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LONDON DRINKER

Produced by the London branches of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd



Rayment's - Story inside

Photo: John Law

Alan Greenwood's Beer Diary ●

AFTER SOMETHING is invented there are usually periods of improvements, developments and adaptations. These periods usually pass almost insignificantly in the overall scale of time as people either adapt to the development or it gets superseded by another.

There is one invention however where developments and repercussions just will not cease even though it was invented so long ago it is probably older than the wheel. The invention is the drinking vessel and, to judge from the vexed comments of beer drinkers as they discuss their preferences, even today the invention is subject to reverberations. The cheapest, simplest beer drinking vessel today is the glass straight. It is easy to hold, clearly allows the drinker to see the clarity of the beer, and in no way affects the taste, flavour or palate of the beer. So why do we so often get landed with the big, thick, chunky or dimple glass with handles? Apart from the people with disabilities, who needs handles? Looking round round bars where such glasses are used, you will notice that most people pick them up by the body and not the handle anyway.

Worse than the handles however is the thickness. Whilst they may be O.K. for chilled lagers, the taste and flavour of real beer seems diminished as it fights with the thickness of the glass for that small channel between the lips, through which both glass and beer must vie.

It is most likely that chunky glasses with handles are remnants of the keg, processed beer era. Beers like Tartan, Double Diamond, Tankard etc, because they are usually served chilled and highly gassed, are more likely to overpower the glass thickness. Being initially promoted as 'up market' beers, a glass of more style and substance, like the chunky, helped to justify the higher prices charged for them. Even now there is an up market image to the thicker, dimple glass and there are still landladies about who insist on straight glasses only for the public bar and something better (the dimple) for the lounge or saloon. To my mind that's another big reason for searching out the public bar.

Apart from the dimple and the straight, there are many other design styles of glass drinking vessels, which is all the more

amazing when we find there is virtually only one producer of glasses in this country. The Ravenhead Glass Company, who are a subsidiary of United Glass, a giant company controlled jointly by The Distillers Company and Owens-Illinois Incorporated. They make literally millions of glasses every week, have a range of 180 design variations and can introduce an average of fifteen new styles every year. It would now be almost impossible for a new mass-production manufacturer to start up now, for the finance and organisation would be astronomical. Just one tank furnace alone can hold upwards of a thousand ton of molton glass, which is a lot of glasses and a lot of investment.

With seven out of every ten glasses used in pubs being Ravenhead they do have a dominant hold on the market, but there is always the threat of large foreign concerns stepping in so that Ravenhead have the ever present incentive to contain prices. Design

Continued

London Drinker

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News & Views ●

● PRICE OUTLOOK — PROMISING?

WE ARE RATHER chuffed to discover that our prognostications about prices falling, which were based on a mixture of common sense and a reading of tea leaves, have been backed by some of the experts. Given the state of the country at the moment one would hope for nothing else.

Brewers, according to one argument, are supposed to be more efficient and more able to absorb costs. We do not take this argument very seriously because, even if it were true, alleged efficiency has never stopped them putting up prices in the past. Remember Lord Vaizey and the economies of scale?

We tend to put more faith in the power of the recession. Publicans everywhere are suffering and are beginning to complain vociferously about the deeds of their tied masters, some of whom have chosen this of all times to up the rents. Surely they cannot put up prices as well? In fact, Bass have done so and also Courage, but so far no one has followed. According to one analyst, Whitbread's swingeing price increases last year may have kept profits up but their share of the beer market took a tumble. They have been significantly reluctant to raise prices this year.

The *Morning Advertiser* has reported that even pubs in the heart of Central London are being hit by the recession, not to mention the lack of tourists. A few may strike lucky with wine bars, cocktail bars, video bars and the like, but the majority will still have to earn a living by attracting the honest-to-goodness pubgoer.

The most serious obstacle to stable prices, apart from the sheer bloody-mindedness of some brewers, may turn out to be the Falkland Factor. When operations began in the South Atlantic, the Government indicated that it had enough money in reserve to pay for the

exercise. As we go to press, hints from Mrs. Thatcher downwards are suggesting that there will be a need for some sort of tax increase. This may well mean that some indirect taxes will go up, in which case beer is unlikely to escape.

In the meantime, please keep telling us about pubs that sell good beer at a reasonable price.

● BROWN COMES TO TOWN

AFTER SMITH of Yorkshire, Brown of Lancashire, Matthew Brown, one of the two major independent brewers operating from Blackburn, are beginning to push their beers into London. Apart from the obvious places such as the Sun in Lambs Conduit Street, we do not as yet have a list of outlets.

The draught beers concerned are Lion bitter, Lion mild and John Peel Special Bitter. Matthew Brown, which started brewing in Preston in 1830, claim to be the oldest public brewery company still trading under their original independent name.

● HOT STUFF

THE RECENT London Beer Festival, held last month at the Horticultural Hall in Westminster, was the first event of its kind in London to be run on a purely commercial basis, with exhibitors paying for the privilege of selling their beer. This differs from the usual CAMRA type, where the labour is voluntary and the beer is bought in to be sold.

Although this may suggest a difference of philosophy, one doubts if an outsider could spot any difference in practice. We found the atmosphere typically friendly and relaxed, though we suspect that the exceptionally hot weather in early June must have affected the attendance, as it did the temperature of the beer. And while an entrance fee is necessary for such events, many considered that £2 for a two-hour session on Sunday lunchtime was a bit excessive.

Continued over

ALAN GREENWOOD'S BEER DIARY

and style demands also have to be constantly recognised and perhaps the most significant development came in 1930 with the straight variety but about three quarters up it has a bulge.

This meant that glasses stacked tightly on a shelf touch each other by the bulge. Until

then glasses were being constantly chipped or nicked on the rim when being hurriedly washed or shelved on draining boards. The new glass was introduced as the No-Nick or 'Nonik' and now accounts for the bulk of straight glasses produced. The design also introduced an element of style into the basic development of what is otherwise, a prehistoric invention.

● WHERE WERE THEY THEN?

IND COOPE ARE apparently still having problems with the availability of their beer. According to *Pigs Ear*, the magazine of CAMRA's East London branch, 28 of their Ind Coope pubs have not been in a position to sell draught beer at some time in the past six months. This is about one-quarter of the 'real' draught Ind Coope pubs in the branch area.

