

# HOP PRESS



SPRING '87



**Branch Activities:**

Friday/Saturday 8/9th, May,  
WINCHESTER BEER FESTIVAL - see centre pages,  
Tuesday 12th, May,  
Branch AGM, Star Hotel, Southampton, 8.00p.m.  
Saturday 16th, May,  
Social with Portsmouth Branch, Richmond Arms,  
West Ashling,  
Tuesday 9th, June,  
Branch Meeting, Richmond, Portswood,  
Saturday 20th, June,  
"Howards Way" walk-about, starting at the  
Linden Tree.

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Issue 23, April 1987.

Editor Charlie Excell. 105 Elder Close, Winchester. 63706

Published by Camra Southern Hampshire Branch.

Printed by Sarsen Press, 21 Hyde Street, Winchester.





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## Editorial

licensees are not normally known for their reticence but there is one area in which many of them show a remarkable degree of shyness and that is in their willingness to display price lists.

There has been for some time a legal requirement to display current prices in a manner that may be plainly seen by the customer (note, it is *not* a requirement for there to be an actual *list*, prices on the dispensers are just as good).

Many landlords and managers offer excuses which show a lack of originality; "...The barmaid must have knocked it off....It's being re-typed....It's in the other

bar..." to mention just a few. Even many of those who do have the required lists on display hide them in remote corners where the smoke stains are darkest or else they cover them with paraphernalia or a card of peanuts. If it is within view then you can be fairly sure that it will be written in Sanskrit with a 5H pencil.

Surely, there can be no ulterior motive for not complying with this simple requirement? So come on, play the game, let's see all the prices, big enough to read without a lens, in every pub. Why not go further, why cannot we have a price list and the opening times displayed *outside* of the pub in the manner of many cafes and continental establishments?

## Pompey Royal – latest

The future of Pompey Royal is looking brighter after a number of positive developments in the last few months.

A significant increase has been reported in the number of outlets for the beer in the Portsmouth area and we have also received reports that Pompey Royal was recently available as a guest beer in a number of Whitbread's tenanted pubs. However, increasing the number of outlets will not do any good if you, the customers, do not go out and drink the stuff! What is more, charging £1.22 a pint as did one pub in Kent takes a bit of swallowing.

Below we give a list of the pubs in our area which, at the time of writing, are selling Pompey Royal. We urge all our readers to

visit these pubs in order to help save this beer from extinction.

Readers can also help by asking their local licensee if he would consider introducing Pompey Royal.

- ANGLERS INN  
Bishopstoke, Eastleigh
- ROYAL OAK  
Downton, near Lymington
- THREE BELLS  
Hordle, near Lymington
- WHITE HART  
Pennington, Lymington
- WOOLPACK  
Sopley, near Christchurch
- CROWN AND SCEPTRE  
Burgess Road, Southampton
- KEY AND ANCHOR  
Millbrook Rd. East, Southampton

We would be pleased to hear of any other pubs which have started selling Pompey Royal.

Mike and Jocelyn  
Hendrickx

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## The House of Windsor

In February this year the Windsor in Southampton finally closed its doors, after being under threat for several years from the development plans for the Western Esplanade.

A former CAMRA chairman (sic), Stephanie Organ, had, in fact, represented CAMRA at the original planning enquiry several years ago.

During the late seventies, the Windsor was 'home' to the Southern Hampshire Branch, under licensee Ron Curtis (now of the Fountain, Hedge End). The Windsor and the nearby Gale's house, the Bay Tree, were, at that time, the only city pubs worthy of inclusion in the Good Beer Guide.

The Branch continued to use the Windsor for its monthly business meetings until around 1980. Many guest speakers, addressing the membership in the dimly lit bar, were rudely interrupted by drunks wandering in from the bus station, or perhaps more often the ghostly

start up of the juke box which had the habit of coming to life unbidden!

The Windsor should also be remembered for introducing many newcomers to the delights of Marston's Pedigree and Owd Rodger when these beers were the exception rather than the rule in our area. One former 'local' is known to this day as 'Pedigree John'.


It must be said that the Windsor's proximity to the Hants and Dorset bus station did give its bars the atmosphere of a waiting room, however, it served the real ale drinker well in its time and it will be missed in a city centre that is almost devoid of traditional pubs.

Sadly, the closure now leaves this central area without a Marston's outlet and without a quality real ale drinker's pub. Let us hope that Marston's will consider a replacement in the future city redevelopment plans.

### IN BRIEF

#### Big County

WATNEYS have announced a £5m expansion programme at their recently-acquired Ruddles brewery. Watneys say the level of sales of the premium Ruddles County have made expansion of brewing capacity at Langham necessary. They anticipate that draught County will be selling in some 2,000 Watney houses by Christmas.

1787  1987

### COURAGE BICENTENARY Cock crows

COURAGE last month topped out their new head office building in Staines, Middlesex, once the site of Ashby's brewery, acquired in 1931. The cockerel also celebrated its bicentenary this year by offering Courage Best at 50p a pint on March 24.

