



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 63 CHRISTMAS '96/NEW YEAR '97 FREE

EURO BATTLES GO TO EXTRA TIME

The European Commission has delayed the threat of action on Britain's guest beer rule and has put off for two years its long-feared review of the tied house system.

The commission agreed to put off issuing the "reasoned opinion" setting out why it believes the guest ale rule discriminates against European brewers after a meeting with the European Brewers Association and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Not purely British

At the meeting it was argued that cask-conditioned beers are not a purely British phenomenon, and that many French, Belgian and German brewers were entitled to exploit the guest beer rule. This allows the tenants of big brewer's pubs to sell one cask-conditioned guest beer in addition to their own brewer's products.

Encouragingly, the commission countered by stating that it "considers the promotion of access to tied pubs for draught beer from small breweries via guest beer provisions to be a valid policy that it has no intention of undermining."

Tied in knots

The green paper to launch the review of a wide range of block exemptions from the Treaty of

Rome - covering different forms of tie between distributor and bar in the EC - will not be published until the end of the year with a target of 1999 to decide how to reform the exemptions - if at all.

According to the Financial Times the delay is due to divided opinions within the commission on the future of block exemptions - not to mention the sheer complexity of the problem.

Widely differing tie systems exist across Europe and the idiosyncrasies of national markets make it hard to predict the outcome of any

attempt to apply a universal principle.

CAMRA Campaigns Manager Stephen Cox stated that CAMRA remains "committed to the renewal of the principle of the tie." And whilst Consumer Affairs Minister John Taylor acknowledged the view of those who believed that weakening the tie would lead to more competition he said that a clear majority of opinion feared the end of the tie would mean a market dominated by big brewers, reduced consumer choice, and the closure of many smaller brewers.

Who's kidding who?

Brewers' claims that alcopops are aimed at "mature" drinkers were destroyed by research from Public Attitude Surveys which showed that more of the drinks are consumed by 15 to 17-year olds than any other age group. The survey showed that 56 per cent of people in this group had drunk at least one alcopop in September with

more than 80 per cent of alcopop drinkers saying they had recently drunk Bass's Hooper's Hooch.

The research will further embarrass brewers who claim their brands are not aimed at teenagers. Unlike cider and spirits, wine and draught bitter have suffered little from alcopops, with only 6 and 7 per cent saying that they would choose them as an alternative to alcopops.

Mansfield Boom

Scottish Courage's closure of Nottingham's Home Brewery has proved a major windfall for neighbouring Mansfield.

It has just completed a £2 million investment programme to gear up for the 12 brands, including Home Mild and Bitter, it is brewing for Scottish Courage, expanding capacity by 43 per cent and output by 35 per cent to 800,000 barrels.

Kids Certificate reform on way

The fiasco surrounding the granting of Children's Certificates - caused by over-zealous licensing benches imposing onerous conditions - could be ended when new guidelines are issued in the near future.

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

HOME-PRODUCED LUNCHES & EVENING BUFFETS AVAILABLE

NEWS

More JDW's

JD Wetherspoons, of Standing Order fame, are to open a second pub in Derby. Strategically located at the bottom of Babington Lane for the pre-Eclipse and Future nightclub crowds the pub will feature an open front (in summer) to give a pavement cafe-bar feel to the pub. We expect the usual no music, silent slot machine, no-smoking area policies.

More Bridge

Burton Bridge Brewery's tied estate is no match for its giant neighbours but how many other brewers will be able to boast a 100% increase in 1996. The Burton independent brewery have just added a second pub, the Prince Albert on Derby Road, Burton to the Burton Bridge Inn adjacent to the brewery.

More Festival Ale

Ind Coope have re-vamped the White Swan at Littleover and converted it to a Festival Ale House with guest beers galore. When the Half Moon are holding one of their beer festivals there should be quite a selection in one of Derby's leafy suburbs.

The Nags Head Inn

Hill Top

Castle Donington

Marston's Pedigree & Banks's Mild
Home-cooked food lunch and evening

Petanque played and Live jazz
monthly on a Sunday

Warm welcoming atmosphere

Tel: (01332) 850652

Visit the new cellar bar at
The Flowerpot
King Street, Derby
Tel: (01332) 204955

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

Hot food Monday to Saturday
Sunday lunches a speciality
LARGE FUNCTION ROOM

CHRIS NIX recently bought the **STAFF OF LIFE** at Ticknall, and asked two painters for ideas for a new sign. Both thought the name referred to a walking staff. What could Boffin come up with?