Until last year and the problems with the new Taylor Walker bitter, Ind Coope seemed fairly reliable over getting their beers into their pubs, certainly in comparison with Whitbread. Recently, we have formed the impression that things were getting back to normal. Perhaps this was premature. Meanwhile, Whitbread seem to have improved.

● IT HAD TO COME

MENTION THE publication *Real Ale Guide to the Waterways* to any CAMRA member and you will get some sort of reaction, either irritation or amusement. This is the book that once nearly bankrupted the movement, with a vast number of copies lying unsold in CAMRA's basement. But we survived, and the thing is now regarded with some affection as a symbol of early naivety. Although it has for years been given away at knock-down prices, there are still a few copies around. One of its prognostications was that a canal pub, the Narrow Boat in St. Peters

Street, N1, was imminently due for some real ale. We can now announce with pride that, some eight years after the event, Bass and Charrington IPA are available on hand-pump.

● DOUBLE MUSTERY?

AS A RESULT of one of his 'Lambeth Walk' pieces Howard Gladwin has received a letter from Steve Baker, the manager of the Spanish Patriot in Lower Marsh.

Readers who remember the Green Door may be interested in this except from the letter:

If next time you visit the Spanish Patriot, make yourself known to me and I would be glad to reveal the secret of the Green Door and the mysteries that lie behind it. We could also discuss the possibility of guided tours for your regular readers to satisfy their curiosity (for a nominal fee of course).

Thank you for considering my pub worthy of a mention and I sincerely hope that one day I shall be able to shake the hand of my favourite mystery – Who is Howard Gladwin?

We shall keep readers informed of developments.

● TRAVELLERS (FAIR

GOOD TO see that British Airways have joined British Rail in giving their beer-drinking travellers something to look forward to. BR's main-line stations are now joined by Terminal 1 at Heathrow Airport. The Pilot Arms Bar therein serves Wethered's SPA from the pump.

LAMBETH WALK

SE 1

~4

By Howard Gladwin

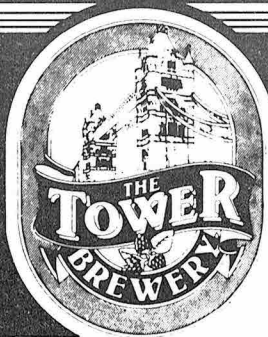
NOT TOO MANY moans from the Copy Editor this month. He no longer seems obsessed with the difference between Lambeth and Southwark and I suspect he is dreaming up new ideas for another series of articles. What price Rotherithe Rambles or Penge Perambulations for the next issue?

Anyway, this month let us start at the Tankard (No.524 on Map 11 in *Real Beer in London*). This is a large pub, not far from the Imperial War Museum, which

serves excellent Bass and Charrington IPA. I guess it has been a focal point for CAMRA since the early days of the campaign as there is a number of CAMRA artefacts around including a CAMRA mirror. I have never been in the public bar, but the saloon is spacious with plenty of seats and small tables.

It also boasts a colour TV which is very handy in the summer when Test Matches

continued



THE TOWER BREWERY

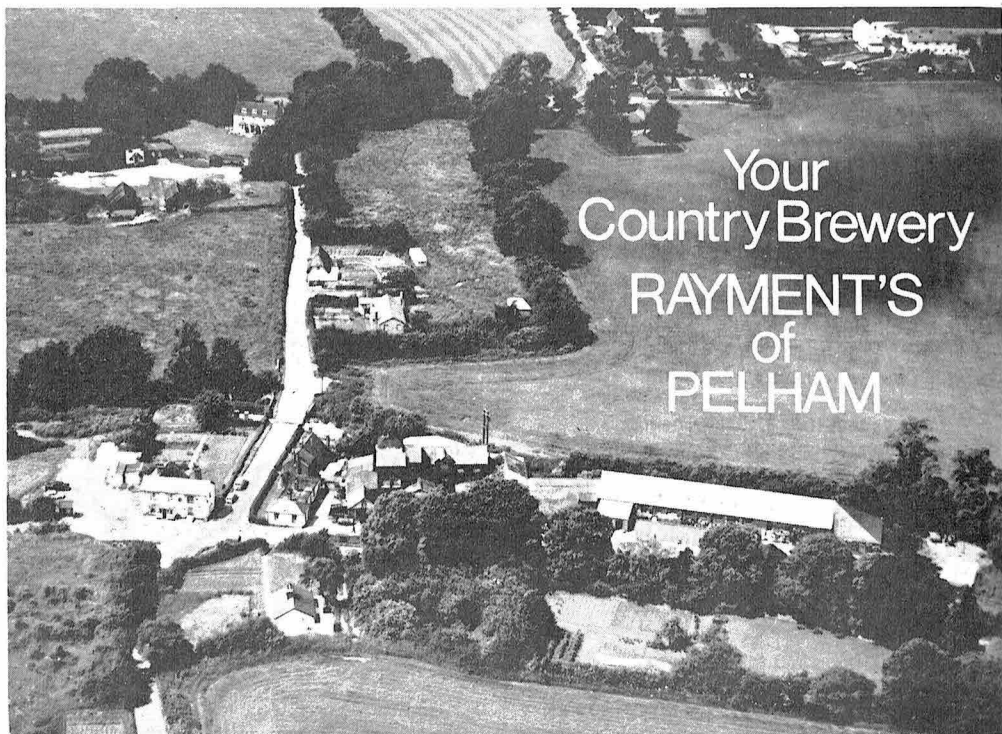
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Lambeth Walk continued

are on. There are a couple of entrances to the saloon from Brook Drive at the side but once through the doors you have to fight your way through curtains. This never seems quite so disconcerting as having to fight your way out after three pints of IPA or (in my case) four or five Worthington White Shields, which they also sell.

A nice and friendly pub, with a regular lunchtime clientele. As well as real ale, real bread is served, so that if you go there lunchtime do have one of their superb sandwiches. Thick, fresh, crusty slices with generous fillings and a reasonable (for these days) price. I often ask myself why I don't go there more often – White Shield, good food, pleasant atmosphere – then the answer dawns on me with a slight chill: my boss and his cronies go there almost every day.

