

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 9

SPRING '85

FREE

WHOSE BREWS NEXT?

Takeovers, Reorganisations and Closures Loom by Mike Meara

A grim report on the future of the brewing industry indicates that the new wave of brewery closures that we're presently experiencing is not over yet.

The Report, by City analysts Buckmaster & Moore, concentrates on capacity within the industry; the level of spare capacity is thought to be 53 per cent, and drastic measures will have to be taken to cut this to the normal rate, which is around half that figure.

The report sees only three ways out: a quick rise in consumption of around 22 per cent; a 20-fold rise in exports; or further brewery closures.

The report holds: "It is not a sufficient solution for some small breweries to close as this would hardly scratch the surface." Instead, the level of closures necessary would be equivalent to closing both Courage and Scottish & Newcastle. However, the firm's Colin Mitchell has dismissed as "naive and unjustified" rumours that four leading regional brewers - Greene King, Matthew Brown, Vaux and Wolverhampton & Dudley might be ripe for takeovers this year.

Takeovers Meanz Closures

Recent events, however, make depressing reading. Marston's recently took over (and closed) Border Brewery of Wrexham (though they're brewing Border-type beers at Burton for sale in their new tied estate). More recently, Thwaites of Blackburn took over tiny Yates & Jackson of Lancaster, and have installed their own beers in the pubsat 4p a pint more. It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good, for Lancaster neighbours Mitchell's have closed their own cramped citycentre site and transferred operations to Yates & Jackson's larger premises.

Sam Smith's have been building up a stake in Jennings of Cockermouth, though this has now ceased and Jennings are confident that there will be no takeover bid from Sam's. How can they be so sure?

The Big Six haven't been immune from the malaise either. Watney's closed their Norwich brewery in April, with the loss of 155 jobs; production of the five beers brewed there will be transferred either to London or Manchester

(Wilson's). Speaking of whom, Wilson's and Webster's, both northern subsidiaries of the Watney group, are to merge; over 1,000 tenanted pubs will come under the new company, to be called Samuel Webster and Wilsons Ltd. Closer to home, the reorganisation recently proposed by Allied Breweries at Burton and Derby would result in the loss of 300 jobs, according to the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Perhaps they should apply for a job with Mansfield Brewery, who seem to be almost alone in bucking the current gloomy trend; their recently announced £28m three-year investment programme could apparently create a similar number of jobs. Let's hope that this encouraging development will mean an increased commitment to real ale.



Offilers Remembered

Nigel Barker reckons he's just become curator of the only Offiler's museum in existence. And who can argue, for at his pub, the Dolphin on Queen Street, Derby, Nigel has just opened part of the building as the Offiler's Room.

It's packed with mementoes of Derby's last commercial brewery, which was taken over in 1965 by Charrington's. In the ensuing 20 years, most references to Offiler's have disappeared.

Nigel explains: "All the records went off to Charrington's down south. Derby Museum doesn't have any - neither does the Bass Museum in Burton."

The Offilier's Room is the old upper bar at the Dolphin; it's still open to all customers, and it's well worth a look round. Just don't be surprised if you meet a Licensee who respectfully asks you NOT to use the drip mats! Yes, they're Offiler's.



The Relief of the Mafeking ...

... and, of course, all the other pubs in Derby which, unlike most of their neighbours had no option but to close at 10.30 pm on midweek evenings.

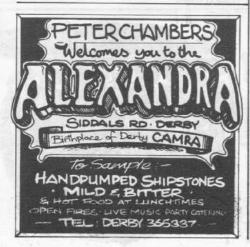
The decision at the Brewster Sessions in February was doubly welcome following the shock to South Derbyshire drinkers, who found that they had unwittingly been breaking the law for years by drinking till 3 pm at lunchtime.

But this long overdue change, which brings Derby and South Derbyshire into line with areas to the north and east, is just a drop in the ocean compared to the radical reform of licensed hours which is equally overdue, as almost everybody recognises.