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BY BILL TIDY



KEGBUSTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN CAMRA'S NEWSPAPER "WHAT'S BREWING".

Joan & Bill Welcome you GOOD BEER GUIDE

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MARSTON'S

## INN-SIGHT

### Red Lion, Southampton

On the East side of Southampton's High Street stands the 'Red Lion'. Architecturally, it is one of the few buildings of interest that has remained largely intact, surviving both the ravages of wartime air raids and latterly the city planners.

Starting our description of the building, we go down below to the cellar, which dates from the 12th century and there is even earlier brickwork here in the shape of a Norman chimney breast. Above the cellar, the structure is of Tudor origin, exemplified by two magnificent fireplaces which are situated to the rear of the 'Court' room.

Most of the building is supported by giant oak beams which are over 600 years old. These were discovered during restoration carried out in the early fifties. The beams are extremely strong and very hard. One of the locals, trying to fix a grandfather clock to one of the struts in the upper gallery, had to use a metal tapping tool to cut into the wood.

In 1415, King Henry V set sail for France and for the battle of Agincourt. On the eve of his departure he tried for 'treason' three conspirators. Shakespeare's Henry V (Act 2, Scene 2) describes the event. Traditionally, the Red Lion was the court for the trial. Richard, Earl of Cambridge (The King's cousin), Lord Scrope of Masham and Thomas Grey of Heton were found guilty and duly executed outside the Bargate. A brass rubbing of the stone describing the executions hangs in the pub.

Certainly, the splendour of the court room, which is now used as the main bar, is of the correct age and decor to have been the setting for such a trial but there are those less romantic souls who speculate that the trial would have been held in the King's castle near the old walls. No documentary evidence has ever been found to confirm or deny either theory

The Southampton Terrier of 1454 (a directory) lists the house as belonging to a merchant; perhaps the equivalent of a modern shop window existed where the front wall now stands?

The Red Lion does not hold the earliest licence in Southampton, this honour belongs to the Duke of Wellington, although it is a later building. On May 1st, 1552, the Red Lion got its licence and started to trade as an inn. However it didn't get its present name until much later.

A Red Lion Inn stood just North of the Bargate for some centuries but the name disappeared in 1832 when Red Lion Square was renamed Pembroke Square and the pub received a similar change of name. It would seem that the old name was transferred at the same time to the High Street property, for only two years later in 1834, we find in the Southampton directory that William Blake was licensee of the Red Lion, Lower High Street.

It took the Luftwaffe and the blitz to reveal more history of the Red Lion. The bombs brought down plaster from the East wall of the Court Room revealing a

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patchwork quilt of a wall beneath, with old bricks intermixed with wattle and daub and then lath and plaster. In one spot there was obviously a doorway and a window, suggesting that the Court Room was once split into two levels. Also found hidden in the old wall was a 1742 1/2d piece, in excellent condition.

Today the pub retains its ancient atmosphere even though it has been considerably altered. Walking down the narrow passageway which leads to the bars one is left with an impression of travelling back in time.

The Court Room is now the main bar, although the upper level used to hold two other bars, a snug and a public. The walls rise to a great height and incorporate a gallery which runs halfway round. Sixty years ago the back bar was a billiard room but now it is used as a second bar and eating area.

Returning to the Court Room, there are a couple of curiosities worth mentioning. A framed military flag bearing Southampton's coat of arms is nearly two hundred years old and made of fine bunting, it is thought to have come from the old wooden sailing ship "Southampton". A large painting, dated 1753, of the Tudor House Museum can be seen on the South wall, it is now firmly attached, although about 15 years ago when the painting hung over the fire place, it came crashing down, luckily no one was injured.

The pub is now run by Watneys and sells Usher's, Webster's and Ruddle's real ales, it has a fine reputation for food, serving bar snacks and full meals at competitive prices.

Ian Williams, the landlord, has run the pub for four years now and amongst other things captains the pub tug o'war team. The trophies behind the bar testify to their successes.

The Red Lion is a fascinating pub to spend some time in, soaking up the atmosphere of its medieval past, enjoying at the same time good ale and food. The pub is frequented by young and old alike so the mood is relaxed; why not pay a visit next time you're in the area?

## Whitbread

The (Brickwood) Sun goes down on the Strong Country.

Whitbread has announced the closure of both its Romsey and Portsmouth depots. The company plans to move to a new site close to the M27 at Hedge End. Up to 100 workers at the Romsey depot will lose their jobs.

It appears that the new site will be used purely for administration, storage and distribution, and that the remaining production work, such as kegging lagers and beers brought in by road tanker, will be transferred to other Whitbread plants throughout the country.

Although there will be no loss of local beers, since these all went when brewing ceased at Romsey in 1981 and at Portsmouth in 1983, it is still sad to see the final links with these two traditional centres of brewing being cut.



