



## KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 39

AUTUMN/WINTER 1991

FREE

# Big Breweries care so much about their tenants that they give them a choice . . . SIGN, MOVE, OR QUIT!

## ELECTRONIC SOUP

**PEKTRON**, the successful electronics firm of Alfreton Road, Derby, has become an all-round pub dispense equipment supplier.

Their first venture into the pub business was with nifty stock-checking devices that automatically monitor sales of draught and keg beers. This was followed by their induction motor pump control unit, which will electronically operate an electric beer pump and cut it off when the cask is empty. Pumps can run wild and burn out when this happens.

Latest addition to their range is the *Ormond* range of beer engines. These are made by the former Wood and Perkins company of Birmingham, who Pektron took over to complete their equipment range. Over 100,000 of the range have been sold, which vary from the traditional wooden-cased engine to the clamp-on type.

Their range is completed by a host of connectors, fob detectors, valves, lighting transformers and cellar tools.

**BIG BREWERY** tenants are on the warpath after viewing lease agreements with telephone number rent rises.

Horrified licensees all over the country are faced with massive rent increases if they sign leases.

If they refuse to sign they may be forced to quit or moved to another pub, one brewery has told the press.

One licensee, who quite naturally does not wish to be named, has received a lease rent demand of **£22,500 A YEAR**. He used to pay £6,000 a year.

On top of this, a bond of several thousand pounds plus a "repairs schedule" of around £24,000 will also land in his lap if he signs the lease.

This man, who has spent ten years busting his buns to make the pub successful, now faces a bill of **£1,000 a week** — and that is all to the brewery — before he buys one drop of beer or anything else for the pub. The brewers say these things have been forced on them by the MMC regulations.

How do these swingeing rent rises and added costs effect the drinker? How about paying £2 for a pint?

**How about paying £4 for a pint?**

The national LVA are up in arms about all this and are set to make tidal waves at Central Government level by bearding Trade Secretary Peter Lilley.

High lease rents, brewery price rises, budget price rises, high interest rates and the fact that the big boys are snatching highly profitable tenanted houses back to the managed sector adds up to a bleak picture indeed.

You may lose your local forever. Pubs will close because the tenants cannot afford to keep open. Beer prices will rocket sky-high and all the mega-breweries will do is to let it happen as long as the money keeps rolling in.

*Derby Drinker* challenges each big brewery to answer the following questions. Send your replies to the editor, address on page three, and we'll print them.

**How can you justify lease rents up to five times higher than old rents?**

**Why have many licensees been issued with notices to quit and why are they being pressured into signing leases this way?**

**How do these tactics conform with MMC regulations?**

**Are you actively trying to destroy the traditional British tenanted pub by these tactics?**

Enjoy Derby's finest range of quality cask conditioned beers at the CAMRA award winning

**Brunswick Inn**

DERBY

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## BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarryKeg

### HALL CHANGE

It was the dilapidated Old Shardlow Hall, but Tommy and Vicky Cooper, who have lived there for thirty years, have made it the free house *Coopers Arms* at Weston-on-Trent. It boasts a carpeted bar area selling Bass from handpump. Traditional meals are available in the restaurant. Derby 701107.

### PACKET OF THREE

The *Navigation* at Shardlow now has three guest beers: Bass, Greenall Original, Shipstones Bitter and Tetley Bitter, all on handpump.

### ALL ABOARD THE WOODLARK

A trad Derby backstreet pub has been saved — its tenant, Maurice Margett, has bought it from Bass. Maurice and wife Eileen have been tenants for four and a half years, in that time making *The Woodlark*, Bridge Street, into one of the city's finest pubs. The couple have wanted to own their own pub for some time and now their aim has materialised have pledged there will be no changes made — apart from a loo re-vamp and the introduction of (whoopie!) guest beers.

### HIGH TIMES

Membership of CAMRA has reached an all-time high with the recruitment of its 30,000th supporter — Jim Jordan, who joined at Ipswich Beer Festival in September. The membership has grown by 10,000 in less than three years and now has more paid-up members than it did at the height of the 1970s real ale revival. The beer consumers' watchdog which started out as a Jack Russell is now a Rottweiler — and CAMRA will never be muzzled!

