

WHAT'S DOING

MAY
1983



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



BURYING BODDIES

So the gloves are off at last. They won't listen to us so CAMRA has decided on a National Campaign against Manchester's favourite brewer. The major concerns are:-

- 1 Phasing out Oldham real ales
- 2 Replacing Boddingtons real mild with Oldham keg mild
- 3 Failing to produce winter ale
- 4 The deteriorating quality of Boddingtons bitter

Boddingtons' enviable reputation is based on their excellent beers in the mid 1970s and is probably the result of a word of mouth campaign by knowledgeable drinkers. But this can work both ways - Watneys was destroyed by a similar spread of opinion. Boddingtons is no longer held in high esteem by opinion leaders in the North West so how long will their reputation last? A reputation is a fragile thing - more easily lost than gained. Information about further examples of Boddingtons' appalling policy will be gladly received in the hope that publicity may stop them in their tracks.

WHAT'S DOING

G.B.G. 84

If the 20% reduction in entries is applied evenly, North Manchester branch will be left with about 26 pubs. The final selection will be made at the May branch meeting. We are starting with a clean sheet so suggestions are welcome. Please phone the following with your ideas:-

Eccles, Irlam & Cadishead - Duncan Roberts - 793 5750

Swinton & Pendlebury - Peter Cash - 794 5143

Worsley, Walkden, Little Hulton - Dave Glass - 799 7002

- Stewart Revell 790 0650

Salford - Robin Bence - 707 5409

Cheetham, Collyhurst, Harpurhey, Blackley - Roger Hall - 740 7937

Ancoats, Miles Platting, Moston, Newton Heath - Ken Birch - 793 8249

Manchester City Centre

(North of A6) Any branch member

NO MARK OF DISRESPECT

The omission of the Mark Addy from the Central Manchester list in last month's WD was not because our intrepid reporter was refused admission by the monkey suited supernumary but a pure accident. Boddingtons is still on sale at 60p - 7p a pint more than the typical tied house price.

SARACEN ALE

The Saracens Head (Whitbread), Wigan Lane, now serves Castle Eden ale on handpumps alongside the usual range of keg beers. Beer engines were installed about a month ago and the ale, at 62p a pint, is reported to be "selling well". The only other outlet for this beer in the Wigan area is the Belle Vue on Woodhouse Lane.

OUT OF TUNE

Marstons Burton Ale is now alongside the "Websters" (it's Wilsons, really) at the Brahms & Liszt on Brown Street, Manchester - not that anybody can afford either. Marstons is 74p and "Websters" is 72p. So if you win the pools and want to stay out drinking real ale till the early hours, call in. It'll cost you 90p to get in past the heavy to the disco beat.

LEIGH ALE

This semi-arid town has a real ale gain. The Musketeer, Lord Street, has opened up selling Boddingtons mild and bitter. Not a sign of keg OB anywhere. On the losses side, the Bass seems to have disappeared from the nearby Courts Inn.

MOSS REOPENS

The Moss Tavern, a Wilsons house on Ashton Road, Droylsden, reopened on Tuesday March 22nd after being completely refurbished.

BOARD TO DEATH

The Osborne (Eccles New Road) and the Marble Arch (Rochdale Road) are among the latest Wilsons pubs to be boarded up. What will be their fate? Boddingtons have also caught the disease. The Waterloo in High-town is shut. Are they Boddifying it into a new house of horrors? Putting tanks in? Knocking it down? Tastefully renovating it? We should be told.

GAY PRIDE

What's Doing is now on sale at the Gay Willows, Clifton, where the Theakstons bitter is in good form and selling well. There is room on the bar for a second handpump and another real ale may be joining the Theakstons. With Castle Eden at the Golden Lion, eight different real ale brewers are represented along the A666 between the Gay Willows and the Butchers Arms.

GLOBAL NEWS

The Globe Hotel, Dukinfield, now sells Chesters mild on handpumps alongside the handpumped Tetley mild and bitter.

