



“Solihull & South Bham

# BORO BANTER”



## Cippler's Paradise

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Suppliers of Traditional ales for throughout the UK.

Every pint drawn is backed by 25 years experience in the licenced trade.

BEERS INCLUDE

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open Mon-Sat 11:00 - 2:30 & 6:00 - 10:00  
Sun 12:00 - 2:00 & 7:00 - 10:00

NO 8 FEBRUARY 1983

### 10 Years in Good Beer Guide

The Railway at Dorridge is the only pub in Solihull which has been in the Good Beer Guide since its introduction, continuously, for 10 years.

This small, friendly and cosy M&B House has been in the Watson family since the 1st World War and is presently run by Mrs Babe Watson and her son, Joe, and his wife Janet.

The 2-roomed pub was a former cobbler's cottage until it was converted in the 1880's. Last year the lounge bar was redecorated, still retaining a cosy atmosphere and the toilets were re-built.

There is a garden at the pub, which makes it popular with families in the Summer.

Beers available are hand-pulled M&B Brew XI and Mild plus for the Winter only Highgate Old Ale winter warmer. Prices in the pub are definitely below average and quality of the beer usually

above average.

The Campaign congratulates Babe on this achievement and hopes the pub will be in the Guide for another 10 years; remaining one of a dying breed of M&B pubs serving beer by hand-pull, M&B preferring electric pumps, which not only are less decorative and traditional, but make it difficult to tell whether you are buying cask or keg beer.

The branch will be presenting the pub with a special certificate at a social at the pub on Wednesday 30 March 1983.

### BULLS HEAD, EARLSWOOD

Our apologies to Mr Dave Weston of the Bulls Head, for last months unfortunate error in which we stated that the Ansell's Bitter was keg. In fact it is not only cask-conditioned served on hand-pull, but was one of the best pints of Ansell's Bitter I have tasted in a long time. Sorry. We also stated the social was on the 14 February on the front cover, and 22 February on the reverse!! We were just testing really - of course you all know it is on the 22 February!!

## BERNIES

The real ale off Licence



266 CRANMORE BOULEVARD,  
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WONDERLAND FOR THE REAL ALE DRINKER..

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GUINNESS, NORTH COUNTRY,

SCRUMPY ON DRAUGHT ...

SO THAT WE CAN OFFER YOU A VARIED SELECTION  
OF TRADITIONAL BEERS, OUR RANGE OF GUEST BEERS  
CHANGES WEEKLY TO INCLUDE..

TISBURY, WADWORTHS, ROYAL OAK, BANKS'S  
ABBOT ALE, FULLERS, HOOK NORTON,  
ADNAMS, ROBINSONS, MOORHOUSES, BRIDGE,  
PLUS MANY MANY MORE.....

# MASONS ARMS, High Street, SOLIHULL

This converted pub is a typical M&B conglomeration of a I-Roomed Lounge bar establishment, a mere shadow of a past pub of character that once had various small and interesting rooms. Currently, the right hand side is comfortable and quite well laid out but the rest seems somewhat cramped and dingy.

The original garden drinking area still remains; a redeeming factor in the Summer, while the clubhouse is still retained for occasional social meetings.

On the beer front the news is varied; with the Brew XI recently joining the Mild on a CO2 pressure due to the restricted cellar space where so many of the kegs are required to be standing on their end because there is not enough room for many barrels of cask conditioned beer lying on their sides. Never had this problem years ago. Has the cellar shrunk with modernisation, or is it all those lager barrels taking up the room?

Draught Bass remains served on 'straight electric' in as good a condition as possible for a beer that has become ERRATIC and inconsistent due to new brewing techniques now favoured to the once famous Union System which unfortunately has rendered the beer into a . . . mere shadow of its old self. Also on the credit side Highgate Old Ale (IO52:OG) is served on a small handpump which is a welcome winter drink levelling up the real ale score.

Last, but not least, the new landlord who came from a pub in the tough Sparkhill area is to be commended on his efforts to eliminate some of the younger 'yob element' that have frequented the pub and driven some of the regular customers away; a doorman was in evidence and trainers and jeans were barred on a recent visit.

CLAUDE

## BRANCH DIARY

- 17 February Open Committee Meeting 8.30 pm  
White Lion, Hampton.
- 22 February Branch Pub-Of-The-Month, Bulls Head,  
Salter Street, Earlswood.
- 16 March Branch Meeting, 8.00 pm Lyndon Arms,  
SOLIHULL.



It's claimed to be the last men-only bar in the country.

## WHAT IS REAL ALE?

IF YOU are wondering what all the fuss over real ale is about, here's a quick explanation that should slide down as quickly as a pint of 'real ale'.

Cask beer has been brewed from malted barley and hops for centuries. Once all the beers in this country were real ales.

But, being a living 'food' which continues to ferment even in the pub cellar, cask beer requires looking after and will go off if kept too long.

So, in the name of convenience and hard cash (not the customer), some brewers began to process their beers to make them easier to handle and longer lasting.

One of these processes is filtering. This takes the 'body' out of the beer. Another is pasteurising. This completely kills the beer.

Filtered beer is referred to as 'bright' or container beer and is often sold in tanks (particularly in the clubs). Pasteurised beer is sold in pressurised kegs - the pressure being needed to give the beer some artificial life when served.

These 'processed' beers are not bad beers. Just mediocre.

It's like the difference between pre-packed sliced white bread, and a wholemeal crusty loaf from your local baker.

Some of the big brewers don't think you can tell the difference. The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) believes you can. Taste is worth fighting for. And worth getting cask beer back into your pubs (and clubs) - and your pint pot.

Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Campaign as a whole.

## **JOIN**



**AND  
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FUN  
PROTECTING  
YOUR  
PINT**

I enclose £7 for FULL MEMBERSHIP  
\* I wish my wife/husband to become a joint member free of charge.  
or  
I/We enclose completed standing order authority

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STANDING ORDER FORM  
(For Full or Husband/Wife Membership Only)

To (your Bank)  
Please forward to Barclays Bank Ltd., 3 High Street, St. Albans, (20-74-09) for the credit of CAMRA Ltd. Subscription Account. A/C No. 50187887; now the sum of £7 and continue to pay this sum on the . . . . . annually until further notice.  
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SIGNATURE . . . . . Date . . . . .

NAME (block capitals) . . . . .

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For details of CAMRA in Solihull, please contact:—  
Malcolm Glass on 705-8613, or better still why not come to one of our meetings, you will be most welcome.

Typing courtesy of Maxine Whitehouse