



solihull
drinker

free

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF
THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

Issue No 5

Summer 1998

exclusive

 **solihull**
beer festival
1998
golden lion

Inside this issue: 3rd Solihull Beer Festival at the Golden Lion: all the information you require; Pub of the Year 1998 award; Brewery closures: Morrells, Ruddles, Castle Eden, Cheltenham; The Harvester in Olton; Old Mill and Clark's Brewery visit;and the Keg Beer Challenge

Editor's Round.....

The future of the guest beer in Solihull seems to be under serious threat since the arrival on the scene of one company: Punch Taverns. Punch Taverns have purchased over 1,500 pubs from Bass, including such real ale gems as the Bulls Head in Barston, the Railway in Dorridge, the Navigation in Lapworth to name but three, and also, just outside of our area, the Millwrights Arms in Warwick, home of Warwickshire's newest brewery.

Most of the ex-Bass tenants have 10-year leases which gave them a right to stock guest beers, and well over 400 chose to do so. But Punch Taverns have now limited the range of beers available to tenants through their agreed suppliers, and have indicated that buying from an outside supplier would be a fundamental breach of the lease, meaning that Punch lessees all over the country are having to sign away their guest beer right.

Brewers, too, are feeling the pinch, as they are losing

valuable accounts with ex-Bass pubs which have signed up to the new Punch leases.

What is worrying for Solihull drinkers is that the three pubs listed above as having been acquired by Punch are amongst the top pubs in the borough. Indeed, as you can read opposite, one of them has just been voted *the* best.

All the licensees at these pubs have worked very hard to build up trade and have supported drinkers by selling many interesting guest ales.

After all their effort, it seems that they may soon not be able to sell what they or their customers want.

What is Punch Taverns playing at? Do they really wish to drive away the customers their licensees have battled so hard to bring to the pubs in the first place? In a society where providing consumer choice is all important to succeed in business, to take the opposite approach by dictating what people can buy will only have one result: people will 'shop' elsewhere.

The Solihull Drinker is the newsletter of the Solihull & District Branch of CAMRA, The Campaign for Real Ale. The views expressed are those of the individual contributor, and are not necessarily the views of the Solihull Branch, the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd., or least of all The Editor.

All contributions, comments and enquiries should be sent to:

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PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF ADDRESS
or e-mail to Solcamra@aol.com**

Please contact Dave Hobbis on 0121 706 0162 for advertising rates, which start from as little as £20. The Editor reserves the right to amend or shorten any contributions for inclusion in the Solihull Drinker.

Contributors to this issue were Matthew Bullock (Editor), Dave Hobbis, Eddie Povey, Steve Wood, Allan Duffy, Keven Parker and CAMRA HQ
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Please note the deadline for issue 6 will be 17 October 1998

Solihull Beer Festival 1998 – at the Golden Lion

As you are doubtless now aware, on the weekend of the 4th and 5th of September, Solihull CAMRA will be holding the Third Solihull and District Beer Festival.

The festival will be held under canvas at the Golden Lion pub on the Warwick Road in the town centre. The pub is well served by public transport, being only ten minutes walk from the railway station and less than five minutes from the main bus stops.

The festival will be open on two days; Friday 4th and Saturday 5th September. Opening times will be 12.00-3.00 and 5.30-11.00 on both days. Lunchtime admission will cost £1 to non members

(CAMRA members free) and evening sessions will cost £2 (£1 to CAMRA members). Please note that CAMRA members must produce a valid membership card to gain this reduction, and that the organisers reserve the right to refuse admission at all times.

Our festival logo as depicted on the front cover appears on our festival pint glasses, which cost £1.50 to buy on entry to the festival. This is refundable if you do not wish to keep your glass.

It is hoped to offer at least 40 real ales for sale, comprising a good range of strengths and beer types and including some popular favourites and some new, unusual beers. Prices will be a little below normal Solihull pub prices!

With live entertainment both nights and food available at all sessions, the 3rd Solihull Beer Festival will be the place to be. For more information, please contact Dave Hobbis, on 0121 706 0162.

