

FREE



The Campaign for Real Ale

HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

MAY 1980

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Mooring the death of the Goose

The Goose at Moor Green, near Ardeley, is one pub featured in the latest edition of the Good Beer Guide, mainly for the excellence of its AK mild.

Landlord Fred Wilson is soon retiring from the pub after 20 years and owners McMullens of Hertford have said that the pub will be closed, and put up for auction.

What makes the situation worse is that another pub just down the road, the Chequers, at Wood End, is also being closed by its owners, Grouns King, which will mean the number of pubs in the parish of Ardeley dropping from three to just one, the Jolly Waggoner, in weeks.

All CAMRA members will be sorry indeed to see the pub close. It is one of a vanishing breed, with barrels behind the bar, a sitting room at the side, and a unique 3D pub sign.

Very popular

The Goose is a very popular pub, with a lot of locals using it, and plenty of visitors from outside. One group even come up from Enfield every Tuesday to drink in the pub!

Several people have applied to the brewery to become tenants of the pub after Mr Wilson retires. But all have been turned down for various reasons. McMullens appear to be just making excuses. They claim themselves that it's one of their favourite pubs, but they never give it any plugs. It's a great shame that it has to close.

Even the chances of anyone buying the pub and turning it into a free house are remote — McMullens have said that the building will be sold only with a tie to themselves for beer supplies — which will quickly put off any prospective buyer wanting to supply a range of beers similar to other free houses in the area.

by Sandie Lerner

Editors Comment: "This is perhaps my favourite pub in the whole of the county so I feel pretty sick about Macs decision."

Evening of merriment

On Friday May 30th Hertfordshire North Branch will be hosting an evening of real ale, food and entertainment at the Plough, Great Munden. Guest performers will be the Somerville Gentlemen's Band, there will be a choice of real ales, and the ticket price of £2.50 will include a buffet meal. Tickets from the Plough or Sandie Lerner (Warc 830618). Admission by ticket only.

IT'S HERE!

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE.



GOOD BEER GUIDE

IN WHICH The History of Inns, Taverns and Public Houses is discussed by the erudite Mr. Michael Jackson; the processes of Brewing are fully expounded; the pure and natural ingredients of Real Ale are specified; and about 6,000 Public Houses throughout the country are Listed, Described & Located upon 36 Maps, all delineated in Colour; the whole compiled and ably edited yet again by the whimsical Mr. Roger Protz.

1980



Get your copy now from good pubs, bookshops, CAMRA HQ, or through your branch contact. The price is £2.60 with special reductions for members.

AROUND ST ALBANS

There are currently around forty real ale pubs in the city of St Albans, so if you fancy a pub crawl it's more a case of choosing an area of town, rather than trying to do them all! Try this one for starters.....

The following route first came to my notice a few years ago when one evening a couple of friends suggested a trip to St Albans. This proved to be a good idea to the fact that living on the main St. Pancras railway line made the need to drive redundant.

The first port of call, 'The Horn of Plenty', is virtually opposite the City Station on the corner of Alma Road and Victoria Street. This proves to be a very good first stop as it helps to get there early due to the live music that is on most nights of the week, which attracts some of the most cosmopolitan people around. Bitter (ask for pump) and Burton are both served at reasonable prices in a rather basic single bar.

Directly opposite 'The Horn' on the other side of Alma Road is the 'Midland Railway', a Courage house which has recently become a bit more popular, probably because people use it as a place to catch their breath after an hour or so in the pub across the road! The abundance of lamps in here (mostly red) leads to quite a dark atmosphere in which to sup one's Bitter or Directors. The resident Great Dane can come as quite a shock if it leaps out of the gloom at you!

'Enery or 'Aroid

To get to stop No. 3, just carry along Victoria Street, past Bejams multicoloured monstrosity and there you will find 'The Robin Hood', selling Wethers Bitter. It isn't a particularly inspiring pub but there is a good photograph of 'Enery Cooper on the window sill — definitely not for weak stomachs, and watch out for the arrows on the way out to the toilets or you could find yourself doing a King Harold. Landlord Terry Rees is quite a character. A bit further down the road on the corner of Latimer Road and Victoria Street is 'The Acom', another Ind Coops pub just recently refurbished rather to the consternation of the Newsletter editor. It now sports a single walk-thru bar with a flash paintjob, but retains the bar billiards in what was the old public, and the Bitter is reasonable by today's prices.

