

## The Past Month

About 45 turned up for the Branch Special General Meeting in December. Not as many as there should have been for an important meeting, but the reward for those that did attend was that the Bridge (Shelton Lock, Derby) had both Pedigree and Burton Bitter available. (The BB is a new venture for the Bridge - why not nip down to try a pint?).

The meeting took little time to adopt the CAMRA draft model constitution for branches, and did so with no significant amendment. The subject of the branch membership subscription proved controversial, but after some debate, the sum accepted was whittled down to 0p. The SGM over, the meeting proceeded on to normal branch business, ending with a word from Nick Hawkins about CAMRA's financial position.

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As mentioned at the December meeting, the branch is hoping to assist the Derby Museum in the preparation of a pub interior as a permanent exhibit at the museum. The project will occupy a small room, and most of the basic fittings are already available (rescued from demolished Derby pubs). What are now particularly needed are the smaller items, such as bottles, drinking vessels, and all sorts of other bar-like clutter. The period is 1920-ish (very -ish). The museum would much appreciate gifts or loans (including short-term loans for the purposes of modelling) of suitable items. They may also be prepared to buy (from you or a shop where you've seen it). If you might be able to help, please contact Chris Gale or Reg Newcombe (details under Who to Contact - p5).

In addition it would be useful if any member with a detailed knowledge of pubs around that time, and an interest in the topic, could also get in touch with Reg or Chris. The museum already has a pair of handpumps available for the exhibit, and John Broadbent is in the process of restoring them.

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A little better news on the membership drive; the branch total for new recruitments increased from a miserable two for the period 1.10.76 to 10.11.76, to a total of 12 as of 13.12.76. This made us better than some branches, but still lagging miles behind Ipswich with 42 and Loughborough with 29. The regional membership competition has now closed (final figures not yet available) but not, we hope, the efforts of all members to recruit more.

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With the adoption of the new constitution, we can now recruit branch members. It has been decided that the simplest and cheapest system is to overstamp CAMRA membership cards, and it is likely that we will be ready to start signing on in February (bring your cards). The fee will be only 0p., and this will entitle our members to reduced rates at meetings and trips and for our local guide, and to vote at our General Meetings. Signing-on is not just an academic exercise - it will enable us to keep track of membership renewals, and, as constitutionally

(The Past Month - Contd.)

provided, to provide a mechanism to prevent members of other branches voting at our General Meetings, and vice-versa.

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Members will be disappointed to learn that the net recovered profit from our local beer guide now stands at only about £40. The main reason is that there are still a number of people who have not yet paid up, despite repeated requests. The committee have grown weary of the time wasted in chasing people up, and it has been decided to publish a list of defaulters in the next edition of M&B. So will those concerned get the money (or excuses) to Nick Potter now. Don't forget that Nick should also have all receipts.

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The Branch AGM will be in March, and members are reminded that nominations for the posts of Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, and for the four other members of the committee, should be in the hands of the Secretary before the meeting. Nominations need a proposer, a seconder, and evidence of the willingness of the nominee to stand. All three parties must be branch members.

The committee has had only one change in nearly 18 months, but it looks as if next March will see something of a major shake-up. The branch will undoubtedly benefit from an injection of fresh blood, and it is hoped that a number of members will seriously consider standing for election, and take over some of the burden that a number of existing committee members have borne for a long time. A committee member's job is demanding in terms of time, but the satisfaction on success is correspondingly great.

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Campaign activities during the Christmas and New Year festivities moved completely away from the meeting room and the typewriter, and into the pub. There our committee, sub-committees, branch officers, and members have no doubt been doing their best to give direct evidence for an insatiable demand for real ale. We hope all our members have had a good time.

There are, therefore, rather few formal activities to report in M&B this month, but it is expected that momentum will soon pick up again in such areas as: selling the Notts & Derby Drinker; the Allied Campaign; and the vexed question of a branch beer exhibition.

The New Year is also a time for starting new ventures and developing new ideas. We would like to hear from you, particularly if you are willing to put in some of the work yourself. 1977 is potentially a year for major campaigning successes - let's make sure we get them.

