

WHAT'S DOING



FEB
1983

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



HOUSE OF HOPPERS

Whitbread's first home brew pub in Manchester will open shortly. It's the Lass o'Gowrie on Charles Street, near the BBC, convenient for all the Beeb trendies.

PUBS LOST AND GAINED

1982 brought a net gain of 3 real ale pubs in North Manchester. The 9 losses include 5 demolitions or closures. Of the gains, Whitbread seem to be doing best with 5 - Cob o'Coal, Bridge Inn, Amsterdam Bar, Wellington (Pendlebury), Empress - but against this 2 losses must be offset. Wilsons are still making steady progress with 3 conversions to real ale - Ducie Bridge, Swan with 2 Necks, Monton Green - and no losses. The other 4 gains are accounted for by 2 Holts pubs - Tanners

Arms, Derby Brewery Arms - and two free houses - Smithfield, Yates. Perhaps the saddest loss is the Castle & Falcon, which has previously appeared in the Good Beer Guide. It is hoped that the lapse may be only temporary, as Burtonwood have advertised for a new tenant.

Newton Heath (14 out of 16) and Blackley (16 out of 20) have the highest proportion of real ale pubs, whilst Worsley and Walkden (13 out of 26) and Collyhurst and Harpurhey (11 out of 24) have the lowest. 64% of North Manchester's 444 pubs sell real ale.

DOOMED PUBS?

Statements made by the NULV that at least 15% of Manchester's pubs will close are based on real fears brought about by the recession and increasing bankruptcies among licensees. A decrease in the number of pubs is almost inevitable if the trend of the last few years continues and there is an increasing body of opinion even among licensees themselves which is in favour of a reduction in the number of pubs. An excessive number of pubs, so the argument goes, will lead to increased price competition so that fewer and fewer pubs operate at a profit. Far better if the available demand can be catered for by a smaller number of more efficient establishments, all of which can trade profitably.

This view is nonsense - a capitulation to the brewers who wish to concentrate beer sales in as few outlets as possible. During the depression of the 1930s there was no wholesale closure of pubs, so why now? Brewers, on the whole, do not look after their licensees. They have increased rents and cut back on maintenance and refurbishment of ordinary pubs, whilst at the same time they have spent six-figure sums on unnecessary alterations to selected pubs, poured money into the free trade and sold drinks at discount through supermarkets. Small wonder that the pub, with its restrictive tie, has suffered.

The survival of the local pub, which acts as a community centre, caters for a wide cross-section of the population and is a welcoming place for a pint, a chat and meeting friends, is too important to be left to the brewers. A variety of pubs must be allowed to survive and thrive. Brewers must be persuaded that the pub is important. Pressure must be brought on the brewers to ensure they appreciate the value of what to them may be marginal pubs and that they do not exploit their licensees with extortionate rents and a failure to maintain their tied estate.

Brewers certainly have a responsibility to their shareholders for continuing profitability, but they also have a wider responsibility

to their employees, their tenants, their customers and to the area in which they trade. I for one would like to see more evidence that they are fulfilling these wider social responsibilities.

Roger Hall

WHAT'S DOING

CASK STONES

The Wellington, Stand Lane, Radcliffe, has had handpumps installed and is now serving Stones bitter and 4X mild.

SAM SMITHS MILD

Rumours circulating in the trade suggest that Sam Smiths might be having a rethink regarding cask mild. A recent test market - in London of all places - of a low gravity beer fizzled out (well, what did they expect!) Despite this, it now seems probable that their Old Brewery Bitter from the wood will be joined by a cask conditioned mild. It is Sam's insistence on wooden casks for their real ale which seems to be the problem. One of the reasons given for withdrawing cask mild some years ago was that all the wooden barrels were needed for the bitter. This was only a marketing man's excuse, since the majority of brewers have now switched to metal casks and it would take a discerning palate indeed to differentiate between beer from the wood and that from metal.

BLUE BOAR FLOOR

Sawdust has appeared on the floor of the Blue Boar (Whitbread), Deansgate, Bolton. Speculation has arisen as to whether it is actually sawdust or the scattered remains of J Thompson Design Co Ltd, Blackpool, the House of Horrors specialists.

MORE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

To Leo King's list of keg establishments should be added Seftons, the Commercial Hotel and the St Peter's Tavern, or the Gallery, or whatever it's called now. There are, of course, numerous hotels, clubs, wine bars, bistros and the odd Yates' which serve only keg.

SPREAD THE NEWS

Despite the report in last month's WD on the closure of the Grove, Regent Road, Salford, all is not lost in this area. The nearby Spread Eagle, a Holts house due for demolition in June 1982, has won a reprieve for something like 2 years and has found a new lease of life. Formerly a managed house, often with an air of despondency and incon-

sistent beer, it became a tenancy in December and the new residents set about its rejuvenation.

The quality of beer is vastly improved, with such a resultant increase in custom that, on occasion, reserves have run dangerously low! Following decoration, the feeling of neglect has vanished, there is a much livelier atmosphere and the back parlour - formerly just a bottle store - has been reopened. The regulars well remember CAMRA North Manchester's Regent Road Wake last April and give some credit for the stay of execution in their direction. At less than 50p a pint, and with other pubs in the vicinity having closed, the boom in trade means that an additional set of handpumps will be installed.