Hastening away from the **Tankard**, let us proceed some distance to the **Geoffrey Chaucer** (No. 467, Map 10). I have to admit that this actually is in Southwark, but it is near enough to Lambeth North Tube Station for me. The best way to approach this pub is from the south along the west side of Westminster Bridge Road. Any other approach will involve negotiating the subterranean passages beneath the monstrous GLC building at the southern end of Westminster Bridge.

I have lost myself here when sober – usually emerging at ground level with at least one fast-moving stream of gigantic lorries between me and the pub. I have never dared venture below ground after supping **Courage Directors**, which is served on handpumps at the **Geoffrey Chaucer**. Sad to say that there is no White Shield, which is usually the case in **Courage** pubs.

Hands up those who remember **Courage's Alton IPA**, a superb bottle-conditioned beer which was withdrawn about 1962!

RBIL says that the **Geoffrey Chaucer** is a large, very modern pub, which sounds like criticism to me. I am not so sure it is modern, because until a few years ago it was called the **Phillbox**. It still looks as if it should be called that despite attempts to identify the pub with its namesake ('Miller's Bar', for example!) and it has a 1930's or just post-war feel about its architecture.

The beer is good and there is a good range of food. I particularly recommend the individual cottage pies at 95p each, served in earthenware

dishes. Slightly impersonal atmosphere, with lots of GLC employees in evidence. There is a large raised drinking area, rather like a dais, to which you can retire having obtained your refreshment and observe the goings-on of lesser mortals beneath you (thinks: do I begin to sound like a GLC employee?).

Finally, let us retrace our steps south down Westminster Bridge Road, West Side, to a Truman's pub, the **New Crown and Cushion**. This is not in **RBIL** (it is almost opposite the **Horse & Groom**, 475 in Map 11) because it has only just started serving real ale: Truman's bitter and Best bitter on handpump. To my palate, pleasant and undistinguished beers but quite acceptable.

The pub has two bars, both very crowded at lunchtime. However, there is a separate food bar with a good selection of reasonably-priced hot meals and snacks. A fair amount of railwayana around the pub because I suppose, of its proximity to Waterloo Station. Also a few yards down Westminster Bridge Road, in what is now Westminster Bridge House, were the headquarters and station of the London Necropolis Company. The company owned the large cemetery at Brookwood, near Woking, and presumably indulged in a bizarre one-way traffic from Westminster Bridge Road – a sobering thought before or after three pints of Truman's beer.

Well, that's it. I have covered about a dozen pubs in these articles, all of them close to Lambeth North Tube. They are all worth a visit, because they all serve decent beer. In addition, I hope I have highlighted one or two things to look out for. I shall rest my pen for a month or so, Copy Editor permitting, but hope to return to these pages before long.

One final thought. The perceptive reader will have noticed no mention of a pub called the **Lambeth Walk**. There is such a pub but it is a **Courage** house and, sadly but perhaps not surprisingly, it does not serve real ale. Also, the Copy Editor thinks it is in Southwark!



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● LOCAL ●

● SEASONAL SWITCH

CRICKET FOLLOWERS should note a welcome development at Headquarters. The **Lords Tavern** – the Watney's house which is very adjacent, as Jim Laker would say, to the cricket ground – now sells Webster's Yorkshire bitter and Stag from handpumps.

● TOWER TAP

SEVERAL PUBS have started brewing their own beer on the premises. Now a brewery has converted part of its premises into a pub. The Tower Brewery on the south side of Tower Bridge has joined the ranks of those throughout the country who have a brewery tap.

It is called the **Old Bridge House**. The Tower beers on sale are Bermondsey bitter, Tower Special bitter and Old Yeoman Ale.

● SAMUEL SPREADS

TWO MORE LONDON pubs for Yorkshire brewers Samuel Smith. The **Bodega**, a former Charrington pub in Bucklesbury, EC4, is the latest to be taken over. They have also opened their new building in Kingston, the **Gazebo**. Our photograph shows two of London's older-established Smith landlords: Ray and Julia Rowe of the **Lord Wolseley** in white Lion Street, N1.



● ALL OF A FLAP

ANOTHER FORMER Charrington pub, the **Gloucester** in Masons Street, SE17, has become a free house with Tower Special and Young's Special on sale. Unusually, the pub has carpeted cellar flaps inside the pub as well as flaps in the wall, which is the route taken by the casks when they travel from dray to cellar.

● TWO FOR GIBBS

SALISBURY BREWERS Gibbs Mew have bought the **Coach and Horses** in Stoke Newington High Street, N16 from, again, Charrington. It will be interesting to see whether it is turned virtually into a free house, which is the case with the **Malt & Hops** near Kings Cross, their other London pubs.

● BARGAIN BEERS

WE HAVE DECIDED, until someone comes up with a better idea, to grant all tied houses in London which sell beer for 60p a pint or below the status of bargain pubs. There must be a few of these, so please send us the details. Our first new entrant is the **Ranelagh**, 82 Bounds Green Road, N11, where the price of Taylor Walker bitter in the Public Bar is 60p.

Poplar bitter, brewed at the **Ironbridge Tavern**, 477 East India Dock Road, E14, is sold in the pub at 54p a pint.

One of the new Truman conversions, the **Edinburgh** in Nunhead Lane, SE15 sells the bitter and Best bitter for half the normal price between noon and 2pm on Monday-Friday.

There follows our consolidated list. Please note that the divisions are rough ones and are not necessarily exclusive. For example, the **Ship & Shovel**, our original bargain pub and still going strong, is currently selling beer at reduced prices on some days up to 1.0pm. Until we revamp our list to include all these variations, we suggest you check with the pubs concerned.

All Day

The **King of Beasts** in Islington; the **Pakenham Arms** in Clerkenwell; the **Clarence** in South Kensington; the **Hop Picker** in Hackney; **Dick's Bar** in Hornsey; **Welch Bros.** in East Finchley; **Sun** in Carshalton; **Royal George** in Greenwich; **Royal Albion** in Hounslow; **Pied Bull** in Stretham and the **Windsor Castle** in Islington.

Early evening

Ship & Shovel in Charing Cross; **Percy Arms**, Clerkenwell; **Moon** in Holborn; **Malt & Hops** in Kings Cross; **Marlers** in Islington; **Old Windmill**, Hadley Highstone; **Salisbury**, Barnet; **Wattenden Arms** in Kenley and the **King William IV** in Hampstead.

