

15p

WHAT'S DOING



Oct
1983

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

CASK TROPHY



Whitbread have introduced cask Trophy bitter - the first cask beer to be brewed at Samlesbury (although it is being racked at Salford) - into 82 of their North West pubs, 15 in the Salford trading area, 47 from Blackburn and 20 from Liverpool. Very few are new cask outlets, and only a few have had the bright Trophy replaced with cask Trophy. The remainder offer the customer a choice between cask and bright

Trophy or, more likely, what the landlord and his staff wish to sell the customer if he doesn't specify cask or - heaven forbid! bright Trophy. It would appear that cask Trophy is described as a "traditional bitter", but bright Trophy is described as "best bitter"!

It is expected that the trial will be extended to more outlets in the coming months, once the cask beer has become established. If you have any constructive comments regarding cask Trophy, please write to the editor. We will pass on any information to the men that matter.

Salford area - cask installed alongside bright Trophy:

Houldsworth Arms, Houldsworth Square, Reddish
Roebuck Hotel, Kirkway, Alkrington
Ye Olde Cock Inn, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury
Salford Arms, Chapel Street, Salford
Flat Iron Hotel, Church Street, Pendleton
Farmyard Hotel, Rochdale Road, Manchester
Chapel House Hotel, Stockport Road, Denton
Swan Hotel, Eccles New Road, Weaste
Ashton Hotel, Katherine Street, Ashton under Lyne
Parkside Hotel, Lloyd Street South, Rusholme

cask installed replacing bright Trophy:

Silver Springs Hotel, Ashton Road, Denton
Crown & Anchor, Hilton Street, Manchester
Half Way House, Ashton Old Road, Higher Openshaw
The 53, Queens Road, Cheetham
Edinburgh Castle, Blossom Street, Ancoats

Whitbread Blackburn area:

White Horse, Helmsshore
Royal Oak, Chorley
Black Horse, Bolton
Blossoms Hotel, Lytham
Blue Boar, Bolton
George Hotel, Bury
Bulls Head, Whitefield
Clayton Arms, Nelson
Bridge Inn, Clitheroe
Bridge Inn, Radcliffe
Caledonian, Carlisle
Dog & Partridge, Bare
Chetham Arms, Turton
Flag Inn, Bromley Cross

Canary, Farnworth
Hare & Hounds, Blackburn
Levers Arms, Darcy Lever
Masons Arms, Whitefield
Major Hotel, Ramsbottom
New Hall Hotel, Samlesbury
Royal Oak Hotel, Skerton
Spread Eagle, Mellor
Talbot Hotel, Lytham
Moonraker Hotel, Preston
Waggon & Horses, Bury
Pig & Whistle, Heywood
Broadway Hotel, Fleetwood
McKenzie Arms, Bamber Bridge
Beach Hotel, Blackpool
Bull Hotel, Blackpool
Derby Arms, Treales
Crown Hotel, Morecambe
Dog Inn, Longridge
George Hotel, Blackpool
Horns Inn, Preston
Knowsley Hotel, Bury
Prince Arthur, Fleetwood
Queens Hotel, Blackpool
Railway Hotel, Daubhill
Rose & Crown, Starling
Royal George, Heywood
Spread Eagle, Barrow
Hop Inn, Blackpool
Victoria Hotel, Horwich
Volunteer Arms, Bromley Cross
Welcome Inn, Lostock Hall
Wellington Hotel, Bury

WHAT'S DOING

CAMRA BOWLING TOURNAMENT

This year's CAMRA Bowling Tournament will be on the 16th October at the Eagle and Child, Higher Lane, Whitefield. All-day licence applied for. For further details ring 766 3024.

BOLTON BRIEF

Maxims, formerly the Gaiety, Bradshawgate, now sells Lorimers 70/- alongside the Vaux Samson on handpump at 70p a pint.

The Anchor, Bury Road, has replaced the Oldham keg mild with hand-pumped Boddies mild.

The White Lion, Deansgate, is now selling Wilsons Original Bitter and mild on handpump.

