

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs as seen by the What's Doing/Bolton Beer Break Contributors 1987

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 1987 Good Beer Guide (£4.95) were

Bolton - Ainsworth Arms, Bobs Smithy, Dog & Partridge, Howcroft, Lodge Bank Tavern, Sunnyside, White Lion.

Bradshaw - Royal Oak

Horwich – Toll Bar

Little Lever – Horseshoe

Westhoughton – Brinsop, Rosehill Tavern

What's Doing January 1987 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1987>



WALKERS GAIN

The Grey Mare on Bolton Road, Westhoughton, has been taken over by Walkers and the former run down pub has been transformed. There's a new central bar, games room, comfortable lounge and handpumped Walkers mild and bitter. The photo shows licensees Michael and Jane Gaffney, who have been at the Grey Mare for about a year. Walkers have six other pubs in the Bolton area - two in Farnworth and four in Bolton.

WALKERS WINTER WARMER

Winter Warmer can be had at the following:
BOLTON: Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road; Stags Head, St Helens Road; Church Inn, Farnworth; Market, Farnworth. **ASTLEY:** Miners Arms.

FARNWORTH FORTUNES

Two Farnworth Tetley pubs have been transformed. The White Hart on Albert Road has been bought by Regal Knight Hotels (who also own the Quill & Pen in Bolton) and it has been enlarged and fitted out quite nicely. Unfortunately it is now all-keg Tetley. Round the corner in King Street, the Saddle has turned pink and is now called Scandals. Handpumped Tetley remains.

The Canary on Plodder Lane was redecorated recently and local press advertising promised a range of cask beers. Unfortunately things don't seem to have changed much; real ale (Chesters bitter and Hartleys) was on sale last month but so was the Whitbread range of fizz. For Whitbread in Farnworth, stick to the Britannia on King Street.

BOLTON NEWS

DES NOGALSKI, BILLY BOLTON

Bolton Metro are to get their way as far as the Topp Way extension scheme is concerned. This means that the Peel on Higher Bridge Street and the Falcon on Kay Street will soon be demolished. The Peel closed well over a year ago, while the Falcon is set to close in the spring.

On the other hand, the pre-Christmas period saw a number of pubs re-open after refurbishments and even a couple of brand new pubs opened. No doubt about the most lavish. The Tavern at Hunger Hill has cost a Manchester firm £800,000 and involved the transformation of a derelict farmhouse into a pub/restaurant. The emphasis is naturally on the food side of the business, although there is handpulled Wilsons bitter on sale (at 82p a pint!).

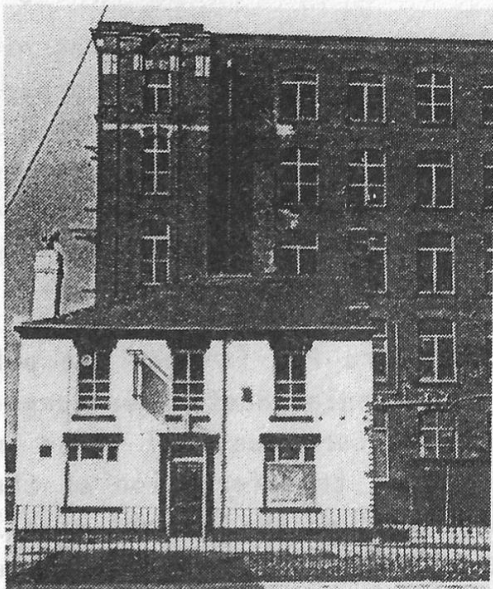
The Golden Lion on Churchgate is now the Bears Paw (a name the pub last had 200 years ago). Chef & Brewer (aka Pennine Host) have turned the place into a posher pub and bouncers now turn away all those in jeans, etc. Pennine Joke's "basic ale house" transformation of the nearby Three Crowns a few years ago, which involved the removal of all the old seating, fireplace, etc, proved to be a dismal failure - the customers left. The old Golden Lion may have been somewhat neglected, but it did have an individuality obviously appreciated by its customers. Will the company's idea of what the customer wants be more successful here? Let's wait and see. The place is now selling real ale (Tetley mild and bitter) for the first time for ages. The former "Berni" restaurant upstairs is still there and jeans and training shoes are acceptable (providing you keep your feet well under the table?)

Across the road, the Man & Scythe has had another coat of paint and this ancient pub still has an emphasis on cider (Castle Eden is also available on handpump). It is now cleaner and brighter than of late, although a new Formica bar top and fluorescent lights hardly enhance the antiquity of the place. Wouldn't it be nice if Whitbread spent a few quid and removed the coats of black paint, took the boxes off the beams and restored the interior woodwork to something like its former glory?

The Benjamin Topp on Bath Street (next to the Duke of Clarence) is a new pub/restaurant. No jeans, trainers, etc, and keg Tetleys at 96p a pint. Just what we needed.

The Gardeners Arms on Valletts Lane is now Arkwright's Ale House. It's a "Victorian-style" refurbishment, but the layout hasn't changed much. Tetley mild and bitter (reasonably priced) remain.

More name changes. The Wheatsheaf on Great Moor Street is now Serendipity's. Greenalls have spent £100,000 on the pub, installing numerous video screens in an attempt to attract more "nice" people. The Tippings Arms on Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, is now Astleys. No real ale at either.



The General Havelock (left) has re-opened after a long period of closure. This free house on Sidney Street has had a fresh coat of paint and some new fittings in a sensible refurbishment. The layout has not been altered, there are no gimmicks, no dress restrictions and no extortionate prices. Boddies bitter, Bass 4X mild and Stones bitter are on handpump.

the front has been retained. Handpumped Tetley mild, bitter and Jennings.

A further indication of the way things are going in the town centre came in an application for a drinks licence at the former Bolton Central Labour Club on St Georges Road. Carlow Catering of Rochdale want to turn the club into a "cabaret showbar" called "Carringtons". Objections from nearby nightclubs and the Salvation Army hostel were overruled and Carlow director Eddie Grindrod stated: "We only want to attract nice people who are willing to pay 40p a pint more for lager." At least he's honest.

BOLTON AMBER NECTAR SHOW

The Bolton branch of CAMRA, in association with Bolton Sports and Exhibition Centre, are to present the Great North-Western Beer Festival at the Sports and Exhibition Centre on Thursday 2nd - Monday 5th April 1987. Over 50 different beers and ciders will be on sale and food and entertainment will be provided at all sessions. The Centre is situated on Silverwell Street, off Bradshawgate, right in the town centre - less than five minutes walk from the railway station.





Bolton Sports and Exhibition Centre



**CAMRA and BOLTON SPORTS
and EXHIBITION CENTRE**
Welcomes you to

THE GREAT NORTH WESTERN BEER FESTIVAL

**to be held on 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th of April, 1987
OVER 50 DIFFERENT REAL ALES AND CIDERS**

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CARD CARRYING 50p
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Six Super Sessions with a different and superb entertainment programme and full Traditional! Food service at all at each session

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**For further information contact Event Organiser and
Centre Manager, Mike Coleman, Bolton Sports and
Exhibition Centre, Silverwell Street, Bolton
Tel. 0204-33122**

AMSTERDAM BAR

Whitbread's Amsterdam Bar on Chorley New Road, Horwich, closed last month and it looks as if they are turning the place back into the Victoria again. Let's hope so.

What's Doing March 1987 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1987>

CHARMING

The latest CAMRA price survey got off to a shaky start in Bolton. The first pub on the list was a Bass house, the Nab Gate in Harwood, and when the licensee was asked for the prices of his beers he told the surveyors to drink up and leave the premises! Just why he took this attitude isn't quite clear because 74p for a pint of cask Stones seems pretty reasonable. It's certainly a strange way to react to a customer's reasonable request!