Pub of the Year 1998: The Bulls Head, Barston

In May, Solihull branch members voted for the Bulls Head at Barston as the 1998 Solihull CAMRA Pub of the Year. This prestigious annual award is presented to the pub in the Borough which the members consider to offer the best choice and quality of real ale.

The Bulls Head has for years been a favourite of the branch, due to the consistently high quality of service it offers. Many of the reasons for the award were outlined in the feature article on the Bulls Head in the last edition of the Solihull Drinker.

In short, however, it was the quality of the beer which won the pub this accolade, although there were several other good contenders.

Branch spokesman Dave Hobbis said: "Competition was particularly strong this year with a number of outstanding pubs, but landlords Martin and Joy Bradley take great pride in looking after their beers and the finished product shows that all their hard work is worth it."

The pub, which dates back to 1490, was once a coaching inn on the main Birmingham

road, and has been in the capable hands of the Bradleys for 11 years. They offer two ever changing guest beers from around the country, and also have a reputation for serving high quality and good value food.

With the pub now owned by Punch Taverns, we can only hope that the pub continues to thrive as it has for the past decade.

BERNIES

REAL ALES



- AN EVER CHANGING SCENE OF EXCITING DRAUGHT BEERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
- 200 DIFFERENT BEERS DURING 1997
- CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1983
- PARTY BEER BARRELS AVAILABLE FOR ANY OCCASION!
- SALE OR RETURN ON SEALED GOODS
- EXCITING RANGE OF BOTTLED BEERS

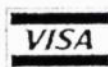
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The Estate Pub: All things to all people?

Solihull residents are decidedly limited in their choice when they decide to go out for a drink or a meal. A drive into the country – watch what you drink. A trip into town – where can I park? Shall I take the kids? Will they be allowed in if I'm not eating? All are valid and pertinent questions.

Solihull tends to be divided into town pubs and country pubs which can only please some of the people some of the time. The much-maligned estate pub is often forgotten. As an example, the Harvester in Tanhouse Farm Road, close to Elmdon Park, is worth a look.

It is easily accessible by bus, which stop within 100 yards of the entrance, and run until after closing time. From the outside, the pub looks nothing special, rather like a rectangular box, but prepare to be pleasantly surprised. Inside there is a traditional public bar and a well-appointed, comfortable lounge, where the under 14s are welcome until 9pm.

Good, home-cooked and reasonably priced food is served in both locations from Mondays to Saturdays 12 till 2 and 6 till 8. Thereafter, the Harvester reverts to a traditional drinking establishment, and boasts quiz nights most Mondays and live music every Wednesday.

The pub has a large car park and a pleasant, tree-lined garden with enough play equipment to entertain the most active of children, and this is the venue for many Bank Holiday specials featuring pig roasts and fundraising charity events.

The big plus is what licensees Peter and Christine Scoltock have made of this pub. Before their inception, it was a haven for drug trafficking and renowned for its regular brawls. The beer selection was typical of a Courage tenancy, serving uninspiring Best and Directors.

Nowadays, it is a friendly family hostelry still tenanted by Courage. The stock real ale is John Smiths Bitter, whilst a portfolio beer, currently Wells Bombardier, is always available and lends some variety. Alongside these can be found a genuine guest beer, Church End's Fallen Angel being current at the time of writing, but this changes regularly and presents some rare and wonderful beers. Peter and Christine have been very supportive of local breweries, and beers from Church End, Judges and the now-defunct Warwickshire breweries have all featured. This excellent choice and quality of beer resulted in the accolade of being named Solihull and District CAMRA's Pub of the Year in 1997 and also a well



deserved entry in the 1998 Good Beer Guide.

This is just an example of what an estate pub can aspire to. If there is one near you, why not pop in and see what they have to offer. If it is disappointing, show the innkeeper this article to indicate what can be achieved with a little interest and a lot of effort.

