

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BOLTON BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE
ISSUE 5 SPONSORED BY THE MALT AND HOPS



Licencee

Ken Hughes

Address

Bradshawgate

Phone number

22909

Beers

Bitburger Pils Lager

Bottled Budweiser Budvar

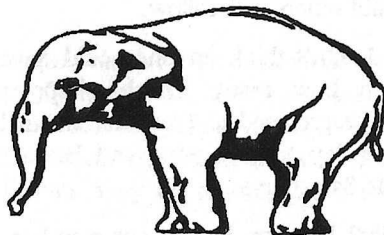
Weston's Olde Rosie

upto 8 guest ales

Guest ciders also available

Description

The Malt and Hops is the real ale bar at the Swan Hotel, previously it was a bikers pub but was refitted 2 years ago. It has been sympathetically refurbished with no juke box and has a prominent board displaying the beers available. 2nd anniversary beer festival to be held July 21st to 23rd with over 35 real ales on sale throughout the event.



Marshall Magee

Dear old Johnie Major is in such a fix at the moment that you think he might have nothing to lose by reducing beer duty and ensuring support from the "beer-gut" Faction.

But we know this is not going to happen. Our position over Europe remains as uncertain as it was fifty years ago.

We pleaded for years to be allowed into the E.E.C.. No sooner are we in it than we ignore all the things we don't like, object to the amount we have to pay, and hinder others from joining "our club".

Now chickens come home to roost. The rules of the single market apply, market forces in their simplicity, Booze is cheaper in France than here because their duty is lower. Unsurprisingly punters from all over the country have rushed to take advantage of this offer with obvious results. The government have lost approaching £500,000,000 in revenue (how many small businesses could this sustain!), supermarkets upto 10% of their retail trade. Sainsburys have now acted to stem the flow by opening it's first off-licence in Calais, no doubt others will follow.

"... I don't think anyone could have foreseen how many British shoppers would be prepared to cross the channel for one day to buy wine and beer..." protests Sainsburys.

Really? I reckon lots of our members, waged or unwaged, driven from their

locals by soaring prices, could have told him this for free- well, perhaps just the odd glass of vin superiere.....

Trawling through my "BEN" clippings file I note an interesting item, predictably headed "Flush with Success"... It features Joan and Wilf Riley, licensees of the Victoria on Blackburn Road (regrettably not Real) who recently won the Greenhalls "Plush Flush" award for the state of their smallest room. Some might consider that a trivial matter, but I feel that a lot can be gauged from the condition of a pub's loo. Bad loo = uncaring landlord? = pub to avoid??. After all one might reasonably infer that if a landlord can't get the toilet right what might this say about his attitude to the Ale? How many times have unwary members (especially in mid curry crawl) fallen foul of - unmarked doors, non-existent lighting, non-functioning doorlocks and worst of all no bog paper!!!..

And no that is not an acceptable use for that pile of E&C backcopies propping up the cistern!...

Ex branch supremo "Berty" Kerks shifts uneasily in his seat during a recent branch meeting as a complex debate unfolds around the horrendous issue of an acceptable voting system for branches who attend Regional Meetings. Now an infrequent delegate, it may not be my place to denigrate what were always entertaining bunfights, but they were never for the faint hearted or procedurally naive. Given the, Shall we say, "creative tension" between the

Titans of North Manchester and Stockport and South Manchester, the chance of any method being found acceptable by the assembly of bearded worthies would seem about as likely as Elvis jogging down Bradshawgate.

Far better, surely to concentrate on what

we used to do quite well - Campaigning. How about not only prices surveys but supping in keg houses an, dammit all, drinking some mild this month?