The Brewers' Society supports a move towards more relaxed hours - you may have seen their little brown pamphlets entitled TIME FOR A CHANGE on the bar of your local. More specifically, local brewing giants Bass have added their voice to the growing campaign: "It is our view that relaxation is something that many of our customers want, and we are therefore in favour of some relaxation", said Bass chairman Derek Palmar at the company's AGM in January.

Our local MP Greg Knight has for some time been trying to make this view heard where it really counts - in Parliament. "The present system in England and Wales is ridiculous", he says.

CAMRA, of course, has been campaigning in this area for a number of years, and has just published a major new report on the subject. Inside, Derby Branch chairman David George analyses why there is a LICENCE FOR CHANGE. (See page 2).





Licence For Change

David George puts the case for more flexible pub opening hours

In an opinion poll conducted by CAMRA in 1983 a remarkable 87.5% of people questioned were in favour of pubs being open when they like between 10am and midnight. This compares with 68% in favour when asked the same question by Whitbread in 1979. In a MORI poll also conducted in 1983, 71% were in favour of flexibility of opening hours within limits, compared with 48% in 1981. Public opinion is clearly turning more and more in favour of reform of our licencing laws.

Groundless Fears

Objectors to any relaxation of these laws in England and Wales - two of the most regulated countries outside the Moslem world - fear an increase in drink-related offences, growing alcohol abuse problems and price increases. These fears have been demolished in a CAMRA report entitled 'Licence for Change', published in March

In Sweden, where the sale of alcohol is heavily con-trolled, social problems connected with drink are growing; deaths caused by cirrhosis of the liver have increased four-fold and alcoholism eight-fold in the past 20 years, and arrests for illegal home-brewing in the first half of 1983 were more than 300% up on 1980. In a country of eight million people there are just 316 shops licensed to sell alcohol, and these only between 8am and 8pm on weekdays. Restaurants can serve alcohol between 12am and 10pm, with variations on Sunday, and morning hours for beer only.

There have been no threats to the social fabric of Australia following the relaxation of hours which saw the end of the one-hour evening session in some states. Australian hours are now 10am to 10pm with minor variations.

The Changes in Scotland

The most remarkable example of the effects of a relaxation in opening hours, however, is closer to home. The liberalisation of Scotland's pub hours began home. The liberalisation of Scotland's pub hours began in 1976, when pubs were permitted an extra hour. New licensing courts were set up in October 1977, when Sunday opening was first allowed, as well as the gradual introduction of afternoon extensions that effectively allowed 11am to 11pm opening. 65% of Scottish licensees have extended their hours since the laws were relaxed.

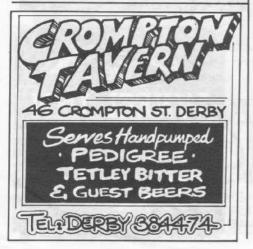
STOP PRESS...

EXETER PETITION. Brewery architect plans to knock out a wall in the Exeter Arms, Derby The changes are being opposed by regulars. would destroy the cosy atmosphere, they say and we agree. Get down to the Exeter, Exeter Place and sign the petition before yet another unspoilt pub is wrecked!

CIRCULATION UP. 4,000 copies of Derby Drinker No 8 went out to over 100 pubs in the Derby area as our circulation continues to expand. 4,500 copies of this issue have been

TAKE AN ADVERT. Yes, it pays to advertise in Derby Drinker - and it doesn't cost the earth. Licensees phone Dave Evans on Derby 552349

WRITE TO US and let us have your views. Copy date for a bumper six page issue No 10 is May 17th.



A MORI poll questioned about 1,028 adults in Scotland, of whom 55% were satisfied with the present hours, 53% thought that the changes had not increased drunkenness, 59% thought the changes had made pubs more suitable for women, 79% thought that drinking was now more leisurely and 64% thought that drinking was made more civilised.

Liberalised licensing hours are believed by the public, the brewers and the licensed trade to have been beneficial to the style of drinking in Scotland's pubs.