Anyone over 40 will know that the staff of life is bread, but it is a rare pub sign. J. C. Hotten's History of signboards (1866) and its 1951 reprint

English inn signs contain no reference. A Dictionary of pub names (1987), reprinted in 1994 as The Wordsworth dictionary of pub names, has the following.

Staff of Life Shottermill, Surrey, others at Ticknall, near Melbourne and Sutton In Ashfield, Notts. There is a seventeenth century proverb: 'Bread is the staff of life'. The Shottermill pub is on the site of a former water-mill where flour was ground. The Ticknall sign shows a cottage loaf.

Proverbs of that date usually arose from the 1604 translation of the Holy Bible, but The shorter Oxford English dictionary (1983) may give a clue:

Staff *b.* In the Biblical phrase to break the staff of bread (literally from Hebrew), to diminish or cut off the supply of food. late Middle English. *c.* hence the staff of life = bread (or similar staple food) 1638.

THE BELL INN



SMALLEY

Free House — beers from
Bateman's, Ruddles, Marstons
LUNCH & EVENING FOOD

John & Staff
wish you a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year

The Furnace Inn

Duke Street, Derby



Kimberley Mild, Bitter, Classic and
Cellarman's Cask

This confirms the connection between staff and bread. A thumb through a concordance reveals the source, Holy Bible (King James translation 1604): Leviticus 26: 26.

When I break your staff of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and shall deliver your bread again by weight; and you shall eat, and not be satisfied.



Beer Boffin

answers your queries

This threat to reduce the food supply was just one of chapters-full ascribed to the Hebrews' misanthropic god,

Yahweh. "Your" refers to the nation, not just Moses. The King James translation - from a Greek translation of the original Hebrew - produced all sorts of muddles arising from colloquialisms, and this could be one. Perhaps cutting one's loaf was a popular analogy like cutting the pound in one's pocket, or cutting one's coat according to one's cloth. But let's look at a modern translation: the Revised standard version of 1970.

I will cut short your daily bread until ten women can bake your bread in a single oven; they shall dole it out by weight, and though you eat, you shall not be satisfied.

a Literally, I will break your stick of bread.

So modern translators prefer stick to staff. Did the Israelites make bread in stick form like the French? Perhaps those chapatti things were called unleavened bread to distinguish them from the leavened sticks.

The name fits the pub, for the Staff of life was once the village bakery, and in the days when the baker (or baxter, if female) made oven room available for villagers' pies, etc., what better way to pass a couple of hours at Regulo 4 than with a pint or two?

Ivor Clissold

THE OLD OAK

Main Street Horsley Woodhouse

Home cooked food
served 6.30 - 9.30.
Open lunchtimes.

Curry night -
Wednesday, Quiz
night - Monday



The Village Freehouse for a wide
choice of beers and food

'97 Guide on Sale

The Good Beer Guide 1997:
CAMRA Books £10.99 in
bookshops and the
Alexandra, the Brunswick,
the Flower Pot, Smithfield
and the Peacock.

Christmas is a-coming and the bookstore's getting fat. A familiar face among the myriad titles is CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. The 1997 edition is the 24th, discounting an early typewritten effort and the first version of the 1974 edition, withdrawn by the publishers because it advised readers to avoid Watneys "like the plague", which the readers did, anyway.

Apart from being the best authority on 5,000 examples of where to get a good pint throughout these islands, GBG97 has features on the tied house system (and why Brussels doesn't understand it), real cider (It's looking rosy), and cellar management, (includes a Boffinesque cask management chart), novelty beers (look out for heather, myrrh and bananas).

A new and overdue initiative is Pubs to Save. CAMRA has compiled a national inventory of pubs considered to be historic gems, regardless of beers. The Derbyshire list includes the Three Stags Heads at Wardlow Mires and the Barley Mow at Kirk Ireton, as well as the Gate at Brassington, which has not had a place in GBG since the 1991 edition.

