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ISSUE No. 33

SPRING 1990

FREE

DRINKER SPECIAL — BELPER BRIEFING

RAILWAY REVOLT

Home Brewery plc, now the Nottingham chapter of Scottish and Nasty's thugs have decided to wrinkle out the tenant from the Railway Hotel, Belper. Although not the most prepossessing of pubs from the outside it serves as reasonable a pint of Home Bitter as you can get nowadays, is an exceptionally friendly place and the incredibly cheap lunches are a godsend to local pensioners, who pack in for a nosh and a chinwag.

An S & N mob of four marched into the place during the last week of January and baldly informed the tenant of twenty-two years, Malcolm Raistrick, that the place is to be turned into a managed house and 're-developed' — a tale which has been confirmed by the press office of Home Brewery — they just don't know when, although they have offered the

Raistricks another tenancy elsewhere.

The Railway's regulars are furious — and have raised Cain, and a petition, against the brewery.

This has to be connected with the coming inclusion of pub tenants in the Landlord and Tenant Act, which will soon give them extra protection — those that survive that is.

More bad news for Home lovers — No less than thirty-two Home pubs have been sold off to pacify the Monopolies and Mergers Commission who wagged a reproving finger at S & N, whose greedy acquisition of Home Brewery took them over the 2,000 pubs limit. Home Brewery says that they are to sell off the pubs in two lots of sixteen to brewing concerns — little chance, then, of sitting tenants buying their pub.

QUEEN'S HEAD RECROWNED

An old Belper watering hole has bounced back onto the map — the Queen's Head, Chesterfield Road.

This rather gaunt-looking pub was closed by Ind Coope (now Ansells) two years ago following dwindling trade and has been on the market for ages. The purchasers are two keen local couples who see the project as a challenge.

Val and Richard Watson are well known to local CAMRA and sporting folk. Dick is a teacher whose idea of fun on a Saturday is throwing his considerable weight around the rugby field. Val is one hell of a cook and we look forward to sampling some of her specialities at the pub soon.

The quartet is completed by Simon and Sally Perry. The four are determined to run a real pub and the place has been decorated in a simple and pleasing manner on an extremely limited budget. The pub's frontage belies its size: there is a decent-sized bar; a roomy lounge at the back and a delightful snug with bench seats. Across the corridor from the snug is a family room containing a juke box, toys, books and lots of happy kids. Another delightful feature is the jug and bottle — a small room with just one seat and a hatch to the servery.

There is a splendid prospect from the back of the pub. The eye is taken down one of Belper's 'rows' and raised to the Chevin in the background. This can be enjoyed from a patio when weather permits.

Yet to be christened is the upstairs function room with its mahogany counter boasting new handpumps.

Tetleys and Ind Coope Burton Ale are regularly on sale, but the star-seller during the opening night was ABC Bitter. In fact, it sold out! This is probably the best session beer from the whole Allied range and it is good to see a new outlet for it in this area.

Keg beers at the 'Queens' have a sorrier tale to tell — as we go to press the licensees still have not sold an entire keg — and that's in a whole month!



How long can they stay?

Photo: Derby Trader

WELCOME MAT

One of the smaller and more interesting pubs in Belper, the Welcome Tavern, has been sold by Ansells.

The new owner is a well-known local businessman with a great line in chat who is also an enthusiastic pub user — so we expect a bright and friendly pub to result. A month or so will elapse before the doors open to allow essential renovations to be carried out.

We look forward to welcoming another ex-Ansell's lame duck pub back into publand.

BELPER

Good Beer Guide

Home choice of pubs in Belper, some much better than others. Here's one or two of the best.

Old King's Head, Days Lane. GBG pub. Really friendly, full of locals, consistently excellent Pedigree on handpump.

Queen's Head, Chesterfield Road. See above — well worth a try. Have a look in the super little snug and/or the jug and bottle. Ind Coope.

Bull's Head, Belper Lane End. Waytheheckout, but usually good Bass. Licensee is one of Belper's famous characters. Massive car park.