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FAULTY LOGIC DEPARTMENT - "Double Diamond, which makes a very large contribution to our profits, is brewed only at Burton, which is renowned for the quality of its beers." That incredibly dishonest statement was reported to be from Mr Derrick Holden-Brown, the vice-chairman of Allied - if that's an example of the quality of the thinking of Allied's top management Heaven help the shareholders. Heaven help the reputation of Burton beers for that matter. Mr D. H-B did, however, bring a little cheer by saying that Burton Ale had been an instant success.

# Burton Ale - Alive and Well

By all accounts Ind Coope Draught Burton Ale is selling reasonably well in our area. About two thirds of our DBA pubs have now been formally surveyed, with results as follows.

Sales are reported as generally good; but in one or two pubs it's going exceedingly well, and in one or two others not too good. Unsurprisingly it's the back street locals that are not seeing great sales, but a great deal seems to depend on the attitude of the landlord to selling it. Some have posters up and are actively encouraging customers to buy it, others are letting sales look after themselves.

Landlords seem pleased to have it, and some are absolutely delighted; expressions such as 'it gives me something to work for' have been used more than once. One, however, complained that he had seen no CAMRA members along to try it. It was explained that we are not necessarily distinguishable from the general public, but it is to be hoped that all members are going out to support the beer from time to time. It's nice to be able to try a few Allied pubs for a change.

To one DBA landlady, however, a visit by a number of 'CAMRA members' was far from welcome. These people (she described them as 'kids') walked into her pub wearing 'DD is K9P' badges. Justifiably she refused to serve them. It is not known whether those concerned were actually CAMRA members or not - there are a lot of real ale supporters about who tend to identify themselves with the campaign, but are not in fact members and therefore not bound by CAMRA regulations - but it is a very sad illustration of the way in which years of CAMRA effort can be instantly ruined.

Back to the survey; there were no great surprises on the price front. The range was 31 to 33p depending on the type of bar and pub. This was 1 to 5p more expensive than DD in the same bar. The pubs seem fairly evenly divided on whether they have the handpump in the bar or the lounge.

Customer reaction is more hard to gauge, but some at least are wary of both the price and the strength. The beer seems to be attracting DD rather than lager drinkers. Customers should have little to complain about quality; there have been no reports of poorly kept pints, and a number of pubs are said to serve a very good pint of it.

Last month M&B listed all the local Allied pubs with DBA except for the three late additions; these are: the Scarsdale, Duffield; the Three Horse Shoes, Longlane, Longford; and, bringing relief to the Chaddesden beer desert, the Wilmot.

## Christmas Social

Over 130 members and their guests packed into the Crown, Spondon for the Derby Branch 2nd Christmas Social. Our M.C. for the evening, Roger Robinson, welcomed everyone, and announced that an action packed evening of entertainment was in store.

First on stage member of CAMRA and of Derby Magic Circle, Clive Moore, conjured up an entertaining act with the help of members of the audience. At the same time the No 5 mild was doing a disappearing act of its own, and rapidly ran out due to an underestimate of demand (Sorry, my fault). The Pedigree was at the usual high standard at which landlord John Harold and family are proud to serve it.

Next, our guests, the Derby Morris Men, gave a well applauded display of Cotswold dances. This was followed by Stan Ashton, the Burton Branch Chairman, who was sporting his familiar yellow CAMRA tee shirt, who, with his guitar, sang amusing

(Christmas Social - Contd.)

songs of beer and brewers assisted by much audience participation.

Unfortunately, the Nottingham Branch could once again not manage to tear themselves away from the Newmarket for the arranged drinking race. But a team was made up of sporting volunteers: Chris Holmes, Stubo, Sue Kearney, and the still upright Ron Beddoes. The Derby team were; John Kearney, Paul Breeze, Lesley Gilliver, and John Griffiths.

After all this preparation it took our Derby team only 18 seconds to win, with fastest pint from John Griffiths under 3 seconds. You're slowing up a bit mate.