NEW FORMULA MOUTHWASH

Are What's Doing competitions to be taken seriously? John Smiths are planning to build a fire escape at the Sportsman Inn in Stalybridge, along with new toilets.

UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMOUR

There could, of course, be no truth in stories that Boddingtons' order forms for the free trade have a column for 9's and 4½'s of bitter with the rider "+ CO2". Mr Boddington is so proud of his beers that in 1982 he said, "Boddingtons' locally brewed, traditional bitter and mild, with their faithful and still growing following, are the core of our business and I have no doubt that they will continue to be so for many long years to come." There is surely no possibility that the principles of which Boddingtons may be justifiably proud and on which their enviable reputation is based are being sacrificed on the altar of expediency. If top pressure is on the cards, can keg be far behind? We may find it as difficult to swallow the beer as Ewart Boddington does to swallow his words.



WILSONS PUBS REOPEN

The Old Shears, Greengate, Salford, reopened recently. Handpumped Wilsons mild and bitter was being offered at 50p a pint. A notice on the wall invited budding Minnesota Fats's to win a pint by challenging the landlord and landlady at pool on Monday-Thursday evenings. Nearby on Chapel Street the Lord Nelson has also reopened, after being closed for a few months. Although the handpumps remain, the beer is sold through electric pumps. When asked why, the licensee explained that the beer was the same and electric pumps don't need as much cleaning and handpumps. Oh dear.

ROCK ON

The Rock, New Mills, a Robinsons Good Beer Guide pub for the last few years (described as "a true back street local") is in the process of a brewery inspired improvement. The new layout is not expected to be as snug as the old one, although the facilities behind the bar for the licensees, Amy and Alan Bowers, are much improved.

SHUT

Ancoats seems to be undergoing a lean time, as the Crown & Sceptre (Whitbread fizz) and the White House (Wilson's), two pubs on Great Ancoats Street only 200 yards apart, are both closed till further notice. Reasons not known.



CASTLE OUT OF CHECK

The Castle & Falcon, which has had a chequered history since it appeared in the Good Beer Guide some years ago, is now back on the real stuff. Burtonwood dark mild and bitter are once again being served by handpump and the pub is somewhat more crowded than hitherto.

NEW NAVIGATION

The Navigation, a Wilsons pub at the top of Lancashire Hill in Stockport, is due to reopen on May 21st after being completely revamped. The new licensee will be Alex Stepney

BOLTON AMBER NECTAR SHOW

There will be a meeting in the York Hotel, Newport Street, Bolton to discuss the forthcoming Bolton Beer Festival at 8.00pm on Wednesday, May 11th. The Beer Festival will be held in the BIT building on Manchester Road, as part of the Bolton Festival.

ICH DIEN NICHT

The Prince of Wales on Oldfield Road, Salford, affectionately known as "Littles", after a licensee half a century ago, has closed. The closure looks permanent as the windows have been boarded up and all the signs removed. No doubt Tetleys will sell the building without a licence and possibly with a restrictive covenant preventing the future retailing of alcohol.

UP ANCHOR

The Anchor on Bury Old Road, Bolton, has opened selling handpumped Boddingtons bitter at 53p a pint. It is hoped that other cask beers will soon be available in what is the town's second only free house.


HEROES WORSHIP

A recent addition to the chain of real ale off-licences known as "Legendary Lancashire Heroes" is to be found at 150 Sylvan Avenue, Timperley (near the Sylvan Hotel). Seven real ales are normally available, along with bottled beers, wines and draught cider. On a recent visit the following were on sale: Saxon Cross (50p a pint); Thwaites Bitter (55p a pint); Hartleys XB (59p a pint); Theakstons bitter (59p a pint); Matthew Brown John Peel (61p a pint); Marstons Pedigree (61p a pint) and Owd Rodger (86p a pint), plus Symonds ciders. Opening hours are 4.45-10.30 Monday to Thursday; 4.45-11.00 Friday; 10.00am-11.00pm Saturday; 12.00 noon-2.00pm and 7.00-10.30pm Sunday. Licensee Bob Thornton is a CAMRA member and can be contacted on 905-1009 during shop hours.

