



# Solihull “BODO BANTED”



ISSUE No. 27

AUGUST 1985

## The new Lodge

Yardley Wood Road,  
Solihull Lodge.



*Ansell's*

ENJOY TRADITIONAL  
BEER AT IT'S BEST,

**BURTON ALE**

Wide range of Bar Meals  
Mon. — Sat. 12.00 — 2.00



1985 - A MILD YEAR, OR NOT?

Although not concerning the Solihull area directly, it is worth mentioning a staggering statistic I have just noticed. Of the 5,454 pubs in Great London, only EIGHT of them sold cask-conditioned dark mild this spring. It is also worth remembering that over the whole country mild is in a general decline and many milds are under threat of complete withdrawal. Let's try to make 1985 a mild year. If you don't drink it we could lose it - for ever!



### BREWERY VISIT, WHITBREAD FLOWERS

A couple of months ago several CAMRA members from Solihull and Redditch went round Flowers' Brewery in Cheltenham and we found it surprisingly interesting. To be frank, I find Whitbread's beers, pubs and attitude less than inspiring and I went on the Brewery trip rather begrudgingly. However, it turned out to be an excellent night out. The first thing that surprised me was the brewery building itself which was in the main very traditional indeed. We also had an excellent guide who was very affable and honest with us. He was very much in favour of real ale and spoke enthusiastically about how most beer brewed on the premises was traditional.

After showing us the brewery equipment our guide escorted us into the sampling room where we were looked after exceedingly well! The free buffet was a pleasant surprise and so was the beer. The Flowers Original and Flowers IPA were much tastier than usual, NOT just because they were free but because there was absolutely no blanket or top pressure being used. Most Whitbread pubs use blanket pressure which can spoil the beer completely.

All of us enjoyed the trip and we would like to thank Whitbread for accommodating us.



### THE WHITE SWAN

For many years the White Swan at Henley in Arden was an all keg Ansell's house but for the past few months it has been selling Ind Coope Burton Ale on handpump, a welcome development. Equally pleasing is that it is reported to be kept in good condition.



BIRMINGHAM'S No. 1

**Real Ale Off Licence**

**WE HAVE A SELECTION OF  
BOTTLED AND CANNED  
BEERS THAT'S SECOND TO  
NONE!**

Our range of Imported Beers includes Kirin from Japan ... Molson Beer from Canada ... the famous Pelican from France ... and that's only to name a few

**A TERRIFIC SELECTION OF  
GOOD OLD FASHIONED  
TRADITIONAL BRITISH BEER ON  
DRAUGHT —**

*Containers Supplied*

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OFF-LICENCE LIKE US ANY.  
WHERE IN THE WORLD**

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HARBORNE TEL: 021-427 5796  
266, CRANMORE BOULEVARD,  
SHIRLEY, TEL: 021-744 2827  
**SEE YOU THERE!!!**



# THE NAVIGATION INN LAPWORTH

Andrew & Gerd Kimber



fine traditional ales.

Selection of light bar snacks available

Attractive Canalside Garden

GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED



## A DREAM COME TRUE!

Three or four years ago, I used to spend many hours and much money on petrol travelling around the country in search of new or unusual beers because I was fed up with the same old beers available around Solihull, invariably brewed by the big six. That was before BERNIES REAL ALE OFF LICENCE opened in Cranmore Boulevard, on the outskirts of Shirley. It was like a breath of fresh air being introduced to a room with a stagnant choking atmosphere.

Now on our doorstep is one of the widest ranges of exciting real ales in the West Midlands. Although at any one time the traditional beers may only number seven or eight, the range is constantly changing so during a year dozens of beers are available. Bathams, Marstons, Banks's, Hook Norton, Hoskins, Burton Bridge, Robinsons, Everards and Wadworth are just some of the breweries that are represented fairly frequently. On top of all that some excellent and genuine Somerset Cider is always on sale at 43p per pint which is remarkable value when you see awful and insipid keg ciders in pubs selling at around 85p per pint! All the beers and ciders are available for takeaway in containers as small as one pint. At the other end of the scale 9 or 18 gallon casks are usually available.

In the editor's opinion, Bernie deserves her place in the Good Beer Guide more than almost all pubs in the region. Some CAMRA members think off licences should not be in the GBG because they believe we should be looking to promote pubs, and I would agree off licences probably do take away some trade from pubs. However, we are NOT The Campaign For Real Ale In Pubs. We should be looking to promote traditional beer as much as possible, which Bernie does. By selling unusual beers, eg. Donningtons SBA or Hoskins Old Original, people are far more likely to start drinking real beer and so increasing demand.