The signs are that the new hours have helped bring The signs are that the new hours have helped bring about a more leisurely and civilised drinking tone to drinking in Scottish pubs. Convictions for drunkenness have fallen from 14,999 in 1975 to 9,730 in 1982, and prosecutions for drink-driving offences fell by around 5%, from 798 (per 100,000 vehicles) in 1975 to 759 in 1981. The total of all crimes and offences rose by 24.4% in the peiod 1976-81, whereas convictions for the offence of drunkenness have not riven heavent being heavent being the second state. the offence of drunkenness have not risen beyond their 1976 level. Lothian and Borders police, whose area includes Edinburgh were enthusiastic about the changes. Chief Inspector Crowe of their licensing department said he was "very much in favour of the new hours", maintaining that drink-related crimes and closing-time difficulties have remained at the same level in Edinburgh since the mid-1970's. In Edinburgh there are a small number of pubs open from 6am, about 140 which are open all afternoon, several dozen open beyond 11pm and a handful staying open to 4am.

"Research Unreliable"

Research into the use and abuse of alcohol should be approached with caution, says CAMRA. In 1982/3 there were 303 projects into the medical, social, psychological and economic effects of alcohol under way, and only two or three appear to consider any of way, and only two or three appear to consider any of the possible benefits of alcohol, or its advantages over any alternative. There is ground for questioning the impartiality of the academic stance, in that all these research projects start from the premise that alcohol and its effects are bad. This is a classic case of assuming what you set out to prove. In addition, many projects are actually being carried out for supporters of drastic curtailment of access to alcohol. Such projects were taking place at Edinburgh University and at Paisley College of Technology, and the Temperance Association has recently set up the Institute of Alcohol Studies.

has recently set up the Institute of Alcohol Studies.

"CAMRA would not dissent from the government's aim of giving people information and leaving them as responsible individuals to make their own decisions on drink. Nor would we argue for unlimited access indeed, there may be a case for restricting access to alcohol where its drinking is unsupervised, as in football grounds or via supermarkets. It is not best to treat alcohol like a 'forbidden substance' or to restrict drinking to shorter hours. People treated like responsible adults behave like responsible adults and this is what the government should do by allowing people to choose for themselves when they drink on supervised premises" says the report.

Economic Straitjacket

From 1970 to 1980 the proportion of all beer sold that was consumed in pubs fell from 77% to 63%, in clubs an increase from 15% to 25% and for take-home sales an increase from 8% to 12%. Clubs (opening hours, gaming machines, access for children) and supermarkets (opening hours) have a clear competitive advantage over pubs, and this shows clearly in these figures. It is claimed that flexibility would remove this advantage and reverse the trend in beer sales. All of this is good news for the tenant who would also be able to expand catering and adjust his unprofitable hours to ones which would bring more trade. which would bring more trade.

The pub manager on a salary from the brewery is in a different position. They are rightly worried that they would have to work longer hours for no extra reward, but both Watney and Whitbread have said that extra hours would mean more pay and rewards for their managers.

A shift in sales back to pubs and away from super-markets would enable brewers to take the higher profit margins through their own pubs, rather than the un-favourable terms from supermarket chains. Increased sales should lead to increased profits for both tenants and breweries, which should in turn mean that beer prices are held - the evidence from Scotland shows that flexible hours would not lead to higher prices.



A MORI survey in Scotland in September 1983 found that 31% of licensees operating longer hours had taken on more staff, and it is estimated that 20,000 jobs would be created by flexible hours in England and Wales. Flexibility would also bring economic benefit wates. Flexibility would also bring economic benefit to the country by stimulating tourism. As the Economist noted: "The most embarrassing sight in London is a waiter trying to explain to bewildered foreign visitors at 3.30 in the afternoon why they cannot buy a glass of wine on display."