JENNINGS ON THE HORIZON

Jennings beers should become available in Burnley, Nelson and Colne within the next month, following an extension to a trading agreement with Bass North West (of all people). The beers should be going in about twelve pubs, including the Crown, Albert Road, Colne, which lost its Worthington bitter recently. In return, Bass will be supplying Jennings with keg Snotes.

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GEORGE IMPROVEMENTS

The George, Market Street, Bury, has been transformed by Whitbread. This former drinking man's palace has been turned into a comfortable lounge pub, with the details on the ceilings highlighted and the stained glass windows left intact. What a contrast to the Knowsley across the road! However, the beer is rather expensive, at 64p for Castle Eden and 62p for Duttons.

SWINTON ALE

The Oakwood, Lancaster Road, a recent Whitbread conversion, is now a "Beefeater" house. When it was first altered, the pub had no real ale; now there is Chesters bitter on handpump. The Robin Hood on Manchester Road, Clifton, a "Cavalier" steak and chips shop, now has Tetley mild and bitter on handpumps. Lounge prices are 59p and 62p a pint.

TAYLORS IN SADDLEWORTH

The Horse & Jockey at Stanedge, Delph, and the Printers, Denshaw, now sell Timothy Taylors ales. The Jockey also has the full range of Theakstons beers whilst the Printers offers Tetley mild and bitter.

BLUE BELL RINGS CHANGES

We wish success to two new licensees. Dave Williams moves from the GBG listed Blue Bell in Moston Lane to take over the Bricklayers Arms, Ordsall Lane, Salford. Ken Simmons, who has recently been running a shop in Swinton, now takes the Blue Bell as his first pub. And the curious news is that Holts are due to install handpumps at the Blue Bell.

CASTLE IRWELL?

Marstons Pedigree will shortly disappear from the Moses Gate Hotel, Farnworth, to be replaced by Castle Eden Ale, on instructions from the brewery. This is thought not to be unconnected with the fact that Castle Eden is now being brewed at Salford.

MORE WILSONS NEWS

The Bricklayers Arms on Ashton New Road, Clayton, is currently displaying a high degree of shutness. The pub has been boarded up and the sign removed. The Thompsons Arms, Sackville Street, Manchester, has been selling real ale for some months, although it was not included in the Central Manchester list last month. The pub recently reopened after a £50,000 facelift and is expected to remain popular with Manchester's gay community (it says here). The new luxurious downstairs bar features extensive use of plants (pansies, no doubt), mirrors and soft lighting.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you want to be sure of getting **WHAT'S DOING** every month, why not subscribe? It costs £1.70 for six issues, postage paid. Fill in the form below and send it together with a cheque or postal order made out to "**WHAT'S DOING**" to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester

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Please send me the next six issues, starting with.....

BACK NUMBERS

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These are available from the above address at 10p a copy. Please send a large stamped, addressed envelope

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

JOIN CAMRA

To join **CAMRA** send £7 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW

WILSONS BACK TO ITS BEST?

In an attempt to recapture the halcyon days of the pre-Watney era, Wilsons have relaunched their beers. They are to be congratulated on distinguishing between cask and brewery conditioned beer. The cask versions are to be known as **Original bitter** and **Original mild**. So far so good. But why have they failed to do anything about the ludicrously low difference in price between mild and bitter? It is to be hoped that their new premium bitter, which was excellent in pre-production tastings, is sensibly priced when it is launched later this year. And why do they have to negate all their good work by selling draught Fosters, a tasteless weal liquid, cold and gassy - the very antithesis of decent traditional beer? The Fosters advertisements are totally alien to real pubs and real beer. The fact that the brewery endorses this awful product is a sure indication that they don't really give a monkeys about what they say in their glossies - it's just a load of advertisers' puff. Until Wilsons sell real ale in all their pubs and come up with a sensible pricing system they will not regain the reputation which they have lost and which they envy in other local brewers.



