

WHAT'S DOING

The Newsletter of the North Manchester Branch of CAMRA

NO. 8 JUNE 1976

WHITBREAD BIGHEAD

Whitbread's advertising campaign in praise of Trophy Bitter has provoked the following statement from CAMRA headquarters...

"It is grossly unfair for Whitbread to bamboozle the poor, unsuspecting drinker into thinking that Trophy is the same throughout the country. The truth is that it's not the same - it's sixteen completely different beers, some good, some bad and some pathetic.

"For instance, the Trophy brewed at Castle Eden, County Durham, is of a very respectable gravity of 1040 while the Trophy from Cheltenham is a very low 1030 - just above the maximum strength allowed by the American authorities during Prohibition.

"These beers vary not only in strength, but also in character. Some of them, such as the ones brewed at Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and Portsmouth

are traditional draught beers - the kind that Britain has always been proud of - though others, especially in the North of England, are gassed-up and processed beyond recognition"

Whitbread have changed tack recently, they are now admitting that Trophy is not the same drink in different parts of the country, it is now "brewed to understand the local tongue".

The statement continues....
"This just isn't good enough, even though it's a major concession to our previous protests. Why can't Whitbread tell their customers what they are drinking: what it's strength is, whether it's been processed or not and where it's been brewed? Have they got something to hide?"

NO POINT TO IT?

Rumour has it that the Three Arrows (described poetically in the Good Beer Guide as a 'pre-war pub') in Rhodes is to be Bodified. Of all the Boddingtons pubs in (or 10 feet outside) our area this is the one least in need of renovation. It makes the flèche quiver to think what might happen to this popular and well laid out pub.

RINGING THE CHANGES?

A new landlord has taken over the Ring O' Bells, a LEes House in Middleton. Already the pub seems more lively and the quality of the beer has been maintained.

TOWN HALL CLOSED

The Town Hall, a Wilsons pub on Church Street, Eccles, was closed a few days ago by the brewery, following visits from the police and complaints about hygiene. Several months ago the tenancy was bought by a partnership who then put in their own manager. The pub went over to bright beer about this time. Standards

declined to such an extent that the brewery decided to discontinue supplying the pub with beer and to look for another licensee. The matter is complicated by the prescence of the manager and his family in the middle of the tenant-brewery dispute.

GLOOM AND DESPONDENCY

As reported in the last issue we have been trying to get some information on pubs in areas of Salford scheduled for demolition. The two pubs of particular interest are the Papermakers Arms, Back Roman Road (GW) and the Duke of York, Marlborough Street (Holts). Salford Corporation have not yet replied to our letter, but Area Organiser Dave Easton has turned up some information from the two breweries concerned. From Greenalls we hear that both the Papermakers and the St. James Tavern on Markendale St. are under Compulsory Purchase Orders, pending public enquiries. The futures of several of their pubs in the Regent Road/Cross Lane area hang in the balance, since if the extension of the M602 from Eccles to the Mancunian Way goes ahead a lot of buildings will have to come down. Not

much information from Holts, but then we weren't expecting it. Dave has sent us an extract from the brewery's Annual Report...

"In 1976 we hope to start building the Church Inn, Newton Heath. The old house was compulsorily purchased by Manchester Corporation and an adjoining site has been granted. Salford Corporation have granted a site in the Ordsall Lane redevelopment area and building should commence this year. We are hoping to rebuild the Bradford Road Inn, Bradford Road, provided agreement can be reached with Manchester Corporation."

WILSONS

Some months ago the East Lancs Branch had Bruce Cunningham, PR man for Wilsons, as a guest speaker. The following is a summary of what he had to say.....

FREE TRADE

It is unusual to find cask beer in free houses at present but there are plans to go into another half-dozen in the very near future notably a 'real ale' bar in Caesars Palace, Belle Vue (*Shudder*)
YORKSHIRE

There is now a similar situation with Wilsons in Yorkshire as with Sam Smiths in Lancs. The Wakefield depot has been

closed so now all beer is delivered direct from Newton Heath. At the moment 69 pubs are all on chilled and filtered ale. But they will supply the goods on request of the landlord.

ATTITUDE TO REAL ALE

The brewery realise that the demand for cask beer is growing and report some pubs reverting back from chilled and filtered beer because of customer demand. They claim to find cask beer more profitable and hence are prepared to put cask beer in any of their houses that request it. Only in rare cases would they refuse, eg. structural problems.

