

WHAT'S DOING

OCT
1982

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

HEYWOOD AMBER NECTAR SHOW

Following the disappointing public turn-out at last year's real ale festival, the Heywood Lions are doubling their efforts to attract the drinking public to this year's event. As before, the venue will be the Civic Hall in the centre of Heywood and the festival will cover the weekend Friday & Saturday 15th & 16th October. There will be three sessions, Friday evening, Saturday lunch and evening, all at normal licensing hours. There will be a small admission charge at the door. Beers from around twenty breweries will be featured, together with scrumpy cider and wine. Brass band entertainment will accompany the beer swilling and food will be in plentiful supply. The Rochdale, Oldham & Bury CAMRA branch are to assist in the setting-up and serving of the beers. All proceeds will, of course, be donated to charitable organisations designated by the Lions. So come on you local drinkers, do your bit for charity and enjoy yourselves in the process.



CHEEKY LITTLE BREW

Lees Brewery have produced a "special brew" for the Cross Keys, Uppermill, for the annual Rush Cart festivities. The beer, called Rushcart Ale, is Moonraker based and sells for 50p a nip or 56p to take away. There is a limited number of bottles (1,300), so collectors had better be quick.

NEW PUBS - A WORD IN THEIR FAVOUR

Since 1870 the number of pubs has dropped consistently, with a trend towards a smaller number of much larger establishments. The evidence of the decline in pub numbers is all around - CPOs, "For Sale" signs, dereliction are all far more prevalent than new building. Most of us shed a metaphorical tear as half a dozen old pubs are demolished and replaced by one fairly characterless modern one. Yet isn't this what we really want? In the retail trade the revolution has already taken place, with the supermarket supplanting the corner shop. Few people would want to exchange the convenience and cheapness of Tesco or Asda for the corner shop of the 1950s, which was expensive and time-consuming. Those who do can still pay for the privilege.

Expectations change quite rapidly and many people are unwilling to accept nowadays pubs which are not carpeted and centrally heated. In all fairness, many of the old spit-and-sawdust places could never have achieved the level of comfort which many people now take for granted. New pubs are almost always warmer and better appointed than their predecessors. They are also designed for more efficient management and make better use of available space. Modern cellars and dispense systems ensure greater cleanliness and hygiene. Contemporary building methods create a more efficient building with a better standard of living accommodation for the licensee.

New pubs are not shunned by their potential customers - they are typically busier than the pubs they've replaced and popular with their customers. The new pub, which is larger and more efficient than was hitherto the case, is here to stay, and whilst there will always be a place for the specialist small pub, the tendency will be for more and more brewers to replace their tied estate with a smaller number of better equipped houses. In this way they will be able to satisfy their customers' needs and remain efficient and competitive. A deteriorating estate of run-down pubs will lead inevitably to an adverse consumer reaction and a loss of efficiency. Perhaps we should stop living in the past and, instead of opposing the inevitable and necessary demolition of redundant pubs, fight for better standards in the new pubs which are both essential and desirable.

J C Bard

THE GREENALLS CAMPAIGN

Steven Foster is the newly appointed Greenall Whitley Campaign Organiser. In his first WD article he outlines the problem...

You may think that I am some kind of masochist, but after seven years as a CAMRA member I sincerely believe that something should be done

about the more obnoxious policies of Greenall Whitley. If CAMRA cannot bring pressure to bear on GW at this stage of its existence, then it never can.

Why should we be campaigning against a company which supplies a very large amount of real ale? Why should we campaign against a company which owns a fine, traditional brewery (at Wem)? Can it not be said that, despite a small but unfortunate change in recipe, GW are doing Shippo's beer, pubs and customers a power of good? The answer, to anyone who really knows Greenalls, is that CAMRA has no influence whatsoever with the company, and it can do whatever it pleases, to the customers' loss.

I must ask another question. Why do CAMRA members go year after year to form policies at AGMs, which are then not acted upon? (What happened to the anti-Whitbread campaign, apart from a few articles in Whats Brewing?) We must act upon this one otherwise we are not worthy of the title "Campaign for Real Ale"

I ask for the support of all CAMRA members in assisting me in my task. If you feel strongly about GW, or know of some interesting example of GW's unenlightened policy, or know of some tarted-up local, please put pen to paper and let me know. News and articles are needed for a GW campaigning pamphlet I shall be editing. This will be circulated widely and to the best effect possible.