Bury Road
Rochdale
Rochdale 43214

*A fine selection of handpumped real ales in traditional surroundings. Our current range is:-
RUDDLES COUNTY, HOLTS BITTER, VAUX SAMSON,
EVERARDS TIGER, TAYLORS LANDLORD or PORTER,
TAYLORS BITTER, BODDINGTONS BITTER*

Guest beers are always available and in 1982 these included Adnams, Batemans, Matthew Brown, Clarks, Darleys, Failsworth, Hydes, Lorimer & Clark, Marstons, Moorhouses, Oldham, Priory, Robinsons, Theakstons, West Riding, Wilsons, Winkles

Why not organise a trip to see us. For parties we can provide a room, food and a beer of your choice (within reason!) Phone Ethel or Colin for further information.



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"RUDDLING
GOOD
BEER..."





PUB PRESERVATION

The Harrington Arms, Gawsworth, near Macclesfield, is in the process of being knocked about by Robinsons, despite the protests of locals, the licensee and the local planning authority. The Harrington was upgraded from a Grade III to a Grade II listed building in 1976, based on the evidence of photographs of the interior lodged with the Department of the Environment. The pub is still part of a working farm and has been described by local planners as "an excellent example of a vernacular farm pub". In breach of the Planning Controls, Robinsons have so far knocked out the bar and replaced it with one of their dreadful plastic ones, covered up the old fireplaces and placed central heating radiators in front of them. The landlady is being kept in the dark about what is happening, and one wonders where Robinsons' desecration is going to stop.

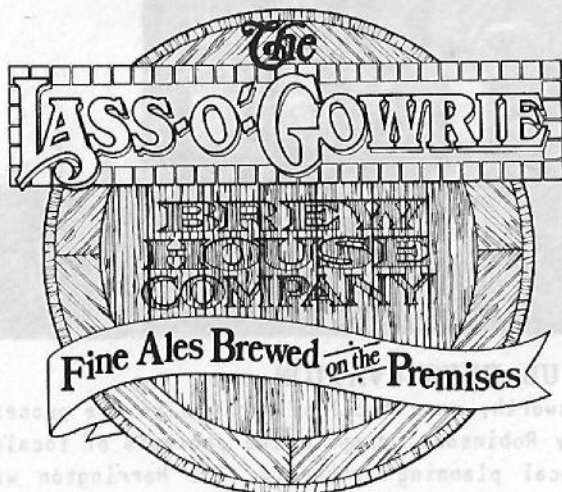
The Harrington Arms has been in the Good Beer Guide for many years and is known far and wide as a traditional public house of unspoilt charm and character. If you know the Harrington and are concerned about Robinsons' actions, make your opinion known to the Chief Planning Officer, Macclesfield Borough Council. The more support he gets, the better the chances of the Harrington's survival.

PLANNING NEWS

EMP Leisure have applied for permission to turn the former bank premises at 296 Oxford Road near the University into a public house.

MORE CENTRAL MANCHESTER REAL ALE

The Hunting Lodge, 6A Oxford Road (close to Studio 1-5 cinemas) now sells handpumped Chesters mild and bitter. The pub previously sold keg Wilsons. With the Salisbury, a recent Wilsons conversion to real ale, and the Lass O'Gowrie amber nectar emporium, this now makes the Oxford Street/Oxford Road area less of a real beer desert.