Eddie Povey

Any readers or branch members are most welcome to write a feature about their own favourite Solihull pub. Please send all information to the address on page 2. Please note the change of editorial address from previous issues.

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beer festival
1998
golden lion

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Local Pub Watch

Every month, Solihull branch members are asked to visit a certain pub in the area to monitor its progress, with the intention to get a wider picture of the area's pubs and to encourage members to visit unfamiliar territories. Three local pubs have been under scrutiny in recent months, as Solihull CAMRA's Pubs Campaigning Officer Steve Wood reports.

As reported a few months ago in Solihull Drinker No. 4, the Bulls head at Earlswood reopened in April after an expensive refurbishment. The consensus of branch members who went to the pub during the following month unfortunately makes for disappointing reading.

The early promise of regular guest beers didn't last long, as standard Allied-Domecq beers began to take their place. Service was described as slow at best, and measures were generally short (though top-ups were never refused). On the whole, what was once a classic country retreat for drinkers has now completed its transformation into a trendy eatery, which is a great shame.

The following month, The Lodge in Yardley Wood Road, Solihull Lodge was chosen. By contrast, few changes have been seen here for a while, although a new landlady, Gail Haynes, took over just before Christmas and has been trying to make amends for poor performance in the past! The beer choice when we visited comprised Ansells Mild, Tetley Bitter and Marstons Pedigree, although Morland Old Speckled Hen is usually available as well. The

Mild was felt to be a little too cool, detracting from its normal distinctive flavour, whilst the Tetley was described as "unusually good". The Lodge remains a classic example of a multi-purpose estate pub offering a public bar with traditional pub games, a restaurant area and more comfortable drinkers' lounge.

The third pub visited recently was the Vaults in Knowle, a former Solihull CMARA Pub of the Year. Branch attention was assured by the knowledge that in early July the pub had arranged its own beer festival. Excellent choice and quality were the conclusions as the members diligently sampled some of the 30 plus beers available over the 10 (official) days. In fact, showing devotion above and beyond the call of duty, some of our Knowle contingent was present on most of these days.

World cup 98 was much in evidence both on the television and behind the bar: Bateman's Three Lions, Mansfield Goalpost and Mitchells Spirit of '66 were all available. Warwickshire Breweries Week was also well supported by the pub; Judges, Millwrights and Church End beers having

been particularly enjoyed; the Judges Verdict being a particular favourite.

The only negative aspect of the festival was the pricing of the beer, and the frequency of short measures. £3.00 per pint for Church End RIP at 7% was maybe understandable (although it doesn't have to travel far and other local festivals have offered it for around £2), but £3.00 for a pint of St Peters Fruit Beer at 4.7% was less so (especially as it was seen recently in a Hogshead pub for 'only' £2.10/pint).

Once again, top ups were never refused, but did prove troublesome to acquire at peak times. Overall, though, it was an enjoyable second festival at a pub where quality and choice are present all year round.

Next month's featured pub is the recently re-opened Sharmans Cross just outside of Solihull town centre. All branch members are encouraged to go along at some time to see what is on offer. If any reader has any constructive comments to make about this pub, then the branch would be pleased to hear from you.

Steve Wood

SOLIHULL DRINKER NO PRIZE WHATSOEVER KEG QUIZ

Isn't it amazing what people drank in the **seventies** and early **eighties**? Whilst we would not wish to promote such **poor products** today, many of the advertising campaigns had **catchy slogans** in order to tempt you to buy. Which **beers**, and I use the term loosely, were the following trying to promote?

1. Which tippie was said to "work wonders"?
2. Who started the "red revolution"?
3. Which beer was "specially brewed for the can"?
4. Which pint "thought it was a quart"?
5. Who said, "The boys are back in town"?
6. What is "what your right arm is for"?
7. "My Goodness, My....."
8. "....., drink it down!"
9. What was said to be "class in a glass"?
10. It looked good, it tasted good and by golly, it did you good!"
11. "....., Cool, clear ale!"
12. "Beer at home means....."