Other evening

Leather Exchange Tavern in Bermondsey; **Worcester Arms**, Marblebone; **King's Head** in Merton; **Golden Lion** in St. James's

" I SHOULD TRY
LESS SUGAR, BERT.!"



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See list on inside back cover

Local continued

King's Head in Acton; **Cavalier**, Wallington.

Lunchtime

Bricklayer's Arms in Shoreditch.

Beyond category

Mitcham Mint in Streatham; **Wellington** in Waterloo and the **Prohibition** in Croydon.

● WHERE WERE THEY THEN – Z

LAST MONTH we referred to the *Keep London Open* campaign, which is trying to get a bit of sence into our licensing hours. We are absolutely in favour of pubs being open when people are available to drink in them – a prime example being around 4pm, which is a time when several people leave their offices.

The campaign seems to have had its problems. According to the *Morning Advertiser*, 100 people from London's pubs and restaurants

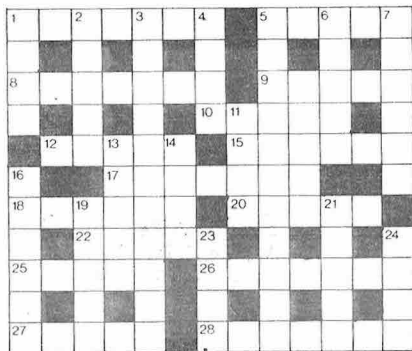
were supposed to turn up at a meeting to get the show on the road. Only 9 came.

On this very subject, we have an internal political point to make. These can normally be left to Linden Drunker, but as he is incapacitated this month – for the usual reason, alas – we would simply underline what another of our regulars, Laure Bishop writes elsewhere in this issue. Namely, that CAMRA'S record to date over *Keep London Open* is hardly impressive.

● BLESSING OF BEER

THE POPE enjoys his beer, which is perhaps not too surprising as he comes from Poland. While he was staying in Wimbledon, the local Greenwood's real ale off-licence rang up his entourage and asked if His Holiness would like some decent British beer. The upshot was that several pints of Martlet's were delivered to the papal party.

Drinker Xword 32



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ACROSS

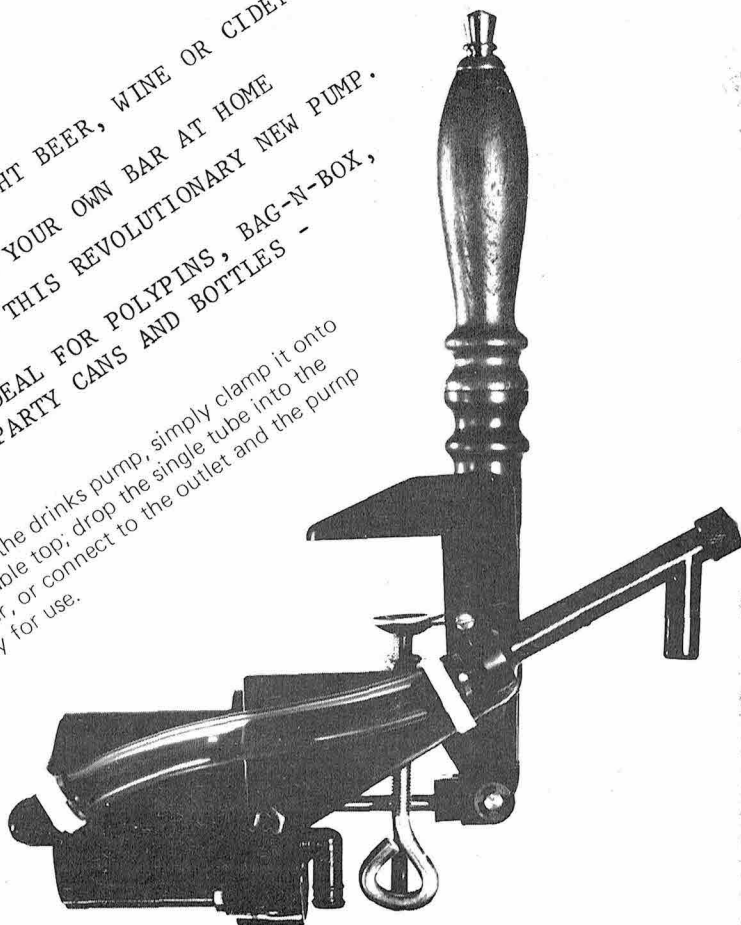
1. Meter it for a timber worker. (7)
5. Way out drink (5)
8. A number of workers usually pay rent (7)
9. This allotment can be jumped (5)
10. Not an art – a non-U craft (5)
12. Byzantine melody? (5)
15. Rest in place (6)
17. Sort out again (7)
18. Easier races have fish competing (6)
20. but this one is caught in traps. (5)
22. Lots of weights (5)
25. Smear note on publisher's jacket (5)
26. Winding one of two with broken spirit (7)
27. Film about eastern relative (5)
28. Creeped ahead (7)

DOWN

1. Carry a gambling device (4)
2. Brand X could be the only one to use here (5)
3. Blue mine ran about a lot (11)
4. Inside Belsen instead (4)
5. Time to reward with silver (11)
6. Tea for five without father – such as eggs (5)
7. To both sides of mum is fruit (6)
11. Oblique influence (4)
13. Eastern love is a mistake – even with the basics of education.
14. Intrejection by God (4)
16. Banish to a dust bowl (6)
19. Deluge without the Great Escape (5)
21. Order from the knightly bath (5)
23. Cats and dogs or flies around to put a foot down

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FINE SUSSEX ALES

RAYMENTS OF PELHAM- A Rural Survival

By Peter Lerner

THE ODDS HAVE always been heavily stacked against Rayment's tiny brewery. Yet it survives into the 1980s, as a result of benevolent ownership, local support..... and the efforts of CAMRA.

William Rayment was the tenant farmer of Furneux Pelham Hall, in rural north-east Hertfordshire. Like many farmers in the middle of the last century, he brewed beer for himself and for his workers..His beer must have been good, and he must have liked the work, for by 1860 he had decided to build his own brewery to supply local demand. Being a resourceful chap, he built the brewery with bricks baked in his own kiln. It was built to last, as it stands today — and has not forgotten its links with farming. Until about 20 years ago, the brewery was still associated with a farm, and even now tractors regularly call there to collect waste products for fields and animals.