The regulars of the Howcroft Inn (Walkers), Pool Street, have started a petition for their new landlord. Frank Hardcastle (68) retires before Christmas and the regulars want Carol and Tony Bretherton to take over the pub. The couple have been pulling pints at the bar for the last 12 years. We wish them well.

HOME GROUND

Seldom do we read in these pages praises of pubs that have been converted or given a face lift or generally improved. What with Houses of Horrors and Fun Pubs, which many people find appalling, it comes as a relief to find a brand new pub that really is a pub, with no gimmicks. On Monday 5th September Des Drummond of Rugby League fame, opened Boddingtons' Home Ground at Tyldesley. The people of the area petitioned their local council to have it built; the nearest pub was over half a mile away - and who wants to walk that far and back for fizzy Greenalls? The Home Ground has two main rooms - a vault and a lounge, each well furnished with no silly gimmicks. The whole place is given atmosphere without overdoing it or being ridiculous - quite an achievement in 1983. Several handpumps adorn the bars (as requested by the manager, Fred Lloyd). Most supply Boddies bitter at 55p or 56p (vault/lounge prices). Other handpumps are for Boddies mild (51p and 52p). The pub's name originated back in December 1981 when Ewart Boddington appeared on "Home Ground" together with Arthur Seddon of Bass and Roger Hall. He promised Brian Redhead that he would name a pub after the programme. Any hopes that further new pubs might be named after other guests on the programme were, however, dashed a week later when the brewery tap opened outside the brewery with the wonderfully imaginative name, the Brewers Arms.

LAPSE OF GUMPTION

It was surprising to many to see the Lass o'Gowrie short-listed for CAMRA's Pub Preservation awards. It was the only Manchester pub to be included. Evidently such features as hop sacks nailed to the ceiling and a stuffed, pipe-smoking fox leering out of a bucket created the

willing suspension of disbelief that they were not in a slightly upmarket House of Horrors when Mr and Mrs Prune visited the place with their labrador and white sticks.

BURY BEER FESTIVAL



It's all systems go for the fourth Bury Real Ale Extravaganza. Venue as before is the Cerby Hall, Market Street, Bury (close to bus/rail interchange). The Sessions are:
Friday 11 Nov 11.30-3.00, 5.00-11.00
Sat. 12 Nov 11.30-3.00, 5.00-11.00
Admission: 30p lunchtimes and evenings before 7.00. 50p thereafter.

Free to card-carrying CAMRA members

About 30 real ales and ciders will be available, including mild beers and old ales. Some names will be familiar to regular festival goers, but the beers from some of the smaller brewers might be new to most people. Trough (Bradford), Oak (Ellesmere Port), Clarkes (Wakefield) and Old Mill (Snaith, near Goole) will be available. Food will be

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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

JOIN CAMRA

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

available at each session (except Friday lunchtime). Wine by the glass - for the less hairy-chested amongst us - will also be on sale.

Don't be late for the evening sessions. Last year the hall was packed to capacity by 8.30pm on both nights. For further details contact Steve Lawton (see Branch Diary).

NEW TAP

Boddingtons new pub, the Brewers Arms, has opened adjacent to the site of the Royal Oak on Great Ducie Street. The vault has been given the novel appellation of "The Brew House" and to prove it, walls and ceiling are festooned with brewing implements. The centre piece of this room is a large copper, complete with portholes through which its inmates may peer at other drinkers. Two interesting features are the tiled bog floor, which extends into the vault (sorry, Brew House) and the juke box which permeates into the bog! Boddingtons mild and bitter are dispensed via beer engines whilst the (bright) Oldham beers are served via a push-button system. The lounge has been christened "Boddies Parlour" and is quite comfortably appointed with, it seems, a certain (unintentional) 1920's air to it. A more brightly lit annexe makes the pub effectively three-roomed and it seems is provided mainly for those partaking of the well-stocked servery. How long the evening food service continues remains to be seen. Confusingly, both cask conditioned Boddingtons and brewery-conditioned Oldham ales are sold through identical counter mountings. Overall, the pub is one of Boddingtons' better modern efforts. It is sad to think of how many identikit-type pubs they have produced over recent years when a little thought could have made a great deal of difference. (Though we could well do without vaults called "The Brew House" and the like.)