Come and try Derby's newest **FREE HOUSE**

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Superb Home-made Food

## Inside Derby Drinker this issue

- Beer Festival round-up — did we make the grade?
- Hoskins — doing it right
- 'Theak's' ain't wot it used to be
- Peeps on the beach

## The Merry Widows

(formerly Wrights Vaults)

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# BEER FESTIVAL ROUND-UP

**WOW! What a Beer Festival!**  
CAMRA's refusal to put up with beer-throwing yobbos paid off.

Saturday night's session with the Blues Brothers sound-alikes was a tremendous success, and there was hardly a gobby person in the hall. More than a substitute for rather hackneyed Umpah bands, Sounds of The Blues Brothers brought a large following, clad in opaque spectacles who whooped it up to some very professional and slick playing — and we got the feeling they gained many new fans.

We couldn't believe that records could still be broken, as year on year more people come along and the beer seems to get better and better. But admissions were up by a thousand this time, with 10,682 people through the doors. Saturday lunchtime, usually a quietish session, saw a 1,200 attendance. 9,800 souvenir glasses were shifted, too.

A new venture was a Beer of the Festival competition. The public nominated eighteen different

beers. The judges couldn't agree either and Festival Chairman Ivor Clissold ended up with seven nominations from them. But none of these matched any the public nominated, so we finished with twenty-five beers of the Festival, which reflects great credit on the team who selected the beers and the cellar staff who cared for them.

The Sunday lunchtime session saw off the last of the beers: a total of 129.5 barrels, equal to 37,320 pints.

About the only complaints were about the missing cheese stall and the standard of the catering. CAMRA regrets them both, but is powerless to rectify things. The Assembly Rooms catering is let as a franchise and the firm presently in residence refused to let us have the cheese stand. A 600-name petition will let the powers-that-be know what the public thought of this. We shall also pass on the complaints about the food: the rest is in the lap of your councillors — get on to them!

## Old Jenny

by Les Baynton

OLD JENNY was part of The Crown ... A weekend corner seat in the snug and her halves of strong dark ale. A tiny lady with a faded high voice. A green felt hat and a cracked little purse.

"Just another half, my darling, it helps me sleep".

She had a word for everyone, cheering, comforting. Often the granny we no longer had. But Jenny's not there in the corner any more.

In fact, there's no snug and no strong dark ale.

The Old Crown was shut down by the brewers last month ...

A major refit to maximise profit. Coming soon — Horatio's — a Roman theme bar.

What a great idea, up-to-date music. Five lagers on tap, ice-cool beer ...

Sorry, no strong dark ale, or small cosy bars.

Wouldn't fit in with the image — The latest scene, the place to be.

If you're young and stylish. Old Jenny doesn't fit in, with her little felt hat.

And her comforting words and chatter.

She sits in her flat feeling just slightly sad.

Too tired to look for another Old Crown.

**ENJOY YOUR  
BEER — BUT  
DON'T DRIVE!**

**Want to sell 1990's  
DERBYSHIRE  
ALE**

**in your shop  
or pub?**

Ring N. Ratcliffe  
on Derby 47012  
to order your supplies



Concentration over a traditional pub game

## PUB GAMES No. 1: Dominoes

DOMINOES, the game beloved of real pubgoers, almost certainly evolved in China.

The ancient Chinese game of Mah-Jong includes a set of tiles exactly resembling dominoes.

Like many Chinese inventions the game moved to the West via northern Italy, but not before Venice fell to the French in 1796.

Britain's introduction to dominoes was from Napoleonic prisoners of war and, by the end of the nineteenth century, at least thirteen variations on the game were evident. Today, dominoes is publand's second most popular game and in the most common sets there are twenty-eight pieces (also called cards and bones) marked from double blank to double six, but sets of double nine and double twelve can be found in the north-west of the country.

The commonest and simplest form of play is the block game where the objective is to finish with no pieces or with the minimum number of

spots on those pieces remaining to the player. The skill lies in blocking one's opponents from playing their pieces. A variation is that, when blocked, a player can draw another piece from the undealt dominoes.

Two or four players can play Fives and Threes, where scores are made by the two ends of the tiles being divisible by five or three. With a double placed transversely it is possible to achieve the maximum score of eight, off ends totalling fifteen.