It is also reported that the Wellington along the road has won a similar reprieve.

HANKY PANKY

On 29th November the Grosvenor, Gt Clowes Street, Salford 7, was reopened as the Hanky Park. It has received the usual Whitbread treatment, but with a slightly more muted effect than other recent conversions. The Concert Room has become the vault, without any junk dressings, and the main room features paintings of celebrities, rather than red barrels, wicker frogs, etc.

The Chesters mild and bitter on handpump is kept in good nick, and has encouraged younger drinkers to try real ale.

WHITE HORSE

Renovations at the White Horse, Worsley Road, Swinton, are now complete. The pub has been tastefully done out, the fireplace has been restored and handpumps have been retained. There is a new food serving area and a vault, although the latter tends to be a spill-over room for the more popular-than-ever lounge.

NOT SO FRIENDLY

The Friendship on Melbourne Street, Stalybridge, now sells only keg beers. This town centre Bass Charrington pub once sold Cask Bitter and Toby Light from handpumps. These have now been removed.

DUTTONS

The latest Duttons bitter outlets in the Ramsbottom area are the Pack Horse, Whalley Road, Shuttleworth, and the Shoulder of Mutton in Holcombe village, ideal for a couple of pints before and after the short trek up to Holcombe tower.

MR Terry Little, publican at the Eldon Arms, Southsea, has taken steps to protect the beleaguered and despised minority who like keg bitter.

He has roped off a section of the bar and put a notice by the door with arrows indicating "CAMRA drinkers this way-real drinkers this way." Behind the rope, the minority will be able to drink their keg and lager in ease without being given indigestion mid-sip by such remarks as "You don't want a bellyful of bubbles, do you?"

FULL PINT?

The Trading Standards Department for Consumer Services at the GMC carried out a survey in September of last year. The results of this 2nd fact-finding mission are: Of 80 pints of beer purchased (not consumed, so you needn't apply for a job!), 93.7% were short measured by an average of 3p in value. The maximum short measure was $2\frac{3}{4}$ fl oz or about $7\frac{1}{2}$ p.

Ironically, of the remaining 5 full pints, three of them - a full 20 fl oz - were served

into unmarked glasses, for which the licensees could be prosecuted! Further beer quantity surveys are being undertaken in other Metropolitan Districts, all with the intention of bringing to the Minister of Consumer Affairs' notice that Section 19 of the Weights & Measures Act 1979 should now be made statute. We wish the Director of Consumer Services at GMC and his district officers well in their endeavours, but we would not like to see the demise of the handpump!

NEW IMAGE FOR THE CITY

If you are wondering why the City Arms, Kennedy Street, in the city centre no longer matches the Good Beer Guide description ("sporting theme"), it is because the tenancy changed hands on January 5th and the programme collection went as well. The new tenant is Derek Dearden (20 years with Tetleys), who had the Britons Protection on Great Bridgewater Street prior to his move in 1979 to the Beehive in Swinton and thence back into Manchester. The Burton Ale (handpumped) is to be retained and, of course, the lunchtime meals and snacks will continue to be available.

SPLASHING OUT

The Waterworks Tavern in Bacup has now reopened as a free house, though one should take the term loosely as it might as well be a Scottish & Newcastle pub. The cask beers available are Youngers IPA and No3 - both very good value at 56p a pint. The pub is arguably the best in Bacup and lunchtime food is available.

PUB PRESERVATION AWARDS

Nominations from North Manchester include the Derby Brewery Arms (Holts), the Bricklayers (Holts) and the Grapes (Holts). To think that only a couple of years ago the self same brewery was knocking down the Broadway and the Waggon and Horses and trying to demolish the Griffin. Is there hope yet for Whitbread?

NEWS FROM WIGAN

The Seven Stars Hotel, Wallgate, is now serving handpumped Thwaites best mild and bitter. The pub, which once had (electric) Greenalls, is the nearest Thwaites outlet to the town centre, as the Thwaites bitter in the John Bull Chophouse, once a winter attraction, seems to be a thing of the past.

There has been another mild loss in the Wigan area. Flanagans of Bryn, which served handpumped Greenalls mild and bitter, has now gone over to keg mild. It's puzzling, as this was one of the very few pubs where Greenalls actually promoted real ale.

FAILSWORTH BREWERY OUTLETS

The following pubs/clubs are currently selling Failsworth Brewery beers:-

Prestwich RUFC

Hollinwood Cricket Club

Shoulder of Mutton, Mossley

The Fat Cat, Sheffield

Cemetery, Rochdale

Cheshire Ring, Hyde

Rose & Crown (Nook), Holmfirth

Negotiations are underway to supply the Why Not in Manchester. The beers at present are Original Bitter (og 1037) and Strong Bitter (og 1044), and the brewery are experimenting with the production of a strong cider. Attempts to buy their own pub in the Manchester area have so far been unsuccessful. Greenall Whitley offered the boarded up Navigation on Mill Street (off Hulme Hall Lane), but this was found to be totally derelict. The search continues.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

What was once called the "Royal Route" in Manchester?

