

# MILD & BITTER.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DERBY BRANCH OF CAMRA

ISSUE 13

NOVEMBER 1976

NOW IN ITS  
SECOND RECORD  
BREAKING YEAR.

## The Past Month

The October Branch Meeting at the Bridge Inn, Shelton Lock, Derby, (a new venue) attracted a total of 50 people, which was somewhat less than expectations. What's worse is that, after a whole run of reasonably lively meetings, it all fell rather flat. Not good for recruitment. So your ideas please - we want meetings to be enjoyable as well as informative and useful. Also on meetings - has anyone found any more new venues yet?

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There was a most dismal attendance of members at the Derby Beer Guide Post-Production Meeting on the 20th October. It was left almost entirely up to the Branch Committee to sort out what improvements should be made next time. It is possible to conjecture that this lack of interest in one of our major campaigning ventures is due to the absolute perfection of the current guide. But if you think otherwise, and you weren't at the meeting, please don't complain at the next edition.

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On the other hand there was a most excellent turn-out on the 25th October to support the new Ripley/Heanor Area Sub-Committee. Thanks all, for by turning out in force we can impress the locals that the Derby Branch of CAMRA is a going concern. The fly in the ointment (actually it landed in Gill Burgess' beer) was a scarcity of Ripley/Heanorites, despite a lot of local publicity by Mick, Tim and Gill. Nevertheless the great oak/little acorn theory has been shown to have validity in the past. Your continued help will be the fertilizer.

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The Beer Exhibition Sub-Committee reckons they are virtually all set up to do a practice event in preparation for something big next year. This trial run could be in January/February provided that a suitable venue can be found. There must be someone in the Branch who knows of a suitable village hall or the like for a one night show. Please see John Griffiths or Mike Butler immediately.

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Typing has long been a problem for the Branch, and with our fairly large output of typed material we are currently having to pay out quite a lot of money each month to get it done on a semi-commercial basis. Paul Gibson would be most grateful to receive any offers of free help.

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CAMRA's Autumn Membership Drive is, we hope, still in full swing with members pressing their friends into joining. Last meeting a number of members took away posters and membership forms to install in pubs. If you didn't succeed please let us have them back immediately as they are in very short supply. We will be writing shortly to all lapsed members, and volunteers are required please to make

(The Past Month - Contd.)

\* as many deliveries as possible by hand to save cost.

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The sales situation on the Derby Beer Guide is, regrettably, very unclear. The Committee have therefore decided to appoint five of their number to act as 'sales chiefs' to sort out the situation. In the meantime, would anyone with money please give it now to Nick Potter, and any non-salesmen with unsold guides return them to Paul Gibson in exchange for a receipt.

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Next meeting is a Special General Meeting to adopt a new constitution in line with CAMRA becoming a Limited Company. Copies of the draft constitution prepared by the NE are now available. Please will members consider this carefully as once a constitution has been adopted it will be difficult to change. If you have any specific concerns, please see Tim Williams as this may save time at the meeting. It will also be helpful to the Committee to have advance notice of any amendments you may wish to propose since these will have to be agreed by the NE. The SGM is a most important occasion, but we expect that there will be time enough for normal Branch business also (without encroaching on valuable socializing time).

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## Allied Front

Ind Coope Draught Burton Ale is to be test marketed in the Derby area from about the middle of this month. That was the good news emerging from a meeting between CAMRA and Ansells Ltd in Leicester on Thursday 28th October. The bad news is that the continued brewing of the Ind Coope (Burton) ordinary bitter seems distinctly doubtful.

The meeting was a direct result of the current East Midlands Allied Campaign. The CAMRA delegation was led by Nick Hawkins, our Regional Organizer, and consisted of representatives of the three branches, (Derby, Nottingham, and Loughborough) most involved in the campaign, and Spyke Golding our Area Organizer. Ansells were represented by Mr Race, the Managing Director for the Ansells East Midland distribution area (which extends from just east of Birmingham across to the Wash, and to just north of Matlock) and two of his Area Managers.

First, the DBA - this is to be test marketed in up to 50 pubs mainly in the Nottingham and Derby areas. It will all be on handpumps without pressure, and the recommended price is expected to be 31p. Derby is expected to do quite well for outlets, and we should have a list from Ansells at the next meeting. Ansells said they would try to give the beer a certain amount of publicity, but there was no question of any major promotion.

