

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs as seen by the What's Doing/Bolton Beer Break Contributors 1989

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 1989 Good Beer Guide (£5.95) were

Bolton - Ainsworth Arms, Anchor Inn (Union Buildings), Dog & Partridge, Howcroft, Lodge Bank Tavern, York

Farnworth – Britannia

Harwood – Grey Mare

Horwich – Bowling Green

Kearsley - Clockface

Little Lever – Three Crowns

Stoneclough - Horseshoe

Westhoughton – Hartcommon House, Rosehill Tavern, White Lion

What's Doing January 1989 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

BOLTON

Tues 3 Jan, Local Guide Launch – Phone contact

Sun 8 Jan, 12 noon. Beer Festival Meeting, York Hotel

Tue 10 Jan, 8.30, Branch Meeting, George, Great Moor St

Fri 20 Jan, 7.30, Beer Festival Meeting, Crescent, Salford

Fri 27 Jan, Trendy Social. 8pm Man & Scythe, 9pm Bergeracs, 10pm Corks, 11pm Maxims

Tues 7 Feb, 8.30, Branch Meeting, White Lion, Westhoughton

Wed 22 Feb, 8.30, Social, Lodge Bank Tavern, Bridgeman Street, Bolton

Note New Branch Contact: Barbara Kerks, Bolton 22494 x2220 (w). Bolton 658458 (h)

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

As promised in December's WD, here is a round-up of some pre-Christmas refurbishments. It's off to a bad start, unfortunately, as Matthew Brown's job on the Bay Mare saw the pub retain its keg pumps at a time when the brewery had a good chance to double the number of cask Matties outlets in the area. All this despite an advert in the Bolton Evening News proclaiming Traditional Ales. According to the landlord, it was the Bolton Evening News that got it wrong(!)

Better luck at the Royal Hotel, Vernon Street, which now has cask Trophy on handpump. The refurbishment has seen the pub's drinking area increased at the expense of some unused space near the toilets. The vault is now just an open area at one side of the bar.

Another new cask outlet is Nero's on Chorley Old Road. Formerly Ziggi's Fun Pub and before that the Victory Conservative Club, Nero's appears to be a sort of disco pub based on a Roman theme. Cask Boddies bitter and Stones bitter are on sale.

Further down Chorley Old Road, the Nelson now sells handpulled Tetley mild and bitter and has apparently done so for some time.

Corks Wine Bar on Bradshawgate has reopened as Corks Cafe Bar. The neon lights and plastic have been sacrificed for wood panelling and plush seating and a new addition is a rather palatable pint of draught Bass. Mind you, at £1.04 a pint you wouldn't expect anything else!

The second of Maxim's new beers has arrived. Sadly, though, Wards Weizen Wheat Beer is keg.

Some weeks ago a couple of lads from Northampton called into the Cattle Market on Orlando Street on their way to see Northampton Town play Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park. They were shocked to see Castle Eden on sale at just 85p a pint - back home it is £1.25. Come 5.30pm the two got up to go, having missed the match but having consumed ten pints of beer and made a saving of more than the admission price to the game.

Finally, watch out for the first guide to Bolton's real ale pubs. Entitled "Beer in Bolton", it costs £1.50 and is published by the Bolton branch of CAMRA. More details next month.

What's Doing February 1989 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing>

NEW BEER GUIDE

The Bolton branch of CAMRA launches its guide to real amber nectar in the Bolton area on 1st February. Entitled "Beer in Bolton", the book is a comprehensive survey of the 150 or so pubs in Bolton Metro - plus a few borderline cases - which serve real ale. In addition to the main text there are articles on lager, the old breweries of Bolton, dress restrictions in pubs and more besides.

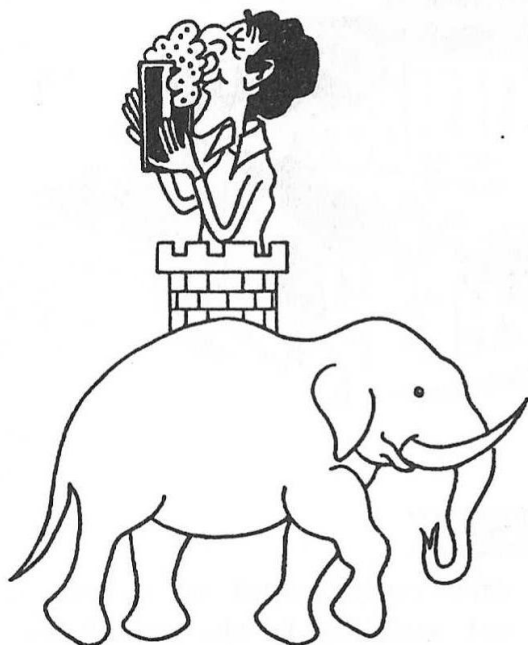
Beer in Bolton costs just £1.50 from local bookshops, or send a cheque or postal order made payable to "CAMRA BOLTON BRANCH" to Dave Tong, 17 Belmont Road, Bolton, Lancs.

