

Derby Drinker

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 62

AUTUMN 1996

FREE

HELLO BASSBERG MEGABREW

THEY WILL BREW ONE PINT IN THREE

How will the big Bass buy-up of Carlsberg-Tetley affect real ale drinkers? It's doubtful that real ale was even mentioned during the weeks of negotiation.

This deal is all about big-selling brands - and that means lager. It's cheap and bland, so sales cannot be maintained by product taste or quality, only by spending £millions on creating and maintaining a fashionable image. Huge discounts are offered - £100 a barrel is not unknown - and this has served to make breweries less profitable while pub companies take the discounts, reap the benefit of the ad campaigns, yet increase retail prices above the inflation rate.

The takeover will reduce choice so discounts should fall. Brewery closures will reduce capacity, increasing brewery profits. But this will not mean a fall in pub prices - at least it has never done yet!

Top ten lagers

Carling Black Label - Bass (2,000,000 barrels per year); **Fosters** - Scottish-Courage (1,800,000); **Heineken** - Whitbread (1,300,000); **Carlsberg** - Carlsberg-Tetley (1,000,000); **Tennent's** - Bass (900,000); **Stella Artois** - Whitbread (850,000); **McEwans** - Scottish-Courage (700,000); **Castlemaine XXXX** - Carlsberg-Tetley (700,000); **Skol** - Carlsberg-Tetley (700,000); **Budweiser** - Anheuser-Busch (600,000)

Which is for the chop? We can expect promotion budgets to be transferred from Castlemaine and

Skol to Carlsberg and Carling. Unadvertised, the former pair will slip into the cess-tank of history.

Sick of fashionable, expensive and sickly drinks? Join the cheapskate fogies - drink real ale!

SUB'S AWARD



Derby Drinker editor, David George, substituting for Derby CAMRA Chairman, Sally Winterton (now transferred to Berlin) presents Bert Cockerham, (substituting for Brunswick owner, Trevor Harris), with a Certificate of Exceptional Merit in recognition of all that Trevor and his staff have done for real ale in Derby. And well deserved, too.

Top five bitters (real and keg figures combined)

John Smith's - Scottish-Courage (1,000,000 barrels per year); **Tetley** - Carlsberg-Tetley (940,000); **Stones** - Bass (700,000); **Worthington** - Bass (680,000); **Boddingtons** - Whitbread (620,000);

It's unlikely that the bitter market will see much rationalisation, in fact both companies have increased their ranges at Burton by opening pilot plants at Bass Museum and Allsopp's.

The deal only affects brewers Carlsberg-Tetley. The pub operation (see Boffin) remains with Allied Domecq, but their contract to buy beers from C-T expires at the year end and this could be a cruncher.

C-T brands have lost quality because they have been 'designed' by 'brand managers'. Given the choice, punters will not fall over themselves to sup Anells, and we look forward to seeing licensees being freed-up to buy tasty beers from wherever. Allied chief executive Tony Hales says the sale will "enable us to concentrate fully on the development of our spirits and retailing businesses." That's got to mean more guest beers.

Ivor Clissold

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

Brunswick Inn

D E R B Y

Purpose-built brewery

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NEWS

Casks from the Oak

Two pubs now gaining praise for their guest beers are the **Old Oak** at Horsley Woodhouse and the **Oak and Acorn** at... Oakwood. Now, what's the phrase - "from small beginnings..." or something like that.

Wot More new pubs

Such a disappointment. No real ale at either the **Waterfall**, Railway Terrace or **Brannigan's** in Colyear Street, Derby. So, if you want to eat, drink and cavort do it somewhere like the Flowerpot on a Saturday night - much more fun.

From around the World

... and the Brunswick

Sober on Broadway, Derby have spent £25k on a restaurant called 'Next Door where they'll serve up food from around the world and a beer called The Hop Next Door, brewed at the Brunswick. Trevor Harris also helped out Simon Platt of Shardlow Brewery when he encountered problems moving premises. Trevor came to the rescue and marked the dynamic duo's efforts with a beer called Joint Venture. Any beer tickers licking their lips will have to go some to beat Mick 'the tick' Baker whose astonishing beer tasting efforts have been recognised by Mick The Tick's 5,000th. Trevor also produced a brew to mark Derby CAMRA's Sally and Ian Winterton leaving for pastures new in Germany.

The Nags Head Inn

Hill Top

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Home-cooked food, lunch and evening

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

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LARGE FUNCTION ROOM

Letters *Swan Necks - "Choice is the key"* Letters

Dear Sir,

I have noticed with some concern your recent articles about swan-neck beer dispense.