GREAT NORTH WESTERN BEER FESTIVAL



Crouch Vale Willie Warmer, Marston Moor Brewers Droop and Ringwood Old Thumper are just three of the beers it is hoped to have on sale during the Great North Western Beer Festival at the Bolton Sports Centre, Silverwell Street, Bolton, 2nd - 5th April. There will be around 60 beers from 40 countrywide brewers, including Belhaven, Felinfoel, Ruddles, Federation, Bateman, Palmer, King & Barnes, Wadworths, Brains and Mitchells, to name but a few.

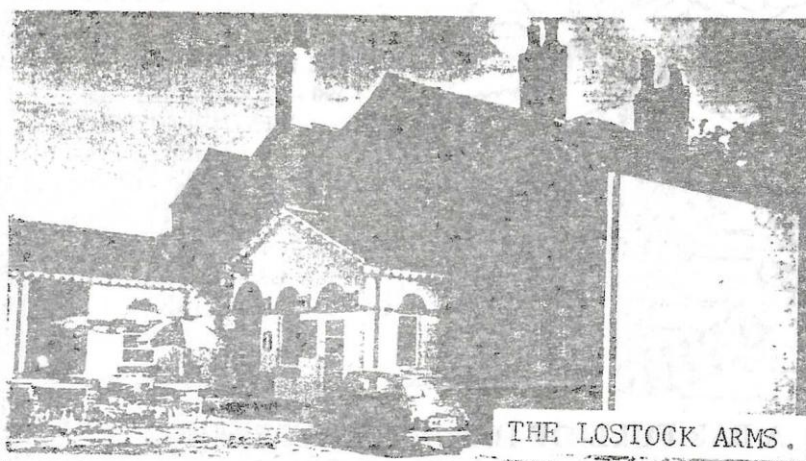
Opening times are: 5.30-11.00pm Thursday 2nd April. 11.00am-3.00pm and 5.30pm-11.00pm Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th April. 12.00 noon - 2.00pm Sunday 5th April (drinking-up session, if required)

Food and entertainment will be provided at all sessions. Entrance to the Beer Festival costs £1.50, which includes a souvenir glass and programme. (CAMRA members 75p) Entrance fee with souvenir glass and programme is 35p.

BOLTON

Tues 10 March 8.30 Branch Meeting, Clifton Arms, Newport Street,
Tues 17 March 8.30 Beer Festival Meeting, George, Great Moor Street
Tues 24 March 8.30 Beer Festival Meeting, York, Newport Street
Wed 1 April All Day. Beer Festival set-up, Bolton Sports Centre,
Silverwell Street
Thurs 2 - Sun 5 April, Great North Western Beer Festival (see article)
Tues 14 April 8.30 Branch Meeting, White Lion, Market St, Westhoughton
Contact Dave Fleming 0204 75111 x207 (w) 0204 389918 (h)

Bolton Beer Break Spring 1987 - <https://bolton.camra.org.uk/bolton-camra-newsletters/1985-1991-bolton-beer-break/>



OUT OF TOWN- LOSTOCK.

Lostock is a small village off the A6, near Westhoughton. It boasts a church, Scout hall, station, a handful of shops and two radically different pubs.

The first, the Duke of Wellington on St John's Road is a large Tetley's house. The outside is decorated in standard Tetley fashion, with white walls and a large 'Huntsman' sign. There is a large car park, which is handy because buses change by once every hour.

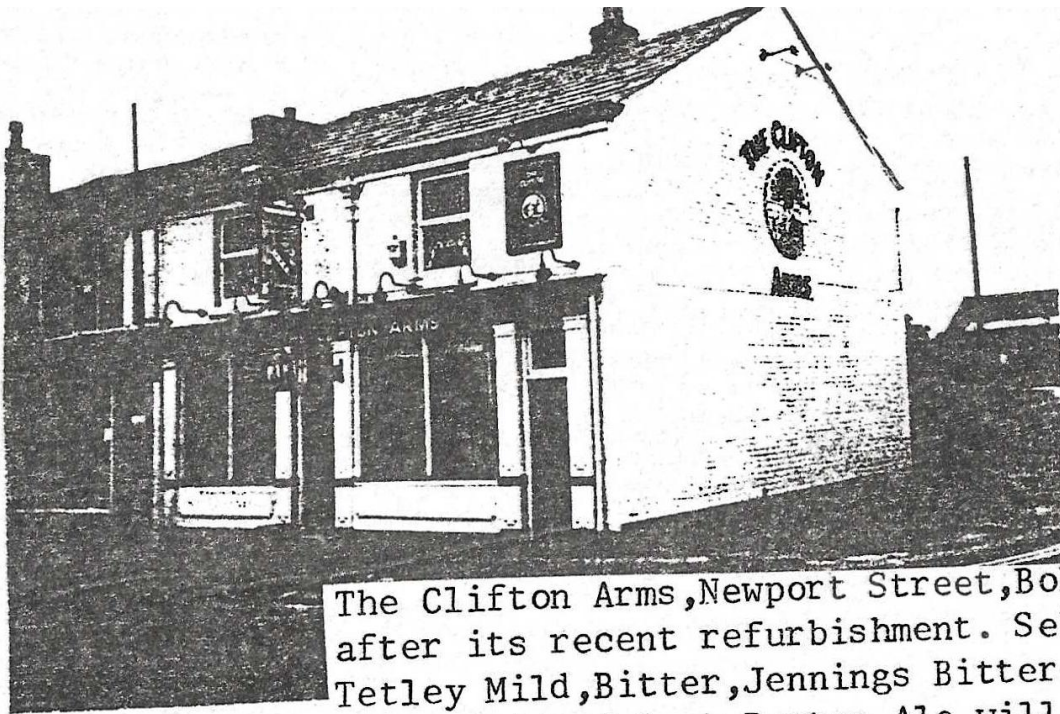
Inside, the pub is divided into four separate rooms. The vault is on the right, with the bar along the far right wall. There are two rooms on the left, however privacy is limited as the walls are only four feet high.

Reaching the bar, there are four handpumps. Two are for Tetley Mild, while the others sport pump clips for Walker's Bitter and Best Bitter, but don't be fooled - they both dispense Best.

The side rooms bear the stamp of Joshua's design team, with china plates, plastic plants and 40's Lifebuoy adverts attempting to provide a traditional image. The atmosphere is quite friendly, and the beer is good.

Further down, in the centre of Lostock is the Lostock Arms. Like the Howcroft, it's easier to see than to reach, as the entrance is down a little side lane. If you wanted to be kind, you would describe it as 'popular with the young'. This is a polite way of saying that it's a disco pub, full of kids. It has obtrusive piped music, video games, and lots of lager adverts. But on the other hand it also doubles as a restaurant, and sells Tetley Mild and Bitter, and Jennings Bitter.

The Jennings had to be taken back, as it hadn't been pulled through and tasted foul. However, the second attempt proved to be rather better. If you like Real Ale with your discos (and Maxims has shown that many people do) then it's not a bad place.