BOLTON

Wed 1 Feb "BEER IN BOLTON" local guide launch, Maxims, Bradshawgate, Bolton
Tues 7 Feb 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, White Lion (Holts), Market Street, Westhoughton
Sat 11 Feb, Yates' Brewery trip
Mon 20 Feb 7.30pm, Beer Festival Meeting, Crescent, Salford
Wed 22 Feb, 8.30pm, Social, Lodge Bank Tavern (Lees), Bridgeman Street
Mon 6 Mar, 7.30pm, Beer Festival Meeting, York, Newport Street, Bolton
Tues 7 Mar 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, York, Newport Street, Bolton
Contact: Barbara Kerks, Bolton 658458 (h)

THE THIRD GREAT NORTH WESTERN BEER FESTIVAL

Last year over 5,000 people attended the beer festival at Bolton Sports and exhibition centre. This year it is presented as the GREAT NORTH WESTERN FESTIVAL because the venue has the capacity to accommodate twice or three times that number of visitors over the five day



period. This year, instead of sharing the responsibility with the local council, the Greater Manchester branches of CAMRA are running the festival themselves and aim to make it bigger and better than ever. The festival theme will be "Conservation of the Traditional British Pub" and this will be featured in an exhibition at the Centre.

The Sports and Exhibition Centre is in Silverwell Street (off Bradshawgate), five minutes from the BR station. 120 real ales and ciders will be on sale. Lunchtime sessions will be 12 noon to 4.00pm; evening sessions 6.00pm to 11.00pm.

Admission prices:

	<u>Lunchtime</u>	<u>Evening Before 7.00pm</u>	<u>Evening After 7.00pm</u>
WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL	-	FREE	FREE
THURSDAY 13 APRIL	FREE	50p	£1.00
FRIDAY 14 APRIL	50p	£1.00	£1.50
SATURDAY 15 APRIL	£1.00	£1.00	£1.50
SUNDAY 16 APRIL	FREE	-	-

Free admission to CAMRA members (you can join at the entrance).

Parties of 12 or more which book in advance are eligible for a 50p per person reduction at any paying session. For pre-booking and other enquiries, telephone 061 789 2323.

BOLTON

Tues 7 Mar 9pm, Branch Meeting, York Hotel

Wed 15 Mar, North Manchester's 15th Anniversary Social (see N Manchester)

Fri 17 Mar, 8pm, St Patrick's Night Social, Derby Arms, Derby Street

Tues 4 April, 9pm, Branch Meeting, Church, Kearsley

Wed 5 April, 8pm, Regional Meeting, Castle, Oldham Street, Manchester

Tues 11 April, Beer Festival set-up.

Wed 12 - Sun 16 April, GREAT NORTH WESTERN BEER FESTIVAL, Bolton Sports & Exhibition Centre.

Contact Barbara Kerks, Bolton 658458 (h)

Finally, just to show that not all CAMRA members are thick, the Bolton Branch Quiz Team are moving up the Bolton North End Quiz League in fine style. Having been promoted as runners-up in Division Six in their first season, they have now captured the Division Five Championship with 13 wins in 14 games. It's just a pity that most of the Fourth Division teams play in keg pubs!

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

Purchasers of the recently published guide to "Beer in Bolton" may be interested to hear of a change of attitude from two of the featured pubs. The much-maligned Man & Scythe on Churchgate is now open to all



comers following a brief flirtation last year with a "no jeans and trainers" rule. Drinkers can enjoy some well-kept Chesters mild and bitter, Castle Eden and Bulmers cider plus a guest beer from elsewhere in the Whitbread empire. The beers aren't cheap but the surroundings are pleasant. Unfortunately a change of management at the Old Three Crowns on Deansgate has seen that pub slap on a "no jeans and trainers" rule, thus proving that as one door opens, another closes.

The Crown & Cushion on Mealhouse Lane now has Marstons Pedigree served through handpump.

Winstons, on the corner of Deansgate and Marsden Road, is closed for refurbishment until later this month, at least. New owners Regal Knight Hotels hope to create a traditional-style pub down-

stairs and a modern function room upstairs. The beer range at the time of closure was changed from Bass/Boddingtons to Wilsons/Websters and more beers could be in the pipeline.