STAMFORD ARMS ALTERATIONS

Whitbread have completed the alterations to the Stamford Arms, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. The pub has been given the velvet seating touch with new lighting and carpeting. Thankfully, the House of Horrors treatment has been left out. Handpumped Chesters mild and bitter are available.

SMITHFIELD

Alongside Boddington's handpumps in this former Greenalls pub on Swan Street, Manchester, are illuminated Oldham Brewery bitter and mild cubes. On our reporter's recent visit the barperson insisted that both OB beers were traditional - "They are electric pumps - you very rarely see keg these days." Nevertheless, the beer tasted decidedly processed and somewhat gassy. Why not distinguish at point of sale between traditional OB and the rest?

HOLTS

The changeover from Whitbread to Holts at the Brigadier, Firs Road, Ashton on Mersey, took place early last month. The new licensee is Derek Fenwick, formerly of the Grapes Hotel, Peel Green. Handpumped Holts mild and bitter cost 50p and 48p a pint and there are no major changes planned.

POTTERS BAR

From Thursday October 20th to Saturday 22nd, the Potteries branch of CAMRA is holding the 3rd Stoke Beer Festival at the Kings Hall, Stoke-on-Trent. This is part of the Town Hall complex and just a few minutes walk from the railway station. Previous festivals have featured an enterprising range of beers from far and near (and all in good nick), and this year should be no exception - look out particularly for the Potteries' own Five Towns Brewery. Traditional Herefordshire cider will also be available. Lunchtime sessions are free to all comers, evening sessions are free to card-carrying CAMRA members.

SIDE ALE

Lanchester Taverns have applied for permission to build a twostorey extension at the side of the Church Inn, Ardwick Green.

CHANGES AT T'MILL

The Little Mill Inn at Rowarth in the High Peak district of Derbyshire has just changed hands. Five traditional ales are available, including Saxon Cross and Robinsons. There is also a supper licence.

CHANGING THEIR TUNE

The Royal Northern College of Music have decided not to knock down the Lloyds Arms, which they acquired from Bass. Instead, they plan to use it for tutorials.

ROCK ON

The Rock, a Matthew Brown house in Lower Ince, has reopened as the Rock Rock Cafe. Vaguely resembling a Whitbread House of Horrors, the establishment employs friendly bouncers to keep the undesirable out. The toilets have to be seen to be believed and traditional mild and bitter is still available.

PUB SWAPS

A further five pubs are to be exchanged between Wilsons and Burtonwood giving Wilsons a foothold in North Wales and strengthening Burtonwood's representation in Greater Manchester. The Welsh pubs are:

The North Wales, Rhyl
Rope & Anchor, Buckley
Blue Bell, Hawarden
Boars Head, Holywell
Hawarden Castle, Queensferry

Burtonwood will be moving in to:

Trafalgar, Bury
Albert, Rochdale
Windmill, Rochdale
Shamrock, Ancoats
Grove, Blackley

ARMS EXTENDED

The alterations to the Astley Arms in Stalybridge (Boddingtons) are now complete. The total cost of it all has been £80,000 and the drinking area has been doubled. The bar has been enlarged to increase serving space to three separate drinking areas - a lounge, vault and new games room. An adjacent shop on Tame Street has been converted into a new toilet block and kitchen.

T'FOLK

Malt Shovels Folk Club, Altrincham, has restarted after the summer break. They meet every Monday except the fourth one in every month, beginning 8.30pm.

SAME YET

Clifford Maddox, landlord of the Same Yet, Simister, Prestwich, retired last month after 18 years at this village pub. Regulars showed their appreciation of this popular landlord by presenting him with many gifts and cards.

SCOTTISH AND NEWCASTLE

On Wednesday 19th October representatives from Scottish & Newcastle Breweries will be attending the North Manchester CAMRA branch meeting at the Kenyon Arms, Manchester Road, Little Hulton. The meeting is open to everyone and it is the first time for many a year that this company has been represented at a local CAMRA meeting.