The Grapes, Spencer Road. Marstons. Friendly, up an immensely steep hill and with collection of blowlamps. Licensee CAMRA supporter.

The Tavern, Derby Road. Mansfield. Refurbished fairly recently, good beer on handpump, neat roadside local.

Enjoy Bateman's Good Honest Ales at

The Alexandra Hotel

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BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarryKeg

CASK HOUSE

Nottingham's Home Brewery is setting up selected pubs as 'cask houses' — they will sell guest beers beside the usual Home range. Derby's first (probably only) cask house is to be the excellent Maypole. Tenant George Daykin is pleased. So are we.

LATE FOOD

For those not yet in the know the Alexandra now serves excellent nosh in the early evening (up to 7 pm) as well as lunchtimes. Pint of Batemans and some good home cooking — sounds all right!

VINE INN

The Vine Inn, Ford Street, Derby has a new licensee and now serves meals — plus it opens at lunchtime. This should help to sell lunches!

PLOUGHED UP

The Old Plough Inn, Weston-on-Trent, is to be given the infamous Ansell's 'treatment'. The upper room is to be a family area and the lounge and bar will be knocked through into one for a (uggh) restaurant.

THE AD MAN WENTETH

The Kingsfield, Wirksworth, used to sell draught Bass on gravity (i.e. straight from the cask). It was never advertised, not even at the point of sale and the licensee has now taken it off. This, he says, is due to lack of demand. Ohh, dear.

REAL ALE CHANGES

The Normanton Hotel, Lower Dale Road, Derby, now serves Draught Burton Ale and the Jubilee City. Osmaston Road has replaced Tetley Bitter with Ansells Mild.

The Vine

Ford Street

New Landlord and Landlady DAVE and ANNE

welcome you

Draught Burton Ale juggled from the cask

Friday-Saturday 11 am-11 pm

Bar Snacks, Bar Meals available

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

The Buck in the Park was one of Derby city centre's homely pubs. It was a real local in the midst of the commercial centre, run in the traditional way with a strong darts and dominoes following.

It had three rooms: a basic bar, an unfussy lounge; a back room dedicated to youth, juke box, etc.

So the tenant retired and a succession of managers with no real feeling for the place managed to reduce trade sufficiently to warrant a refit. But you can be sure that when a brewery employs a permanent staff of architects and planners, they will never do themselves out of a job. So instead of a coat of paint and a few new chairs, we get a complete new pub — if such it can be called.

The modern pub architect, it seems, cannot design anything to fit an existing building. So the place was completely gutted — walls and

all — to enable a blank sheet of paper to be laid upon the drawing board. And starting with the oblong of the outside walls a boring, typical city lounge was designed.

The Buck is dead. Remember the good times you had there: they are a slice of history. Lots of real wood, fancy windows and full carpeting do not compensate for the bonhomie of a real pub. The Pedigree is quite drinkable — but who wants to drink it there?

Even if you never venture in, the scar on the city from its exterior appearance will rankle. Not just the gaudy decor but fancy a late Regency building with a corner entrance! The builders had more sense, as the inevitable structural shoring-up shows.

A number of tie bars have been inserted through the first floor and the swastika-like flanges seem appropriate to an uncaring business. Welcome to the Hitler Arms.

Hair of the Dog

Overheard in the Alexandra, the licensee of which owns a fast-growing and hairy puppy called Hoskins, after the famed beer. Scene — Licensee chases aforementioned hound into lounge with the intention of removing it to its dog basket.

Dog hares around the room at an incredible velocity, closely followed by its master. A short silence followed the dog's removal, which was broken by the remark: "Hoskins goes through me that fast, too!"

1990 BEER FESTIVAL

Derby's CAMRA Beer Festival this year will take place from 11th to 15th July.

Yes, you guessed it — we're opening on Sunday lunchtime again! Last year's unscheduled Sunday session was quite a success, with 600 happy punters taking a pre-roast beef glass of ale.

We are also taking the Darwin Suite on two evenings again, which gives more space to move around and a choice of entertainment.