William did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his labours. By 1890 the brewery had been taken over by the Lake family, partners in Green's Brewery of Bury St. Edmunds. By 1928, Greene's had become Green King, and had become owners of Rayment. Such a take-over today would result in closure of a small brewery such as Rayment and the loss of its separate identity, but this did not happen. Greene King undertook to keep Rayment brewery open for at least 25 years, and the Lake family remained in charge as local directors.

The Lakes carefully and judiciously built up Rayment's trade. Country pubs were bought in Hertfordshire and Essex, and the company vigorously courted free trade, especially in clubs, much further afield, and especially in north and east London. A fine and popular range of beers was established, including the fearsome bottled Old Crony.

With the retirement of the last of the Lakes, Captain H.N. Lake, in 1966, the parent company perhaps felt freer to rationalise activities at Furneux Pelham. By this time Greene King was expansion-minded, having taken over smaller breweries in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The prize take-over was that of Wells and Winch of Biggleswade in the early 1960s, and this brought a large tied estate of Greene King pubs into Rayment's

traditional area..Perhaps Greene King's new Bedfordshire directors were a little resentful of Rayment continuing to trade under their own name, while their much larger Wells and Winch company had lost its own identity. Whatever the reason, Rayment felt the pinch. Many of their pubs became Green King houses, supplied from Biggleswade, in a "rationalisation" exercise. Rayment's range of bottled, keg and cask beers was whittled down until, by the mid-1970s, only a draught mild and bitter remained, together with the bottled Pelham pale ale. Rayment's beer was not promoted, and it was difficult to find the Rayment name anywhere in or on any of their remaining pubs. Greene King advertising material having taken over. The function of Rayment's brewery was little more than a staging post for kegs of Harp Larger on their way to London.

No promotion nor consumer action could hope to succeed if the end product is not what the public want. Fortunately, Rayment's beers are and always were superb, with an unusual palate not matched anywhere else. Even CAMRA could not save the excellent AK Light Mild, which died when production fell below 10 barrels per week in 1979. But the renowned BBA (Best Burton Ale) still goes (metaphorically) from strength to strength, and must be one of the tastiest ales brewed in the South of England.

A trip to Rayment's country (the borders of Hertfordshire and Essex) will introduce you to the true Rayment's flavour. The two contrasting pubs (**Star and Brewery Tap**) in the home village of Furneux Pelham are well worth a visit, as is the **Nags Head** at Little Hadham to the south, where the beer is served straight from the barrel and the food is excellent. Another good food pub is the **Axe and Compasses** at Arkesden, while visitors to Stansted Airport will enjoy the **Ash** at Burton End, close to the runway. Unspoint Rayment's houses could be found in many of the villages of rural north-west Essex; a contrast with the bustling **Willow Beauty** at Harlow, Rayment's newest pub, close to the new town's sport centre.

Londoners who do not wish to venture out of town will find hand-pumped BBA in bars ranging from the **Shires** at St. Pancras Station, to the **Auctioneers** at Leytonstone, **Marlers** in Finchley and **Compton Arms** at Islington. **Bacchus Bin** the enterprising off-licence in

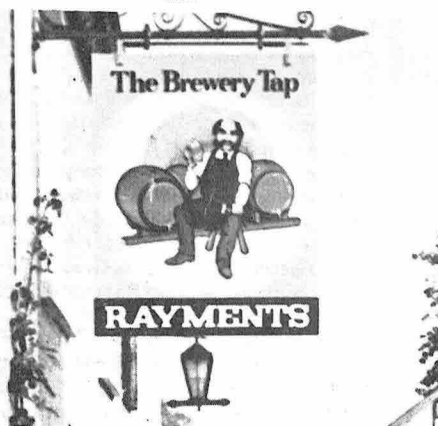
Stratford, serves real BBA to take home, and those lucky enough to have membership of private clubs will find innumerable outlets. Try Dagenham Conservative Club, or Walthamstow Liberal Club; the Saracens Rugby Football Club or the Palmers Green Athletic Club. One of Rayment's most successful free trade outlets in London is the **Old Park Heights Hotel** at Enfield, renowned for its no-smoking bar.

Rayment's present management, notably the Manager, Paul Morris and the Brewer Lawrie Collins, are keen to maintain the quality and individuality of BBA, to promote Rayments existence, and to extend its free trade. Their faith is justified; in this era of expensive gimmick brews, and inconsistent ales from the new flush of small brewers, Rayments BBA stands out as an excellent and reliable no-nonsense pint. The future of this little brewery seems to be assured for the present time, as a lot of money has recently been spent improving the drainage and boiler systems and storage facilities. Rayments BBA is now promoted on beer mats and dray fronts and production is increasing. The country brewery now includes a large warehouse with automatic handling facilities to cater for the increased demand.

A far cry from the days of farmer William Rayment, but progress has certainly been kinder to the Forneux Pelham brewery, than to most of its contemporaries – and for that, beer-lovers should be thankful.

The arrival of CAMRA on the scene as a consumer organisation coincided with an up-

turn in Rayments activities and identity, and who can say how much one influenced the other? CAMRA identified the Forneux Pelham brewery as one most likely to be closed – indeed, this was the subject of strong rumours amongst Rayment's landlords and workforce. So CAMRA set about promoting Rayment's identity for all it was worth. Meetings were held with Greene King, and questions were asked at their AGM. In an unusual move, CAMRA designed and marketed Rayments t-shirts and ties (you can still see Rayment's draymen wearing the t-shirt!) A CAMRA designed Rayment's beer mat was days away from production when Green King announced that they were to produce one themselves – the first for many years. The name of Rayment began to be spoken again by beer-lovers in Hertfordshire, where McMullen's, the county's "only independent brewery," had enjoyed its own way for long.



SQUARE PEGS by Laurie Bishop

THE SUGGESTION that nothing succeeds like success was once based on the statement that nothing succeeds like excess. This is certainly so (or appears to be) in many London pubs owned by big brewers. All sorts of gimmicks and refurbishing schemes are tried. Most result in an increase in sales, even if it is only temporary and tie up money that could have been more usefully spent elsewhere (like cooling equipment to help keep cask conditioned beer in peak condition rather than having to sell gassy ale).

