



## KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 32

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR '89/'90

FREE

### Brewery's Reply

The Alehouse lads were 'a agreed,  
(For they had been weel  
'Pedigreed'),  
And so, at last, it was decreed  
That Britain's best  
Was Marston's Ale, and ne'er pay  
heed  
To a' the rest.

So then there came the great  
debate  
'Bout profit, food and 'Tied Estate',  
'Bout pubs and people, notions  
great  
And truly worthy,  
O' ane more pint, it's no' too late,  
And we're aye thirsty.

"Men eat to live!" the English cried,  
"Men live to eat!" the French replied,  
The Scotsman said "You'd both  
have died,  
Had ye no' been able,  
To save yersel's wi' a damn guid  
feed,  
At a Tavern Table.

"I'll no' say Brewers are  
villains a',  
The best of them are noo awa',  
They made nea profit, nane at a',  
So they went bust.  
Their businesses just hit the wa',  
They bit the dust!

"But Marston's ken what's what,  
I see,  
They're Masters of the Barley Bree.  
What's more, their profits  
guarantee their sure survival  
Frae major Brewers plund'ring  
spree,  
And nae revival.

"So let me, as your humble host,  
An honour that will thrill me most,  
Let's raise our glass, and drink a  
toast  
As judge and jury.  
"Let Marston's aye be uppermost  
Our favourite Brewery!"

**The ABBEY**  
DARLEY ABBEY, DERBY

SERVED BY HANDPUMP  
FROM OAK CASKS

**OLD BREWERY BITTER**  
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25p BAR MEALS with beer

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# POETIC LICENSE

**Thus replies David W. Gordon on behalf of Marston's to our arraignment in the last issue. Ivor Clissold gives his opinion:**

Thank you McMarston. Isn't it nice to be taken seriously and spoken to in our vernacular? When the inventor of Pedigree, George Peardis, was alive, there was a good case to be made out for Pedigree being 'Britain's best', but did it take a Scotsman to be mean enough to brew it with 17% glucose?

How many times are we going to hear this oft-whined tale — "we are behaving like the big brewers to protect ourselves from the big brewers." How are the punters to tell which is which? Does it matter if your local is annihilated by a regional company or a multi-national conglomerate?

**Come off it Marston's! Who ever heard of a sheep in wolf's clothing! These sorts of "strategies" probably sound amazingly astute in the board room, but in the pubs it's getting difficult to tell McMarston's from McDonalds.**

I do not know how tall Mr. Gordon stands, but people who reply in such a manner remind me of one of Burns' lesser known poems: "Nine inch will please a lady". IAC.

### FIGHT GOES ON

Derby CAMRA and *Derby Drinker* will continue to point out to all uncaring breweries the opinions and feelings of drinkers and licensees. The last issue of *Derby Drinker* really got Marston's in a stew, as a Derby CAMRA contingent found out when they visited the brewery. They were met by no less than Assistant Managing Director Dave Gordon, perpetrator of the above rhyme; the Chief Sales Director; the Production Director and the Head Brewer — all almost falling over themselves to be nice,

and, we must admit, very concerned about *Drinker's* comments. They expressed a wish for further meetings with Derby CAMRA and for better liaison.

### NO EATS

One important item which was resolved for you, the drinking public, was the question of drinking *without* having a meal in a Tavern Table. Our delegation was told that it is a matter of Brewery policy that customers can use tables set for meals — *and can ask for the tableware to be removed so that they can drink in comfort.* Now you know! Perhaps the brewery will provide gas masks so that the smell of cooking does not interfere with your enjoyment of a pint. Well, at least they are listening. So now we have their ear, we are going to bend it — often!

## NEW INN CLOSURE

Little Eaton's New Inn has finally closed for 'refurbishment' despite protests from regulars, villagers and CAMRA. The pub is unlikely to re-open before Easter 1990, according to informed sources, which will ensure that the old regulars will be necessarily ensconced somewhere else when Marston's open the New Inn as a yuppie restaurant.

After a meeting with Marston's management, Derby CAMRA committee members were told that the numbers of Tavern Table restaurant pubs would be restricted to twenty.