Steven Foster, 105 Merton Road, Highfield, Wigan WN3 6AT

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

Following the recent well-publicised Divisional Court ruling concerning the measurement of beer, GMC Consumer Services have carried out a survey of beer sales. Altogether 148 pints of beer were bought and the results can be summarised as follows:

	<u>METHOD OF DISPENSE</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Metered</u>	<u>Free Flow</u> (presumably mostly h/pumps)	
MEASURE: Correct or in excess	51	2	53
Short Measure	21	74	95
<u>TOTAL</u>	72	76	148

The average deficiency in beer served into brim-full glasses was 5.8% or just under 1oz in a 20oz glass. The Director of Consumer Services is evidently in favour of beer being sold through meters, which is less likely to result in short measure. Further surveys are to take

place and no doubt the Director would be interested in comments on short measure. Significantly, during the month of the survey the Consumer Services Department did not receive a single complaint about short measure beer.

WHAT'S DOING



NEW CLUB

Last month J W Lees opened their North Manchester Club, Blackley, formerly ICI's Social Club and the building ICI wanted to give Wilsons in exchange for the Old House at Home. It is the new home of Crumpsall Hospital Social Club, although ICI workers have associate membership. Lees say it cost them £200,000, and facilities include a games room, lounge bar, stage area, disco, reception rooms and a "select wine bar where members can relax over a glass of wine or a fashionable cocktail" (it says here)

WICKETS

The Golden Lion, Gerard Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield has had its electric taps replaced by handpumps for the Tetley bitter and mild.

MALT AWARD

The Malt Shovels, Altrincham, has received a posh plaque from Sam Smiths brewery in their 1982 Cellar of the Year Award, which was open to all their tied houses in the North of England. The Shovels was one of the two runners-up.

THE COMPLETED CHURCH

Alterations and extensions to the Church inn, a Boddingtons house listed in the GBG, on Market Street, Hyde, are now complete. The bar remains in a similar position but a new lounge has been provided by extending into the adjoining shop. What was a small vault is now a lounge area with red velvet seating. Darts and dominoes are now played in the other half of the pub which was the bar parlour. Handpumps remain.

FAILSWORTH FUGGLES

Following an objection from Clive Winkle, the Failsworth Brewery has renamed their "Saxon" bitter "Eager Ale", after the street on which the brewery stands. (see last month's WD) One or two local working men's clubs have shown an interest in the new beer, which has an o.g. of 1037 and will sell for around 40p a pint.

DESPERATE DAN

The O'Connell Arms in Oldham Street commemorates Daniel O'Connell, an Irish leader in the early 1800s. I think he still goes in. Anyway, Whitbead want to alter the inside and extend the place. Let's hope that the extension doesn't clash with the very wonderful Daily Express building round the back.

FLAT BEER

BREWERY Joseph Holts have put in a planning application for a block of flats on the site of a former off-licence at 149 Trafford Road, Eccles.

The outline application is for a three-storey block of six one-bedroomed flats.



Marston's BURTON-
ON-TRENT

... *The Home of Traditional Beer*

The advertisement features a large, detailed illustration of a glass of beer with a thick head of foam on the right side. To the left of the glass, there is a scene of a brewery or factory with several tall chimneys and buildings. The text 'Marston's' is written in a large, bold, serif font, and 'BURTON-ON-TRENT' is in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font to its right. At the bottom, the slogan '... The Home of Traditional Beer' is written in a stylized, italicized font.

REAL TAKE HOME

Alan's Wines & Spirits, 119 Manchester Road, Chorlton (opposite Chorlton Baths) is back in full operation with Marstons Pedigree and Burton Bitter available again after a collapsed wall interrupted normal service during most of July and August, when the cellar drop was blocked.

HYDE CHESTERS

After the Kings in Denton, it was the turn of the Queens (formerly Queens Hotel) in Clarendon Place, Hyde, to be given the new Whitbread-Chesters treatment. The conversion took five weeks and is similar to that of the Kings - raised seating areas, false beams, Victorian pictures, etc. The cask beers are Chesters mild and bitter from handpumps

BATHTIME

Continuing their policy of improving their tied estate, Boddingtons have renovated the Baths Hotel near Rochdale bus station. The good news is that the previous well-kept, if rather basic, local has been transformed into a town centre pub catering for all tastes. The bad news is that the Boddingtons mild has been replaced by chilled and filtered OB mild and bitter because, according to the licensee, the Boddingtons mild did not sell very well.

Fancy That

many other subjects.

Others in the same series include Quentin Crewe on international food—quite good on national specialities; J. C. Trewin on Shakespeare's plays, whose ~~name~~ escapes me; Bevis Hillier on antiques—a trifle skimpy—and somebody called Michael Jackson on bar drinks, a vulgarly written and rather fatuous book which might be a good joke, nevertheless, to give to any hard-drinking friends.

Two other stocking fillers suggest

STICKING THEIR NECKS OUT

Tudor Taverns, Chef & Brewer Ltd plan to build a new front on the Swan with Two Necks, Withy Grove, Manchester.

ROEBUCK FOR SALE (AGAIN)!