As a CAMRA member, I would like to reassure drinkers and publicans like me, who prefer their real ale served with a creamy head, that they are not second-class citizens who actually deserve Ivor Clissold's contempt. CAMRA is not united in a campaign against swan-necks and, by your own admission, the vast majority of pubs in Derby supporting the real ale cause are using that

method of dispense. (And please note that this is exclusively a **REAL ALE** issue which should not be confused with legitimate campaigns against SMOOTH keg products).

Presenting opinions as scientific fact, complete with pseudo-technical jargon - "aromatic hop fraction"?! - does nothing to enhance CAMRA's credibility in the eyes of the less passionate drinking public. Of course, Ivor's true prejudice is betrayed in his thinly veiled attack on "unsubtle" northern beers for an undiscerning working class.

I must emphasise that my (and Tynemill's) standpoint revolves essentially around **CHOICE**. I have never encountered a dispense system where the sparkler cannot be removed. The Alexandra prides itself on offering any beer dispensed according to the customer's preference, complete with advice on how it's served in its own locality. Come to any Tynemill pub, Ivor, and we'll serve your ale the way you want it. Would an "Ivor Clissold" pub offer me the same choice?

Julian Grocock, Director,
Tynemill Ltd, 24 High Street,
Kegworth

Ivor replies:

As a long standing member of the discerning working class, I still enjoy a session in Leeds on the Tetleys, served in the century-old way. Some hop varieties are used solely for their aromatic fraction - technical jargon if you like but hardly pseudo.

There is no tradition of squeezing the guts out of beers in the Derby area, but many engines have been installed with swan necks merely because the big pub companies have made this standard and publicans haven't specified otherwise.

Of course a good pint can be served by removing the sparkler and filling from the top: its just rather inconvenient.

Can you make any sense out of the organisation of Allied, Carlsberg-Tetley-Chloride, or whatever it's called?

Unlike the other big brewing concerns, Allied Breweries formed by amalgamation. The idea was for the breweries to band together and protect themselves from hostile take-over bids.

There were 4 constituent companies at the inception in 1961: **Ansells** (Birmingham); **Tetley Walker** (Leeds & Warrington); **Friary Meux Ltd** (Guildford), and **Ind Coope & Allsopp**. The latter had bought a few firms up over the years, such as **Bindley & Co** (Burton) & **Burton Brewery Co**, acquired in 1914. **Samuel Allsopp** joined Ind

Coope in 1934, after buying **Archibald Arrol** (Alloa) in 1930. The **Aylesbury Brewery Co** joined Allied in 1972, though they hadn't brewed since 1937.

Since then the usual brewery rationalisations (closures) have taken place. **Friary Meux** closed in 1969; **Ansells** in 1981; **Romford** in 1988 and the **Warrington and Plympton** breweries this year. The latter opened in 1984 to supply 40 local



Beer Boffin
answers your queries

Allied houses under the name **Fergusons**. The Ind Coope Burton Brewery is now under the C-T flag, though a small brewery-within-the-brewery carries the **Allsopp's** name.

The pubs are run by Allied Domecq Leisure and Allied Domecq Inns, and sell beers brewed for them by **Carlsberg-Tetley** under the **ABC, Ansells, Benskins, Friary Meux** and **Nicholsons** badges. Alas, no-one 'owns' the **Ind Coope** badge, so

their best beer - Ind Coope Burton Ale - is rarely seen.

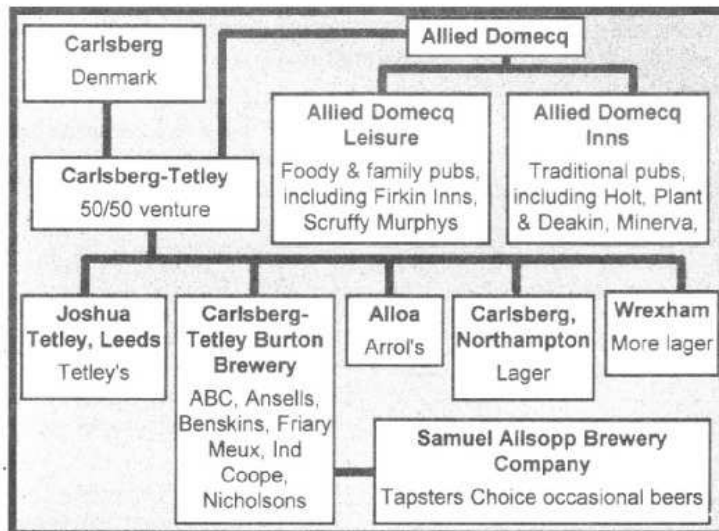
It is believed that Carlsberg-Tetley has not been well managed and would be on its knees were it not for Allied Domecq being forced to buy beers from them at top prices. Will this tie continue? Bass will probably sell off a tranch of pubs to mollify the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Ivor Clissold

DRINK ALL NIGHT

City Councillors, police and magistrates are due to discuss extending licensing hours to 3 a.m. for pubs and even longer for those with entertainments.

