

Derby Drinker

NOW OVER 5,500 COPIES TO OVER 120 PUBS



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 13

LATE WINTER/EARLY SPRING '86

FREE

WILL THE TIE DIE?

By Mike Meara and Ivor Clissold

Is the end in sight for the tied house system? Two things suggest that it might be.

The last twenty years has seen the proportion of brewery-owned pubs fall from 78% to 60% of the total, and this at a time when the exact opposite is taking place in other fields. Petrol stations lost their independence a decade or more ago, and grocers and caterers are following.

The golden years of mass catering to the youth market are ending, for by 2001 the 15-29 age group will have declined by three million.

Stephen Logue, former Berni Inns marketing director, has suggested that a new form of franchise system is essential to enable publicans to

respond to localised requirements.

The renewed threat of an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is also looming. This last happened in 1969, but at that time no practical recommendations were made to back up the finding that the system was against the public interest.

The case for a new referral under the Fair Trading Act is threefold, according to Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading: brewers who do not own pubs are prevented from competing on equal terms with those who do; customer choice is thereby reduced; and price leadership by managed houses has caused prices to rise.

The publican's traditional role as the last link in the chain from manufacturer to customer could soon be reversed, and instead he will become the first link in a chain from customer to manufacturer. Won't it be nice if, instead of the big breweries' marketing creatures telling us what we want, we shall be able to tell them - and get it!

Crying Cavalier

To the delight of ale lovers everywhere, Scottish and Newcastle have lost their battle to take over Matthew Brown's Brewery. Had it succeeded, we would have lost another small, efficient company and a range of tasty ales.

The launch of the S & N bid caused such a rumpus that the Industry Secretary referred it to the Monopolies Commission - and this only happens to a handful of the thousands of bids made annually.

However, despite evidence submitted to the Commission by everyone from trade unions, MP's, and City analysts to Blackburn Rovers and the Rugby League, the bid was allowed to go ahead!

By this time, the ante had been upped to £124 million and the deadline was set at 3.30 p.m., December 11th. By this time, S & N had only collected 47% of the shares. Brown's brokers, Schroder Wagg, relaxed but the deadline was extended to 5.00 p.m. and S & N scooped up another 3.3% in a "false market".

Schroders complained to the City Takeover Panel and, in a decision which was hailed as a victory for independent companies under threat from mega-corporations, the bid was declared invalid.

So Matty Brown breathes again. Thanks to the support of CAMRA, Schroders and shareholders such as Britannic Assurance and Whitbread, another small brewery lives to fight another day. Surely this proves that people are fed up with these takeover battles, where considerations such as choice, tradition and the customer are forgotten in the mad scramble to make a quick killing for one of the massive, monopolistic empire-builders.

BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarrykeg

Real Spirits

Landlord Arthur Fletcher, of The George, Bridge Street, Belper, revealed recently that the pub is apparently haunted by the ghost of a mischievous little girl. On the other hand, mischievous little girls (and boys) who like Pimms could do worse than haunt the Derbyshire Yeoman, Kingsway, where landlord Rodney Barker has just won an award for his excellence in serving this drink!

Team Changes

A warm welcome to all the new licensees in the area: Steve Copestake at the Grampian, Sinfen; Richard Jones at the Bell and Castle, Burton Road; Ron Curd at the Red Cow, Allestree; Ken Littlepond at the Malt Shovel, Spondon; Valerie Murfin at the Red Lion, Hognaston and Carl and Brenda Davis, who have taken up the reins at the currently closed Victoria Inn, Midland Place, Derby. (Check local press for re-opening date.)

We're Only Here For The Beer

The Sir Francis Burdett, Derby Road, Melbourne was advertising TEN real ales at the time of writing. The Buck in the Park, Curzon St., Derby now has Burton Bitter as well as Pedigree. The Lawns at Chellaston currently has Ward's bitter, in addition to its other real ales. Current line-up at the Crompton Tavern, Crompton Street, Derby, is Darley Thorne Bitter, Marston's Pedigree, Vaux Old Samson - all on handpump. Finally, real ale is available at Broomhills Off-Licence on Wiltshire Road, Chaddesden.

Beer For Barrow

December saw the opening of the first pub in Barrow on Trent since 1870 - The Ragley. The pub is situated off Deepdale Lane, near the canal and midway between Sinfen and Barrow.