But I digress. I have spoken on several occasions in the past of the extraordinary lengths gone to by Courage to try and get

people into their pubs to drink their beer served at inflated prices. That still seems to me to be the case although I will give them credit for keeping people guessing as you never know what new gimmick they're going to come up with next. Watney's seem to be engaging on more refurbishment, notably on smaller older pubs that really they could have left alone.

The Waterloo area of SE1, Watneys have obviously decided, is an up and coming area although to my mind it has certainly got a long way to come before its actually up anywhere. The Artichoke in Lower

continued

Square Pegs continued

Marsh is. normally busy, although not markedly so, during the week because of the Waterloo street market. A smallish pub which was dark and cosy inside, it has now been done up into what appears to be a two level wine bar with real ale affair. Do I hear you cringe?

Now it's not the fact that the pub has been done up that is so dreadful. It's just that it has been done up in a way that is not really in keeping with the area and seems to be more likely to attract bright young things from art colleges than the local traders and residents who used to use it and will now presumably have joined their fellow imbibers in the *Spanish Patriot* (Wethereds) over the other side of the road. This pub now sticks out like a sore thumb, rather like, as R. Boston once said, slaves wearing wrist watches in Cecil B Demille's ancient Roman epics.

For those who are interested the *Artichoke* sells Stag, London and Webster's bitters and thus would seem to qualify for what Watney's describe as a beer exhibition pub

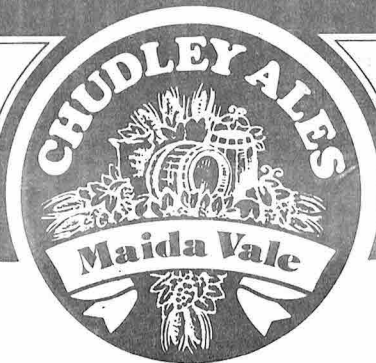
title. This pub is certainly an exhibition now but of what I wouldn't really care to say as this is a family magazine (or so the editor keeps telling me) and I wouldn't want to get him or myself into trouble.

Opening Time

When the might of *Time Out* magazine starts honking on about London's chronic lack of boozing time, CAMRA cannot afford to stand idly by and look a gift horse in the mouth. Of course *Time Out* would become more credible if they organised a campaign to liberalise licensing hours nationwide but you've got to start somewhere and they are a London magazine so . . . I would urge all readers who have a point of view on pub opening hours to write to **London Drinker** so we can see what the Capital's hardened drinkers think about it all. And if the men in the know (namely the publicans themselves) want to have a say too then who am I to deny them that right?



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Inner
SUNctum

Real Beer in London~update 5

All beer served by handpump unless stated otherwise.

Additions

- W1 Red Lion, 1 Waverton St. Watney:
London bitter, Stag.
- W1 Stetson Bar, Regent Palace Hotel,
Glasshouse St. Breakspear: bitter.
- WC2 Simpson's Rest., 100 Strand. Bass (G).
Downstairs bar open to properly-
attired non-eaters. Beer served in silver
goblets.
- WC2 Crown & Anchor, 22 Neal St. Webster:
Yorkshire bitter.
- EC1 King's Head, 49 Chiswell St. Wethered:
bitter.
- EC4 Dandy Roll, Bread St. Flowers: Original;
Wethered: Bitter; Bulmer: Traditional
cider (G).
- EC4 Hoop & Grapes, 80 Farrington St.
Courage: Best bitter, Directors.
- EC4 London Stone, 109 Cannon St. Godson:
Best bitter; Truman: Best bitter.
- E1 Castle, 44 Commercial Rd. Courage:
Director's.
- E1 Grave Maurice, 269 Whitechapel Rd.
Truman: Best bitter.
- E1 Prince Regent, 105 Globe Rd. Truman:
Bitter, Best bitter.
- E1 Royal Duke, 474 Commercial Rd.
Truman: Mild, Best Bitter.
- E3 Pearly King, 94 Bromley High St. Beach:
Pearly bitter; Greene King; Abbot;
Rayment: BBA; Younger: IPA, No.3.
NB. Beach's bitter brewed at Market
Porter, SE1.
- E9 Royal Hotel, Lauriston Rd. Truman:
Bitter, Best bitter.
- E11 Cowley Arms, 483 High Rd. Charrington:
IPA.
- E14 Falcon, 202A East India Dock Rd.
Truman: Best bitter.
- E14 Festival Inn, 71 Grundy St. Truman:
Bitter, Best bitter.
- E14 Lovat Arms, 301 Burdett Rd. Truman:
Bitter, Best bitter.
- E15 Carpenters Arms, Carpenters Rd. Taylor
Walker: Bitter.
- E15 Queens Head, 5 West Ham Lane, Charr-
ington; Crown, IPA.
- E16 Ram Tavern, 26 North Woolwich Rd.
Truman: Best bitter.
- E17 Coach & Horses, 63 St. James St. Truman:
Mild. bitter, Best bitter.
- E17 Ringwood Castle, 49 Gosport Rd.
Truman: Bitter, Best bitter.
- E17 Victoria, 186 Hoe St. Charrington: IPA;
Samuel Smith: OBB:

- N1 Alwyne Castle, 83. Pauls Rd. Bass;
Charrington: IPA.
- N1 George IV, 156 Pentonville Rd. Courage:
Best bitter, Director's
- N7 New Copenhagen, 244 York Way.
Truman: Mild, Best bitter.
- N10 Green Man, 264 Muswell Hill. Webster:
Yorkshire bitter.
- N13 Bird In Hand, 100 Tottenham Rd.
Mann: IPA; Watney: Stag.
- N14 Woolpack, 52 High St. Truman: Mild,
bitter.
- N15 Seven Sisters, 37 Broad Lane. Truman:
Best bitter.
- N16 Jolly Butchers, 204 Stoke Newington
High St. Truman: Bitter, Best bitter.
- ENFIELD Goat, Forty Hill. Truman: Mild,
Bitter, Best bitter.
- ENFIELD Rose & Crown, Clay Hill. Mann:
IPA.
- NEW BARNET Hadley Hotel, 113 Hadley Rd.
Webster: Yorkshire bitter; Watney:
London bitter, Stag.
- NW1 Allsop Arms, 137 Gloucester Place.
Watney: London bitter; Webster: York-
shire bitter.
- NW1 Bucks Head, 202 Camdon High St.
Truman: Bitter, Best bitter.
- NW1 Falcon, 234 Royal College St. Bass;
Charrington: IPA.
- NW1 Grapevine, 85 Parkway. Fuller: London
Pride. Wine bar and rest.
- NW1 Prince Of Wales, 119 Hampstead Rd.
Friary Meux: Bitter.
- NW3 Coach & Horses, 99 Heath St. Courage:
Best bitter, Directors,
- NW5 Vine, 86 Highgate Rd. Charrington: IPA.
- NW6 Old Bell, 38 High Rd. Taylor Walker:
bitter.
- NW7 Railway Tavern, 129 Hale Lane. Truman:
Mild, bitter, Best bitter.
- NW8 Duke Of York, 2 Gateforth St. Truman:
Best bitter.
- HAYCH END Letchford Arms, Letchworth
Cottages, Headstone Lane. Benskin:
Bitter; Ind Coope: Burton Ale.
- SUDBURY Swan, 789 Harrow Rd. Benskin:
Bitter; Ind Coope: Burton Ale.
- SE1 Streets, 121 Lower Marsh. Watney:
London bitter, Stag.
- SE11 Queen Anne, 139 Vauxhall Walk.
Truman: Bitter, Best bitter.
- SE11 Two Eagles, 227 Austral St. Webster:
Yorkshire bitter.
- SE15 Edinburgh Castle, 57 Nunhead Lane.
Truman: Bitter, Best bitter.
- SE17 Gloucester, 24 Mason St. Power:
Bitter, Young' Special bitter.

R.B.I.L. update 5 continued

SE18 **Castle**, 179 Powis St. Mann: IPA;
SE18 **Two Worlds**, 67 Plumstead High St.
Courage: Directors.
SE20 **Dr. WG Grace**, Witham Rd. Truman:
Best bitter.
SE20 **Lord Palmerston**, 101 Maple Rd. Mann:
IPA; Watney: London bitter.
BEXLEYHEATH **Lord Hill**, 40 Watling St.
Truman: Bitter.
BEXLEYHEATH **Volunteer**, 47 Church St.
Truman: Best bitter.
BROMLEY **Teasel**, 243 Burnt Ash Lane,
Sundridge Park. Truman: Bitter, Best
bitter.
COULSDON **Tudor Rose**, Cowlston Rd.
Charrington: IPA.
CROYDON **Half Moon**, 303 London Rd.
Ind Coope: Bitter, Burton Ale.
CROYDON **Le Refuge Wine Bar**, 15 Selsdon
Rd. King & Barnes, Bitter; Shepherd
Name: Bitter.
CROYDON **Pitlake Arms**, 73a Waddon New
Rd. Charrington' IPA; King & Barnes;
Bitter; Webster: Yorkshire bitter;
Dennings: Cider.
ERITH **Cross Keys**, 36 High St. Truman:
Bitter, Best bitter.
ERITH **Royal Alfred**, Manor Rd. Courage:
Best bitter.
SW1 **Old Rose**, 22 Medway St. Webster:
Yorkshire bitter.

SW1 **Stage**, 15 Bressenden Place. Mann: IPA;
Watney: London bitter, Stag.
SW1 **Talbot**, 2 Little Chester St. Webster:
Yorkshire bitter.
SW3 **Rose**, 86 Fulham Rd. Mann: IPA.
SW4 **Rose & Crown**, 2 The Polygon. Courage:
Best bitter, Directors.
SW5 **Courtfield**, 187 Earls Court Rd. Mann:
IPA; Watney: London bitter, Stag.
SW6 **Salisbury Tavern**, 21 Sherbrooke Rd.
Watney: London bitter, Stag.
SW6 **Stamford Bridge Arms**, 477 Fulham Rd.
Watney: Stag.
SW7 **Hereford Arms**, 127 Gloucester Rd.
Eldridge Pope: Royal Oak; Fenlinfoel:
Double Dragon; Greene King: IPA;
Webster: Yorkshire bitter; Wells:
Bombardier; Bulmer: Traditional cider.
SW8 **Crown & Thistle**, 152 Old South Lambeth
Rd. Friary Meux: Bitter.
SW9 **White Hart**, 71 Loughborough Rd.
Truman: Bitter.
SW10 **Red Anchor**, 6 Camera Place, Watney:
Stag.
SW11 **Beaufoy Arms**, 18 Lavender Hill.
Truman: Bitter, Best bitter.

If you know of any pub that has started
selling draught beer or whose details in
Real Beer In London, are incorrect the
compilers would be very pleased to hear
from you. Please write to: RBIL update,
2 Sandtoft Rd., SE7.



CAMRA Branch Contacts

BEXLEY
BROMLEY
CROYDON & SUTTON
E. LONDON & CITY
ENFIELD & BARNET
KINGSTON &
LEATHERHEAD

NORTH LONDON
RICHMOND &
HOUNSLOW
SOUTH-WEST ESSEX
SOUTH-EAST LONDON
SOUTH-WEST LONDON
WEST LONDON
WEST MIDDLESEX

DES WARD
ROGER MASON
DAVE HAMER
PETER ROBERTS
TONY MORGAN

JOHN NORMAN

LAURIE GORDON

ANDY PIRSON
CHRIS CASHMORE
IVOR BLOOR
JOHN DAVIS
RODNEY HOLLOWS
KEITH WILDEY

Erith 45716(H)
464 2909 (H)
647 0992 (H) Epsom
Upminster 23581
440-2186 (H)

546 3476 (H)

448 1692 (H)

997 1633 (H)
Brentford 211703 (H)
699-7335 (H)
670 0734 (H)
723 2798 (H)
423 1243 (H)

Erith 33020 x 4 (W)
407 4466 x 294 (W)
41511 x 66 (W)
213-7374 (W)
283 1000 x 2944 (W)

Weybridge 47282 x
2659 (W)
359 1340 (W)

283 1030 x 356 (W)
934 4396 (W)

965 7417 (W)

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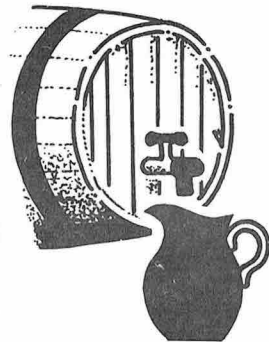
The new equipment uses no pressure and the quality, flavour and palate of the beer is as pure as it would be served by gravity direct from the cask.