The name is certainly Italian, but its meaning is not so clear. A domino was originally a black hooded cloak worn by canons and presumably derived from dominus (— lord). By the eighteenth century it had also come to mean a person wearing a stylised version of the cape at a masked ball.

The Italians have a custom of calling "faire domino" when winning with the last piece. The French call "faire capot" while the English prefer "domino" or "chippo".

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## DRINKER! Cemmen

### BLIND BASS

by Ivor Clissold

No amount of concern about mortgage rates, unemployment or poll tax bills can move the Bass bureaucrats from their unshakeable conviction that drinkers have unlimited amounts of money to spend on their mediocre fare.

Their last, uncalled for, price rise has seen a pint of Bass soar above £1.30: even £1.40 is not unknown.

Any poor licensee who survived the long knives of the tenancy terminations is now faced with angry and bewildered customers. While regional and independent breweries have frozen prices, Bass pigheadedly go for a 10p a pint hike.

And what will you get for it? Merely the same Bass as before! Not the old Bass of yesteryear, but the new, not terribly interesting version. Although it is sold all over the place the Derby outlets you can trust can be counted on your fingers.

So who dares go to an unknown Bass house and gamble on getting something drinkable, let alone enjoyable? And knowing Bass's reluctance to display price lists, the stakes can be unknown, but high.

Is it our imagination, or do Bass pubs look a little emptier than a few weeks ago?

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ALE**  
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TO DERBYSHIRE  
288 pages and nearly 800 pubs  
in England & Wales! Country  
with 100 traditional straight lagers  
from 26 brewers.  
Complete with CAMRA  
map and directory.  
MEMBER OF THE CAMRA





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Further information on all aspects of Derby CAMRA can be had from any of the following contacts: Chairman — Sally Winterton (Tel: Derby 773459), Secretary: Duncan Crabtree, 45 Amesbury Lane, Oakwood, Derby DE2 2LX (Tel: Derby 834658).

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## OVERHEARD No. CONVERSATIONS 2

### "MRS. SPOONER"

A YOUNG LADY was enjoying her umpteenth half of Old Original at the bar when a young oaf appeared next to her and ordered a pint of lager.

He completed the transaction by slopping some of the pale and tasteless brew upon her, but failed to apologise.

"What an ignorant man!" a neighbouring drinker said, or words to that effect.

The damp lady then gave vent to the following Spoonerism: "It wasn't that I objected to as much as his foul-shaving after-smell!"

Quite, quite.

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## Pip's Tips

A trip down Melbourne way with Pip Southall.

**Railway Inn**, Station Road, Melbourne. Marston's Pedigree and Burton Bridge XL. On the road towards Isley Walton and somewhat astray from the main town area, this former down-at-heels Ansells pub is now part of Bill (Cap & Stocking) Poynton's chain. Undergoing refurbishment but remaining open, the pub serves the hoppy, refreshing XL and hopes to feature other guest beers when work is completed.

**Old Blue Bell**, Church Street, Melbourne. Ward Sheffield Bitter. Taylor Landlord. Vaux Samson.

Another much altered pub but the range of beers is much improved since Vaux took over the Bell. Only outlet in Melbourne for Landlord. Pool in the bar, lounge fronts a dining area. Convenient for Melbourne Hall.

**White Swan**, Castle Square, Melbourne. Marston Pedigree, Theakston XB. Old fashioned building with a cobbled yard. Lively back room has an inglenook and is popular with younger element. Quiet front bar welcomes dogs and conversation.

**Holly Bush**, Melbourne Lane, Breendon-on-the-Hill, Ind Coope Burton Ale, Tetley Bitter. Popular olde worlde inn on winding lane near to church, garden centre and the newly opened Priory golf course. Excellent DBA and pub fayre. Popular calling place for Derby County players as landlord is ex-Rams goalie Eric Steele.

**Sir Francis Burdett**, Derby Road. Range usually includes Theakston's beers, Greene King Abbot, Old Baily, Moorhouse Pendleworth, Eldridge Pope, Thomas Hardy. White wayside inn in the no-man's land between Stanton-by-Bridge and Kings Newton. A homely atmosphere prevails and a large range of guest beers is always available, one served from a cask on the bar. Huge pub dog (King) friendly to all.