A new, pleasant and clean Lass O'Gowrie opened its doors on Tuesday 12th April to offer the drinking public two new home-brewed beers; Strong bitter (1045og) and bitter (1035og), selling for 70p and 60p respectively. The pub has been altered in sensible style, without any horrific gimmicks. The exterior of the pub, with its beautiful tiled facade, has been left intact, although the

word "Threlfalls" has been cancelled out. Apart from the two home brews, Chesters mild and bitter are also on sale. All the beers are traditional and dispensed by handpumps.

ANY OFFERS?

Wilsons have announced that the Bricklayers Arms, Clayton (see earlier), and the Angel, Chapel Street, Salford, are for sale. Both are offered fully licensed, free from tie. What chance Drabs, or Failsworth Brewery for that matter?

Information: Mick Rottenbury, Don Chattwood, Rob Dunford, Steve Lawton, Roger Bullock, Roger Hall, Paul Roberts, Grahame Jonge, Dave Fleming, Jim Hurst, Leo King, Alan Hurdle, Dave White, Pete Cash, Dave Hale, Ken Robinson, Karl Greenall

CENTRAL MANCHESTER REAL ALE



Sir - On the recommendation of April's "Real ale in Central Manchester" leaflet, I visited Mother Mac's in Back Piccadilly and ordered a pint of Chesters bitter, only to be brusquely informed that it wasn't "done"; no hand pump was in evidence either. I'm never happy when I'm holding Trophy but was presented with same, a thankfully short measure, all head and no body, which

tasted like vinegar out of a tin.

Yours, John B Marshall

P.S. The Wilsons bitter at the Imperial on London Road was (at 60p) a rather insipid and watery version of some of the excellent Wilsons available the previous night at hosteleries in Altrincham!

Sir - Other folk may already have made similar points/amendments to the Real Ale in Central Manchester list, and I may stand to be corrected on one or two points; nevertheless, here goes:

1 Portland Grapevine Bar, Portland Street: not Youngers IPA but McEwans 80/- on handpump.

2 Coach and Horses, London Road: add Tetley mild and bitter, handpumps

3 Less degree of certainty on this one, but I feel confident that the Tetleys at the King William IV, Springfield Lane, Salford, is real ale (obviously confirmation needed).

Rob Dunford

Sir - The Real Ale in Central Manchester list gives the Sir Henry Royce as selling Chesters bitter. It was not on sale on my very recent visit and the handpumps had been taken out. The same applies at the Platford. (Both because of poor sales.) Chesters bitter has also been withdrawn from the Bulls Head on Chester Road for the same reason. At times during my visits to these three pubs when the beer was available it usually tasted sour, probably due to the poor sales. The demand was always for Trophy. No sense of taste, some people!

BERKS

Leo King

Sir - Congratulations on the AGM supplement, "Berks Beerage, the Ballad of Reading Ale" - a worthy successor to the Bradford Curry Guide, the Durham Door Guide and the Loughborough Loo Guide. Such a pity that it is only AGM attenders, hangers-on and hobnobbers such as myself who get the benefit of it and your regular Manchester clientele miss out.

B J Brownsword

P.S. Congratulations, too, to N Manchester on getting their motions re. GBG selection in city centres and Boddingtons' policies passed at the AGM. Here's hoping agreement can be reached on the Good Beer Guide question.

MORE CENTRAL MANCHESTER REAL ALE

Sir -- I read with interest a publication concerning real ale in central Manchester which a customer left in Seftons recently. To my horror, I found that Seftons was not included! We now stock Wilsons Original Bitter, which is a cask conditioned beer, along with keg mild, lagers and Guinness.