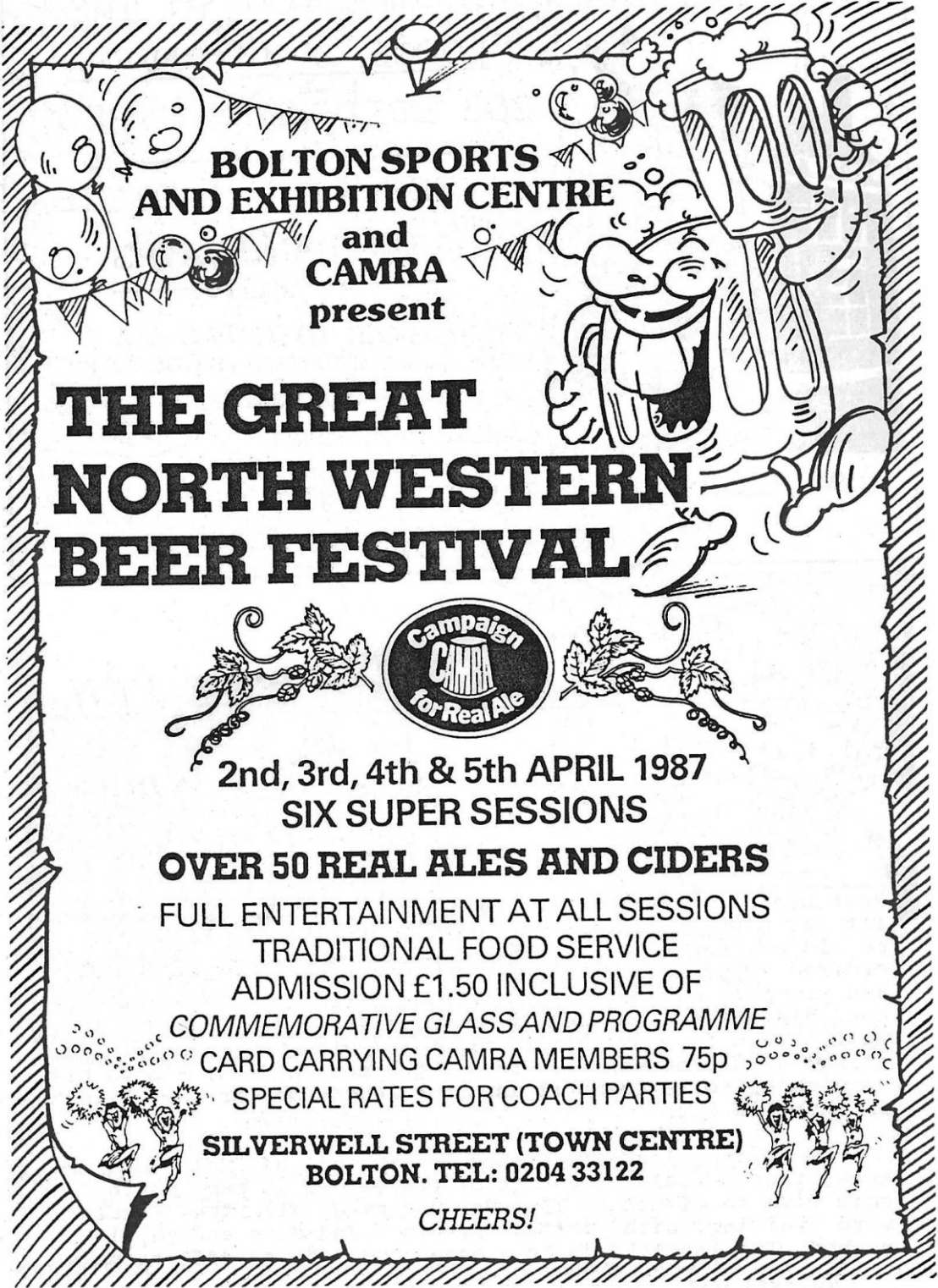
The Clifton Arms, Newport Street, Bolton, after its recent refurbishment. Selling Tetley Mild, Bitter, Jennings Bitter and with a bit of luck Burton Ale will be available soon.

THE GREAT N.W. BEER FESTIVAL.

Bolton's first beer festival in almost four years takes place at Bolton Sports and Exhibition Centre, Silverwell Street in April.

OPENING TIMES.

Day	Date	Lunchtime	Evening
Thursday	2nd April	NO SESSION	6pm to 11pm
Friday	3rd April	11:30am to 4pm	6pm to 11pm
Saturday	4nd April	11:30am to 4pm	6pm to 11pm
Sunday	5nd April	12am to 2pm	NO SESSION



**BOLTON SPORTS
AND EXHIBITION CENTRE**

**and
CAMRA
present**

THE GREAT NORTH WESTERN BEER FESTIVAL



2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th APRIL 1987

SIX SUPER SESSIONS

OVER 50 REAL ALES AND CIDERS

FULL ENTERTAINMENT AT ALL SESSIONS

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CHEERS!

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

There will be some 50 Real Ales and Ciders from over 30 Breweries, including some beers believed never before seen in the North West! Obviously, the list is subject to change should the breweries not be able to supply, but we hope that the final selection won't deviate too much. At the time of going to press, the list included (in no particular order)

Belhaven 80/-
Federation Best
Big Lamp ESB
Franklins Bitter
Bateman's Dark Mild
Archer's Best Bitter
Brains Red Dragon Mild
Felinfoel Double Dragon Hook
King & Barnes Sussex Bitter
Ringwood 49er
Wadworth 6X
Crouch Vale SAS
Devenish Stud
Taylor's Porter
Wem Bitter
Marston's Mercian Mild
Marston's Owd Roger
Moorhouse's Pendle Witch
Goose Eye Old Three Laps
Mitchell's Mild
Mitchell's ESB
Younger's Scotch Bitter
Younger's IPA
Theakston's Old Peculier
Linfit Leadboiler
Linfit Old Eli
Malton Double Chance
Lorimer & Clarke 70/-
Ward's Best Bitter

Belhaven 90/-
Federation Special
Big Lamp Old Genie
Trough Wild Boar
Bateman's XXXB
Archer's Headbanger
Brains S.A.
Norton Best Bitter
Ringwood Best Bitter
Ringwood Old Thumper
Palmer Tally Ho
Crouch Vale Willie Warmer
Taylor's Golden Best
Taylor's Landlord
Marston's Merrie Monk
Marston's Pedigree
Moorhouse's Premier Bitter
Goose Eye Bitter
Goose Eye Pommies Revenge
Mitchell's Bitter
Lees Moonraker
Younger's No. 3
Theakston's XB
Linfit Bitter
Linfit English Guineas
Linfit Enoch's Hammer
Vaux Samson
Darley's Best Bitter

CIDERS.

West Country Medium Sweet
Lane's Dry
Zum Zum Zider Sweet
Symonds's Scrumpy Jack

West Country Extra Dry
Lane's Medium
Zum Zum Zider Medium

FOOD.

Traditional 'Pub' food will be available at all sessions

ENTERTAINMENT.

Farnworth Brass band
The Brasshoppers (Bavarian Style band)
Paddy and the Wild Country
Titanic Disaster Fiddle Band

COST.

Entrance fee is £1.50, including souvenir glass and programme. For card carrying CAMRA members, the fee is 75p. For coach parties of 12 or more, the fee is £1.00. Enthusiasts coming to subsequent sessions will be charged 35p if they bring their glass and programme.

LOCAL PRICE SURVEY.

As part of a National Campaign, the Bolton Branch of 'CAMRA' surveyed twenty pubs during February. The results, while not being spectacular, showed the following:

1. The North West is no longer a haven for cheap beer. With a few exceptions, the price of a pint of bitter now nudges up into the mid 70p area. With a further round of price rises due, it may not be long before we are talking in terms of the average pint costing 80p.

2. There seems no end to what the breweries will charge for lager and the customer, incredibly, seems only too willing to pay. Prices were on average 15p higher than bitter, with 'premium' lagers, such as Loonebrau and Stella Tortoise breaking the pound barrier. Not so long ago, these prices would have been condemned out of hand as those charged only in the 'soft South'. Where will it all end? Price does not seem to be a factor, and the breweries are only too willing to screw the customer to the bar in the name of charging what the 'market will stand'.

3. Price lists, whilst being generally more accessible, are still often written as though they have a secondary use as an opticians eye-test chart. Why don't pubs display their prices outside as do restaurants? What are they scared of? Generally, we have found the landlords we visited most co-operative. The only sour note was at the Nab Gate in Harwood, where we were abruptly asked to leave by mine host. What has he got to hide we ask ourselves!

