



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No 54

LATE WINTER 1995

FREE

"Save Baseball" Plea to Pickering

Derby County Football Club's decision to re-develop the Baseball Ground rather than move to Pride Park has sparked pleas to incorporate the Baseball Hotel in the redevelopment plans rather than demolish the 100 year old pub.

Derby CAMRA Chairman, David George, has written to Derby County owner, Lionel Pickering pointing out that "the Baseball Hotel is one of a number of fine Victorian corner pubs in Derby and its long bar and back fittings probably the finest example of its type in the city."

Plans for the Baseball Ground include a new stand at the Normanston End of the ground which would extend four metres into Vulcan Street. The Baseball Hotel is on the corner of Vulcan Street and Shaftesbury Crescent. Its demolition would help the club to fulfill the require-

ments of the Taylor Report for circulation areas outside football grounds.

Mr George, however, believes that the area between the pub and houses further down Shaftesbury Crescent would provide an adequate, street-wide access to car parking and circulation areas to the rear of the Normanston End. "I implore you to explore every avenue and examine every alternative in an effort to save a pub which has been associated with Derby County for 100 years now," said Mr George.

The club are believed to be planning a new social club and a museum in the re-vamped stadium and Mr George believes the Baseball Hotel could provide the right setting. "There are rooms on the first floor which could be turned into a museum and, with some work, the whole of the ground floor could be used as a social club."

There is already a club for Rams fans at the pub. If you want to drink there on match days you need to be a member. The club currently has in excess of 1000 members and landlord, Douglas Reid is considering organising a petition to present to Derby County.

Derby Civic Society representative, Maxwell Craven, is also opposing the plans, believing that the pub's demolition would be a "tragedy" from both an architectural and historical point of view.

What do you think? If you think the Baseball Hotel should be saved write to Mr Pickering at Derby County Football Club, The Baseball Ground, Shaftesbury Crescent, Derby and let him know.

Make your feelings known.



The Baseball Hotel - under threat from Derby County's redevelopment.

Visit the newly
extended
Flowerpot Inn
King Street, Derby

Try our continually changing range of real ales in the warm surroundings of a traditional town pub

**At least 10 beers
always available**

**New Beers for Third
Brunswick "Winter
Warmer Week"**

Brunswick brewer, Trevor Harris is planning to brew two new beers for his "Winter Warmer Week" from 24th February to 4th March

They will have OGs of 1040 and 1050 and Trevor will be experimenting with different hop varieties. There will be other new beers from small brewers around the country with only a third being high strength beers.

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

**Brunswick
Inn**

DERBY

Purpose-built brewery

HOME-PRODUCED LUNCHES
& EVENING BUFFETS AVAILABLE

NEWS

New Zealand Festival

Ansells are set to spend £230,000 on turning the New Zealand Arms, Derby into a "Festival Ale House" primarily aimed at the student market.

All Change

The Exchange Hotel, Albert Street, Derby; The Portland, London Road, Derby; the White House, Ambergate; the Queen's Head, Belper and the Boat at Cromford all have new licensees. The Queen's head and the Boat have a changing range of guest beers.

The Neptune, The Spot, Derby has added Boddingtons Bitter. The pub is available to let. Meanwhile, Hoskins have sold the Canal Tavern at Shardlow to an unnamed East Midlands Brewer looking to expand. Watch this space.

No Longer Pubs

The White Lion, Market Head, Belper, which has been closed for these past five years, is to be converted to flats whilst the Old Avesbury, Osmaston Road, Derby is to become Royal Crown Derby's Museum and shop.

The Nags Head Inn Hill Top Castle Donington

Marston's Pedigree and
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Home-cooked food, lunch and evening

Bar Billiards, Darts, Petanque
Live jazz band every Sunday
fortnight at 9 pm

Warm Welcoming Atmosphere

Tel: (01332) 850652

Small Comfort for Tenants

Tenant landlords have been offered a new deal by Bass Lease Co. to counter some of their complaints we reported on in the last issue of *Derby Drinker*. High rents and high beer prices threatened to squeeze many lessees out of business.