The Roebuck at Strinesdale, Oldham, is once again on the market. For a mere £130,000 you could take over the ownership of this Matthew Brown Pizza Parlour, complete with keg dispensers and unused beer engines. Browns bought the pub a few years ago, when it was a thriving free house serving a range of amber nectars. Shortly after the conversion to its present format, the real ale disappeared (no demand for it you know!), and so did the customers. The food has always been ex-

cellent value, but food alone does not make a pub. What chance the pub going "free" again?

PLANNING NEWS

Boddingtons intend to alter the rear access to the Astley Arms in Stalybridge to cater for a proposed new beer garden and car park.

SAM SMITHS NEWS

The Failsworth Arms, Ashton Road West, Failsworth, has got the hand-pumps working again. Old Brewery Bitter from the wood is now available for the second time. The turn-around in Sam Smith's pricing policy must bring joy to lovers of good value-for-money beers (there aren't many around, are there, Messrs Whitbread, Wilsons and Bass?) In Hollinwood, the Spinners sells OBB at 50p a pint (lounge), and news from the brewery has it that these prices will be held until 1983. Not at all bad for a 1041 o.g. beer. This must represent the best value for money in the area, and furthermore, the price variation from pub to pub is not usually more than 2p. Play it again, Sam!

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WHAT'S DOING

WHAT'S DOING is edited by Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road,

Swinton, Manchester M27 2AY

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS THE 20th OF THIS MONTH

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JOIN CAMRA

To join **CAMRA** send £7 to Membership, **CAMRA**, 34 Alma Road, St

Albans, Herts AL1 3BW

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POSITIVE VETTING

Herriot's Leisure, who've already set up a trendy club in Sunlight House, have applied for permission to alter the front elevation of the Grapes round the corner. Let's hope they tread carefully. In the old days the Grapes was on Deansgate in a former synagogue and the New Grapes was a ball bearing factors. Then the old Grapes was knocked down to make way for a lovely bank and Tetleys took over the ball bearing place in Little Quay Street. It somehow lacked the atmosphere of its predecessor, nobody went in and it shut. Let's see what the good Veterinary can make of it.

ORANGE WINE

The Orange Tree (Wilson's mild and bitter, handpumps), Old Market Place, Altrincham, is soon to open a wine bar upstairs in what was formerly a derelict part of the building.

BURY AMBER NECTAR SHOW

Yes folks, once again that intrepid bunch in ROB are set to titillate the taste buds of local drinkers at the third Bury Beer Festival. The venue is the Derby Hall, Market Street, Bury (close to bus/rail interchange). Details are as follows:-

FRIDAY 26th Nov 11.30-3.00pm and
5.00-11.00pm

SATURDAY 27th Nov 11.30-3.00pm and
5.00-11.00pm



ADMISSION (free to card carrying CAMRA members)

30p lunchtimes and evenings before 7.00pm

50p thereafter

Entertainment at all sessions except Friday lunch. Traditional, local food throughout.

There will be around thirty beers from twenty breweries, including, it is hoped, beer from the new Failsworth Brewery and the prize-winning Clarkes of Doncaster. Farmhouse cider and wine will add to the occasion. Full details of beers next month. For further information phone ROB contact in Branch Diary.

PEDIGREE BILLY

The King William IV, Manchester Road, Partington, has recently added Marstons Pedigree to the mild and bitter.

OLDHAM'S POSH YATES' (2)

Further to the item in last month's WD, the Oldham ales served by handpump at Yates' Wine Bar in Oldham are keg. What will people stoop to in order to deceive the drinker? Mind you, if rumours that OB will only produce keg beer by the end of 1983 are true, it won't really matter if they are served through a bath tap.

ANOTHER PUB FOR HOLTS

Holts have bought another public house in Rochdale. The Navigation in Drake Street, originally Samuel Smiths but more recently a free house selling Boddingtons and Tetleys, will soon reopen as a Holts managed house.

Contributors: Roger Hall, Steve Lawton, Dave White, Bob Wise, Mick Rottenbury, Dave Hale, Graham Mason

MARATHON MAN

Marathons have become something of a cult these days. Given that marathon pub crawls are a little too easy, the natural is to extend the duration of the crawl and widen the scope a bit. British Rail provide the answer with the All Line Rail Rover (at £92), which enables anyone to travel the length and breadth of the country for a week on any train. All that's required is a timetable and careful planning and off you go. A mere 4,894½ miles and 80 trains later the following pubs were visited. Draw your own conclusions about the prices charged in the pubs, but as a rough guide, the bigger the brewery the higher the price. (It's just as well the Wilsons pub wasn't managed)