Best value in town - The Anchor Inn on Bury Old Road, where Higsons Mild and Bitter were selling at 58p and 60p a pint respectively (NB: this was before Boddies slapped on their pre-budget price increase), and the Lodge Bank Tavern, where Lees Mild and Bitter will set you back 69p and 71p. Please give these two excellent locals some of your support and encourage them to keep their prices as they are!

NEWS FROM DEANE.

Tetley have installed handpumps at the Kings Head, Junction Road, Deane. This means that Deane now has two real ale outlets - the other being the Vulcan, also Tetleys. Beware, though, of the Stags Head, which misleadingly sells keg Burtonwood beers through fake handpumps.

GUEST BEERS IN BOLTON.

Maxim's is the only Town Centre pub which regularly sells guest beers. In addition to his normal range of Vaux beers, landlord and fellow CAMRA member Ron has recently had on offer several excellent ales, including beer of the year Bateman's XXXB, and most recently Smiles' Best Bitter. Over the next few weeks, Ron intends to serve several beers not normally seen in Bolton, including:

Exmoor Ale (1039)	- Golden Hill, Somerset
HOB Bitter (1039)	- Hoskins & Oldfield, Leicester
Pitfield Bitter (1038)	- Pitfield Brewery, London
Oak Best Bitter (1040)	- Oak Brewery, Cheshire
Premier Bitter (1036)	- Moorhouse's, Burnley
Tawny Bitter (1040)	- Cotleigh, Somerset
Traditional Bitter (1040)	- Samuel Powell, Powys

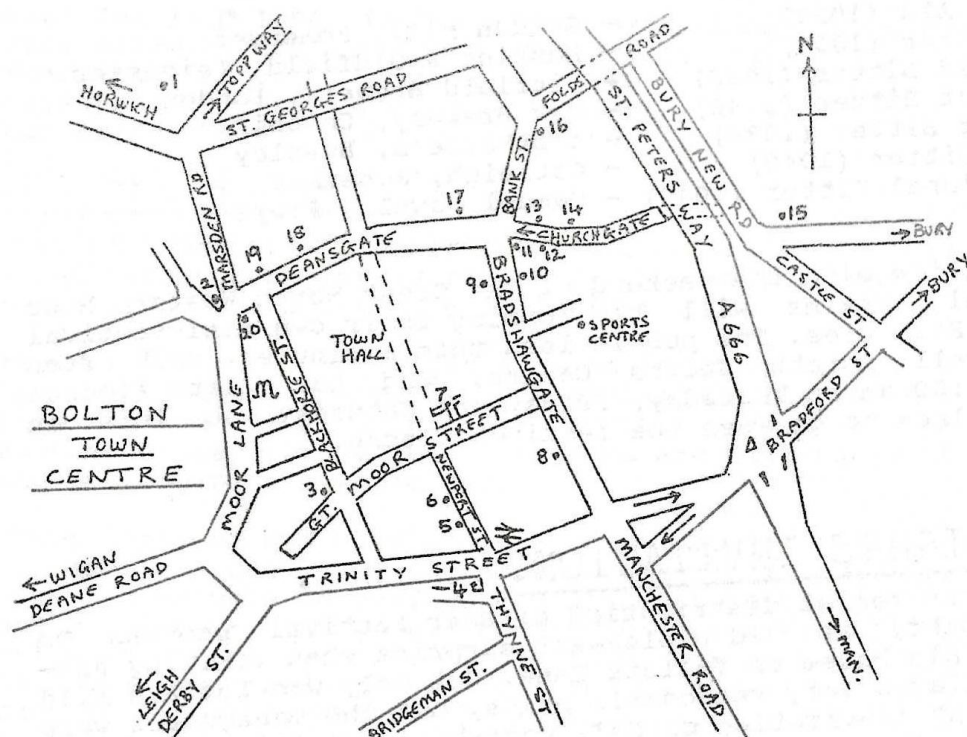
To coincide with the weekend of the Great North Western Beer Festival, Maxims will be running their own mini-festival with 5 Real Ales. The pub is less than a minutes walk from Silverwell Street Sports Centre, and has a late licence until 1:00 am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, so it's an ideal place to go when the festival closes.

ARKWRIGHTS INVITATION.

During the recent distribution of Beer Festival posters to local pubs, we had a pleasant surprise when visiting Arkwrights Ale House on Vallets Lane. Not only was Tetleys Mild on form at a very reasonable price, but the management were giving out 'invitation cards', whereby on visiting the Ale House between Monday and Thursday and buying a drink, the managers will then buy you the same drink in return. Lets hope the idea catches on.

BOLTON TOWN CENTRE CRAWL.

Many people will be reading this issue of BBB at the Beer Festival and hence, may be unfamiliar with some of the town's pubs. So, we've decided to get together a crawl featuring 20 of the town centre's Real Ale pubs, just in case you get itchy feet during the festival. The map should be self-explanatory, so there are no detailed directions between pubs. All beers are hand drawn, unless noted. Pubs marked (GBG) can be found in the 1987 Good Beer Guide.



1. Howcroft, Pool Street. Walkers Mild, Best Bitter. (GBG)
Situating on the outskirts of the town centre off the Topp Way by-pass. Access is gained via Vernon Street around the back. Once there, you'll realise that it was worth the effort. Winner of a CAMRA pub preservation award in 1985, and deservedly popular. There is a bowling green and ample outdoor drinking space.

2. Winstons, Deansgate. Boddingtons Bitter, Stones Bitter.
Formerly a Tetley pub named the Gipsy's Tent, and once a popular meeting place for CAMRA's Bolton branch. The pub was sold into the free trade a couple of years ago and has been re-furbished in a slightly up-market manner.

3. The George, Great Moor St. Wilson's Bitter.
Once known as the George Inn And Railway Hotel due to its proximity to the old Great Moor Street railway station. Quite a large pub, with a sense of character. The bitter is dispensed by an electric pump - the 'traditionally brewed' Mild is keg.

4. Sweet Green Tavern, Crook St. Tetley Mild, Bitter.
A small 3-roomed pub with a recently constructed outdoor drinking area.

5. York Hotel, Newport St. Burtonwood Mild, Bitter, JBA (GBG)

Once a basic town centre local now transformed into a smart lounge pub without affecting it's character. The York is the only pub in Bolton to have appeared in all 14 editions of the Good Beer Guide.

6. Clifton Arms, Newport St. Jennings Bitter, Tetley Mild, Bitter

Less than 100 yards from the York, and another recent refurbishment. Again, very smart without being too up-market. Quiz nights on Wednesdays are particularly popular.

7. Ancient Shepherd, Bold St. Thwaites Mild, Bitter

Just off the town centre precinct. Very basic, but definitely has it's characters.

8. Alma Inn, Bradshawgate. Burtonwood Mild, Bitter

Bought from Greenalls in 1980, and tastefully refurbished. A couple of years ago, the brewery bought the shop next door and extended the pub into it, installing an early 20th Century range discovered in the pub's attic.

9. Maxims, Bradshawgate. Darleys Bitter, Vaux Samson, plus guest beers

Soon to undergo extensive renovations. When re-opened, Maxims will have up to 8 real ales in an enterprising guest beer policy which other breweries would do well to copy. The initial range is expected to add Lorimer & Clark 70/-, and bitters from Ward's (Sheffield), Smiles (Bristol) and Everards (Burton). Maxims also has an extended license, which means that they can serve until midnight on Monday to Wednesday, and 1:00 am on Thursday to Saturday.

10. Prince William, Bradshawgate. Boddingtons Mild, Bitter
Boddies' only town centre tied house. Very popular at weekends, outdoor drinking area in summer.

11. Swan Hotel, Bradshawgate. Burtonwood Mild, JBA.

Real ale in the 'buttery bar' only. This large hotel dates back to 1845, and is a listed building. Serves the premium bitter JBA instead of the normal bitter.