Twelve Tavern Tables have already been completed. One more is under construction. *Derby Drinker* warns all Marston's pub regulars — keep on your toes. Your beloved local could be next!

Enjoy Derby's finest range of  
Cask Conditioned Beers  
in the comfortable  
surroundings of

### THE BRUNSWICK INN

including Old Hooky and  
Timothy Taylor's Landlord

Tel: 290677

TRADITIONAL  
HOME-MADE LUNCHES  
NOW AVAILABLE

## BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarryKeg

### The Alexandra A Birthplace Reborn

The Alexandra, Siddals Road, was born in 1865. It had its high spots during the wars but fell into a steady decline when housing clearance started in the '60s, ending in its closure on Monday, 27th June 1988.

CAMRA's pub preservation officer applied for listed building status, as did Derby historian Max Craven, but nothing happened and it looked like developers were going to turn it into offices.

Then came the amazing news that Bateman's had bought it! The Lincolnshire brewery whose high quality beers we have enjoyed so much at beer festivals and at the Brunswick was coming to town.

More good news — Bateman's had leased the management of the pub to Tynemill — a group run by former CAMRA national chairman Chris Holmes, noted for the Lincolnshire Poacher in Nottingham and for having its entire staff and directorate crackers about ale.

On Thursday, 30th November, 250 CAMRA members from the East Midlands tested the new Alex with the beers at 'Derby's popular price'. The pub is a gem. It has been *restored* rather than refashioned, has the now-essential inside toilets, and is warm and welcoming. Your host, David Williams, hails originally from Nottingham and actually attended the very first Derby CAMRA meeting at the Alex in 1974.

Call in soon — the beers must be the best bargain in town. Grab one (or several) and drink to the Alex's next century and a quarter.

**Ye Olde  
DOLPHIN INN**

1520

QUEEN ST DERBY

DRAUGHT BEER FROM FIELD at 25p  
SPRINGFIELD BITTER Handpump

FOOD 15p



# LONDON CALLING...

By John Coppock, Today city reporter  
(wish he'd stop moving!) and Derby CAMRA member.

You spend all year lining the pockets of the big brewers — so why not cash in on their success?

The brewing sector of the stock market is one of the few growth areas where share prices are rising. Most other companies are suffering from high interest rates and a slow-down in High Street spending which is hitting their profits.

But profits in the brewing sector are streaking ahead, because beers are a 'defensive' product — sales do not slump in a recession. In fact people drink more when times are hard and spend an average of three nights a week drowning their sorrows. As every CAMRA member knows, the Big Six make huge profits. Burton-based Bass and Allied both rolled in with record profits this year. Guinness hit the jackpot with profits of more than half a **BILLION** pounds. It's pure genius for shareholders, who make money in two ways:

**DIVIDENDS** — paid on each share. If you own 500 shares or more, it soon mounts up. The bigger the profits, the bigger the dividend.

**CAPITAL GAINS** — money made on the rising price of each company's shares. All the brewers have out-performed the stock market — their share prices have risen more than the average value of the 'Footsie' index of the top 100 UK shares.

When Guinness unveiled annual profits of £521,000,000, the share price shot up by £1 in a matter of seconds. So anyone who owned 100 shares made an instant £100.

Shareholders make even more money if someone launches a takeover bid for their company.

The predator making the bid has to get more than fifty per cent of the company's shares, so they leap up in value overnight. And that could happen to any of the brewers at any time — particularly smaller regional brewers. The share price of Scottish and Newcastle has gone up by twenty-seven per cent in real terms since the October 1987 stock market crash, while Greenall Whitley has gone up by forty-one per cent.

There is also the novelty value of watching their value go up and down in the *Financial Times* every day (for those who haven't discovered *Today!* (no charge for plug — Ed.).)

And there is the added bonus of being able to attend annual general meetings, even if you own just one voting share costing a couple of quid.

CAMRA members can go along and argue with the chairman, who is (theoretically) obliged to answer all questions, no matter how annoying.