The Sally Up Steps is also receiving the wallpaper treatment, not much more than a year after it reopened.

The Albion Hotel on Moor Lane is due to reopen after a revamp soon. As Tetleys seem to be putting real ale into their refurbished outlets, this could well be a gain for the area.

The Beer List for April's Great North Western Beer Festival is nearing completion. Around 130 real ales plus a good range of ciders will be on sale at the biggest beer exhibition ever held in the North West. The festival takes place from 12th to 16th April at Bolton Sports & Exhibition Centre, Silverwell Street.

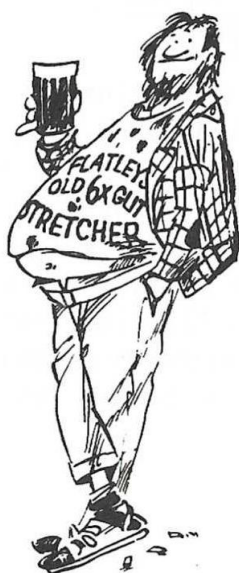


Third Great North Western Beer Festival

Over 150 Beers & Ciders

Food & Entertainment

12-16 April, Silverwell St Sports & Exhibition Centre



The Third Great North Western Beer Festival is the opportunity to sample a wonderful variety of beers gathered from all over Britain: 18 milds, 38 bitters, 30 best bitters, 31 premium bitters and 13 strong ales, plus a range of ciders and perry. When you have worked up an appetite, there is a good choice of traditional food available: bread and cheese rolls, a slice of whole roast pig or some Continental sausages.

Live entertainment includes Otis Day and Night Shift (Blues/Soul, Thursday evening); the Eagley Band (Brass Band, Friday evening); French Quarter Dixieland Jazz Band (Saturday evening) and the Centre's B Hall is reserved for those who want a quiet drink or to join in the traditional pub games.

Afternoon sessions are 12 noon to 4.00pm (Thursday to Sunday), evening sessions 6.00pm to 11.00pm (Wednesday to Saturday).

Why not organise a trip from your local pub to the biggest and best beer festival in the region? There is a 50p per person reduction for parties of more than 12 if you book in advance, and larger discounts for larger parties. Ring 061-789-2323 for details and directions.

BOLTON BRIEFLY

The Pilkington Arms, Derby Street, Bolton, now has cask Tetley mild, bitter and dark mild on handpump. The pub had been on keg beer for at least 15 years. On a recent visit the dark mild was somewhat difficult to pull, but when the barmaid was advised to remove the plastic sparkler all was well. The sparkler was found to be a blank! So much for Tetley Cellarmanship! The Pilkington Arms is a welcome gain for the area as the Morris Dancers has lost its Davenports bitter due to lack of demand (no advertising and only one handpump in the corner of the bar).

The Oddfellows (St Helens Road) is selling good Greenalls mild and bitter all day and the Farmers Arms (Derby Street) has Trophy bitter (ask for cask).

Holts are in the process of taking over the Bolton Castle (formerly the Castle) on Tonge Moor Road, Bolton, from Tetleys.

CRICKET NEWS

Farnworth Cricket and Bowling Club, whose cricket team play in the Bolton Cricket League, is situated off Lavender Road, Farnworth. Three handpumps have recently been installed to serve Thwaites bitter, Tetley dark mild and Walkers best bitter. The club, which has not served real ale for a number of years, also offers keg beers from Thwaites, Burtonwood and Tetley Walker.

BOLTON

Tues 6 June 8.30, Branch Meeting, Derby, Derby Street, Bolton

Sat 10 June, Settle-Carlisle Railway Trip. Leave Bolton 9am, arrive back 10.45pm approx.

Sat 17 June, Joint Social in Bradford with East Lancs Branch. Meet Fighting Cocks, Bradford, at 11.30am

Contact Barbara Kerks, Bolton 658458

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

Winstons on Deansgate is now open after a lengthy refurbishment. The pub has reverted to its former name, the Gypsy's Tent, but the refurbishment owes a lot to the Whitbread House of Horrors style of the early 1980s.

Another name change is at the Duck & Firkin on Bradshawgate, which has reverted to its old moniker, the Trotters. Still no real ale, nor should we expect there to be at a pub which was built with the keg revolution firmly in mind.

The Bolton Castle on Tonge Moor Road is now a Holts pub, only the third in the Bolton area. The others are the Rose Hill Tavern in Daisy Hill (like the Castle, a former Tetley pub) and the White Lion in Westhoughton.

