

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs as seen by the What's Doing Contributors 2005

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 2005 Good Beer Guide (£13.99) were

Bolton – Ainsworth, Bobs Smithy, Hen & Chickens, Hope & Anchor, Kings Head, Lodge Bank Tavern

Bromley Cross – Flag

Farnworth – Britannia

Harwood – House with No Name

Horwich – Crown

Stoneclough – Market Street Tavern

Westhoughton – Rosehill, White Lion

What's Doing January 2005 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Nothing about Bolton Branch or its Pubs.

Branch Meeting – Lodge Bank Tavern January 13th 8.30pm

What's Doing February 2005 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

The Holts List

Stewart Revell provides an up-to-date list of the company's pubs.

Bolton Castle, Tonge Moor Road, Bolton

Brooklyn, Green Lane, Bolton

Crown, Chorley New Road, Horwich

Doffcocker, Chorley Old Road, Bolton

Mosley, Red Lane, Breightmet

Pepper Alley, Crown Street, Bolton

Rose Hill, Leigh Road, Westhoughton

Rumworth, Wigan Road, Deane

White Lion, Market Street, Westhoughton



Branch Meeting – Howcroft February 10th 8.30pm

Trotter's Independent Trophies

Although the man himself claims he is in retirement, the TIT Awards carry on...

BEST CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL:
Southport. Runner-up: Fleetwood

BEST NON-CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL:
The Black Horse New and Rare Beers Festival, Darwen

BEST MILD: Cains Mild

BEST BITTER: Old Bear Original from Old Bear Brewery

WHAT'S DOING READERS' BEST BEER: Black Bear from Beartown.
Runner-up: Old Man Ale from Coniston

BEST BREWERY TRIP OR SOCIAL:
Hart Brewery (Southport Branch).
Runner-up: Hook Norton (Wigan Branch)

BEST BOTTLED BEER: Blonde Premium Beer from Isle of Arran

MOST UNUSUALLY NAMED ALE:
Betty Swollocks Bar-B-Q Bitter from Hanby.



Holt's Smooth Bitter

It is believed that the Crown in Horwich is doing a trial of this normal cask product with additional gas which is served through a keg style font.

The following pubs were controlled by Boardman's Brewery of Cheetham –

Anchor Inn Union Buildings Bradshawgate

Greyhound Deansgate

Griffin Great Moor St

CALLED TO THE BAR

Nestling next to the Swan Hotel on Bradshawgate in Bolton is the recently opened **Barristers**. This is the latest incarnation of the Malt & Hops bar, which closed a few years ago along with the Swan Hotel (ex-Burtonwood). The two venues have been reopened by a local businessman with other pubs in the area and a liking for traditional beer.



Barristers is a basic real ale bar with bare wood floor and wood panelling, and these days it is the only venue for the real stuff on this stretch of Bradshawgate. The original bar from Malt & Hops days has been retained and there are six handpumps, two for beers from the local independent brewery.

Barristers has been selling Bank Top Flat Cap, Dark Mild and Port o'Call, described as a 5% dark, rich beer with added ruby port; Moorhouses Pride of Pendle, Pedigree (all at £2 a pint) and Websters (yes, that's right, Websters on handpull) at £1 a pint. More recently, beers from the Three Bs Brewery of Blackburn and others from the Moorhouses range have been seen. All the ales are sold in half or pint dimple-and-handle glasses. Like the Swan, the bar is open until 2.00am at weekends.

In the mid-1990s the Malt & Hops bar held beer festivals in the garage, reached through the courtyard. Maybe the new owner could try these as well?

Expanding Yates's

Yates's, the Bolton-based wine lodge chain that went private last summer, is interested in buying the SFI Group, which owns the Slug & Lettuce brand. Yates's has more than 130 town and city centre outlets, as well as a 20-strong chain of HaHa wine bar sites.

What's Doing June 2005 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Nothing about Bolton Branch or its Pubs.

What's Doing July 2005 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Nothing about Bolton Branch or its Pubs.

What's Doing August 2005 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Holts say they are very pleased with the sales of their bottled beers at Parfett's wholesale cash and carry. The Here to Please You off-licence in Westhoughton is reportedly selling all six varieties, at around £1.49 per 500ml bottle. Not real ale, sadly.

What's Doing September 2005 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

Bolton

According to a handwritten notice on the wall of the old Painters Arms (aka Scandals, Mr D's, Academy Bar and latterly a Chinese chippy), the building is to become Bolton's first gay lap dancing club.

Trotter's Ales

Trotter came out of retirement to sample a few beers over the Bank Holiday weekend and to cast an eye over the changing Bolton pub circuit...