## John's Christmas Share Tips...

Rush out and buy: Bass (986p); Grand Metropolitan (532p); Guinness (580p); Wolverhampton and Dudley (445p).

Tuck away for the long term: Allied Lyons (469p); Marston (218p); Vaux (323p); Greenall Whitley (341p); Greene King (444p).

Shares can be bought through the securities desk at most High Street banks. They charge around £23 commission, whatever the size of the deal, but there's no getting away from it.

\* Share prices accurate at close of play November 14th.

## Pass the Bucket

Another delight from Allied — post-mix beer! Soon a tub of concentrated beer (about x 4 normal strength) will be delivered with post-mix syrups for soft drinks.

The liquid will be forced into a mixing chamber (by CO<sub>2</sub> of course) where it will be mixed with tap water. After carbonation (more CO<sub>2</sub>) it will arrive fizzing in your glass. Well, maybe your glass — certainly not mine! Whether the public will be told about what they are about to receive remains to be seen. An Allied spokeshing said it would depend on "marketing strategy". This will be either 'it's so good we must tell you', or 'it's awful — we must cover it up' to protect the guilty.

## Good Beer Guide 1990

CAMRA £6.95; from most book shops and literary pubs.

The striking thing about the sixteenth edition of the *GBG* is its size: 480 pages containing some 5,000 pub entries.

One's impression of the general standard of beer quality in our island's pubs does lead one to wonder if the Guide should be contracting rather than expanding its coverage. It's no great shakes to arrive at a strange town to be taken miles out of the town centre to a dreadful estate pub that occasionally sells a good pint. Still, if *GBG* only listed pubs with a stone-banking certainty of ace ale, it would be a slim tome indeed.

What is new, and excellent, is the brewery descriptions section. CAMRA has organised what must surely be the biggest ever consumer evaluation by setting up and training forty tasting panels throughout the country. Their descriptions of the beers are leagues ahead of the old "well-balanced", "well-hopped" and "malty" descriptors of yore. Unfortunately, the panels did not get around to every brewery and it is a shame to see beers like Sam Smith's OBB carrying last year's description of "full-bodied and malty" amid all the higher-tech prose.

Still, it's an excellent start, and if it gets folk into thinking about our great national drink tradition in the way we think of France's, it will have done more than a good job.

## Hikers Wanted

Readers of the *Derby Evening Telegraph* on 21st September were intrigued by a large advertisement for part-time staff at the Craven Heifer, Manchester Road, which was being re-opened after a tart-up. Anyone thinking for applying for one of these remunerative appointments should be warned that the pub is in Bradford!

We think the explanation is that Allied employ London-based agents to handle all their advertising, and it doesn't matter much to Metropolitans whether their ads appear in the *Derby Evening Telegraph* or the *Bradford Telegraph and Argus*. After all, it's all 'oop north', but Bradford's a long walk just to get pin money, especially in clogs down the cobbled M1. Oh ahh.

Derby Drinker  
and  
Derby CAMRA  
wish all readers a  
Merry Christmas  
and  
New Year

## DRINKER! Comment

### RIPOFF TIME IN PUBS AGAIN

As a responsible consumer group, it behooves (eh! Ed) CAMRA to make the usual 'Don't Drink and Drive' plea this Christmas.

Having looked around at some of the prices of low- and no-alcohol drinks, including soft drinks, in local pubs, we are horrified at the rip-off.

It is all very well to comment that it's sensible to drink these bottled profit makers, but it's not exactly easy on the pocket. Low and non-alcohol beers in bottles are as expensive as strong ales and lagers — hardly an incentive to drink the revolting things.

Fizzy drinks and fruit juices, mixers and the ubiquitous orange and lemonade mix command prices which make us wince.

So this Christmas, don't drink and drive. Get a bus, a taxi, get someone else (a non-drinker) to drive you. Walk to the local pub with your friends. Refuse to pay the extortionate prices asked for bottled NABLABs and soft drinks. Ask for lemonade out of the large bar bottle, it could work out cheaper. Draught low alcohol beers are sometimes slightly cheaper, but let us put a couple of thoughts before you.