## IT HAS CHANGED, HINNY!

CAMRA has called for Scottish and Newcastle to withdraw their misleading advertising of the Theakston beer range.

S & N have mounted a glossy campaign featuring the Masham brewery on pump clips and ads with a sepia picture of Victorian brewery staff and the slogan "Nowt much's changed".

In fact, a hell of a lot's changed. Theakston's was once a classic family-owned firm serving a dozen pubs in the Yorkshire Dales. The beers were admired as classics, too. But the family couldn't be satisfied and rather foolishly bought the state brewery, Carlisle. The beers became poor imitations of Masham's and trade did not justify the huge Carlisle plant. So a friendly takeover was arranged with Matthew Brown with all the usual tripe about protecting the company from rapacious giants such as S & N. Then S & N took over Browns!

The Carlisle plant has long gone, and so has Theakston's reputation for class products. CAMRA's complaint is that ninety per cent of beer bearing the Theakston name is produced at S & N's Tyne Brewery. Only pubs within twenty miles or so of Masham get the real stuff (and that ain't what it was, either).

The Campaign has lodged the

complaint with that fearless watchmouse, the Advertising Standards Authority. Steve Cox, CAMRA's Campaigns Manager, told them: "The Authority would not tolerate someone selling American wine and claiming it was French. You should, therefore, be equally opposed to a company selling beer from Newcastle and pretending it comes from Yorkshire."

Of course the ASA hasn't got any teeth, but it might give S & N a nasty suck.

Meanwhile Paul Theakston, who now regrets he arranged the takeover despite opposition from the rest of the family, is setting up another brewery in Masham, the family seat since the sixteenth century. It will be next to the Theakston brewery, but he cannot use his own name. He was going to call it Lightfoot's, after the brewery bought by his grandfather in 1915. But amazingly, since he moved in, S & N have registered the Lightfoot name! S & N deny malice, saying Lightfoot is part of their heritage now they own Theakston's. Paul has opted for Black Sheep instead.

S & N seem to think heritage is a commodity they can purchase rather like an American can buy a British title. But class and breeding will out in the end, as a taste of their common beers will demonstrate.

## Hands off yer pint!

THOSE nice Brewlab people have been testing the temperature of beer in glasses — and they've discovered that you should keep your hands off!

Beer should reach your glass at cellar temperature and, if left alone, will take two hours to warm to room temperature. However, if you hold the glass in your hot little hand, it will reach ambient before you finish the drink.

So don't cuddle your pint if you want to drink it at its best.

## Peeps' Diary

FOR my health, dyd make a long trip to the coast, but found little ale except that of Master Whyttbredd.

'Tis a sorry crope of smalle and thynne tankardes whych cometh from Master Whyttbredd's vats, yet fine and nappy ales bee brewed in the Eastern Marches, for though the place bee wilde and passing flatt, the ales bee neither, and delighteth both eye and mouthe.

Yt is a wonder to mee thatt every Inn in this place doth not selle the finest of these, to witt, Woodeforde's Ales, from which I gained muche plesure and an aking hedde.



### 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 or

Full/H & W overseas membership for one year

\*Delete as appropriate

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

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Sample our excellent carvery  
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Children accommodated Beers supplied by Bass

All enquiries phone 690002

# PRIZE QUIZWORD — WIN £5

D	C	B	T	G	H	U	I	P	T	E	D	G
C	O	O	P	E	R	S	A	R	M	S	V	N
R	I	M	I	N	G	C	G	I	Z	H	T	
B	U	G	I	B	B	S	M	E	W	T	D	A
Y	C	K	P	N	W	A	L	K	R	H	O	V
F	R	B	H	E	O	A	N	B	E	E	R	B
E	O	D	W	S	O	D	H	A	A	K	B	
S	R	J	O	R	D	A	N	S	E	K	L	B
T	P	H	Y	C	L	E	A	S	E	S	A	X
I	T	M	N	O	A	A	S	Y	U	T	N	K
V	O	O	D	A	R	J	S	E	R	O	D	H
A	I	Y	P	E	K	T	R	O	N	N	S	Z
L	U	Q	R	T	R	N	U	P	A	S	E	R

OUR Festival Quizword attracted fifty-five entries — you like these, don't you? So here's another one, same rules apply. Words hidden in the square can be placed diagonally, up, down or backwards and the cryptic clues help to find the words.

