



SS Solihull & South Bham BORO BANTER



NO. 11 JULY 1983

THINK OF A PUB with a choice of 19 beers on draught.
THINK OF A STORE with a selection of 150-plus bottle and canned beers.
THINK OF AN OFF-LICENCE that sells spirits, sherry, port and cider on draught.
THINK OF AN OUTDOOR that stocks 60 varieties of wine.
YOU CAN'T????



BERNIES

BIRMINGHAM'S NO. 1

Real Ale Off Licence

*We have got the lot, all to enjoy in the comfort of your own home.
Containers supplied from pints to gallons.*

**EARLS COURT ROAD, 266 CRANMORE BOULEVARD,
HARBORNE. TEL: 021-427 5796 SHIRLEY. TEL: 021-744 2827**

SCRUMPY
from
39p
PER PINT

BAILEYS

Over the last few years, many small breweries have appeared around the country and now one has started production quite near to our area. Bailey's Brewing Company brewed for the first time last month and the very first brew was available in Shirley at BERNIES Off-Licence.

Tim Bailey is a professional brewer who has helped set up 8 new breweries for other people but now he feels it is time to start up his own brewery.

It is situated in a disused piggery!, at Leigh Sinton near Great Malvern which is the village where Malvern Chase brewery has been sited for the last few years. The close proximity of the two breweries has led to many arguments. Peter Norbury, the owner of Chase, feels there may not be room for two breweries so close although Tim does not agree. To make matters more complicated, Baileys Brewery is on land leased from Tom Norbury (the cider maker) who is Peter's brother!

Bailey's Best Bitter (OG: 1040) is available in about eight pubs fairly near Leigh Sinton but it is eventually hoped to find 30 outlets for the ale, around Worcestershire and hopefully further afield too. It is an unusual tasting beer, quite dry and bitter. This is deliberate for he is trying to brew a beer which is very distinctive and will remain in people's minds. However the recipe has now been changed slightly to become not quite so dry. See column two.

Baileys contd

This will again be available from Bernies in Shirley towards the end of July, so anyone wishing to try this beer, which is certainly worth trying should go along.

REAL LAGER!

With all the beer about I suppose it was inevitable that a traditional lager would appear. In June Allied launched 'Samuel Allsopps Gold Cross' (OG: 1040) into about 50 pubs around B'ham. It is cask-conditioned and served by hand-pull, but very light blanket pressure is used and the beer is passed through a flash cooler. However on sampling this brew it wasn't any noticeably colder or fizzier than real ale. In our area it is available at the Lyndon, Barn Lane, Olton; The Clock, Bickenhill; and The Lodge in Solihull Lodge.

WHITBREAD SEE THE LIGHT!

The Crab Mill, near Henley has recently added Wadworth 6X, Hook Norton Bitter and Marston's Pedigree, alongside Flowers OB. These are very welcome in Solihull and this appears to be a new policy for Whitbread, whose motto says 'Whitbread For Choice'. This is good news for the drinker dramatically improving his choice although the prices are rather high with Hookie at 68p per pint!

