

Opening Times

Dirt
5P
Cheap

October 1976

1114 Eighth Edition

Editor: Anna Greenhalgh 9 Brogden Grove Sale. Tel: 973 6193

POLLARDS IN THE CENTRE

As you may know, Mr Pollard has been granted a licence to open his first pub which will be in Manchester City centre. The actual situation of the new pub is to be in an old Barclays Bank building on Princess Street between Portland Street and Molsley Street.

It is proposed to call the new pub 'Pollies' and it is hoped to have up to 11 draught beers including Thwaites Best Mild, Sam Smiths 4X Mild, Ruddles County, Marstons Pedigree, Boddingtons Bitter and of course Pollards Bitter. It is pleasing to see that

Mild will be included in the range. (Apologies for quoting in a previous O.T. that there would be no Mild).

Mr Pollard is hoping to open his pub on April 1st 1977 using the old bank counter as the bar with 20 handpumps on it? He also hopes to provide bar food at lunchtimes.

There are at the moment no plans to serve Keg beer but lager will be available.

All we can do is wish Mr P every success and ensure this to some extent by going down and drinking his beers.

FUTURE BRANCH EVENTS

Branch meeting February 10th.

Informal Branch Meeting, Tuesday 22nd February, at 8 o' clock in the Malt Shovels, Altrincham (Sam Smiths)

Brewery trip to Thwaites, Wednesday February 9th.

CAMRA AGM Blackpool March 12th-13th (May be an organised trip)

For further details contact Martin Blamey on (061) 477 0011 (work).

LETTER PINT OF THE MONTH

Despite the quality of all the gorgeous beers at the Exhibition the most enjoyable pint I've had in the past month was Theakstons Bitter in the White Gates, Hyde. If this is Theakstons as it should be, then what are all the critics slating the Brewery for? One hears and reads ridiculous remarks about the quality of their Bitter deteriorating — I had seven pints of it in the White Gates the other night and the only thing that deteriorated was my will-power! Stop knocking Theakstons — it's a super pint!

J. Hopwood

But will it Sell?

Yes its here again — time for another Good Beer Guide. But who's going to buy the 1977 edition? You're going to have to think twice since the cover price is going to be £1.60 for an only slightly improved version of the 1976 Guide. Could CAMRA be pricing itself out of the market. I feel that only the real hardened devotee collectors will buy one. I would appreciate comments on this. —Ed.

Wilson is back!

New Wilsons pubs have opened in Sale and Salford. The one in Sale is called the Beechers and is on Chepstow Avenue and unfortunately is on cellar tanks. And in Salford the Mariner on Liverpool Street and wait for it, its on top pressure. So much for Wilsons and their "We love Real Ale and CAMRA" policy.

Whitbread Sell Out

Burtonwood have recently bought 5 pubs from Whitbread and now re-opened 2 of them selling Burtonwood beers. One is in Stockport on Middle Hillgate and is called the Golden Lion, the other is in Peel Street, Farnworth called the Rawsons Arms.

The other 3 pubs are to be opened

early in the year and these are the Crown Inn, Tarporley, opening in January. In February the Royal Oak, High Lane, Hazel Grove will open and a date for the opening of the Borough in Encombe Place, Salford (near the Royal Hospital) is to be fixed soon after that.

Guinness Triple X

Well did you spot it? December's deliberate mistake — or were you as full of the Christmas spirit as the editorial staff? Apologies to Guinness and anyone else who was misled — the gravity of Triple X is 1071 and not 1017 as quoted in last month's O.T.

CAMRA is a democratic organisation run mainly on a voluntary basis, with a small paid staff. Its aims are to bring about an improvement in the choice and quality of real draught beer, and to fight for an improvement in the character of Britain's pubs.

Features

Mr Trafford's
Diary



Dog with Hangover?

Happy New Year and I bet we've all broken our New Year's resolutions by now. I gave up drinking and smoking among other wealthy joys of life, but luckily it didn't last long; its amazing how a few halves of Old Tom can make you forget things.