Quiz set by **Dave Hobbis**, with the help of Birmingham branch member **Richard Dickinson**, who is old enough to remember these glorious beers, and even admits to **drinking** them.

There isn't really a suitable prize we could give for a quiz about **keg beers**, so you'll have to make do with **nothing**. We suggest, however, that if you get all the answers correct, you purchase yourself a **party seven** of **Gibbs Blue Keg**, and celebrate your achievement **alone** at home. But before you rush out to the off-licence, check out the answers on **Page 14**.

Last issue, of course, there was a prize wordsearch, which thankfully was all about **real ale**. This was won by **Mr. K. Mason**, of **Hermitage Road, Solihull**. He wins a selection of six bottle-conditioned beers, kindly supplied by **Hampton Wines**, who incidentally do not stock party sevens of Gibbs Blue Keg. The missing brewery in the wordsearch was **Greene King**, who of course are the brewers of Abbot Ale. **Congratulations** to Mr. Mason, and many thanks to all those others who took the trouble to enter.

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LOCAL CAMRA CONTACTS

For information about CAMRA or details of your local branch's activities, contact one of the following:

Birmingham	Robert Walker	0121 478 1653
Coventry	Paul Hamblett	01203 417675
Dudley & South Staffs	Steve Amos	01384 252266
Heart of Warwickshire	John Crossling	01926 613256
Kidderminster	Richard Lycett	01562 861951
Lichfield & Mid Staffs	Ray Jennett	01543 255195
Redditch & Bromsgrove	Paul Long	0121 622 3114
Shakespeare	Vaughan Hully	01789 778726
Solihull & District	Keven Parker	0121 706 0162
Stourbridge	Patrick Bird	0121 422 5394
Tamworth & Sutton	Gary Clay	01785 353531
Telford & E Shropshire	Paula Waters	01952 641549
Walsall	Rob Bentley	01922 861626
Wolverhampton	Fred Morton	01902 426513



If you have any complaints about short measures, call Solihull Trading Standards on 0121 704 6844

Trying to walk after Clarks

On Saturday 25 July, 25 of us went on a coach trip to Yorkshire. Everybody was on the bus at 8am in order to get to our first port of call, Kelham Island brewery at the Fat Cat pub in Sheffield.

The brewery has been trading since 1990 and is one of the more successful pub breweries in the country. The head brewer had just jetted off to the sun, so his senior assistant, Andy, showed us around. He explained that the majority of their trade was in the guest beer market, and the diminishing number of guest beers offered by pubs was beginning to become a problem.

This is because the big brewers are selling off their pubs to pub groups who in turn agree supply deals with the big brewers and deny their tenants any rights to buy beers from elsewhere.

After a quick look round, we headed for the pub to enjoy Kelham Island Best Bitter, a superb 3.8% quaffing ale (at a competitive £1.23 a pint), and the renowned award winner Pale Rider strong ale (5.2%) – this is dangerously drinkable.

Steve, the landlord of the Fat Cat, had agreed to open up the pub an hour early at 11am for our benefit, and we had the place to ourselves to sit and enjoy. I would briefly mention that the pub itself is a consistent CAMRA award winner and there were at least six other excellent beers to sample.

After a brief stay, it was back to the coach and to the M1 for our 12.30 appointment at

Clarks brewery in Wakefield. The brewery has recently appointed Alan Brook as their Cask Ale Development Manager, and he proved that Yorkshire hospitality was second to none.

We were ushered into the free trade room and he insisted we had a few pints of Clark's Bitter whilst giving an entertaining talk about the brewery and its new marketing strategies.

Clarks are trying to attract younger drinkers with a new light, lager coloured beer called Golden Hornet, which is the brewery's attempt to cash in on the successful marketing of Boddingtons. Although the new beer is much stronger at 5%, the influence of the marketing and the appearance of the Manchester beer are clear to see (both breweries happen to be next door to prisons too!).