- Moss Lane West (with help from adjoining streets):-

Empress, Sloane Street

Crown, Cornbrook Street

Queens, Moss Lane West

Kings Head, Moss La W. (Hydes Tap)

Prince of Wales, Moss Lane West

Albert Inn (Embsden Street)

Alexandra could be added, although on Moss La East

This route no longer exists as the pubs are just memories.

PINEAPPLE IMPROVEMENTS

The landlord of the Pineapple, a Robinsons pub on the Grosvenor Bypass

in Stalybridge is busy improving his pub. A former licensee of the Stamford Arms, a Burtonwood pub in the town, Kevin intends to install handpumps after the conversions and decorations have been completed.

RUPERT

The Prince Rupert, Holmswood Road, Bolton, has gone over to handpumped Tetley mild and bitter. This estate-type pub has some fine etched windows and it also boasted no less than four pool tables. This number has now been reduced to two, both in the tap room.

DERBYSHIRE ALE

The Derbyshire branches of CAMRA have produced the first comprehensive real ale guide to the Shire, with 120 pages giving information on 272 towns and villages (including the city of Derby), involving over 700 pubs and hotels. Real ale is represented by 73 traditional draught beers from 33 breweries.

The Guide is complete with gazetteer, maps, photographs and illustrations, together with articles on beer and brewing, Derbyshire folklore and places of special interest to the tourist, traveller, ramble, sportsman and beer drinker alike. Full descriptions of beers, the pubs, the towns and the villages are given.

Copies may be obtained from Tom Lord at 45 Leigh Avenue, Marple, nr Stockport, Cheshire. Price £1.75 per copy. (s.a.e. please, min 9"x 6")

BOLTON ALTERATIONS

Three Bolton town centre pubs are, or will be, undergoing major alterations. The Prince William (Boddingtons), Bradshawgate, has already had a new toilet block built on; the old ones have been demolished to make way for a bar along the right hand wall. A new small bar will serve the tap room and food will be available in future.

Across the road from the Prince Bill, the Gaiety (Vaux) will also be revamped. The pub will be extended into the two shops incorporated in the magnificent Edwardian building. It is hoped that other cask beers from the Vaux empire will join the Samson at the bar.

Further along Bradshawgate, the Alma Inn (Burtonwood) will be extended into the shop next door. The Alma is a small, popular GBG listed pub, serving excellent home made meals at lunchtime.

MASONS ARMS

The Masons Arms, Whitefield, has received the Whitbread treatment but, fortunately, it has not been converted into a House of Horrors. Modern but tasteful changes have taken place and a strict rule of "no jeans or leathers" gives an idea of the type of customer the Masons Arms

wishes to attract. Castle Eden and Duttons bitter are the real ales now available where previously there were none. Unfortunately, Whitbread's prices of 62p and 60p are not competitive with neighbouring Boddies and Holts pubs.

NEW PUB?

Some time ago Greenalls bought and demolished the old Ellesmere Cinema and restaurant near the junction of the East Lincs Road and Worsley Road, with the stated intention of building a hotel and restaurant. However, they appear to have been twiddling their thumbs a bit too long, and now Salford Corporation have been asking them to get a move on. So now Warrington's fastest expanding leisure group have put in an application to build a pub on the site. Could be worse.

VOLUNTEER

The Volunteer, 158 Darwen Road, Bromley Cross, Bolton, has been modernised a la Whitbread. The low ceilings have precluded the installation of the normal raised drinking areas and shelves full of junk, so visiting the pub makes one realise how unnecessary these features are. The conversion was done by a local Ramsbottom firm, rather than that trendy Blackpool mob. The real ales are Castle Eden (62p) and Duttons bitter (58p), both of which could have been of better quality. Don't just ask for bitter, you'll get Trophy, which is probably why the real ale was below par. If the beer improves and Whitbread don't put up their prices for a couple of years this will be a decent pub to go in, especially as Matthew Brown can't be bothered putting cask beer in the Railway down the road.

ELIZABETHAN

Wilsons Elizabethan on Hillock Estate, Whitefield, has been modernised with swish "Habitat" style furnishings. But, more important, the pub has been converted to real ale via handpumps.

Prices charged are 59p for bitter and 58p for mild, which is top price for Wilsons and doesn't compare favourably with Holts' Frigate on the same estate, which is 10p a pint cheaper.

Castle Eden at 61p a pint is now available at the Albert Inn on the Hillock Estate. The Estate can now boast a real ale in all its pubs, with a variety of Holts, Lees, Wilsons, Whitbread (Castle Eden) and Thwaites at the nearby Queen Ann.

GOOD NEWS

Ref. the item "Gay News", WD Dec. Theakstons bitter (handpumps) is still selling at the Gay Willows, Clifton, at 62p a pint.