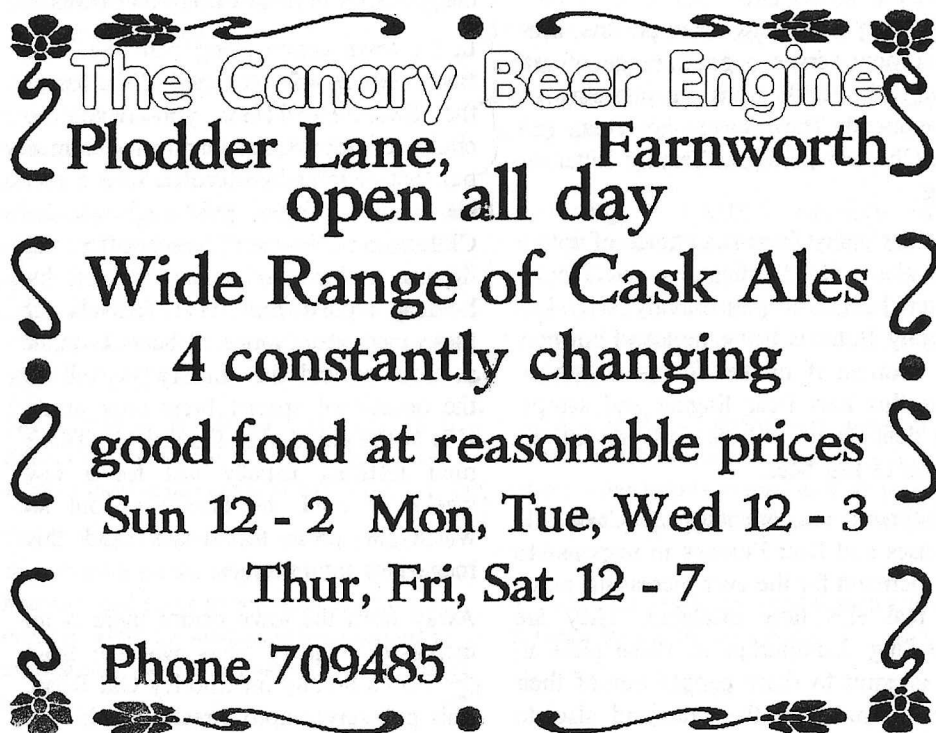
I'm told that at one time people used to drink it all the time and it wont burn a hole in your pocket.....

New Local Brew !?

As this issue of the Elephant and Castle was going to the press there were rumours along the hop pole (we are beer drinkers?) that a brewery is to be established within the environs of Bolton. It seems that its all part of the Halliwell City Challenge but as yet no information has been forthcoming. If these rumours are true then it will be the first time since about 1970 that Bolton drinkers will be able to sup a pint of ale

brewed in Bolton- this means anyone over 40ish can legally buy Bolton brewed ale for the first time. If anybody knows anything about this project or if you are the brewer don't hesitate to contact the branch then we can pass on our congratulations in person, and also let other people know about it. P.s. on the pub front building work continues at the Brinsop! , soon to re-open ????

PIEMAN



The Canary Beer Engine
Plodder Lane, Farnworth
open all day

Wide Range of Cask Ales
4 constantly changing
good food at reasonable prices
Sun 12 - 2 Mon, Tue, Wed 12 - 3
Thur, Fri, Sat 12 - 7
Phone 709485

The Canary and other pubs

March 31st saw the opening of the first Whitbread Beer Engine in the Bolton branch area, this being the Canary on Plodder Lane. The other two recent Whitbread major redevelopements being the Cask Ale Houses the Flag on Hardmans Lane Bromley Cross and the Blue Boar in the Town centre. While the latter has only recently been converted to a Cask Ale House The Flag has proved to be very successful since it opened 14 months ago. During this time the Flag has served over 200 real ales with only Boddingtons Bitter and Old Rosie Cider being on throughout this period, the other six handpumps serving an ever changing array of cask beers.

Following the Flags example the Blue Boar now serves a good range of real ales with Boddingtons again being on permanently. They have, however, still got Chesters mild and Trophy Bitter on Keg.

At the Canary there is a choice of upto 6 real ales with Boddingtons and Trophy Bitter being on permanently. The keg Trophy Bitter is being removed but may be returned if market forces dictate so visit this new Beer Engine and sample the delights of real ale and prevent the return of keg beer.