Don Chattwood

	Pub	Town	Brewery	Beer	OG	Price
Fri	Castle & Falcon	Manchester	Burtonwood	Bitter	1036.5	53p
	Hallcross	Doncaster	Stocks	Bitter	1037	54p
	St Leger Tavern		Shipstone	Mild	1034.6	53p
	Old Castle		Home	Bitter	1038.7	55p
	White Swan		Wards	Bitter	1038.7	55p
	The Still	Peterborough	Elgood	Bitter	1037	58p
	The Royal		Wethereds	Bitter	1036.6	64p
Sat	Royal Dart	Kingswear	Guinness	bottle(½)	1042	42p
	Coverdale	Paignton	Courage (B)	B Bitter	1039	61p
	Queens	Newton Abbot	Halls	Harvest B	1037	62p
	Sun Inn	St Austell	St Austell	BB	1031	54p
	Queens		Courage(P)	Heavy	1032	58p
	Stag		Devenish(R)	Bitter	1032.5	56p
Sun	Hand in Hand	Brighton	Beards	BB	1040	66p
	Basketmakers		Gales	Dark M	1031	56p
	Eagle		King&Barnes	BB	1034.5	65p
	Lord Nelson		Harvey	Dark M	1030	60p
	Lord Nelson		Harvey	Bitter(½)	1033	66p
	Three Bulls Head	Newcastle	Bass	D Bass	1044	60p
	Rosies		Dryborough	Pentland	1036	56p
	Greenmantle	Edinburgh	Lorimer&Clk.	80/-	1043	64p

Mon	Coopers		Lorimer&Clk.	70/-	1036	61p	
	Tarry Ile	Inverness	Youngers	IPA	1043.2	65p	
	Phoenix Bar		Youngers	70/-	1036.2	60p	
	Victoria Bar	Glasgow	Maclay	60/-	1030	57p	
	Wee Man's Bar		Dryborough	Pentland	1036	62p	
Tues	Coach Inn		Belhaven	80/-	1042	66p	
	Nelson	Norwich	Adnams	Bitter	1036	64p	
	Compleat Angler		Websters	Yorks B	1037.5	66p	
	Barley Mow	Leicester	Everards	Beacon	1036	54p	
	Charnwood Buffet		Ruddles	Bitter	1032	62p	
	Museum	Sheffield	Whitbread	Castle E	1041	63p	
	Globe		Stones	Bitter	1038.2	61p	
	Knowsley	Bury	Marstons	Pedigree	1043	62p	
	Huntsman		Thwaites	Mild	1031	53p	
	Weds	Albert	Cardiff	Brains	Dark	1035	53p
Queens		Carmarthen	Worthington	Dark	1034	56p	
Queens			Bass	D Bass	1044	64p	
Coopers			Buckleys	Mild	1032	52p	
Harp			Buckleys	BB	1036	55p	
Drovers Arms			Felinfoel	Bitter	1035	58p	
Hole in the Wall		Tunbridge W	Youngs	Sp Bitter	1046	66p	
Thurs	Alma Arms	Uckfield	Harveys	BB	1040	65p	
	Prince Rupert		Tamplins	Bitter	1038	66p	
	Coach & Horses	Banbury	Hook Norton	Bitter	1036	52p	
	Welsh Pony	Oxford	Morrell	Bitter	1036	60p	
	Cricketers		Morland	Bitter	1035	57p	
	Bear		Halls	Harvest B	1037	63p	
	Golden Lion	Weymouth	Devenish(W)	Bitter	1032	56p	
	Portland & Rly		Hall&Woodhse	Bitter	1031	54p	
	Somerset		Eldridge Pope	R Oak	1048	70p	
	Osborne	Southampton	Marstons	Mild	1032	57p	
Fri	Wellington	London W'loo	Arkells	BBB	1038.5	66p	
	Nags Head	Macclesfield	Robinsons	Mild	1032	51p	
	Old Millstone		Marstons	Burton B	1037	55p	
	Bull & Gate		Wilson	Mild	1031	50p	
	Huntsman	Bury	Thwaites	Bitter	1035.5	55p	
			54 pubs	26 towns	54 beers	56 pints	£33.97
							58.56p

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Two years ago CAMRA's Pub Preservation Group produced this booklet for distribution to brewers, planners and like-minded cognoscenti. Having proved the most popular of all the PPG's publications, it has now been reprinted and is available to the general public for the first time. Several of the articles are not unconnected with this area, prominent among them being R Hall's detailing of the pub saving crusades in Greater Manchester. Illustrated with photos of pubs past and present, nice and nasty, the booklet is available from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester for 95p including postage.

PUB PRESERVATION



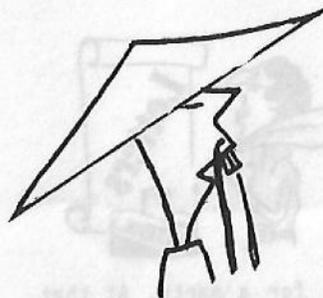
The Campaign for Real Ale

ASIAN CORNER

My own memories of the Shalimar (see last month) are dimmed not only by the subsequent passage of time but also by prior visits to several adjacent hostelries on the nights in question. My most vivid recollection is not of the food but of our meal in the upstairs room being disturbed by someone being thrown through the front window of the Sugar Loaf down below. But I digress. I don't want to continue a China versus India debate; to my mind it's like arguing about whether Holts bitter is better than Thwaites mild or vice versa - both can be excellent. The Shalimar head waiter's remarks cannot, however, go unchallenged. Chinese food is neither under spiced nor undercooked.