Inner Warmth

Talking of Strong Ale, there's nothing to beat it for warming your toes on a

cold winter's day and although 20p a half may seem a lot, it actually saves you money because you fall over before you spend too much. Apart from Robinsons Old Tom which seems now to be widely available, Lees Moonraker made its appearance at the Jolly Butcher, Butcher Lane Wythenshawe (admittedly not in Trafford, but within singing distance if you've got a good pair of lungs), Hydes Strong Ale returned to the Quarry Bank, Timperley and Boddingtons Strong Ale made a brief guest appearance at the Railway, Broadheath over Christmas. There must have been a few poorly people around over the festive season! Unfortunately, Marstons didn't think Owd Rodger would sell in the Carters Arms, Northen Moor, so we never had the chance to test its popularity, though judging by the amount of Pedigree downed by the regulars, they like their beer strong and it might have gained a foothold.

What we want is Real Wilsons

Residents on the 'Racecourse' estate in Ashton on Mersey have gained a new pub — the Beechers. It's certainly an interesting design and different from the normal barn-like new estate pubs. Someone at Wilsons has some imagination and I like the use of old brickwork in its construction. Unfortunately, Wilsons initiative stopped

at real bricks and free-flow bar taps dispense beer from cellar tanks. So come on Wilsons, what has happened to the fanfare that accompanied the opening of the Real Ale Chequerboard in Salford? Was that merely a Watneys Red Herring designed to convince us that the Wilsons management were all CAMRA members so that we would concentrate our campaigning against other brewers while you quietly got on with the job of installing tanks elsewhere?

Stop Press

Planning applications have been submitted for two new pubs in Trafford one of which is also on the 'racecourse' estate on Catterick Avenue, which is to be yet another Whitbread Fizz palace. (Is Ashton on Mersey doomed to become the beer desert of Manchester?)

More interesting perhaps is the second pub to be on Bold Street, Stretford, owned by Watney/Wilsons. But which is it going to be, Watneys or Wilsons, Fizz or Real Ale? (See above and William Hiccup column).

Reader's Letters.

Yes, we've had some correspondance at last! I was delighted to receive, via the editor, a letter from Mr Peter

WILLIAM HICCUP

COLUMN

Watneys go back to old habits

As has been mentioned elsewhere in this month's Opening Times, Watneys have recently opened a new pub called the Beechers on Chepstow Avenue in Ashton-on-Mersey. Now do you remember the great fanfare there was when the Chequerboard in Salford was opened some time ago with real ale. At the time Watneys made enough fuss about the opening of a new estate pub selling cask beer and weren't they being wonderful and good to CAMRA etc etc.

So the Beechers opens with brand new gleaming (no doubt) cellar tanks, with little or no publicity. I think Watneys must have thought that Chepstow Avenue was well hidden from

By Brown Peter

CAMRA South Manchester so that nobody would find the pub. It makes you think that all the Chequerboard was intended to be a sop to CAMRA to try and lull them into thinking that Watneys had had a change of heart. Perhaps Watneys think that people in Ashton-on-Mersey are not bothered about what they drink and so Watneys will give them fizz in that case.

Would Watneys like to comment on their change of policy. Over to you Mr Cunningham.....

Real Ale Whitbread

Is it my imagination, or was it once said that a couple of Whitbread pubs in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, the Feathers and the Royal Oak I think, sold cask conditioned draught Bass alongside their chemical products. I must confess to complete ignorance as to whether this is still so. Perhaps someone would find out for me.

More Real Ale Whitbread

Whitbreads have been selling pubs off in Yorkshire for some time now, mostly to the free trade, and now it seems that the policy has reached us. I suppose its one way of getting real ale into Whitbread houses especially as

CONTINUED BACK PAGE

Robinson commenting on the write-up given to the Railway in Sale, the gist of which was to 'put my mind at rest' that there is 'certainly no intention of making a gin palace out of it.' I apologise if I gave the impression that I was opposed to any alterations and I agree that the exterior certainly needs improving. I for one will not stop drinking there just because my own favourite bit of the snug will have some fresh paint on it and a more open outlook — but I'll still miss the intimacy of those small rooms!