What does the odd looking coin-like thing have to do with pubs? Turn to page three and find out.

DEW IT AGAIN

As part of the fourth Derby Environmental Week at Elvaston Castle, Derby CAMRA are again running the beer "tent" on Saturday May 10th. More details next time.

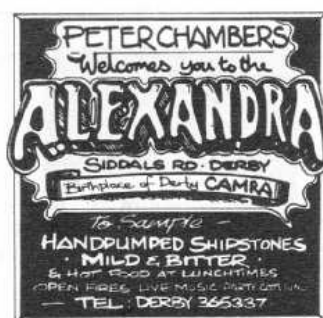


REAL BRICKS, REAL ALE

REAL ALE GAIN

In late November, the Brick & Tile, Brick Street, Derby, was officially re-opened after refurbishment and is now offering real ale for the first time in many years - Ind Coope's Draught Burton Ale on handpump. Most striking change to this back-street local, which may date back to the 17th Century, is the stripping away of the white plaster exterior to reveal the original handmade bricks. The interior has also been extensively remodelled, creating a blend of old and new, favoured by managers Stuart and Karen Newbold.

Licensees - why not try an advert? Telephone Dave George (Derby 32762) for details of our very reasonable rates.



TIME OUT!

Nick Meakin and Ivor Clissold call "time" on licensing hours

Next time you're dutifully supping up after mine host has shouted "time" and clanged that ridiculous cowbell he brought back from Austria three years ago, ask yourself where exactly did this notion come from, that we should only be allowed to drink between certain hours? Surely it's always been the case, hasn't it, probably something to do with Henry VIII or Cromwell? Yes, must have been old Henry when he shut the monasteries, to stop the monks getting legless all the time.

Not so. In Good King Hal's day, the populace was permanently paralytic and even the monks had got the habit. No "last orders" in the holy orders, nor anywhere for that matter.

Well, in that case it must have been "Old Ironsides", Oliver Cromwell,

the spoilsport. No, not him either despite his attempts to ban singing and dancing and generally having a good time; alehouses were open whenever the landlord felt like it and you could sup away in a cavalier fashion and wake up next day with a splitting roundheadache.

The first real restriction on pub hours was not till 1828 and East-court's Alehouse Act, which said that pubs must close on Sundays "during divine service." This was extended in 1848 to ban opening at all on Sunday mornings.

Ah, so in that case, it must have been Queen Victoria who was perhaps "not amused" enough to introduce restrictions. Well, er, yes, partly; in 1865 the Public House Closing Act forced pubs to close between 1 and 4 ... in the morning!!! This was followed in

1872 by another shocker; no opening before 5 a.m.!

It was in fact another famous historical figure, Lloyd George (he knew my father), along with other members of the Coalition Government of 1914-1918, who took it upon themselves to curtail the drinking activities of a nation at war. The Intoxicating Liquor (Temporary Restriction) Act was introduced to ensure that workers in vital war industries were at peak efficiency and not still suffering from the after-effects of the previous night's intake. Under these regulations, pubs closed at 9.30 each evening (8.00 pm on Saturdays,) with lunchtime hours similar to those we have today. These hours were extended slightly in the Licensing Act of 1921 and again in the Licensing (Permitted Hours) Act of 1934 to those with which we have become familiar. 70 years; not bad for a temporary restriction, eh?

That being the case, we are surely not alone in thinking that it might be time for a change, perhaps along the lines of the system in Scotland, where hours are chosen by the licensee to suit the nature of his business, helping landlord and consumer alike and eliminating that rushed last pint before "time" is called? Incidence of drink-related crime has actually fallen in many areas where this system has been adopted and MP's such as our own Greg Knight have pressed for a change.

Isn't it about time we called "time" on an outdated regulation and took a sensible attitude to the provision of facilities for social drinking?

Wirksworth Waddle

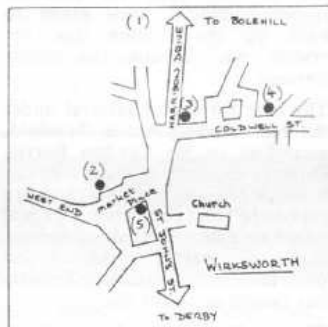
Wirksworth is good place to drink in, with friendly locals and usually good beer. Four of our five crawl pubs are within easy walking distance, and all are well worth visiting.