All words are mentioned somewhere in this issue of *Derby Drinker*, so it should be simple.

Mark all the words on the grid and send to the address opposite, making sure you add your name, address and where you picked up your copy of the

Drinker. Some people just send in the grid — but as my crystal ball's on the blink I can't find out your names and addresses, so I've filed your entries under 'pending', which is written on the waste paper bin.

The winner of the Festival Quizword is Mrs. V. Nash of 10 Birchwood Avenue, Breaston, Derbyshire, who picked up her copy of *DD* at that super little hostelry, The Cap and Stocking, Kegworth. Beam out £5, Scotty!

## CLUES

1. Spot this game, or blank to win (6)
2. Bird now in safe hands selling Bass (8)
3. Expensive options from the Big Boys (6)
4. Firm pumping up the profits with power... (7)
5. ... and one blindly hiking up a price mountain (4)
6. A beer on the way down? (10)
7. Daft Bill comes from this brewery (5, 3)
8. Barrel-makers' limbs made at riverside village (7, 4)
9. Holy river! CAMRA's record man (6)
10. Drinker keeps you posted about this (4)

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

## DD 38 QUIZWORD SOLUTION

D	C	B	T	G	H	U	I	P	T	E	D	G
E	X	D	Q	Y	U	P	K	N	S	H	V	N
B	I	D	L	N	G	C	G	I	Z	H	T	
B	U	L	L	S	H	E	A	D	B	M	D	A
Y	C	K	P	N	W	A	L	K	R	H	O	V
F	R	B	H	E	O	A	N	B	E	E	R	B
E	O	D	W	S	O	D	H	A	A	K	B	
S	R	J	O	R	D	A	N	S	E	K	L	B
T	P	H	Y	C	L	E	A	S	E	S	A	X
I	T	M	N	O	A	A	S	Y	U	T	N	K
V	O	O	D	A	R	J	S	E	R	O	D	H
A	I	Y	P	E	K	T	R	O	N	N	S	Z
L	U	Q	R	T	R	N	U	P	A	S	E	R



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## MEW — WHAT A SCORCHER!

Mick Jones, Derby Beer Festival's cellar-major, thought he would save unnecessary paperwork and pay beer bills based upon the breweries' price lists.

Gibbs Mew of Salisbury's price list does not include VAT so Mick used his VAT calculator and the cheque was sent off. Then came a bill from Gibbs — for one penny! Their hayseed computer rounded the VAT up instead of down (as per the government regulation). So not only was it an illegal demand, but they had wasted several minutes of computer time in generating the documents and clerical time in stuffing, licking and sticking.

Mick, who runs a computer programming company, was not impressed. "There should be a cut-off in operation to prevent daft invoices being generated. This is the sort of thing that happened in the early days of computing. Gibbs should sack their programmer."

## HOSKINS GOES FOR SALES

WHILE Bass are upping such price lists as they deign to display, Hoskins' licensees have the chore of marking DOWN.

Hoskins wiped 10p off a pint of their standard bitter on deliveries after 5th August — by the following week, the Rays Arms, Heanor, the Friargate Tavern, Derby and the Hoskins Wharf at Shardlow were having a job to cope with trade. John at the Friargate told *Derby Drinker* that sales have doubled! At 99p, Hoskins Bitter is excellent value for money. A sound, tasty pint for under £1 — cheaper than when the Friargate opened!

Our Maths correspondent, Algy Bravic, writes: Bass accountants may like to calculate the difference between  $(n - x)$ , who are prepared to pay 10p more and  $(2n)$ , who willingly pay 10p less, where:  $n$  = the customers you used to have and  $x$  = the customers you lost.

## DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings.

### SOCIALS

Tuesdays at 9 pm

October 15th

Horsley Lodge

October 22nd

Shakespeare, Repton

October 29th

New Inn,  
Hazelwood Road,  
Duffield

Branch meetings are held on the second Thursday in each month. Any further information can be obtained from Branch Secretary Duncan Crabtree, Derby (0332) 291122, extn 3168 (work) or Derby 834658 (home).



## Gisbourne Arms

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MARSTON PEDIGREE  
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TETLEY BITTER on draught  
Large Beer Garden - Bar Snacks

## REV



BY ROB