

# DERBY Drinker

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No 8

WINTER '84

FREE



## HEADS YOU LOSE

### BEER DRINKERS IN A FROTH OVER SHORT MEASURE

by Reg Newcombe

In the last two years Trading Standards Officers all over the country have become more and more concerned about less and less beer in our pint pots. Official surveys carried out in West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Cleveland, Durham, West Midlands, Nottinghamshire, the six Metropolitan Counties, and now Derbyshire, have revealed that short-measuring is on the increase and that short measures are getting shorter.

In the Derbyshire survey carried out this summer only 11 pints out of 100 bought in 54 pubs contained a full measure, the missing liquid being worth anything from 1p to 6p.

#### DUCKING STOOL

The problem is not a new one. Way back in the bad old days of Bad King John wine and ale measures were so variable that it was decreed in the Magna Carta that 'One measure of wine shall be throughout our realm, and one measure of ale', and any offenders found themselves on the ducking-stool!

#### DUBIOUS RULING

All well and good - until 1982. In that year a dubious Divisional Court ruling (Donaldson and Webster) allowed that a pint of beer could have as much froth on it as a customer was prepared to accept, which effectively rendered all Trading Standards Officers toothless and left it to us, the customers, to say when a pint is a pint and not a pint.

#### NEED FOR A CHANGE

The National Consumer Council is not at all happy about this exploitable state of affairs and is pressing for a change to the 1979 Weights and Measures Act, Section 19, so that a pint of beer will mean 20 fluid ounces and not 19, or 18, or 17, or whatever the customer will accept.

'As things stand', says Maurice Healy, head of the Council's policy unit, 'it means that consumers can't compare prices and publicans who give good measures are put at a disadvantage.'

#### INSIST ON A TOP-UP

In the meantime, says a Derbyshire County Council spokesman, 'there's nothing much we can do about it except urge the customer to insist upon a full measure'. And if he does, we are assured by Derby and District publicans' spokesman, Keith Apthorpe, he will get what he asks for - though many people, he points out, prefer to see a pint with a good head on it, anyway. That's certainly true of northerners, but Burton beers characteristically do not have a lot of froth on top, and when it's put there by means of the tight sparkler they soon lose it, leaving nothing but nothing. Which, of course, you never notice if you never leave it long enough to settle.

It hardly needs saying that selling froth instead of beer is commercially advantageous, though it is more often due to negligent or inexperienced bar staff than to profiteering licensees getting more pints to the barrel. But whichever way you look at it, with prices getting taller and measures getting shorter, it's the boozier who's the loser.

Let those that like froth buy froth and much good may it do them. But what I say Mr Alex Fletcher, Minister of Consumer Affairs, is make a pint a pint again - and bring back the ducking-stool!

#### MUNICH TAKES MEASURES

If you think you're being seen off in this country by being charged full price for short measure, don't go to Munich! There have been so many complaints at the Munich Beer Festival about the amount of froth on the top of steins that the Germans have appointed special 'beer police' to see that customers are not cheated of their full litre.

This immediately resulted in a spate of prosecutions of beer-tent managers, with one Munich inn-keeper facing fines of £1,000 for cheating patrons at this year's Oktoberfest, according to a government announcement.

Mr Peter Gauweiler, in charge of consumer protection at the world's biggest beer festival, said that the inn-keeper in question had filled 198 steins from a keg holding only 152 litres - meaning that each serving was as much as 30% froth!

#### GAUGING THE FROTH



Pictured above (half size) is the famous D.I.Y. Beer Gauge first introduced by the West Midlands Consumer Services Dept. Nottinghamshire Trading Standards Dept. have recently followed suit and produced their own version of the drip mat. However, drinkers should be aware that Nottingham L.V.A. have threatened to take out an injunction against anyone using the Gauge, intended to help drinkers assess for themselves whether they are getting value for money in pubs using brim measure glasses.