Clarks brewery is in itself well known, especially in the north, and has operated on a much larger scale in the past. The current brewery concentrates on quality rather than quantity, and still turns in healthy profits (certainly a lesson to Carlsberg-Tetley and the other big brewers who insist on producing crap to maintain their profit margins). Clarks also runs a successful drinks wholesaling business.

We retired from the brewery to Henry Boons, their own pub adjacent to the brewery, and after this we embarked on a pub crawl under the guidance of Mark, a member of the local CAMRA branch. Two outlets visited were of special note; firstly the Wakefield Labour Club (a.k.a. the Red Shed), which serves a variety of beers from small Yorkshire breweries at very low prices, and secondly, after a hop on a bus, The Redoubt, a classic Tetley and Taylor Landlord pub which is on CAMRA's National Inventory of classic pub interiors. The pub is a classic multi-roomed Victorian boozer and the beer is of the highest quality.

A long day nearly over, we returned to the coach where we were taken south to our final port of call, the Vat and Fiddle pub in Nottingham. The pub is one of the Tyne Mill group of pubs, which specialise in cask ales from independent breweries. We were spoilt for choice with ten guest ales to choose from, as well as tea and coffee for the walking wounded!

Overall, an excellent day out was had by everybody, and at the bargain price of £12, nobody had any complaints.

Cheers!

Keven Parker

Eating out in Real Ale pubs

Part 3: Dorridge and Hockley Heath

Barn, Hockley Heath

There are two banks of four handpumps, but at the time of our visit, there was only Boddingtons and Marston's Pedigree available: nothing to rush out for.

The menu is a typical Beefeater, which is ok if you like that sort of thing. It is not particularly good value, but is fine for a special occasion if your in-laws have unexciting tastes. The décor is unusual, which again is ok, if you like that sort of thing!

Drum and Monkey, Dorridge

Regular beers here are Tetleys and Greenall's Original, with added interest provided by a guest beer which changes weekly. If you are lucky, there may even be a leaflet on the bar listing the guest beers for the next three months. Some of the recent ones have been quite rare in Solihull, so let's hope they keep it up.

The menu caters for all tastes, from traditional English dishes to the more exotic: Indian, Chinese and an American Turkey New Yorker at £5.95. It is particularly important to look out for special offers in the local press, such as the current offer which gives a second meal for 99p when you buy one main course. It

is therefore advisable to go in parties of even numbers!

Forest, Dorridge

Solihull CAMRA's Most Improved Pub of 1997 continues to sell good quality, interesting guest beers, ranging from the ubiquitous 6X to new micro-breweries.

On the food front, being a hotel, there is usually a set menu in the restaurant in the evening. At the moment, there is a special offer on good value lunches at only £2.95, for dishes such as Chicken Provencal, Lasagne etc. Watch the local press for the current offers which change from time to time.

Old Royal Oak, Hockley Heath

Situated as you leave Hockley Heath towards Henley, you will find Marston's Pedigree, Bitter and a Head Brewer's Choice available most of the time, as well as Banks's Mild. Not a bad choice for Solihull, really!

The menu is typical pub fare, with prices ranging from £4.20 for Steak & Kidney Pie to over £11 for some of the specials. There is a sizeable family dining area to one side and this leads into Billy Bear's Funfair, which would appear to be a Wacky Warehouse by another name!

Railway, Dorridge

As far as beer is concerned, the Railway offers by far the widest choice of all these selected pubs with five real ales often available, often including beers from Birmingham micro Beowulf. As far as quality is concerned, it has featured in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide for many years, which speaks for itself. Look for the blackboard listing for the beers available.

Food at the Railway is, first and foremost, good value for money. Everything is freshly cooked to order, so be prepared to enjoy a pint or two while you wait! At the time of our visit, the special was Salmon Steak at a very reasonable £3.95. More interestingly, however, they always try to offer something a little different from the normal "Pub fare". Venison is regularly on offer, and in season (approx October to March) other game such as partridge, pheasant and grouse appear on the specials menu, often at less than £4. Pie of the day is also worth a try.