The Bass Premier Alliance basically offers tenant landlords discounts provided the pub achieves 95% or better of its last year's beer turnover. They get £30 per barrel off but are then charged £25 per barrel up to the 95% figure; for management support services. In addition they are given £3 per barrel towards marketing costs.

Bass landlords we spoke to conceded that, while it goes some way towards reducing the gap between the prices charged to tenants and the much cheaper prices available in the free trade, it still doesn't fully cover the difference or do anything about the main problem of the new leases, namely high rents coupled with "full-repair" clauses. This means that the lessee is responsible for paying for any repairs done to the property and could mean a bill for thousands if, say, the roof needed urgent replacement. Such clauses are now becoming common in

all the big pub-owning companies' lease agreements, not just those from Bass.

As one Bass tenant told *Derby Drinker*, "I've invested thousands in this place, much of which came from the profits of another pub which I run, meaning Bass get the benefit of the improvements to the property at my expense." We have heard of tenants with Ansells and other breweries having similar difficulties, which have caused them to move to other pub companies which do not have full-repair clauses, take jobs as managers or, in several cases, leave the trade altogether.

Some landlords who are already in financial difficulties will not be able to benefit from schemes like Premier Alliance because turnover in their pubs has fallen, or because their account with the brewery is in arrears. "The ones who really need the help most can't get it," said one.

Not a Lot of People Know...

The old poster (below) is reproduced from the front of a leaflet entitled "Beer and Pub facts 1994" published by the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association. Its full of interesting facts...

❖ Brewers used 627400 tonnes of malt, 95700 tonnes of sugar and 5600 tonnes of hops in 1993.

❖ The UK is the fifth largest beer producer behind the USA, Germany, China and Japan.

More facts in future issues.



The Sir Francis Burdett Inn
Derby Road, Melbourne

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Real Ale - Bass, Pedigree,
Theakstons + Guest Beers
Good Food every lunch/evening
(except Tuesday lunch)

Norman Arms
Village Street
Derby

Home Bitter & Mild,
Theakston's XB
and Bass
all handpulled

Lunchtime Food
Open 11 — 11

The Furnace Inn
Duke Street, Derby

John & Staff
invite you to their Saturday
and Sunday night singalongs
Kimberley Mild, Bitter & Classic

The grim facts are that the next few years will see a big shakeout of smaller tenanted pubs, which don't have the potential to increase beer turnover or put on food. Are we to see the end of the small friendly boozer in favour of large managed-house operations? Surely brewers and pub companies can see that you can't apply blanket lease conditions to all properties - some need to be assessed on a more realistic basis according to their circumstances. One suspects that the accountants who make these decisions don't spend much time in their own pubs.

Local Quality

Why are so many of our pub chain-owned pubs selling mediocre beer?

As the quality gurus say, the three most important things about any job are training, training and training. Staff training was never pro-active in Publand and since the decimation of the pub-owning breweries, things have worsened.

In the *Licensee and Morning Advertiser* of 17 December, the Pubmaster Group says they are "developing the skills of all licensees... A great many of Pubmaster's pubs... are run by experts..."! How's that for damning oneself with faint praise?

Pubmaster, who have 1905 pubs and are offering the tenancy of the **Dunkirk Tavern**, King Alfred Street, Derby, claim to be "the country's leading independent pub company" and in amongst the locals. "Pubmaster's regionalised tenant recruitment operation provides a localised service which matches current opportunities to potential tenants in their own area." (their emphasis).

And where is this "localised" organisation based? Well the East Midlands (& Norfolk) office is at Norwich!

Ivor Clissold

Wardwick Hop & Vine
63 Wardwick, Derby
01332 371134

Always a selection of Belgian
and Trappist Beers

open
4 pm - 11 pm Monday to Friday
12 noon - 11 pm Saturday
Pub hours Sunday

DRINKER!
Comment

Child's Play

Scene 1

We're on our summer holiday, on a day out from our self-catering accommodation and on our way to Crinkley Bottom (well, you have to keep the kids happy, don't you)? It's almost lunchtime and I really fancy a pint (or two) of the stuff they brew in a little pub just over the brow of the hill. The kids want chicken nuggets and chips and Pat (who does all the driving) just wants a comfortable seat and clean loos.