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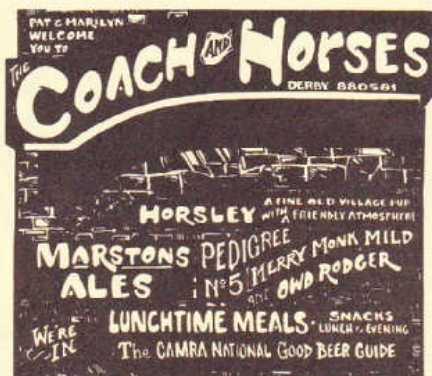
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## REAL ALE RAMBLES

BY MICK YALLUP

### A Circular Walk for Lovers of Traditional Beer

Newhaven to Alstonfield  
Distance: 8 miles. Going: Moderately easy  
Start Point: Newhaven Hotel car park on A515 Buxton/Ashbourne Road near junction with A5012 (Grid Ref. SK165602).

Route: Turn right out of car park and down road, turning into small lane 50 yards on right. After crossing cattle grid, turn left to follow footpath diagonally across field and down to stile in bottom right hand corner. Veer right in next field and follow path down onto Tissington trail. Cross over trail and follow path opposite, keeping to left hand wall, to cross stile in left hand corner. Cross next field heading for a stile in wall diagonally opposite and follow path down the left hand side of a green building and onto road. Turn right and follow road through Biggin village passing the Waterloo Inn (Bass H) on the right. At the next junction, take the footpath diagonally opposite, down a track and follow footpath through Biggindale, ignoring turnoffs, for approximately 1½ miles eventually to join Dove Dale. Turn left and follow dale for approximately 1 mile, cross the footbridge over river just before a small fishing hut. Follow path straight up hill and veer right near top to cross a stile at end of small lane worth pausing here for a sit down and a sandwich while you admire the view and get your breath back. Follow the lane until it joins the main road. Turn right down road into Alstonfield village and take next left to find the George Inn (Ind Coope Bitter H—Hot and cold snacks) just off the village green.

After a suitable break, turn left out of the pub and left again at the main road. Follow the road around to the right, straight on at next junction and along road for approximately ½ miles. Take footpath on right approximately 200 yards past "Alstonfield" sign and follow footpath diagonally left across next 2 fields to pass by right of small wood. Cross next field veering right through stile onto lane. Take footpath opposite and carry straight on to join ridgepath offering an excellent view. Follow ridge keeping to left hand wall and over stile in wall opposite, continue along the ridge path, dropping down to cross stile in right hand wall. Follow path down hill, keeping to left hand wall and pass through gate at back of farm. Turn right after passing through farmyard and down lane for approximately 1 mile, taking footpath on right just before a gate. Follow path around outskirts of wood and down side of river to cross footbridge. Carry straight on up track opposite to eventually join road. Turn left up the road and take lane diagonally opposite at next crossroads. Follow

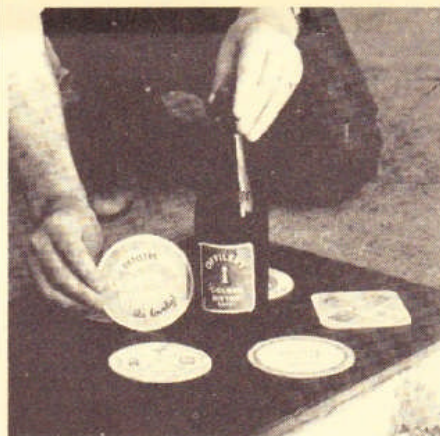
this lane and veer left at next junction, followed by an immediate right to drop down to the main road. Take stile opposite and follow left hand wall up field to stile at rear of caravan site. Follow drive around front of farmhouse and onto road. Turn right and take next footpath on left (Signposted: Friden). Follow path diagonally right across next few fields to join Tissington trail. Turn right along trail and take next footpath approximately 100 yards on left. Up steps, veer right across next few fields towards wood and past yellow marker on powerline pole. Follow track at top of hill down towards farm. Just before track turns right into farmyard, take stile in left-hand side wall and follow footpath through small wood. Continue along path across next 2 fields and down side to farmhouse to join main road, turn right down road to re-join Newhaven Hotel car park.