REAL ALE in BOLTON



BOLTON

Ainsworth Arms	606 Halliwell Road	Halliwell	Walkers	M,BB(H)
Albert Inn	181 Derby Street	Centre	Tetley	M,B(E)
Alma Inn	152 Bradshawgate	Centre	Burtonwood	DM,B(H)
Ancient Shepherd	12 Bold Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Bolton Institute of Higher Education (Students' Bar)	Derby St/Deane Rd	Centre	Taylor's Landlord(H)	
			Thwaites	M,B(H)
			Tetley	B(H)
Artillery & Volunteer	276/8 Radcliffe Rd	Darcy Lever	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Black Horse	398 Bury Road	Duttons B, Castle Eden (H)		
Black Swan	Hough Fold Way	Bradshaw	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Blue Boar	96 Deansgate	Centre	Duttons B, Castle Eden (H)	
Boars Head	39 Churchgate	Centre	Greenalls	M,B(H)
Bobs Smithy	1448 Chorley Old Rd	B6226	Tetley M, Walkers BB (H)	
Bowling Green	271 Bury Road	A58	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Bowling Green	97 Eskrick Street	Halliwell	Greenalls	M,B(H)
Bradford Arms	101 Bradford St	Centre	Tetley	M,B(H)
Cheetham Arms	987 Blackburn Rd	A666	Duttons B, Castle Eden (H)	
Clifton Arms	94 Newport St	Centre	Tetley	M,B(H)
Colliers Arms	1053 Chorley Old Rd	B6226	Tetley	M,B(H)
Craven Heifer	452/4 Blackburn Rd	Astley Bridge	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Crofters Arms	494/6 Halliwell Road	Halliwell	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Crofters Hotel	339 St Georges Rd	Centre	Greenalls B(E), Bulmers (H)	
Cross Guns	Blackburn Rd	Egerton	Duttons	B(H)
Cross Guns	272 Deane Rd	Centre	Walkers	M,B(H)
Derby Arms	98 Derby St	Centre	Chesters B, Castle Eden (H)	
Derby Hotel	218 Halliwell Rd	Halliwell	Tetley	M,B(E)
Doffcocker Inn	Chorley Old Rd	Doffcocker	Tetley	M,B(H/E)
Dog & Partridge	Manor St	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Duck & Firkin	Bradshawgate	Centre	Marstons Ped, C. Eden, Hartleys XB, Bulmers (H)	
Dunscar Arms	547 Darwen Rd	Dunscar	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Falcon	90 Kay Street	Centre	Tetley M, Walker B (H)	
Finishers Arms	487 Church Road	Doffcocker	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Flag Inn	Hardmans Lane	Dunscar	Duttons B, Bulmers Cider(H)	
Gaiety	Bradshawgate	Centre	Vaux Samson (H)	
Gardners Arms	1 Vallets La, off Ivy Rd	B6226	Tetley M, Walkers BB(H)	
General Havelock	110 Sidney Street	Great Lever	Boddingtons	B(H)
George	92 Great Moor St	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Gibraltar Rock	244 Deane Rd	A676	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Gilnow Arms	258 Deane Rd	A676	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Globe	272 Blackburn Rd	Egerton	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Globe	76 Higher Bridge St	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Greyhound	146 Deansgate	Centre	Bass	4XM(E)
Gipsy's Tent	178 Deansgate	Centre	Tetley	M,B(H)
Halliwell Lodge	Mornington Rd	off A673	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Hare & Hounds	539 Bury Rd	A58	Walkers	M,B(H)
Howcroft	36 Pool Street	Centre	Walkers	M,BB(H)
Jolly Miller	Chorley Old Rd	B6226	Wilsons	M,B(H)

Jolly Ploughman 2 Doffcocker Lane
 Kings Arms 177 Chorley Old Rd
 Lamb 278 Halliwell Rd
 Last Drop off Hospital Rd
 Lodge Bank Tavern 262 Bridgeman St
 Lord Clyde 109 Folds Rd
 New Zealand Chief 5 Gt Moor St
 Oddfellows Arms 140 St Helens Rd
 Old Three Crowns 14 Deansgate
 Peel Hotel 52 Higher Bridge St
 Prince Rupert Holmswood Rd
 Prince William 11 Bradshawgate
 Queen Elizabeth 138 Fletcher St
 Rams Head 275 Derby St
 Rock House Hotel 65/67 Duke Street
 Rose Hill 122 Manchester Rd
 Royal Oak Bradshaw Brow
 Rumworth Hotel 512 Wigan Rd
 Scamps Disco Bradshawgate
 Stags Head 200 St Helens Rd
 Stanley Arms 99 Chorley Old Rd
 Stork & Fox 548 Halliwell Rd
 Swan Hotel 2 Churchgate
 Sweet Green Tavern 127 Crook Street
 Tanners 61/63 Lever Street
 Three Pigeons 587 Blackburn Rd
 Tippings Arms 362 Blackburn Rd
 Tramways Hotel 307 Blackburn Rd
 Victoria 238 Bridgeman St
 Victoria British Queen 124 Blackburn Rd
 Volunteer 158 Darwen Rd
 White Lion 169 Deansgate
 Wilton Arms 885 Belmont Rd

York Hotel 112 Newport Street

LITTLE LEVER

Horse Shoe 71 Lever St
 Jolly Carter 168 Church St
 Queen Anne 26 High St
 Three Crowns 7 Fletcher St
 White Horse 30 High St

FARNWORTH

Bradford 45/47 Buckley La
 Bridgewater 27 Buckley La
 Canary 2 Mossfield Rd
 Church Hotel 61 Church Rd
 Church Inn 80 George St
 Golden Lion 18 Gladstone Rd
 Half Way House 69 Worsley Rd

