

ELEPHANT & CASTLE



THE MAGAZINE FOR THE DISCERNING BEER DRINKER.
ISSUE 1-SPONSORED BY THE SWEET GREEN TAVERN.

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PUB OF THE YEAR by Richard Spedding

The inaugural Bolton CAMRA pub of the year was voted for by a poll of our active branch members. The pub chosen as the 1992 pub of the year was the Sweet Green Tavern on Crook St.

The licencees Tony and Lillian have worked hard over the past five years to create a warm, comfortable and friendly atmosphere in which to enjoy a pint or two. Beers on offer are Tetley Walker mild and bitter, and Hydes Anvil bitter all dispensed by handpump. A regular guest beer is also on offer, at time of publication Jennings Snecklifter. All beers were in excellent condition when sampled.

Tony and Lillian received an inscribed CAMRA mirror which hangs proudly in the pub. If you're from out of town and unsure as to the location of the Sweet Green Tavern, it's situated across from the railway station. Just look out for the banner!

G.N.W.B. & C.F. by Richard Spedding

The Great North Western Beer & Cider Festival has become a regular event amongst Bolton pubgoers. This years event will be held at the Silverwell St. Sports & Exhibition Centre from Wednesday, 21st April to Saturday, 24th April. Unfortunately this may be the last event to be held in Bolton under the present guise due to Bolton council's decision to close and demolish the centre next year. Please come along and support this years event and make it the biggest and best. Once again the festival will be supporting the Bolton Hospice.

Don't despair as hopefully there will be a somewhat smaller event in Bolton next year with the festival at another local, accessible venue.

MARSHALL MAGEE by Dave Flemming

Have'nt we seen all this before? CAMRA members must have looked cynically at a recent gushing piece in the local press concerning the re-opening of Boddington Pub Company's "Flag" in Bromley Cross. It drooled over.... seven magnificent real ales, gleaming hand pumps, a hi-tech cellar and its own Gallon club. Nothing wrong with that and the best of luck to new guv'nor Ian Moore....but let's read on..."It is reckoned to be 10 years since a previous re-fit of the pub saw the traditional games such as dominoes and cards swept away.." (and the traditional pub with them). So there we have it, two expensive re-fits in a decade and we are right back where we started. Were the regulars consulted on any of this? Who ends up paying for all this? Are'nt we all sick of it !

Well, you didn't expect Norman Lamont (a scotch drinker) to help the ale drinker in the budget did you? And how many of us have found the usual post budget scenario of a 1-2p duty rise translated across the bar into a 3-5p price rise...CAMRA has always gone on about the high price of a pint and we have always been right. Don't listen to the "Big Six" P.R. staff gurgling on about the essential costs of raw materials and refurbishments (see above). Look at the facts; Between 1979-1991 the overall cost of living rose by 142%, the price of beer by 222%. Is it any wonder that pubs are often empty, that the take-home trade is expected to rise to one third of total by the year 2000, that Holts shares are so popular?

Remember that the answer does lie in YOUR HANDS. If you think the price of your pint is too high, refuse to pay, tell the landlord, write to the brewery. If enough of us did this something would be done. But then we don't like to complain do we?.....

We are not as bad as some people think. We regret the loss of any pub, even if it does not serve real ale. Hence it was with sadness that we noted the recent demolition of the Clarence on Bradshawgate. Now Greenhalls, it was a fine example of a solid, elegant, ex-Magees boozery. Well patronised, lively, it boasted a popular week-end "sing-a-long". Where have all the regulars now gone? Equally, one might like to speculate on the priorities of a council that is happy to demolish a popular pub and leave a rubble strewn car park in its wake.

Amongst the several boarded-up pubs in the area, Benjamin Topps on Topps Way seems especially poignant. Originally the site of a boys school, it was "refurbished" at some expense by a local entrepreneur and re-opened in 1986. It reputedly won an award from the civic trust. One must confess that its attitude to real ale was always uncertain. (On a CAMRA survey we were once informed by a barperson that the locals) "Preffered keg anyway") We could have warned them then that it would all end in tears....Benn Topp, a revered figure in local Labour history, was teetotal...!

Do enjoy this, probably the last, festival to be held in Silverwell St. It may not win prizes for elegance, but its size and central location have made it an ideal venue for the festival since 1987. One understands that alternative locations are under consideration but for those of us who have been involved from the start it just will not seem the same. Certainly one hopes that if the sports centre does shut, it will not be replaced by a car park or an office block, both about as vital to the town as a handkerchief to a herring....

TERMINOLOGY YOU MAY HEAR.

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME (ABV). The alcohol content measured as a percentage of the total volume of beer. ABV of persons at the festival may be judged on glazed expression, slurring of speech, inspecting the floor and comatose.

BLANKET PRESSURE. A layer of carbon dioxide gas over the beer used to extend its life. Pressure exerted on the bed on arrival home from the festival.

DRY. Beers where the sugara have been completely fermented out. Could be applied to NON-festival goers.

FIRKIN. Nine gallon traditional cask size. Not to be confused with "The firkin pub's closed".

FISHINGS. A liquid, made from the swim bladder of a sturgeon, used to clear the beer in the cask.

IPA-INDIA PALE ALE. Originally sent to British troops serving abroad, a strong, pale beer.

ORIGINAL GRAVITY. A guide to the amount of fermentable material in the "beer", before the yeast is added. O.g. of distilled water is 1.000. Starting weight of the festival goer.

ULLAGE. The sediment and waste beer left in the cask on the festival goers departure. Also the complete contents of a keg.

X/XX/XXX/XXXX. Originally brewers just stamped wooden casks to show the strength of the beer. Certain "lager" brewers seem to find it usefull. Wonder if they can spell !

- APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

NAME(S).....DATE.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

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I/We enclose remittance for individual/joint membership for one year:U.K. £10 Joint £12 Overseas £14 Joint o/s £16

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Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Limited) with this application form to:

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, CAMRA LTD. 34 ALMA ROAD, ST. ALBANS, HERTS. AL1 3BW

ELEPHANT

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