## OFFILERS REDISCOVERED

It's not every day that you hear the name of an old Derby brewery, and the chances of finding a dozen bottles of their beer hidden away in a dusty old storeroom is the sort of story more commonly heard in pubs around closing time.

But Roy Waller, landlord of the Plough Inn at Brackenfield, did just that. When he first took over the pub, he cleared out the old bottle store only to find an untouched case of Offilers Golden Bitter. The bottles must have laid in the store for well over 20 years, and when discovered and dusted off, they were all in mint condition.

Whether the beer is still drinkable, Roy wouldn't say and at present he has no intentions of finding out. The bottles must remain just one last reminder of the fine old Derby Brewery - OFFILERS.



### GOLDEN BITTER SHINES AGAIN

Photo by T. Fisher



## PUB TRAILS AND TRIALS

This summer was exceptional in more ways than just the weather: the breweries have had quite a field day with the various ways in which they have tried to get us into their pubs. Most of the promotions took the form of a "hunt" or "trail", which if followed could lead the lucky drinker to such grand rewards as a "teeshirt" or an offer of cheap pub games.

Tetley seemed to be first in the field with their "Pub Hunt". Twelve pubs and pints later and you could collect your free pint and send off for your teeshirt. Wards followed with their "Pub Passport" which consisted of some 26 pubs spread throughout the brewery's trading area. So to complete it you would need to travel from the Jolly Colliers at Horsley Woodhouse to Lincoln, Sheffield and Doncaster. The re-Wards for this marathon, a teeshirt, of course, and a tie and now that you've done the trek, a £5 travel voucher. Good value for money eh! Well done Wards! Gaymers Cyder on the other hand never expected you to leave your local. With every pint of their "Oide English Cyder" you got a stamp. As you collect the stamps so you get various pub games offered to you at a discount. Whether you want the products on offer is up to you, at least you didn't have to run up a heavy petrol bill to get the prizes.

Finally, we must thank Ind Coope for dreaming up "Club 2000", one of the best ways of giving money away seen in Derby pubs for some time.

Playing the game was simple, on entering a pub taking part, you were given a key and a voucher. The key could be put into the games machine, in the hope of a cash prize and the winning or losing ticket was numbered as part of a nightly draw for more cash. Each night at 9pm the machine displayed a number, if the ticket holder was in the pub, he could put his key into the machine again, for a further cash prize. The voucher was to get you a second pint to console you if your key didn't win the first time.

The basic principle of one drinker, one key was good, unfortunately the games creator forgot human nature and set the scene for a massive abuse. Firstly, the free pint vouchers seemed to be given away randomly or in odd cases not at all. Landlords, faced with hundreds of keys must have given them away by the handful, for the numbers that some players amassed on their belts and in one case by the shoulder bagfull!

Obviously the only winners were the lucky drinkers who got cash or free pints. The game must have cost Ind Coope a fair penny, with machines rumoured to be giving up to a £100 per day. Only sour note is that someone must pay for it all. Watch this space - price increases are on the way AGAIN.



## THE MAGNIFICENT SEVENTH

A report on the  
Derby Beer Festival

by Mike Meara  
Festival Manager

Anyone unduly worried by omens might have had second thoughts about running a beer festival in this much-maligned year of 1984, especially with a Friday the 13th in the festival period. However, I am delighted to be able to report that the whole thing went very well. We came very close to a complete sell-out, with only two or three barrels' worth of saleable beer in various small quantities around the Great Hall by 11pm on the Saturday. The total attendance of 9300 set a new record, and despite the inevitable queueing - the capacity of 1250 had been reached by 8.40pm on Thursday evening, 8.15pm on Friday evening and 7.30pm on Saturday evening - the crowd seemed in even better humour than usual.