12. Man and Scythe, Churchgate. Whitbread Castle Eden, Bulmers Cider

The oldest pub in Bolton, dating back to 1251 although the current building is about 350 years old. Popular with 'Heavy Metal' aficionados, but definitely a cider drinkers pub.

13. Bear's Paw, Churchgate. Tetley Mild, Bitter

Known as the Golden Lion from 1806 to 1986 (and consequently nicknamed the Brass Cat) Returned to traditional beer after a recent refurbishment. Serves Tetley ale, despite the fact that it is a 'Chef & Brewer' house. (ie Watney / Wilson / Websters)

14. Boars Head, Churchgate. Greenall Whitley Mild, Bitter, Original

A small but very pleasant pub in the shadow of Bolton Parish Church.

15. Anchor, Eagle St, off Bury Old Road. Boddingtons Mild, Bitter, Higsons Mild, Bitter.

An ex-Greenalls pub, renowned for cheap but good beer. Unique in Bolton for having it's own fish and chip shop.

16. Dog & Partridge, Manor St. Thwaites Mild, Bitter (GBG)
Friendly, basic, town centre local. Bass owned it until 1978, when it was sold to Thwaites. It still has the 'Cornbrook Ales' windows.

17. Old 3 Crowns, Deansgate. Wilsons Bitter, Websters

Yorkshire Bitter, Choice

Renovated in a somewhat controversial style two years ago, but slowly getting back to its former self.

18. Blue Boar, Deansgate. Boddingtons Bitter, Whitbread Castle Eden

Yet another recent refurbishment, but for Whitbread it's not a bad job. Victorian style, polished floorboards, etc. Quite pleasant though.

19. Greyhound, Deansgate. Draught Bass

A basic town centre local. God, I'm getting sick of that phrase. A recent conversion to cask beer.

20. White Lion, Deansgate. Wilsons Bitter. (GBG)

Plush without being posh. Popular with lunchtime diners. Be warned, though - like all the other town centre Wilson's houses, the Mild is now keg. (Webster's Yorkshire Conspiracy?)

What's Doing April 1987 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1987>

BOLTON NOTES

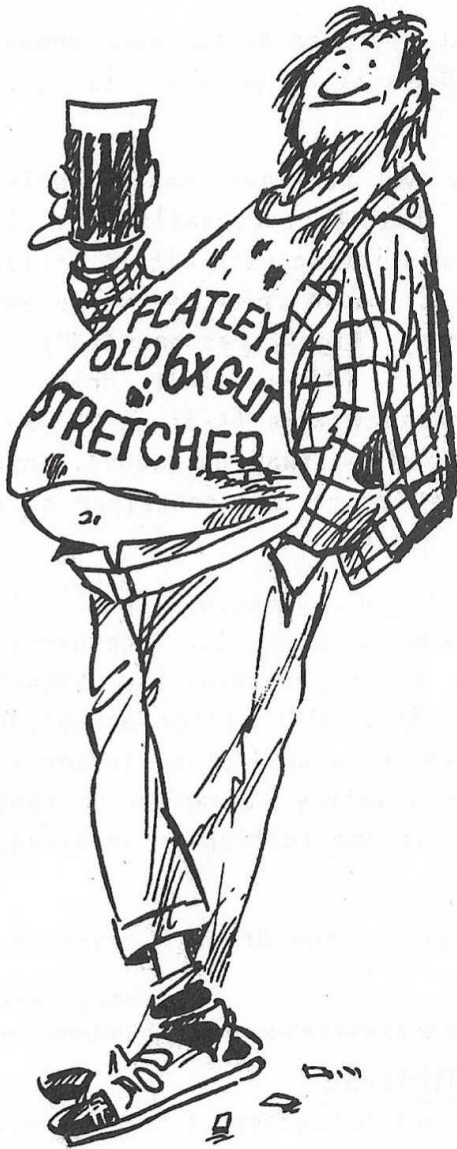
The Kings Head, Junction Road, is now serving Tetley mild and bitter through handpumps. Another Tetley real ale gain is the Victoria on Market Street, Farnworth, whose handpumps arrived during March.

The Brinsop Arms, Chorley Road, Westhoughton, now has Hydes dark mild and bitter on sale. Recent guest beers included Taylors Ram Tam and Lees bitter.

Maxims on Bradshawgate, Bolton, should by now have begun its lengthy period of closure for yet another refurbishment. Recent guest beers at this Vaux pub have included Smiles bitter, Batemans XXXB and Burtonwood JBA. On reopening, the range should include Vaux Samson, Darleys Thorne best bitter, Wards bitter, Everards and Smiles.

GREAT NORTH WESTERN BEER FESTIVAL

Bolton's first beer festival in almost four years takes place on 2-5th April at the Bolton Sports and Exhibition Centre, Silverwell Street. The Great North Western Beer Festival opens at 6.00pm on Thursday 2nd April, with sessions on Friday and Saturday (11.30am-4.00pm, 6.00pm-11.00pm). If there is any beer left, there will be a "drinking-up" session on Sunday afternoon (12.00noon-2.00pm).



Over 50 real ales and ciders will be on sale from 30+ breweries. It is hoped that the following will be on sale...

Belhaven 80/- and 90/-, Vaux Samson, Darley Best Bitter, Wards Bitter, Lorimer & Clark 70/-, Federation Best and Special (believed to be making their North West debut), Malton Double Chance, Franklins Bitter, Big Lamp ESB and Old Genie, Trough Wild Boar Bitter, Bateman Dark Mild and XXXB, Archers Best Bitter and Headbanger, Brains Red Dragon mild and SA, Felin-foel Double Dragon, Hook Norton Best Bitter, King & Barnes Sussex Bitter, Ringwood Best Bitter, 49-er and Old Thumper, Wadworth 6X, Palmer Tally Ho, Crouch Vale SAS and Willie Warmer, Devenish Stud, Taylors Golden Best, Porter and Landlord, Wem Bitter, Marstons Merrie Monk, Mercian Mild, Pedigree and Owd Roger, Moorhouses Premium Bitter and Pendle Witch, Goose Eye Bitter, Old Three Laps, Pommies Revenge, Mitchells Mild, Bitter and ESB, Lees Moonraker, Youngers Scotch Bitter, No.3 and IPA, Theakstons XB and Old Peculier, Linfit Bitter, Lead-boiler, English Guineas, Old Eli and Enochs Hammer.

For cider drinkers we hope to have Symonds Scrumpy Jack, West Country Medium Sweet and Extra Dry, Lanes Dry and Medium and Zum Zum Zider Sweet and Medium.

What's Doing May 1987 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1987>

No Bolton related content

What's Doing June 1987 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1987>

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

The Anchor Inn, Union Buildings, off Bradshawgate, Bolton, has reopened after rebuilding. Bass have done a good job in extending the building and incorporating the tiny lounge into the rest of the pub. The semi-circular bar has been replaced by a straight bar along one side and real ale has returned in the form of Bass 4X mild and draught Bass. It's well worth a visit.

* * * * *

Marstons Pedigree is back on sale in Bolton. Whitbread's Blue Boar on Deansgate is selling the beer alongside Boddingtons bitter (Castle Eden has gone). So the pub now sells two cask beers from outside the Whitbread empire, together with a range of keg Whitbread products.

* * * * *

Maxims on Bradshawgate is still awaiting its massive refurbishment. The pub was due to be gutted earlier this year, at an estimated cost of £400,000, and turned into a Victorian-style "Vaux free house" serving eight cask beers, four of which would be from outside the Vaux group.

Meanwhile the guest beer policy continues at Maxims, where the new Vaux bitter is now on sale. Recent attractions have included beers from Moorhouses, Oak, Mitchells, Malton and Butcombe, and forthcoming guest beers include Woods Parish Bitter from Shropshire and Strathalbyn Original from Glasgow. The beers are supplied through the Legendary Yorkshire Heroes wholesalers and the "guest beer" scheme has now been introduced in about twenty Camerons pubs in the North East.