HAPPY HOUR

The "early doors" happy hour session has taken an unusual turn in an Oldham town centre pub. The Hark to Topper, Bow Street, a recent real



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THE PROPRIETORS
JIM HARDY & ANDY BARTON
OFFER TO YOU

A BAR FULL OF HANDPUMPS SERVING
HAMMONDS, DRAUGHT BASS, HARTLEYS,
BODDINGTONS and the DARK FAVOURITE
BASS BEST MILD

**THE FREEHOUSE FULL OF FINE TRADITIONAL ALES
AND STOCKED HIGH WITH WHOLESOME FOOD**

FILLED BAKED POTATOES OUR SPECIALITY



ale gain from Sam Smiths, will knock 10p off the price of a pint (54p for Old Brewery Bitter) between 8.00pm and 9.00pm on Mondays, between 9.00pm and 10.00pm on Tuesdays and between 7.30pm and 9.30pm on Wednesdays. At the same time shorts are down by 20p. Can't be bad!

PARK INN SPACE

Holts are building a small extension behind the Park Inn, Worsley Road, Swinton.

BASS BOOST

Following lengthy exercises in persuasion by a number of regulars at the Town Hall Tavern, Tib Lane, Manchester, the draught Bass is at last on handpump. Sales have increased noticeably, due in no small way to the fact that the handpump is far more prominent than the previous insignificant tap.

BRINSOP

The Brinsop Arms is set to extend into the cottages at the rear of the pub to provide more drinking space and an enlarged catering area. The range of beers is due to expand with the introduction of Matthew Brown John Peel bitter and mild.

TETLEYS LOSS

The Mawsons Arms, Kincardine Street, Brunswick (near Manchester University) no longer sells real ale. The landlord was recently heard to describe his two remaining handpumps, now unused, as "out of date". It's funny how Holts' nearby Grafton manages to pack 'em in, despite using their antiquated dispense system, while the Mawson most nights would have trouble mustering a darts team.

HORRORS HIT HILLGATE

Whitbread's Pack Horse, Hillgate, Stockport (between the Golden Lion and the Black Lion, but on the opposite side of the road) has been transformed into the Big Lamp, with the usual raised seating areas, mouldy books and so on. Handpumps proclaim Chesters bitter and mild, though on a recent visit neither was available. However, assuming they eventually get their deliveries sorted out, this appears to leave Tetley's nearby Sun & Castle as the only non-real ale pub on the Hillgate crawl - they might feel a bit left out come Christmas.

ALL CHANGE AT THE WHITWORTH

Anyone visiting the Whitworth Hotel in Rusholme will hardly recognise the place. Following the change of tenancy to Brenda Hamer, a former manageress at the Royal Oak in Didsbury, the pub has been completely and tastefully redecorated. The handpulled Marstons bitter (58p) and Pedigree (63p) has been retained and has shown greater consistency in recent weeks.

SUNDIAL

The Sundial, a Wilsons house on Greenside Lane, Droylsden, has just been refurbished; the lounges have been restored and new furniture added.

MULE INNOVATION

The latest good news for beer drinkers in Bolton is that the Cromptons Mule has recently been granted a full licence. The new Mule will incorporate the current bar and eating area and a new extended area

ENJOY A FREE PINT WITH US!



**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. The first pint each is on us.

behind the existing bistro. The Mule opened five years ago and has served Theakstons, Boddingtons and draught Bass, but recently only bottled White Shield has been available owing to low turnover of the cask beers. However, this situation will be rectified later this year when it is anticipated that several real ales will be on sale from various breweries. The plans also include a hot and cold buffet and a piano bar. Pool tables and all forms of electronic gadgetry are barred. Watch this space for more details.

BODDIES IN YORKS

Boddingtons bought three more pubs in Yorkshire last month:

The Tavern Two at Colne Bridge, Huddersfield

The Park at Ossett

The Star at Upper Cumberworth

This means that the company now owns ten pubs in Pudshire, together with five free trade outlets.

WOE ON WALLGATE

The Crofters Hotel, Wallgate, Wigan, has shut. Though hardly the most popular pub in the town centre, only last year Burtonwood gave the pub a badly needed coat of paint and reintroduced cask mild, after a brief spell on the fizzy stuff. What with the Swan and Railway, another pub on Wallgate, closing recently, a stranger to the town might be excused for thinking he was in Regent Road, Salford.