Councillor Chadwick

Photo: D. Crabtree

CASK END CASH

The Deputy Mayor of Derby, Barry Chadwick, accepted a £100 cheque from Derby CAMRA (the fool! Ed.) — but for the sake of a good gimmick we wrote the thing on the end of an ale cask.

The cash is to go to the Mayor's charity, and was part of the revenue of the 1989 Beer Festival.

Poor Mr. Chadwick's face fell a mile when he realised that the cask was empty, but he cheered up quite a bit when Derby chairman Nigel Barker produced a carrykeg of Bass to toast the occasion.

The cheque was handed over by Julie France, chairman of last year's festival, in the Mayor's Parlour at Derby Council House in February.

When the real cheque was produced, almost as an afterthought, Councillor Chadwick found out just how quickly money can slip through your fingers — Mayor's secretary Phil O'Brien whipped it away so fast it almost ignited!

FABULOUS FLO...

The Alexandra, Siddals Road, had a very special guest recently — former licensee Flo Fox.

Although not as active as she used to be in her heyday behind the bar Flo is still full of fun and had a smashing evening seeing all her old regulars again.

Sipping whisky and water, reminiscing about old times and graciously accepting the greetings of one and all, Flo occupied her usual corner after an absence of eight years.

When Flo was mistress of the Alex and asked if she wanted a drink she would say, "I'll just have ten penn'orth with you."

It was nice to see her having "ten penn'orth" again — we hope she'll make it a regular appearance.

Duck — Here comes another Marston's Dog!

Marston's continue with their big six imitation — this time at one of the area's best boozers — The Dog & Duck at Shardlow.

What more could one want from this good old roadside pub? It has a central drinking area, a lounge, a bar, a back room for families, well-kept beers and good value lunches.

Oh no — it's going to be made into a TAVERN TABLE! The philistines are going to ruin Shardlow's nicest pub! Dear, caring Marston's are going to turn it into another microwave centre for processed edible products.

You'd think Shardlow needs another restaurant like it needs more traffic. But if Marston's are so convinced otherwise, why don't they buy some premises and start one? Why the hell do they have to ruin a perfectly good pub?

This will be the end of the Dog & Duck as a pub. Locals do not want to pop out for a pint and a chat, only to find yet another reeking restaurant.

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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: Duncan Crabtree, 45 Ameshury Lane, Oakwood, Derby DE2 2LX. (Tel: Derby 834658).

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HELPFUL FOLK

No. 3 Baldrick of the Alexandra

(Wot — Not Trevor Harris?)

A cellarman's work is never easy, but Baldrick (Mark) of the Alexandra, Siddals Road, wins this issue's award for ingenuity beyond the call of duty.

Faced with a cask which needed tipping, Baldrick lifted it up to insert a chock to the rear. Alas — no chock. Alas poor Baldrick. Holding the cask up with one hand, he was stuck. If he let the cask go, many gallons of ale would be wasted.

Sweating in the silent cellar (Oh, get on with it! Ed) he took the only way out — he used his shoe as a temporary chock.

Nifty footwork from the Astaire of the Alex. (You're sacked. Ed.)

PR COMPANY BLUES

Bliss Lancaster? Who are they? You may well ask, but they've sent Derby Drinker a stinky letter.

It is assumed they are a PR company working for Allied Breweries, as it contains four statements on our Autumn 1989 issue regarding Tetley Bitter.

"Tetley Bitter is not shipped from Leeds for casking and distribution. It is all casked and kegged at Joshua Tetley & Son". True.

"No preservatives, such as sulphur dioxide, are added to Tetley Bitter". We know that nothing else is added at this end, but Allied refuse to reveal their ingredients to anyone, so only a PR person can really be sure.

"The dispense systems are the same highly successful systems used in Yorkshire which we have never experienced any problems with (sic). This year we have made significant investment in the 'Swan Neck' dispense equipment for outlets in the Midlands and South. All of which have received visits from our quality control department".

Anyone living closer to Yorkshire than London will be aware of the kerfuffle over auto-vacs which is still going on. Allied's replacement dispense equipment has been met with hostility from the public: if the objective was to upset people, then they are indeed "highly successful".

