



ISSUE No. 20

# Solihull BORO BANTER



SEPTEMBER 1984

## The new Lodge

Yardley Wood Road,  
Solihull Lodge.



ENJOY TRADITIONAL  
BEER AT IT'S BEST,

**BURTON ALE**

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

### GBG 1985

This year it is intended to publish the GBG in time for the Christmas market. However, local branches will receive their copies in October, some six weeks before the shops have them on their shelves. Again CAMRA members will receive their usual discount on the GBG, and, if you wish to receive the GBG in October then purchasing from your local branch will see you amongst the first in Britain to be able to put the GBG 1985 to good use!

### A MILD ERROR

Ooops! Apologies for an incorrect statement in the last Boro Banter. The Virgins and Castle in Kenilworth serves only keg mild.

### ALL CHANGE AT THE DRAWBRIDGE

The manager of The Drawbridge, Mark, left the pub recently and has been replaced by Alan and Janet Edwards who were previously in charge of The Virgins and Castle in Kenilworth. The local branch hope the beer will remain as good as it has been in the past and also wish Alan and Janet all the best for the future.

The editor would like to apologise to Ray Young of THE GOLDEN ARROW, OLTON for mis-printing the pub phone number in the advert in last month's Boro Banter.

It should have been 021.706.4979

### THE THREE COUNTIES BREWERY

This is the name of a new brewery recently opened in Queugeley, just south of Gloucester. It has been set up by Paul and Martin Soden who also own The Jolly Roger Brewery in Upton on Severn. At the moment Three Counties Best Bitter (o.g.1042) is on sale in various free houses around Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.

Hopefully it will become available nearer Solihull in the future, along with a stronger beer (around 1050) which will be launched eventually.

I tried the Best Bitter at NOT THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL and was very impressed. It is a distinctive,

hoppy, full flavoured brew like all Paul's beers.

The three counties of Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester are short of local small independent breweries, especially with Hawthorn, Malvern Chase and Penros all closing recently. The new brewery was set up to supply these areas with good beer. The Jolly Roger Brewery at the Anchor in Upton tried to do this but was really more of a home brew pub. Three Counties is a professional set up selling beer on a bigger, more commercial scale.

CAMRA would like to see beers like this in far more pubs. If anyone is interested in SELLING or DRINKING the ale why not get in touch with Paul.

Two pubs that do sell the beer are the Ram Inn, South Woodchester (near Stroud) and the Famous Pint Pot in Gloucester.

### OAK FOR THE CHOP?

The Royal Oak, Hockley Heath has been changed back to Whitbread after Ansells lease ran out in July. At the moment it is all boarded up while Whitbread think of something to do with the place.

**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 120 varieties of wine.

**YOU CAN'T ? ? ? ?**

## BERNIES

BIRMINGHAM'S No. 1

### The Real Off Licence

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

EARLSCOURT ROAD,  
HARBORNE TEL: 021-427 5796

266, CRANMORE BOULEVARD,  
SHIRLEY, TEL: 021-744 2827



SCRUMPY from  
30p PER PINT

Severn Bore  
Aston Manor  
Bethams Bitter  
Pendlewitch.  
Bridge Bitter

# THE NAVIGATION INN LAPWORTH

Andrew & Gerd Kimber



**fine traditional ales.**

Selection of light bar snacks available

Attractive Canalside Garden

**1984 GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED**

## THE PUBS AND CANALS OF BIRMINGHAM

On Sunday 12th August, the branch had a walk along some of Birmingham's canals with detours to a few excellent pubs along the route. This was certainly an unusual sort of social but the whole evening was extremely enjoyable with visits to some fascinating places.

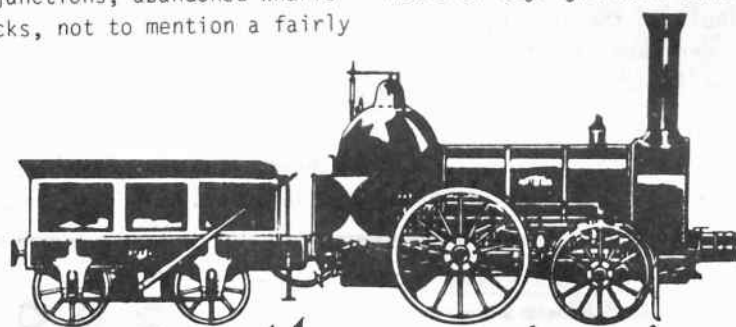
We started walking near Gas Street Basin and made straight for The St. Pauls Tavern on Ludgate Hill. This is a lovely little back street local with a good range of M and B beers. Back on the Birmingham and Fazely canal we walked NE, under the old Snow Hill station and then swung south, now on the Digbeth branch of the Grand Union to Curzon St, at the back of Digbeth.

This is a superb section with many canal junctions, abandoned wharfs and locks, not to mention a fairly

long tunnel under Ashted Circus.