Wharf, Hockley Heath

Regular beers available are Theakston's Best Bitter and XB and Marston's Pedigree. The guest beer at the time of our visit was well worth the

trip - Charles Wells' Bombardier.

The menu consists primarily of a good value carvery with a variety of roast meats, which all look freshly prepared. The only items

cooked to order are the Children's Menu and the vegetarian option. Also worth considering are the traditional "stodgy puddings", but please finish your Bombardier first, as the two don't mix!

The pub itself adjoins the canal with plenty of outdoor seating, and also offers mooring for canal boats if you happen to be passing.

Allan Duffy

Please note: the special offers Allan mentions are correct at the time of writing but are subject to change. Please contact the pubs beforehand to avoid disappointment.

Another brewery faces the axe

Following the news reported in the last Solihull Drinker that Whitbread are to close the Castle Eden and Cheltenham breweries on 1 October this year, the new directors of well established independent Morrell's of Oxford have put the brewery up for sale. It is unlikely that the business will be sold as a going concern, which will bring to an end a history of brewing in the city by the Morrell family dating back to 1782.

Morrell's is, or was until recently, the oldest family run business in Oxford; until June its chairman was Charles Eld, who took over from Colonel Bill Morrell in 1982.

Charles Eld was sacked by the board earlier this year when he tried to buy out a majority share in the company to prevent the other board members from selling the company. Now, it appears that the company will be sold off; the estate of 132 pubs will be sold as a job lot to the highest bidder, whilst the brewery will probably be sold for redevelopment, as the central Oxford site is a valuable asset.

Morrell's is not losing money. In fact, last year's figures show a profit of around £1 million, which is not bad for a company of this size. There is more money to be made in

selling the properties: Morrell's downfall has been brought about purely by greed. Current chairman Ken Hodgson has a background as a property developer, which may have something to do with it.

Naturally, the local CAMRA branch is waging war against the decision, and is organising a number of campaigning events. All CAMRA members across the country are urged to take part: anybody interested should contact the Oxford City branch contact as listed in CAMRA's monthly newspaper *What's Brewing*.

Castle Eden brewery, meanwhile, may have a lifeline. A consortium of North Eastern businessmen has made a bid for the site, and if successful, would continue to brew there.

The MD of the Whitbread brewing company, Miles Templeman, has confirmed that he is pursuing the sale of the brewery as a going concern, and has hinted that the 1 October closure date could be extended if a potential buyer was found.

The other brewery under threat in recent months has been Ruddles. New owners Morland have given strong hints that the Rutland brewery, recently acquired from Dutch lager giants Grolsch, will be closed down to concentrate production at Morland's own Abingdon plant.

Four of Britain's oldest breweries are under serious threat, and many more like them could soon follow suit. Please support CAMRA and help us fight these closures and protect our regional beers and brewers.



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news

It's pub refurbishment time again! Two pubs have been closed down recently to be re-fitted, the Malt Shovel in Barston, and the Saddlers Arms in Solihull. The Malt Shovel, we understand, will retain its separate public bar after the work (despite the fact that the whole pub is currently completely gutted), whilst we are unsure what will become of the Saddlers Arms, a pub which once promised so much in terms of guest beers but recently which offered so little. Hopefully, the work will improve the beer choice without bumping up the prices.

Other pubs in the news for planning applications are the Wilson's Arms in Knowle, which intends to construct a conservatory, and the Lodge, in Solihull Lodge, which wishes to landscape part of the car park into a garden drinking area. It would appear that brewers Morland of Abingdon have made an application to demolish the Dallas Exchange in Shirley (shame that), and they wish to replace it with a new restaurant, bar and hotel. Why was the old George and Dragon demolished in the first place?

The restaurant area at the White Lion in Hampton-in-Arden is being refurbished, although the pub is still open, and as mentioned last issue although not commented upon as intended, the Sharmans Cross has re-

opened and serves Bass and M&B Mild on handpump.