Doffcocker Wilsons M,B(H)
 B6226 Tetley M,B(E)
 Halliwell Greenalls M,B(E)
 Bromley Cross Matthew Brown B(H)
 Centre Lees GBM,B(H)
 A676 Bass 4XM(E)
 Centre Greenalls M,B(E)
 A676 Greenalls M,B(E)
 Centre Wilsons M,B Bulmers (H)
 Centre A666 Greenalls M,B(E)
 Morris Green Tetley M,B(H)
 Centre Boddingtons M,B(E)
 Great Lever Greenalls M,B(E)
 Daubhill Greenalls M,B(E)
 Not Centre Wilsons B(E)
 Centre Greenalls M,B(E)
 Bradshaw Greenalls B(E)
 A676 Greenalls M,B(E)
 Centre Greenalls B(H)
 A579 Tetley M,B(H)
 B6226 Tetley M,B(H)
 Halliwell Tetley M,B(H)
 Centre Burtonwood DM,B(H)
 Centre Tetley M, Walkers BB (H)
 Great Lever Greenalls B(E)
 Astley Br. Duttons B, C.Eden (H)
 Astley Br. Duttons B(H) eve.only
 Astley Br. Greenalls M,B(E)
 Centre Greenalls B(E)
 A666 Greenalls M,B(E)
 Duttons B, Castle Eden (H)
 Centre Wilsons M,B(E)
 A675 Duttons B,Hartleys XB,
 Bulmers Cider (H)
 Centre Burtonwood DM,LM,B(E)

Centre Hydes M,B(E)
 Centre Chesters B(H)
 Centre Thwaites M,B(H)
 Centre Wilsons M,B(H)
 Centre Duttons B(H)

A5082 Boddingtons M,B(E)
 A5082 Sam Smiths B(H)
 off B6199 Duttons B(H)
 Centre Thwaites M,B(H)
 New Bury Walkers M,B(H)
 A575 Tetley M,B(H)
 A575 Boddingtons M,B(H)

Market Inn 11 Brackley St
 Moses Gate 5 Bolton Rd
 Railway Inn 4/6 Egerton St
 Rawsons Arms 133 Peel Street
 Saddle 53 King St
 Shakespeare 1 Glynne St
 White Horse 10/12 Egerton St
 White Hart 67 Albert Rd

KEARSLEY & STONECLOUGH

Antelope Manchester Rd
 Clock Face Old Hall St
 Hare & Hounds 13 Market St
 Horse Shoe 395 Folds Rd
 Lord Nelson Ringley Rd
 Market St Tavern 131 Market St
 Moss Rose 1 Manchester Rd
 Spread Eagle 313 Manchester Rd

HORWICH

Amsterdam Bar 349 Chorley New Road
 Albert Arms 114 Lee Lane
 Bowling Green 175 Lee Lane
 Bridge Lee Lane
 Brown Cow 36 Church St
 Jolly Crofters Chorley Old Rd
 Nibblers 181 Chorley New Rd
 Toll Bar Inn 2 Chorley New Rd

BLACKROD

Poacher 1/3 Scot Lane

WESTHOUGHTON

Alexandra 619 Hindley Rd
 Brinsop Arms 590 Chorley Rd
 Cross Guns 27 Bolton Rd
 Four Gates 330 Chorley Rd
 Grey Man 90 Hindley Rd
 Grey Mare 152 Bolton Rd
 Hart Common 490 Wigan Rd
 Royal Oak 480 Chorley Rd
 Three Crowns 132 Lower Leigh Rd
 Waggon & Horses 170 Chorley Rd
 White Horse 259 Bolton Rd
 White Lion 2 Market St

LOSTOCK AREA

Bromilow Arms Alexandra Rd
 Duke of Wellington 60 St Johns Rd

Centre Walkers M,B,BB(H)
 Moses Gate Duttons B, Marst. Ped(H)
 Moses Gate Greenalls M,B(E)
 Centre Burtonwood L,M,DM,B(H/E)
 Centre Tetley M,B(H)
 A575 Greenalls M,B(E)
 Moses Gate Tetley M,B(H)
 A575 Tetley M,WalkerBB(E)

A666 Greenalls M,B(E)
 Centre Tetley M,B(H)
 Stoneclough Tetley M,B(E)
 Stoneclough Thwaites BM,B(E)
 Stoneclough Thwaites BM,B(H)
 Stoneclough Wilsons M,B(H)
 A666 Wilsons M,B(H)
 A666 Tetley M,B(E)

A673 Duttons B,Marstons Ped (H)
 Centre Greenalls M,B(E)
 Centre Tetley M,B(H)
 B6226 Castle Eden (H)
 Centre Greenalls M,B(E)
 B6226 Greenalls M,B(E)
 Centre Bass Cask(E)
 Centre Thwaites M,B(E)

Centre Burtonwood DM,B(H)

Hindley Green Burtonwood DM,B(E)
 A6 Bass, Bass Cask B,4XM,Boddingtons
 B, Hartleys XB (H)
 Centre Tetley M, Walkers BB(H)
 A6 Greenalls M,B(H)
 Daisy Hill Tetley M,B(H)
 Centre Tetley M,B(H)
 A58 Matthew Brown M,B(E)
 A6 Wilsons M,B(H)
 Daisy Hill Tetley M,Walkers BB(H)
 A6 Burtonwood DM,B(E)
 A6 Wilsons M,B(H)
 Centre Holts M,B(H)

off A6027 Tetley M,B(H)
 Chew Moor Tetley M,Walker B(H)

HORROR SCOPE

Two pillars supporting the ceiling have been cleverly made to look like laburnum trees, with real twigs for branches and artificial leaves and flowers adding a splash of summer cheer to a damp winter afternoon or evening.