This was quite exciting as the tow-path is right next to the water and the only light is that entering each end. In the middle it is quite dark and worse still, the rickety handrail has completely fallen away. It was a good job we had only been in ONE pub at that time.

At the end of Curzon Street was my favourite pub on the walk, The Woodman. This is a friendly comfortable superbly maintained Victorian gem that served Ansells Mild of such quality it made almost all other milds available ANYWHERE seem thin and bland in comparison. Back on the canal we went through another tunnel (railway this time) past Bordesley Junction and on to Sandy Lane, near Camp Hill. We were sad to leave the canal here but the hours of daylight were running out.



Live at **the engine inn**



**Fine Selection of Beers**



Monday JAZZ

Friday DISCO

Sunday MALCOLM STENT



**Wide range of Bar Meals available:**

**Mon. — Sat. 12.00 — 2.00 p.m.**

**Tues. — Sat. 7.30 p.m. — 9.30 p.m.**

**AND A WARM WELCOME**

*from*

*Martin, Lyn and Staff*

Nearby is the Brewer and Baker, a pleasantly renovated pub with an other good range of M and B beers including the rare to that area, Highgate Mild. Along roads now, we were making for The Australian Bar in Hurst Street, but for the sake of trying an unusual beer we went via The Mercat Cross at the back of Digbeth Bus Station. This is a fairly basic modern pub, owned by Scottish and Newcastle. Sadly the IPA had just been dropped by the pub but traditional Scotch Bitter was sold in quite good condition, the only outlet for miles. Our CAMRA branch boasts a wide variety of people of greatly differing age groups. One of our younger members was revelling in the loud Status Quo music while my "poor old Dad" was temporarily deafened by it!

We finished off at the Australian Bar for some Davenports. This has got quite a nice Victorian bar with a very ornate ceiling. The bitter was good but the mild less so. One member complained it was flat and lifeless but mine was over fizzy like top pressured. This was the only disappointment of a great night apart from when two illegally riding motorcyclists harassed us on the tow path and we failed to get them to fall into the "cut".



## AN EVENING WITH AUNT SALLY

We had a very enjoyable joint social last month with North Oxford branch in an idyllic village pub, The Peyton Arms at Stoke Lyne. This GBG listed pub is a Hook Norton house standing off the A41 between Banbury and Bicester being some 3 miles north of the latter town. Aunt Sally is no relation of mine but a pub game popular in the Oxfordshire area. The North Oxfordshire Branch had challenged Solihull Branch to play the game and we accordingly shouldered the opportunity to be thrashed by the home team. The object of Aunt Sally is quite simple:- stand a skittle on a pedestal and using what can be best termed as a truncheon stand 15 to 20 feet away, throw the truncheon and knock off the skittle without touching the pedestal....simple eh!? Don't you believe it. After a few pints the truncheon

becomes a lethal weapon, flying through the air all over the show! It was just as well that only Hook Norton Best Bitter was available as I'm sure if Old Hookey had been on, 99% of the Branch would have been in Bicester General, suffering from cracked skulls before the night was out.

However, despite close shaves, serious injury was kept at bay. Surprisingly enough, the game was declared a draw!

To turn my attention to the pub now, I have to say it was 'ace'. A basic bar and comfortable lounge. No juke boxes or fruit machines. The beer was served straight from the barrel. The Peyton Arms is a genuine traditional English pub, no frills, just comfort, friendliness and good ale.

Thanks must go to the North Oxfordshire Branch for organising the event and thanks too, to the landlord for supplying a magnificent buffet at a reasonable price..... may you pull ale for many more years.



#### ALL CHANGE AT

#### THE BULLS HEAD TOO!

Ray and Jane Franklin have just taken over at The Bulls Head in Earlswood. Ray is a Country and Western singer who has toured all over the world but he has decided to settle down now. Last year, long time manager and good supporter of the local CAMRA branch, Dave Weston, left and a temporary manager has been in charge for several months. We are pleased that Ray has moved in finally as so far the beer is being kept at its former high standard.

#### A JOURNEY TO BAVARIA

Frankfurt - AM - Main was my first port of call, a twin city of Birmingham, yet much cleaner and perhaps more attractive. The local drink is Appelwein a rather sweet hard cider, it tastes like vinegar but is very strong! Of the city's two brewers Henniger is the best known. I stuck to the clean tasting unpasteurised König Pilsener brewed in North Germany, and of a beer type favoured in these parts.

From Frankfurt I made the four hour train journey to the heartland of Bavaria and the German brewing tradition - Munich. This area is

perhaps the most individualistic in all Germany, it is very proud of its royal traditions and is famous as the home of 'Mad' King Ludwig II - the builder of the fairy-land castle of Neuschwanstein. Bavaria has a quarter of the world's breweries and produces the most varied beer styles. Munich itself is dominated by the brew with souvenir shops selling 2 litre steins of all the local brewers as well as countless beer mats.