CAMRA's Proposals

These, although differing from Scotland's changes, are simple and practical. They would enable licensees to cater for consumer demand and maximise the potential of their business. They are:

- The expression "permitted hours" to be replaced by 'chosen hours'
- 2. Licensees of on-licensed premises (pubs) to be allowed to sell alcoholic drinks by retail during chosen hours

etween: 10am and 11.30pm Monday to Saturday 12am and 11.30pm Sunday and Christmas Day Good Friday: as normal day Christmas Day: as Sunday but voluntary

- 3. Licensees would be required to apply for their chosen hours to district licensing authorities. The hours would be granted unless there were significant objections from the police or public. Licensees could have a break in hours during the day, but such a break would not be compulsory. Licensees in rural areas could have seasonal variations in hours to suit their trade. There would be no minimum hours.
- 4. Chosen hours to be displayed inside and outside of premises.
- 5. "Chosen hours" licences will apply for the duration of one licensing year, April to April, and would be renewable through the district licensing authorities. Applications for change could be made in the interim, and permanent reductions should be similarly notified.
- 6. Regular extensions beyond 11.30pm would be available on application to the district licensing authority, but subject to the need for such extensions being proven.
- 7. The licensing justices, following complaints from the police or public, would have to restrict the hours for given reasons of public order, and would have the power to alter, suspend or terminate a licence if the licensee failed, without good reason, to comply with his chosen hours.
- 8. Drinking-up time at the end of a session to remain at ten minutes

David George, Chairman, Derby CAMRA.

Readers who wish to see the full text of the report or who would like further information should write to the Research Officer, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.



FESTIVAL ON THE WAY

The Derby Beer Festival is coming your way for the eighth time, so get out your diaries and write down these dates: Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th July. As in recent years there will be seven sessions, starting Wednesday evening and finishing on Saturday night.

The festival is never quite the same two years running, and a good thing too. One of the biggest changes we're making this year is to the format of the entertainment; the Ripley Wayfarers, who have proved increasingly popular over the last couple of years, will play on Saturday night this year, and the Wednesday evening slot which they previously held will be taken over by Karl Braun's Umpah Band. So if you're an umpah-fan, remember that this year, umpah night is Wednesday night. Don't forget to tell all your mates about the change; it will be widely publicised, but we don't want anybody to be disappointed through not hearing about it in time.

There will be slightly fewer beers available this year, but the good news is that rationing shouldn't be so much of a problem, since we will have more of each one. Those of you who missed out on a few beers last time should therefore have a much better chance of sampling the ones you want to try.

The Big One - 200 Beers at British Festival in Brighton

There'll be more details next issue, but while we're on the subject of beer festivals, don't forget the biggest of them all. The Great British Beer Festival returns, after missing a year due to the destruction of the Bingley Hall, and takes place this year in Brighton. They'll have around 200 beers and 20 ciders, plus the usual food, entertainment and souvenirs. Families are welcome - there's a children's room - and you can get season tickets in advance. The dates: August 13th - 17th.

I'm sure it's just a coincidence that Alocoholics Anonymous are also holding a conference in Brighton, less than a month after the GBBF!

All Change!



Derby CAMRA says farewell to Clifford Green, who is retiring from the trade after 21 years at the Great Northern, Junction Street. Under Clifford's care, the pub has been a regular Good Beer Guide entry in recent years, and one of the few Allied pubs in Derby selling handpumped Ansell's Mild.

PINTS TO PONDER By Owd Roger

I was talking to a bloke about beer the other day. Nothing very unusual in that, certainly. It turned out he was a committed drinker of Draught Bass, which is equally unremarkable. What was odd, to my mind, was that he had never heard of the Burton Union system of fermentation, nor was he aware that Bass had discontinued this system quite recently in favour of more cost-effective production methods, leaving their Burton neighbours Marston's as the only brewers currently using this system in the

He listened to my explanation about Union sets, barm troughs and the like, then said: "But surely, if they make it a different way, isn't it a different beer?" A fair point, and one which CAMRA made to Bass when the change was proposed.

It served, I suppose, as a reminder to us CAMRA types that we tend to assume the average drinker possesses a certain level of knowledge about what's really going on in the brewing business and the effect that changes like this

have on your pint. Very often, however, this is not the case, as it is only through reading such publications as Derby Drinker that people can find out such information.

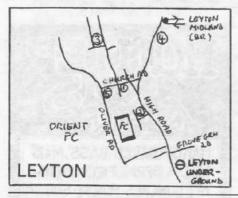
Which only goes to show how important it is that we try to keep you in touch with everything that could affect your beer, your pub and you; the fight's not over yet!