The most distant is the **MINERS' STANDARD** (1) at Bolehill, known locally, I believe, as "The Chateau" or "Freda's". To find it, head up the hill from Wirksworth towards Cromford, turn right halfway up, then right again up Nan Gells Hill, and you can't miss it (!) I'll not describe it - suffice to say it's unique, and the gravity-dispensed Bass is pretty good too. Visit in the late evening to ensure it'll be open.

Back into the Market Place now, then into the **BLACK'S HEAD** (2), in the higher corner of the Market Place, for some Kimberley mild or bitter. The building is old, like most in "Wazza", and there's a lovely view from the front door.

Our next call is the **RED LION** (3), where the Ind Coope bitter was on form last time I visited. Then down the road a few yards to the **VAULTS** (4), for another pint of Bass and a look at their fascinating photos of old Wirksworth. Ask the landlady about the pub's history.

Our final watering-hole is the **HOPE & ANCHOR** (5), also on a Market Place well-endowed with pubs. This 1986 National Good



Beer Guide pub has excellent hand-pumped Home bitter, a convivial bar with plenty of local character, and a lounge with a most splendid fireplace.

These are not all the real ale pubs in Wirksworth - just the ones where you can get **DERBY DRINKER** at present. There's also the **LIME KILN**, the **MALT SHOVEL**, the **KING'S HEAD**... Don't try them all at once, though, or you really will crawl!

DERBY FESTIVAL - JULY DATES

If you've left your holiday booking late and can't get in at Benidorm, don't worry - come to the 9th Derby Beer Festival instead (Wednesday 9th - Saturday 12th July). This year we're running a tombola with lots of wonderful prizes (it says here).

Amber Valley Nectar Show

About a year ago I took on the task of organising a Derby CAMRA real ale festival somewhere other than in Derby.

My immediate thoughts were of the Amber Valley area, where four sizeable leisure centres - those of Alfreton, Heanor, Ilkeston and Ripley - lay in close proximity to a large potential drinking public.

My contact in the Leisure and Amenities Dept. of the Amber Valley District Council was enthusiastic for the event to be staged in his "patch", and suggested that the Alfreton centre was the most suitable.

Then began the lengthy business of getting our proposal through the decision-making process of the Council. I hope that by the time you're reading this, we shall have received the go-ahead for the event to be held later in the year. Watch this space for details.

Dave Evans

LATEST - 1st Alfreton Beer Festival will be Saturday 6th December 1986. Alfreton Leisure Centre.

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL AGE

Nottingham CAMRA have recently announced the winner of their competition to find the city's oldest drinker. The incumbent turns out to be a mere stripling of 94!

We Derbeians always like to go at least one better than our Notts. neighbours - so whose granny (or grandad) can beat this? Let us know at **DERBY DRINKER**.

DRINKER Comment

TIED TO FEAR?

With keen competition to capture a greater share of a decreasing market most brewers are seeking to restrict choice. Some, like Everards, realise that customers are important and now offer, through trading agreements, other brewers' beers.

The majority, however, view pub ownership as the key to increasing sales - Greenall Whitley and Mansfield have taken over, and closed, other breweries to put their beers into their victims' ex-pubs. Scottish and Newcastle tried that tactic and failed but the most insidious method is to offer 'loans' and 'freebies' to 'free' houses. We are told, for instance, that Wards offer expenses paid 'catering courses' to free houses in return for trading agreements.

The Office of Fair Trading have referred the tied house system, by which breweries own pubs and dictate choice, to the Monopolies Commission. It won't make a scrap of difference - the big brewers have too much influence where it matters and will fight tooth and nail against any changes to their cosy system whilst more small, and publess, brewers go to the wall.

British brewers should have immense pride in their product - their beer is the best in the world. One imagines they are aiming to be the best and are confident that a market free of the tied house system would result in increased sales of their beers.

Why then are they so afraid of openly competing against whatever else their tenants and managers may wish to sell? Why then do ALL big and regional brewers cling to a restrictive system by which the number of pubs rather than product quality determines success or failure?