So, start your night out later and pay for the bar staff night shift with higher prices!



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Jelly Beans, Skittles, M&Ms etc.
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Derby Drinker

Derby Drinker is distributed free of charge to pubs in and around the city. Published by the Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale and printed by J.M. Tatler & Son Ltd., Abbey Street Works, Derby.

Edited by David George and Nick Meakin, 72 Meynell Street, Derby DE23 6NH ☎ 01332 601258. Artwork by Rob Gilvary, 130 Green Lane, Derby ☎ 01332 343497.

Advertising rates are - front page £35, back and inside pages £30. Discounts for payment in advance ☎ 01332 601258.

Copy deadline for the next issue, due to be published early December, is Friday 15th November.

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Catch the Cromford Boat

Well, summer is here. It started on the 1st of August and may continue until the middle of September, and so, on one of these warm summer afternoons, when all the little jobs are finished around the house, why not take your better half up the A6 a stretch to Matlock Bath? If it happens to be a Sunday, a cloud (collective noun for motorbikes?) of Goldwings, BSAs, Kawasakis etc. can be seen all lined up waiting for the domino effect to come into play. The Bath can also be interesting on other days of the week!

When you've had your stick of rock or a donut, go along the A6 towards Derby for about a mile past the famous Arkwright Mill and turn right at the Cromford traffic lights. Turn right, up the right hand side of The Greyhound into The Scarthin and visit the **Boat Inn** for a very pleasant, and probably well earned, rest. Vicky and Des have been running The Boat for a couple of years now, and they have made quite a few improvements. The pub started life as The Hit & Miss Inn back around 1772, with a change of name to The Navigator sometime before 1865, when it became known as The Boat Inn.

Two years ago, The Boat would be described as a "workman's" (sorry, workperson's) pub, with panelled walls hiding all of the



old fashioned beauty of the original stone walls and fireplaces. Today, all of this has been tastefully restored along a nautical theme with ships lights and candle lit barrel tables, and a real log fire for the winter months.

There is a policy of no music in the pub with easy wheel chair access provided for the bar and toilets. Also, during the evenings that Wendy and I have been in there has been no smoke. There is an enclosed garden at the side for the kiddies, set in the ruins of the old pub store and the original walls with window openings can still be seen.

If you leave the garden via the steps towards the road, Cromford

Dam with swans and ducks, complete with a working water wheel provides a relaxing scene. Downstairs there is a second bar which is opened on busy nights or for club use. It's also a favourite watering hole for the local Buffalo fraternity.

Many years ago, the local vicars were meeting downstairs, discussing the matters of the day, when, it is alleged, a "presence" was felt by all at the meeting. The figure of a soldier appeared and walked right through the group and out via the wall, which prompted the meeting to be adjourned to the upstairs bar!

Maybe the original 'sharp exit' ?

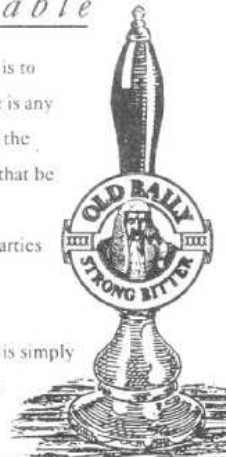
John Carrington

Tales from THE BAR

That's understandable

Counsel My sole purpose in this little monologue is to record that understanding on the record, and if there is any disagreement with my understanding by counsel for the defendants, which I believe there is not, to ask that that be recorded so that there be no misunderstanding subsequently by any party to this case or any third parties as to what we intend to provide.

The Judge My problem with what you have said is simply that I am not altogether sure that I understand what you have said.



4.8% ABV.

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Join CAMRA 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)

Name(s)

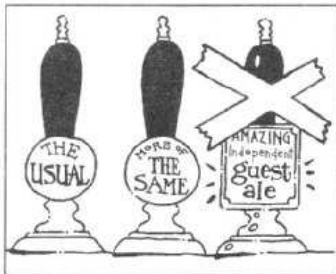
Address

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Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) with this completed application form to: CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



Guest Beers threat

The European Commission has announced that, in its opinion, the British Guest Beer Law contravenes the Treaty of Rome. The guest beer has to be a real ale. The very same European Commission specifically approved this condition in 1989 but is now threatening legal action unless the law is widened to include any draught beer.