TRENDS

As far as beer is concerned they see an increase in sales of mild probably because it is cheaper. They are considering advertising mild in its own right. The keg beers have had their day and sales of Red are very low, lower than the other top kegs. Lager sales are increasing. They foresee a future for draught cider, the Grapes in Oldham has cider outselling everything else. They have recently changed from Taunton to Bulmers.

OLYMPIC

All Olympic at present is chilled and filtered. It's o.g. (1046) is the same as their post war bitter- Cask

Olympic may be available soon.

ATTITUDE TO CAMRA

They are at peace with Camra as long as draught beer is profitable, even so, they are proud of their ales and use fined beers for their brewery functions. They do use a small amount of hop-extract and some sugar but these are the only deviations from the ideals of Camra.

BLACK COUNTRY TRIP

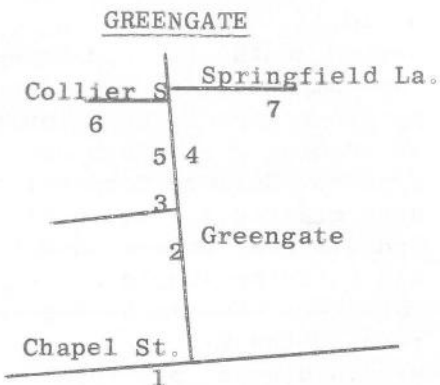
The Black Country Trip is definately on for this Saturday 19th June. It is a two session trip, the beers to be consumed include Hansons, Mrs Pardoes, Bathams, Simpkins and Banks. The coach leaves Swinton LUT depot at 8.45a.m. There are one or two seats left so if you want to go and haven't already signed up then see Pete Cash or Jem Callaghan.

CLIFF HANGER PART 3

The latest news about the Greater Manchester Beer Guide is that there isn't any.

Dave Easton is making enquiries.

NORTH MANCHESTER PUB CRAWL



1. Old Ship
2. Old Shears
3. Three Legs of Man
4. Flying Horse
5. Waterloo
6. Eagle
7. King William IV

Of the last three Salford 100 pub crawls, this was the most enjoyable. It takes in an area from Victoria Bus Station to Springfield Lane and offers the enthusiastic drinker six different brews, all within a few minutes walk. It is a popular crawl of old pubs, none of which are threatened with imminent demolition.

The Old Ship on Chapel Street is a convenient starting point being close to the bus station. It is a busy Boddingtons town pub in line with their new pattern of just two rooms, a

central bar and electric pumps.

Crossing Chapes Street and going under the railway arches up Greengate the first pub on the left is the Old Shears, a Wilsons pub with handpumped mild and bitter. Although Watneys colours are prominent on the outside, the inside remains Wilsons, reminiscent of the Windsor Castle near Cross Lane. Fifty yards further up Greengate is one of the three Robinsons pubs in Salford, the Three Legs of Man, untypical of Robinsons pubs, it has the solid architecture of a Holts pub and the pub sign set into the wall containing the initials of a past brewer. The mild and bitter are consistently good and the landlord is proud of his beer. There are three rooms and a 'corridor' room; a vault, a games room with the inevitable pool, and a small side room with one of the few, if not the only, open topped football table left in Salford. The pub is rarely crowded, except perhaps on Friday nights when there is a rock and roll band. Bar snacks are usually available.

The Flying Horse is a Tetley House on the other side of Greengate from the Three Legs of Man. Although a small pub it is the most popular of the ones on the crawl, and the quality of the beer - hand drawn mild and bitter - may

explain why. This pub, along with the Eagle, represents a traditional Salford local.

Just across the road is a Watney/Wilson pub, the Waterloo, which has little to offer the serious drinker. Although the mild and bitter are hand-drawn they are not particularly good and the atmosphere is spoilt by an over-loud jukebox. In this respect the Eagle on Collier Street is similar, but the noise doesn't dominate the pub because it is confined to one of the three rooms. There is little to indicate that it is a pub at all, a feature typical of many Holts pubs, but those familiar with Holts architecture should be able to recognise it! It has a number of interesting features, not least of which is the vintage jukebox having a selection of vintage records. It is a mild drinkers pub, and the mild is consequently very good, while the bitter, when it is on, ranks with that of the more popular pubs of Salford. It is one of the very few pubs in North Manchester with a beer-only license. There is a vault and lounge each with open fires and a pool room. The licensees are very friendly and happy to pass the time of day. Incidentally, opposite the Eagle is a former Greenall Whitley pub, the

Mechanics Arms, which closed several years ago.