At the time the remark was made there was no authentic Chinese restaurant in Manchester. Cornflour soup and stir fried beansprouts and noodles were the order of the day in establishments like the Man Fang



and the Ping Hong. These foods were as similar to real Chinese food as Heineken is to Bavarian beer. There were, however, a considerable number of ethnic restaurants in Liverpool which gave to the initiated a craving for the genuine thing which remained unsatisfied in Manchester until restaurants like Charlie Chan's, the Little Village, the Woo Sang, the Kwok Man, the Yan Sing and Mr Kuk's opened their doors. The first restaurants catered largely for the local Chinese population as those in Liverpool had done, but gradually they developed a wider clientele as appreciation for authentic Chinese cooking grew.

Most of the Chinese restaurants in this country are Cantonese, because most of the Chinese immigrants arrived via Hong Kong from Canton. China is much larger than Western Europe, with greater contrasts in both geography and climate. It is not therefore surprising that recipes also differ significantly. Peking, Szechwan, Shanghai and Fukien are styles of cooking which are distinct from and less familiar

than Cantonese.

Stir frying is probably the best known method of cooking but simmering, steaming, deep frying, crystal boiling and smoking are all traditional Chinese methods of cooking. Soya sauce, garlic and ginger are perhaps the most widely used flavourings, but star anise, bean paste, black beans, chillis, fennel, cloves, cinnamon, Szechwan pepper, Chinese parsley (coriander) and anise pepper all play a part in Chinese cooking.

Perhaps because of geographical and climatic variations there is a greater variety of dishes in China than in India. There is an immense choice of seafood and river fish and much use is made of pork, beef and poultry than on the Indian sub-continent. Chinese vegetables are varied in both taste and texture and are used either to complement and flavour meat, fish and poultry or on their own. Chinese vegetarian cooking is almost unknown in this country, yet has a long history of Buddhist traditions developed over centuries.

Chinese food is varied, tasty and exciting. To suggest that it is bland and uninteresting is to speak from a warehouse of ignorance and to miss out on one of the major cuisines of the world - much like refusing to drink Holts.

Sue My

Sir - Whilst I have every sympathy with the efforts being made to save Burtonwood light mild, I am more concerned that another beer even closer to home may also be on its last legs, if it has not died already. I refer, of course, to Robinsons ordinary bitter.



About 18 months ago I wanted some draught beer for a party. At that time the Robinsons advert which appears every month on the back cover of WD included ordinary bitter, along with best bitter, mild and Old Tom, and so I rang the brewery to order some. Initially I was told that it was not available, but after some argument, during which I referred to the advert in WD, they reluctantly agreed to let me have some.

When I wrote to them with the deposit for the beer I took the opportunity to ask if they were phasing out ordinary bitter, as it was becoming increasingly difficult to find in pubs. I received a reply stating that the beer was not being phased out and that it was available to any Robinsons landlord who wanted it.

Shortly after this the reference to ordinary bitter in the WD advert was removed and now I don't know of any pub still selling it.

I think it would be a great loss if the beer really is on the way out, and not just because I happen to prefer it to the best bitter, but because I feel that every brewery should offer an average strength "drinking" bitter, no matter what other beers it includes in its range

Mike Day

Sir - May we take this opportunity of introducing ourselves. We are a society called the Squooker Club, which was originally formed by an amalgamation of the Squash Club and the Snooker Club. The society's activities encompass not playing squash, not playing snooker but, er, imbibing vast quantities of real ale. In pursuit of the latter activity, we make good use of the various CAMRA publications to track down some of the more elusive elixirs. While covering some of our home ground, however, we have come across a few errors in "Real Ale in Central Manchester". Some of these may have been reported in WD, but we suspect others may have escaped your notice:

1 There is cask Stones in the Last Hop on Chester Road. It was really on form on a recent visit - in fact it halted an official lunchtime Squooker Club Pub Crawl and members risked a bollocking from management upon late return to work.

2 No real ale is available at the Bulls Head, Chester Road, since the removal of Chesters. A club member who nearly ordered Trophy in this establishment has since been reprimanded.

3 The St Matthews Tavern, Tonman Street is unfortunately closed. A tragic decision, and one which caused two of our members to resign from the club and pursue normal lives. In our opinion, this was the home of the best Chesters bitter in Manchester.

