



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 24

SPRING '88

FREE

TENANTS IN HOME RENT ROW



Bass Botch Perfect Match

Who says Bass don't promote real ale? The frustrated drinkers (and licensees) who've been victims of the recent *PERFECT MATCH* scheme, that's who.

It's clear that the absolute minimum of thought went into this idea. All participating pubs, large and small alike, received the same quantity of stickers; this meant that high-turnover pubs had run out of them literally in a matter of days, and thereafter had to deal with scores of unhappy drinkers needing one or two stickers for their free pint, but unable to get them. Hardly likely to encourage drinkers to switch to Bass, is it?

As one licensee told us, they'd have done better to knock 10p a pint off the price for a week. But that's too simple for the ad-boys to cope with.

We want Bass to promote their flagship beer properly. But an exercise on this half-hearted scale does more harm than good.

Home Ales, the Nottingham subsidiary of Scottish & Newcastle, have been involved in a major row with their tenants and the National Licensed Victuallers Association over proposed rent increases, in some cases as much as 300 per cent — just as *Derby Drinker* predicted a year ago. (DD19, Spring 1987).

The brewery has offered new contracts at increased rents to most of its 320 tenants in the East Midlands — but some are not being offered new contracts at all, prompting fears that Home want to change some of their pubs over to direct management and sell off others on prime city centre sites, to raise cash. The Sawyers Arms, in

Listergate, Nottingham, has already been sold to a 'well-known' developer with retail connections, for a sum thought to be in excess of 2.5 million pounds.

Home deny that the exercise could be construed as 'asset-stripping' and maintain that the whole programme is merely designed to bring their estate 'up-to-date' with the rest of the S & N empire. The old Home Ales system was based on low rents for the pubs, with a so-called 'wet rent' or levy paid on each barrel sold.

However, as CAMRA has said so often before, acquisition of a local brewery by a national giant invariably brings cost increases in its wake, owing to the high central management charges and accounting targets imposed on subsidiaries by the parent company. These costs can only be recovered from the drinker's pocket. Could it also be that Scottish & Newcastle are desperately trying to strengthen their cash position against a possible bid by John Elliott's Elders, now owners of Courage and rumoured to be on the takeover trail again? The Australians have recently built up a five per cent stake in S & N and are about to set up a joint venture with a property company to float off the 5000 Courage pubs, freeing some 800 million pounds for other uses. Courage now claim to have overtaken Scottish & Newcastle, to take fifth place in the British brewers' league table.

Senior officials of the licensees' association have condemned the moves at Home and advised their members not to sign any new agreements until further discussions have taken place.

Are we about to see yet another big brewery punch-up, which will benefit the beer barons at the expense of landlords and customers alike?

Falsale Campaign Success

CAMRA's campaign against misleading methods of dispensing beer, such as gas or electric pumps disguised as handpumps, received the support of a national body recently.

The Local Authorities Co-ordinating body on Trading Standards (LACOTS) is to issue new guidelines to all local trading standards officers, aimed at rapping the knuckles of unscrupulous brewers and landlords who pull a fast one at the pump.

LACOTS administrative officer, L. J. Bailey, said that selling beer through fake handpumps could possibly contravene the Food Labelling Regulations Act and Trade Descriptions Act. They intend to take the matter up with the Brewers' Society and the National Union of Licensed Victuallers.

CAMRA official, Dave Goodwin, welcomed the move, saying that to be told what is actually on sale and how it will be sold is not a great deal for consumers to ask — how often have you been confronted by a plastic box on the bar, with no way of knowing whether the beer it dispenses is real ale or keg?

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TRADITIONAL HOME-MADE LUNCHES WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE

BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarrykeg

ALL CHANGE (1)

There are new licensees in charge at the Wheel, Ashbourne; the Victoria, Midland Place, Derby; the Swan, Milton and the Staff of Life, Ticknall. Welcome to you all.

ALL CHANGE (2)

Internal alterations have, are or will be taking place at Becketts, Derby; The Mitre, Allenton; Fletcher's Way at Nether Heage and the New Inn, Shardlow.

