

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs 2025

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 2025 Good Beer Guide were

Bolton – Bank Top Brewery Tap, Bolton Ukrainian Club, Bunburys, Kings Head, Northern Monkey Bar, One for the Road

Farnworth – Kings Arms

Harwood – House Without a Name

Horwich – B33R@33, Bank Top Brewery Ale House, Brewery Bar, Crown, JR's Ale House

Westhoughton – Beer School, Brewery Tap

Branch Meetings in 2025

Hope & Anchor 07/01/2025 Committee

UKI Club 09/01/2025

Beer School 29/01/2025 Committee

Millstone 06/02/2025

Plough 26/02/2025 Committee

Spinning Mule 06/03/2025

King's Head 25/03/2025 Committee

Brewery Tap 03/04/2025

Heaton Sports Club 23/04/2025 Committee

UKI Club 01/05/2025

Jolly Carter 28/05/2025 Committee

Northern Monkey Brewery Tap 05/06/2025

Stork Tavern 25/06/2025 Committee

Old Man & Scythe 03/07/2025

Beer School 05/08/2025

Cross Guns 27/08/2025 Committee

UKI Club 04/09/2025

Ainsworth 24/09/2025 Committee

Brewery Tap 02/10/2025

Crown 21/10/2025 Committee

Spinning Mule 13/11/2025

Beer School 26/11/2025 Committee

The Following Pubs Closed during 2025.

Yates 36/38, Bradshawgate. The Pub was closed by Stonegate on 06/01/2025. It was originally planned to convert to a Slug and Lettuce branded outlet in 2023 with Planning and Listed Building consents being applied for on 15731/23, and 15736/23 for new signs, though a change of mind by the Stonegate Pubco saw it offered for sub-lease, but there were seemingly no takers so it closed after the Christmas and New Year trade in 2024/5. Offered Leasehold at £60,000 per annum by Fletcher CRE 24/03/25. Planning Applications 00973/4 for changes to 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors to 7 apartments are not yet determined. Cask beer had never featured on the bar on a regular basis, though it did make appearances from time to time.

Henighans Eat and Drink 1043, Bury Road, Brightmet. The Pub was up for sale with CRE Fletcher in January 2025 for £445,000 initially, though this was later reduced to £385,000 and was under offer in September and sold in January 2026. It was noted as being closed on 03/09/2025 but may have closed earlier. Planning Application 01203/26 for conversion to 10 flats on 3 floors July 2026. CRE Fletcher though still shows the 1st floor as available to lease for a restaurant!

The **Absolute Bar 23, Market St, Westhoughton.** The bar closed on 10/01/25, after the Christmas and New Year Season. Cask Beer had never been available.

Courthouse The Old Court Buildings, 4 Mawdsley Street. It was a surprising closure on 26th May, according to their Facebook page the building had been sold and the new owners decreed that no alcoholic drinks could be sold on the premises. This meant the existing business was no longer viable and had to close. Leasehold was then advertised at £35,000 per annum, this resulted in D'Cocina a Filipino restaurant opening on 21/12/2025. The pub had changed owners in the recent past from Punch Taverns to Hawthorn Leisure and then to Admiral Taverns.

White Horse 221, Bolton Rd, Kearsley. The Pub closed on 04/08/2025, cask beer had disappeared from the bar in 2016. It was subsequently available to let at £2,900 per calendar month with Hyde Estate Agents in Prestwich and was noted as let on 10/12/25.

Sweet Green Tavern 127, Crook Street. The Pub was displaying a notice in October 2025 that it was closed until further notice being closed temporarily for renovations after an inspection by Heineken-owned company Star Pubs, which owns the pub.

Kevin Banks, who runs the sister pub Piggy Banks, said: Money is very short, so being closed actually costs us less and gives us the ability to do the work soon, though nothing seemed to have started a year later.

Star Pubs and Bars said that the pub has been leased to an independent operator for several years to run as their own business, with responsibility for the day to day running of the pub and in line with their agreement with us, the operator has an obligation to maintain the property in a good condition, and as such is responsible for all major repairs and dilapidations to the building. We appointed independent surveyors to survey the property on our behalf, and the necessary remedial works have been identified in line with the terms of the tenancy agreement.

The Following Pubs Opened in 2025

Bowling Green 271, Bury Rd. The pub reopened on 12/04/2025 styled as a music venue. Cask Beer was not on the bar, just nationally branded keg beers.