Sadly, the Golden Lion in Solihull has not been stocking Beowulf beers on a regular basis of late due to low sales. The Black Eagle in Hockley, Birmingham, is now Beowulf's only regular outlet. Morland Old Speckled Hen has made an appearance at the Lion; hopefully the success of the forthcoming Solihull Beer Festival will boost beer sales in the pub.

Guest beers noted recently included several Warwickshire beers for Warwickshire Breweries Week (4-11 July). Participating pubs were the White Swan in Henley, the Bulls Head in Barston, and the Vaults in Knowle, who served many Warwicks beers as part of its recent festival. Bernies off-Licence also had several Warwickshire beers available. Many thanks from the Solihull branch to all these pubs for taking part.

Last year's Pub of the Year, the Harvester (see page 5), has also featured local beers of late, Church End Fallen Angel being replaced by Judges Solicitors Ruin. Tisbury Ale Fresco and the rare Weetwood Oast House Gold (Weetwood are in Cheshire) have featured at the Drum and Monkey, and they were followed by York Stonewall.

Youngs Oregon Amber Ale has been quite popular

recently, having appeared in the White Swan and the Vaults, whilst various World Cup beers have done the rounds in the last month or so, Batemans Three Lions having been sampled at the Navigation. Church End's *Mash of the Day* (featuring Jimmy Hill on the pumpclip, which can't do much for sales) and Titanic *They Think it's Afe Over* are just two of the corny names we have become used to.

Whilst on the international theme, it has been pointed out that a major supermarket chain (ok, it's Tesco) have been stocking, amongst many other brands, bottled Youngs Oregon Amber Ale, brewed in Wandsworth in South London. Unfortunately, the shelf-stacker has become somewhat confused by the name, and the beer now resides in the "American Beer" section alongside such delights as Budweiser and Coors Cold Filtered Ice-Beer Extra Gold or whatever its called today! If you want some Youngs, you now know where to look for it.

And finally, the answers to the keg quiz on page 8 are as follows: 1. Double Diamond; 2. Watney's; 3. Long Life; 4. Whitbread Trophy; 5. Ansell's; 6. Courage Tavern; 7. Guinness; 8. Watney's Brown; 9. McEwan's Export; 10. Mackeson's; 11. Watney's Pale; and 12. Davenports. Well done if you got all those!

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29 October – 1 November
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**Pilsner Urquell now
available on draught**

The White Swan Hotel



100 High Street, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire B95 5BY

14th Century Coaching Inn offering en-suite accommodation located in the centre of this picturesque market town.
Changing range of guest beers – Good Value Food
Live Jazz Wednesdays – Quiz Night every Thursday
Listed in the Good Beer Guide 1997 and 1998

solihull times

Non-members and guests are welcome to attend our branch meetings and social events. Branch Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, and commence at 8.30pm. Beer and Balti nights are generally held on the last Friday of each month – if you don't like Indian food, just come along for the beers.

Friday 14 August	Social	Visit to Faculty & Firkin, Aston University including brewery tour. Meet 8.00pm at the Faculty.
Friday 28 August	Beer & Balti	Lamp Tavern, Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham 8.00pm. Birmingham CAMRA Pub of the Year 1998
Friday 4 September - Saturday 5 September	Solihull Beer Festival	Beer Festival at the Golden Lion, Warwick Road, Solihull. See elsewhere in this issue for details
Saturday 12 September	Social	Annual Aunt Sally match against North Oxfordshire CAMRA at The Peyton Arms, Stoke Lyne, Oxfordshire (GBG p245), 8.00pm
Monday 14 September	Branch Mtg	Cock Horse, Rowington 8.30pm
Friday 25 September	Beer & Balti	Greswolde Arms, Knowle 8.00pm
Monday 12 October	Branch Mtg	Vaults, Knowle, 8.30pm

Keven Parker is the branch's Social Secretary and you can contact him for information about events during the evenings on 0121 706 0162.

Ken Jackson is the Branch Secretary on 0121 705 8743

The 6th edition of the *Solihull Drinker* will be published on 9 November 1998.
The deadline for advertising or contributions will therefore be
Saturday 17 October 1998