Such a scheme brings a much greater choice to a town like Bolton, where about half the pubs are owned by either Tetleys or Greenalls, and where practically all "free houses" are tied to just one or possibly two brewers, with no chance of a guest beer from outside. The only exception to this appears to be the Brinsop Arms on Chorley Road (A6), Westhoughton. (Hydes dark mild and bitter recently joined the range here.)

BOLTON

Sat 30 May. Trip to Vintage Car and Steam Traction Rally at Hark to Bounty, Slaidburn, near Clitheroe.

Sun 7 June. Social, 12 noon Bridge Inn, Wigan Rd, Westhoughton:
1.00pm Hart Common (Theakstons)

Tues 9 June 8.30pm Branch Meeting, Maxims (Vaux & guest),
Bradshawgate, Bolton

Wed 17 June Joint Social with East Lancs branch. Strawbury
Duck, Entwistle. 1925 train from Bolton; 2236 return train from
Entwistle.

Sun 21 June, 12 noon. Social, Brinsop Arms, Westhoughton

Contact Dave Fleming, Farnworth 75111 x207 (w)

Bolton 389918 (h)

What's Doing July 1987 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1987>

BOLTON

Tues 14 July 8.30pm Branch Meeting, Cattle Market, Nelson
Street, Bolton

Sun 19 July, 12 noon, Social, Craven Heifer, Blackburn Rd

Sun 26 July, 12 noon, Social, Pack Horse, Watling Street,
Affetside.

Sun 9 Aug, Bowling Competition (phone for details)

Contact: Dave Fleming Farnworth 75111 x207 (w)

Bolton 389918 (h)

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

CAMRA members in the Bolton area have been surveying some of the keg Tetley, Greenalls and Whitbread pubs to see whether any of these brewers have had a major change of heart. Apparently not, although the Farmers Arms on Derby Street, Bolton, recently started selling Chesters bitter. One handpump has been installed in the lounge and early reports suggest that sales aren't too good.

The Lever Arms at Darcy Lever is now selling handpumped Castle Eden and Trophy. The Derby at the bottom of Derby Street, Bolton, will soon be withdrawing Castle Eden for the summer - the only people who drink it are students from the nearby Institute of Higher Education.

The Derby Arms on Halliwell Road, once targetted as a Peter Walker house, is still looking run down and still sells keg Tetleys. Further up, John Smith's bitter has yet to appear in cask form at their only Bolton pub, the Belle Vue. The pub's interior, while not offensive, looks like a design from the 1960s or 1970s, with period keg beer to match.

Followers of the Bolton Fun Pub scene will be sad to hear of the departure of the management of Rosie o'Grady's Good Time Emporium (ex- Loose Goose, Amigos, Dog & Pheasant) in West-houghton. They have moved to Bananas in Farnworth, which now rejoices under the title of "Rosie Goes Bananas". Not very long ago this was a real ale pub called the Golden Lion. Admittedly a facelift was needed - but not of this nature! The last incumbent of Bananas left under unfortunate circumstances after a group of Little Hulton pub wreckers chose Bananas as their Pub of the Month and proceeded to cause £4,000 worth of damage. Similar organised violence took place at the Crown in Horwich recently, while Bolton town centre is increasingly becoming a rather unsafe place to drink.

Farewell to a couple of local licensees this month. Bob and Kath Bailey will shortly be departing from the GBG-listed Dog & Partridge on Manor Street for the Masons Arms on Sion Street, Redcliffe. Keith and Pauline Nicholson have left the Alma on Bradshawgate. Our best wishes to them all.

The Bowling Green on Bury Road holds its annual Beer Festival from 15th - 31st August. Around 20 real ales will be on sale over the period and we hope to have more details next month.

Finally, the Great Maxims Refurbishment now looks set for September, when the pub will close for three weeks.

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

The Bowling Green on Bury Road, Bolton, stages its third annual Beer Festival this month. The festival will be held in a tent in the pub's large garden and licensee Richard James hopes to have around 20 real ales (including Taylors, Theakstons, Lees, Clarks and Ruddles) on sale over a two week period.

The festival starts on Saturday 15th August and runs through to Bank Holiday Monday 31st August, with an all-day session on Saturday 29th. There will also be a barbecue, stalls and kiddies' playground.

The Bowling Green has the distinction of being one of a dwindling number of pubs serving cask conditioned Wilsons mild. Almost every other Wilsons house in Bolton dropped cask mild in favour of the keg version when the brewery closed, giving poor sales as the reason.

* * * * *

The Royal Oak on Bradshaw Brow is one of six Greenalls pubs now selling Davenports bitter, as the brewery gets in on the guest beer act. The pub has just been completely revamped and Greenalls have replaced the handpumps with electric pumps operated by fake handpumps.

Greenalls have given us another meaning of the word "traditional" in an advertisement for the Spread Eagle at Bromley Cross. Apparently this pub, with "a reputation for its fine ales", serves "Greenalls traditional keg beers"!

* * * * *

The Bolton branch of CAMRA hope to stage a Bowling Competition at the Howcroft Inn, off Vernon Street, Bolton, on Sunday 9th August. All CAMRA members are welcome but are advised to phone the branch contact beforehand (see Diary).

Rochdale firm Carlow Catering have secured a pub in Bolton at the third attempt. They are to take over the White Hart on Deane Road from Tetleys and turn it into a "cabaret showbar", presumably still selling keg Tetleys. If previous attempts at acquiring licensed premises in Bolton are anything to go by, the "showbar" will be called "Carringtons".

Last year Carlow attempted to buy a supermarket on Churchgate with the intention of turning part of it into an all-day coffee/wine bar named "Colbys" and the rest into a nightclub named "Carringtons". Local pubs and traders objected and eventually the premises were sold to Kwik Save. Their second attempt came shortly afterwards when Bolton Central Labour Club went bust and Carlow tried to buy the premises to turn them into a "cabaret showbar" named "Carringtons". At the hearing for

the club's drinks licence application Carlow director Eddie Grindrod came out with the quote of the year. He stated that Carringtons would only serve "nice people who don't mind paying 40p more for a pint of lager". The application failed.

BASS IN BOLTON

With a change of licensee a month or two ago (Eddie, formerly of Winstons), Churchills on Manchester Road is once again selling draught Bass. The handpumped 4X mild is also back alongside the Boddies bitter and cask Stones may well replace the fizzy stuff soon. All the traditional beers are well looked after and the pub is worth a try.

Summer 1987

Bolton Beer Break

FREE!



New Look for the Royal Oak

Big changes have taken place at the Royal Oak on Tonge Moor Road. Greenalls have completely gutted the pub and rebuilt the interior. Gone are the wooden panels, heraldic devices and the dreadful strip lights. The new look Royal Oak has a pseudo rustic look to it, with rough oak beams, bare brick walls, fake roofs, stained glass windows, mirrors on the ceiling(!) and a fireplace that looks like it had been built after a hard night on the Local Bitter.

The outside of the pub has changed slightly, with unnecessary red canopies replacing the old, (and equally unnecessary) green ones. There is a new inn sign with its own little roof (aah). However, it is good to see that the small car park, the bowling green and the beer garden have been retained.



The Royal Oak serves Greenall's Mild and Local Bitter, and is one of the few pubs in the area selected to sell Davenports Bitter. Brewed in Birmingham, this is the most recent of Greenall's brewery acquisitions, being bought out last year, after CAMRA helped fight off an unwanted bid from the Wolverhampton and Dudley breweries (Banks and Hansons).

Clifton Centenary

Congratulations are due to the Clifton Arms on Newport Street, which celebrated its centenary in April. To salute the occasion, potato hash was on sale for 3/11d (20p to you) and anyone bringing in an 1887 penny could buy a pint with it! The bar staff all dressed in victorian style costumes.