It is here that the first change of direction is made. Turn left down Latimer Road and one is given a choice of pubs, both of which are Ind Coops. 'The Crystal Palace' on the corner of Latimer Road and London Road is a place I've never been inside of (mainly due to self preservation) so I don't know exactly what is on sale. Opposite Latimer Road is 'The Farmers Boy' which is, unfortunately, a fizz pub but it does have a cosy atmosphere (it must be one of the smallest pubs in town). Hopefully it might be in line for a switch to Benskins in the near future.

- 1) The Horn of Plenty
- 2) Midland Railway
- 3) The Robin Hood
- 4) The Acom
- 5) The Crystal Palace
- 6) The Farmers Boy
- 7) Great Northern



Only public bar

From here carry on down London Road, past the Odeon to the 'Great Northern', the only house on the route to have a public bar. The surroundings aren't brilliant, but the beer isn't bad. Directors tops 50p but by this time closing time is looming up, anyway, having been thrown out of the last pub it only needs a short stagger up Alma Road to get back to the station, but if the journey is made at lunchtime a call into CAMRA H.Q. can be made, to stock up on all your favourite CAMRA products.

As the reader may have gathered, the pubs mentioned aren't gems but as this article describes a 'pub crawl', I found while conducting this survey — ably assisted by Nick Page — that one doesn't stay in a house for more than half an hour as the surroundings aren't important — what you drink is!

Robin Scudder

MEMBERSHIP



Why not join CAMRA and keep some of Britain's heritage alive.

I wish to become a member of CAMRA Ltd. I agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign. I enclose £4.00 as my annual subscription. (£5.00 husband and wife)

Name Address

Date / / 80 Signature

Send to CAMRA, 34, Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts.
Ask for details from The Membership Secretary.



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NOT ENOUGH AK PULLED



Despite considerable increases in prices over the last few years (and in percentage terms McMullens have increased at a rate greater than the Big 6) Macs AK not only presents good value but is one of the more distinctive light milds around our area. But, have you noticed that in many of their houses, there is a distinct lack of mild on handpump. The answer is that only 16% of Macs pubs sell handpumped mild. This appalling state of affairs is not helped by our research showing not one of their managed houses

offers handpumped mild.

Just what Macs have against their managers I don't know, but in some of the tenanted houses, AK outsells Country bitter, so the product does sell. Future sales and the widening of choice to the customers can only be achieved by McMullens but there is nothing wrong with your tenants and managers writing and reminding John McMullen that you care about what the customer wants — the one sure way to keeping your pub viable and a few bob in the bank.

by JIM AXFORD

THE BIG SNATCH

On Sunday, 23 March at 10am, your valiant CAMRA footballing heroes took to the field for the second time this season, now against the White Lion, St. Albans at the city's Westminster Lodge Recreation Centre. This local derby drew a season's best crowd of five — including two White Lion substitutes — who shuffled anxiously from foot to foot as kick-off approached.

Eric's mention

CAMRA's articulate captain, Nick Page, uttered the immortal words of 'We can win this one' — sheer inspiration to stoke the fire in every CAMRA belly, and so, with Mr Eric 'I-don't-got-a-mention-last-time' Sim (Hatfield) — that impartial man of sport — as ref, a fluent and fair game was guaranteed.

Lions Roar to 1-0

White Lion grasped the midfield straight from kick-off and CAMRA were besieged around their penalty area for the first fifteen minutes, as shots rained in on Martin Harrison, CAMRA's acrobatic 'keeper. With a strong wind against them CAMRA were finding it difficult to find any rhythm and in the 17th minute White Lion's pressure eventually paid off when Dave Ball's well-hit shot from 20 yards was too hard for an outstretched Harrison to hold.

Page on the Score Sheet

Almost immediately CAMRA launched their first serious attack of the game — and scored! Tricky winger Adrian Wood, slid the ball into the determined stride of Nick Page who side-footed past a stranded Clive Bennett. Bennett made amends later with a miraculous save, much to the wonder of CAMRA who were already celebrating a second goal. But it was White Lion who reached half time ahead; an unlucky bounce in CAMRA's penalty area caught Norman on the arm, and Keith Salmon made no mistake from the spot. Half time: White Lion 2 CAMRA 1.