Tim Williams appeared on stage, and what appeared as an opportunity for our branch chairman to give out formal notices soon gave way to laughter, as the familiar faces of the Belper area joined him in a number of hilarious sketches and songs.

This had been the highlight of the evening, and as everyone tucked into the buffet, members were asking if the songs were to be repeated later, and Stubo our ex-AO was heard to say that this was the most enjoyable CAMRA event he had ever attended.

The Derby Morris Men gave another excellent display, Clive Moore amazed us with another spot of magic, Stan Ashton re-appeared with his guitar, and the evening wound up with a grand chorus of Derby's own 'Glory Glory Old Peculier'.

On behalf of the committee many many thanks once again to everyone who helped make the evening such a howling success.

Happy New Year.

(Terry Morton)

## December Branch Bulletin

One and a half pages of the Bulletin were devoted to the campaign's administration. Much of this was concerned with membership matters - for example that members' cards are now date stamped to expire on the last day of the month preceeding the month of joining. However, despite the complication and resulting confusion, you should still receive 12 issues of What's Brewing.

Another branch, this time South-West Surrey, has been able to publicize CAMRA and selected real ale pubs. This was made possible by liaising with the Surrey Daily Advertiser. Now, by mutual agreement, the branch is allotted one third of a half page of real ale pub advertisements, once a month. Since the paper's circulation is 20,000, with a readership of probably twice that, the campaign's activities are brought to the attention of a vast number of people. Just compare the figures with the normal branch newsletter audience ! In the same vein the Bulletin suggests appointing a writer from each branch to contribute articles for publication in What's Brewing.

Apparently, the Christmas Sale advertised in What's Brewing applies to branch stocks as well. So if anyone requires a cut price '76 national Good Beer Guide, see Jeff Fletcher immediately, before our small stock runs out.

I think another piece of good news is the Executive's decision to restrict the '77 beer guide cover price to £1.60. In these days of rampant inflation this seems to be a reasonable increase (The Guinness Book of Records has shot up from £1.70 to £2.95 in a single year) (Is this a record - Ed.)

Finally, if anyone has found Chris Bruton's missing diary, please let me know !  
(Paul Gibson)

# Pub News

Nother gain to real ale to report this month - the WHITE SWAN, MELBOURNE. Once a Whitbread house, now free, it's now got Marston's Pedigree on handpump. This makes two real ale gains in Melbourne in just a few weeks (the other being Burton Ale at the Blue Bell). All of a sudden it's become possible to have a reasonable pub crawl in that town.

A new beer to the area is the Wards Best Mild at the famous DURHAM OX, ILKESTON. This replaces the Wards ordinary mild which is sadly now not being brewed (the ordinary bitter has also gone). At the TIGER, LONG EATON, Owd Roger, on hand pump, has been added to the range of Marston's beers available.

The JOINERS ARMS at QUORNDON has now re-opened with electric pumped Bass. Stories differ, but there seems a possibility that handpumps will be re-installed. In DERBY the RUTLAND ARMS, Lower Carrington St, will re-open in March we hear.

Paul Gibson received a slightly strange letter from Greenall Whitley in reply to his enquiry as to why their draught beer had been withdrawn from the GREEN MAN at ASHBOURNE; the gist seemed to be that they can no longer deliver there, but regret the fact. Paul has now written to Greenall's (again) and to Hardys and Hansons concerning the new pubs in Sinfen.

## Whom To Contact

BRANCH COMMITTEE: Tim Williams, Chairman, Derby 676027 (H) Derby 61461 Ext 3152 (W). Paul Gibson, Secretary Wayside, Main Rd, Brailsford, Derbys, Brailsford 365 (H). Nick Potter, Treasurer/Membership Sec, 4 Eastleigh Drive, Mickleover, Derby, Derby 511355 (H). Terry Morton, Social Sec, Derby 674025. Dave Johnson, Pub Liaison, Derby 61422 Ext 2405 (W). John Kearney Publicity Sec 5 Ormskirk Rise, Spondon, Derby. Reg Newcombe, Beer Guide Sec 14 Vicarage Av, Derby. Derby 43599 (H).