Whitbread are opening up Cask Ale Houses and Beer Engines in response to the demand for the ever increasing range of real ales now available. They are installing handpumps in these pubs in an attempt to draw people out of their houses and into the pubs, and also to

make some money of course. The resultant pubs being classified as either a Cask Ale House or a Beer Engine, the main difference being that Beer Engines are big enough to serve Real Ales on Gravity from behind the Bar. Although looking at the bar in the Canary I doubt they will be serving beer on gravity but as long as the beers quality is good, and it has been each time I've been in, what's in a name

Of course Whitbread are not the only pub ownership company to offer the drinker a wide range of beers in their pubs and as a result there are a few more establishments where you can taste the delights of a number of different beers.

In the town centre along with the Blue Boar there is the Malt and Hops bar at the Swan Hotel. Here you have the choice of upto 8 different real ales in a bar that is virtually devoted to the real ale drinker. Other pub such as the Clifton on Newport Street offer the drinker an increased range of beers by holding regular mini beer festivals, at these there are a range of beers brought in from around the country as well as the occasional special brew only available at the pub during the festival. These mini festivals usually last for a few weeks or until the beer runs out so watch the press for details, and this magazines future issues.

Away from the town centre there is an increased range of beers available from the Bob's Smithy on Chorley Old Road. This pub serves upto 6 real ales which

change on a regular basis. Mini beer festivals are also held at some pubs such as the Jolly Carter in Little Lever.

Thus if you feel like a change from the normal pint of Boddingtons there is plenty of choice available if you know where to go, so try out some of these

pubs, you may find something you like. Remember as well that most real ale pubs have a guest beer policy so if you find a beer you really like tell your landlord he may get it in for you, he wants your trade after all.

STOP PRESS. *There will be no Bolton Beer Festival this year, hopefully there will be more information in the next issue of Elephant and Castle.*

*For a Different & Enjoyable Time Out
Come to*

The Great British Beer Festival

**Grand Hall, Olympia, London
2-6th August 1994**

Tue-Thu: 5pm-10.30pm: £3

Wed-Fri 11.30am-3pm: £1

Fri: 5pm-10.30pm: £3.50

Sat 11.30am-10pm: £3



THE JOLLY CARTER

LITTLE LEVER

BODDINGTONS BITTER

MORLANDS OLD SPECKLED HEN

CHESTERS MILD

+ 2 GUEST BEERS

**** FOOD AVAILABLE ****

12 - 2 7 DAYS A WEEK

7 - 9:30 MON. - THUR.

The Commercial Hotel

In his book *The Pubs of Bolton Town Centre 1900 - 1986*, Gordon Readyhough paints an idyllic picture at the turn of the century of that part of Bolton which we now know as the Town Hall Square. At the time it was a rural area with trees and a small stream meandering its way southwards and overlooking this setting was the Commercial Hotel.

The Commercial, built in the 18th century, was quite a substantial inn for the time and its function and meeting rooms gave it a long connection with politics, it being frequently used as political headquarters during the 19th century. The Church and King Club, founded in 1794, met at the pub for 30 years, as did the Waterloo Club after its establishment in 1816. On 1 August 1828 the inn played host to a reception and "cold collation" marking the opening of the Bolton-Leigh Railway attended by the great railway engineer Mr George Stephenson.

Ownership of the Commercial passed from Brandwoods to Magee, Marshall and, on that company's takeover in 1958, to Greenall Whitley.

The events which led up to the pub's closure began on 12 March 1971 when Greenall Whitley announced that the pub was to be sold to a major retailer for development. A spokesman said that although the pub was not unprofitable the site itself was valuable and although Greenall Whitley had turned down previous offers the proceeds would build two or three new estate pubs. (Apart from

the Tansey Green can anybody name any other new pub Greenalls have built in Bolton in the last 20 years?)