PUB OF THE MONTH

Trafford & Hulme's Pub of the Month for October is to be the Melville, Barton Road, Stretford. The Melville sells a fine drop of Holts; particularly since John and Alice Adams took over two years ago. In fact they have already been Pub of the Month once; in April 1982. Since then John and Ann have spent £1,000 on doing up an outdoor drinking area, which includes a barbecue. Holts supplied the furniture and while the weather was good business boomed (look out Macdonalds!). Whilst the barbecue has stopped for the winter, the beer is still excellent and a friendly welcome is assured. So why not come along on Thursday October 27th for a reet good do!

ANOTHER O.B. GAIN

In addition to the pubs listed in last month's WD, the Bulls Head at Heyside, Royton, sells traditional OB and Boddies ales through hand-pumps.

MELTED HARPSTRINGS

The Angel on Chapel Street, Salford, which Wilsons have been unable to sell, was yet another pub to set the night on fire on 30th August. The damage may mean that the Angel will never reopen.

Contributors: Steve Lawton, Roger Hall, David Rowlinson, Jim Hurst, Stewart Revell, Duncan Busman, Dave Hale, Mike Goode, Don Chattwood, Rob Dunford, The Whingeing Sartorial Scot, Howard Jones, Pete Cash, Keith Egerton, Rhys P Jones, Dave White



GREENALLS

Sir - I have been trying for two years to have handpumps installed in order to serve real ale. These were installed in June this year. Being interested in real ale and CAMRA, I thought "Great!" - until I read your September issue, the first time I have read your magazine. It seems you do not regard Greenalls as real ale. Have I or have I not for the past three months been serving real ale? I thought I was; I would be interested in your comments.

P Turner, Green Barn Inn, Manchester Road, Blackrod

BEER AND BORIS

Sir - Manchester area drinkers need not go without their favourite tippie whilst in the great metropolis. Two ROB members recently visited Islington, North London, working place of one Roger Protz. They ventured into the nearest cask outlet to Islington Town Hall, the Pint Pot, and found amongst other cask beers, Boddingtons bitter and Greenalls Local Bitter (the one that doesn't travel well, remember?) at 84p and 86p per pint. What's Doing readers may gasp but the locals were lapping up the "typical" Northern beers.

Graham Mason

CORRECTION

Sir - Last month when my contribution on the "Heaton Ale" was published it was stated that the Elizabethan (Greenall Whitley) was in Heaton Mersey. In fact, it is in Heaton Moor. The Elizabethan does not sell real ale, but I would not want anyone hunting around Heaton Mersey for the place - then again, what real ale drinker would!

Leo King

00101

Sir - I note with interest that September's WD awarded House of Horrors status to the Vine, Washway Road, Sale. While the Vine (Wilsons traditional beers) may not have been tastefully modernised to everyone's satisfaction, it is certainly no horror house! I assume your correspondent is referring to the Volunteer, Cross Street, a Whitbread house which received the full treatment and then found difficulty in attracting licensees and lost at least one because he wanted to run a "real" pub with a vault. Whitbread are now to do the decent thing and re-convert it. Well done, lads!

Mick Rottenbury

BULLS HEAD, SWINTON

Sir - The recent refurbishment at this Tetley Walker establishment effectively means that Swinton has "lost" one pub but "gained" a bar. The premises have been opened out around a central bar area and have had the "disinfectant treatment" - i.e. come up pine, green (and clean), with the aid of plants and glasswork. Tetley's own advertisement in the local paper refers to "...this Up-Market, Trendy and Stylish pub..." and their blurb has certainly achieved the aim of attracting a crowd of "beautiful people" as profit fodder.

The vault has, of course, disappeared - as has the popular Folk Club. Commendably, however, the price list displays the o.g. of all beers, including the keg varieties. Prices of real ale start at 61p for a pint of Tetley mild, 64p for Tetley bitter and a hefty 71p for Ind Coope Burton Ale. Those with a late night midweek thirst should note that "last orders" are 11.00pm daily; one assumes this is not unrelated to the extensive catering and bistro.