Leaving the Eagle and crossing Greengate again into Springfield Lane we come to the King William IV, a two roomed Marstons pub. The lounge is unfortunately dominated by a pool table, but the hand-drawn beer is very good.

TOP-PRESSURE POWER

80% of electrical power in this country is provided by coal-fired generating stations. 5% is generated by water power and 5% by oil-fired stations.

Now, the other 10% comes from nuclear reactors, and it is an established fact that the uranium in these reactors is under CO₂ pressure.

As yet there is no clear labelling to show whether a pub uses real, ie coal, water or oil generated, naturally conditioned electricity or pressurised nuclear energy. The amount of CO₂ pressure has not been disclosed, but

CAMRAs Technical Committee suspect it is considerably greater than the 21b pressure used by Bass Charrington.

BRANCH PUBLICATIONS

In the near future we will be publishing a real ale guide to the pubs of Salford. It will be a 56 page booklet, containing a photograph and a brief description of every real ale pub (currently running at 90) An introduction will cover a potted history of Salfords pubs and the breweries involved.

The book is being put together by Neil Richardson, Roger Hall and Sue and Jem Callaghan - so if you have and information which may be useful, contact one of them.

Following the Salford pub guide we hope to publish John Worthington's 'memoirs' of pubs in Salford ten years ago, when there were over 250 pubs selling real ale. The exact format is to be decided.

Our long term aim is to produce a thorough account of brewing in Salford from around 1850 to the present. This will involve a considerable amount of research, we have already compiled a detailed list of every brewer registered in Salford from 1825. Anyone with relevant information or who is willing to help with spade work should contact Neil Richardson.

NORTH MANCHESTER PUBS

The North Manchester branch covers a large, heavily populated area with many distinct centres, and parts of it, notably those surrounding Bolton, are not very well known. We have tended to concentrate on the Salford Metropolitan District, principally because most of us live there. Attempts have been made to establish a Bolton branch to take responsibility for the area, but not enough interest has been shown. We still hope that a Bolton branch may be formed, but in the meantime we intend to cover, as fully as possible, through What's Doing, real ale pubs in that part of our area. The Editor would welcome any contributions for future issues.

THE SPORTSMAN

On Chorley Old Road there are several real ale pubs, one of which is a Burtonwood house, the Sportsman. The pub is an old three roomed building with a landlord who takes an interest in his beer, and serves bitter, mild and dark mild dispensed through electric pumps. The pub has a friendly atmosphere and a good local trade.

THE TOLL BAR

One of the few Thwaites pubs in our area, the Toll Bar in Horwich is already in the Good Beer Guide. The pub is large but conveys the impression of a local since it retains the traditional four room layout. Like the Sportsman, the Toll Bar attracts all age groups and is well worth a visit.

BEER EXHIBITION

The Kirklees Branch of CAMRA are holding their second beer festival at Batley in September, and are again in need of assistance in getting beers such as Robinsons and Pollards across to the exhibition. So if anyone is prepared to help them out with transport please contact Paul Roberts.

Last Year the Dewsbury exhibition was quite a success, several North Manchester members attended, and most of them came back.

SALFORD 100 CLUB

The Salford 100 is now down to the Salford 90. The last three crawls revealed three pubs were on bright beer and two had been demolished. The next four crawls are as follows, all start at 7.00pm.

WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE ECCLES NEW ROAD

Grey Mare	386 Eccles New Road	GW
Grapes	320 Eccles New Road	Wilsons
Old Veteran	Duxbury Street	GW
Osborne	38 Eccles New Road	Wilsons
Grove	26 Eccles New Road	Wilsons

WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE ORDSALL LANE

Bricklayers Arms	148 Ordsall Lane	Holts
Greyhound	7 Woden Street	GW
The Welcome	136 Ordsall Lane	Lees
Albion Inn	126 Ordsall Lane	Tetleys
Brunswick	147 Ordsall Lane	GW
Bridge Hotel	79 Ordsall Lane	GW

WEDNESDAY 7 JULY REGENT ROAD (part)

Gloucester Arms	160 Regent Road	Free
Spread Eagle	162 Regent Road	Holts
Albert Inn	184 Regent Road	Bass
Live and Let Live	312 Regent Road	Wilsons
Gas Tavern	324A Regent Road	GW
Borough Inn	386 Regent Road	GW

continued.....