This, and the striped canopies at various points in the room, almost give the impression of a pavement cafe.

Look up at the ceiling, though, and you will see an amazing network of coloured spotlights and a reflecting silver globe reminiscent of the old-style dance halls.

When it was announced some months ago that Whitbread proposed to convert the Duke of Wellington, Bolton Road, Pendlebury, to a "disco-pub", petitions were launched. The local residents weren't keen and, what's more, the regulars were quite happy with this popular live music venue, which produced a club-like atmosphere. Despite the campaign - which enlisted the support of D J Mike Sweeney, a regular artist (?) there - the Whitbread monolith stayed resolute and now Swinton and Pendlebury has the dubious distinction of possessing a House of Horrors.

If your person meets with the approval of the doormen with official "House of Horrors" bats on their throats, you may purchase an acceptable pint of hand-pumped Castle Eden for a pricey 65p. The standard kit has been used; "sound and

lite" show, gallons of green paint, arboreal artefacts, farmyard and countryside implements. Raw second-hand bricks are also in evidence as usual - maybe Whitbread obtained these from demolished pubs - the Duke of York, Regent Road, Salford, perhaps? One saving grace - the vault remains.

Contributors: Don Chattwood, David Rowlinson, Steve Lawton, Rob Dunford, Dave Hale, Leo King, Jim Hurst, Tom Lord, Stewart Revell, Mick Rottenbury, Roger Hall, Dave White, Ken Linkman, Paul Higson, Ken Birch.

REAL ALE IN BOLTON

The last Bolton Beer Guide appeared in What's Doing around 18 months ago. Since then the number of real ale outlets has increased from 102 to 129. The pubs are distributed as follows:-

<u>BREWERY</u>	<u>REAL ALE</u>	<u>NON-REAL ALE</u>	<u>TOTAL PUBS</u>	<u>% REAL ALE PUBS</u>
Tetley Walker	30	46	76	39.5%
Greenall Whitley	29	43	72	40.3%
Whitbread	18	33	51	35.3%
Wilsons	15	4	19	78.9%
Bass	2	14	16	12.5%
Burtonwood	7	2	9	77.8%

Matthew Brown	2	7	9	22.2%
Thwaites	8	1	9	88.9%
Free houses	4	3	7	57.1%
Peter Walker	5	0	5	100%
Boddingtons	4	0	4	100%
Hydes	1	0	1	100%
Holts	1	0	1	100%
Lees	1	0	1	100%
Sam Smiths	1	0	1	100%
Vaux	1	0	1	100%
John Smiths	0	1	1	ZERO
	129	154	283	45.6%

It is apparent from the above table that any significant increase in real ale outlets in the future is dependent on what the three largest pub owners, Tetleys, Greenalls and Whitbread, decide to do in their outlets:-

TETLEY WALKER Over the past year or so Tetleys have transferred five outlets to Peter Walker (now all real ale). In addition to that there has been a slow, but welcome, conversion to handpumped beer, though there is a long way to go before anything approaching an acceptable percentage of real ale outlets is reached in Bolton Metro.

GREENALL WHITLEY It is apparent that there is no pro-cask conditioned beer policy at the brewery, as a number of pubs have either been closed or converted to keg/tank beer. The new pubs which Greenalls have opened have been tank beer pubs. In order to double check the information contained on the list, all the breweries with a significant number of pubs were written to, asking for confirmation of the outlets. All the breweries replied with the required information except Greenalls, who couldn't be bothered to acknowledge the letter. All the Greenalls pubs have been checked out, but as some of the landlords have attitudes similar to that of the brewery, we apologise in advance for anybody being served up with keg/tank beer - things will have altered since our visit.

WHITBREAD The biggest increase in real ale outlets in Bolton has been courtesy of Whitbread who, 18 months ago, had a mere 2 real ale pubs out of 51. if the trend continues, before long Whitbread will have more real ale pubs than Greenalls or, for that matter, Tetleys. The only problems with the Whitbread real ale outlets are the price of the beer, the reluctance of the licensee to serve the customer with traditional bitter when "bitter" is requested and the appalling lack of taste in decor.



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GOOD
BEER..."





HAMMOND ALE

Sir - whilst ticking off entries in the new "Pubs That Have Not Appeared In Any Other Guide" Guide, I happened to stumble across the Crown at Bradley Village, near Standish. Amongst several handpumps was one with a pump clip bearing the words, "Hammonds Bitter". My interest was immediately aroused in this apparently most

exclusive beer. Investigations have revealed that Hammonds bitter may also be on sale in a GBG free houses not many miles from Bolton. The following questions spring to mind:-

- 1 When will Hammonds start brewing a mild?
- 2 Who is Hammonds BLO and should he be sacked?
- 3 Has Michael Jackson been informed?
- 4 Which will be the first Greenall pub to sprout Magee Marshall pump clips?
- 5 Is this a deliberate attempt to mislead the drinking public?

Any replies will be most appreciated (sorry, no prizes!)