Any more news and views relevant to Trafford please send to Mick Rottenbury, 50, Poplar Grove, Sale, Cheshire. Tel: 969 7013

much disappointment and a wasted journey. If the selfishness of customers is to blame by not returning casks then I suggest that casks would be returned more quickly if an extra £2 deposit were taken, returnable only on production of the cask within say seven days. Also if the telephone number or address of the purchaser were noted, he could be informed by the brewery of any imminent shortages.

More bad news for Marston Pedigree drinkers. Sales at the Royal Oak, Weston, are low and it may be discontinued. Maybe the economic squeeze is to blame.

We can all take heart from the fact that Real Mild is now on sale alongside

the Honky Tonk variety. But get there early and don't forget the Mild.

The recent cloud at Tetley (Warrington) had a silver lining for Real Ale drinkers. The choice of beers in the region was increased by enterprising tenants and I was able to drink such brews as M&B and Theakstons in the most unlikely places.

Most Merseyside 'Walker Bitter' houses were stocked up for Christmas with 'foreign' beers when the strike was called off, so the scarce Tetley (Walker) bitter was not brewed immediately.

Part of a recent branch letter to Tetley contained the question "What is the basic difference between Tetley Bitter and Walker Bitter?" The PR man from Leeds was given the job of

WARRINGTON COLUMN

Visiting relatives at Christmas time often gives one the added bonus of sampling unfamiliar beers. This year I tried Darley, Home, and Ward. If you think you know the town in which I was staying, the prize is a crate of Guinness for the first correct answer received.

A black mark was gained by the Robinson Brewery Shop this Christmas and a chance lost for Real Ale. A Warringtonian, prompted by the 'Opening Times' advertisement, ordered his beer early in November. But his efforts came to nought for when he arrived to collect it on 23rd December, no pins were available. This resulted in

the Bitter at J.W. Lees, Spread Eagle, Eagle Brow, Lymm. The landlord is actively encouraging the sale of the handpumped beers and bar staff now only use the Keg dispensers if specifically requested. If you are in any way dissatisfied with your pint, the landlord would prefer you to complain rather than do what we have all been guilty of at some time or other ie. sulk in a corner, never to return.

The Spread Eagle is all things to all men. A pleasant Hotel for the traveller, a quality restaurant, or a quiet village pub selling snacks. If you're a folk singer, Sunday is your night. While there is more live music on Friday of

avoiding answering it. However, it is thought by Branch Members that the brews differ only in the quantity of hops used.

If this is so, it increases my fears that one of the bitters could easily be phased out gradually.

Future Informal Events

Tuesday 1st of February sees our return to the Windmill at Tabley (M6 junction 19) so come and try some Robinsons for a change. But before then our New Year Party will be held in Warrington on Saturday 22nd January. A choice of beers, the like of which the town has never seen, will be available.

Gordon Smith.

WHITE GATES INN



The White Gates Inn opened in 1854 when Charles Hincliffe brewed his own beer in the back yard.

In 1872 there were 11 spittouns in the Vault, and the pub sold canary seed to the miners on their way to the pit up the road.

The White Gates Inn was run by five generations of the Oldham family until 1975.