Union Tavern	105 Liverpool Street	Holts
Druids Arms	34 Liverpool Street	Wilsons
Railway Inn	Oldfield Road	Wilsons
Kings Arms	85 Oldfield Road	Wilsons
Spinners Arms	4 Oldfield Road	Marstons
Prince Of Wales	19 Oldfield Road	Tetleys

I 12 B T T 2

Eh, ar Kid, me an t'lads were in t'smoke t'other week fort league cup. Booze we'd took wi uz run out at Crewe so we wuz dyin fer a bevvy when we got thur.

Translation: I say, old bean, yesterday fortnight my colleagues and I travelled down to the metropolis to watch the Rugby League Cup Final. By the time we reached Crewe we had consumed the alcoholic beverages which we had brought with us. Consequently, when we arrived, we were in need of a drink.

T'first boozer we saw were a Wetbed 'ouse. Chrise says 'Arry that all they've got? Anyhow we went in and took us coats off. Six pints o Frothy, lad says Tom - appen it's different 'ere. Bill teks a sup. Aye - different all reet but big eds monkey piss here an all.

The first licensed premises we encountered was one belonging to Wetbeds brewery. 'Good Lord', exclaimed Henry 'is that the only drink that can be obtained here?' Nevertheless we entered the establishment and divested ourselves of our outer garments. 'Six pints of 'Frothy' please, my man' said Thomas. 'Perhaps Wetbeds beer is different in London'. William took a sip from his drink 'Indeed, you are correct in saying that it is different but this macrocephalic beverage is simian urine here as well'.

NATIONAL NEWS

MONOPOLIES RESEARCH

In 1974/5 the Mid-Chilterns branch put together a report outlining the monopoly situation in large parts of Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and even beyond, where Allied held a monopoly through Ind Coope and ABC houses. This report was considered by the NE and a group set up to take it further. After the AGM at Brighton, the group was enlarged and given a larger brief. They now wish to examine all known monopoly areas and seek detailed evidence covering the ownership and distribution of brewers' houses throughout the land.

With the help of regional organisers, the worst areas are being identified and branches asked to research the details. The Monopolies Committee is handling all the legal aspects and policy.

The areas which the Committee wish to have researched are as follows....

Leeds	<i>Allied</i>
Burnley	<i>Bass Charrington</i>
Norwich	<i>Watney</i>
Reading	<i>Courage</i>
Plymouth	<i>Courage</i>
Bristol and Avon	<i>Courage</i>
South Wales	<i>Whitbread/Bass Charrington</i>

Tyneside	<i>Scottish & Newcastle</i>
Hull	<i>Hull</i>
Northampton	<i>Watney</i>
Brighton	<i>Watney</i>
South-west Dorset	<i>Devenish</i>
Gloucestershire & Hereford	<i>Whitbread</i>
Parts of Surrey	<i>Allied</i>
West Cumbria	<i>Matthew Brown</i>
Birmingham	<i>Allied/Bass Ch'ton</i>
Newark	<i>Courage</i>
Portsmouth	<i>Whitbread</i>
Cornwall	<i>Devenish/St Austell</i>

The Committee is also on the look-out for other monopolies, the simplest criteria being 25% of the market; whether pubs can be considered as distinct from other outlets has yet to be established.

This subject is considered of vital importance to the future of the industry and the Campaign. The Committee are aware that Allied are awaiting the report with considerable interest...

NATIONAL NEWS

PLAN OF STRATEGY

A draft Plan of Strategy is being prepared by the Campaigning Committee in accordance with a motion passed at the Brighton AGM.

The strategy will consist of a number of clearly defined objectives, such as the limit to the proportion of adjuncts allowable in brewing and compulsory marking of strength on all beer bottles and dispense equipment, towards which the Campaign should be working as priorities. It is hoped that the strategy will give the Campaign a more pronounced sense of direction.

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TIES, TEE SHIRTS AND CUFFLINKS....

The NE are again getting hot and bothered about branches selling CAMRA ties, lapel badges and (new-style) tee shirts (*sic*) to the general public at beer festivals and other events.

The NE resolved that such items should only be sold to members, in the belief that

too much commercialism had crept into the Campaign.

The NE suggest that if (new style) tee shirts and the like are to be sold at beer exhibitions then buyers should be asked to produce membership cards.

WHAT 'S DOING

Now there is a charge for What's Doing the editor feels he has a moral obligation to fill every page.

So if you have anything in the way of news, or an article, please contact him at the telephone number given on the back page.

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THE NEXT BRANCH MEETING WILL BE AT 8.00 PM ON
WEDNESDAY 21st JULY IN THE LORD NELSON.