RED COW
TEL DERBY 558073

ST EDMUNDS CLOSE
ALLESTREE
DRAUGHT
Bass
HOT LUNCHES MON-FRI

STEP BACK IN TIME TO THE
HOLLY BUSH INN
HOLLY BUSH LANE, MAREKNEY

(FROM LITTLE EASEN, TURN RIGHT
THIRD BEFORE MILLS)

PEDIGREE OWD RODGER
RUDDLES COUNTY
BREWED FROM THE CELLAR
BY OLD PLANT, LONDON FIRE
ROOM AVAILABLE FOR FUNCTIONS
TEL DERBY 841729

YE OLDE SPAINNE
DRAUGHT BURTON ALE
ABBEY STREET DERBY

PETE & GWYN
Welcome you to
the SWAN INN
MILTON, DERBY DOSTER
NEAR FOREMARKE RESERVOIR
DRAUGHT PEDIGREE MARSTONS ALES
HOT & COLD SNACKS
LARGE CAR PARK



Buck in the Park - Curzon Street, Derby

Older, smaller and plainer than the neighbouring Lord Nelson, the uniquely named Buck-in-the-Park is surprisingly rich in local associations and half-hidden history. The name itself, of course, denotes the emblem of this ancient Borough, whose Danish name, Deoraby, simply means 'Deer-town', signifying the great deer-herds that once roamed the Derwent Valley.



Before the minting of copper coins when there was a scarcity of small silver, certain traders, including publicans, resolved the problem by issuing their own tokens. One of these, depicting the Buck-in-the-Park, was that of William Newcombe of Darby, 1657, now in the coin collection of Derby Museum.

Originally in St. Mary's Gate, the Buck now stands at the corner of Friargate and Curzon Street, formerly Dayson Lane. The name of Curzon Street commemorates its former ownership by that powerful Derbyshire family, the Curzons of Kedleston.

This part of Derby, east of Markeaton Brook, is the site of the original Saxon settlement called Northworthy, and St. Werburgh's church opposite the pub, originally built of wood, is dedicated to the grand-daughter of pagan Penda, the mighty King of Mercia.

It was in this church in 1735 that the most famous Englishman of the day, Dr. Samuel Johnson, got wed. 'Sir', he once said, 'there is nothing that has yet been conceived by man by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn'; and no doubt he would have tested the theory after the ceremony.

A famous contemporary, the painter Joseph Wright of Derby, spent many happy hours as a boy depicting Derby pub signs for practice, and the Buck-in-the-Park was one of his favourites.

Less fortunate than either of these were the pitiful Pentrich Plotters, a small band of stockingers and weavers who, in the period of mass unemployment and poverty after the Napoleonic Wars, hatched a plot in the White Horse at Pentrich to start a revolution and bring down the Government.

They didn't get far. Rounded up by the military, they were brought to Derby for trial. Most were deported and never saw England again; but the unluckier ring-leaders, Brandreth, Ludlam and Turner, were made a cruel example of and sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered - the last such sentence to be carried out in these islands.

The execution took place in Friargate, witnessed by a horrified crowd which included the poet Shelley, and the bloody remains were thrown into unmarked graves in St. Werburgh's churchyard, where they still lie. And thus ended 'The Last English Revolution', just a few paces from the Buck-in-the-Park.

Also uncomfortably close, almost opposite, was the pretentious Derby Temperance Hall where the puritanical abstainers stained the decent drinking man's character. Now a Pentecostal Church, it will be fondly remembered by many as the Churchill Hall and Cinderella Rooms where they drank and danced away the Saturday nights in the 1950's.

Those were the days! When all beer was real beer - though not all of it was good. Those that imbibed in the Buck would find it as good now as ever, and not be at all surprised that the handpumped Pedigree and Burton Bitter have won it a place in CAMRA's best-selling Good Beer Guide.

Reg Newcombe

PRICE LIST SURVEY

Did you know that licensees who don't display price lists in their bars are breaking the law? We have noticed several instances of this recently - naughty, naughty - and next month we'll be carrying out a survey to discover whether these are isolated cases or indications of a more widespread practice. The results will appear in the next issue of DERBY DRINKER.

You can help us by noting down all the pubs you visit in one week, the date and time of your visit and whether or not a price list was displayed. Send your list with your name and address to: "Price List Survey", DERBY DRINKER, 1 Lower Eley Street, Derby, DE1 1PY.

No prizes - just a better chance of being able to calculate the cost of your round before you buy it.

Quiet Pleas!

Mr. W.D. Turvey of 46 Breedon Hill Road, Derby writes:

"I noted with interest the lavish praise heaped upon YE OLDE SPA INNE on three pages of last issue. This used to be my local where a good drink and conversation was available.

