

MILD & BITTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DERBY BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

ISSUE 4
FEBRUARY 1976

REPORTS

NEWS FROM THE PUBS

In Dave's absence I have been asked to come up with something like his usual comprehensive report on what's happening locally.

For those who got their first taste of Sam Smith's Old Brewery Bitter at the Christmas Social, and are dying for some more, this is now an addition to the already excellent range of handpumped beers at the Trip to Jerusalem, Nottingham. For all handpump enthusiasts there is bad news, another national guide pub which has switched to electric means, is the Horse and Groom, Elm Street, Derby. Whilst on the 'national' topic, the Pack Horse at New Mills has in fact got draught Tetley's (Warrington), not gravity Ind Coope, as reported in 1975.

On a recent visit to the Alexandra, Siddals Rd, Derby, a keg landlady referred to her own pressurised beer as "pasteurised muck". If you are travelling Loughborough way, one pub to avoid is the Gallant Knight, as the handpumps are fakes, with the fatal pressure switch being secretly operated when the pump is pulled. Regretably the draught Ansells mild has gone from the Vine at Mickleover due to the Allied dispute.

A very sad piece of news is the death of Mrs. Ford at the Barley Mow, Kirk Ireton. I am pleased to be able to count myself as one of the lucky ones who were able to enjoy the pleasure of almost going back to another age, by being in the presence of Mrs. Ford in her small unique pub. We are at present making discreet enquiries as to the future of this house.

(Paul Gibson)

LAST MONTH'S SOCIALS

Lunchtime Social, Saturday 10th January. If you were a stranger to Derby, and only had a few hours to spare, you might find some difficulty in finding a selection of real ales. But by having the foresight to contact the Derby branch in advance, Graham Larksley and John Simms (Swansea branch committee members) met five of our committee in the Nottingham Arms. (Where was everyone else? Ed.) After a quick pint of Bass, we visited the Sitwell Tavern, then the Globe, and finally the Sir Robert Peel. The Swansea members went off to the football match well impressed by our local beers.

(Terry Morton)

Ilkeston Pub Crawl, Saturday 17th January. About a dozen of us, including one or two new faces, arrived at the General Havelock to sample their bitter and mild (or Mild and Bitter). Dave Johnson, master of maps, guided us around Ilkeston, tasting all the Nottingham brews, and selling a few What's Brewings for good measure. The summit of the evening had to be, of course, the Durham Ox, where the fine Ward's Ales had a small minority of the committee quite cheerful.

(Paul Gibson)

Derby Sales Crawl, Thursday 22nd January. We got off to a good start by meeting at the Bell and Castle (Bass), after which we moved to the Globe (Kimberley) and the Sitwell Tavern (Shipstone's), picking up a few more members on the way. After this the group split up somewhat, but there was a noticeable acceleration of footsteps in our crew as we went past the cluster of keg palaces in the town centre. One way or another everyone finally met up in the Exeter Arms (Bass). It was here that the last remaining copies of What's Brewing for January were sold.

(Paul Gibson)

Coach Trip to Burton, Wednesday 28th January. On arrival at the Leopard Inn, our party of 23 were met by Andy Lee and several other members of the Burton branch. After a couple of pints of Pedigree we were split into three groups to pubcrawl for Bass and Marston's "no other real beer in Burton" said Andy, "there appears to be no mild available, and it's four or five miles to the nearest draught Ind Coope; we'll try one in here". So the ten of us in group two downed another pint of Pedigree in the Anchor Inn. Next, the Yorkshire Arms, Bass, where an elderly local lady, Ellen, appeared slightly intoxicated as she sang us a couple of old songs, with Jeff Fletcher and myself joining in, much to the amusement of some of our group.

"What about the Cooper's?" "Next stop" said Andy, and once inside an excellent pint of Bass was enjoyed straight from the cask, whilst John Smith of Burton explained the delights of snuff taking. Then it was a dash in the freezing wind back to the Leopard to find our driver. (I think that we almost converted him to Camra). Keith Normington was persuaded to give us a few songs on the way home. It's a good job Mrs. Whitehouse isn't a member of our branch.