REAL ALE GAINS...

The Friary Hotel, Friargate, Derby now has Pedigree on handpump. Some refurbishment is also going on there.

The Lion Hotel, Bridge Street, Belper now has Mansfield Riding Bitter and Ruddles County on handpump.

The White Lion at Marlpool, formerly a keg Allied house, now has Draught Burton Ale on handpump.

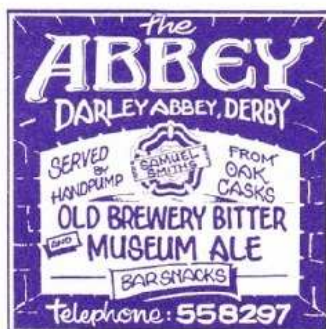
... AND LOSSES

Two more Home pubs have switched from real to bright beer. They are the Norman Arms, Village Street, Derby and the William IV at Hammersmith, near Ripley.

SEE YOU LATER, EXCAVATOR

That oddly-named pub at Buckland Hollow — you know, the one with the badly-parked JCB — has been bought by Marston's, who have installed a manager and apparently intend to put the accent on eating.

What we want to know is: will the biggest serving spoon in the world stay on the roof, or be employed in the kitchens?



BREWERS TOE INFLATION LINE

The Derby CAMRA price patrol has been on the streets again, to find out just how drinking is damaging your wallet compared with last year.

In general, the results aren't too bad. All the major Burton and Nottingham brewers are roughly in step with inflation, the exception being Ind Coope, where the static price of Draught Burton Ale compensates for the large (9.5%) rise last time.

A cause for concern, though, is the price of a pint in a tied house compared with the price of the same pint in the free trade. To take a couple of examples:

Hoskins Bitter cost 85p a pint in the brewery-owned **Canal Tavern** (Hoskins Wharf), as against 92p in the **Brunswick Inn**, a free house.

Ward's, who are pushing hard in the free trade at the moment, offered their Sheffield Best Bitter at 78p a pint in the **Three Horseshoes**, Ripley; but in the **Lawns**, Chellaston it cost 85p, and in **Boaters** and the **Golden Eagle**, Derby, 90p.

The Horseshoes is a tied house; the others are not. Of course, many free houses have higher overheads but how much extra are the brewers taking?

For the statistically minded, the figures appear below, with last year's survey results in brackets:

| Beer | High | Low | Average | % increase |
|-----------------------|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| Bass | 94 (90) | 83 (79) | 88 (84) | 4.5 |
| Ind Coope Best Bitter | 84 (84) | 84 (80) | 84 (82) | 2.5 |
| Draught Burton Ale | 97 (100) | 88 (86) | 92 (92) | 0 |
| Marston Pedigree | 93 (90) | 86 (82) | 89 (85) | 4.5 |
| Home Bitter | 82 (82) | 78 (72) | 80 (76) | 5 |
| Kimberley Bitter | 82 (78) | 78 (75) | 80 (77) | 4 |
| Shipstone Bitter | 78 (76) | 78 (74) | 78 (75) | 4 |



Eriskay Business

Derby CAMRA has 'adopted' a very unusual pub — but one we are hardly likely ever to be able to visit.

Recently opened on the Hebridean island of Eriskay, it is the first pub ever on the island, and some 400 miles from Derby!

Eriskay was made famous through the true story of Compton Mackenzie's *Whisky Galore*, which told of *The Politician*, after which the pub is named, being shipwrecked off the coast, and its cargo of whisky being 'salvaged' by the lucky locals.

But now it seems the island's 200 residents have exhausted the stock, hence the need for a pub.

It is run by John Kent from Derby, and his wife Trish, hence the local connection. Trish explains: "We have a range of keg beers but no real ale. John is very fond of his Pedigree, Owd Rodger and Theakston's, but we could never sell it here as the locals do not like English beer."

Derby CAMRA's Ivor Clissold commented: "We feel for a fellow Derbeian suffering without any real ale. Though the Branch doesn't operate a sea rescue service, at the very least we'll arrange a whip-round to sponsor a polypin of Pedigree on its way."