CAMRA XI have wind

In the second half, with the benefit of the wind, CAMRA found it easier to pierce the White Lion's defence. Some incisive long balls from Robin Scudder and Mick Birch had the White Lion troubled, while at the other end Mick Birch's spectacular goal-line clearance saved CAMRA's bacon. Twice CAMRA's cross-bar was rocked but White Lion were beginning to lose concentration at the back and in the 75th minute, Nick Page, collecting the ball after a diagonal run, hit first time past a dismayed defence for CAMRA's unexpected equaliser. Nick's hat-trick was foiled by the bar, but two minutes later Adrian Wood beat two defenders and played the ball square to Ralph I. away who turned and planted the ball firmly into the left hand side of the net for CAMRA's third.

Lions Tamed 3-2

In a dramatic finale, Norman, CAMRA's best player, made two decisive clearances before Eric signalled for 'time' — 'time' that was to buy him a pint of Ind Coope bitter at our opponents' other home ground. All in all White Lion would be justified in thinking they were unlucky to lose — probably why they are after a replay in a few weeks time.

Teams CAMRA: Harrison; Birch; Linsell
Middlewood; Scudder; Ellis; Langford; Lawday,
Andrews, Page, Wood.

White Lion : Bennett; Stocker, Hicketts, Bearn, 'J.R.'
Gibney, Flower, Salmon, Nicholson, Ball, Jones, Peterson
(plus two subs).

Les Middlewood

KEEP IT CLEAN

We don't like to 'knock' anyone unnecessarily, but Greene King really deserve a mention in respect of the guide which they issued to all their Managers recently.

The guide, issued by the brewers training and safety manager Mr. Peter Jackson contains simple line drawings on the do's and don'ts whilst running a pub. For example did you know that pub managers must: Use de-odourants every day, bath often, change their socks or stockings every day, change their under-clothes frequently and avoid using too much after-shave or perfume! Did you also know, that whilst you are talking over your troubles with your local manager he/she should not call you by your Christian name unless you invite them to! And if they ask 'Where have you been lately?' you should take this as a personal affront!

The guide also tells managers how to operate a soda syphon, how to serve keg & bottled beer, and how to carry a tray full of drinks....but not how to look after real ale! Honestly, talk about having no faith in the ones you employ! Be careful, next time you go into a Greene King managed house, as the licensee will probably be un-kept, smell, be abusive, ask you to pour your own drink and then soak you with the contents of the nearest soda-syphon! That is if he/she hasn't read the guide.

HOOK NORTON IN SOUTHWOLD

That's the name of my beach hut, 2 minutes from the Sole Bay. The ideal compliment to a pub holiday, being fully equipped with cooking facilities for 6.

Bookings through Adnams (estate agents, not brewers!). Tel. Southwold 3292. Available weekly from April 21st to October 31st from £8 to £14. Mike Turner, Camra Brewery Liaison Officer, Ridley's.

AROUND THE PUBS

Following our challenge in the August 1979 Newsletter to each of the four landlords of the pubs at Ashwell to be the first to supply their customers with real ale, we are now pleased to congratulate Mr Lynch of the **Bushel and Strike** on installing handpumps to serve Charles Wells IPA and Bombardier.

A surprise new beer for Hertfordshire is McEwan's Cask Conditioned Ale (usually known as 70/-) which replaces Trumans Tap at the **Jolly Sailors, Buntingford**.

The beer is also on sale at 50p a pint at the **Royal Oak in Bushey Heath** — reported as opening as a free-house last month. Other beers to be available shortly are Fullers and Marstons in this rather basic ex-Ind Coope town pub opposite the police station.

The **White Horse** in Hertingfordbury — a Trust House Forte establishment — has changed its only real ale from Macc Country to Maccs AK. Despite THF having a fairly vigorous real ale policy, the range has not increased, and in fact one of their other local inns — the **Battleaxes**, near Elstree — has reduced its range of handpumped beers. Slaying on the subject of hotel rumour has it that the **Noke Hotel, Chiswell Green** is now 'real' — more details later. Selling mild for the first time in many years is the **Jolly Waggoner** at **Ardeley** where Greene King XX is now available on gravity. Good news indeed.