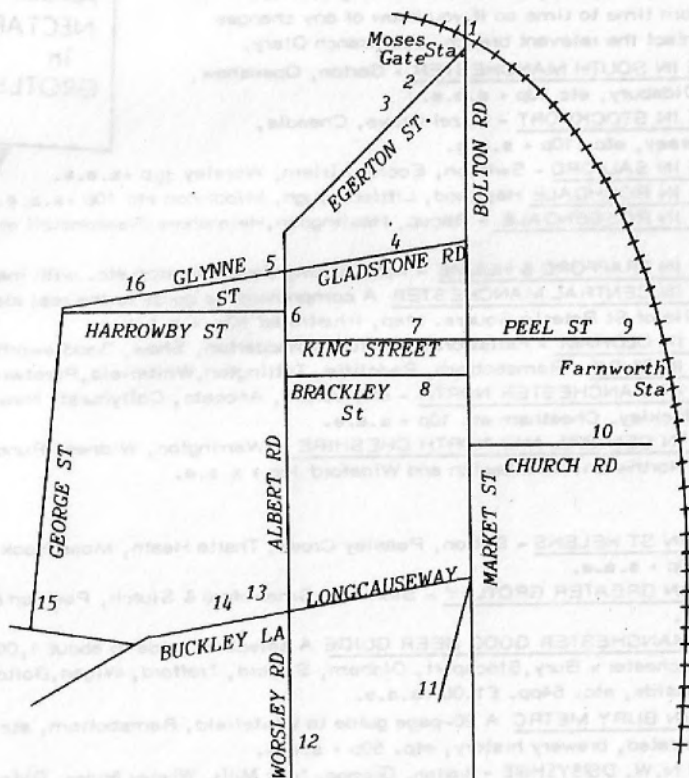
John R Hobson, Manager, Seftons, Corporation Street, Manchester 4

FARNWORTH

1 Moses Gate Hotel	5 Bolton Road	Duttons Biter,
		Marstons Ped (H)
2 Railway	4/6 Egerton Street	Greenalls M,B(E)
3 White Horse	10/12 Egerton Street	Tetley M,B(H)
4 Golden Lion	18 Gladstone Road	Tetley M,B(H)
5 Shakespeare	1 Glynne Street	Greenalls M,B(E)
6 White Hart	67 Albert Road	Tetley M,B(E)



CLOCK FACE INN
65 OLD HALL ST.
KEARSLEY



7 Saddle	53 King Street	Tetley M,B(H)
8 Market Inn	11 Brackley Street	Walkers M,B,BB(H)
9 Rawsons Arms	133 Peel Street	Burtonwood LM,DM, B(H&E)
10 Church Hotel	61 Church Road	Thwaites M,B(H)
11 Clockface	Old Hall Street	Tetley M,B(H)
12 Half Way House	69 Worsley Road	Boddington M,B(H)
13 Bridgewater	27 Buckley Lane	Sam Smiths B(H)
14 Bradford	45/47 Buckley Lane	Boddingtons M,B(E)
15 Church Inn	80 George Street	Walkers M,B(H)
16 Canary	2 Mossfield Road	Duttons B(H)

Farnworth is now an excellent place for a pub crawl, thanks mainly to Whitbread, Walkers and Thwaites's recent acquisition of the Church Hotel. In total, there are 17 different real ales available from 9 breweries. Buses are plentiful; the No. 8 Bolton-Manchester is one of many that pass through the town.

Jim Hurst

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.

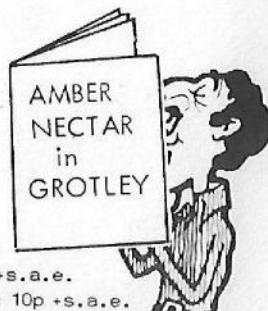
REAL ALE IN SOUTH MANCHESTER - Gorton, Openshaw, Clayton, Didsbury, etc 10p + s.a.e.

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



Campaign for Real Ale



Rupert Periwinkle

So much has happened, it's difficult to know where to start. I suppose we can only be impressed that all the top knobs turned up in Grotley to visit the hoi polloi. It was delightful to see the future Mrs Bogbrush but sad to see Mr Hammerstein reduced to pill popping. Even Boris Pratt came to give a pre-abdication tirade which was much appreciated. I was for ever rushing to a dictionary to look up new words like incompetitive (Wislon Molyneux), intercenine (Dermatitis), Jacobethian (Mrs Prune) and unprecedentedly (Felix King). It was lovely to renew old acquaintances with people like Mr Whitter, who was as good as his name, but equally delightful to see new faces like Kevin Turvey lookalike Steven Roolager.