4 The Chesters at the White Lion on Liverpool Road has gone fizzy,



HOW APT! Photographed on a wall of a Greenalls pub in Carlisle

leaving only the Ox noble serving traditional Chesters in the Liverpool Road area.

5 The Bricklayers Arms on Ordsall Lane looks as if it has been closed for renovation.

6 Sams Chop House on Back Pool Fold no longer sells Tetleys, but Wilsons is available, together with Marstons Pedigree.

We are forwarding this information partly to assist other pub goers and partly because we are passing through one of our rare sober phases before the start of another lunchtime session.

The Squoaker Club (Ed Note: "Real Ale in Central Manchester" is now 18 months old and is in need of updating. Will readers with information on changes please forward them to Roger Hall)

TASTE AND FLAVOUR - A PERSONAL VIEW

The bitter diet in my neck of the woods is "real" Boddingtons and Wilsons backed up by tank Greenalls and a Chesters. All the beers have something in common - they are unremarkable in taste and flavour. The relative, if not absolute, decline in the quality of Boddingtons' bitter is of particular concern. The highest plaudit this once great beer gets now is "drinkable". Its bitterest critics use words which would be out of place in even these enlightened pages. What Wilsons are up to, God only knows. In my opinion, the beer was good until a few months ago, but for some inexplicable reason they are "mucking about" with the flavour.

The North Manchester branch of CAMRA tacitly supports the opinions expressed above by holding nearly all its meeting in Holts houses. Even on pub crawls, other beers are "tested", but around 9.30 the question is asked, "Where is the nearest Holts house?" I suspect South Manchester are in a similar position - you can substitute Robinsons or Hydes for Holts.

There are other "realish" ales available of course, but Boddingtons and Wilsons have a special responsibility because of the number of outlets they control. Surprisingly, you can get the odd pub selling a "reasonable" pint of Boddingtons, Wilsons and even Greenalls, but in general a visit to one of their establishments is not viewed with a great deal of relish.

The 1982 Good Beer Guide says that Greater Manchester is a "Beer drinker's Mecca" - Is this still the case?

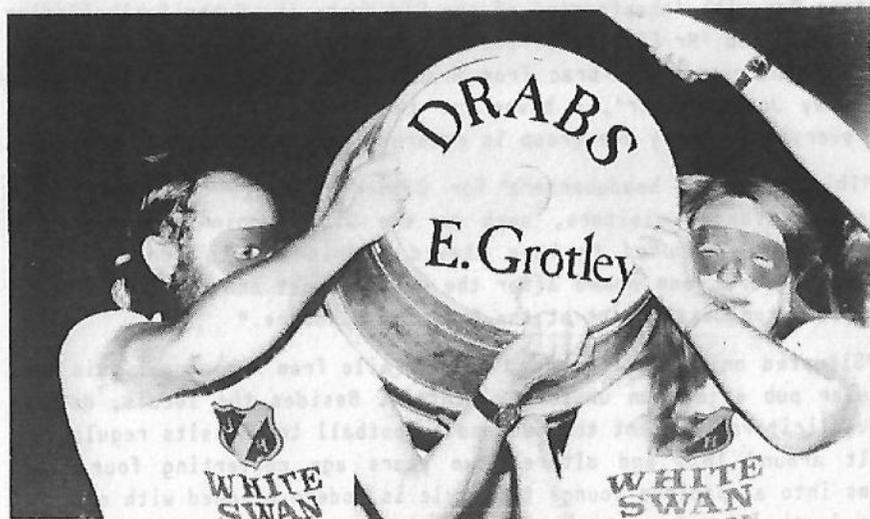
Bill Collier



I'm just about coming round from the euphoric obfuscation engendered by the 2nd Tykeley Amber Nectar Show, not that anything desperately amazing occurred - it was just that much of the vast array of cheekies from the wickets was imbibed. I'd like to congratulate Tom Duckfoot on his exquisite taste in musical entertainment. The accompaniment of a 140 decibel rock band ensures that one drinks rather than engages in redundant intimacy with other half pint all night merchants.

Apropos of nothing, Elsie confided in me that she wouldn't mind being taken outside by Dermatitis until I pointed out that in Grotley this had connotations on an ongoing Jimmy moving situation. I formed the impression that in her endearingly naive Pudshire manner, she imagined the momentary rapture of a kneetrembler rather than a "smack in the gob", as the vernacular has it.

Some of the Slumley contingent, seeking further amusement, went to sample the hostelries of neighbouring Otley. Walking into what they



imagined to be a new freehouse undergoing redecoration and resigning, they disturbed a woman who was busy ironing in the living room of a private house.