Tramways Hotel

Rumour and uncertainty surrounds the future of the Tramways Hotel on Blackburn Road, Bolton. Rumours have been circulating for some time that Greenalls are planning to off-load the pub, but unlike other recent disposals like the Peel on Higher Bridge Street (see article this issue), and the Black Dog on Halliwell Road ('For Sale' signs removed, but no signs of life) it was to be sold as a pub, probably due to its size which really prevents its use as anything else. Interested parties are said to have been Holts, and Midland brewers Banks. Both companies are interested in gaining a foothold in Bolton, both are heavily committed to Real Ale, and either would be a welcome addition to an area with a very limited choice for Real Ale drinkers.

Peel - The Bitter End

The Peel on Higher Bridge Street is no more. The former Good Beer Guide listed pub was recently demolished to make way for the Topp Way extension, and the Falcon on Kay Street is expected to follow soon.

The only good thing that could come out of this is the possibility that Holts could have purchased the licence to the Peel. Nothing is certain as yet, but this would give Holts the opportunity to build a pub in Bolton and transfer the license to that pub. Interesting.

Branch Diary

Sunday 26th July	12:00 Noon	Social at the Pack Horse, Affetside.
Sunday 9th August	TBA	Bowls Contest - Phone for details
Tuesday 11th August	8:30 PM	Branch Meeting at the Lodge Bank Tavern.
Sunday 16th August	12:00 Noon	Social at the Bowling Green, Bury Road
Tuesday 8th September	8:30 PM	Branch Meeting at the York, Newport Street

Bowling Green Beer Festival

The Bowling Green on Bury Road is holding its annual Beer Festival between Saturday 15th of August and Bank Holiday Monday, August 31st.

There will be 20 beers on sale over the fortnight. These are expected to include Ruddles, Taylors, Lees, Theakstons and Clarks. The festival will, as usual, be held in a marquee in the beer garden.

Judging by the success the festival has had in the past, this will be a most enjoyable event. Bolton branch will be holding a social at the beer festival on Sunday 16th at 12:00. We would like to extend a special invitation to all our new members who have never attended our meetings. Why not come along and introduce yourselves!

The Great North Western Beer Festival

The Great North Western Beer Festival took place in Bolton at the beginning of April. It was such a success that we shall certainly be doing another one next year at Bolton Sports Centre. Over 1800 gallons of beer and 100 gallons of cider were drunk by over 4000 people at the festival, and we hope to have an even bigger range next year.

Many of the 4,000 enthusiasts came from out of town, and we had drinkers from Edinburgh, London, Sussex, York, Hampshire and even a gentleman who came all the way from St. Austell.

The 'Best Beer' award, judged by a highly skilled and selective committee, was shared by Moorhouse's Premier Bitter from Burnley, and Wadworth 6X from Wiltshire. Next year, the award will be voted by members of the public.

But the festival would not have been such a success without the invaluable help of Mike Coleman, the manager of Bolton Sports Centre, and Ron Lambton, landlord of Maxim's on Bradshawgate, and their staff.

In recognition of their help, chairman Des Nogalski presented them each with CAMRA mirrors. The presentation took place at the branch meeting held at Maxim's on Tuesday June 16th.

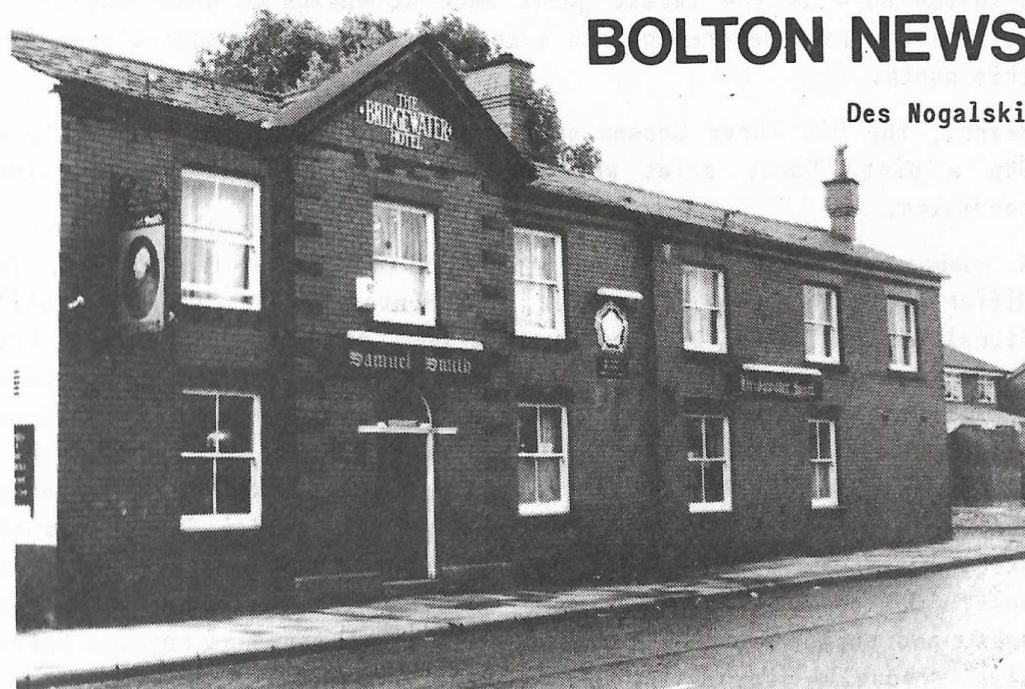
Eager drinkers may not have to wait so long for the next Beer Festival in Bolton. CAMRA are examining the possibility of a Northern counterpart to the Great British Beer Festival, which is being held in Brighton in August. Possible sites for the new festival are being examined, but the front runners appear to be Bolton or Newcastle Upon Tyne. Watch This Space....

Few of Bolton's town centre pubs cater for drinking outside - indeed some of them actively discourage it. The Cattle Market Hotel and the Sweet Green Tavern both have chairs and tables outside, though in both cases the view is hardly stunning. The Howcroft has a garden at the rear, where you can watch the play on one of Bolton's all too few bowling greens. The dreadful, uncomfortable yellow plastic seats have recently been replaced by slightly less dreadful white plastic chairs.

Getting out from the centre, the Bowling Green on Bury Road and the Sunnyside Hotel on Adelaide Street also have beer gardens and crown bowling greens.

But for the real pleasure of a pint with a view, the drinker must get out and into the surrounding countryside. The Black Dog at Belmont is an excellent Holts house in a beautiful area, whereas the Pack Horse at Affetside, a Hydes house, commands a panoramic view of Bolton. Both pubs have ample parking space, which is essential as they are far too distant for anyone other than the most seasoned walker.

Finally, for the non-driver, the Strawberry Duck free house at Entwistle has an extensive beer garden, and is easily reached by train. But don't miss the last train back - it's a VERY long walk!



If any proof is needed of the threat to real ale from lager, one need look no further than the Bridgewater Arms on Buckley Lane, Farnworth. This former GBG pub once served one of the best pints of beer in the area, but lately lager sales have been so buoyant that not enough of the Sam Smiths OBB has been sold to justify its continuation in cask form. Out have gone the handpumps and casks and in come bar mountings and kegs, much to the dismay of the local CAMRA branch, which has included the pub in the 1988 Good Beer Guide.

Whitbread's southern-based "Traditional Beer Club" has been extended northwards with the result that "guest" Whitbread beers from outside the North West trading area are now available. This move coincided nicely with the reopening of the Farmers Arms in Darcy Lever after a refurbishment. Pompey Royal is now sold alongside Hartleys XB and Chesters mild and bitter. But southern beers mean southern prices, and at 95p a pint Pompey Royal doesn't come cheap! The same beer has also been spotted at the Jolly Carter on Church Street, Little Lever.