If the big brewers *really* wanted to reduce alcohol abuse, as they would have us believe, why do they not price low alc products more attractively?

Duty is repayable to brewers when the alcohol has been removed from products, yet NABLABs are as expensive as full-strength beers.


This is cynical profiteering disguised as concern for the public. Don't let them continue with this rip-off. Refuse to drink these high-priced products, and with a glut on the shelves maybe prices will fall.

Please pass this  
copy of  
**Derby Drinker**  
to a friend

Martin & Liz  
welcome you to the  
**NEW**  
**FLOWER POT**  
**KING STREET**

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**DRAUGHT BASS**  
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**DOG & DUCK**  
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**THE THREE  
HORSESHOES**  
LONG LANE  
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Tel: Derby 824481





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Further information on all aspects of Derby CAMRA can be had from any of the following contacts: Chairman — Nigel Barker, The Dolphin, Derby (Tel: Derby 49115). Secretary: Steve Radford, 21 Cobthorne Drive, Allestree (Tel: Derby 38933).

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## HELPFUL FOLK

### No. 2 Trevor Harris (again??)

A merry little tale reaches us from The Brunswick which sheds a new light on the 'stinking rich brewers' stories.

Quietly-spoken Bruce Wilkinson, one half of the duo running Burton Bridge Brewery, was sampling his own, and others', brews in the Brunswick recently. On buying a round, Bruce found he was around 70p short, and after much sarcasm and banter, Brunswick co-owner Trevor Harris stumped up the balance.

Next day, a beer delivery arrived from Burton Bridge — plus an envelope containing the balance for the previous night's round!

**STRUTTS**  
LONDON ROAD  
DERBY 44421

MANSFIELD BEERS  
OLD BAILY  
RIDING BITTER

New — RIDING DARK MILD

## EASTERN PROMISE

From our special correspondent in Bangkok, Les Baynton. (*The man in the corner with the satay on a stick and the fake Rolex*).

Summer 1989: Not much stimulation for the real ale enthusiast's taste buds in Thailand.

Two lager-type bottled beers — Singha and Kloster, both brewed in Bangkok — are available everywhere at prices ranging from 75p to £2 per small bottle.

Kloster is considered a more German-style lager and is usually 5 Baht (12p) more. No chance of switching allegiance to wine on holiday here — a modest bottle of supermarket red or white is priced at around £12!

The CAMRA traveller in Thailand must gain satisfaction, not from the ice-cold amber nectar, but from the unusual ambience of the bars.

In the market areas of towns like Changmai and Sukothai it's possible to sit with the locals and drink Singha beer amid a vast array of street stalls selling everything from fake Rolex watches priced around £8 to bowls of delicious Thai noodle soup for 20p.

I recall one menu in the Hua Hin market which offered Boiled Serpent Head and Roast Frog with Green Pepper. (Quick nurse, the screens! Ed). So much for the ubiquitous chop suey take-away! However, we enjoyed Thai food for most of our holiday, only straying

into English cuisine on two occasions.

One of these occasions was in Bobbie's Arms — an old-established pub style bar in the Patpong red light district. In this oasis of calm amid the touts, neon lights and girlie bars we enjoyed Shepherd's Pie, then moved on to a more typical Patpong establishment — the Riffi Bar.

Deliciously petite Thai girls wearing lovely smiles, tall heels and tiny costumes cuddled the male customers while the music blared. I hardly noticed the beer quality! Could this be introduced as a new guest entertainment at the Brunswick, perhaps?

Thailand is an overwhelming new sensual experience for the eyes, stomach and . . . er . . . other bits. Try to store up a reservoir of Bateman's, Bridge, Hoskins, etc., before going, however.

My 1988 Derby Beer Festival T-shirt aroused little excitement in Bangkok — except in four New Zealanders. They had attended the 1980 GBBF and greeted me like a missionary!

Thailand is virgin territory indeed for the CAMRA campaigner. How about opening a Trevor-a-Go-Go Bar or a Baseball Riffi Club? Answers on a fried frog please.

## NOT SO SHARP

Lager makers Harp have been rapped by the Advertising Standards Authority over an advert which suggested that drinking Harp lager enhanced the masculinity of the drinker.