# What price a pint?

During February CAMRA branches throughout the country carried out a national survey of pub prices. The pubs were selected to give a true picture of prices, making allowances for the proportion of pubs held by each brewer, as well as the split between managed, tenanted and free houses. In all, well over a thousand pubs were surveyed, making this the biggest such exercise ever undertaken.

Readers will not be very surprised to learn that from a national point of view, we do not come out too well in Hampshire, prices here are not very far short of those in London but are 10-15p more per pint than in most of the Midlands and North.

The average prices for our area are:

Standard Bitter (OG 1034-39)..89p  
 Premium Bitter (OG 1040-46)..95p  
 Strong Bitter (OG 1048-55)..106p

The big national brewers, the "big seven", come out worst with most of their beers being considerably more expensive than those of the smaller regional brewers in their own tied houses. Given that one has heard so many times the talk of "economies of scale" whenever these big brewers gobble up another independent, there can hardly be any excuses for the high prices charged by the big seven, they are quite simply exploiting their monopolistic control over a large proportion of our pubs.

Congratulations are due to Marstons, who top both of the tables of local average prices given below. Bass come out better than the other national brewers but they have very few tied houses in our area and in such establishments as the Cowherds, in Southampton, prices tend to be a little more expensive!

## STANDARD BITTER OG 1034-1039

| BREWER              | OG        | PRICE |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|
| Marstons BB.....    | 1037..... | 81p   |
| Hancocks HB.....    | 1037..... | 82p   |
| Wadworths IPA.....  | 1034..... | 85p   |
| Hector's Bitter.... | 1034..... | 88p   |
| Gales BBB.....      | 1037..... | 89p   |
| Strong Country B..  | 1037..... | 89p   |
| Friary Mieux B....  | 1037..... | 90p   |
| Courage BB.....     | 1039..... | 90p   |
| Websters Yorks. B.  | 1036..... | 94p   |
| Ushers BB.....      | 1038..... | 97p   |

## PREMIUM BITTER OG 1040-1046

| BREWER              | OG        | PRICE |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|
| Marstons Pedigree.. | 1043..... | 86p   |
| Ringwood BB.....    | 1040..... | 88p   |
| Frogs Original..... | 1040..... | 88p   |
| Wadworths 6X.....   | 1040..... | 90p   |
| Draught Bass.....   | 1044..... | 90p   |
| Badger Best.....    | 1041..... | 94p   |
| Wadworths F. Glory. | 1046..... | 94p   |
| Pompey Royal.....   | 1043..... | 97p   |
| Flowers Original... | 1044..... | 98p   |
| Courage Directors.. | 1046..... | 102p  |

(Independent brewers shown in bold type).

In recent years it has become commonplace for some of the national brewers to also market beers from regional brewers in their own houses; whether this indicates a lack of commitment to real ale, an inability to brew anything drinkable themselves or a

genuine desire to help the public we cannot say, what we can say is that you pay for this privilege.

The average price of Gales HSB in a Gales tied house is 102p, in a Watneys house it is 106p. Wadworths 6X is on average 90p in their tied houses and 99p in Whitbread houses.

Turning briefly to lager, Heineken (a weak OG 1033) at 95p in Whitbread pubs is cheaper than the average asked for the even weaker Carlsberg sold in Watneys pubs. Both are well undercut by Marstons own brand Pilsner Lager which sells at around 94p and has a considerably higher OG of 1038.

The average prices charged for a few other drinks were as follows:

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Draught Guinness..... | 106p |
| Wine.....             | 76p  |
| Bacardi.....          | 71p  |
| Whisky/Gin/Vodka..... | 67p  |
| Fruit Juice.....      | 42p  |
| Tonic.....            | 37p  |
| Cola.....             | 41p  |

## Rip off Corner

This "real ale rip off" comes as a great surprise, indeed sadness, to us all; Marstons are normally praised for their reasonable pricing policy, however the Leckford Hut is, according to our sources, charging £1.00 for a pint of Pedigree. The average price charged for this beer in tied houses is 86p, we hope that this is not a sign of things to come in all Marstons' pubs.

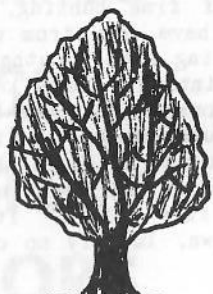
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Do not

Once again it is beer festival season in Winchester. There will be the usual collection of fine ales from around the country together with good food to help it down.

Entertainment will be provided by old favourites including Fulham Brass Band and The Real Ale And Thunder Band, plus some worthy newcomers such as the equally aptly named H.S.B.

Running a festival sounds fun, the reality is different: many months of committee meetings, followed by three or four days of intensive hard work from early morning to early the next morning.