Today the pub is owned and run by CAMRA. It has been renovated and

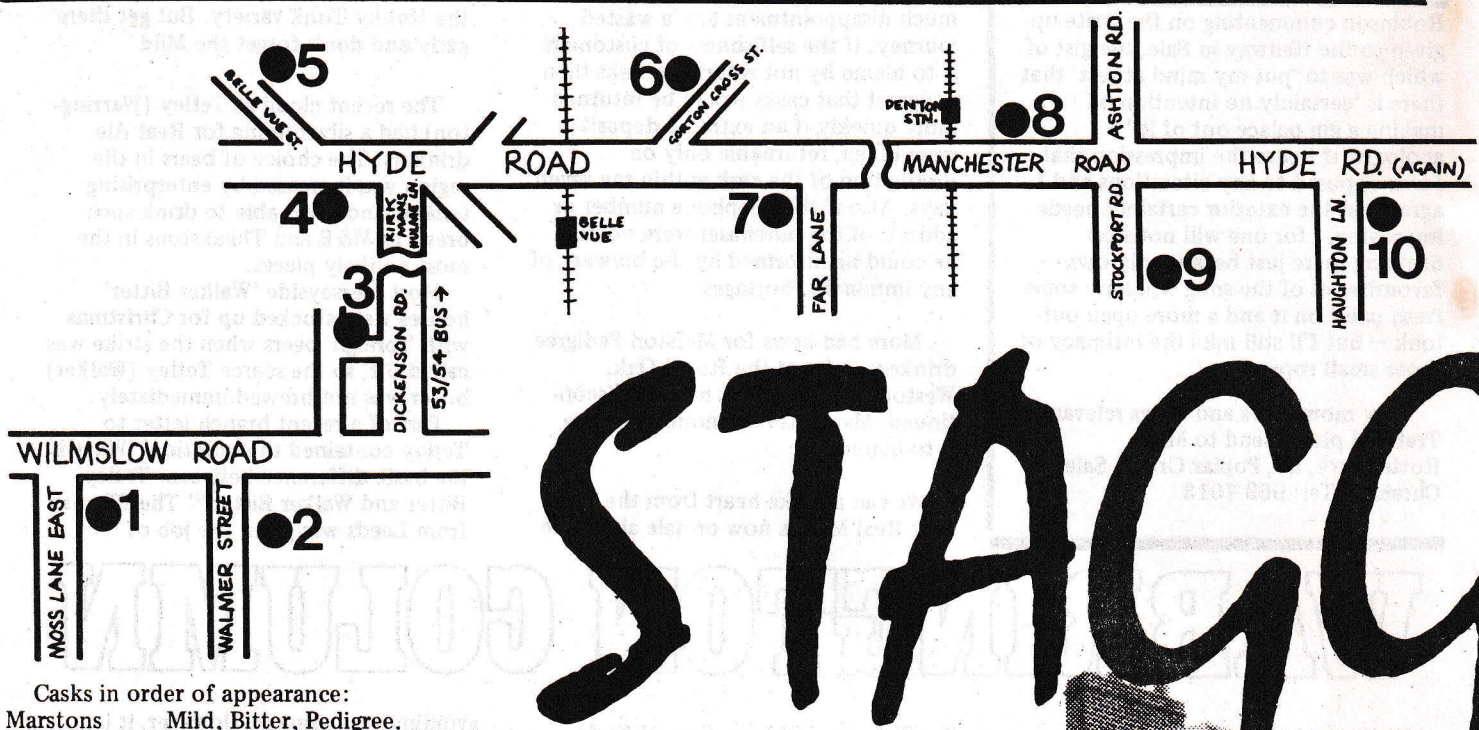
extended. It is a maze of little rooms and alleyways. It sells bitter from Boddingtons, Pollards and Theakstons best mild from Thwaites, Old Peculiar Strong Ale, and good food at working people's prices.

The White Gates Inn
Manchester Road Hyde

**6 Months
issues
for £1**

O.T. ON SUBSCRIPTION

It may interest those unfamiliar with the Opening Times that this miraculous journal is available on subscription. The cost is a mere £1 for six months issues or an even more mere (mererer?) 50p for three months. If you wish to subscribe to the Opening Times or have anything to contribute to future issues please contact the Editor, 9 Brogden Grove, Sale. Tel: 973 6193. The deadline for copy is generally the 1st of each month.



STAGGER

Casks in order of appearance:

- Marstons Mild, Bitter, Pedigree.
- Hydes Mild, Bitter.
- Greenalls Bitter, Mild.
- Wilsons Bitter, Mild.
- Tetley Bitter, Mild.
- Robinsons Bitter, Mild.
- Lees Bitter, Mild.
- Holts Bitter, Mild.
- Burtonwoods Bitter, Mild.
- Bass Draught Bass, Brew Ten, Best Mild, Toby Light.
- Pollards Bitter.
- Thwaites Mild
- Boddingtons Bitter, Strong Ale.
- Theakstons Bitter, Old Peculier.

breweries in 10 different pubs, so it is obviously a crawl designed for half pint drinking.