The offending advert appeared on posters in Northern Island and depicted a young chap in a large Jag drinking Harp while a young woman walked towards the car from the rear.

Harp have now been told to seek Code of Advertising Practice guidance before advertising again.

## Peeps' Diary

To Devizes, in the County of Wiltshire, and lunched at The Bear upon a roasted chicken. The local brewmaster, One Master Wadwythe, does produce a fine and tasty ale, of which our company took a little too much, I fear, for withal were several akeing hedds after noon.

The Bear is of an antique style beamed within and warmed greatly by a fire of loggs upon the hearth.

Serving girls of pleasant mein attend the traveller, most welcome in this wild place near to the great plain of Salisbury. Foods of all kinds delighteth the eye at The Bear, but myself puzzled by a kind of Pye, which the wench told me was of France, and called Queeche. It containeth many onions, and although pleasant upon the tongue giveth great misery to the stomach after, so returned to the publick room for a new tankard of Master Wadwythe's dark ale.

## Social Special

November's membership social at the Brunswick gave us several new members at an evening of beer, nosh and folk music.

Local folk band Firkin the Fox played a couple of bouncing sets to keep the atmosphere lively, and the event was well attended by people of all ages.

Those who attended that night got quite a bargain, too. Membership was at a discounted price of just £7, and entry to the social was free. Not a bad night out.

Derby CAMRA meets at various real ale pubs each Tuesday evening for a social, and we're always happy to see new members or interested parties turning up.

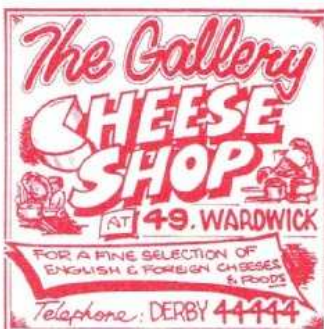
So if you're wondering what to do on a grim, wet, boring, winter Tuesday evening, find a copy of *Derby Drinker*, look on the back page and check out our lively socials.

## Derby 1990

Preparations for the 1990 Derby CAMRA Beer Festival are already underway.

Festival Chairman for next year is long-standing Derby branch member and former Branch Chairman Phil James, who already has some experience of running Derby Beer Festival — he stood in for an indisposed branch member a couple of years ago and did a sterling job at very short notice for the final weeks of preparation and the Festival week itself.

Derby Drinker wishes Phil and his team the best of luck for 1990 — they're gonna need it!



JOIN CAMRA NOW



### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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

NAME(S) .....

ADDRESS .....

Full/Husband & Wife Membership for one year ..... £9.00

or Full/H & W overseas membership for one year ..... £12.00

\*Delete as appropriate

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) with this completed Application Form to: Tim Williams, 39 Breedon Hill Road, Derby.

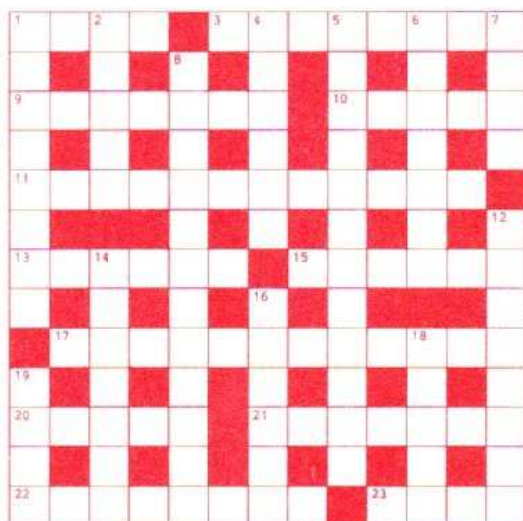
**THE NEW GREYHOUND**

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Completely refurbished and now selling  
Castle Eden Ale, Draught Trophy and  
Marston's Pedigree