If the pub will let the kids in we are all happy. If not it's either a Little Chef or wait 'till we get to Blobbyland where the food is overpriced and the view from the bar as you down a mediocre pint of some national brand has the effect of making you wonder whether they've laced the beer with LSD.

Scene 2

It's a couple of days before the Beer Festival and several "workers" are on lunchbreak in the back room of a very old, small-roomed, city centre pub. We are discussing the issues of the day, exchanging witticisms, scandal and insults with no holds barred when in walks a family.

The conversation dies, newspapers are put away to make room and language is moderated. The kids, as they do, climb all over the seats, scramble under the tables for lost chips, spill their pop and start bawling when mum's patience runs out and she really tells them off.

Back to work.

Two views of publand's talking point of the moment - and they're both mine! Children in pubs is a controversial issue but it needn't be.

The annoyance comes from either trying to find a pub where children are welcome or one where there won't be an unexpected invasion of youngsters when all you want is peace and quiet.

Either way, what we all need is information:- if your local has (or is applying for) a licence to admit children then let me know. We'll publish a list for you to use as you wish - either take the kids or avoid the place. **Its your choice.** David George

Derby Drinker

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Further information on all aspects of Derby CAMRA can be had from David George or Rob Gilvary (see above).

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Where does the fashion of calling pubs "Ye Olde" come from?

It's as genuine as John German's "Merrie England".

The Y in "Ye" is a mistaken reading of the Old English and Icelandic runic letter "thorn", which looks something between a lower case 'b' and a 'y'.

Someone unfamiliar with Old English would assume it's a y and pronounce the word "Ye". However, thorn was the symbol for "th", so the word is actually "The". If it was sup-



Beer Boffin
answers your queries

posed to be a "Y" sound the Middle English yogh, which looks like a 3, would have been used.

As for the "Olde" bit, before the C19th spelling was a very casual affair and varied enormously with local and regional accents.

"Olde" could be one of those words which reflects an extinct pronunciation. Single syllable words are even today often made into two. My family, who hailed from the Gloucestershire area, tended to pronounce old as "ow-uld". "Old-ee" may have been a similar regional variant.

The only good reason for calling a pub "Old" was to distinguish it from a similarly named new pub. The Old King's Head in Belper is believed to have got its "Old" when another King's Head opened in the Market Square last century.

Many "Ye olde" pubs have been so-called for a long time, so one cannot accuse the present owners of pretentiousness. But I think you could if they ever start advertising "fayre" instead of food.

Ivor Clissold

Preparations for the Silver Jubilee of King George V were well under way.

The Mayor, Councillor B.S. Thorpe, called for businesses to use it as an excuse to repaint their premises - and incidentally provide some casual work for the unemployed. Markeaton Lake was to be floodlit - hang the expense! Ilkeston Scouts were planning to light a beacon fire - just as soon as they'd found two sticks to rub together. For his efforts, Cllr. Thorpe was presented with a carcase of New Zealand lamb by that country's Meat Marketing Board at a function at the Midland Hotel. He immediately ordered it to be taken to the DRI - I'd have thought it was a bit too late for that, your honour?

Derby Off-Licence Holders' Association at their annual meeting, slammed the levels of duty on drink - nothing changes.

Time Was...

Nick Meakin takes a swift half-glance at 1935, some 60 years ago.

They hesitated, however, over adopting a plea from one of their number, who suggested the 8s. 5d. a bottle tax on whisky be reduced, as it was undoubtedly a medicine. Absolutely, doctor - three times a day at least.