OTHER OFFICERS: Ian Grimshaw, C'man Belper Area Sub-C'tee, Belper 3270 (H/W). Trevor Peacock, C'man Matlock AS-C, 62 Dale Rd, Matlock. Tim Burgess and Mick Chambers C'men Ripley/Heanor AS-C, Chris Gale, Historic Pubs Officer, Keith Normington Raffles, Jeff Fletcher, CAMRA Item Sales, John Broadbent, Handpump Officer, Gill Burgess, Press Cuttings, John Griffiths, Beerex S-C C'man. Rog Robinson, Derby Branch Editor for Notts & Derby Drinker, Nottm 865007 Ext 35 (W) 30, Harrington Av, Borrowash, Derby.

## Very Late News

We are indebted to Max Craven of the Derby Museum for sending the following verse written by a T. Brown in 1692. Max sees modern parallels.

'A Sot's Paradise, or the Humours of a Derby Ale-House with a satyr upon the Ale.

Base and ignoble phlegm, dull Derby ale;  
Thou canot o'er none but brainless sots prevail;  
Choke them if new, and sour if thou art stale.  
Thou drowns't no care, nor dost thou elevate;  
Instead of quenching Drouth, dost Drouth create;  
Makes us dull sots at an expensive rate.

\*Thirst

# Derby Diary

Thursday 27th January  
BREWERY TRIP

Afternoon visit to Davenport's Brewery, Birmingham, followed by an evening round a number of Black Country pubs, including Doris Pardoe's famed home brew house. Some seats are still left - see Terry Morton. Coach leaves from the Alexandra Hotel, Siddals Road, Derby, at 11.30.

## REGULAR SOCIALS

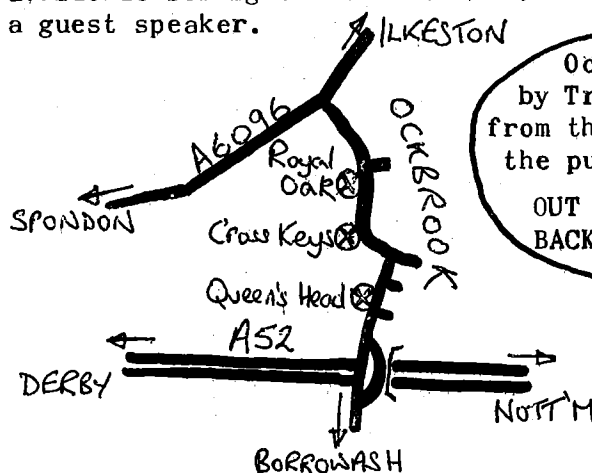
Every Tuesday Night a late evening informal social at a variety of pubs in Derby. All start at around 9.15, all provide the opportunity to air your views with the committee, or just a sociable pint to round off the evening.

Tuesday 18th	Great Northern, Junction St. Ansells Mild and DBA,
Tuesday 25th	Golden Eagle, Agard St. Bass and draught cider.
Tuesday 1st	Sir Robert Peel, Park St. Ansells Mild, I.C. bitter & DBA,
Tuesday 8th	The Globe, Sacheveral St. Kimberley Mild and Bitter.

Every Sunday Lunch an informal gathering including members of the Belper and the Ripley and Heanor AS-C's, with an anonymous chairman, converge on the Coach and Horses, Horsley, at about 1.30. Pedigree, Burton Bitter, No 5, Owd Roger.

Wednesday 9th February  
BRANCH MEETING

The Royal Oak, Ockbrook, 8pm. Worthington Bitter will be available straight from the cask. We are hoping to have a guest speaker.



Ockbrook is 20 mins away by Trent Nos. 12A and 13 buses, from the bus station direct to the pub.

OUT 19.25 (13) 19.50 (12A)  
BACK 21.53 and 22.53 (Both 13)

## COMING SOON

Tuesday 22nd February	Ashbourne Shrovetide Football (Pubs open all day)
Sat & Sun, 12 & 13 Mar.	CAMRA National AGM Blackpool.
Thursday 17th March	Derby Branch AGM.

## January Branch Meeting 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.

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contact Paul Gibson.