# PRIZE CROSSWORD — WIN £5



## ACROSS

1. Pawn the wine (4)
3. Gaskell and Chambers? (8)
9. A geological formation gives new life (7)
10. Annoy the aristocracy (5)
11. How the hangover was constructed (4-8)
13. Bridge, Place or Arms (6)
15. Julie is DD's (6)
17. The best beers use at least 90% (6, 6)
20. Enough, but almost a taste (5)
21. Froth ought to contain an idea (7)

22. Banks alright, but mainly Scottish & Newcastle (8)
23. Unload at 12 (4)

## DOWN

1. The house of Brunswick gets a force and a sore head (8)
2. Throttle the car (5)
4. A place to go shopping with Bud and Ches? (6)
5. A brace of basilisks and you could be almost feeling foul (6, 6)
6. A teetotaler's beer money? (7)
7. Feel sorry and take it (4)
8. A pine wood, or what makes it (7, 5)
12. A pub gets one on delivery day (4, 4)
14. E.g. this used to be 20 (7)
16. What Julie did (6)
18. Pale piss from Northampton? (5)
19. Landlord! This beer is like a prostitute (4)

## SPOT THE COCK-UP!

Oh well, we made a complete cock-up last time, didn't we? No clue for 8 Down and 2 Across actually meant 4 Across. And yes, quite a lot of people told us about it. At great length, in a great many pubs and with varying degrees of linguistic expertise. Our apologies if it made you tear your hair out!

## G'DAY GDULA!

The first-out-of-the-hat winner — yes, we also had quite a few puzzled and comment bespattered entries — is A. Gdula of Darlington, who actually wrote us a clue for 8 Down — "This crossword isn't quite ...?" (Answer — ready). A fiver is ready, and on its way.

Entries for crosswords should be sent to Derby Drinker Crossword, 42 The Fleet, Belper, Derbyshire DE5 1NU.

## SOLUTION No. 31



## The Real Ale Drinker's Almanac

Roger Protz, Lochar Publishing Ltd. £5.95

Roger Protz, former *Good Beer Guide* editor, has assembled a most interesting collection of brewing statistics — or more accurately recipes. In reply to his enquiries, most brewers have stumped up lists of ingredients for their brews.

Unsurprisingly a couple of those big companies who are always insisting they know what we want are not prepared to tell us what they use. While mini-breweries such as Burton Bridge proudly announce their beers are from 100% malt mashes, Bass and Allied are not saying.

This is not to say that such outfits are using inferior ingredients: surely Burton Ale is crammed with goodies. It's just that they have a similar attitude to releasing information as the Stalinist leaders of eastern Europe. And look what's happening to them!

Most breweries have made the voluntary step of admitting their ingredients. For reasons known only to HM Government, beer is not classed as food so declaration is not

compulsory. If beer isn't food, what's a hamburger?

It wasn't so long ago that CAMRA startled public and industry by revealing original gravities, thus putting paid to all those folk tales about the strength of various ales.

This time it is of more importance to the allergic than the liver-damaged or driver to know what they are buying. Whether from Westminster or Brussels, legislation will eventually come.

It's unsurprising to read that your least favourite beers are made with a heavy hand on the syrup tin and roasted wheat sack. But it's for each to judge what amount changes an ingredient from a tasty attribute into an unpleasant adjunct.

The Almanac is a sturdily made, pocket-sized hardback that mobile drinkers should never be without. The beer descriptions have the same enhanced quality as the 1990 *Good Beer Guide*, and the two will make a handsome and comprehensive addition to the discerning aler's library.

## DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings. For more information about these events phone Social Secretary, Rob Griffiths on Leabrooks (0773) 603892.

## Tuesday Socials

December 19th

Greyhound, Village Street, Derby (Whitbread).

December 26th

Christmas Survivor's Social, Dolphin, Queen Street, Derby (Bass).

January 2nd

Alexandra, Siddals Road, Derby (Batemans).

January 9th

Joint Branch Social with Potteries Branch, Bowling Green, Ashbourne (Bass + Guest).

## Branch Meetings

January 11th

Alexandra, Siddals Road, Derby (Batemans).

February 8th

Baseball Hotel, Shaftesbury Crescent, Derby (Bass), followed by 1989 Branch AGM. All members welcome.