Trish was delighted to hear the news, and welcomed us to drop in for a dram. We can't miss the pub, she says, as there are only three miles of road on the island.

Maybe we can persuade our Social Secretary to organise a bus trip.

ALE CAESAR

Archaeologists working in Abingdon have uncovered the remains of a Roman brewery, amongst numerous other buildings which could have been a kind of ancient industrial estate. Makes you wonder why it ceased brewing — maybe it was taken over by Visigoth Enterprises plc and 'rationalised'?

DRINKER! Comment

HOME GROAN

The sad decline of Home Brewery under its new ownership continues.

Pubs in prime sites sold off to rapacious 'developers'; pubs converted from real ale to bright beer for no reason other than the man at the top thinks cask-conditioned beer is 'unhygienic'.

(Two more pubs have now joined the **Garden City**, Derby and the **White Hart**, Moorwood Moor — see *Bar Facts*; do you know of other's we've missed?)

And now a perfectly good and appropriate system of rent agreements scrapped in favour of a completely different system which the majority of licensees want (according to brewery P.R.) but shouldn't agree to (according to the LVA).

This confused and unreal situation is bound to arise when a regional brewery is thrust into the confusing, unreal world of big business.

No long-term good ever came out of a small brewery being taken over by a bigger one — especially one whose commitment to cask ale is as shaky as is Scottish & Newcastle's.

Such a thing should never be allowed to happen again; if our political masters were as fond of good beer as those who vote them into office, it wouldn't.

When a brewery is continually looking over its shoulder, fearful of the next takeover bid, it is hardly likely that the needs of those who run and use its pubs will be close to its heart.

Opinion Swings to Longer Hours

The proposed changes in legislation affecting pub opening hours are seen as crucial to the health of the tourist industry.

So much so, that the English Tourist Board (ETB) and the British Tourism Association have jointly commissioned MORI to conduct yet another poll on the subject.

6% UP

The key result from this latest survey (conducted in January) was that 42% were in favour of extended pub hours during the week, compared with 36% only three months previously.

Opposition to change comes mainly from those who never use pubs; over half (58%) of this group are opposed to changes in the law.

ANTIQUATED

ETB Chief Executive John East says: "It is time our antiquated licensing laws changed to meet the needs of businessmen and holiday-makers, so that the tourism industry can continue to flourish and be internationally competitive."

MORE JOBS

Based on experiences in Scotland, where about one-third of pubs have taken on more staff — mainly in catering — since longer hours were introduced ten years ago, the tourist boards estimate that 25,000 new jobs in pubs could result from the proposed changes.

FOOTNOTE: In the Consumers' Association poll last May, only 17% of respondents wanted to see longer hours; 21% were in favour of more flexible hours. Clearly the swing is not only real, but significant.

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Further information on all aspects of Derby CAMRA can be had from any of the following contacts: Chairman — Phil James, 1 Hill Brow, Derby (Tel: Derby 385933), Mild and Bitter Editor — Mike Meara, 61 Borrowash Road, Spondon (Tel: Derby 663332).

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Name that Pub!

Those of you who shop at ASDA at Spondon will notice that Bass are building a new pub on adjacent land. Will the brewery run a competition to name the pub which is due to open in the summer?

Whether they do or not, we are offering £5 to the sender of the name we like the best — and you should know our sense of humour by now! (We'll print any good, printable, entries of course.)

Symbols Scheme Spreads

After three years of trials in various parts of the country the Brewers' Society Pub Facility Symbols Scheme is to be extended nationwide.

Pubs will be able to apply, annually, for the right to display some or all of the seven symbols which are designed as a guide to the facilities on offer inside. The £600,000 scheme includes random checking and a consumer complaints procedure. Landlords found cheating could be prosecuted says the

National Tourist Board who are joint sponsors of the scheme.

The facilities on offer for each symbol are:

Family Room: An area where no alcohol is on sale, separate from main bar rooms.

Table Service Restaurant: Designated as a restaurant and separate from bar.

Bar Food Service: At least two hot dishes and cold alternative and sandwiches available during all opening hours.