(Terry Morton)

WHAT'S BREWING SALES

Dave Johnson and Terry Morton showed the way in January (after December's non-event) by selling 40 copies of What's Brewing in one night at Repton and Willington. As it turned out we could almost have done with a few more for the month. Anyway, there are 200 copies to be sold in February, and it would be nice to see a few more folks selling 'em, and having a go at being a rep. for Real Ale.

(Paul Gibson)

BELPER AREA SUB-COMMITTEE

Well Christmas has come and gone, and most people should have recovered from the abnormal (is this the right word to use?) drinking and eating. A few of the BS-C clubbed together and treated themselves to 18 gallons of Ruddles County. The brewery's service is excellent for this type of sale. Just phone your order through and it will be ready for you to collect at your convenience. The beer dropped right after two days, and we all had a very merry Christmas.

As must be mentioned elsewhere in this remarkable publication BS-C have a pub crawl arranged for Saturday 28th February. We hope to arrange a grand challenge match of pool against the Grape's Inn team, (if we are as good at pool as we are at darts and dummies don't bet too heavily on us), more news later. Sorry there was no article from Belper S-C last month, but I didn't make the deadline.

Just one more thing; we hold a sub-committee meeting every Sunday at the Coach and Horses Hersley, (about 1.30pm) so if anybody likes a pint of Marston's (Pedigree or No. 5 mild) and a chat on any subject (usually beer) do come along.

(Barry Coope)

A PUB TO VISIT

The Horn, below the Market Place, Ashbourne. Definately a pub to go to if you are in this area, serving a very nice drink of handpumped Worthington Best Bitter, along with M&B mild, in an intimate atmosphere. The lack of trade here has always suprised me, unless it is that the pub is rather hidden away, down from the Market Place, towards the Green Man. Just a little word of warning though; beware of the handpump marked 'Worthington E', as this is actually a fake with the pressure tap being behind the bar.

(Paul Gibson)

SUGGESTION

Evangelize !

While you've been busy collecting entries for our Good Beer Guide (if not, why not ?) you must have noticed several groups of Real Alehouses suitable for pub crawls. Why not take your workmates on a Real Ale Pub Expedition to, say, three pubs (different breweries) close together?

You might persuade them that Real is Beautiful; you could also sell some What's Brewing in the pubs. If they enjoy their RAPE, take them somewhere else and do it again (and again and again !).

(Keith Normington)

ADMIN.

Branch Annual General Meeting

The Branch ACM is the most important meeting of the year, and all members are strongly urged to attend, and to remind their fellow members to attend. We hope it will be something of a special occasion, with Camra national officials present, and good press coverage.

We are advised that the existing Camra constitution will apply. If Camra Ltd. goes through at the National EGM, it will still take six weeks to form the company, and about a year before all changes are fully in effect. Nominations for the committee (for committee membership, not specific posts) will therefore be requested on the night. Members are, however, asked to hand in nominations at least a week in advance, to allow candidates names to be pre-printed on ballot sheets. Similarly, it will be helpful to have advance notice of any motion a member may wish to raise. Finally, although non-members will, as always, be welcome to attend, only Camra members may vote. Bring your MEMBERSHIP CARDS (or latest What's Brewing wrapper) with you.

Posters

Thanks to Barry Coope, the Derby branch poster is now available, in reasonable quantities, to any member, who can find sites for them. Please note that there are two different wordings. One is for pubs which do serve real ale (and must not go up elsewhere); the other is for other places (e.g. works notice boards). Please use these posters wisely; they must only go up with the permission of whoever is in charge of the 'site', they must not be forced onto landlords, and we must not seek to get them up in keg pubs. Designs for a Mark 2 poster are now required - give us your ideas.

Local Beer Guide

With the choice of pubs almost completed, we are now getting to the production stage of the guide and need assistance with typing, design, finance, etc. Anyone having these or other skills please contact me or any other member of the Good Beer Guide Sub-Committee as soon as possible. We shall also need help with distribution through bookshops, pubs, newsagents, etc, and anyone with such connections will also be welcome. However this does not mean that the voting system is finished. Pubs change, very often at short notice, and we need to keep up to date, both for our records, and to inform the branch. So keep drinking and sending in the voting forms.

(Nick Potter)

Your comments on, and articles for, this newsletter, are always welcomed.