The Pubs to Save list seems sparse. Only 3 pubs in the county worth saving? Derby City Council has more than that listed in the city alone. What about the Dolphin? Having been thoroughly mismanaged for a couple of years, it won't be found in GBG, but its

architectural qualifications are self-evident.

And a warm welcome back to East Yorkshire. Not quite the ring that East Riding has, but a damned sight better than North Humberside, which, being the name of a mere committee, should never have appeared on maps or in guide books. Lincolnshire, too, is whole again, but editor Jeff Evans refuses to jump the gun and diplomatically invents a county called Leicestershire and Rutland. The return of county boroughs such as Derby county is a problem he will have to wrestle with next year.

Lots of info, some good reading matter, and if it saves you buying 6 bad pints throughout the year, its free!

Ivor Clissold

DRINKER Comment

Without YOU ...

We hope you enjoy reading *Derby Drinker* and find it informative and entertaining. Without you the effort put in editing, producing and distributing to pubs would be wasted.

If you buy a copy of the *Good Beer Guide* we hope you find it useful - especially on your travels. Without you the effort in surveying pubs, compiling entries and editing would be wasted.

We look forward to seeing you at the 1997 *Derby Beer Festival* and trust you will have a great time. Without you ... I hate to think.

We can't do it without you just as you can't enjoy the benefits of 25 years of campaigning without us. There are too few of us working our b***s off to ensure that real ale lives on. We need help - YOUR help!

We need people to take *Derby Drinker* to pubs, survey pubs, take meeting minutes, help organise campaigns and help organise one of the biggest beer festivals in Britain - come and join in - you'll enjoy it!

The Woodlark

Bridge Street, Derby

Paul & Debbie warmly welcome
customers old and new.

Traditional ales include Bass,
Pedigree, Adnams, Salisbury

Quiz Thursday night and piano
sing-a-long Sunday

Tel: 332910



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All change

Welcome to new licensees at the **Hardinge Arms**, Kings Newton, the **Oak and Acorn**, Oakwood, the **Swan**, Milton, **The Staff of Life**, Ticknall, the **Dolphin**, Queen Street, Derby (what, again! - Ed) and the **Sitwell Tavern**, Sitwell Street, Derby.

Wardwick Hop & Vine

63 Wardwick, Derby
01332 371134

Always a selection of *Belgian and Trappist Bee* plus *Winter Warmers* and *Christmas specials*
open 12 noon - 11pm Monday to Saturday. Sunday 12 - 10.30

Peacock shows Pedigree

The **Peacock**, 71 Nottingham Road, is back on the discerning drinker's list.

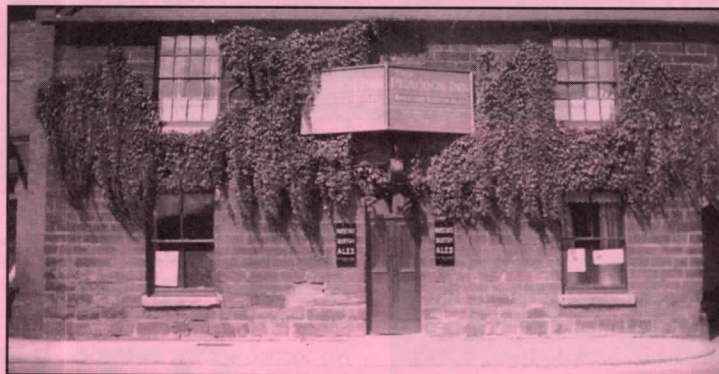
This attractive, 18th-century stone building is believed to have been a pub since 1822, courtesy, no doubt, of Wellington's Beer House Act.

Owned by The Liversage Trustees, it has been rented to Marston's since 1934 and has had a long reputation for good beer, though drinkers of 30 years' experience knew it as a rare Derby outlet for scrumpy.

Licensee David Townsend and his wife Barbara took over in June, after the pub had suffered a period of neglect and decline. Dave, a regular since 1989, approached Marston's and signed up for the pub within a week. A rare example of a brewery going for a local and unknown candidate, as Dave had no trade experience though Barbara has been behind so many Derby bar counters that her face is much better known than her legs. Er, moving swiftly on ...