The starting point of the Stagger is near the junction of Moss Lane East with Wilmslow Road in pub No1, the Whitworth. This is a very popular pub with a choice of Marstons Pedigree, Burton Bitter and Mild. The excellence

While organising the recent Wythen-shawe Beer Exhibition and visiting pubs for inclusion in both the national and Greater Manchester Good Beer Guides it became apparent just how many different beers are available in Manchester. It has often been our boast that "Manchester is the centre of the beer drinking Universe." We have now conclusive evidence that this is true. There are over 50 different beers available in Manchester and not even London with all its fancy 35pence a pint imports can equal that.

This stagger has been compiled to try and cram the maximum amount of different beers into the minimum of travelling. The crawl involves a minimum of two bus rides, a maximum of three or possibly four. If using the bus a SaverSeven ticket is the best bet. Alternatively a teetotal car owner may be persuaded to chauffeur you along the route.

There are 29 different beers to choose from, from a choice of 14



of the beer justifies the inclusion of this pub in the national Good Beer Guide.

A few minutes stroll along Wilmslow Road heading away from the town centre and turning right into Walmer Street is pub No.2, the Albert which serves handpumped Hydes Mild and Bitter. The pub also has a large turnover in Draught (Keg) Guinness.

Leaving the Albert head back onto Wilmslow Road, stroll along at a leisurely pace (don't want to disturb the stomach too much do we) until the traffic lights at Dickenson Raod, turn



left and you will see pub No.3, The Welcome Inn. This former Groves and Whitnall pub was saved from demolition by a petition from its large and varied clientele. It is now listed as 'an excellent example of an Edwardian pub.' The Greenalls Bitter and Mild are electrically served. (There are folk evenings in this pub for the CAMRA folkists among us). Be sure to visit the loo twice in this pub, not that it has any architectural merit, but there is a bus ride ahead.

The stop is about fifty yards from the Welcome on Wilmslow Road or about 25 yards away on Dickenson Road. The 53 is a frequent service, or should be. More often than not you can wait 20 minutes then five will come nose to tail at once (sorry GMPTE,

that's a slight exaggeration). Travel on this bus to Belle Vue Zoo main gate on Hyde Road. Alongside the main gate is "pub" No.4, Jennisons Ale House. This establishment is straight from a film set and was described in Opening Times No.6 as follows: "The decor is expensive looking and gives the place the appearance of an Edwardian gentleman's club. You can almost expect to see Lawrence of Arabia walk through the French Windows. The beers, served

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through smart looking porcelain hand-pumps are Tetleys Mild and Bitter and Wilsons Mild and Bitter." Nuff said. Incidentally, the Belle Vue area is an excellent one for drinking, with eleven pubs selling beers from six breweries available. The area was the subject of a separate crawl in Opening Times No.6. Copies available from the editor.

Crossing Hyde Road and walking a short way up Belle Vue Street you reach pub No.5, the Coach and Horses. The electrically pumped Robinsons Mild and Bitter are excellent.

Leaving the Coach and Horses return to the Hyde Road, turn left and walk ¼mile to reach Gortoncross Street, turn left and a short wobble will bring you to pub No.6, the Suburban, a rare outpost of John Willie Lees beers. The Bitter and Mild are served from the usual Lees pillar taps.

Retrace your steps to Hyde Road, turn right and continue until you reach No.7, the Waggon and Horses on the corner of Far Lane. This pub, described in the 1976 national Good Beer Guide as 'Large, plain and basic', sells beer that is considered by many to be the best in the country. Holts Bitter has been said to make grown men weep. The Bitter and Mild are served through handpumps.

The remaining three pubs are all on the same bus route but there is a gap of about two miles between No.8 and No.10 with No.9 somewhere inbetween. Buses along Hyde Road are frequent and most go all the way to the White Gates. Any bus with something resembling Hyde or Hattersley on the front should be OK. Pub No.8 is about a mile from the Waggon and Horses and is

next to Denton Railway Station (occasional trains to Stockport and Salybridge). The Queens Hotel is a Burtonwood house serving electrically pumped Mild and Bitter. Burtonwood are a brewery who seem to be keen on increasing their trade in Manchester as they have just bought five pubs from Whitbread (see elsewhere in this issue).