A letter under the pseudonym of Y. Isit appeared in the Telegraph, pleading with Duffield Church Council to let it all hang out and allow dances in Duffield to finish later than 10.30 pm. The little stopout! The Licensing Magistrates were equally unbending about allowing pubs to stay open later than 10.00pm, not even in the Summer. Serving till 10.30 would unleash a tide of moral depravity, etc. etc. What would they think of the City centre on a Friday night these days? These guardians of decency also decreed that the White Hart in Bridge Gate be refused a licence, despite having been run for over 70 years by the Cheesborough family, because the demolition of the old West End meant the area was "over-supplied" with pubs. The White Hart was itself later demolished.

Local MP, Mr. J. Thomas dismissed as nonsense any talk of possible war in Europe, following the rise of Hitler and Mussolini. "There is no justification for any worry and the sooner we get out of this mentality the better for all." So there. (May I remind the Hon. Gentleman, that in 1935 he said, and I quote...)

At the annual dinner of the Allied Brewery Traders' Associa-

tion in Burton, Mr. Burt of Bass, Ratcliffe and Gretton (whatever happened to Ratcliffe & Gretton? I think we should be told) fulminated against the Performing Rights Association, over the recently-introduced licences for playing recorded music in pubs. (Will you please turn down that hand-cranked gramophone!)

Finally, before I "say 'Cheerio' with Offiler's Nut Brown," (any older readers remember that slogan?) it was reported that Sir Malcolm Campbell had set a new land speed record of 276mph. He must have been trying to get to the pub before 10 o'clock!

J.B. Hits B&Q!

Our old mate, John Barnes, has got his feet firmly under the bar of the Furnace, Duke Street, where he is welcoming friends old and new. There are even wild rumours of massive expenditure on refurbishment; "I've ordered two whole rolls of wallpaper!" says John.

Preservationists need not fear for the pub, however, as the work is mainly cosmetic, to cover some recent rewiring. Why not pop in to this fine traditional pub for a pint of Kimberley Classic and enjoy a singalong on Saturday and Sunday nights with Bren at the piano?

COMPETITION FOR SPACE

If you're wondering what's happened to the competition in the last couple of issues of DD, it's just that we've had so much news to tell you there simply hasn't been room. Oh, and we couldn't get the Sun to promise not to print the winner's name, either!

SHROVE TIDINGS

Tuesday, 28th. February sees the traditional confrontation between the Up'ards and Down'ards of Ashbourne along (and often in) the Henmore Brook, in the Royal and Ancient Game of Shrovetide Football. One of the country's few remaining games (it was banned in Derby in the last century), the main attraction for visitors used to be that the pubs were open all day. Now this is no longer such a rarity, numbers have declined but it still remains a fun day out, wandering between pubs and occasionally checking on the progress of the game, which goes on from 2pm till after nightfall.

THE SWAMP CLUB

NOW AT THE ROYAL BANQUETING SUITE VICTORIA ST, DERBY (OPP DEBENHAMS)

THE HACKNEY RAMBLERS 24 FEB
CAJUN & ZYDECO FESTIVAL 23-26 MAR

★ CASK CONDITIONED ALES NOW AVAILABLE ★

Tickets from BPM, Way Ahead and The Royal Banqueting Suite, Derby, Seelodisc, Nottingham or 01332 768801 for further information. Concessions half price.

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Theakstons XB, Mild,
Best Bitter, Old Peculier
and Marstons Pedigree
plus two guest beers



Join NOW!

Application Form

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for £12 (£14 for joint, £16 for overseas membership)

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



**PROTECT
YOUR
PLEASURE**

A Whole New Ball Game?

Right from the start, the Baseball Hotel has been intimately connected with the Rams.

The prime mover of bringing baseball to Derbyshire was Sir Francis Ley, founder of Ley's Malleable Castings. He made frequent business trips to the United States where he saw baseball teams in action and became convinced it was a sport which would catch on in this country.

So he built the Baseball Hotel and introduced the game into what was then Ley's and Ewart's sports ground. Thus Derby was one of the places where the game flourished before giving way to football.

Derby County Football Club, who also operated a baseball team, moved to the ground in 1894/5, the year the Baseball Hotel opened.