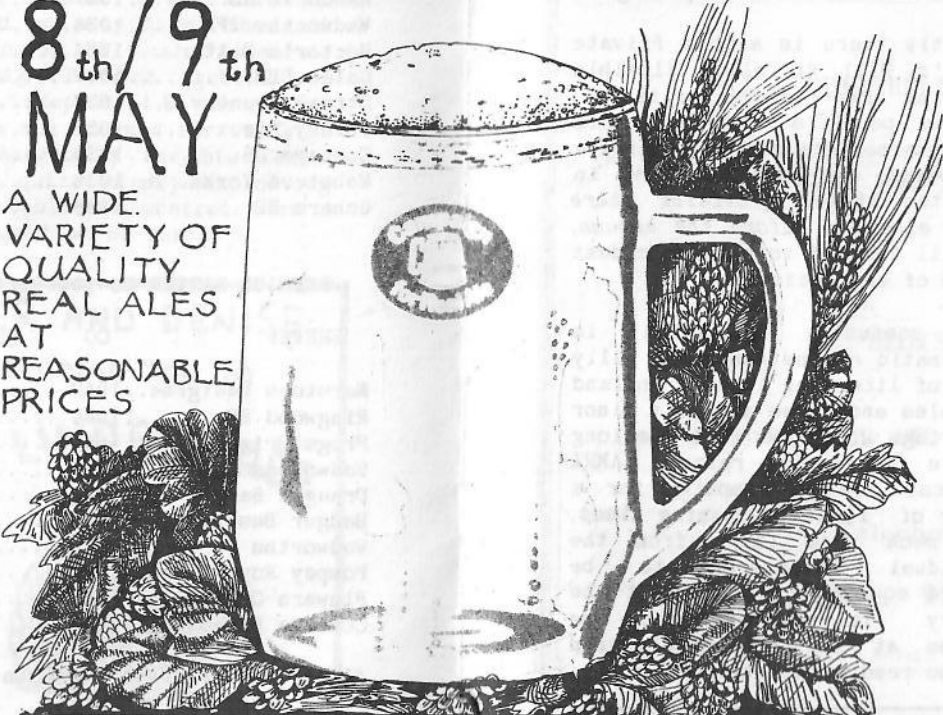
The days before opening are always chaotic, setting up the beer is an important task and must not to be taken lightly. Spiling (venting) the casks is not without problems, we have yet to do it without someone receiving a beer shampoo from one brew or another, lively beers can send a fountain of froth and hops 15 feet into the air when the spile hole is opened and it is usually the poor old bar manager that it lands on.

Tapping and tasting is done in the morning before opening time. Seventy or eighty beers to be tapped and tasted, this sounds a pleasant job but sampling such a large number of beers has to be carried out with some care if the bar manager is to remain standing for the next 12 hours!

1987  
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QUALITY  
REAL ALES  
AT  
REASONABLE  
PRICES



| FRIDAY                          |                 | SATURDAY                  |        |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------|
| No Planned Entertainment        | 12.00 - 4.00 pm | H.S.B.                    |        |
| ADMITTANCE FREE £1.50           |                 | THE FULHAM BRASS BAND     |        |
| H.S.B.                          |                 | 7.00 - 11.30 pm           | H.S.B. |
| KARL WILHEIM OOMPAAH BAND £2.00 | £2.00           | REAL ALE AND THUNDER BAND |        |

miss it!

Perhaps the most annoying occurrence from the customer's point of view is when a beer is taken off sale until later, or sometimes even until the next session. The reason this happens is to balance the sales of all the beers across the sessions giving everybody the maximum chance to sample the beers of their choice. Some beers are obviously more popular than others and could easily be sold out in the first session.

The greatest fears of the festival management are those of either selling out too early or of not selling enough by the end. Sell out early on Saturday evening and you have a hall full of thirsty drinkers who have just paid for their tickets, do not sell enough and a lot of good ale goes down the drain. The beer you drink at the festival is not provided by the brewers free of charge nor is any of it bought on a sale or return basis. Of course it is always wise to try to plan for a couple of gallons to be left, otherwise the turnout of helpers for the clearing up days can be reduced!

Luckily Winchester Beer Festival has been a success for quite a few years now, which can be attributed partly to the staff and committee members who put in so much of their time and effort but mostly to the loyal customers who come back each year for a good night out.



# The times are a changin'

The beginning of Febuary saw the annual sittings of the Licensing Justices throughout Hampshire and the rest of the country.

The Licensed Victuallers Associations (LVA) in Southampton, Eastleigh and Basingstoke applied for an extension of hours, to allow pubs to stay open to 11.00pm all the year round, rather than during the summer only. CAMRA leant its support to these applications and attended the courts to give "evidence of need" in several cases.

Many of you will have read the results in the local press. In Basingstoke and Eastleigh the half hour was granted but in Southampton the magistrates, true to their reputation for severity in licensing matters, turned it down.

The closing times throughout Hampshire are now as follows: Aldershot, Andover, Basingstoke, Droxford and Eastleigh districts have 11.00pm closing Monday to Saturday all the year round. The remainder of the county has 11.00pm closing during the summer months only.