Half a mile further along Manchester Road are Crown Point traffic lights, turn right onto Stockport Road and will reach the Jolly Hatters, No.9, on the right hand side of the road. This pub is rare in the fact that it is a Bass Charington pub with handpumps, an even rarer fact is that it sells all four Bass products through these handpumps, these being draught Bass, Brew Ten, Best Mild and Toby Light.

Returning to Manchester/Hyde Road a mile nearer to Hyde is pub No.10, the White Gates Inn. This is owned by CAMRA (Real Ale) Investments Ltd, a company formed to run pubs selling traditional beer where they felt it was most needed. The beers available are as follows: Boddingtons Bitter, Thwaites Mild, Theakstons Bitter and Old Peculiar, Pollards Bitter and Boddingtons Strong Ale served from a choice of hand or electric pumps.

Some notes and observations

1). A notable absentee from this Stagger is Boddingtons Mild. This is available at the following three pubs on or near the route: The Nags Head, the Unicorn, both on Hyde Road at Belle Vue, the Lowes Arms, 400 yards before the White Gates.

2). The intention of this Stagger is not for people to attempt to drink every beer available in every pub. It is meant to illustrate the wide range of traditional draught beers available around Manchester. The Stagger is best attempted making a 5.30pm start and picking and choosing the pubs to visit.

3). Jennisons Ale House was included because of the range of four beers in one place. If the drinker wishes to drink these same beers in a pub atmosphere then they are available five minutes away in the following pubs: Tetley Mild and Bitter, the Rock, Hyde Road, Belle Vue, (Handpumps). Wilsons Mild and Bitter, the Cheshire Hunt, Hyde Road, Belle Vue, (electric pumps) and the Imperial, Birch Lane off Hyde Road, Belle Vue, handpumps and highly recommended.

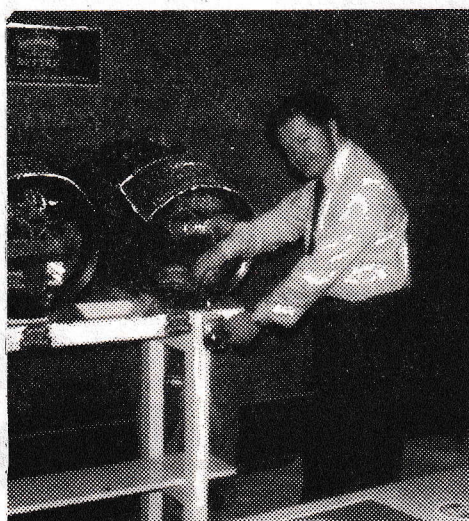
4). Some of the pubs have not been visited by the author for some time as this crawl was written some time ago. To the best of my knowledge the beers and other details are still unchanged.

5). It is hoped that readers of this Stagger will rack their brains to devise staggers that cram more beers into less mileage. Please send these either to the editor or to me at 7, Warwick Avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 8NA.

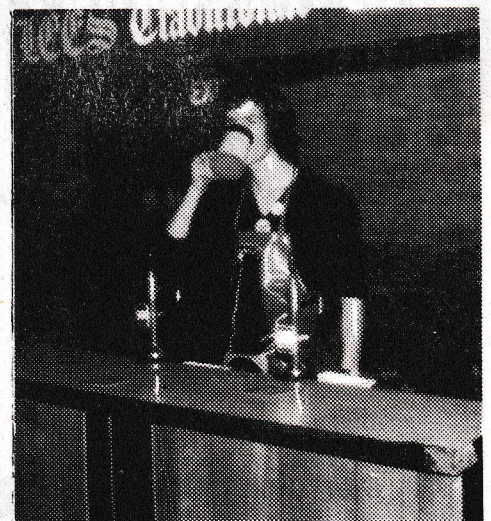
6). Recommended reading: The Greater Manchester Good Beer Guide. The Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authorities Time Table (and Rules and Regulations)

7). If anyone does the crawl in a night please write and tell us about it.