"From talking to various Allied Breweries' employees we are aware of no product quality complaints from either licensees or consumers".

This is extraordinary! Have you met one of our licensees in the Derby area who is pleased about the draught beer range? Trade and punters alike think Ansell's Bitter is a poor, mawkish drink which even Birmingham does not deserve.

And as for Tetley Bitter, we think we have discovered why most of the Tetley in this area is so unpleasant. It is heavily dry-hopped at Leeds to compensate for the auto-vac dispensers in that area, which aerate and agitate the beer so much that most of the hoppiness is knocked out. However, if the beer is kept too long (inevitable with a seventy mile delivery run) the hop develops the objectionable metallic taste so much complained about.

As we have said before, Tetley's is fine in the West Riding: it is part of a Tyke's way of life. It has, however, nothing to do with South Derbyshire, and it is insulting that we have had Ind Coope, a beer (eventually) brewed to our taste, abolished by Allied Lyons' mandarins and Tetley's foisted upon us.

We object very strongly to this ridiculous notion of "National Brands". CAMRA is in the business mainly because insensitive breweries (or rather marketing microbes) try to ignore local tastes and ride roughshod over protests by reliance on massive advertising budgets and local monopoly.

Come to Derby, Bliss Lancaster, and see Allied pubs slowly emptying! We are fed up with overpriced blandness and being told what to drink by meglomaniac media men.

Chain Reaction

Derby CAMRA member John McCarthy rides a bike. Nice, healthy, environmentally sound way to travel.

But it does pose security problems, as he discovered after leaving the metal monster chained to a lamp-post outside a Derby pub while he enjoyed the beery delights within.

"Ahh, shame," you're all saying. "Somebody nicked his bike!" Well, no, not exactly. Some dirty rotten tea-leaf — albeit with a weird sense of humour — *pinched the security chain and left the bike behind!*

We didn't think it was funny. (Snigger). No, really, we were very sympathetic . . .

Peeps' Diary

To Oxforde, with a large and merrye companie upon a horseless coach.

Manye students of great philosophies abound in thys cittle and make the night merrye wyth their carouse.

Much goode did this doe our partie, who seemed intent on drynking all thee ale in towne.

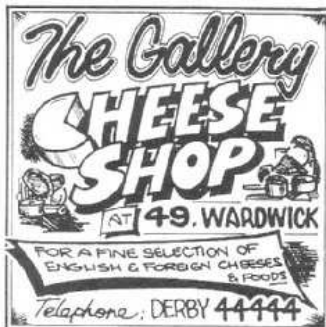
A fine tavern, hid behind a grate collige, is called Ye Turfe. It being a colde night, a great fyre was lit within the courtyard around wch manye students dycussed philosophie, art and summythng called "rocke musick", whyche I know nott of. Mayhap it be primitiv sound made by the nokking of grate stanes together.

Muche ale of the region was consumed and, withal, our companie visited manye beautiful innes besides Ye Turfe, which made my legges to become as water.

Upon thee horseless carriage on oure homeward trippe there be much noise of snoring and cries for ye privy, which did mightily disturb my slumbers. And so home, drunk as a dogge and pond'ring styll upon ye 'rocke musick'.

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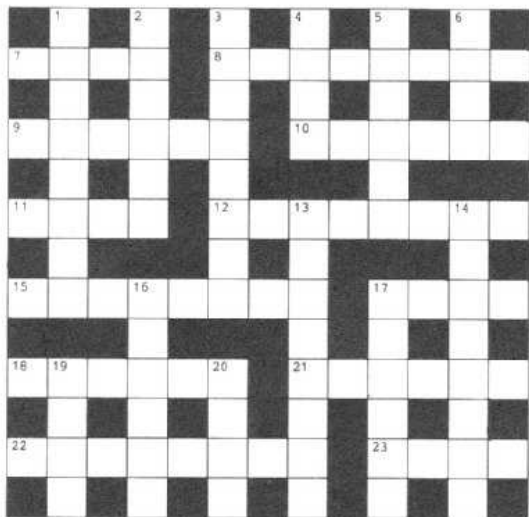
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*Delete as appropriate