C Swarbrick

THE GREAT DEBATE

Sir - Alistair L Walker's letter jolted me into a reappraisal of Whitbread's new fun houses. I have revisited several of these lovely pubs and have grown to like them. After all, why complain about over-priced and indifferently kept beer in licensed junk yards? I assume that your correspondent can't be the same Alistair L Walker who was chucked out of the George in Stockport on 5th February 1982 for being unsuitably dressed, and responded in a boring old fuddy-duddy manner by slanging off peroxide viragos, sycophantic poofsters, luminous red shirts, Andy Pandys pantaloons and Lionel Blair bouffants. I was hoping, when I'd sweated off my beer belly, to dress in this manner in order to feel at home in the Whitbread fun pubs I've grown to love and where no doubt one day I'll bump into the real Alistair L Walker.

Tony Pandys

Sir - Whitbread have managed to achieve what most people thought impossible. In opening their latest "House of Horrors", delightfully named the Nip and Tipple, they have created a far worse monstrosity than ever before. Not only is the customer greeted with the usual combination of red and green walls, plastic grapes, etc, but there is "music" at a level which must be twice as high as Concorde's takeoff. One minute the "pub" is so dark you can hardly find your beer, the next two huge, blinding spotlights switch themselves on. There is worse - a combination of traffic lights, disco lights and revolving

mirrors create a state of complete dizziness. After one pint, you feel as if you've drunk fifteen!

Chesters bitter and mild are served through handpumps. A very bad pint of bitter cost 62p - 13p dearer than a pint of Holts a few stops down the road on the 59 bus.

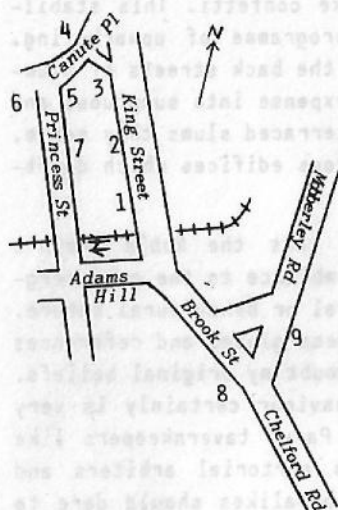
I am completely baffled by last month's letter in defence of Whitbread's lunatic policies. All the conversions I have visited serve very poor quality beer, many times undrinkable, at a very inflated price. If only we could return to their policies of not too long ago, with good beer (Special Cask) served at reasonable prices in proper pubs.

Paul Roberts

PHIL DRAKE

Sir - I would like to thank the friends of the late Phil Drake for their kind and generous donations. The money collected came to over £250. At the request of Phil's mum, the money will go towards the Coronary Care Unit at Bolton Royal Infirmary. Once again, many thanks!

Jim Hurst, Chairman, Bolton Branch



KNUTSFORD PUB CRAWL

1 Rose & Crown	Greenalls	B(H)
2 Royal George	Wilsons	B(H)
3 White Lion	Tetley	M,B(H)
4 Lord Eldon	Wilsons	B(H)
5 Red Cow	Chesters	B(H)
6 White Bear	Greenalls	M,B(E)
7 King Canute	Wilsons	M,B(H)
8 Legh Arms	Marstons	Ped,B(H)
9 Builders Arms	Marstons	M,B(H)

These days Knutsford provides a good evening's drinking for the real ale enthusiast. Nine of the town's 14 pubs now sell real ale and all nine can be covered in a walk of a little over a

mile. The railway station is also conveniently situated.

The Trafford & Hulme branch of CAMRA will be staggering around the crawl on Saturday 26th February, starting at the Rose & Crown at 7.30; White Lion at 8.30. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier.

Gary Yates



It's good to see that young Perry Drab has come out into the open at last. The photogenic brewery supremo may seem vaguely familiar to many Drabs aficionados, despite the fact that he has not previously allowed himself to be photographed. This is because Perry spent his early days at the East Grotley brewery visiting his newly acquired hostelrys incognito. With unwashed matted hair and greasy clothes held together with knotted sisal, Perry was indistinguishable from most of the other customers and was able to observe the antics of his tavernkeepers with regard to hopeless insobriety and malpractice vis a vis the Jewish pianos. It was as a result of his furtive visits that Perry introduced fiddle proof tills and threw P45s about like confetti. This stabilisation enabled Drabs to embark upon a programme of upmarketing. Former socio-economic group Y beerhouses in the back streets of Slumley and Slutch have been converted at vast expense into sumptuous and palatial gin palaces, incongruous among the terraced slums they serve, yet reminiscent of Josiah Drab's own splendrous edifices which doubtless Perry has attempted to emulate.

In my naive ignorance I'd always assumed that the Noble Robin's sobriquet was derived from his physical resemblance to the good sergeant rather than from any similarity of a moral or behavioural nature. Yet the anonymous gift of a pair of fingerless gloves and references to Robin's Nest as Fagins have caused me to doubt my original beliefs. What on earth can it all mean? Bilko's behaviour certainly is very wonderful when compared with other Slumley Parva tavernkeepers like Angstrom Barmley, who set themselves up as sartorial arbiters and throw a wobbler if incognito Perry Drab look-alikes should dare to cross their thresholds, let alone voice criticism of their Hitleresque paranoia.