We explained that while it was very nice to see the DBA, we would prefer to see greater amounts of the Ansells and, particularly, the Ind Coope ordinary bitters on sale in real ale form. Ansells line was that, while they considered CO<sub>2</sub> or air pressure essential to ensure that their beers were served in consistent condition, they were prepared to look sympathetically at individual cases. (They have installed real ale in Nottingham University, and are also doing so in a pub in Coventry). However, the supply of Ind Coope ordinary was subject to Union problems, and they had insufficient resources to promote both Ansells and Ind

(Allied Front - Contd.)

Coope ordinaries in the same region.

Pursuing the Ind Coope bitter question further, we gained the distinct impression that this beer has not long to go.

The meeting itself was cordial and in the two hours available, and during the chat over a pint afterwards, a range of other topics were covered. Both sides agreed that further meetings could be useful. However, the East Midlands Allied Campaign is far from over, and the next moves to secure more real Ind Coope and Ansells ordinary will be discussed by the branches concerned shortly.

But what we can do now is to try to ensure that the test marketing of DBA is a success. Two years ago it was inconceivable that Allied would sell a new draught beer in our area, and to get it is a major campaigning success, not just for CAMRA nationally, but for the Derby Branch as well. We have limited resources but over the last couple of years we have been steadily plugging away at Allied through such things as the Wagon and Horses Campaign, press and radio interviews, and our local guide, and all these little things can gradually add up - it's the dripping tap that wears away the stone.

So it is of paramount importance that we make the most of this success, and that all members find out where the outlets are, and publicize the beer amongst their mates (pointing out that it is a relatively strong drink and not typical of most real ales). Please bear in mind that some of the pubs serving it may not have had cask conditioned beer for some time and may experience teething troubles in the first few weeks. Please also bear in mind that prices are up to individual tenants and should be judged in the first instance relative to the other beers sold in that pub.

## Regional Booze U Conference

This was held in Oakham from October 29th - 31st, and our Branch delegates were Paul Gibson, Tim Williams, and myself. About 80 other delegates attended from all branches between the West Midlands and East Anglia. No formal motions were discussed, and any decisions reached are not binding: the purpose of the conference being a forum for discussion between the branches and National Executive members. Over the weekend eight discussion groups were held, and the results summarized to the whole meeting at the end. Only a brief summary is possible here.

Structure of the Brewing Industry. The presence of brewery monopolies in some areas, leading to a restriction of choice, and closure of pubs, was discussed. The best solution was thought to be a relaxation of house ties so that pubs could serve an additional beer available from another brewer. Better contacts with brewery workers and local Trades Councils were suggested, to encourage some sense of social responsibility, for example in the matter of brewery closures.

Nature of the British Pub. It was stress that CAMRA is an amateur body and must take care not to upset the professionals in the trade, for example, telling landlords how to do their job. However we can make important contributions when we are well briefed and have the correct information. More involvement with LVA's and brewery workers was suggested, together with the involvement with Civic Societies in the case of historic pubs. Further points raised in this section were prices not clearly displayed and a lack of standardization of opening hours - it was suggested that we could campaign for an 11pm national closing time.

Quality of Beer. The use of some adjuncts in brewing was thought to be necessary to keep down protein haze caused by high nitrogen malts. The meeting was however against the wide range of adjuncts and additives allowed in the EEC Directive. The current trend to high gravity beers, particularly in the south-east, was deplored, and promotion of light gravity beers and milds was to be encouraged to maintain a freedom of choice. A local branch campaign to 'Make May a Mild Month' was said to have been particularly successful. 'Lager' was agreed to be a fraud both in quality and price, and there should be a campaign to highlight these features. Until the Food Standards Committee report was published it was not possible to take national action against such tricks as false handpumps, but local action and publicity was desirable until there were legal definitions. The education of landlords by the breweries is to be encouraged, approaches by members could cause trouble.

Campaign Organization. Although there had been difficulties with membership processing these were said to be improving. There was a general feeling against joint membership, and the recent issue to branches of lists of lapsed members was supported.

Products. Delegates were mostly satisfied with the price and style of the National Guide, but there is to be a general tightening up of gardens games and snacks. A limited range of other products will continue to be available. One delegate complained that the National Guide was impossible to read in the dark !