If their local just sells Brew XI or something similar, they are more likely to drift into lager. Bernie also gives a very much needed change from M and B and Ansells, which dominate the whole of Birmingham.

Another very important point is the help she gives to new micro-breweries who find outlets so hard to find. Several have folded recently in spite of Bernie selling their beers but at least she gave them a chance. Many of the pubs that go in the Good Beer Guide are owned by breweries that would never think of helping a small company. In fact they are probably glad to see them close because they don't like the competition.

Bernies Off Licence is slightly tucked away, but if you haven't found it yet, I'm sure you will find the journey well worth the effort. I always do!!



## THE WINGED SPUR

ULLENHALL · Nr. HENLEY-IN-ARDEN · WARWICKSHIRE

telephone: Henley-in-Arden 2005

ROGER & JACKIE WEATHERALL



Traditional Durham Mild  
Castle Eden



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



# NOT!

## the GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL 85

NOT THE GREAT BRITISH  
BEER FESTIVAL, 1985

DIGBETH CIVIC HALL  
5th - 7th SEPTEMBER.

Well folks here we are again to welcome you to our regional festival. Even though we are a smaller beer festival than last year we will still have plenty of choice of traditional beers including Timothy Taylors Landlord from Keighley and Archers Headbanger from Swindon. Cider and perry will also be available. There will be live music at every session including those old favourites Mad Jocks and Englishmen. Hot and cold food will be supplied by Supreme Caterers. Camra products, Good Beer Guides local guides etc., will also be on sale.

So if you were unable to get in last year due to the immense popularity of this event - then make sure you get there early this time! Even better, why not join CAMRA now and come along and work at the festival. You wouldn't have believed working would be such fun!

Contact: Val Guest,  
Festival Organiser,  
35 Swancote Road,  
Stechford,  
Birmingham.  
B33 9JD

**Digbeth Civic Hall  
Birmingham**

**5-7 Sept 1985**

### LAW BREAKING LANDLORDS

The practice of deliberately serving short measure pints to increase profits is well known and receives much publicity and attention. It is a tricky problem to solve. The introduction of over-size glasses could spell a decline in the use of handpumps and the cost of installing metered pumps would probably mean higher beer prices. On top of that there are instances where even with metered pumps and over-size glasses, landlords can still work a fiddle. One landlord with such equipment was once overheard boasting that he had bought a new car with illegal profits made from short measures.

Another problem drinkers face is the bad placing or non-existence of price lists at the bar. The Price Marking Order 1979 states that price list must be on display and clearly visible to customers. In many pubs in our area (and across the country) you need a pair of binoculars to read the small, insignificant price lists, tucked away behind the bar. This is a blatant infringement of the law and surely Trading Standards Officers know of it. Perhaps consumers should make more complaints to them.

Yet another undesirable act which probably is rare but something I noticed recently, is selling drinks that are out of date. I recently bought a bottle of Guinness that was months over the sell by date. The bar staff tried not to let the bottle go over the counter but I managed to get hold of it and the label had been mutilated where the sell by date was shown. The

Guinness was drinkable but not what it should have been. Presumably it would have deteriorated more, the longer it was left hanging about.

All this proves that there is still much wrong with the brewing industry and a healthy and active CAMRA, the only voice of the drinker, is needed as much as ever.



### THE RAILWAY

The Railway at Dorridge now sells Draught Bass in addition to M and B Mild and Brew XI. Bar price is 77p and it seemed to be in reasonable condition on the occasion I tried it.

### THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

The opening of the GBBF is almost upon us and I for one am looking forward to it immensely. The 1983 festival at Bingley Hall was extremely enjoyable but I am still disappointed that last year's had to be cancelled, due to the fire at Bingley Hall. Hopefully the one at Brighton should make up for that loss. There will be 200 beers on sale, plus several traditional ciders, food, live music plus much more! All this should make the drive well worth the effort, although I admit it is rather a long way. Some Solihull CAMRA members are going so if you can't make it to the Metropole in Brighton, you will probably be able to read about it in the next issue of the "Boro Banter"

## ORANGE TREE INN

CHADWICK END Lapworth 2458

Your Hosts Bob & Ann Coppack

### OUTSIDE BARBECUE PARK NOW OPEN

Available for Private Party Bookings—Mon—Thurs evenings  
Open to the Public Fri Evenings, Sat Lunchtime & Evenings  
Live Music every Saturday night.  
Children Lunchtime entertainment  
—1st Sunday every month



GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED





THERE WOULDN'T BE MUCH REAL ALE  
if it wasn't for  
**CAMRA MEMBERS**



I wish to become a member of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. I agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

I enclose £7 (£10 overseas) for full membership for a year. ☐

Any additional amount will be welcomed as a donation. ☐

FULL NAME (Block capitals) .....