Rob Dunford

A NIGHT IN WHITBREAD PUBS

Sir - Bell Lane, Bury, is the home of several locals belonging to Bass (ex-Thwaites and now all keg), two Thwaites and two Wilsons (all cask) and two Whitbread pubs. I chose....

1 The Horse and Jockey because the last time I visited the Grapes the landlord put the Duttons bitter on specially when we asked for it; at 9.00pm on a Saturday night. I hadn't been to the Horse and Jockey for nearly twelve months, it had been redecorated and the handpump was still located on the serving hatch to the tap room, rather than on the main bar. Strangely it was in a virtually horizontal position, rather than the vertical, which has been the norm in every other pub with handpumps that I have been in. There was no pump clip and I ordered a pint of Duttons bitter, presuming that was what was available. The barman tried to serve me Duttons Light and I stopped him and

reiterated that I wanted Duttons bitter. He changed the brim measure glass for a lined one and proceeded to serve me from the Trophy electric pump. I told him that I preferred the beer from the handpump. He obliged, and told me that it was Trophy and all the same really. Thinking that I'd managed to get cask Trophy before it was supposed to be on sale, I parted with 60p and sat down. Not surprisingly, the beer turned out to be Trophy and, as the barman said, it was exactly the same as the tank variety from the electric pump! Apart from this, the beer was served too cold to be able to taste anything and I eventually finished the pint and left the pub feeling somewhat bloated, hoping that cask Trophy would be a vast improvement on what I had been subjected to.

2 Knowsley Hotel, Knowsley Street. No survey of Whitbread pubs would be complete without a visit to a House of Horrors. I hadn't crossed the threshold of the Knowsley for at least twelve months and the large signs outside proclaimed Hartleys, Duttons and Castle Eden. There were five handpumps on the bar and only two of these had pump clips; one for Duttons bitter and one for Castle Eden, which had a half pint glass upside down on top of it. I concluded that this meant the beer was not available and ordered Duttons bitter. It cost 60p and I ascertained that it was the only cask beer available. Whilst I drank the pint four people asked for bitter at the bar and were automatically served bright Trophy, without being offered the choice. It was pleasing to note that the pink wickerwork frog vomiting a bunch of grapes hadn't been breeding. I moved on to my next choice....

3 Wellington, Bolton Road. This is a large (presumably managed) roadside local with no other pubs in the immediate vicinity. On my last visit in June, Duttons bitter and Castle Eden were on sale. There are now four handpumps on the bar instead of two, and two had no pump clips. But the other two had, although a Rawlings drip mat was draped over them so as to obscure them. I enquired as to what beer was available from the handpumps. "None" was the reply. "Not until tomorrow night". I tried to find out what beers would be available then, without success. None of the bar staff knew and the landlord was not around. As it was then 10.15pm, I rushed back down the road to..

4 Blue Bell, Bolton Road. This is a locals' pub near Bury Bridge. There were two handpumps on the bar, one serving Bulmers cider and the other Duttons bitter. I ordered Duttons bitter and the landlord, who was standing next to me, advised the barmaid to "Drag one off", an ominous sign at 10.20pm! The pint was acceptable, although maybe not for 60p, as it was "on the turn". I finished it and meanwhile seven

people had visited the bar and requested bitter. All were served keg Trophy, which at best came within 1½" of the top of the lined glass. Big head, poor value for money! The Trophy was 1p cheaper than the Duttons bitter. I returned home somewhat wiser.

Conclusions

I regard myself as pro-Whitbread, and I was very disappointed with the pubs I visited. It is very difficult to recommend fellow CAMRA members, let alone Joe Bloggs in the street, to Whitbread's cask products if this sad saga is anything to go by. None of the pubs I visited had any form of promotional material for cask beer. If they had, it escaped my notice.

On a general note, I passed umpteen (mainly Thwaites and Wilsons) houses where I could have drunk cask bitter of a better quality and at a cheaper price! Have Whitbread got a commitment to cask beer where it really matters - in the pubs (and clubs) and with their landlords?