Rumours abound about the possible sale of three Wilsons pubs to Nazmu Virani's Control Securities. The Bowling Green on Bury Road looks the favourite, with possibly the Spinners on Brownlow Way and Sinclair's (formerly the Queen Anne) on Junction Road/Deane Road.

Finally, our sincere thanks to Richard James of the White Lion, Deansgate, Bolton, for standing at the last minute as licensee of the recent Great North Western Beer Festival. Incidentally, the provisional dates for next year's event are 9th-12th or 13th May at Bolton Sports Centre.

OVER HULTON NEWS

The Red Lion and Hulton Arms, which stand at the crossroads of the A6 and A579 (Bolton-Leigh) roads, have no competition, except the local Conservative Club, for at least a mile in any direction. The Hulton Arms (Greenalls) is largely unaltered in layout but has not served real ale since the days when it had a bowling green (allowed to run down and now occupied by a block of flats).

The Red Lion (Tetley Walker) used to be a multi-roomed local serving good beer but over the last ten years it has been changed into a Porterhouse restaurant with a pub for the 18 to 25-year-olds (the tap room disappeared last year). It has made a half-hearted foray into real ale, serving at first Jennings and now Burton Ale from, until recently, unmarked handpumps. This is often not available and will no doubt soon be withdrawn due to 'lack of demand'.

Frank Hodgkiss

Summer 89

BOLTON BEER BREAK

FREE!

Boar's Head Under Threat

One of Bolton's oldest pubs, the *Boar's Head* on Churchgate, is under threat of demolition. The pub's owners, Greenall Whitley, want to knock down the *Boar's* and the properties on either side of the pub and replace them with an office block incorporating a new *Boar's Head*.

However, the pub is a listed building in a conservation area and the plan has angered not only CAMRA but also Bolton's influential Civic Trust who believe there is a legal precedent which will scupper Greenall's plans. According to the brewery, the pub is in a 'poor condition'.

The *Boar's Head* was built in 1721 and at one time was the principal inn in Bolton. It passed into the hands of Magee Marshall & Co., whose initials are etched into one of the pub's windows. On Magee's sellout in 1958 the pub passed into the ownership of Greenall Whitley and has served that company's beers since Magee's closure in 1970.

MILD

BITTER

Issue 11

Oliver's Twist

Another Greenall's pub has bitten the dust. *Oliver's* on Deansgate, formerly the *Lower Nag's Head*, quietly shut its doors for the last time in June and is expected to be taken over by either Marks & Spencer or Dunn & Co.

And it looks like curtains too for *Benjamin Topp's*. Just three and a half years after it opened in a blaze of publicity the pub's doors have shut and it is believed to be up for sale at around £300,000. Local builder Desmond Duxbury bought the former church with the intention of turning it into a free house. When it opened the 'free house' offered only keg Tetley's.

Unfortunately, Mr Duxbury appeared to suffer serious cash flow problems and an expose in the *Bolton Evening News* revealed a series of unpaid bills. Even so, the pub would make an excellent real ale free house. Got a spare £300,000 guv?

Cheetham Changes

Major changes have taken place in the *Cheetham Arms* (Whitbread) on Blackburn Road. This one time candidate for the "Pub in most need of a good lick of paint" award has been completely refurbished and extended into the adjoining cottages. The outside walls have been sand blasted and the new sign erected even proclaims the pubs name!

Inside has 'Laura Ashley'ish wallpaper, leaded windows and lots of polished wood in an attempt to create a 'living room' effect. Predictably the vault has been replaced with a games area, with darts and pool.

The bar now serves hand pulled Trophy Bitter as well as Castle Eden, and also has a Whitbread guest beer - currently Wethereds SPA. However, both the milds are still keg. On a recent visit the SPA was in good condition, but the prices are rather on the high side at 98p a pint! Despite the strong food emphasis and the lack of originality of the overall design, the end result is good and the changes are for the better.

Similar developments have taken place further up the road at the *Bay Mare* in Astley Bridge. This Matthew Brown pub has also benefited by extending into the house next door. Unfortunately, neither the Brown nor the Theakstons beers served are real. It is the same story across the road at the *Pineapple*, which has also had a face lift. When will Matthew Brown do something to improve their appalling record in the area?

Rocker's Revenge

In the past, BBB has been keen to have a go at those pubs who refuse to admit people wearing jeans and trainers. Now we hear of dress restrictions with a difference. A regular BBB reader was recently refused entry to the Swan Hotel's *Malt & Hops* bar. The reason? He wasn't wearing Jeans or Trainers! The *Malt & Hops* is host to a heavy rock disco (and serves one of the vilest pints of cask beer anywhere).