Bar Food Service, Lunch: As above but only at lunchtime.

Pub Garden: Safe for children and a minimum size of 250 sq. ft. Seating for at least twelve people.

Accommodation: At least bed and breakfast. Verified by Tourist Board.

Disabled: Level or ramped route to main door, main pub area and easy access to toilets.

We could think of a few more but that's another article! There's a drink for anyone sending us their suggestions by 1st May and a prize for the funniest.

Famous Fives

CAMRA is sometimes criticised for being too quick to knock what's bad in beer, and not quick enough to praise the good. Well, we do believe in giving credit where credit is due, but often there seems little to be enthusiastic about in the big business of brewing.

Anyway, here's a regular new feature to redress the balance. CAMRA members around the country regularly survey their local pubs, checking beer quality and prices amongst other things. We thought you might be interested to know which local pubs had recently received the rarely-awarded rating of 5 — the best!

- * MALT SHOVEL (Aston-on-Trent) — Ind Coope Best Bitter
- * MINERS ARMS (Brassington) — Marston Pedigree
- * OLDE GATE (Brassington) — Marston Pedigree
- * BRUNSWICK INN (Derby) — Bateman Mild, XB, and others
- * DUKE OF WELLINGTON (Turnditch) — Draught Bass
- * TIGER (Turnditch) — Ind Coope Best Bitter, DBA

Maybe this will give you some ideas for out-of-town trips, now that the better weather's coming along. Watch out for more next issue.

LEGLSS ELEVEN!

Following the enormous success of Derby's tenth beer festival, with more bodies through doors and ale down throats than ever before, the new Festival Committee is working hard to ensure that this year's event is in no way an anticlimax (writes our man behind the aspidistra).

All your favourite features will be there; two score or more of good ales (my spies tell me they're looking at Wales and Herefordshire for a collection run this year); session special beers; the best real draught cider for miles and miles; and of course, good live entertainment every session. Look out for the posters in your local pubs!



Derby Beer Festival

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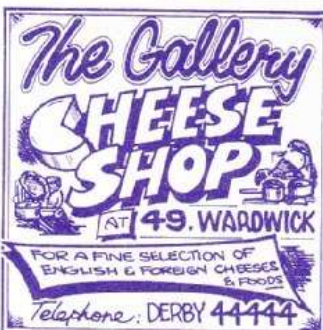
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Bitter

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

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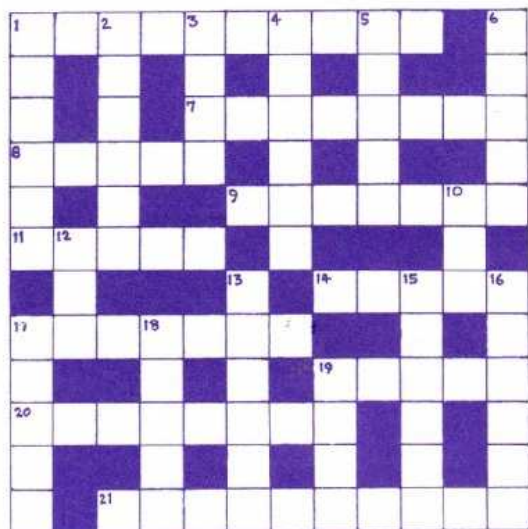
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DOWN

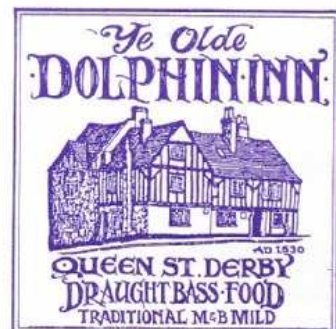
1. The clue goes down but the answer goes up (6)
2. Regular boozers (6)
3. Gentlemen please, it's eleven o'clock! (4)
4. Roman orator confuses Eric and his C.O. (6)
5. Asserts with confidence (5)
6. Surely this local should serve Merrie Monk? (5)
10. 1 Across puts the heat into this? (3)
12. Jack's mate loses head and feels poorly (3)
13. You'll only find two gentlemen in an Italian city (6)
15. A.M. thud in the head after over-indulgence in malt whisky? (6)
16. Ancient timbers find good home in Horsley Woodhouse? (3, 3)
17. Crich pub favoured by shadowy singer? (5)
18. Very small, computerised brewery (5)
19. Liable to look after a bar (4)