A petition was organised and in early June Bolton and District Civil Trust made an appeal to save the pub on the grounds that it was one of the few good period buildings that Bolton Possessed. However Bolton Council's Planning Committee decided that the Commercial was "not of sufficient architectural or historical interest" and approved the redevelopment plans. Following the decision Greenalls announced that the pub would close in September and that the site had been bought by Mothercare. But in July a lifeline was thrown by the Department of the Environment who unexpectedly gave the Commercial listed building status. Anyone now wishing to demolish the pub would require permission from the then secretary for the environment, Mr Peter Walker.

In October Mothercare applied for Listed Building Consent to demolish the Commercial and build a new store on the site. Bolton's Planning Committee referred the matter to the Secretary or state re-stating their view that the building was not of sufficient architectural or historical interest. There were six objectors to Mothercare's plans including the Bolton & District Civic Trust, the North West Civic Trust and the Victorian Society. Mr Walker then had 28 days to intervene. If he did the Commercial would be subject to a local inquiry, if he

failed the pub would be demolished.

Shortly before Christmas came the news that Mr Walker had decided not to intervene, this despite having listed the building less than six months previously. In March 1972 Bolton's Planning Committee re-iterated its earlier decision although it had forced Mothercare to revise its original plans. The planning officer, Mr Robert Ogden stated that although he would be sorry to see the Commercial go the new building would enliven that part of Oxford Road.

On 5 April the Planning Committee's decision was rubber-stamped at a full Council meeting. The leader of the

opposition Labour group, Alderman Harry Lucas, said that the people of Bolton would not forgive or forget the decision calling it "calculated vandalism". The Planning Committee's Chairman, Councillor John Hanscomb, defended the decision saying the problem had got to be considered without "silly, emotive language".

On 22 April 1972 the Commercial Hotel Closed Down. It was demolished the following september and in the summer of 1973 the Mothercare store was erected on the site.

Des Nogalski.

The Student Bit

The big news for beer drinking students at BIHE is the refit of the bar and canteen area planned for the new college year. The college has woken to the fact that the present canteen area has all the charm and atmosphere of a disused aircraft hanger. The student union has been given permission to improve this area.

The SU had two sets of plans drawn up and plan to utilise the best bits of them both. The plans are basically to rebuild the canteen into something more comfortable with better seating and a better area for bands. The present SU offices will also be converted possibly into another food/lounge area. New SU offices will be in Eagle block.

Now the important bit... the bar. Well we could end up with two bars. Plan 1 involves refitting the existing bar and

adding a new one in the canteen area, plan 2 involves closing down the existing bar and just having one large one in the canteen.

I myself prefer plan 2 because the beer quality in the new bar in plan 1 could be affected by the length of the beerlines involved. Plan 2 has a new larger beer store that would prevent this. I have mentioned this at meetings of the student council so we shall have to see what happens.

The real ale society at BIHE is liable to be fairly inactive during the exams and summer break but i hope to see you at next years freshers fair and sign a few of you up.

until then be seeing you

STEVE KERRY.

Independents Month

As most of you are aware July 4th is American Independence day- a cause for celebration. CAMRA however celebrates not just one day but a whole month, yes 31 days. The whole month of July is for CAMRA Independents month, with independent brewers being the cause for celebration.

What, I here you cry are Independent brewers, well in the broadest sense of the word they are those brewers with less than 2,000 tied houses, They can vary in size from the large regional like Vaux to the smallest microbreweries such as Croton and Coach House.

Bolton branch is celebrating this year by again hosting an independents crawl along the pubs of the town centre where you can enjoy a pint of independently brewed ale. This event will take place on

the 28th June, this allowing use to distribute posters and beer mats to the independent pubs before the Month starts.