There is little merit in these discrepancies and certainly no logic in the way they are applied. Currently around 70% of the nation's licensing districts have 11.00pm closing all the year round. One might expect there to be some pattern between town and country or perhaps between coastal and inland areas but no such patterns exist and the hours are set by the whims of the local benches. The worst result is, of course, the encouragement of

some people to drive from one area to another for "last knockings".

Further confusion was brought about recently with the new law which allows restaurants to serve drinks with meals between 3.00pm and 5.00pm. This measure comes into effect in May and we can expect that many pubs that have a good food trade will take advantage of it to obtain a limited form of all day opening.

Currently there is also a Private Member's Bill to allow flexible licensing laws before parliament. To many people's surprise, this bill obtained its second reading a few weeks ago and is now in committee stage, *providing there is no election before the autumn*, the bill is said to stand a modest chance of succeeding.

This confusing situation is symptomatic of the generally silly state of licensing laws in England and Wales and these are only minor tinkering with laws that are long overdue for radical reform. CAMRA will continue to campaign for a policy of flexible opening times, with much more input from the individual licensees, to be applied equitably throughout the country. The manifestoes of the parties at the coming election will be read with interest.

## "Independent"

Florence Bessie Smith, of Ilford, Essex, left estate valued at £86,448 net. She left her beer pump handle from the Bricklayers Arms, Stepney, "which was once pulled by Edward, Prince of Wales" to the Licensed Victuallers National Homes, Denham Garden Village, Bucks.

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LIFE BRANCH MEMBER: L.V.A. & N.A.L.P.M.



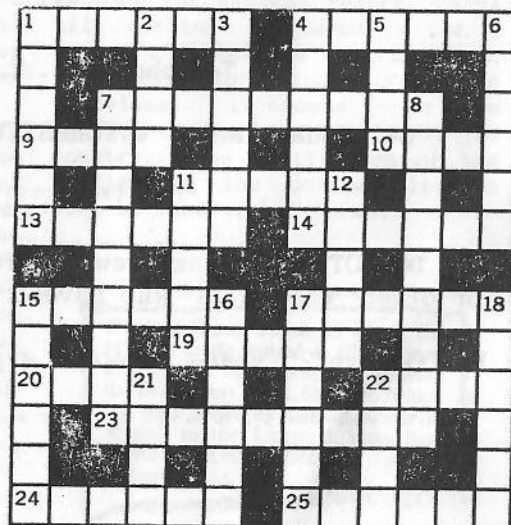
# Competition Crossword

## ACROSS.

- 1 12d first tonic for a hangover perhaps (6).
- 4 Grab tin at church (6).
- 7 Where beers come from, railways were changed - that is the point (9).
- 9 Small amphibian turns a dot (4)
- 10 Initially, dodge a rogue throwing a missile (4).
- 11 Spoil some junta - in trouble (5).
- 13 Silversmith, maybe, formerly in public relations (6).
- 14 Dig this place, perhaps for information about a road (6).
- 15 Local inhabitant bit Ron badly (6).
- 17 Demands a hundred pounds for excellent scribbling (6).
- 19 Head first into pleasant little place (5).
- 20 Insect turns back for distinctive taste (4).
- 22 Be round about for a drink (4).
- 23 Send earl right round to insulter (9).
- 24 Polished, and Des is confused (6).
- 25 Credit in dodgy tips for actors to read (6).

## DOWN

- 1 Up pot - hole to absolute peak (3-3).
- 2 Fat on Los Angeles street (4).
- 3 Drag the 'public' behind a car? (3-3).
- 4 They say we're in the country, but is the beer? (6).
- 5 Cut across editor! (4).
- 6 Rush possesses a number (6).
- 7 Famous brewers who bar Al vans? (9).
- 8 Flying beach player (9).
- 11 Strange note, not the first from a wood joint (5).
- 12 At last! Capable of making a piece of furniture! (5).
- 15 Washes club before she changes (6).
- 16 Odd inn causes persistent vertical head movement (6).
- 17 Applause often uttered before drinking (6).
- 18 Steer erratically to the first road (6).
- 21 Happy among stunning ladies (4)
- 22 Carry a large animal (4).



The first two correct entries received before the end of May will be rewarded with a brace of Gale's "Corkers".

Entries to:  
Hop Press Editor,  
105 Elder Close,  
Winchester.

# Winter Crossword - Solution

There are two prize winners in our last competition, each will receive a bottle of Gale's Prize Old Ale.


The winners are:

**Mike Freemantle.**  
6 Highfield Drive, Ringwood.

**Steve Harvey.**  
18 Peverells Rd. Chandler's Ford.


The answers to the crossword are given below.