Wethered Bitter has now re-appeared at the **Old Bull, Royston**. Rumour has it that Fromlins Tusker will not be long in making its first appearance in North Hertfordshire. A second Watneys air pressure pub has appeared in **Borehamwood**, where the **Woodcock** now has London Bitter on 'pump'.

BRANCH CONTACTS

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THANKS

The Hertfordshire CAMRA Newsletter is produced by the Herts North, Herts South, and Herts/Essex Borders branches.

We as editors are now slipping into quiet retirement (but will be offering mortgage facilities for all you would-be pint purchasers over the next year, as a sideline) and would like to thank all contributors over the past year and give apologies for any aggravation caused by any mistakes that have arisen during the publication of this monthly epic. Current distribution is now 3500 and advertisements and copy are always gratefully received, but please remember the copy deadline (20th of preceding month). Your future contact will be star of the April edition Mr. Dave "I-tolt-really-shattered-that-day-in-Edinburgh" Burns, of 11 Turpins Chase, Welwyn, Herts. Tel Welwyn 7805.

Good drinking
Nick and Val Page.

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STOP PRESS

Rumour has it (from the Landlord of the Punch House Ware) that the Brewery Tap Ware is to close. Representative of Greene King has confirmed the above but no date has been given or the future of the Greene King house.

MAKE MAY MILD

This month, as every May, your local CAMRA branch will be campaigning especially hard in an attempt to safeguard the future of the real milds still available in Hertfordshire. There are lots of meetings and sociale — so there's bound to be one near enough for you to pop along to.....

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Monday 5th May

May Day social at the White Horse, Burnham Green. Yard of Ale, tug of war, welly wanging, food and entertainment. Opening time onwards. Ind Coope KK Mild.

Thursday 8th May

Joint social with Herts North at the Rest & Welcome, Haultwick. 8.00pm. McMullen AK Mild.

Monday 12th May

Social at the Woodman, Chapmore End. 8.00pm. Greene King XX and KK milds on gravity.

Sunday 18th May

Three-legged race around the mild pubs of St Albans starting at the Crown, Hatfield Road plotting your own route to finish at the Rose & Crown, St Michaels. POLYPIN OF MILD FOR THE WINNERS. 12 noon start.

Wednesday 21st May

BRANCH MEETING At the Old Bulls Head, Ware, plus auction of breweriana. 8.00pm Ind Coope KK mild.

Tuesday 27th May

Branch Darts Championship at the Bell & Crown, Hertford. 7.30pm prompt. Extension. McMullen AK mild.

Saturday 31st May

Branch challenge against Northamptonshire Branch, Skittles at the Narrow Boat, near Weedon, Northants. Contact Tony King on 01-952-6080 for details. Charles Wells.

Sunday 8th June

First branch cricket match of the season at Verulamium Park St. Albans.

HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Monday 5th May

Joint social with Herts South branch.

Thursday 8th May

Joint social with Herts South branch.

Wednesday 14th May

BRANCH MEETING at the Bird in Hand, Gosmore. 8.00pm. Greene King

Wednesday 21st May

Branch Darts Championship first round at the Fox, Pilton. Names to branch contact by May 14th please. 8.00pm. Wethered.

Wednesday 28th May

Campaigning social at the Red Hart, Hitchin. 8.00pm. Greene King.

Wednesday 11th June

BRANCH MEETING at the Sollershot Club, Letchworth. 8.00pm. Greene King.

HERTS/ESSEX BORDERS BRANCH

Monday 5th May

Joint social with South West Essex branch at the Rose & Crown, Woodford Green. 8.00pm. Wethered dark mild.

Wednesday 14th May

Joint social with all Essex branches at the Fox, Mashbury. 8.00pm. Riddleys dark mild.

Monday 19th May

Joint social with all Essex branches at the Railway, Billericay. 8.00pm. Greene King XX and KK milds.

Wednesday 21st May

Visit to Bass Brewery Museum, Burton-on-Trent. Still a few places left. £5 deposit to Branch contact.