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

PRIZE CROSSWORD — WIN £5



22. Salts are OK, but feet aren't (8)
23. Stag returns to grass (4)

DOWN

1. New owners of the Alex... (8)
2. ... theirs is now increased (6)
3. Impertinent talk from the arse (4, 4)
4. An old boiler (4)
5. RSPB logo (6)
6. Target Ales came from this borough (4)
13. Birds cake rings — more flags (8)
14. Late shift's pay poisons water and kills yeast (8)
16. Squirrel shows a defunct Birmingham brewery (6)
17. They cut the barley (6)
19. The tops! Spots almost (4)
20. Product of a worn tap (4)

Please send completed entries to:
Derby Drinker Crossword, 42 The Fleet, Belper, Derbyshire DE5 1NU, stating your name, address and where you picked up your copy of the Drinker.

ACROSS

7. Draught, not special (4)
8. Economisers (8)
9. To brighten beer (6)
10. Current string for harmony (6)
11. The new business one may close a few pubs (4)
12. Custom with a worker lives in (8)
15. Road or Park Road or village (8)
17. Not true, like calling for a young lady with a cold (4)
18. Injured in the war, like lager? (6)
21. Clingfilm? (2, 4)

DEAD JAMMY!

Some folk never know when to stop grousing.

Although he rakes in your cash over the bar of the Brunswick, Trevor Harris still tells a tale of poverty to anyone willing to listen.

He did just that on his crossword entry — all over the envelope, begging for a fiver, tearstained entry, all the lot. And then the jammy devil got picked first out of the hat!

We hoped the entry would be wrong, but no, it was all correct. So he's getting this issue's fiver. We just hope the moths in his wallet don't get to it before he does.

SOLUTION No. 32



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Chester's Fighting Mild — a Manchester must.

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John Fielder, Titchfield	1744-1961	Southams, Shrewsbury	1866-1966
Chesters, Ardwick	1888-1961	Salford Brewery	1888-1966
Norman & Pring, Exeter	1700-1962	Rhymney Breweries, Cardiff	1929-1966
Tennant Bros., Sheffield	1820-1962	Isaac Tucker, Gateshead	1796-1967
Birkenhead Brewery	1865-1962	Fremlins, Maidstone	1861-1967
Starkey, Knight & Ford, Bridgewater	1887-1962	James Thompson, Barrow	1871-1967
J. Nimmo, Castle Eden	1826-1963	Richard Whitaker, Halifax	1849-1968
West Country, Cheltenham	1888-1963	J. W. Green, Luton	1857-1969
W. B. Mew, Newport, IOW	1814-1965		

Of the 240 breweries which constituted the Whitbread empire, only six remain: Castle Eden, Cheltenham, Sheffield and Manchester; closures have been announced of Fremlin's Brewery, Faversham and Higson's of Liverpool.

* Should any of these beers not be available at your local Whitbread pub — get angry! Don't go there again! Boycott Whitbread pubs and products!

SIGN THE WHITBREAD PLEDGE

DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings. For more information about these events phone Social Secretary, Richard Green, Derby 49115.

Tuesday Socials

- April 10th**
Maypole, Brook Street, Derby (Home).
- April 17th**
Buck in the Park, Curzon Street, Derby (Marston).
- April 24th**
Malt Shovel, Spondon (Marston).
- May 1st**
White Swan, Spondon (Bass).
- May 8th**
Strutts, Traffic Street, Derby (Mansfield).
- May 15th**
George, Lower Hartshay (Hardy Hanson).
- May 29th**
Honeycomb, Mickelover (Everards).
- June 5th**
Three Horseshoes, Long Lane (Free).
- June 12th**
Royal Oak, Ockbrook (Bass).

Branch Meetings

- April 12th**
Brunswick, Derby. (Free).
- May 10th**
Alexandra (Batemans + Guest Beers).



REV

BY ROB