Festival is biggest yet

Bolton Sports and Exhibition Centre was the venue for the 3rd Great North Western Beer Festival in April. This year's event was scheduled to be the biggest ever, with 23,000 pints of ale and cider from almost 100 brewers and cider makers. But in the end, 7,000 extra pints were brought in as around 8,000 people drank their way through beers from the Orkney Islands to Cornwall, Northern Ireland and Germany.

Unfortunately entrance had to be restricted on Friday and Saturday nights and our apologies go to those who were disappointed.

This year's beer of the festival was Titanic's Captain Smith, with last year's winner Yates' Bitter as runner-up, and Greene King XX as Best Mild. Thanks to all who made this our best ever festival, all our volunteers, the management and staff at Bolton Sports Centre, and our special thanks to Richard James of the *White Lion* and Jim Sherrington for their help with the licence.

Belhaven Buys In

Belhaven Brewery, in the guise of their parent company Control Securities recently bought 3 pubs in the area. The pubs concerned are said to be the *Bowling Green* on Bury Road, *Sinclairs* on Deane Road and the *Spinners* on Brownlow Way.

The purchase is part of the company's aim to own 1,000 pubs by the end of the year - they started off with a batch of former Tetley houses a couple of years ago and now have a string of pubs stretching from Scotland to London as well as the Belhaven Brewery.

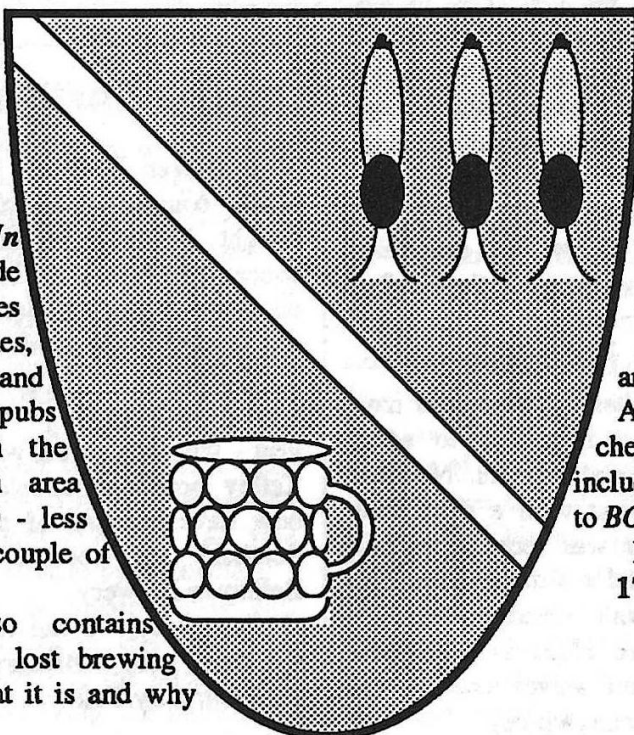
Beer wise, we can expect a new brew in the three pubs - Blezard's Bitter - brewed for Control by Tetley.

You've seen the pubs - Now read the book!

Over a year in the making, the definitive guide to Bolton's drinking establishments is now available.

Entitled *Beer In Bolton*, the guide contains 64 pages packed with articles, maps, photographs and details of all the pubs selling real ale in the Bolton metropolitan area and costs just £1.50 - less than the price of a couple of pints!

The guide also contains articles on Bolton's lost brewing heritage, lager - what it is and why



CAMRA supports it (you'll have to read the article!), dress restrictions, bland beer and high prices. You can pick up a copy from local bookshops, including Sweetens, Alisons and Smiths and from many pubs. Alternatively, send a cheque for £1.50 (p&p is included), made payable to **BOLTON CAMRA**, to:

**Beer In Bolton,
17 Belmont Road,
Astley Bridge,
Bolton
BL1 7AF**

Signs of a new outlet on the Manchester Road 'Beer Desert' between the *Greyhound* and the *King William IV*, both regrettably not real (although the latter did at one time dabble with Jennings). A large house on the left just before the garage is being converted into what would appear to be a club under the exotic name of *Monteraze*(!)

It is by no means finished but a John Smiths sign is in the car park. Let us hope for something real to rise from the rubble.

One thing is certain; given recent difficulties experienced by clubs in town regarding late night licences, if this establishment is to be a club then, whatever the ale, the Cheeseburger and Chips had better be prominently displayed...

The *Waggon and Horses* (Tetley), just past the *King Bill*, has undergone extensive refurbishment and now serves Tetley Bitter, Mild and Burton Ale. It also boasts a bar football machine - a traditional pub game. Let's hope that Wanderers fans will treat the premises with more respect than was the case once or twice last season...

