



Solihull BORO BANTER



ISSUE No. 26

SOLIHULL CARNIVAL EDITION, JUNE 1985

The new Lodge



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BEER AT IT'S BEST.

**Yardley Wood Road,
Solihull Lodge.**

BURTONALE

**Wide range of Bar Meals available:
Mon. — Sat. 12.00 — 2.00 p.m.**



THREE TUNS BOUNCES BACK

It was reported in last month's 'Boro Banter' that The Three Tuns in Henley was up for sale and had a very uncertain future. These fears have proved unfounded as the pub has been sold and given a new lease of life. The Landlord of the Nags Head in Henley, Mr. John English has bought the Tuns and the pub was soon re-opened. We understand that it will still be selling Ansell's beers for the time being.

ANOTHER NEW BEER HITS OUR AREA

The Crabmill at Preston Bagot, near Henley has recently started selling another new beer to this area. Liddingtons Tudor Ale is now on sale alongside Wadworths 5X, Hook Norton Best Bitter, Marstons Pedigree and Flowers Original. Tudor Ale is the old Litchborough beer but is 1983 that company was taken over by John Liddington, the wine and spirit merchants, hence the beer's change of name. Tudor Ale is a pleasant 1044 brew and is selling well at the moment in The Crabmill. It will be on sale only if turn-over is good. The quality of the beer has improved recently, since the new landlord has moved in although they are still expensive. This reflects the smartness of the decor and affluence of the clientele.



WHITBREAD SPRING A SURPRISE

In a surprising development, Whitbread have introduced a cask mild into their Midlands Trading area. Until recently only keg was available but now there is Durham Mild, which is brewed at Castle Eden in County Durham.

One point that bothers us slightly is that it will only be sold on electric pump. According to their market research, handpumps are not as good a selling point as electric pumps but what we can't understand is the fact that other companies are selling products like wine and keg lager through "fake" handpumps, which seems to imply Whitbread have got it wrong. I would prefer the landlord to be able to choose the method of dispensing himself, taking into consideration points like the distance of the pump from the barrel, space available, what his locals prefer etc.

Having said all that I am pleased to see this mild available and hope it is a success.

At the moment we are unsure about its availability in our area. The Winged Spur, Ullenhall, is one pub that does sell it.

NEW BEER IN KNOWLE



The range of real ales in Knowle was widened recently when an old wine bar re-opened as a "pub" selling handpulled Courage Directors Bitter. It is called Nosey Parkers and as the name suggests it is definitely NOT what you would call a traditional pub. However, it is pleasing to see real beer in a modern young peoples' pub and equally encouraging is the fact that the Directors is selling well. The landlord is keen on real ale and does not rule out the possibility of other traditional beers appearing in the future.



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BOB AND ANN COPPACK
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WARM WELCOME



DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT WHAT YOU ARE DRINKING

This being The Solihull Carnival issue of the "BORO BANTER" we have had a bigger print run. With this in mind, some of our readers will probably be seeing a CAMRA Newsletter for the first time so here is a brief description of what REAL ALE and CAMRA are. Traditional (or real) beer is brewed from malted barley, hops, water and yeast. There should be no artificial ingredients and after the brewing process it should be stored in casks to mature or condition. This secondary fermentation is what gives real beer its character and extra body. It should then be served in a way that does not involve the introduction of extraneous carbon dioxide gas. The alternative to real ale is keg beer which is filtered and pasteurised to kill off the yeast completely. The dead, lifeless putrid liquid is then put into sealed metal containers called kegs and shipped out to pubs. Here carbon dioxide is squirted

into the "beer" which is often chilled excessively to hide the lack of taste. Its advantage is that it is easier to brew and serve than real ale and lasts much longer, increasing its profitability. Its disadvantage is its taste which is where CAMRA comes in. Because of massive advertising, keg beer became popular and the future of real ale was seriously threatened. The campaign for

and they also hold many meetings and socials, such as rambles, pub games nights and brewery trips. One big problem facing Camra and the future availability of traditional beer is the swing of the drinking public towards lager. We believe British lager is the biggest 'con' in the history of the brewing industry. Although they would never admit it, I suspect many leading brewery officials would agree! The main brands of British lager such as Castlemaine, Heineken, Carlsberg etc., are weak versions of foreign brews. They are not produced to the same recipe and do not taste the same. They only sell because of mass advertising, aimed mainly at gullible young people who drink a certain product because it is "trendy". They are "ripped off" and manipulated like puppets. I say ripped off for several reasons. One is the inaccuracy of

THE NAVIGATION INN LAPWORTH

Andrew & Gerd Kimber



fine traditional ales.