Graham Lister.



A look back at the Beer Exhibition, with Mr Revell on the Greenalls and Mr Lister caught in that time honoured pose, conscientiously STILL checking



to see that the beer is all right. (This is necessary about every 15 to 20 minutes, beer can be very sneaky about going off you know!).

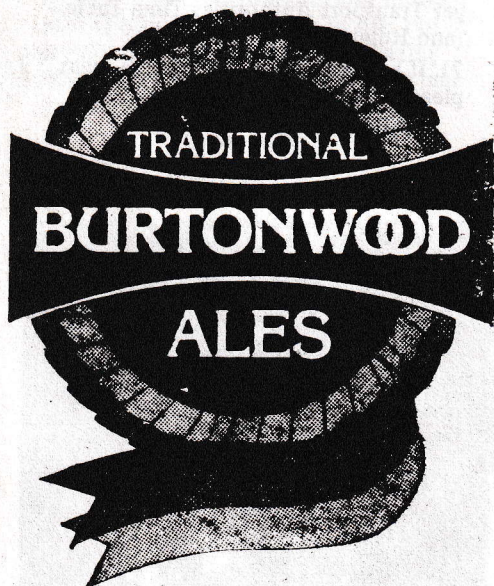
WILLIAM HICCUP COLUMN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Burtonwoods seem to be keen to put cask conditioned beer into their new acquisitions and Sam Smiths will do the same in theirs.

The interesting point of course is why are Whitbreads doing this? Obviously some Vimto drinking accountant (probably the Personal Assistant to the Managing Director of Chemical Concoctions and Chief Gasser) has worked out that the number of pints drunk to the pub square foot per unit of opening time falls short of the required 4.5716 recurring mean figure necessary to show an economic return (or perhaps the walls will not take the strain of plastic beams).

Anyhow Burtonwoods seem to think that they can make a go of it. Perhaps a branch visit may be worth while to the Golden Lion on Middlegate. Afterall, South Manchester is not exactly overflowing with Burtonwood pubs.



New Feature

Its amazing how many CAMRA members work in Manchester Town Centre but never seem to talk about the City Centre pubs. So in reaction to an



overwhelming nil response on other City Centre pubs, with the New Year upon us, Opening Times proudly presents the 'Hiccup City Centre Pub of the Month'. The one chosen for this month is an obscure one, not mentioned in the national Guide, it is not easily found and is not near anywhere in particular and it is The Oxford, (by Oxford Road Station) on Oxford Street and it sells Wilsons by handpumps. The beer is usually excellent, food range at dinner-time is good, the service is sometimes slow but always friendly, and the pub itself is surprisingly big. So why not give it a try?

Odes to Ale

There was a bighead named Whitbread,
Who's beer he said was a boom
But if anyone dares
Or anyone cares
To drink it would end in a tomb.

Fighting Pints

Entertainment videotape supplier VCL has teamed up with Tetley's brewery to install playback VCR machines and programmes in 30 of the company's public houses.

The move follows a pilot scheme, run in just a few of the Liverpool pubs, and eventual aim is to build up the number of outlets for the programmes (boxing is proving to be particularly popular) to some 70 pubs.

Sets of programmes are being supplied to 'areas' of five pubs each, which will then interchange programmes. Eventual aim is to support the exercise by advertising inserts into the programmes, to which VCL holds UK distribution rights.

Audio Visual November 1976

YOKE, YA?

Three men, an Englishman and two Norwegians, were sitting in a compartment on an Inter-City train. One of the Norwegians, Olf, who was dressed as a Teddy Boy, complete with winkle pickers, drapes and greased hair, got up and left, returning some ten minutes later with a can of beer. Olf sat down, took a sip and broke out into a string of four letter words. The coarse, vulgar language continued for some time until the Englishman enquired of the other Scandanavian what was the matter with his friend.

He thought for a while and said: 'Rude Olf the ted loathes train beer....'

Pinched from Christmas issue of Mayfair magazine.

Back Page