Branch Organization. Mostly publicity - eg press releases, local radio, and finding out where local journalists drink. Other good ideas put forward were 'pub of the month' schemes and participation in local games leagues. Our system of Area Sub-Committees was suggested to cover large areas.

The Big Six. The current situations were summarized: Courage : All real ale breweries in the south. Local negotiations difficult due to central decision-taking, and their attitude that there is 'no demand for real ale north of Watford' Scottish and Newcastle: Very much a regional brewer, but considering extending real ale markets in Scotland and the north-east. Whitbread: Similar attitude to Courage, intransigent attitude, shareholdings in a number of regional brewers a cause for concern. Bass Charrington: Little known about their policy. Allied: (see page 2) Watney Truman: Fined bitter selling well in the south-east, and spreading to parts of south Midlands (see page 6), de-Watneyfying of pubs continues, but the Truman name promoted.

Independant Breweries. Brewery Liason and regular meetings with brewery personnel were supported. Good behaviour on brewery trips was also stressed. It was thought that the independants should be criticized on the same terms as the Big Six - and not receive special treatment even if they serve excellent beer.

Conclusions. The conference was certainly a most useful event and served to show that CAMRA still has a long way to go with campaigning. The weekend was however not wholly serious, and the hotel was pleased to announce that we had consumed six kils (108 gallons) of Ruddles Bitter and County.

(Nick Potter)

## The Drinker

Many titles were suggested for the forthcoming Notts and Derby Branches public newsletter (including Firkin News and the Trent and Derwent Drinker) but in the end it has been decided to play it straight and call it 'The Notts & Derby Drinker' (with the 'Notts & Derby' in small print).

(The Drinker - Contd.)

The Drinker, as it will be more familiarly known, will be officially launched on Friday 12th November. The first edition is something of a prototype, and due to certain production difficulties has a lower quality of presentation than expected for the next edition (in January). That public newsletters of this sort can have tremendous publicity value is shown by the example of the Merseyside Branch, who now sell 2000 copies every month. If we can eventually achieve anything like the same we will have a tremendous opportunity for getting across CAMRA views to the general public, and people into the right pubs.

However, the immediate aim is to sell our 500 copies of the first issue. The intention is to persuade pubs to stock them on a sale-or-return basis. Dave Johnson is to co-ordinate this operation, and would like to see volunteers able to help. This will develop into a regular but pleasant job of visiting pubs of your own choice once a month to deliver the new copies, collect the returns and the money, and change the sales poster.

Help is also needed on the artistic side, and anyone who can draw or illustrate or do Lettraset headings on a regular basis and at fairly short notice please see Rog Robinson, who will also welcome articles and ideas.

## The Social Scene

### MYSTERY TRIP (Sat 30th Oct)

A conversation at the front end of our coach went something like this :-

"Where are we going ?"

"Oh - up the road a bit"

"But which road ?"

"Not telling, this is a mystery tour"

"Yes, but I'm the driver"

First call after an hour's travel was the CRAMNER ARMS at ASLOCKTON for a quick pint of handpumped Home Ales. Then it was on to the FIGHTING COCKS at CORBY GLEN. This pub is well known to be haunted, but it was not the local spirits who were responsible for the large bottle of hop extract pointed out in the brewing room by one of our members. In fact the beer brewed on these premises is made from malt extract and rather frowned upon by CAMRA, but it gave us a chance to try it first hand.

Call No 3 was in complete contrast, the JACKSON STOPS at STRETTON - Ruddles County on gravity, and no complaints here. A log fire in a large stone fireplace added a touch of warmth in the dimly lit room. After a short stop for more Ruddles at the SUN in COTTAGEMORE, we arrived at our final destination - WING. There was Sam Smiths at the CUCKOO and at the KINGS ARMS the landlord had laid on Hoskins and Greene King Abbott specially for the evening. A host of familiar faces soon arrived from our and other branches for, not by pure co-incidence, they were at the Regional Conference in nearby Oakham.

After much tasting of the beers a very joyful atmosphere built up in the crowded little bar, and shortly before the food was passed around it was noticed that ex-NE Chairman Chris Holmes was not wearing any trousers. This was not some Newark LVA plot to discredit one of our NE, but a CAMRA prank to get Chris to buy his bags back, the proceeds going to charity. He did get them back after about half an hour. The official means of raising money for the charity was a raffle, and it seemed that Derby members were fortunate to come home with most of the prizes.