Marston's let them refurbish the pub without interfering with things like financial help, so the £20,000 cost was all down to Dave. At least it was good value for money: most breweries could have spent £200,000 to achieve a similar result.

The redecorated bar and new back fitting is attractive and sparking



The Peacock, Nottingham Road, Derby, 1937. Photo courtesy of Derby Museum and Art gallery

clean. The gloomy dive at the rear is now a tasteful lounge, available for private functions. The pool table has been relegated to a conservatory-cum-marquee which has a roll-up side to take in the neat yard garden in the summer months.

Opening hours have been extended to all day except Sundays, when last orders are called about 3, but there's no danger of being hustled out. New ventures include occasional Saturday karaoke sessions (thankfully one room only) and lunchtime food, for which there is a steadily building demand.

But what of the beer? Good news here, indeed. Monty, veteran of pubs in Repton and Burton, is still the cellarman. The Pedigree comes in barrels and is kept for at least a week. The scientific reasons for Peddie tasting better from barrels is vague, but taste

will out. Marston's Bitter is on handpull, too.

The effect of all this on trade has been striking. Dave was hoping to build up slowly, but quickly found demand outstripping stock. That resolved, trade is still predominantly discerning drinkers, but mixing well with a welcome increase of female customers. Another nice feature is to see Pedigree fans feeling free to bring their wives and children. Sometimes.

Pop in, expect a welcome from bar staff and bar proppers alike, and wish Barbara and Dave a happy 25th wedding anniversary. A child bride, obviously.

Ivor Clissold

Name Changes

The **Melbourne Bar**, Normanton Road is now **Hurleys** - an Irish pub - whilst **The Band Chapel** is now **Bar 101** - all drinks £1.01!



Tales from THE BAR

Are you being served?

The Judge Is there any reason you could not serve as a juror in this case?

Juror I don't want to be away from my job that long.

The Judge Can't they do without you at work?

Juror Yes, but I don't want them to know it.



4.9% ABV.

Judge it for yourself

Protect YOUR Pleasure 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

.....

.....

.....

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

Merry Christmas and a warm New Year!

News of special Christmas Beers is finding its way to the Derby Drinker editorial office (a converted box room in Normanton).

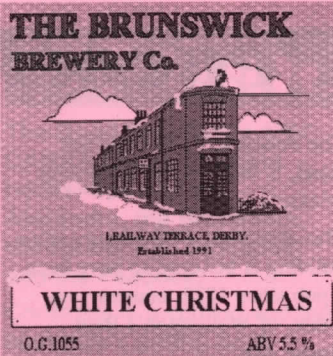
Mansfield Brewery follow up their Autumn ale, Royal Stag, with the launch of Wild Boar; a 5.5% Christmas special whilst down at the **Brunswick White Christmas**, again at 5.5%, will be brewed for the third year running. Trevor and Bert will be brewing another Christmas beer but, as we go to press, details are not available.

There are three "Christmas Ales"; **Harveys** (8.1%), **King & Barnes** (6.5%) and **Titanic** (7.8%). Others include **McGuinness** Christmas Cheer (4.6%), **Wood's** Christmas Cracker (6%), **Goose Eye** Christmas Goose (4.5%), **Mauldens** Christmas Reserve (6%), **North Yorkshire's** Xmas Herbert (4.4%), **Old Forge** White Christmas (6%), **Sutton** Sleigh'd

(5.8%), **Reindeer** Sanity Clause (7%), **Kings Head** Santa's Blotto (6%), **Cotleigh** Red Nose Reindeer (5.6%) and **Summerskills** Turkey's Delight (5.1%).
How many can you tick this Christmas?

No sooner will the festivities season have finished than the Winter Ales Festivals begin. First off the mark is the **Cambridge Winter Ale Festival** at the Anglia Polytechnic University Canteen, East Road from Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th January. Evening admission is by ticket only - contact *Paul Ainsworth* on 01954 203230 for details.

On the same weekend are the **Mansfield and Ashfield Winter Beer Festival** at the Festival Hall, Kirkby in Ashfield from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th January. On the same dates is **Saturnalia** at the Neuadd Arms Hotel, Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys LD5



4RB. Send a SAE or 'phone 01591 610236 for details.