### GOOD BEER ...

The beer was generally in excellent condition, thanks to the tremendous effort put in by cellarman Ivor Clissold and his team. There were some complaints about the odd flavour of the Abbey Supreme, but we eventually adopted the system of giving everyone who asked for it a small taste before they decided to buy.

### ... IF YOU COULD GET IT!

The effects of rationing seemed much more noticeable this year, and I do apologise to anyone who was disappointed by the lack of choice which was sometimes apparent. It is never very easy to predict which are going to be the really popular beers; in 1982 it was the then new Burton Bridge Bitter, last year the Bursley Bitter from Five Towns Brewery was unexpectedly popular. This year the Mole's Cask Bitter and the Archer's Headbanger were the ones most in demand, the latter so much so that Friday night's "ration" of one kilderkin - that's 18 gallons - was drained to the last drop just 40 minutes after being started. Incredible!

Maybe I can best explain the need for rationing like this: if all 9300 customers wanted just one half-pint of, say, Headbanger, that amounts to 4650 pints, or over 580 gallons; that's more than 16 36-gallon casks! At that rate we could only fit about seven different beers into the stillage space



available. We had only about one-fifth of that amount of that particular brew, so without a rationing policy there would have been none left for Thursday night, let alone Saturday.

The Organising Committee is thinking hard about this problem, I can assure you, but the only solution seems to be to have a smaller number of different beers, but greater quantities of each one.



### STAR DRAWS

A mixture of old favourites and new names characterised the entertainment this year. The Ripley Wayfarers and the Amazing Bavarian Stompers built upon their previous successes at the festival; and the ceilidh band, Burnt Peat, and especially Tommy Burton's Sporting House Trio proved that they too relish the unique Beer Festival atmosphere. The star turn in the foyer was undoubtedly the amazing Andy Brothers' Animal Circus, who held a crowd of sometimes 150 enthralled with weird poetry, dinosaur puppet show and other antics too strange to mention.

### YOUR VIEWS

We invited the public to complete a questionnaire, relating to several of CAMRA's current campaigns: prices, pub alterations, short measures and so on. Quite a good response was achieved, and a survey of the results will appear in the next issue of DERBY DRINKER. Meanwhile, the winner of the free prize draw for those who filled in their name and address is: P. Naylor, 21 Carlton Ave, Shelton Lock, Derby who should by now have received his £5 book token. Congratulations, Mr. Naylor, and our thanks to all who participated.

Many comments on the Beer Festival itself were made on those questionnaires the general tone of these is very favourable, which does encourage the organisers to feel that they are getting it right, at least for the most part. However, we are always looking for new ideas and suggestions, to try to make each Beer Festival better than the last. If you came to this or previous Derby Beer Festivals, or have visited any of the many other similar events throughout the country, please take the time to write down your views and send them to the editorial address. What beers would you like to see next year? What sort of entertainment? What do you particularly like? Of course, we can't guarantee to please everybody, but we do want to know what you think. Meanwhile, here's to next year!

## POINT OF VIEW

### TIME GENTLEMEN PLEASE

By P.A. Sheppard

You ask me if I would stay out later if given the opportunity, or would it make no difference to my drinking habits.

I would like to see pubs open from 11 am. to 11 pm. Yes, there would be times when I would stay out later and it would make a difference to my drinking habits. The one thing it would not do is make any difference to my spending habits as there is a limit on how much I can afford to spend on drink. I am a salaried office worker and I expect most of my fellow office workers are limited in how much they can fork out on drink. So are the thousands of OAPs and the thousands of unemployed who live in Derby.

Three cheers for the pub managers of Derby and especially those who actually belong to their 'trade union' NALHM. All of them are earning a living by paid employment so why should they want to increase their working week - would you in your job - because that extra half-hour brings in a pittance when translated into wages for the pub manager.