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**Monday - Saturday 12 - 2**





**GOOD BEER GUIDE**



## Pub News

We start this month's Pub News with a quotation from the 1983 Eastleigh Beer Festival Programme:

"Eastleigh and Chandler's Ford are dominated by Whitbread. Oh for the salvation from Marstons or Gales or Wadworth.....Chandler's Ford is 'under-pubbed' by comparison with other urban areas - what about a couple of new licences?"

Well, it's taken a while to happen but Wadworths have been granted permission to build a new pub on the Valley Park housing estate as part of a neighbourhood centre which will include shops and a medical centre. The new pub will be in Knightwood Road, close to where Castle Lane is closed off. It will cost around £4M to build and is designed to accommodate about 275 customers. Although most of these customers are likely to be residents of Chandler's Ford, the pub itself will actually be just inside the Romsey licensing district. It is expected to open early next year.

The other proposal for a new pub we mentioned in the last edition of Hop Press was less successful. Eastleigh councillors turned down Eldridge Pope's plans to convert Hound Farmhouse at Netley into a pub. Amongst the objections were the unsuitability of the buildings and the contention that the area already had sufficient pubs. One pair of licensees who would not have been worried about any increase in competition are Victor and Joan Owen, who have announced their retirement from the Red Lion in Netley Abbey, which they have run for the past twenty years. We await Whitbread's plans for this

pub with our usual trepidation.

A local TV star, The Jolly Sailor at Bursledon, has been sold by owner Jack Mellan to Dorset brewers Hall and Woodhouse. Another free house bites the dust. At West End, the Crown and Thistle has reopened as the Master Builder, the latest of the Charlie Brown chain. Their other pubs are The Star Hotel in Southampton High Street and The Humble Plum in Bitterne, where licensees Geoff and Linda Bowyer had a spell behind the bar before moving to the Master Builder. The extended pub has a non-smoking room, a restaurant and a children's area. The beers available include Wadworth's IPA and 6X and Bass.

At the Prince of Wales in Bishopstoke it is a fond farewell to Vera and Bill Bates and welcome to new managers John and Betty Finn. Also moving to the Eastleigh area is David James, who is the new manager of The Cricketers at North Stoneham. David previously ran a pub in the Andover area. The former Cricketers' licensees, Roy and Yvonne Mandley have moved on to the Heath Hotel, Dibden Purlieu Whitbread's latest "Brewer's Fayre" establishment.

Another Forest pub which has reopened after renovations is the Forest Inn at Ashurst. Amongst the more unusual attractions are free French lessons for customers from manager Steve Whittell's French wife Chantal! Also in Ashurst The Happy Cheese, which is at present a Toby Restaurant, will shortly undergo "a major refurbishment" and be transformed into a Toby Grill

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**MARSTON'S Traditional Ale**

Hop Press had a letter the other day from Davy Jones, the licensee of the Foresters at Frogham. He told us that he now has Hook Norton Best Bitter and Theakston's Old Peculier on sale at all times, plus one guest beer.

Moving down to Lymington the new licensee of the Angel Hotel, Ian Johnson, tells us that there are no plans to close the hotel, as we had suggested in the last edition of Hop Press, but there may be changes to the Angel Tap which has always been run separately as a public bar of the hotel. The future of the East End Arms also now seems assured. In the same area we welcome Gael Evans to the Sportsman's Arms at Pennington. Previous licensee Simon Norris has moved to Bournemouth.

Way over to the East - just out of our area - the extensive refurbishment of The Fox Inn at Bramdean has finally been completed. Marston's Burton Bitter and Pedigree are still available.

Following Berni Inns' recent change to a "green" image, The Mount at Chandler's Ford has gone one step further and plans to erect a marquee capable of seating 100 customers in the garden. The marquee, which is to be for a six month trial period this summer, is expected to be used for such events as wedding receptions and parties. Not unexpectedly, some neighbours are said to be alarmed! Another Berni Inn, The Bassettin Southampton, has reopened after various changes to the bar and restaurant areas. A happy hour has been introduced, but drinkers aged between 18 and 20 will be unhappy if they try to buy a drink, as the inn now has an age limit of 21.

[Editor's note:

We would like to do an article on "happy hours", any details of pubs with such delights would be welcomed.]

Also in Southampton, The Compton Arms has been renamed Aggie Grey's and The Alexandra in Bellevue Road is being altered again, just two and a half years after its last facelift.

Finally, we bid a fond farewell to The Windsor, next to Southampton Bus Station, which closed in February (see separate article). Licensee Max Fisher is to take over The Platform Tavern in Town Quay, which will be reopening in the next few months.

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### MARSTON'S

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## Young becomes a skolar

JOHN YOUNG, chairman of the London real ale brewer, feigned anger: "It's disgraceful. Why aren't they all drinking Tuborg?"

He was speaking in the Marquess of Anglesey in Covent Garden, one of Young's 147 pubs, at a twin celebration — the launch of a company newspaper and a deal to brew and market the Danish lager. Looking around, it was noticeable that the dignitaries present had elected to swig the bitter rather than the Scandinavian newcomer.

