Hall has penned four epistles.....

- a. to Bruce Cunningham, the Regional Brands Marketing Manager at Wilsons, to give our views on the Derby and to request the brewery's standpoint.
- b. to Maurice Fitzgerald, Company Secretary of Boddingtons, requesting information on scheduled conversions, demolitions and building.
- c. to the Director of Planning at Salford Town Hall requesting information on the Derby and the Paper-makers, and expressing CAMRAS concern over the demise of locals.
- d. to Dave Easton, our Area Organiser, for information from Holts on The Duke of York (Marlborough Street) as it's in a demolition area, and from Greenall Whitley on the Paper-makers.

WHAT'S DOING CROSSWORD

'Pisso'



ACROSS 1. In the news this month (4,5,4)
 8. Supplier to lac. 9. Belgian Town 10. Some-
 thing from the Norse Country? 11,21,24 Des-
 cribing a bouncy and spherical beer? (5,3,4,7)
 13. The French confused with gravities cause
 leering looks 14. Ones and twos? 19. Working up?
 21. See 11 23. Played with 24. See 11 25 South-
 ern Keg. Down 1. Supplier to lac. 2. Not un-
 common at closing time 3. They've been open for
 an hour now. 4 Not methodical 5. Shorty, but not
 a short (4,4) 6. You won't need this after a
 night on Boddingtons. 7. Matching tie and cuff-
 links? 12. Side confused with beat, a sensible
 thought? 15. Footwork on sewing machine
 16 Putrefying 17. A fib 18. Ageing Archer in
 a bottle? 20. S American rodent 22. Cat

THE NEXT BRANCH MEETING
WILL BE AT 8.00pm
ON WEDNESDAY 16th JUNE
IN THE GLOUCESTER ARMS
ON REGENT ROAD,
SALFORD 5