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals) .....

SIGNATURE .....

DATE .....

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts.



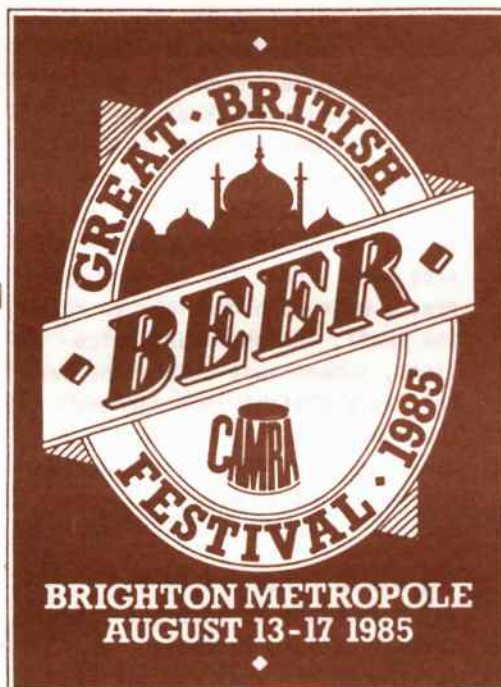
MIXED NEWS FOR REAL ALE GAINS

It was reported in an earlier banter that THE GEORGE AND DRAGON on the Stratford Road in Shirley would be opening this summer, completely re-vamped and selling real ale. However, problems have occurred and it is not expected to open for quite a long time, possibly after Christmas.

On a considerably brighter note, The Barley Mow in Solihull will be opening very soon selling real ale. The steak bar has been replaced by a restaurant and the keg beer has been swapped for traditional Ansells Mild, Bitter and Tetley Bitter. The pub will be completely re-decorated to give it a more "up-market" image so it should appeal to the typical Solihull clientele.



**200 REAL ALES  
BEER BY THE SEASIDE**  
FOOD · ENTERTAINMENT · CHILDREN'S ROOM



**WORLD'S LONGEST BAR**

HOURS: TUES 12th 7-11pm WED-SAT 11-2.30 & 8-11pm  
ADMISSION: FREE LUNCHTIMES and 5-6pm;  
TUES eve 80p; £1 OTHER TIMES. SEASON TICKET: £2.50; cheque to  
CAMRA Ltd, 34 Alma Rd, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3BW no later than 31 July  
Families welcome: no admission charge for children

BRANCH DIARY

FRIDAY 9th AUGUST - Aunt Sally match against Gloucester CAMRA branch at THE CHURCHILL INN, PAXFORD near Chipping Campden. Good country pub selling Hook Norton beers and a rare chance to play this traditional, outdoor pub game. It should be a great night out if the weather is good!  
Ring contact for details of possible lifts.

TUESDAY, 13th AUGUST - OPEN MEETING at THE CROWN at Monks-path. Traditional M and B Mild and Brew XI

TUESDAY, 13th AUGUST UNTIL SATURDAY 17th AUGUST

THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL at THE METROPOLE HOTEL IN BRIGHTON

WEDNESDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER  
JOINT SOCIAL with Northampton Branch. Cheese skittle match at THE WHITE HORSE, NORTON, near Daventry. This Good Beer Guide listed pub sells Charles Wells Eagle and Bombadier. Again, ring contact for details. Match starts about 8.30 - 9.00.



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Ray & Jane Franklin

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TRADITIONAL CASK CONDITIONED ALE  
ANSALLS MILD AND BITTER, BURTON ALE,  
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Wide range of Bar Meals available:

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HOUSE SPECIALITY  
BAKED POTATOES  
WITH VARIOUS FILLINGS

★ ★ ★  
FUN NIGHT  
EVERY  
OTHER FRIDAY ★

If you want any information regarding CAMRA nationally or locally contact Steve Dyson at 79, Walsgrave Drive, Damson Wood, Solihull (021 705 1168) or Dave Queenborough at 11 Upton Close, Shirley, Solihull. (021 744 3113).