However, I have no doubt the majority of drinkers would welcome pubs being open much longer hours just like they would probably like shops and offices to be open much longer hours (and possibly seven days per week). Unfortunately what many drinkers are not prepared to do is to pay extra for the privilege of longer opening hours.

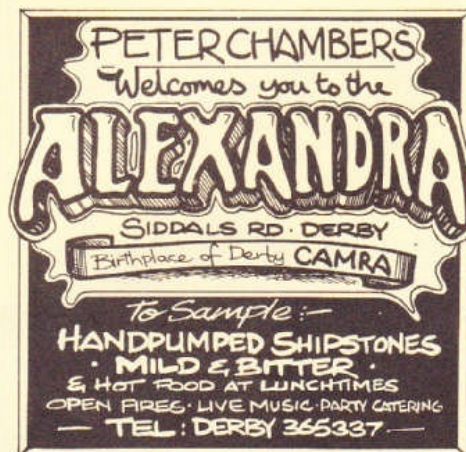
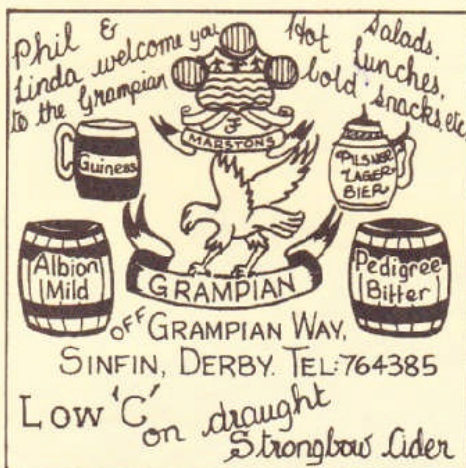
O.K., so we can all read of the huge profits being made by the large breweries and argue that the price of beer is far too high, but we still buy the stuff and still allow ourselves to be served by staff on an hourly rate of pay which no self respecting TU person would accept. Perhaps it is all a reflection of the type of society in which we live, but on the other hand who would want a Nationalised brewing industry?

### FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT SOMETHING?

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IF YOU'LL PUT YOUR NAME TO IT.

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## COMPETITION No. 3

### WORDFINDER PUZZLE £5 MUST BE WON

Concealed in the letter-square below are the names of twenty breweries, all still operating and all beginning with a different letter. How many can you find?

The names could run across, vertically or diagonally, and not necessarily from left to right or top to bottom. No letter is used more than once.

Anyone may enter except the Editor and staff of DERBY DRINKER and the members of the Committee of the Derby Branch of CAMRA.

Please return all entries to: THE EDITOR, 1 LOWER ELEY STREET, DERBY BY JANUARY 31st.

WESORMKTIOTUNDC  
XTIMLEOFNILEFAR  
IXHSARGALESIMPY  
NAUWPNREHSUEBEB  
CMRAADDEGFRHLRT  
DOVEVITAGOERIAH  
TRUSMITNNUAKSEE  
ULISILUERDOGTSR  
HARIDOATSLNEWLU  
SNAKYATPDINGRID  
ODDPWINHNJMNOD  
TERMOVAN LEASNL  
URGIOMEHARTLEYE  
NOUSDJINNIAOTTO  
EBABINDOOGLEGNA

The winner of Competition No. 2 was Mr. D.J. Monfer, 25 Sunnyhill, Witley, Godalming, Surrey who got his Derby Drinker at the Alexandra and completed the crossword against all odds and errors. Well done Mr Monfer.