They had little time to assess the good lady's taste in carpets and decoration, which is perhaps just as well considering Peter Hammerstein's latest pronouncements. Apparently some scribe from a local Campaign bugle had upset a licensee of the dafter sex by making disparaging remarks about her pub, her carpet, her decorations, her customers and even the housing estate nest door. Thankfully, articles like this have never darkened these hallowed pages. Your average Whats Doinger is an aficionado of flights of plaster ducks, fluorescent shagpile, plastic horsecollars, polystyrene tapestries, copper hunting horns, Spanish bullfighting posters and other tasteful m emorabilia and would never voice his disapproval even if he were forced to listed to a boring, ugly, keg-swilling customer from a council estate. We're treading on very dangerous ground and must never ever criticise pub decoration. For all we know, all the criticism thrown at Dillon's new wonderpubs may have turned the bold and imaginative designer into a gibbering fool, incapable of plying his trade. Is this really what we want?

THE "IN" INNS OF LANCASHIRE

The following items are taken from a delightful volume of twaddle called "'In' Inns of Lancashire", published about ten years ago. See if you can guess the pubs referred to. (Answers at end).

1 "On the entrance floor there is The Shanghai Waterfront Bar, The Western Bar with 'shopfronts' of the Old West, The Pukka Sahib (Indian of course) and 'Mr Fixit's Office' - which is Victoriana as she really was; mementoes, bric-a-brac from Grandmama's Golden days. Downstairs is 'Davy Jones Locker', a haven for the 'Younger Set'. It's a place for everybody. Every age group is catered for somewhere."

2 "This one time headquarters for Oliver Cromwell has rooms named after its famous visitors, such as the Dick Turpin Room where the highwayman is reputed to have stayed on his way to York, and the Samuel Bamford Room named after the writer, poet and reformer who led the Middleton Detachment at the Peterloo massacre."

3 "Situated on the Bolton Road half a mile from Atherton...this very popular pub enjoys an unusual clientele. Besides the locals, doctors and solicitors frequent the pub and a football team visits regularly.. Built around 1825 and altered two years ago converting four small rooms into a spacious lounge the style is modern blended with old. PVC type leather bench seats are seen along most of the walls, the tables appear to be made of wrought iron with brass top finish."

4 "Recently modernised, it was found that the outside could not be altered due to a preservation order, but the inside beautifully done in split level open plan with old timbers and broken walls to represent an old saw mill. With two bars, the Yarn-n-Half .. and the Beefers Balcony Restaurant.."

5 "Welcomed by the whistling and chattering of two African Gray Parrots, two large Poodles and two Cats, one passes through the door of this old Inn and back in time to a wonder-world of objects d'art."

6 "This massive old Tudor-style hotel boasts one of the oldest licences in Lancashire, dating back to 1365 when 'Ye Olde Bull's Head' stood on the site...it still keeps the Tudor styling, with latches and locks on the big round top wooden doors that lead to the delightful large airy and modern finished bedrooms."

7 This rather original pub, lies back off the main roundabout forming a link for the M62, and Rochdale just half a mile away, enjoys a really pleasing 'pub' atmosphere. Excessive amenities are quoted to be unnecessary here...The interior decoration slightly hints at the 1940s period.."

8 "Its escapist South Seas decor make for fun and relaxation for all ages. There is the Polynesian Bar, the Treetop Bar and three other bars all dotted about this carefully planned, delightfully haphazard pub which has something to suit everybody. Oh! yes - you can also drink in the 'Crow's Nest'!

9 "It is not only the good spirits, out of this world wines and heavenly Bass Charrington beers which make the ***** Hotel the soul of Denton's good life....The licensee...endowing his hospitality with good catering and keeping his Tetley's ales in prime condition."

10 "Down in the cellar is the 'Buggsy Seigal Prohibition Bar' where the young congregate around an open 'coffin' filled with empty 'hooch' bottles - with the names of the hoodlums who gave Chicago its reputation as 'The Windy City' in America's pre-Roosevelt era. There are even genuine bullet holes embedded on the walls by a 'Thompson Typewriter' for authenticity!.. The entrance floor is a delight of nooks and crannies. Victorian anthology gives way to Edwardian/Georgian days in 'Oh! What a Luverley War', based on the Great War of 1914-18.

Didsbury

Rochdale: (8) Wrecker, Blackley; (9) Angel, Denton; (10) Cavalcade, Pack Horse, Affetside; (6) Racecourse, Salford; (7) Martins Nest, ton; (3) Spinners Arms, Atherton; (4) Sawyers Arms, Manchester; (5) ANSMERS: (1) Jules Verne, Peel Green; (2) Ye Olde Boars Head, Middle-

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 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.

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 60p + 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.