Sir Francis Ley leased the hotel to Thomas Salt & Co., one of the smaller Burton breweries.

The licence used was that of the George and Dragon in Walker Lane. This was removed to the Shaftesbury Crescent establishment on 31 October 1895. By 1901 ownership had passed to another Burton brewery, James Eadie Ltd. The tie to Eadie's was, however, apparently nominal according to a 1904 survey.

It was never a large hotel having only 5 bedrooms for travellers and visitors and 2 stalls for their horses. The main 'passing'



trade for the Baseball Hotel was rather the Derby footballing fanatics.

In 1933 Eadie's were taken over by Bass, Ratcliffe & Gretton, and thus became one of the half dozen elite Bass pubs in Derby. This didn't change until 1966, when Offiler pubs passed to Bass.

A notable early licensee was Robert Lester who kept the place from 1907 to 1933. A notable of more recent times was Nigel Barker who restored the Baseball, with its famous long bar, to former glories in 1989. This renaissance drew real ale enthusiasts and footballing fans alike back to the club.

After Nigel left, Bass offloaded the pub to Centric Inns and Douglas Reid took up the lease. Lionel Pickering's Derbyshire Enterprises bought the Baseball last year and now, in what would have been its centenary year, the outlook for the hotel looks gloomy indeed.

John Arguile

DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Annual General Meeting

Derby CAMRA's AGM will be held at the Station Inn, Midland Road, Derby on Thursday 9th March from 8.00 pm. There will be some free beer for members so fill in the form on page 3 now!

Social in Ashbourne

Meet at the White Hart, Ashbourne at 9.00 pm on Tuesday 28th February for the Shrove-tide football match social. Spot the members who've been there all day!

Skittles in Belper

Derby CAMRA take on the Old King's Head, Days Lane, Belper from 8.00pm on Thursday 16th March. Watch out, Belper: we've just been getting some practice in against Burton CAMRA.

British Beer Cheaper?

British Beer is not only best, it's cheaper, too, according to the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association.

Figures for 1994 show that although the UK has, next to Ireland, the highest beer taxes in the EU, the price per pint over the bar is cheapest here.

But as Continental beers are sold by the half litre or 330 ml bottle, the price per pint is not easy to calculate.

It's a good story, but it doesn't take into account the fact that Continental beers are, on average, much stronger than British varieties,

so when they are sold in the UK they attract horrendous excise duty. Even so, it says a lot for the efficiency of the UK breweries.

Wetherspoons Scotch Price Battle!

Even better value for money, however, is the Youngers Scotch Bitter currently on sale in JD Wetherspoon's pubs. On January 8th they reduced the price to 79 pence per pint for a period of six weeks.

The price is the same as it was eight years ago and chairman, Tim Martin said "People will be hard pushed to find a cheaper pint. We are proving it is possible to enjoy a pint without paying silly prices." The price could be reduced even further if brewers responded by also reducing their prices.

Around the Country

❖ **London Drinker Beer Festival.** March 8 - 10 at the Camden Centre, Bidborough St., London W1. Tel:0181 963 0120 for details.

❖ **Rugby Beer Festival.** March 9 - 11 at Benn Hall, Rugby.

❖ **Great Leeds Beer Festival.** March 15 - 18 at Pudsey Civic Hall. Over 70 beers.

❖ **Coventry Beer Festival.** April 21 - 22 at Coventry University Students Union, Priory Street (opp Cathedral) 40+ beers - Tel:01203 714833 for details.

The 18th Derby CAMRA Beer Festival

The Assembly Rooms, Derby

Wednesday 5th July (evening) Thursday 6th - Saturday 8th July (lunchtime & evening) and Sunday 9th July (lunchtime)

Around 90 real ales

The best in live entertainment
watch this space

Duffield Festival

The King's Head at Duffield is to be the venue, later this year, of a beer festival being planned jointly with the Lord Nelson, Belper - more details when we have them!

REV

ON THE PISTE AT KLOISTERS



BY ROB