The first issue of *Ram News* is quite a nifty number. It is to go to Young's customers via its pubs at the cost of a 10p donation to a charity of the landlord's choice. Unusually for a house organ, it has only one picture of the chairman in the edition.

The pic is an interesting one. It shows John Young and fellow directors with horses and drays outside the Alexandra pub in Wimbledon. Some better cropping, however, might have got



rid of the prominent pile of horse dung from the shot's far right.

In much the same anal vein the paper's diary *Dray by Dray* contains a piece about a "brewery

executive" who addressed a meeting minus his trousers, which he had split. Young's PR man Michael Hardman put an end to the mystery by revealing that the director *sans culottes* was none other than John Young himself.

The Tuborg deal was initiated by Mr Young — with trousers — and Poul Jensen of Tuborg UK. Curiously, both also put their names to a road map of the South-east. It turned out that this was just formal recognition of the currency of the deal within the M25 circle.

Tuborg joins Young's two own lagers as a less potent alternative for those, especially women, who find them too strong.

One reason nobody was drinking Tuborg might just have been the fact that, despite the razzmatazz and the presence of the brew's pumps on the bar, the Anglesey did not actually have any on draught to serve. The deal was celebrated with bottled Tuborg and toasted in the Danish fashion — embarrassingly, the word is "skol".

Frank Kane

"Independent"  
3-3-87

## From the Press.....

THE Reinheitsgebot no longer applies to foreign brewers wishing to sell beer in Germany.

Last month, in a predictable piece of folly, the European Court finally breached the centuries-old German purity law, which states that beer should be brewed using only malt, hops, yeast and water.

The move was prompted by an action from a French exporter, and the EEC ruling also applies to Greece, where a similar law on ingredients has been in operation.

CAMRA chairman Jim Scanlon was "appalled" at the decision. "The only piece of positive legislation on beer ingredients in the entire community has been stupidly swept aside," he said.

"What we need now is a Euro-wide law compelling all brewers to list each and every ingredient and additive that goes into our beer."

CAMRA has also called for an EEC purity law, imposing much tighter restrictions on the many dubious chemicals presently used in brewing.

### DUBIOUS CHEMICALS

Predictably, the British Brewers' Society saw the court decision as the removal of an unjust trade barrier. Said a spokesman: "This puts right what has been a very unfair situation."

However, all the signs are that the Germans will stick to their guns. The court ruling only applies to beer sold into Germany. The Reinheitsgebot still applies to all beer brewed in Germany for domestic consumption.

The German Brewers Federation said the decision would have

no effect on Germany's 4,000 domestic brews. "The ruling means no change to the laws governing German beer — our beer stays pure," they proudly boasted, after defeat at the hearing.

And the majority of German beer sold in the UK will remain true to the Reinheitsgebot. Bev Robbins, whose Bilge Beer Company supplies Waitrose and over 250 pubs with Hacker-Pschorr brews from Munich is convinced that standards will not fall.

"Hacker have said that they always uphold the pure beer tradition. They will not change — and neither will they allow their beer to be brewed under licence outside Germany." Their pure beers will again be on sale during the Great British Beer Festival at Brighton in August.

## What's Brewing, April 1987

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## HANDY HINTS DEPT

Useful things to do with lager. (No. 1 in an occasional series): Karen Harrison, an administrative assistant with Whitbread Wessex, found herself stranded recently, when her frosted Ford developed a radiator leak in wintry weather. Luckily, she happened to have a four-pack of Heineken to hand, with which she topped up the rad. and drove to the nearest garage, ten miles away. An AA spokesman said: "Any bland liquid could have got her car going."

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**Hippocrates**

FRENCHAY Health Authority in Bristol are striking a blow for health and sanity by introducing a "soft drinks only" policy in most of their hospital bars to show that there are alternatives to alcohol.

Perhaps the first people they should seek to influence are the members of the neighbouring Bristol and Weston Health Authority who have recently reopened the Sea Horse, a popular pub bought by them 18 months ago.

**Pub foodies**

BEER cooked with beechwood chips and hickory-smoked peanuts are not the only indicators that the world is going mad. From deepest Glasgow I have been sent the crisp bag of the future.

Benson's Natural Choice Jacket Fried Lightly Sea Salted Potato Crisps are "cooked in sunflower oil with no preservatives." Needless to say, the fact that Bensons save by not having to peel, flavour or preserve them does nothing for the price.

Other products in the range include Crisps Provencale and herb Flavoured Bran Snacks.

**Consumer response**

WHEN the plans for modernising the Clifton Arms at Caterham, Surrey, were being drawn up, it is obvious that local drinkers were not consulted.

In retrospect this might have been a good idea as one customer, Mr Lindsey Harmon, expressed his feelings on the matter by carving out a four-foot by three-foot hole in the wall, using a chain-saw. It appears that he felt an archway was required in the new wall.

I was sent this information by CAMRA's Provisional Pub Preservation Group.