CAMRA spokesman Steve Cox said, "This threatens the choice of real ales in thousands of pubs and the future prosperity of Britain's four hundred independent breweries. This intervention could only be made by people who neither know, nor care, about British beer and the British pub."

"This is the most absurd attack on the British Brewing industry. The UK has one of the most open markets for imports in the EU. We import over two hundred different brands of foreign

beer - more brands than any other European country - and beers brewed under licence or imported constitute a much higher proportion of our market than any other beer-loving nation in Europe."

MEPs, MPs and the EC have been deluged by letters of protest and CAMRA's campaign has the support of local MEP Phillip Whitehead, the Parliamentary Beer Club, The Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association and The Society of Independent Brewers

Another Festival Success

11,500 people enjoyed some varied and truly tasty beer at the 19th Derby CAMRA Beer Festival. Especially popular were the beers imported from Germany. There was also some great entertainment.

Some of the highlights were not obvious. R Cajun and the Zydeco Brothers, warming up for their later set, treated those who had been at the head of the queue before opening, to half an hour of T Rex hits - in cajun style! Comic John Willey Brown struggled with his first set but his insane antics had the crowd rolling by the end. Did you know that Swartzenigger translated means 'Working Men's Club'? - think about it.

The Rattlers' large local following packed into their 'residency' sessions in the Darwin Room even with a folk-rock alternative in the form of the New Bushbury Mountain Daredevils in the Great Hall on Friday night and the lovely Irish folk of Drowsy

Maggie on Saturday lunch. The Amazing Bavarian Stompers were great sing-along fun and the Sunday lunchtime jam session tribute to the late Benny Gardstein was a very moving experience.

Here's to the 1997 Derby Beer Festival - 9th to 13th July - put it in your diary and book your holiday now.

Can't wait until then - here's a few coming up:

Oct 10 - 12 St Albans Beer Festival at the Alban Arena

150 beers in the city which is home to CAMRA's HQ. Send SSAE to Geoff Harrison, 53 Salisbury Avenue, St Albans AL1 4TU or phone 01727 842838 (Phil Defriez).

Oct 16 - 19 Nottingham Beer Festival. Victoria Leisure Centre, Sneinton.

A beer tucker's delight with 300 beers. Entertainment Friday and Saturday night. More info from Andrew Ludlow on 0115 964 0639.

There are many more - phone Dave George on 01332 601258 for details.

WINNERS

Thanks to all those who took part in our pub survey draw. Winners of the beer were **C Gilbert** of Derby and **P Webb** of Denby Village. Winners of tickets to the Great British Beer Festival were **L Lindley** and **Colin Storey**, both of Willington (in fact we had a large number of entries from Willington - all with the *Rising Sun's* stamp on. Are they trying to tell us something?), **John Pickering** from Sawley, **Rob Pollard** from Weston on Trent and **Cathy Sewter** from Belper.

Beer Bingo Winners

We had 91 people send in cards from the Independent Brewers Beer Bingo Trail. 26 people filled in the whole card so 52 dedicated drinkers will soon be off to a VIP evening at Hardy and Hansons Kimberley Brewery. If you haven't received your prize yet don't worry - its on its way. A special mention to Cliff Inn regular, **Nathan Spray** who decided to complete the trail on his bicycle. With only three stamps outstanding disaster struck - Nathan lost his card. Undeterred our hapless hero started again - well done Nathan.

Wendy and Chris welcome you to the

Duke of Clarence

Mansfield Road, Derby
KIMBERLEY
Mild, Bitter, Classic and
CELLARMAN'S CASK
Piano singalong
Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Quiz Night Monday

DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Thursday 10th October

Branch meeting at the John Thompson, Ingleby from 8 p.m. All are welcome.

Friday 13th December

Yes, I know its tempting fate but this is when we're holding our Christmas Social. Its at the Flowerpot and features the University of Spondon Footlights Club and their hilarious comedy revue. Phone Tim Williams on 01332 381358 for ticket information.

9th Brunswick Beer Festival - 3rd to 6th October

Yes, its back, this year there will be around 65 beers from around the country and probably a new beer or two from the Brunswick. Also watch out for **No Half Measures** - a pub theatre group who will be staging three productions at the Brunswick this autumn. Sounds promising.

From the team that brought you the Flower Pot

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BY ROB