Selection of light bar snacks available
Attractive Canalside Garden

GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED

real ale came into being in the early 1970's to try and promote traditional beer and get the public drinking it again. We do this mainly by holding beer festivals and publishing local real ale guides, newsletters and of course the national GOOD BEER GUIDE. There are about 160 local branches throughout the country who produce these publications

the adverts. Draught Fosters and Castlemaine are NOT from Australia they are brewed in Britain. Also many imitation lagers in Britain are not particularly more healthy than beers. Mild in particular, has just as many calories as lager. The biggest 'con' of all, however, is the PRICE. For example, compare Black Label with M and B Mild. The strength of these beers is almost identical yet the Black Label costs in excess of 12p per pint more. On top of that, lager is cheaper and easier to brew, distribute and store than traditional mild. Thus, in theory the lager should be CHEAPER than the mild, not dearer. It is the same story with all other lagers. Davenports Continental Lager is quite a bit weaker than their Traditional Bitter yet costs at least 8 pence a pint more. Skol lager has a

The Bulls Head

Ray & Jane Franklin

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similar strength to Ansells Traditional Bitter so the Skol should cost about the same but because of "the great lager rip off" it costs 12p per pint more than bitter in one pub I visited. In other pubs, the difference is probably even more. Hofmeister is 3 or 4 degrees weaker than Courage Best Bitter, yet it costs at least 11p more than the beer. This proves the breweries are just charging "what the market will bear". Every time you buy a pint of lager, you are not paying a fair price for the goods you are purchasing. You are being milked by the greedy brewers! We urge everyone to at least try real beer and do not be put off by the occasional poorly kept, vinegary pint. Most landlords do keep their beer in good condition. Don't be brain- by the T.V. adverts making out lager does great things for you. Just remember. Real Ale reaches the parts lager has never even heard of!!

It would help CAMRA and the beer drinker in general if real ale was in greater demand but it would also help your pocket. Over a year the money you would save by drinking beer instead of lager (15p a pint difference or more) could touch £100!!!! As a patriot you should protect our heritage.

Drink Traditional British Beer!!

CONCERN OVER FLOWERS/WHITBREAD

Following a recent Branch Meeting with Tim Bonham, Regional Manager of Flowers North, and Nick Collins a Senior Area Manager, the branch hold real fears over the future of real ale in Flowers' houses.

At present some 80% of the beer is served under blanket pressure



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telephone: Henley-in-Arden 2005

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Fremlins Bitter



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Jayne & Ray

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M&B fine traditional ales.

which suggests a low turn over or bad cellerage. Nick Collins stated that it was his opinion that blanket pressure improved the beers. Prices were discussed. A recent survey in the Solihull area showed that Flowers were charging about 10p per pint more than the other breweries whose products are available in the area. We were assured that Flowers beers were priced competitively and that it is the wholesale price that should be used in any comparison. The high price it was said must be laid at the door of the publican. Tim saw the pubs not just as 'beer houses' but more as a catalyst for the local community and day trippers alike, emphasising that beer was only part of that package. The branch retorted that may be this would explain the mediocrity of Whitbread and Flowers beers. The best news of the night was that Whitbread are introducing a cask mild to the Midlands. It will be brewed at Castle Eden and will be called Durham Mild. Whether it will prove to be more assertive in taste than other Whitbread beers only time will tell. It must be said that we must express warm thanks to Tim and Nick for appearing in front of the firing line to answer questions that were possibly unnerving and quite blunt. They handled it very well and all parted amicably after a very pleasant evening.



NEEDS YOU!

Why not join the Campaign For Real Ale NOW? For your money you will be able to attend local meetings and social events. You will have certain privileges such as voting for your favourite pubs for Good Beer Guide inclusion. You receive 12-monthly copies of "What's Brewing", our national Newspaper. You will be able to get discounts on the Good Beer Guide and free entry into many of our local beer festivals. More importantly, you will help a worthwhile consumer movement to protect something uniquely BRITISH.

CAMRA needs healthy membership figures so that we can be taken seriously by the big breweries. If ever we were to fold because of apathy a new keg revolution would be on us immediately and all the successes we have had in the past would soon become meaningless. So don't delay, JOIN TODAY.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join the Campaign. Take up the fight. Only £7 a year. Send cheque or P.O. to Campaign for Real Ale Limited, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, AL1 3BW. Marked Membership.

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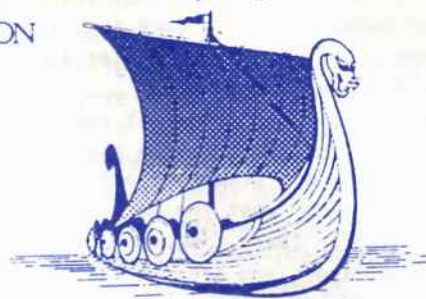
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the viking

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BRANCH DIARY

Saturday 8th June

SOLIHULL CARNIVAL. We will be there with a stand, selling and giving away, T. Shirts, beer mats, publications, breweriana etc. The Carnival will be held at its usual place, at TUDOR GRANGE PARK.

Monday 10th June OPEN MEETING

at THE BULLS HEAD, Brick Kiln Lane, Earlswood (just off Salter Street). Thriving Ansell's country pub also selling traditional Coates Cider.

Tuesday 9th July OPEN MEETING

at THE WOODSIDE, Kendrick Avenue Shard End. Modern Estate pub, but we feel it is worth the drive for the BANKS'S MILD and BITTER.

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CAMRA Ltd, 34 Alma Rd, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3BW no later than 31 July
Families welcome: no admission charge for children

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