(Terry Morton)

# October Branch Bulletin Summary

This featured the third highly successful Cambridge Beer Exhibition and highlighted some of the problems encountered with such a popular festival. Apparently planning started eight months prior to the event, which during its run of four days saw 220 kils consumed by some 20,000 people.

Nick Hawkins, our Regional Organizer, reported on the Allied Campaign, being conducted at present (see p 2). He thinks that Draught Burton Ale will have some difficulty in selling well in this area, at inflated London prices. The campaign, he thinks, should provide an interesting case study for other branches.

Nick, on behalf of the NE, requests that we take initial action on prices by keeping a record of prices of real ale in approximately 30 pubs of differing character. Obviously all breweries draught beers must be included, and the information would be needed every three months. (At the Committee Meeting on 3.11.76 we could not see how we could possibly handle this one for the moment because of the local guide and other problems, but if there is any branch member who would like to have a go, please would you see Dave Johnson).

A number of ways of raising funds were suggested by Ben Grower of the Finance and Personnel Committee. He points out that "CAMRA has to a great extent to generate its own finances in order to promote its defined objectives". Fair analysis I think. The article is concluded on a sombre note which states that the campaign will not be able to function in a year's time, unless surplus branch funds are transferred to HQ.

(Paul Gibson)

## Pub News

Lots going on this month, and perhaps top of the bill ought to be the introduction of Marstons No 5 (strong) Mild into the LIVERSAGE ARMS, Nott'm Rd, DERBY, and of Marstons Burton Bitter into the COACH AND HORSES, HORSLEY. (Which already has No 5). Both are rare drinks in these parts. At Castle Donnington, the JOLLY POTTERS has changed from Worthington BB to Draught Bass. Watneys Fined Bitter is creeping north and can now be found in the ROSE AND CROWN, ZOUCHE, and in the HOPE AND ANCHOR, WANLIP (5m south of Loughborough).

The landlord of the RED LION, BIRCHOVER (h'pump Tetley) has joined CAMRA, and managed to get a front page article in the Derbyshire Times, which included a mention of CAMRA and a photograph captioned "Peter Popple pulls a pint from the pump". (If you can't say that aloud, don't drive home). At the BARLEY MOW, KIRK IRETON, the gravity beers are proving so popular, that the pressure dispensers are to go. Keith Normington reports that the landlady of the GOLDEN EAGLE, Agard St, DERBY, says she has had so much extra custom as a result of our local beer guide that she wants Bass to enlarge the pub. From the same pub comes the story of a youth who, after sinking 3½ pints of their draught cider (see last month) started rolling a fag at 10.15pm, and finally gave up at 10.50.

Keith also reports that the PORTLAND HOTEL, London Rd, DERBY, has a Jazz band every Wednesday, and piano and drums most Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, often with a good local jazz pianist. He also reckons that just down the road at the NAVIGATION, the lunchtime food is good value, and the Bass at 24p probably the cheapest in town.

Also from Keith, (have you been thrown out of home, mate?) we hear that the demand for beer brewed at the THREE TUNS, BISHOPS CASTLE, far exceeds the available supply of 600 gallons (16½ barrells) a week. John Roberts is teaching the new owner how to brew the same excellent pig.

# What's All These Stars Then ?

The sober reader may have noticed a rash of asterisks appearing in the left hand margins of parts of this edition. The even more sober reader may have realized their purpose - to highlight every time we have asked for members help. Frightening isn't it. But seriously though, if you would like to contribute to the campaign, pick a star and see the appropriate person or take the appropriate action.

## Raffle Reminder

The monthly raffle is good value - about 75% of the ticket money is returned as prizes, the rest helps towards producing Mild & Bitter etc. Tickets cost 5p each (or 1/- if you are over 40) and you have a 1 in 12 chance of winning a prize. There are usually 5 or 6 prizes of two pints at the bar or three bottles. We need a fair number of bottles every month, preferably "foreign", possibly "real", you may donate the odd bottle, but we will buy the rest. Prizes at the Christmas Social Raffle will include some good draught cider.