I promised Elsie Clockwork Nun I'd keep quiet about her serving ATs in Yorkshire but she said nothing about the topless go-go dancing in Dawson City during the gold rush so my revelations next month will not be breaking any confidences. The Rightin AGM was totally tedious, the only light relief being the seething apoplexy of the local branch thickos who'd put keg pubs in the toppers' vademecum and had got found out by the clog and cloth cap brigade from Grotley. No wonder Boris Pratt gave up and went off to write fairy stories for the Black Pansy Front.

In Snoot Magna it's been all long knives and stabbing people in the front. The barrel shaped accountant's ectomorphic sibling threw in his premiership to concentrate on keg Snotes pouring with the Association of Skunkfettlers, Toadstretchers and Molestranglers, leaving the way clear for the televisual Dermatitis. Strangely Mr Humphrey Dumpty's Herculean efforts were not greatly appreciated, so the whingeing sartorial Scot became secretary. All they've got to do now is find out where all the money's gone....

I'd like to make an appeal on behalf of Tish. She's been receiving numerous abusive and threatening remarks from both men and women since she made the remark, "If I was married to him, I'd be a lesbian as well." I must reiterate that the remark was totally jocular and in any case did not refer to anyone known to any one of us at all.

WHAT'S DOING COMPETITION - IDENTIFY THE DRUNK

Indian Waiter: Will you be paying by cheque, sir?

Customer A: Shertainly!

Indian Waiter: Would you mind signing it before the meal, sir, whilst you're still capable?

Customer A: Shertainly not and get me a carafe of vino
.....Shome time later.....

Customers B-F: That's £5 each with a tip, here's our money, A.

Customer A: I'll zyust finizgh thish vino and write a cheque - oh dear
I can't write.

Indian Waiter: Never mind, sir. Just pay for your friends' meals in cash and come in tomorrow to pay for yours.

Customer A: No!

Customer B: Send for the police.

Rozzer 1: Ello, ello, ello, what have we 'ere. Turn out your pockets.
Oh, yes, very good, £30. That'll do, 'ere you are, sooty

Customer A: I musht be pissht

WHO IS CUSTOMER A?

Note: Employees or relations of the Humphrey Dumpty Rubber Beer Guide Company are not eligible to enter this competition.



Branch Diary

SOUTH LANCs

Monday May 23rd. Branch Meeting, Park Hotel, Wigan

June 11th Beer tent at Leigh Carnival. Details next month

Contact Brian Gleave Atherton 876200 (w) 892965 (h)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 11 May Harp & Shamrock, New Mount Street, Manchester 8.00

Weds 18 May, Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton 8.00

Weds 1 June Pub Crawl of A666. Gay Willows 7.00, Lord Nelson 8.00

Weds 8 June, Milan, Rochdale Road 8.00

Sat 11 June Day trip to York for either watching or drinking like horses. Leaves Duke of York, Eccles 10.00am. Tea and evening drinkies in Bradford. £5.25-ish.

Weds June 15 Branch Meeting, Queens, Patricroft, 8.00pm

Weds 22 June Cross Town pub crawl. Lass O'Gowrie 7.00, Coach & Horses 8.00

Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 5 May 7.30 Committee/Social, Faulkners Arms, Stamford New Rd, Altrincham

Thurs 19 May 8.00 Branch Meeting, Crown, Deansgate, Manchester

Thurs 26 May 8.00 "Pub of the Month" with S Manchester: Farmers Arms,
Edgeley Road, Cheadle Heath