On Sunday evening, 28th August, I began at the **Britannia** Beer Festival. The Britannia is Farnworth's premier pub and whenever there's a Bank Holiday, there is a festival. My first beer was George Wright's refreshing Summer Ale, brewed at Rainford, St Helens. Next I tried Archers' Old Bill Bitter, which tasted similar to their Best Bitter, only slightly weaker. Titanic's Wreckage (6.6%) had just been replaced by Clarke's Classic Blonde (3.9%), a beer which I am partial to, with its citrus and hoppy flavour and dry finish.

At this point during the session my good friends Rock Chick and Old Dick arrived and I immediately put them on the Blonde. We spent the rest of the evening socialising and enjoying the festival's excellent quality beers.

Hart Brewery was represented by a beer called Chinook, which must be the first ale named after a helicopter. It was a new one to me and, like all Hart beers, it was good. Next up was Wye Valley Butty Bach, a golden, full-bodied premium ale. I finished the session back on the Clarke's Classic Blonde.

On to Day Two of the festival, and a nice, sunny Bank Holiday afternoon. I began with another of the George Wright beers - King's Shilling (4.5%), then went on to Clarke's Blonde (again), before sampling Wright's Cheeky Pheasant, a 4.7% mid-brown ale. Bazens' Pacific came on, so I couldn't resist sampling this ale from Salford by the Sea. Another replacement was Smiles' Maiden Leg-over, an appropriately titled ale since the England cricket team had thrashed the Aussies the day before. I resisted the temptation to try Wobbly Bob and ended the session with some Pendle Witch. There were discussions about the Brit holding a Halloween theme beer festival, so watch this space.

Going into Bolton on the No.8 bus, the first port of call is always the **Alma Inn**, the rockers/bikers pub and now the only venue in town which hosts rock/metal band nights. Only one handpull, but some quality beers have been downed here. When I visited recently for the Bolton Metal Showcase, Adnams Broadside was supped.

In a nearby side street, another favourite pub, the **Anchor** (aka Little Anchor) has been shuttered up for some time and the building is for sale as a 'business opportunity'. Before going downhill, the Anchor sold an excellent pint of Bass.

Going along Bradshawgate, the next real ale outlet worth a visit is the **Wetherspoons** pub in Nelson Square. Next door, the **Red on the Square**, which sold handpumped Thwaites when it first opened, has

been bought by renowned local chef Paul Heathcote and is to be turned into an upmarket Italian restaurant called the Olive Press.

All the other outlets on Nelson Square are fashionable or themed bars. Across Bradshawgate, the former post office building on the corner of Silverwell Street was a Hogshead pub a few years ago. As with all Hogsheads of that era, there were bare wooden floors and about eight real ales. Times changed and so did the interior decor; the place went 'sporty' for a time, with fewer and fewer real ales and now the pub is called **Circa**.

Maxims was a regular stop for me and my drinking buddies years ago, then it became a Seventies theme bar called **Tiger Feet** (yes, named after the Mud hit) and it is now called **Bar:[Me]**, which is appropriate, as on Friday and Saturday nights it attracts the barmy army of under-30s who wouldn't know a real ale if they fell in a vessel full of the stuff.

Further along Bradshawgate, **Elements** had good intentions when it first opened, selling three real ales at reasonable prices. Now there is none.

The good news is that **Barristers**, on the other side of Bradshawgate, has two more handpulls and now eight real ales are available. The house beer is Barristers Brief, brewed exclusively for the bar by Moorhouses. The impressive refurbished courtyard has recently been hosting jazz sessions on Sunday afternoons.

The **Old Man & Scythe** on Churchgate still offers real ale, as does the Joeys outlet, the **Pepper Alley**. Down on Manor Street, the **Dog & Partridge** is still worth a visit, if you can prise yourself away from the nearby Pole Dancing Club. The **Hen & Chickens** on Deansgate continues to offer good food and ale, and the **Howcroft Inn** will be hosting its annual beer festival on 12th-16th October in aid of Bolton Lads and Girls Club - 200 beers expertly kept by Fletch and his trusty assistant.



What's Doing November 2005 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>

In Little Lever, the Ring o'Bells (Enterprise Inns) on Church Street is closed and boarded.

What's Doing December 2005 <https://greatermanchester.camra.org.uk/branch-magazines/whats-doing/>



Halfway House

The Halfway House, on the border of Walkden and Farnworth, will reopen on 8th December after being closed for about two years. The former Boddingtons pub is being refurbished as a restaurant/pub. See next month for news of the beer range.