The pubs being visited are:-

7:30 Lodge Bank Tavern - JW Lees

8:15 Alma Inn - Burtonwood

Maxims - Vaux

Malt and Hops Bar - Burtonwood

Plus Guests

Dog and Partridge - Thwaites

Lord Clyde - Hydes

Founders - Burtonwood

So come on out with us and support the Independent brewers of the country.
PIEMAN



CASK ALE HOUSE

A SUPERB RANGE OF CASK
CONDITIONED BEER'S AND
CIDER'S ALWAYS AVAILABLE

OVER 150 DIFFERENT BEERS SINCE FEBRUARY

THE FLAG INN . THE CASK ALE HOUSE

50 HARDMANS LANE, BROMLEY CROSS BOLTON

TEL 0204 302236

ADAM'S, ARCHERS, ARKELL'S, ASH VINE, BANKS AND TAYLOR, BATEMANS, BELLHAVEN,
BLACK SHEEP, BRITISH OAK, BROUGHTON, BUNCES, BUTTERKNOWLE, CAIN'S, COACH HOUSE
COMMERCIAL, COLEIGH, CROUCH VALE, DENTS, ELDRIDGE POPE, EVERARDS', ELGOOD'S,
EXMOOR, FELINFOEL, FLOWERS, FULLER'S, GIBB'S MEW, GOLDFINCH, GREENE KING, ETC. ETC

CAMRA

Real ale is a traditional, natural beer that has not been pasteurised and carbonated. When CAMRA started in 1971, it seemed as though traditional cask beer would disappear forever. Many of the brewers who made it seemed likely to disappear as well, taking with them centuries of tradition.

Not only has CAMRA saved real ale, but it has seen many new breweries set up to produce it. The 1994 Good Beer Guide lists a staggering 1,000 different real ales now brewed. Traditional beer styles have been revived giving a wider choice of flavours. Brewers have revived cask conditioned porters and stouts, winter ales and barley wines, mild and light bitters. Britain has an impressive brewing heritage which CAMRA wants saved and promoted.

CAMRA'S aim is simple - a wide choice of interesting beers at reasonable prices and a wide choice of traditional pubs in which to drink. It is the only national organisation which exists specifically to speak for the beer drinker and pub user. Except for a small staff at the headquarters in St Albans, CAMRA relies on voluntary effort, and the members' subscriptions to promote and publicise traditional draught beer.

The campaign is piloted nationally by a democratically elected executive, but its network of local branches are its lifeblood.

CAMRA tries to increase public awareness through such means as publications and beer festivals, and seeks to influence the brewing industry itself by making representations to the industries bosses and the nation's legislators.

The campaign is now accepted as one of Britain's foremost consumer and conservation bodies. Its views on a wide range of subjects connected with the brewing industry and the licensed trade are listened to seriously by the industry itself and the government.

It is regularly contacted by the media for its opinions and views on all beer related topics.

CAMRA's growing concern with a wide range of legal and technical issues - with pricing policies, brewing technology, monopolies and mergers, the licensing laws and consumer protection - reflect the huge effort and commitment to dedicated individuals.

The campaign publishes a monthly newspaper - "What's Brewing" which takes a broad and critical look at developments in the world of beers and pubs and keeps members closely informed. The annual Good Beer Guide, listing the best real ale pubs in the country has become a national institution.

Membership of CAMRA, nationally now stands at over 42,000, but CAMRA has to grow in order to meet the challenge of the changing face of the brewing industry and the changes in legislation as we become more involved in the EC.

Most of CAMRA's activities cost money and CAMRA relies on membership for financial support. Your help is needed now. If you do care about your pint and you pubs, join CAMRA.

For details on membership and branch activities please look at the back cover.

Mike Spragg.

Letter to the Editor

Sir

On behalf of the Aberconway and Colwyn Branch of CAMRA may I take this opportunity to thank the following members of the Bolton Branch for their help at the recent Llandudno Beer Festival.

Mike and Judith Spragg, Angus Crompton and the legendary James Fletcher

One minor criticism... next time can somebody supply Angus with a gag and everybody else with ear plugs as he snores louder than the fog horn of the Dover to Calais Ferry. Saying that it just proves that CAMRA members from many branches will travel to beer fests throughout the country to help each other and carry the message about the protection and preservation of pubs and real ale.