Ron Garden



It is with the deepest regret that I have to announce the death of Osbert Dowdy, a director of Drabs East Grotley Brewery. Osbert Dowdy was 84 and had worked for Drabs since 1912 when the founder Josiah was still at the helm. Osbert worked in every section of the brewery starting as a stable lad looking after Elsie, the three-legged Clydesdale. During the great depression Osbert ran the brewery himself because Josiah's son Maximillian, who was the Chairman and Managing Director, had become totally insane as a result of a sexually transmitted disease contracted in the Lebanon. Instead of planning for the future Maximillian firmly believed that he was a teapot and spent his time running the Grotley Teapot Society of which he was president and sole member.

During the rule of Ebenezer and Peregrine Drab, Osbert has taken more of a back seat role but his experience and advice have proved invaluable in forging ahead into the 80's.

It is not so much the untimeliness as the manner of Osbert's death which is disturbing. It will come as a great surprise to many people that Osbert Dowdy was a closet transvestite. To all appearances Osbert was a respectable married man, a Rotarian, a Mason, a Justice of the Peace and a pillar of the Society in which he lived. Yet, at night, when everyone had left the brewery, Osbert would put on his Florence Nightingale costume and walk round the fermenting room with his lamp. It was on one of these nocturnal journeys that Osbert met his death.

Ironically, it was a complaint from Osbert's own local which brought about the discovery of his death. The beer had been exceptionally cloudy for weeks and an inspection of the racking tank revealed not the usual collection of rats but Osbert's decaying corpse still clothed in the flowing gown of Miss Nightingale. Presumably the venerable old man had tripped and fallen into the vessel. A sad end to a real gentleman and unreal lady.

It would have been a fitting tribute to Osbert Dowdy if Drabs had won the World's Loveliest Pub award, because it was in this area that he had latterly concentrated his efforts. Recreations of 1920's authentic squalor were entirely his responsibility. Yet, sadly, the judges were more impressed by the low key and tasteful renovations of Dillons and in particular their beautifully produced Braille P.R material.

RUMOUR DENIAL: Employees of Dillons are not allowed two hours for lunch if they go to a Dillons pub and only one hour if they go to a Kepples pub.



Branch Diary

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 12 Oct Jolly Angler 8pm

Sat 15 Oct Black Country trip (lunchtime and evening)

Wed 19 Oct Kenyon Arms, Little Hulton, S&N Speaker - all branches welcome

Wed 26 Oct, Yates' Merchants' Bar, Oldham Street 8pm

Wed Nov 2, Guy Fawkes Crawl. 7pm Moulders Arms, 8pm Pollard (Fire Brigade!)

Wed Nov 9, Brewers Arms, Boddies Brewery 8pm

Wed Nov 16, White Swan, Swinton 8pm

Wed Nov 23, Survey of all our Whitbread pubs - Duke of York, Eccles 7pm. Star, Green-gate 9.15pm onwards

Wed Dec 7 Holts Cheetwood Crawl. Egerton 7pm, Duke of York, Marlborough Road 8pm
Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues 4 Oct Branch Committee meeting 8.30pm, Oddfellows Arms, Mellor, Stockport (Greenall Whitley)

Tues 11 Oct Branch Meeting 8.30 Kings Head, Buxton (Warstons)

(no date) Railway trip from Leeds (Settle-Carlisle line) 9.04am from Leeds. City centre pub crawl of Carlisle. Contact Stuart Jamieson 061 427 2463 for details

Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 4 Oct 8pm Branch Meeting, Cemetery (free house), Bury Road, Rochdale. Speaker from Holts Brewery - we hope!