DERBY DIARY

Saturday 14th February. SOCIAL IN ILKESTON. Meet 8pm at the White Cow Inn, Nottingham Rd, for a What's Brewing Sales Crawl to the Durham Ox for a joint social with Nottingham Branch.

Wednesday 18th February. WHAT'S BREWING SALES CRAWL. Meet 8pm in the Buck in the Park, Derby. Please come and help (see p2).

Saturday 21st February. SOCIAL IN BELPER. Meet at the Grapes, High St, /8.30pm for a walk round with the Belper lads, and pool challenge (see p2). Last bus back 23.10, last train 23.24.

Wednesday 25th February. Good Beer Guide Sub-C'ttee Meeting, 8pm, Alexandra Hotel.

Friday 27th February. (Members only) TRIP TO BRIGHTON for the weekend for the National AGM and EGM. Details to be finalised at the branch meeting.

Tuesday 2nd March. ASHBOURNE SHROVETIDE FOOTBALL. Meet 1pm at the White Hart, Church St, Ashbourne. This year the first ball will be thrown up by Lord Hives at 2pm. This is an opportunity for all to join in this centuries old game, which is not to be confused with the popular keg version, with rules, called soccer, where people actually have to pay just to watch. Several real ale pubs will be open all day in Ashbourne on both Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. The last bus back is at about 10, but a minibus can be arranged if there is enough support.

Monday 8th March. Committee meeting.

THURSDAY 11th MARCH. BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The Meadows, Chequers Road, West Meadows Industrial Estate (off Nott'm Rd, Derby). Please see notices on page 3, and bring your membership cards (non-members are welcome to attend but may not vote). There will be a special raffle prize to be won. All members please attend.

Wednesday 17th March. Visit to Shipstone's Brewery (Members only) Bus leaves from the Alexandra at 1.30pm. Limited places, names to Terry Morton now.

NOTE Unless otherwise indicated, non-members of Camra are welcome, indeed encouraged, to attend any of our socials or branch meetings.

BRANCH MEETING AGENDA

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|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Minutes of last meeting
and matters arising. | 7. Good Beer Guide Sub-C'ttee Report. |
| 2. Secretary's Report. | 8. Socials. |
| 3. Treasurer's Report. | 9. Branch News. |
| 4. Sales. | 10. Beer Break. |
| 5. Publicity.. | 11. Any Other Business. |
| 6. Area Sub-Committee Reports. | |

THE DERBY BRANCH OF CAMRA

Committee (Posts and additional responsibilities) : Tim Williams, Derby 676027 (Chairman; Newsletter) ; John Kearney, 5 Ormskirk Rise, Spendon (Secretary) ; Keith Normington, Derby 674446 (Treasurer; Raffles) ; Terry Morton, Derby 674025 (Social Sec; sales) ; Nick Potter, Derby 511355 (Beer Guide Sec; pub info) ; Dave Johnson, Derby 61422 Ext. 2405 (Membership Sec; pub news collator) ; Paul Gibson, Brailsford 365 (Publicity Sec.)
Other Officers : Ian Grimshaw, Belper 3270 (Belper Area Sub-Committee Chairman) ; Trevor Peacock, 62 Dale Rd, Matlock (Matlock Area Sub-Committee Chairman) ; Chris Gale, Derby 58847 (Historic pubs officer)

MILD & BITTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

This newsletter is available on subscription at 50p for 3, and 85p for 6, issues. Contact Paul Gibson, Wayside, Lane Rd, Brailsford. (Brailsford 365)

MILD AND BITTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

I wish to subscribe to three / six issues of Mild & Bitter at a cost of 50p / 85p.

NAME

delete as appropriate

ADDRESS

(BLOCK CAPS PLEASE)

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DATE

LOCAL BEER GUIDE LOAN

I am prepared to lend the Derby Branch of Camra the sum of £..... (minimum £5) for the purpose of publishing a local Good Beer Guide. I understand that I will not receive interest on this loan, and that, while the Branch Committee will make every effort to repay the loan as soon as possible, it cannot guarantee repayment. (It is expected that the sums promised will be collected in April, and returned within three months. Part repayments will, however, be made as soon as possible.)

Signed

NAME (Block Caps)

ADDRESS

.....

PHONE NO.

DATE