At last our prayers are answered as Holts move into *The Castle*, Crompton Way in typically self-effacing manner. The pub is pleasant, the atmosphere congenial and unforced, but what ought to strike the customer most forcefully is the price.

In the lounge the bitter is 70p and the mild is 68p. This is on average a good twenty pence cheaper than similar products available elsewhere in town. I know we bleat on about price and to our regret nobody else seems to care. But, how come such a differential exists in the first place, and how can the sensible customer ignore it?

For far too long, breweries have been able to get away with charging "what the Market will bear". It is high time that the market very firmly told the breweries what they will bear and what they most certainly will not. Then perhaps some changes might be effected. If you have not yet visited *The Castle* then do so and test the ale personally. If you approve, as I feel sure you will, write to the Brewery and tell them. Who knows they might be tempted to expand further into the town.

A tale of two developments. Most readers will know the *Albion*, a Tetleys house opposite the Bus Station - a familiar starting point for trips around town. The beer was not real although there was a brief flirtation with Jennings in the past. It was a thriving local with sing-songs at the weekends. The pub closed earlier this year, the work men moved in, and what do we have now?

Well, should we complain as we now have Real Ale? - Tetleys Bitter, Mild and the new Dark Mild at last count. Of course we want that, but what we don't want is a Real Mess of a pub.

There is no overall design theme: several different themes clash around the central bar area with a bizarre Moose head on one side and 'Vid' games on the other. It is as though four different designers

worked each corner of the pub and met up in the middle. There is no sense of style, cohesion or permanence. It is like a station waiting room that sells ale. Expect a change of theme in the near future.

In comparison, visit *The Bradford*, a Tetleys local on Bradford Street. Previously as you faced the pub the public bar was on the right and the lounge on the left. Both did well and attracted the own clientele. Now they have been reversed. The larger lounge has now become the public bar dominated by a pool table. The smaller bar has been tastefully developed to become a comfortable lounge in the Tetleys "Laura Ashley" style. The pub has been improved; the over - all balance maintained and the regulars seem happy. Why can't it always be like this?

After a rapid promotion in their first two seasons, the 'young turks' of the Camra quiz team have found things far more tricky in the higher divisions. A string of defeats followed and, in a desperate attempt to stave off a "Darlington situation", worried captain Des "Danzig" Nogalski has tried to impose a 10pm curfew and 1/2s only during matches! Any possible improvement can be monitored at the Dog & Partridge Monday evenings after 8.30pm.

So which way will our Government jump re the MMC report on our Big Six Breweries? I suspect that most CAMRA members were a little sceptical when Lord Young said that he would enthusiastically implement the reports provisions. After all, the Big Six tend to be not ungenerous in donating to party funds. Now the regrouping continues and the final position is far from clear. Next time we have another round of price increases and the usual excuses are trotted out, remember how much was lavished on Billboard and Full Page Adverts in the press to defend the Big Six's interests. Who will end up paying for them one may gloomily enquire.

Further on, *Churchills* no longer sells Bass, but seems to shift a fair amount of Boddingtons, especially at the weekend when there is a lively disco.

Upmarket Blues

Two more Bolton pubs look set to join the wine bar set. First of all, rumours about the *Prince William* on Bradshawgate seem to centre on the sale of the pub to a company who are to turn the pub into a cafe bar (ie a wine bar that serves cups of tea sometimes).

And across the road a three month refurbishment at *Yates' Wine Lodge* has been put back, probably until after Christmas. The wine lodge is expected to be transformed into (quote) *A Yuppie Wine Bar* (unquote). Disgraceful. In the meantime, *Thwaites Best Mild and Bitter* have suddenly appeared on the bar in place of Boddington's Bitter.

In The Courts

The *Crown and Cushion* (Whitbread) on Mealhouse Lane has won its battle to stay open after normal licencing hours. The pub was one of four outlets which the police raised objections to on the basis that food was not being served, but although the *Crown* was found guilty it was allowed to keep its late licence. Live music is currently being promoted at the *Crown* on at least three nights a week; recent acts have included beer festival favourites *Otis Day and the Night Shift*. Although admission is free a pint of Castle Eden shandy costs £1, so it's swings and roundabouts.

The *Crown and Cushion's* successful renewal of its late licence can hardly be any consolation to the three other pubs who were also found guilty but who lost their late licences. The three, *Maxwell's Plum*, *Maxim's* and *The Trotters* (aka *Duck & Firkin*) are all expected to re-apply. Watch this space.