Tues 18 Oct 8pm. Committee meeting Railway (Bass), Inghams Lane, Littleborough

Tues 1 Nov 8pm, Branch Meeting, Hark to Towler (Thwaites), Market Street, Tottington

Tues 8 Nov. Final meeting to discuss Bury Beer Festival. Brunswick (Wilsons), Moorgate, Bury

Fri/Sat 11/12 Nov Bury Beer Festival - see elsewhere in this issue

Tues 22 Nov 8pm Committee meeting. Old Dun Horse (Thwaites), Bolton Road West, Ramsbottom

Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 775 3351 ext 248

BOLTON

Sun 2 Oct 12 noon, Social at the Poacher, Scot Lane, Blackrod

Weds 19 Oct 8pm Committee meeting White Lion (Wilsons), Deansgate, Bolton

Weds 26th Oct 8pm Branch meeting, George, St Moor Street, Bolton

Wed 9 Nov 8pm, Bolton Branch AGM at the York Hotel, Newport Street, Bolton. Members please attend.

Contact Jim Hurst Tottington 3532

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Tues 4 Oct Open Committee meeting, Gateway, Kingsway, E Didsbury 8pm

Thurs 13 Oct Branch Meeting, Gateway, 8pm. Hydes guest speaker

Thurs 27 Oct Pub of the Month with Trafford & Hulme Branch - Melville, Stretford

Tues 1st Nov Open Committee meeting, Swan with 2 Necks, Princes Street, Stockport Shopping Precinct, 8pm.

Thurs 10 Nov Branch Meeting, Crown & Anchor, Hilton Street, Manchester city centre. 8pm. Timothy Taylors speaker.

Fri 11 Nov Coach trip to Bury Beer Festival

Tues 15 Nov evening coach trip to Stones Brewery, Sheffield. Details next month

Contact S Sproson 061 225 4058

TRAFFORD & HULME

Wed 6 Oct Committee Meeting 8pm Sale Hotel, Marsland Road, Sale

Weds 13 Oct Chorlton Crawl. 8pm Royal Oak, 9pm Beech

Wed 19 Oct Branch AGM, Malt Shovels, Altrincham

Thurs 27 Oct Pub of the Month, Melville, Stretford 8pm

Thurs 3 Nov Committee Meeting, Crown, Deansgate, Manchester 7.30pm

Contact Alan Hurdle 976 1337

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+sae

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, 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL MANCHESTER - A comprehensive guide to real ale outlets within 1 mile of St Peter's Square. Map, illustrated 60p + sae

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 & Winsford 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ST HELENS - Sutton, Peasley Cross, Thatton Heath, Moss Nook, Eccleston, Parr, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN GREATER GROTLEY - Slumley, Smarmford & Slutch, Poshton & Pseudley. 10p + s.a.e.

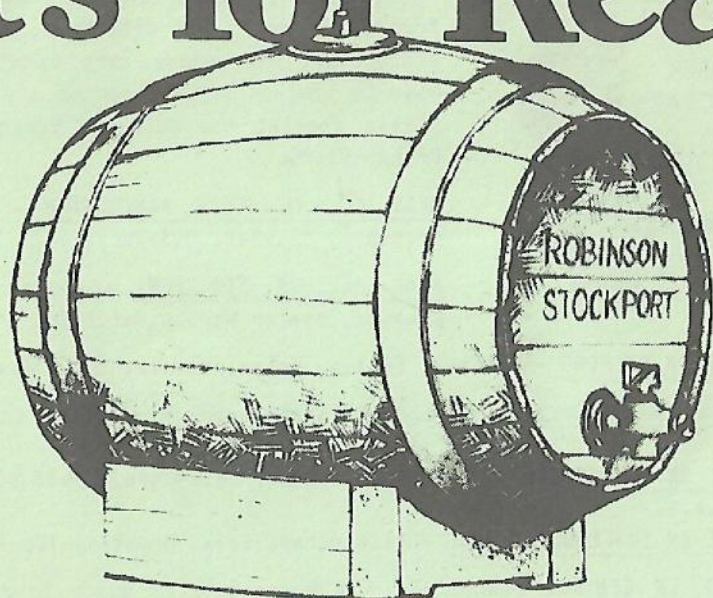
GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD BEER GUIDE - A selective guide to about 1,000 pubs in Greater Manchester - Bury, Stockport, Oldham, Salford, Wigan, Trafford, Bolton, Rochdale, Leigh, Tameside, etc 64pp £1.00 + s.a.e.

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, Whalley 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.

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.

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Best Mild Ale



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