However, with the new licensee came non-stop taped music, with loudspeakers in every possible corner of the pub. I found it impossible to have an intelligent conversation without shouting, and, not alone, I have had to find another place to drink.

The quality of the beer is not the only criterion - a little peace and quiet is worth a lot!"

The Editor says:

A fair point, Mr. Turvey. We'll be doing a feature on the whole subject of quiet pubs in the next issue.

COME AND JOIN US - ONLY £7.00

CAMRA membership is steadily increasing in spite of the fact that many people feel that the campaign is won. There are two good reasons for joining. First CAMRA really can be fun. Derby Branch meetings and socials are lively and unstuffy. Second, there are still jobs to be done and campaigns to be fought. Would you like to help us run the Beer Festival? Do you care about the way certain beers have changed? Are you concerned about takeovers, prices or traditional pubs?

If so please join us - find out more at one of the socials and meetings shown on the back page.

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

Name

Address

I/We enclose a cheque/postal order for £7.00 (payable to CAMRA Ltd) for full/Husband and Wife membership for 1 year.

Signed

Send to Sally Bennel, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts.

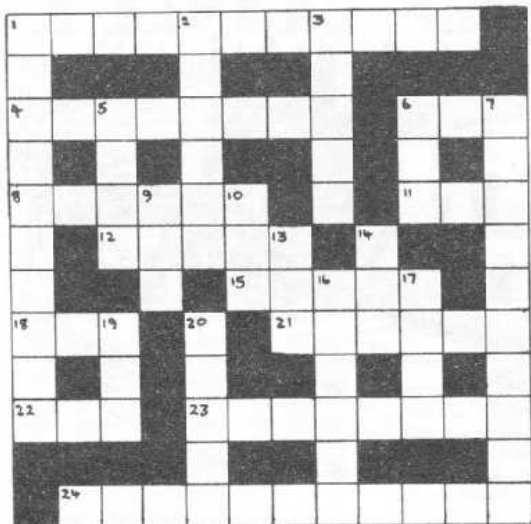
The Duke of York
BURTON RD DERBY
DRAUGHT BEERS
BURTON & IND COOPE
LUNCHES MON-SAT
TELEPHONE 44732

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
The GRAMPIAN INN
STEVE & LYNN COPESTAKE
GRAMPIAN WAY, SINFIN
Welcome New & Old Friends
HOME HOT FOOD AVAILABLE
MADE TO ORDER
COOK CONDITIONED
PEDIGREE & BURTON BITTER
on Handpumps

PAUL & MARILYN
Widening the Pub
COACH & HORSES
HORSLEY TEL DERBY 880581
Handpumped PEDIGREE
MERRIE MONK & CAPITAL
Lunches & Bar Snacks

WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU
at
the VINE INN
MICKLEOVER
ENJOY FINE CASK CONDITIONED
IND COOPE ALES & BEERS
LUNCH QUALITY HOME MADE LUNCHES
TEL DERBY 513956

Prize Crossword - £5 to be won



CLUES:

Across

1. "Bard" from a pub in Sadlergate?
4. Small towns; Derbyshire has one of that ilk.
6. Small beer for a Japanese drinker?
8. You're on rocky ground finding this beer in real form in Derby
11. Barristers are called here, even if it's not their round!
12. Spanish for a lot of old bulls.
15. Sybil puts the spice in this herb's life.
18. Turn a mash tun around to find a dry-roast.
21. Seasonal beer from Bass (shortly after Winter Ale?)
22. Quaff, locally.
23. This ale has a fine lineage, chum.
24. Eleven already? That's it till tomorrow. (7,4)

Down

1. Notts. brewers send rocks by boat?
2. It's bunnies not beer at this time of year.
3. The name is Bond; Premium Bond - but who draws the lucky number?
5. Tighten the tie?
6. End of a pen.
7. A resident of Lisbon is this.
9. Is lager real ale? Oh no it's ...!
10. Cry into your beer.
13. Military drinkers, usually enter pub by window! (1,1,1)
14. Address a male, politely.
16. If you leap back to 21 across, you're bound to spot that the answer's the same as this one.
17. Billy's surname sounds like a musical instrument - but then he tells untruths.
19. Towd Derby Ram.
20. Most landlords flush them out with cleaning fluid but the Scots just blow through them!