My first day saw a visit to the famous Hofbrauhaus or State brewery. It has had its moments of notoriety since it was founded in 1610. When I arrived the "Omm-Pa Band" resplendent in 'lederhosen' was very much in evidence. Choice of draught beer was limited to two types, I tried a glass of Hefeweizen, or wheat beer. It has a distinctive taste and I would recommend it to anyone. Munich is famous for a type of lager, although originally dark brown, is now commonly pale coloured. It is very malty and is the staple brew for the Munchener along with his veal and parsley white sausage. I tried a litre of this beer along with a giant salted pretzel, it was superb and much different to the Skol, Carling Black Label and other mock-pilseners we have to put up with in Solihull! I found a bottled version of the original dark lager (Dunkel), it reminded me

of Ruddles County.

Unfortunately, (or fortunately, depending on how you look at it), my hotel was opposite the Mathaser Bierstadt, the largest beerhall in the world. It lived up to its name and the frivolities continued long into the night. A beerhall consists of many wooden tables, benches and simple in design. There is no bar, service comes from muscular waitresses who can usually handle up to six full litre steins at any one time. Hundreds of people can be served in one night and licensing laws are almost non-existent.

Perhaps the highlight of my trip (beer-wise) was the unexpected pleasure of a drink of "Weissebier Mit Himbiersaft". This is a white beer, similar to the previously mentioned wheat beer, but of the local style of Berlin. A very sweet and refreshing beer and served in a small bowl rather than a glass. Surprisingly, it is drunk with a straw! The last part of its name refers to a lacing of raspberry syrup, giving the white beer a red colouring. Alternatively, Berliners in their own city prefer essence of woodruff (a plant) which turns it green. No wonder the Berlin Breweries use a "traffic light" advert to trade their beers!

Theres only one thing  
better than a pint of  
**THREE COUNTIES  
BEST BITTER**  
S...X pints of  
**THREE COUNTIES B B**





## THE WINGED SPUR

ULLENHALL · Nr. HENLEY-IN-ARDEN · WARWICKSHIRE

telephone: Henley-in-Arden 2005

ROGER & JACKIE WEATHERALL



Attractive Garden



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

### BRANCH DIARY

SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER - Trip to Lichfield on an old bus - courtesy of West Midland Bus Preservation Society. Around £2. each. Provisional date only - ring contact for confirmation. A good chance to drink and not drive!

MONDAY 8th OCTOBER - Committee meeting at the Winged Spur, Ullenhall, near Henley (Whitbread)

TUESDAY 16th OCTOBER - Annual General Meeting, GOLDEN LION, SOLIHULL, (Courage Best and Directors). Would all branch (and new) members make every effort to attend please!!!

1985 GBG on sale, hopefully

More details? Then contact Dave Queenborough 744 3113 - social sec. or Steve Dyson 705 1168



CAMRA would like to thank all the people who visited "NOT THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL" and helped make it the marvellous success it was. 200 kils of beer were drunk and a healthy profit was made. This could mean a similar event will take place next year. I really hope so because the '84 one was absolutely fantastic. I want to express my extreme admiration for everyone who helped organise it.

### TALES OF THE W.C. (1)

Somerville Arms, Leamington Spa  
Recent notice seen on on Gents toilet door....."WARNING - CEILING COLLAPSING; DO NOT TOUCH, OR BE IT ON YOUR OWN HEAD!"

### ANOTHER MANAGER LEAVES SOLIHULL

It is with great sadness that the branch announce the departure of the manager of The Wharf in Hockley Heath, Peter Lucas.

The pub is having a major refit and it seems Peter's face will not fit the new pub! Bearing in mind The Wharf is run by The "Host" group, a Watney's subsidiary, this sort of action comes as no surprise!!!

Peter has worked hard and enthusiastically over the last few years improving trade and the beer considerably. The range of beers and quality was excellent for this area but now we shall just have to see what happens in the future. One only hopes the choice of beer doesn't diminish or even worse, become keg only.

I think Pete's problem is that he is too good a landlord. Maybe Host want more of a "puppet". Let's hope the pub doesn't become another fun pub called "BARGERS" or "BOATERS" (There is a canal by the pub!)

### TALES OF THE W.C. (2)

#### Prince of Wales, Birmingham

A certain committee member had an emergency call of nature due to a much recent sampling of many assorted real ales (All Bran can claim no royalties!). He confidently hurried into the newish, all mod-cons Gents W.C., where preliminary checks revealed..... a lock on the door (a rarity).... spotless interior (a luxury).... plenty of paper (things were looking extremely good)..... BUT no toilet seat!!!!

So, a hurried exit to next pub with legs and fingers crossed and thinking of England and all that. Prayers answered, saved at the Longboat and able to face the world with confidence again!

ENJOY THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE

## ORANGE TREE INN

CHADWICK END  
Lapworth 2458

FOR TRADITIONAL FOOD FROM THE

# Inn-Kitchen

and excellent Flowers Original Bitter

YOUR HOSTS  
BOB AND ANN COPPACK  
WILL GIVE YOU A  
WARM WELCOME