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 N.W. DERBYSHIRE - Buxton, Glossop, New Mills, Whaley Bridge, Disley, Chapel-en-le-Frith, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN HIGH PEAK & N E CHESHIRE (TAMESIDE) - Marple, Hyde, Denton, Ashton, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, etc 10p + 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	95p 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
MANCHESTER BREWERIES NO 1	£1.20 inc post
WHERE HAVE ALL THE BREWERIES GONE?	£3.75 inc post
THE PUBS OF SWINTON & PENDLEBURY	£2.25 inc post
A HISTORY OF PRESTWICH PUBS	£1.75 inc post

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Branch Diary

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Oct 6th Trip to Cestrian Brewery. Contact Ray Kruup Atherton 876884
Oct 13th Trip to Moorhouses Brewery. Contact Ray Kruup
Tues 19 Oct Branch Meeting, Kings Arms, Lane Head, Lowton, 8.30
Fri 29th Oct Pub of the Month 7.30 Black Horse, Tyldesley
Contact Brian Gleave Atherton 876200 (w) 892965 (h)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 20 Oct Branch Meeting, Millstone, Thomas St, Manchester. Wilsons speaker
Weds 3 Nov Pub Crawl of Blackley 7.00 Duke of Wellington, Weardale Rd, 8.30 Fox,
Old Market Street
Weds 10 Nov Committee/Social, Derby Brewery Arms
Weds 17 Nov, Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton
Contact Roger Hall, 740 7937

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 12 Oct 8.00 Branch meeting, Castle (Wilson's), Manchester Old Rd, Rochdale
Fri/Sat 15/16 Oct Heywood Beer Festival run by local Lions Club - see cover.
Tues 16 Oct Committee meeting, Reed Hotel (Bass), Yorkshire St, Rochdale
Tues 9 Oct 8.00 Branch Meeting, Ordnance (OB), Park Rd, Oldham
Tues 23 Nov 8.00, Committee Meeting, Brunswick (Wilson's), Moorgate, Bury
Fri/Sat Nov 26/27 Third Bury Beer Festival. Derby Hall Bury. See elsewhere.
Contact: Steve Lawton 061 620 9237 (h) 061 236 4411 ext 7237

TRAFFORD & HULME

Wed 20 Oct Lees Brewery visit
Thurs 21 Oct 8.00 Branch AGM, Malt Shovels, Stamford St, Altrincham
Thu 28 Oct 8.00 Pub of the Month, Rope & Anchor, Dunham Massey
Thurs 4 Nov, 7.30pm Committee/Social, Crown, Deansgate
Sun 14 Nov, 12noon, Social with Sale Homebrew Society. Venue to be arranged
Contact Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (h)

BOLTON

Tues 12 Oct 8.30 Branch Meeting, Derby Arms, Derby St
Sat 23 Oct 10.30. Trip to Morecambe & Lancaster. Meet Trinity St Station 10.30am
Fri 29 Oct 7pm Meal at Cromptons Mule Bistro
Fri 5th Nov. THE OTHER BOLTON MARATHON (Pub Crawl). Details next month
Wed 10 Nov 8pm. Branch AGM, Gypsies Tent. Members please attend
Contact Jim Hurst Tottington 3532

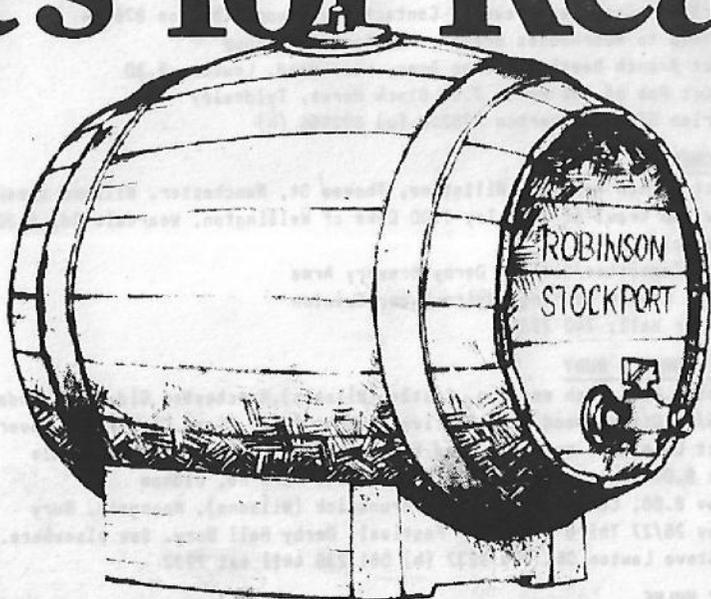
SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs 14 Oct, Branch Meeting, Griffin, Heald Green. Guest speaker from Holts.
(Note change of venue)
Thurs 28 Oct PUB OF THE MONTH with Trafford & Hulme
Tues 30 Nov 7.00 Trip to Moorhouses Brewery. Contact Ian McDermott 864 1668 to
book a seat
Contact Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

CAMRA BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Sunday 17th October, 11.00am. Eagle & Child, Whitefield. Open handicap, £2.00
entrance fee. Open to all. Telephone for details

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