Thurs 2 June 7.30pm Committee/Social, Bay Malton, Seamons Rd, Broadheath

Contact Alan Hurdle 979 2103 (h)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 3 May 8.00 Branch Meeting, Horton Arms (Lees), Streetbridge, Chadderton

Fri/Sun 6/7 May Saddleworth Beer Festival

Tues 7 May 8.00 Committee Meeting, Bluebell (Robinsons), Market St, Shaw

Tues 7 June 8.00 Branch AGM, White Lion (Whitbread), Bolton St, Bury

Tues 21 June 8.00. Committee meeting, Waterloo (Thwaites), Manchester Rd, Bury

Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) 061 236 4411 ext 7237 (w)

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues 10 May Benach Meeting, Crown, Market St, Hyde (Robinsons) 8.30

Speaker from Bulmers Cider

Fri 13-15th May Weekend rail trip to Edinburgh (Edinburgh Beer Exhibition,
possible brewery trip included) For full details contact Stuart Jamieson 427 2463

Tues 31 May Committee Meeting, Old Pack Horse, Guide Lane, Audenshaw 8.30pm
(Robinsons)

Contact Tom Lord 061 427,7099

BOLTON

Sun 1 May 12 noon Social/Committee Poacher, Scot Lane, Blackrod. Moving to
Brinsop Arms, 1.00

Wed 4 May 8pm. Branch Meeting Derby Arms, Derby St, Bolton. Possible Whitbread
speaker

Fri 13 May 7pm Pub crawl of Manchester. Old Ship (Bods) 8pm Unicorn, Church St
(Bass)

Wed 25 May 8pm. Social/Committee meeting Stags Head (Tetley), St Helens Road,
Daubhill, Bolton

Wed 8 June 8pm. Branch Meeting, Peel Hotel, Higher Bridge St, Bolton. Possible
speaker from Greenalls

Wed 22 June 8pm Pub crawl of Little Lever. 8pm Queen Anne, High St; 9pm Old
Three Crowns, Fletcher Street

Contact Jim Hurst Tottington 3532

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs 12 May Branch Meeting Warren Bulkeley, Warren St, Stockport

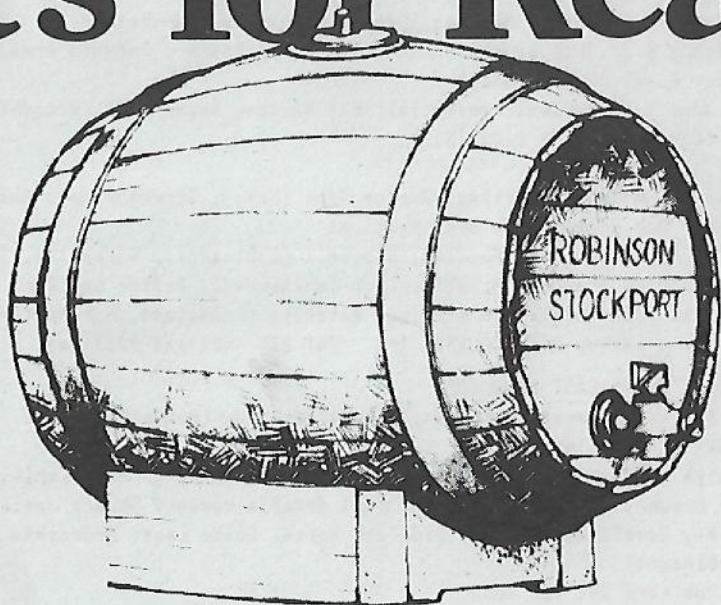
Weds 18 May visit to Hydes Brewery

Fri 20 May trip to Hook Norton Brewery

Thurs 26 May Pub of the Month, Farmers Arms, Edgeley Rd, Cheadle Heath

Contact Sue Sproson 061 225 4058

It's for Real



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

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

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

Old Tom Ale
Best Bitter Ale
Best Mild Ale



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

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

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

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

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