What's Doing July 1989 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing>

BOLTON

Tues 4 July INDEPENDENTS DAY CRAWL. 8pm Lodge Bank Tavern, 8.30 York, 9pm Ancient Shepherd, 9.30 Prince William, 10pm Maxims, 10.30 Dog & Partridge

Tues 11 July 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Maxims

Sun 23 July 12.00noon, Social, Castle

Sat 5 August, GBBF Trip

Tues 8 Aug 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Sweet Green Tavern

Contact Barbara Kerks, Bolton 658458



THREAT TO OLD BOLTON PUB

The Boars Head, one of Bolton's oldest pubs, will be pulled down if Greenalls have their way. This Churchgate pub and the adjoining cafe and fish and chip shop are the subjects of a planning application by the brewery, who want to demolish them and build a five-storey block which would include a new Boars Head. This has angered the local CAMRA branch and Bolton's influential Civic Trust. All three buildings are in a Conservation Area and this, says Bill Brown of the Civic Trust, could be the key to victory as a high court judge recently ruled that Conservation property can only be demolished "if it enhances the existing character of the area". According to Greenalls, the adjoining cafe is unsafe and the Boars Head and the chippy are in "poor condition".

What's Doing August 1989 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing>

BOLTON

Sat 5 Aug, GBBF Trip. Meet 0950 Trinity Street Station for 1003 Piccadilly train. 1045 Piccadilly to Leeds. Possible early evening curry and beer in Bradford.

Tues 8 Aug 8.30pm Branch Meeting, Sweet Green Tavern, Crook Street.

Sun 20 Aug, East Lancs Railway trip. 11.45am for 12 noon train, Bolton Street Station, Bury

Wed 23 Aug, Moorhouses Trip. Phone contact

Tues 12 Sept, 8.30pm. Branch Meeting, George, Great Moor St, Bolton
Contact: Barbara Kerks, Bolton 658458 (h), Bolton 22494 x2220 (w)

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

Good and bad news for the two real ale pubs in court recently to face police objections to their late licences. The Crown & Cushion on Mealhouse Lane was found guilty, but it had its late licence renewed, whilst nearby Maxims' guilty verdict resulted in its late licence being revoked. Work that one out. Maxims, along with the two keg pubs which suffered similar verdicts, is expected to re-apply. Meanwhile, Maxims' guest beer policy appears to have been laid to rest. The pub which once promised four Vaux group beers and four guest ales is now struggling along with Vaux Samson only.

Recent reports of a 'House of Horrors' style refurbishment at the Gipsy's Tent (aka Winstons) on Deansgate can be pretty much discounted. The refurbishment is quite tasteful and gives the pub a rather homely feel. One or two artefacts leave something to be desired, though. Quite why the designers chose to nail a pair of dirty boots to the fireplace is somewhat puzzling.

Nothing new to report on the Boars Head front (WD July), but one other Greenalls pub has quietly closed its doors for good. This is Olivers on Deansgate, which dates back to 1927. The present building replaced the original pub demolished for a road widening scheme. Until 1985 it was known as the Lower Nags Head, but the name was changed presumably because it wasn't trendy enough. For a long time the beer has been of the cold and gassy variety preferred by the pre-pubescent (almost) clientele. The pub is expected to be taken over by one of its retailing neighbours.

Refurbishments have been completed at the Waggon & Horses on Manchester Road. Real ale has returned in the form of Tetley mild, dark mild, bitter and Ind Coope Burton Ale.

Yates Wine Lodge on Bradshawgate has replaced handpulled Boddingtons bitter with Thwaites best mild and bitter. Plans are afoot to turn it into a 'Yuppie Wine Bar'. Across the road, the Prince William is rumoured to be about to be turned into a cafe bar. The rumours also suggest that Boddingtons have sold this, one of only four Boddingtons tied houses in Bolton Metro.

Another pub soon to be refurbished is Walkers' Hare & Hounds on Bury Road, Brightmet, while Carrington's (ex-White Hart) on Deane Road has had handpulled Tetley bitter on sale.

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

Real ale has returned to the Millstone, Crown Street, Bolton. Hand-pulled bitter is now on sale at 96p a pint. The pub appeared in the second Greater Manchester Good Beer Guide some ten years ago, but real ale disappeared shortly after. Extensive refurbishments a few years back transformed the pub into a disco-type outlet, although it has had a reputation for good cheese lunches.

At least in the case of the Millstone the real ale has replaced keg beer. Two Tetley houses at the bottom of Deane Road have been experimenting with cask bitter alongside the keg version. It's the usual story - ask for a pint of bitter and the bar staff lurch towards the keg pump. In the case of the Duke, the real stuff came to an ignominious end when they couldn't even sell it off at 50p a pint. At Carringtons it wasn't noted for being of particularly good quality.