Another Whitbread pub with four real ales is the Britannia Inn, King Street, Farnworth. Cask Chesters mild is the latest addition to a range comprising Chesters bitter, Trophy bitter and Castle Eden. Not very long ago Whitbread pubs were no-go areas in Bolton; nowadays there is probably a better chance of finding cask beer in a Whitbread pub in Bolton than in a Tetley or Greenalls pub.

Belhaven 80/- is the latest guest beer at Maxims on Bradshawgate. It will be the last before the pub's long-awaited refurbishment some time this month.

Nearby, the Old Three Crowns on Deansgate now sells Ruddles County at 98p a pint. Early sales were good and the beer was in excellent condition.

A number of local licensees are about to leave their pubs, for different reasons. On Deane Road, Jim Hunter retires from Greenall's Gibraltar Rock after 19 years in the pub, and not very far away Fred Croft has retired from Boddingtons' Gilnow Arms after 25 years. But on Churchgate Phil and Cheryl Chadwick will soon be leaving the Boars Head following Greenall's annual pub review, which has resulted in a change of the pub's status from a managed house to a tenancy. Similarly affected are the Bowling Green on Eskrick Street and the (keg) Cotton Tree, Prince Street. All three are said to be losing money. Obviously some doubt must be cast over the future for these pubs, and unless new landlords can turn them around we may see Greenalls' gradually diminishing Bolton estate shrink even further.

Finally, a pub closure. Ziggi's Fun Pub on Chorley Old Road is no more. After just two years, owners Dicconson's, the bottlers, have had enough and Ziggi's somewhat chequered career is over - much to the delight, no doubt, of nearby residents who often complained of late night rowdiness and finding the remains of somebody's night out on their doorstep in the morning.

ANOTHER PUB FOR SALE?

Rumour has it that Tetleys are looking for someone to take the Sweet Green Tavern, Bolton, off their hands. It's a nice pub and it will be a shame if one of the area's "total entertainment experience" companies gets its hands on the place.

BOLTON

Tues 8 Sept 8.30. Branch Meeting, York Hotel, Newport Street

Sun 13 Sept 12 noon. Social, Horse & Jockey, Edenfield

Sun 27 Sept, Social, 12 noon, Canary, Glynne Street, Farnworth. 1pm Church Inn, George Street, New Bury

Sun 4 Oct Beer & Steam on the East Lancs Railway. Catch 12.00 train from Bolton Street Station, Bury, for Ramsbottom

Tues 13 Oct, 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, White Lion, Westhoughton.

Fri 16th Oct (provisional) Sponsored Pub Crawl of Bolton Town Centre in aid of Cancer Research. More details next month.

Contact Dave Fleming, Farnworth 75111 x207 (w), Bolton 389918 (h)



BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

Whitbread's recent good record on refurbishments in the Bolton area (WD September) receives its stiffest test shortly when the town's oldest and most historic pub receives a refit. Rumour has it that the Man & Scythe on Churchgate is going "upmarket", which means that it may be about to join the growing list of so-called "public" houses that deny access to those deemed unsuitably dressed (no jeans and trainers). There are also doubts about the continuation in traditional form of the Bulmers cider - for many, many years the pub's most popular drink. Whitbread claim that cider will still be served - but they aren't saying in which form - and that no-one will be banned. We shall see.

Next door, Burtonwood have applied for planning permission to turn part of the Swan Hotel into two retail units. Presumably this is the little-used Malt & Hops bar rather than the Buttery Bar (real ale: dark mild and JBA) or the dreadful Swannies Bar (horrible beer, horrible decor, horrible music).

More licensed premises for sale, following the recent demise of Ziggi's Fun Pub, are the Dance Factory nightclub on Bradshawgate and the Space City amusement arcade/rock disco.

Greenalls' Tramways Hotel on Blackburn Road may soon find itself serving beer from another brewery not far from Warrington, and another outlet for Whitbread's "Traditional Beer Club" is the Bridge Inn, Wigan Road, Westhoughton. Pompey Royal was recently spotted here.

BOLTON

Tues 13 Oct 8.30 White Lion (Holts), Market Street, Westhoughton
Fri 16 Oct 16-pub crawl of Bolton town centre in aid of Cancer Research. Start 7.30
Boars Head, Churchgate. Phone contact if you wish to participate.
Wed 21 Oct 8pm. Students' Social, Bolton Institute of Higher Education
Sun 25 Oct Radcliffe Survey (1) Meet Royal Oak, Water Street, 12 noon
Sun 1 Nov Radcliffe Survey (2). Meet Railway, Ainsworth Road, 12 noon
Tues 10 Nov 8.30pm AGM, York, Newport Street
Contact Dave Fleming, Farnworth 75111 x207 (w), Bolton 389918 (h)

What's Doing November 1987 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1987>

No Bolton related content

What's Doing December 1987 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/#1987>

WALKERS Winter Warmer is now on sale in the following:

Stags Head, St Helens Road, Bolton
Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road, Bolton
Church Inn, George Street, New Bury

Market, Brackley Street, Farnworth

There are now three Tetley pubs in the Bolton area serving Jennings bitter. The Windmill, Manchester Road (A6), Westhoughton, joins the Clifton Arms, Newport Street, and the Lostock Arms, Lostock.

One of the many Tetley pubs to have flirted briefly with Jennings is the King William IV on Manchester Road, Bolton. This has just become the third Regal Knight Hotels pub and, like the others, a Tetley product tie has been retained. We can expect a refurbishment and a

price rise. Only one of the RKH pubs sells real ale – the Quill & Pen on Great Moor Street sells Walkers Best Bitter at 85p a pint.

The Falcon Inn on Kay Street is now a pile of rubble, the victim of the proposed Topp Way extension. Like its ex-neighbour and fellow pile of rubble, the Peel, the Falcon once featured in the Good Beer Guide.

BODDIES IN THE CLUBS

Boddingtons beers have been sighted in two new club outlets recently – the Bantry Club on Derby Street in Bolton and New Cross Labour Club on Old Mill Street, Ancoats.

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

The Stanley Arms (right) on Chorley Old Road was due to reopen as WD went to press. It is now a Peter Walker pub and will be called "Sally up Steps", the nickname the pub has had for many years. Also due to reopen is the Man & Scythe on Churchgate (see WD September).



There are three new outlets for real ale in the Harwood/Bradshaw area. The Old School House, Whitbread's new Beefeater restaurant on Bolton Road, Bradshaw, sells Castle Eden in its public bar, while in Harwood the Grey Mare on Tottington Road is now selling handpulled draught Bass. The White Horse on Stitch-mi-Lane now has handpumps to serve Tetley mild, bitter and Ind Coope Burton Ale.

Another new outlet for Burton Ale is the Three Arrows on the Bury and Bolton Road at Starling. Handpulled Tetley bitter is also now on sale, following a recent refurbishment which has put a few pence on the price of a pint. The mild remains keg.

Followers of the Great Maxims Refurbishment Saga may be surprised to hear that the pub is still open and will remain so until after Christmas. The expensive refurbishment (reputed to be costing over £500,000) which Vaux plans for Maxims has been put back yet again. When complete, the pub will be almost unrecognisable, having been kitted out Victorian-style and with six cask beers. In the meantime, Everards Tiger is the latest guest beer. Maxims closes an hour early, at 11.00pm, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

BOLTON

Tues 8 Dec 8.30. Branch Meeting, Rawsons Arms, Peel Street, next to Farnworth Station

Sun 13 Dec 12 noon. Social, Farmers Arms, Darcy Lever

Mon 14 Dec Xmas Beer and Curry Social. 8.30 Howcroft, 11.30 Shimul's Indian Restaurant, St George's Road

Contact Dave Fleming Bolton 389918 (h) 75111 x207 (w)