The Bulls Head

SALTER STREET, EARLSWOOD

Mine Hosts: Dave and Margaret Weston

TRADITIONAL CASK CONDITIONED ALE

ANSELLS EXCELLENT MILD AND BITTER

IND COOPES SUPERB BURTON ALE

HOT AND COLD FOOD

AVAILABLE 12-2pm

EVERY LUNCHTIME

also THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

EVENINGS 6-8

DAVENPORTS BREWERY VISIT

Now that our Branch is properly established, we are enjoying a very active and interesting social life. In May, 30 of us visited Davenports Brewery. You probably know that Banks's bid failed thanks mainly to Whitbread buying 6% shares. They probably want Davvies to remain independent because Davenports can and bottle beers for them. It is surprising just how much contract work they do and this accounts for a fair proportion of the profits. We were able to see beers canned for Greene King, Everards and many supermarkets. It is good to see a brewery in this day and age working seemingly flat out. As well as the canning/bottling process we were able to see the real ale process, from start to finish. Davenports brewers put a lot of skill and care into the beers as well as top quality ingredients and this reflects in end product. At the end of the tour we sampled the beers in the sampling room, where each day the brewers and directors taste the beer for quality and consistency. We were able to try all the beers in their natural state before any pasteurization or filtering, in the case of the lagers and keg. Highlight of the sampling was from a firkin of traditional Top Brew De Luxe. This was first rate. What a shame it is all bottled. Why can't they let a small amount go out in casks for a limited period each year, Christmas perhaps? How about it Davvies.

BEERS OF THE WORLD No. 1

It is interesting to note that in 1977 Britain was the 3rd largest producer of beer in the world, producing 110,867,400,000 pints—a lot of beer! The USA is the largest producer, producing nearly 3 times the UK's amount but each American drinks about a $\frac{1}{4}$ less per year than the average Brit. Could it be something to do with the fizzy concoctions on sale? Largest consumers per head are, you've guessed it, the West Germans, drinking an average of 259 pints per year per head against the British boozers 206.

What we in the UK consider a massive brewery, say Bass, our largest producer with 7900 pubs produced over 20 billion pints in '77. The world's largest brewery is in the States—the Anheuser-Busch group, whose main brand is Budweiser. They produced a staggering 71 billion pints of fizz in '77. The world's 2nd largest brewery is also American, Schlitz. Surprisingly the 3rd largest is Japanese. The Kirin Brewery who are part of the Mitsubishi T.V. and car group. In a country where sake was cherished for 2000 years, beer has taken over as the number one beverage. Each month in the BANTER will be an article about a particular country's brews, an interesting contrast to ours. This month we shall look at Australia which is not all Fosters, though pretty well nearly! Australian drinkers are very machismo minded. Aussie beer is the best in the world they retort. Yet most is canned and bottled and

very little cask-conditioned. In Australia a large fridge is essential—for all those 'tubes' of Fosters and KB.

South Australia boasts the only brewery producing real ale (Australia only has 14 brewerise), those of Coopers of Adelaide, whose Sparkling Ale has a cloudy appearance! Darwin in the Northern Territories is the thirstiest city in the world. 405 pints per person per head, putting Munich and Prague to shame. Darwin's other claim to fame is the largest bottle of beer in the world, the four pint 'Darwin Stubby'.

Beers are generally weak, 3-4 degrees proof spirit (about the same as an ordinary bitter) and are served very cold at around 36F - 42F. The beer measures vary from a 4oz to a pint. Interestingly Courage opened a brewery in Melbourne in 1968 producing a bottled beer called 'draught' and a Tankard Bitter!

British Fosters is an imitation of a keg, which does not exist as a draught beer in Australia. Definitely not a country for the Real-Ale drinker.

COMING SOON:

New SOLIHULL REAL ALE GUIDE

Listing 20 or so pubs of particular interest plus all the others throughout the area.

SEE IT SOON AT YOUR LOCAL
ONLY 10p

BRANCH DIARY

JULY 4th Open Committee Meeting at the Bulls Head, Earston. ALL welcome.

JULY 21st Social- Navigation, Lapworth and canalside walk to Tom o the Wood, Rowington.

FOR ANY DETAILS OF SOLIHULL CAMRA'S ACTIVITIES PLEASE RING BRIAN QUEENBOROUGH ON 744-3113 OR MALCOLM GLASS ON 705-8613

DONT		MISS
Bingley Hall - Birmingham		September 6 - 10
REAL ALE REAL FOOD	great british beer festival	REAL MUSIC REAL CIDER

THE LODGE

of
YARDLEY WOOD ROAD
SOLIHULL LODGE

fine  ales

TRADITIONAL

mine hosts:-
PETE AND JANE HOLGATE

SEE YOU SOON!

SAMUEL ALSOPP'S
GOLD CROSS
lager
SOLD
HERE