Hint — many of the seemingly difficult clues can be solved if you actually read **Derby Drinker** first. Jim McNamara at the Spa and then Eileen Hall of Ripley would have won but they both spelt 'Independents' wrongly. The £5 therefore goes to Alison Edwards of Mickleover — well done. Send your entries for this one to: **Derby Drinker, 40 Weston Park Gardens, Shelton Lock, Derby DE2 9EU.** together with your name and address and the pub where you picked up your copy — as soon as possible please — first correct entry out of the hat wins a fiver.

ACROSS

1. Scotch-filled parliamentarian goes down well in Hebrides? (10)
7. Belch? Moi? It's this American beer (8)
8. Mad fad (5)
9. Aye, risk a drink in this Scottish island hostelry (7)
11. Rearranging sails is money for old rope (5)
14. Brief introduction brings memories of Bonzo Dog (5)
17. Notts park popular with spaniels? (7)
19. Wild no longer (5)
20. I can dope about Burton Brewery (3, 5)
21. Canine/avian liaison of excellent Pedigree? (3, 3, 4)

SOLUTION 23



Burton Suits More

Draught Burton Ale is going from strength to strength — saleswise rather than alcoholwise, we hasten to add — according to *The Cellarman*, Ind Coope's newspaper devoted to the fortunes of Burton's best beer.

Peter Frame at the **Olde Spa** in Abbey Street presumably agrees — he's moved up from third to second in the top fifty sales league. Can you make that final leap to the top and win that free firkin, Peter?

Other local interest in the chart includes the newly-refurbished **Park** in Chaddesden, highest new entry at number sixteen. The **Broadway** has leapt twenty-five to twenty-two, and the **Masons Arms** Mickleover is still in there at thirty-six. Well done to all!

Congratulations also to two local licensees who have just received their Master Cellarman awards: William Broadhurst at the **New**

Station Nottingham Road, Derby and Steve Dawson of the **Willington House Hotel**, Willington are both relative newcomers to the trade, and must be gratified to see their enthusiasm rewarded.

Have You Heard...

... About the lager drinking solicitor who was reduced to drinking orange juice as he was suffering from regular stomach pains. And the lager drinker who was having relationship problems — after a few pints he became aggressive and most unfriendly towards his better half.

Their local Bass landlord prescribed a regular dose of cask M&B Mild and assures us that the solicitor now drinks happily every lunchtime with his colleagues and his other customer now enjoys a most loving relationship with her indoors.

DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings. For more information about these events phone Social Secretary, Paul Gibson on Derby 325558.

Tuesday Socials - 9.15 pm

19th April — Staff of Life, Ticknall (Free). **26th April** — Crompton Tavern, Crompton Street, Derby (Free). **3rd May** — Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby (Free). **10th May** — Nag's Head, High Pavement, Belper (Mansfield). **17th May** — Vine, Ford Street, Derby (Allied) **24th May** — George Inn, Lowes Hill, Ripley (Bateman). **31st May** — St. Helen's Inn, Duffield Road, Derby (Home). **7th June** — Corner Pin, Swarkestone Road, Chellaston (Allied). **14th June** — Pym's Champagne Bar, Clock Yard, Ash-bourne Road, Derby (Marston).

Branch Meetings - 8 pm

Thursday, 12th May — Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby (Free). **9th June** — White Horse, Morledge, Derby (Allied)

Beer Festivals

April 29th-30th, Barnsley Beer Festival at the Civic Hall, Eldon Street (Phone (0226) 204617 for details). **July 6th-9th**, Derby Festival. **August 2nd-6th**, Great British Beer Festival, Queen's Hall, Leeds (Phone (0635) 61388 (evenings) for details).



REV

BY ROB