Much closer to home is the **Brunswick's Winter Ales Festival** starting on Friday 14th February, lasting 10 days and hoping to get through over 70 winter ales. From Thursday 20th February for three days is the **Great British Winter Beer Festival** at the Old Fruit Market, City Halls, Glasgow.

Wedding Special

♥ *Congratulations to CAMRA members Sue and Bill Dudley who celebrated their wedding with a Brunswick special called "Get up them stairs". It was only 4.3% but after two pints we heard that Sue had to carry HIM over the threshold and ...*

More handpumps

The **Windmill** at Breadsall Hilltop have installed two handpumps designated for a guest beer. The **Oast House**, Forrester's Leisure Park, Derby are also serving guest beers. The **Royal Oak**, Ockbrook have installed a fourth handpump whilst the **Kings Corner** at Oakwood want to serve their beers via hand-pumps.

Larger premises

The **Black Bull Brewery** at Fenny Bentley are looking to move to larger premises.

Pub Sign Competition - WIN £25

Chris Nix of **The Staff of Life** at Ticknall is looking for ideas for a new pub sign for this popular South Derbyshire hostelry. Your idea could be transformed by professional sign painters and hang outside the pub for many years to come.

Chris is looking for something new - so no loaves of bread depicting the pub's old name! Your sketches should be sent to: **Pub Sign Competition, The Staff of Life, 7 The High Street, Ticknall, Derbyshire DE73 1JH** to arrive by 14th January.

We'll give you a sneak preview of the winner in the next issue

GOOD BEER GUIDE 1997 on sale now

The latest edition of Britain's number one beer and pubs book is now on sale. There's a new look to the 1997 edition, including new maps and a new breweries section.

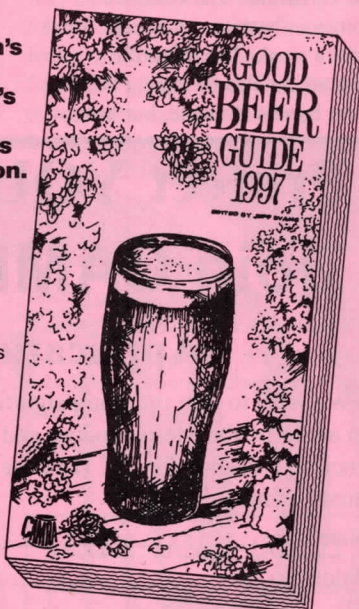
■ 5,000 of the best beer pubs in Britain, arranged county by county, fully mapped and with all facilities highlighted, from accommodation and meals to family rooms, no-smoking areas and wheelchair access.

■ Information on all Britain's breweries from giants like Bass-Carlsberg to the newest micros like Swale in Kent, Grainstore in Rutland, Wolf in Norfolk, Glentworth in Yorkshire, Moor in Somerset, Whitewater in Northern Ireland and Cambrian in Wales. There are no less than 68 new breweries in the 1997 edition, in locations from Scotland to the South Coast.

■ Even more tasting notes to help you find a favourite.

■ The CAMRA list of 'pubs to save' is reproduced in full. Discover the heritage pubs which must be preserved at all costs.

With the pub world changing so quickly, it's the book no beer lover can afford to be without and is ideal for holidays, business trips, days in the country or nights on the town.



Available from all good bookstores or direct from your local CAMRA branch at only £10.99, it's the perfect gift - or why not treat yourself!

Copies are also available direct and post-free from CAMRA at 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4LW (cheques made payable to CAMRA; credit card sales on (01727) 867201).

Derby City Charter 20th Derby CAMRA Beer Festival

at the
Assembly Rooms
Market Place,
Derby
from

Wednesday 9th -
Sunday 13th July
1997

90 Beers, Cider &
Perry including
foreign beer
Live entertainment
Hot & Cold food
Creche/Family Room
Coach parties by
arrangement
Accommodation - Tel:
01332 255802 (T.I.C.)
Details Tel: 01332
601258

*From the team that brought you
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Derby's newest real ale house
on the banks of the Derwent
Quarter mile from Train Station
Quarter mile from Market Place
LARGE CAR PARK

Jolly Sailor Hemington

Fine Ales — Fine Company
Eight Traditional Ales
available
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A TRUE FREE HOUSE