A naughty thought crosses my mind - wouldn't it be lovely if the Red Tinker and other superfluous and redundant pubs were to close down, leaving the way clear for dynamic, enterprising entrepreneurs - a sentiment with which The Noble would doubtless concur.



Branch Diary

BOLTON

Sun 6 Feb, 12 noon. Flexi hours meeting, Four Gates, Westhoughton
 Wed 9 Feb 8.00pm Branch Meeting, Falcon, Kay Street, Bolton
 Sun 14 Feb 12 noon. Meal, Worthington, Hindley. Book with Bert Kerks, Bolton 388172
 Tues Feb 22nd 8pm. Social, Cross Guns (Walkers), Deane Rd, Bolton, moving to Gilnow Arms (Boddingtons), next door
 Sat Mar 5th Train trip to Edinburgh. Ring for details
 Wed Mar 9th 8pm. Branch meeting, York Hotel, Newport St, Bolton, moving to Scamps Disco (handpumped Greenalls) 10.30-2.00am
 Sun Mar 20 12 noon. Committee/Social, Toll Bar, Chorley New Rd, Horwich, moving to Amsterdam Bar 1.00pm
 Contact Jim Hurst Tottington 3532

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 1 Feb 8.00 Branch meeting, Pack Horse (Marstons), Wrigley Head, Failsworth
 Tues 15 Feb 8.00 Committee meeting, Spinners (Sam Smiths), Manchester Rd, Hollinwood
 Tues 8 March 8.00 Branch Meeting, Welcome (Holts), Bury Old Rd, Whitefield GBB Editor Roger Protz in attendance to answer your questions (rearranged from last September)
 Tues 22 Mar 8.00 Committee meeting, Friendship (Holts), Bury New Rd, Prestwich
 Contact: Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 236 4411 ext 7237

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 16 Feb Branch Meeting, Duke of York, Eccles, Whitbread Speaker
 Weds 23 Feb Train ride to Strawberry Duck, Entwistle: Victoria 6.56, Clifton 7.06, Farnworth 7.14, Bolton 7.20. Trains hourly. Last train back 10.28
 Weds 2 Mar Pub Crawl of Miles Platting. Prince of Wales 7.00, White Hart 8.00
 Weds 9 Mar. Committee meeting, Yates Wine Lodge, Oldham St/Back Piccadilly 8.00
 Weds 16 Mar Branch AGM White Swan, Swinton. 8.00
 Weds 23 Mar Surprise Night Out
 Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Thurs 3 Feb. Quiz Night, Royal Oak, New Mills (Robinsons) 8.30pm
 Tues 8 Feb. Branch Committee Meeting 8.30 Church Inn, Market St, Hyde (Bodds)
 Thurs 10 Feb 8.30 Joint Meeting/Social/Games Evening with Macclesfield branch, George, Compstall (Robinsons)
 Tues 15 Feb 8.30. Branch meeting, Andrew Arms, Compstall (Boddingtons)
 Contact Tom Lord 427 7099

TRAFFORD & HULNE

Thurs 3 Feb Committee/Social, Faulkners Arms, Stamford New Rd, Altrincham 7.30
 Thurs 17 Feb Branch Meeting, Malt Shovels Stamford St, Altrincham 8.00
 Thurs 24 Feb "Pub of the Month" with S Manchester, Union, Broadstone Rd, Reddish 8.00
 Sat 26 Feb Pub Crawl, Knutsford, meet 7.30 Rose & Crown, King St, 8.30 White Lion, King Street (see article and map)
 Thurs 3 Mar Committee/Social, Crown, Deansgate, Manchester, 7.30
 Thurs 17 Mar Branch Meeting, Cheshire Midland, Ashley Rd, Hale, 8.00
 Contact Alan Hurdle, 213 Manor Ave, Sale, Cheshire M33 4NP Tel 973 2103



Forshaws

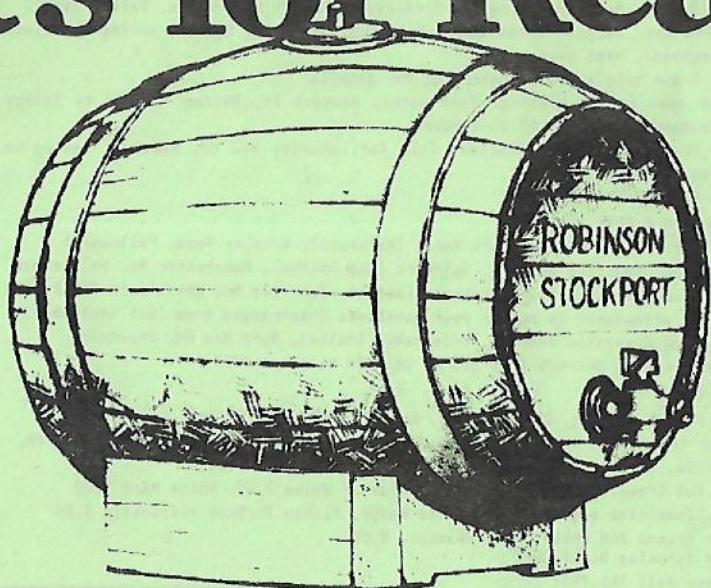
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