(Keith Normington)

## Whom To Contact

BRANCH COMMITTEE: Tim Williams, Chairman, Derby 676037 (H) Derby 61461 Ext 3152 (W). Paul Gibson, Secretary, Guide Sales, M&B Subscriptions, Wayside, Main Road, Brailsford, Brailsford 365 (H). Nick Potter, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, 4 Eastleigh Drive, Mickleover, Derby 511355 (H). Terry Morton, Social Secretary, Derby 674025 (H). Dave Johnson Pub Liason, Derby 61422 Ext 2405 (W). John Kearney, Publicity Secretary, 5 Ormskirk Drive, Spondon. Reg Newcombe Beer Guide Secretary, Derby 45399 (H).

OTHER OFFICERS: Ian Grimshaw, C'man Belper Area Sub-C'tee, Belper 3270 (H/W). Trevor Peacock, C'man Matlock A S-C, 62 Dale Rd, Matlock. Tim Burgess and Mick Chambers C'men Ripley/Heanor A S-C. Chris Gale, Hist. Pubs. Keith Nortmington, Raffles. Clive Moore, WB Sales. Jeff Fletcher, CAMRA Sales. John Broadbent, Handpump S-C C'man. Mike Butler, M&B Sub-Ed. Gill Burgess, Press Cuttings. John Griffiths, Beerex S-C C'man. Rog Robinson, Nott'm 865007 Ext 35 (W) and Eric Whitehouse The Drinker Derby Sub-Eds.

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Rip Off Here

### PUB INFORMATION SHEET

| YOUR NAME & DATE<br>OF INFORMATION | PUB AND ITS<br>ADDRESS | NEWS & SOURCE OF INFORMATION |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                    |                        |                              |

Please hand this in to Dave Johnson or any Committee member.

# Derby Diary

NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ALL BRANCH SOCIALS AND MEETINGS EXCEPT AS SHOWN.  
ON COACH TRIPS NON-MEMBERS WILL BE SURCHARGED 20p (EXCEPT WIVES AND GIRLFRIENDS)

Monday 15th November  
BRANCH OFFICERS MTG.

The Liversage Arms, Nottingham Rd, Derby, 8pm. For Branch Officers and members of Branch Committees only, to discuss Branch problems and policies. Those concerned please collect Agenda from Paul Gibson.

Saturday 20th November  
RIPLEY PUB CRAWL

Meet at the Greyhound, Butterley Hill at 8pm. Crawl proceeds to Sitwell Arms, eventually.

Wednesday 24th November  
SOCIAL & PUB GAMES

With the Burton Branch. At the Unicorn, Newton Solney (near Repton) from 8pm. Help take on a neighbouring Branch at dommies etc, Have we enough support for a coach from Derby ?

Wednesday 1st December  
BREWERY VISIT

Coach to Marstons, meet 1.15pm at the Alexandra, Siddals Rd, Derby (PROMPT) Only a few places left.

Thursday 9th December  
SPECIAL GENERAL MTG

The Bridge Inn, Shelton Lock, Derby, 8pm. To determine the new Branch Constitution under CAMRA Ltd (see page2) plus normal branch business. Corporation No 60 bus from Market Place every 15 mins direct to pub. Return 22.15, 22.30, 22.40, 23.00. Bring Membership Cards.

REGULAR SOCIALS

Tuesday Nights Late evening informal socials from about 9.15, meeting up with those on the WEA course on the Brewing Industry. Give it a try.

Tuesday 16th November..... Duke of Clarence, Mansfield Rd.  
Tuesday 30th November..... Bell and Castle, Burton Rd.  
Tuesday 7th December ..... Maypole, Brook St.

Sunday Lunch Belper and Ripley/Heanor AS-C's informal gathering at the Coach and Horses, Horsley from 1.30pm, Interlopers welcome.

Monday 20th December  
**CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

The Crown Inn, Nottingham Rd, Spondon, Derby from 8pm.  
Lots of entertainment with - Drinking Competition; magic  
from Clive Moore, member of the Branch and of the Derby  
Magic Circle; Real Ale Revue from the University of  
Spondon Footlights Club; dancing, mumming and folk by  
the Derby Morris Men; buffet, and bar extension applied  
for. Tickets 60p to members and guests - see Terry  
Morton now, numbers strictly limited.

Thursday 13th January  
Branch Meeting

Thursday 27th January  
Brewery Visit

Afternoon visit to Davenports in Birmingham, followed by a visit to Doris Pardoes and a few more Black Country pubs. Names next month to Terry Morton.

# Branch Mtg. Agenda

1. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising
2. Branch News and Matters Arising
3. Social and Other Notices
4. Beer Break
5. Discussion and Any Other Business