GRAMPIAN RUNNERS DO IT FOR FUN!

The new licensee at the Grampian, Sinfin has told us about the Grampian Gallop, which is a fun-run to be held on Saturday 2nd June starting at 11am. In addition to the energetic stuff, there'll be a barbecue with entertainment by the Big 'L' Disco, plus a pop-and-crisp bar for the kids, with ice-cream and a fancy-dress competition. Beer will be served from 10am to 4pm, so all-in-all it's very much a family occasion.

If there are interesting events forthcoming at your local, let us know and we'll publicise them.

For those of you with enough taste to read DERBY DRINKER, drink real ale and watch Derby County away from home, here's a brief guide to help you find a variety of beer towards the end of this season.



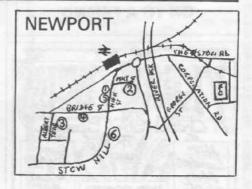
RAMS AWAY

Orient - Saturday May 4th

Coming from Leyton Underground (Central Line), turn right into the High Road, where you will find the Coach and Horses (2) selling Charrington IPA, and, nearer, the BR station, the Three Blackbirds (4) has Truman's Bitter, Best and Sampson. Retracing your steps to Church Road there is the Alma (1) (IPA again), and on Grange Road is the Holly Bush (3) with Ind Coope Burron Ale and Taylor Walker Bitter. Your last stop before the ground is the Oliver Twist (5) on Church Road, which has Wethered's.

Newport County - Sat May 11th

Near the station in High Street are Andy's Bar (1) serving three Brain's beers, and the Murenger House (5), a 16th century building selling Sam Smith's. Off High Street in Market Street is the Black Swan (2) (Whitbread). Turn right at the end of High Street and into Bridge Street and you will find the Lamb (4) with two Courage beers. Off Bridge Street (left) is Albert Terrace where the Engineers Arms (3) serves Welsh H8. Make your way to Stow Hill and the Red Lion (6) for some Welsh Hancocks Pale Ale, before a 45 minute walk to the ground via Corporation Road and Cromwell Road. Alternatively, take a 6, 8a, 8c, 16 or 19 busor at a take.



Tell us how you fared with ur guide. The RAMS AWAY column will be back in September. David George







WIN A FREE NIGHT ON THE BEER

Listed below are ten cryptic clues, each concealing the identity of a pub in the City of Derby. For our fourth competition, all you have to do is identify the pubs. A clue, naturally, all the pubs serve real ale.

1. Porpoise-built pub?

Sporting afternoon on TV

Take the waters here for good health 4 Pub with Rugby League connections?

Devonian weapons 5.

6. A hive of activity

Where the Bishop hangs his hat?

8 The hottest spot in town

9 Di's better half

10. A bird making eyes at you

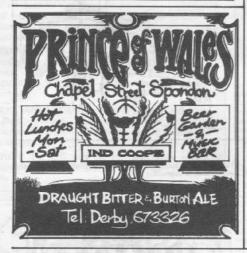
Answers on a postcard, with your name and address and the pub where you picked up your DERBY DRINKER, to: DERBY DRINKER, 1 Lower Eley Street, Derby DE1 1PY, by the end of May. The first correct entry out of the hat will win as much beer as he or she can drink in one night at the real ale pub of their choice in the Derby area. Anyone can enter except Derby CAMRA Branch Committee members and their

COMPETITION No. 3

Not too many entries received for this, and only one of those correct, so no need for the hat this time. Was it the missing letter that put you off? Fortunalely it wasn't included in any of the words, but we apologise for the error anyway. The £5 winner was Richard Burley of 30 Vicarage Road, Mickleover, who told us he couldn't noscibly have done it without assistance from the Good have done it without assistance from the Good Beer Guide. Is there a moral in there somewhere?

Here's a complete list of the answers; the number is the row of the grid on which the first letter can be found: I. ADNAMS (6th); 2. BURT (15th); 3. CAMERON (1st); 4. DARLEY (8th); 5. ELGOOD (1sth); 6. FELINFOEL (2nd); 7. GALES (3rd); 8. HARTLEY (13th); 9. JENNINGS (14th); 10. MORLAND (5th); 11. NAILSEA (12th); 12. OLDHAM (8th); 13. PALMER (10th); 14. RUDDLE (8th); 15. SIMPKISS (14th); 16. THWAITES (2nd); 17. USHER (4th); 18, VAUX (6th); 19. WOOD (11th); 20. YOUNG (10th).