Many thanks

Rob (where's my radio) Hullock

(Sec. Aberconway and Colwyn CAMRA)



MALT & HOPS

Real Ale Bar

Top Hat Burtonwood Mild
Weston's Olde Rosie
+ 6 changing Guest Beers
+ Other Traditional Ciders
over 200 different beers to date
come and try something different

Lunchtime Snacks
Available

The Boozers Eye View

Well, since the last Elephant and Castle, the Boozers eye has been roaming around in exotic places like Fleetwood, Oldham, Wigan and sunny Ashton-under-Lynne attending and sometimes working at beer festivals.

So far this year I've come across a few brews that did not make it into this years Good Beer Guide and others that are so new their ABV's aren't known, as was the case at The Station Beer Festival in Ashton.

The brew was called Pennine Ale(wildes, Huddersfield), but unfortunately while I was there this brew was not on, so if any reader has tasted it let us know what you thought. Another brew that's new is Fine Pale Ale (Crouch Vale-ABV 5.9%) and for mild drinkers, Porter Brewing of Haslingdon have a Dark Mild, which is also a vegetarian beer with an ABV of 3.3%.

Meanwhile up in Oldham there was the CAMRA beer Festival while the Beer Emporium held its first beer festival with Simon and John Dyson choosing the beginning of British summertime to launch it.

While in Oldham one took the

opportunity to go to the other end of Union Street and visit the Hogshead Cask Ale House, which boasts 12 cask ales and 8 fruit wines on sale.

The Hogshead is another in the line of similar looking Cask Ale Houses that are Spreading rapidly, But even though once you walk inside you could be in any of them, who's to complain if they get people experiencing the delights of REAL ale.

Finally, over the Mayday weekend the Beer House in Manchester had another of its regular mini beer festivals. The theme for this Beer Festival was the Champion Beers of Britain as featured in the GBG1994. Aswell as all the bar handpumps, they also opened a room upstairs with over 20 more beers, although these were getting a bit warm by Saturday. While there one was advised to try the Plassey, which one did and found it to be a light, refreshing and well hopped bitter.

The Boozers eye's next port of call will be Stockport to get in some practice in for the GBBF at Olympia, so until next time, happy boozing, and watch out the eye may be watching you.

**BOLTON
CAMRA
BRANCH**

Elephant and Castle is published by the Bolton Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the campaign either locally or nationally. Editor :- J.Seddon, 47, Kermoor Ave., Bolton. All items Copyright Camra: may be reproduced if source Acknowledged.

Thanks to all who helped with this delayed issue!

BRANCH DIARY

Sat. 18th June

Social and Crawl in Horwich

12:00 Toll Bar

12:30 Crown

13:30 Bowling Green

14:45 Bridge Inn

14:50 Black Bull

Bus No 575 or 126 from Bolton

Thur 23rd June

Independents Crawl

For Details See Inside

Thur 7 July

Branch Meeting

Derby Arms, Derby St. 8:30 pm

Fri 8th to Sun 10th July

Ashton Canal Festival

Thur 21-23 July

Malt and Hops Beer Festival

Tue 2 - Sat 6 Aug

Great British Beer Festival, London

Thur 11 Aug.

Branch meeting

Lord Clyde, Folds Rd. 8:30pm

Thur 18 Aug.

Branch Barbeque

Sweet Green Tavern 7:30pm

£2 per person, non-members
welcome, Names needed by 11 Aug at
branch meeting

APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

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

Name(s)

Address

.....Postcode.....

SignatureDate

I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership:

	Individual Annual	Joint Annual	Individual Life	Joint Life
UK and EEC	£12 <input type="checkbox"/>	£14 <input type="checkbox"/>	£120 <input type="checkbox"/>	£140 <input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of the World	£16 <input type="checkbox"/>	£18 <input type="checkbox"/>	£160 <input type="checkbox"/>	£180 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student/Unwaged	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>		
Disabled	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>	£70 <input type="checkbox"/>
Retired	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>	£70 <input type="checkbox"/>

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to:

Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd., 34, Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts., AL1 3BW