**Late drinker**

HAVE you ever worried about the state of pub toilets? Well you can worry a good deal more after you have heard the unfortunate tale of Les Pallett.

A regular at the GBG-listed Davenport's pub, the Bricklayers Arms in Icknield Port Road, Birmingham, Mr Pallett was indulging in a pre-Christmas celebration. A visit to the gentleman's cloakroom was, however, interrupted by his sudden death.

Everyone has to die somewhere, you may be thinking, and what better place than your local? What turns the tragedy into a black comedy, however, is that his body was not found for seven days.

In future all GBG inspectors are asked to look under the doors of the cubicles.

**Red devils**

CHARLES Wells, the UK purveyors of Red Stripe pseudo-Caribbean lager, might care to take up the latest example of pinching trade names.

In the January edition of Marxism Today, under the heading "Safe Sex for All," readers are offered special, cut-price, extra-strength condoms, named after their premium brew. My informant tells me that every one has a red stripe down the side signifying solidarity with the Ford Capri buying classes.

**Name that pub**

LONGMANS are about to produce the definitive publication on the origins of pub names. I will be interested to see how they explain the "Thatcher's Foot" in Stanley, Co Durham.

Owner Ian Atkinson was an Independent councillor when he bought and opened the place, so despite its "ancient geographical landmark" pretensions, it was in fact named after the then leaders

of the Government and Opposition parties.

I am thinking of entering the publishing game with a book of alternative pub names. My favourite so far is the nickname of the long-closed Cock & Pye in Colchester. Locals referred to it as the Prick & Pastry.

**Half and half**

GREENE King may have a new drink in their pubs. Take a half of their Harp Lager, the thinking man's drink-driving specimen, and add a half of the ludicrously expensive Kronenbourg 1987. The result, I am assured by brainless oafs at my local, is called a pint of Krarp.

**What's doing**

CONNOISSEURS of Mancunian humour are unlikely to read of one outrage recently perpetrated against the good folk of Salford.

I can reveal that Rupert Periwinkle, the vitriolic court correspondent of CAMRA North Manchester's *What's Doing* newspaper, has been appointed a Licensing Magistrate.

When news leaked out, Humpety Dumpty fell off his bar stool, Eddie Nestfeather was seen to genuflect and Nora Tackler skollied herself. This column looks forward to the abolition of juke boxes, lounge bars and fun pubs throughout the principality of Salford.

**Miles Brewster**

P.S. Collectors of bad taste will be delighted to hear that the only British pub to be named after our Lord's birthplace, The Manger at Bradfield Combus in Suffolk, has opened a disco bar. The name? Christies, of course.

**The Foresters Arms**

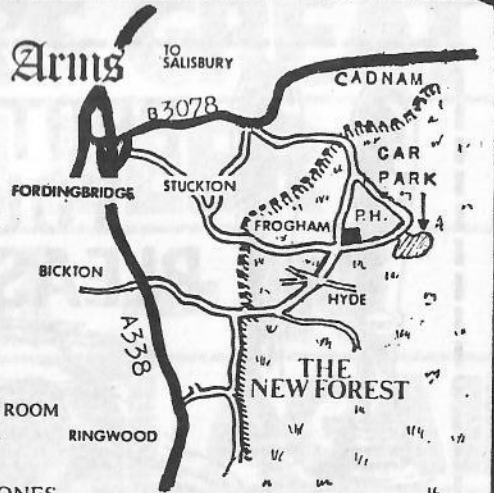
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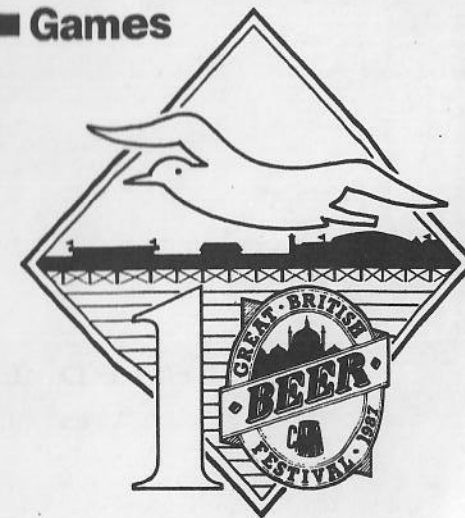
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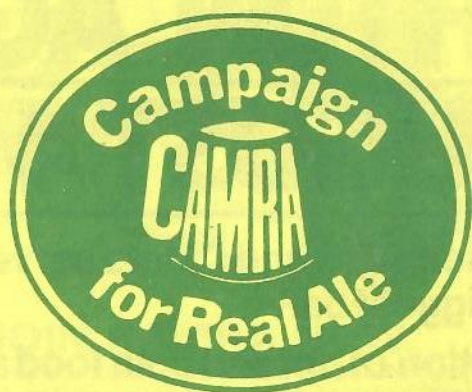
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