PLEASE PASS THIS COPY OF DERBY DRINKER ON TO A FRIEND



New Pubs

The James Wyatt on Keldholme Lane, Alvaston, is the first newly-built Bass Worthington pub in Derby for ten years. It features a purpose-built family room - a sign of things to come? - and the modern styling is reminiscent of the nearby Needles.

Good news for the boating fraternity - Ragley House will become a canal side pub later this summer, now that planning permission and a drinks licence have been granted.

BAR FACTS By Phil McCarrykeg

New Brews

Controversial Berni Inns establishment, the Royal in Long Eaton - remember those "oversized" barmaids? - has now reopened. The good news that it's the first "pub" in the area to sell hand-pumped Mann's Bitter; the bad news is that you're quite likely to be refused admission unless you have previously made a reservation for a meal - unless you are persistent with the doorman. Fancy some gravity Adnam's? Then try the Harrington Arms at Thulston, where this or other beers are available straight from the cask, an arrangement which is proving very popular with the locals. The cask isn't on open display, so you'll have to ask what's on when you visit.

A Magnet For Drinkers

You may have noticed that John Smith's have been offering their Bitter at 40p per pint on selected Thursdays recently. One John Smith's pub in no need of such inducements is the Swan and Salmon on Derby Road, Alfreton, currently the only J. Smiths pub in Derbyshire selling cask-conditioned beer. A nice pint too, should you happen to be in the area.

Repaint Your Wagon

In what could be the beginning of a new trend, a member of the local licensed trade informs me that the Waggon and Horses, Ashbourne Road, Derby is to become a Marston's house, in an exchange deal with Allied involving a Marston's pub in Burton.

Not Many People Know This

Did you know that Britain ranks only tenth in the world as a beer-drinking nation, with an average consumption of 194.4 pints per head per year? (Top of the charts are the West Germans at 260.9 pints).

On average, we have to work for 11 minutes to earn each of those pints. This is better than the Danes, who have to slave for 17.6 minutes for theirs, but a hard slog compared to the Luxemburgers, who have paid for their pint after a mere 5.2 minutes' graft.

Glancing at my watch, I see it's taken me 11 minutes to type this, so I'm off for a pint...

DERBY BEER FESTIVAL JULY 10th - 13th 1985



Tuesday Socials (9.15pm)

Grampian, Grampian Way, Sinfin. (Marston's)

14th May

Sir Robert Peel, Park Street, Derby. (Ind Coope)

Seven Stars, Church Street, Riddings. (Ward's)

Norman Arms, Village Street, Derby. (Home)

4th June

Tiger Inn, Belper Road, Turnditch. (Ind Coope)

11th June

Mundy Arms, Ashbourne Road, Mackworth. (Free)

18th June

Harrington Arms, Thulston. (Free)

25th June

Knight Fall, Agard Street, Derby. (Free)

Branch Meetings (7.55pm prompt)

Thursday May 9th Royal Oak, Ockbrook. (Bass)

Wednesday June 12th EMGAS Social Club, Ashbourne Road, Derby. (Marston's)

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings. For more information on any of the above, contact Branch Secretary, Colston Crawford on (0332)

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 Street, Derby, (Tel, Derby 32762). Secretary: Coiston Crawford, 1 Hill Brow, Derby, (Tel, Derby 385933). MILD 8 BITTER editor: Mike Meara, 61 Borrowash Road, Spondon, Derby, (Tel, Derby 86332). (Tel. Derby 663332).

Opinions expressed in DERBY DRINKER are not necessarily those of the Editor, nor of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

DERBY DRINKER is distributed free to pubs in and around the city. Published by the Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale and printed by G & B Offset. Editor: Mike Meara, I Lower Eley Street, Derby.

Derby CAMRA 1985