Name

Address

Send your entry to: Derby Drinker, 1 Lower Eley Street, Derby, marking the envelope "Crossword." If you don't want to cut up your copy, photocopies are acceptable. Closing date: 1st April, 1986. First correct entry drawn out of the Editor's boater wins £5.

ANSWERS

At the time of writing, the last competition is still open to entries. So far, only 6 people have got all 12 answers right. The answers are: Harold WILSON, Alfie BASS, Jekyll & HYDE, Jayne MANSFIELD, Lawrence HARVEY, Pat JENNINGS, Robert POWELL, Derek RANDALL, THOMPSON Twins and Mrs. ROBINSON. Bad luck, Keith Parnell of Chellaston, who sent in 5 entries, but didn't get more than 9 right in any of them!



PUB ENTERTAINMENT By F. Sharp

Mike Dille of the White Hart, Duffield Folk Club could hardly contain his excitement when he told me about the forthcoming goodies which he's got lined up for your delectation in the next few months. On Sunday, March 16th, at 7.30 p.m., you can enjoy that wonderful Dorset band, The Yeties. This came as a surprise to me, because I quite thought that they had split up a couple of years ago, shortly after I saw them do a gig at the Playhouse. Just shows how much I know. Anyway, I for one will be coming along to see them do their mixture of humorous and traditional folk material. Nice one, Mike.

Other bands lined up include Tom Topping on April 20th., Roger Westbrook plus "Mabsant" on May 18th, and Allan Taylor on June 15th.

A regular venue for bands of all types, though mainly pop-orientated, is the Duke of York on Burton Road, which provides a convenient showcase for up-and-coming local talent. John, the landlord, tells me that he has a band called "Five Across" on Feb. 21st. I hope they're not too cryptic, or there'll be a few "cross words" from the fans! Feb 22nd. sees the "B-Team" ready for action, while on the 28th. you can listen to "Zipper". Other bands to come are:

- | | |
|---------|---------------|
| March 1 | Budget |
| 7 | Just Blue |
| 8 | Expression |
| 14 | Crystal Image |
| 15 | Hyde Park |

Finally, just a word to all you music club secretaries, landlords and others who regularly put on entertainment in pubs. Do let me know what you've got booked and I'll try to give it a mention. That's how the above got in; after all, I can't get round every pub in Derby, no matter how hard I try - and believe me I do try!

DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings. For more information about these events phone Social Secretary John Popika on Derby 551293.

Tuesday Socials - 9.15pm

18th February - Robin, Mickleover (Bass); 25th February - Vine, Ford Street, Derby (Ind Coope); 4th March - Coach & Horses, Mansfield Road, Derby (Bass); 11th March - Meadows, Chequers Road, Derby (Marston); 18th March - Nag's Head, Borrowash (Marston); 25th March - Blessington Carriage, Chapel Street, Derby (Free); 1st April - Queen's Head, Little Eaton (Hardys & Hansons); 8th April - Lord Byron, Byron Street, Derby (Ind Coope).

Branch Meetings - 8.00pm

Thursday 13th March - Patten-makers' Arms, Crown Street, Duffield (Bass); Thursday 10th April - Malt Shovel, Potter Street, Spondon (Bass).

Right Spring - Wrong Yo Yo

Last issue's article on the withdrawal of Springfield Bitter from this area may have given the impression that the pubs affected were left without any real ale.

This is not the case - you can still enjoy a pint of real draught Bass (and M&B mild in some cases) in all the establishments mentioned.

Our criticism was aimed at Bass Brewing plc, and not their licensees, who are in the position of having to carry out whatever policies the management may decide.

The Sir Francis Bannett Inn

Derby Road, Melbourne.



BASS THEAKSTONS RUDDLES
PLUS GUEST BEERS

REV



BY ROB

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/DERBY DRINKER editor: David George, 1 Lower Eley St., Derby. (Tel. Derby 32762) MILD & BITTER editor: Mike Meara, 61 Borrowash Rd., Spondon, Derby. (Tel. Derby 663332). Artwork by Rob Gilvary, 130 Green Lane, Derby (Tel. Derby 43497). Opinions expressed in DERBY DRINKER are not necessarily those of the Editor, nor of the Campaign for Real Ale. 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: David George, 1 Lower Eley Street, Derby. © Derby CAMRA 1986.