Still with Tetleys, Bolton's latest pub is Oscar's Cafe Bar in the Wellsprings Centre, a new council office block next to the Octagon Theatre. Described as being 'for the discerning customer', Oscar's is apparently quite popular with town centre shoppers during the day. Unfortunately, the 'discerning' real ale drinker is likely to be disappointed, for although the advertising blurb announced cask Ind Coope Burton Ale, the pumpclip is likely to be turned around, although someone claims to have had a pint of the stuff. Still, it's early days.

The late licences story rumbles on and it looks grim for Maxim's, the only cask outlet of the three pubs whose late licences were withdrawn for not serving food. Another of the unfortunate threesome, Maxwell's Plum, re-applied for a licence last month. Eyebrows were raised when the licensee announced that all prospective punters were scrutinised before entering the premises, that most customers were 'over 21s' and that 'We only serve nice people'. However, when the police pointed out that since Maxwell's and Maxim's had been closing earlier there had been less trouble in the town, the application was refused.

HARE & HOUNDS

Tetleys have done quite a reasonable job on the Hare & Hounds, Stone-clough, Kearsley. Real ale remains (mild and bitter) and handpumps have replaced the electric pumps.

BOLTON

Thurs 31 Aug 7.30 LATE ADDITION: Barbecue, Sweet Green Tavern, Crook Street, opposite Bolton BR station. Phone contact

Tues 12 Sept 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, George, Great Moor Street

Sun 17 Sept 6pm, Beer Festival Meeting, Castle, Oldham Street, Manchester. Note early start time.

Tues 19 Sept, Bridgeman Street Social. 8.30 Lodge Bank Tavern, 9.15 Park, 10pm Victoria

Tues 3 Oct 8.30pm Branch Meeting, Clock Face, Old Hall St, Kearsley
Contact Barbara Kerks 0204 22494 x2220 (w) 0204 658458 (h)

What's Doing October 1989 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing>

No Bolton related articles or Branch Diary

What's Doing November 1989 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing>

BOLTON

Thur 2 Nov Local Guide Push/Membership Drive/Prices Survey. 8pm York, 8pm White Lion, 10pm Dog & Partridge

Tue 7 Nov 8.30pm AGM, York Hotel, Newport Street. It is vital that as many Bolton members as possible attend this meeting.

Thurs 9 Nov Membership drive. Meet York, 8pm

Tues 21 Nov. Students' Social 8.30pm, Bolton Institute of Higher Education Bar, 9.30pm Derby, Derby Street

Tues 5 Dec 8.30pm. Branch Meeting, Man & Scythe, Churchgate

Contact: Barbara Kerks, Bolton 658458

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

Bad news for Bass mild drinkers. The GBG-listed Anchor in Union Buildings, off Bradshawgate, has taken off the cask XXXX dark mild and replaced it with keg. Now only the draught Bass is real ale.

Walking into the Black Horse on Bury Road for the first time in over a year, it was refreshing to see the handpumps in use. On my last visit a solitary handpump advertising Whitbread Trophy bitter was not in use, the bar staff opting for the keg pump whenever Trophy was asked for. Now the non-Trophy pump has been replaced by handpulled Castle Eden and Marstons Pedigree.

No news on the fate of the Boars Head, Churchgate, but Greenalls have closed the Brown Cow in Blackrod. A lack of trade and the high cost of refurbishments have been blamed, but Greenalls claim around two dozen parties are interested in the pub's sale and say "It could open as anything." Indeed it could.

Blackrod drinkers could console themselves with a pint in the Pavilion, a new Bass house built just outside Blackrod on the A6. Based on a cricketing theme, the pub is split into two, a drinking area and a dining-only area, while all around are sepia-tinted photographs of Lancashire cricketing heroes. Unexciting. And the cask Stones is nudging £1 a pint.

A more interesting new development is the oddly-named Monteraze on Manchester Road, Bolton. Interesting not for its decor, but for its beers. Bass and John Smiths supply the pub, but while Bass's only cask contribution is draught Bass, John Smiths are supplying cask bitter and Courage Directors. Neither is available at John Smiths' only local tied house, the Belle Vue on Halliwell Road (but correct me if I'm wrong).

Meanwhile, Bolton's only true free house, the Brinsop Arms on the A6 between Westhoughton and Blackrod, has had more alterations. Nothing major – there is now marginally more room. Around ten (varying) cask beers are available.

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