## LOCAL BEER NEWS

Changes in and around the City

### The Newcomers

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new landlords and landladies in the city to: Alan and Diane Thomas at the Duke of York, Burton Road, to Bill and Ann Becket of the Gisbourne Arms, Franchise Street, to Brian and Elaine Phipps at the Buck in the Park on Friargate, while Ivron and Wendy Cox have now taken the reins at the Smithfield on Meadow Road. Out of town, we find Roy Scott in at the New Inn, Repton and John Caxton, behind the bar at the Miners Arms in Brassington. Lower Hartsay, just outside Ripley has new faces in both the George and the Gate. Welcome to you all.

### New Beers

You can now find Marstons Burton Bitter at the Dog and Duck in Shardlow, while the Bubble Inn at Stenson has replaced the Ind Coope Bitter with Ansells Bitter. The Nags Head in Ripley now has Owd Rodger available again and the Horse and Jockey, South Wingfield has replaced the Mansfield 4XXXX with Marstons Pedigree and has plans for regular guest beers too. Royal Standard, Derwent Street, now has Ind Coope Bitter available on handpump.

### New Pubs too

Welcome to the second Banks house in the city, the Needles in Alvaston is now open with both Bitter and Mild on sale. Michael Henderson is your host.

### New Insides

And before leaving Banks lets just say "Well Done" for the tasteful refurbishment at the Grandstand. It's a real treat to see how well a job can be done with a little thought and consideration. Keep up the good work. Both Bitter and Mild available on handpump. Also recently re-opened, the Grove, Main St., Long Eaton, which has Whitbread Castle Eden Ale on Handpump and may also have a regular guest beer too.

One last question we have is when will the Knotted Snake unwined.

### And now the bad news ...

Ilkeston is to lose two of its pubs in the very near future due to a new road scheme. The White Lion and the Traveller's Rest are both to be demolished to enable the new road to be built.

The Rising Sun in Crich is up for sale and rumour has it, without it's licence. Still in Crich, watch out for the fake handpumps in the Jovial Dutchman, at least the beer is still real.

And that's about it, but if you have any pub news, good or bad, please contact any of the local CAMRA contacts on this page. We want to hear from you.

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David & Diane  
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## DERBY CAMRA DIARY

### TUESDAY SOCIALS (9.15pm)

11th December  
Lord Nelson, Curson St., Derby (Ind Coope)

18th December  
Neptune, The Spot, Derby. (Bass)

25th December  
Reindeer Arms, Christmas Island. \*Real Ale Gain\*  
4XXXX Turkey Ale and Plum Pie Porter (Hand  
plucked, of course). Starts Midnight 24th.

### 1985

1st January  
York Tavern, York St., Derby. (Free)

8th January  
Ye Olde Spa, Abbey St., Derby. (Ind Coope)

15th January  
Stenson Bubble, Stenson. (Free)

22nd January  
Dolphin, Queen St., Derby. (Bass)

29th January  
Gate and the George, Lower Hartsay, Ripley.  
(Shipstone/Kimberley)

5th February  
Royal Standard, Derwent St., Derby. (Ind Coope)

### BRANCH MEETINGS (7.55pm Prompt.)

13th December  
Alexandra, Siddals Rd., Derby. (Shipstone)

10th January  
Nags Head, Mickleover. (Ind Coope)

14th February  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Bridge Inn, Shelton Lock. All Welcome.

Further information and details on all aspects of Derby CAMRA and the Campaign for Real Ale can be had from any of the following local contacts: Chairman: David George, 1 Lower Eley St., Derby. Tel: Derby 32762. Amber Valley Contact: Robert Griffiths, 22 Pennine Ave., Riddings. Tel: Leabrooks 603892. Derby Drinker/Mild & Bitter: Mike Meera, 61 Borrowash Rd., Spondon. Tel: Derby 663332.

Everyone is welcome at a Derby CAMRA event. Why not join the Derby Branch of CAMRA in visiting some of the pubs in their area or hear the lively debates at their meetings.

For more information contact Social Secretary Julian Hough (0332) 677072.

Opinions expressed in Derby Drinker are not necessarily those of either the Editor or of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

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**REV**



**BY ROB**