The following were other changes in Pubs in 2025

Blarney Stone 9/11, Bradshawgate. The pub temporarily closed on 06/12/2025, this was due to a major drain blockage, 'we have been left with no other option but to close our doors today. While we hope this can be resolved, we have had ongoing leaks in our roof since we opened (unresolved) and we are now seriously considering relocating our business. This is far from ideal right before the Christmas period, but some things are just unfortunately out of our control.'

Cotton Tree 15, Prince St. had closed at the beginning of November in 2024. Planning Application 18150/24 was to turn the pub into a Nursery, due to open May 2025. The old Greenall's Cotton Tree Sign was finally taken down or at least what was left of it!

Park Hotel 259, Bridgeman St. The Pub had closed in April 2023 and subsequently been for sale with Fletcher CRE for £250,000, it still had its Tetley signage etc. Planning application 17691/24 for conversion to 3 stories and an extension for a 27-bed HMO had been refused. However, a new planning application 18693/24 for only a 24-bed HMO approved, work started mid-June 2025.

Cotton Keir Eagley Fold Way, off Watersmeeting Road. a Greene King Hungry Horse outlet had closed 01/09/2023 when the lease was not being renewed. Planning Application 20462/25 was approved for demolition of the pub and replacement with a 66-bedroom residential care home.

The Cherry Tree A6 Blackrod was put up for sale with Fleurets in September 2025 for a mere £1.95 Million, it had not been sold a year later.

Ben's at the Legion 308, Manchester Road, Blackrod. closed in May 2025 but despite a planning application 20983/25 to convert to flats it reopened as BlackJak's on 29/12/2025

Bill & Co in Harwood had a retrospective planning application 11013/21 approved for a Teepee in the beer garden, more than three years after the application was made.

Grey Man in Daisyhill made a retrospective planning application 19625/25 for a children's climbing frame in their beer garden, it had been in situ for at least 10 years. It was approved!

Shots on Bradshawgate had a fire and also a planning application 19979/25 was made to convert to 5 apartments but was withdrawn.

Courtneys on Bradshawgate had a Planning Application 20124/25 for retail and apartments refused 07/08/25

Shakespeare, Farnworth the pub car park was in use by a car dealership with no application for any change of use. The pub itself was still available to rent.

There was a fire at the closed **Withins** pub in Brightmet.

The closed **Bar Metro** on Bradshawgate withdrew a planning application 18024/24 for conversion to an 8-bed HMO. Later 21384/25 for Flats to Offices

The **ex-Royal Oak** on Bradshaw Brow changed its name from Bradshaw Bar and Grill to Istanbul.

A number of Bolton town centre pubs/bars applied to reduce their late-night closing times to avoid the Late-Night levy that was being considered by the council, including

Northern Way, Hogarths and Courthouse reduced to 2am, **Prince Billy's (later Blarney Stone), Holiday Inn and Dragonfly** to 2.59am

In the Pubco Pubs there was the regular turnover of Landlords taking on the task of running their pubs and trying to show a profit including

Royal Oak, A6 Westhoughton

Lord Raglan, Halliwell Rd

Royal, Vernon St

Pineapple, Blackburn Rd Astley Bridge which was also refurbished

Millstone, Crown St after the landlord retired after 18 years. Holts have put the pub up for sale in January 2026 and is now showing as sold Subject to Contract.

Jolly Carter Little Lever (Twice)

Ridgway, Blackrod

Victoria & Albert, Lee Lane Horwich (at least twice)

Elephant & Castle Deansgate (Twice)

Black Horse Kearsley

Balmoral Bradshawgate

Gilnow Deane Rd

Hope & Anchor Chorley Old Rd

White Horse A6 Westhoughton

The following pubs started selling cask beer in 2025

Grapes Mossfield Rd Farnworth (Thwaites Gold and Amber)

Grapes Market Street Stoneclough (Morland Old Speckled Hen)

Churchgate on Churchgate (Moorhouse's White Witch)

Bar Lane Bowling Club (Bank Top Flat Cap)

Westhoughton Sports and Social Club Park Rd (Bank Top beers)

Inn the Dog House Lee Lane Horwich (Various Ossett and Rat) Replaced 8 Bit Micro which had closed

Blackrod Cricket Club Vicarage Rd (Bank Top/Abbeydale – seasonal)

Earl's Chorley Old Rd (Rivington Key Keg)

The following pubs stopped selling cask beer in 2025

Alma Bradshawgate

Beaumont Armadale Rd (Now only Wainwright Brewery Conditioned (Keg) beer served though a ridiculous handpump)

Market St Tavern Stoneclough (Temporary)

Victoria & Albert Lee Lane Horwich, pub had closed and reopened during the year and had sold cask beer on and off.

Bank Market St Westhoughton

Loft Lee Lane Horwich