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01-542 3725

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BRANCH DIARY

The following events will be held by CAMRA branches during July. For branches not mentioned, please ring Branch Contact.

BEXLEY: Wed. 21 (8.30). *Branch*. Jolly Millers, Mayplace Rd., Bexleyheath.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Thu. 8 (8.00). *Social*. London Apprentice, 333 Old St., EC1 — Thu. 15 (8.00). *Farewell Social*. Lord Nelson, 230 Commercial Rd., E1 — Tue. 20 (8.00). *Branch*. Town of Ramsgate, Wapping High St., E1 — Sat. 24. *Real Ale Ramble*. Ring Branch Contact for details.

ENFIELD & BARNET: Wed. 14 (8.00). *Branch*. Kings Head Hotel, Market Place, Enfield Town — Tue. 27 (8.30). *Social*. Lord Nelson, West End Lane, Barnet. — Tue. 3 August (8.30). *Social*. Golden Hive, Green St., Enfield.

NORTH LONDON: Sat. 10 (7.00). *Barn Dance*. St. Olaves Church Hall, Manor House, N4. Truman beers. Admission by ticket. — Wed. 13 (8.00). *Branch*. Swan, 125 Caledonian Rd., N1. — Tue. 20 (8.00). *Social*. Clifton, 96 Clifton Hill, NW8. — Tue. 27 (8.00). *Two-pub social*. Springfield, then Ranelagh, Bounds Green Rd., N11.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Wed. 7 (8.00). *Open committee*. Royal Albion, Hibernia Rd., Hounslow. — Thu. 15 (8.00). *Social*. Swan, Swan St., Isleworth. — Mon. 19 (8.00). *Branch*. Griffin, Brook Road South, Brentford. — Wed. 28 (8.00). *Social*. Cherry Tree, Staines Rd., Twickenham.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON: Mon. 12 (8.00). *Branch*. Railway, Blackheath, SE3. — Thu. 22 (8.00). *Social*. Dulwich Wood House, Sydenham Hill, SE26.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON: Tue. 20 (8.00). *Branch*. Alma, York Rd., SW18.

WEST LONDON: Tue. 13 (8.00). *Pub of the month*. Royal Court Tavern, Sloane Sq., SW1. — Thu. 22 (8.00). *Branch*. Truscott Arms, 55 Shirland Rd., W9. — Sun. 1 Aug. (12.00). *Social*. Rising Sun, 44 Ebury Bridge Rd., SW1.

WEST MIDDLESEX: Tue. 13 (8.30). *Games*. Bridge, Western Ave., Greenford. — Wed. 21 (8.30). *Branch*. Star, Uxbridge Rd., Hillingdon Heath.

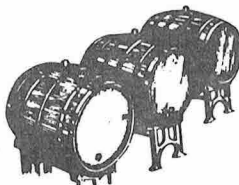
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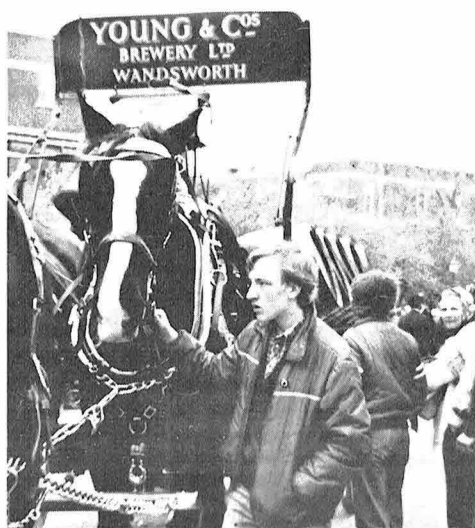
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WC1 SUN, 63 Lamb's Conduit St.
WC2 GEORGE IV, 28 Portugal St.
N1 CROWN, Cloudesley Rd.
N1 EUROPA LOUNGE, Kings Cross Station.
N1 KING OF BEASTS, 65 Graham Street.
N1 LORD WOLSEY, White Lion St.
N1 MALT & HOPS, 33 Caledonian Rd.
N1 MARLERS, 54 Pentonville Rd.
N1 MARQUESS TAVERN, Marquess Rd.
N1 POTTERS BAR, Gt. Northern Hotel, Kings X
N1 PRINCE ARTHUR, 49 Brunswick Place.
N2 PRINCE ALBERT, Acton Street.
N1 SWAN TAVERN, 125 Caledonian Road.
N2 FIVE BELLS, East End Rd.
N2 WELCH BROS, 130 East Finchley High Rd.
N2 WINDSOR CASTLE, The Walk, Church
N6 ANGEL, 37 Highgate High St.
N6 DUKES HEAD, 16 Highgate High St.
N6 VICTORIA, 28 North Hill.
N8 DICK'S BAR, 61 Tottenham Lane.
N9 COCK, Hertford Rd.

N9 CROSS KEYS, Edmonton Green.
N9 RISING SUN, Winchester Rd.
N10 MARTIN'S FREE HOUSE,
89 Colney Hatch Lne.
N12 MOSS HALL TAVERN, 283 Ballard's Lne.
N20 BULL & BUTCHER,
1277 High Rd, Whetstone
N20 RISING SUN, Oakleigh Rd.
N22 STARTING GATE, Buckingham Rd.
NW1 SHIRES BAR, St. Pancras Station.
NW1 VICTORIA & ALBERT BARS,
Marylebone Stn.
NW1 VICTORIA, 2 Mornington Terrace.
NW3 NAG'S HEAD, 79 Heath St.
BARNET ALEXANDRA, Wood St.
BARNET YE OLDE MONKEN HALT,
193 High Street.
ENFIELD CRICKETERS, Chase Side Place.
ENFIELD OLD PARK HEIGHTS HOTEL, Old
Park Rd.

OFF TRADE

N1 2 Brewers, 8 Pitfield St.
N10 Finlay Wines, 392 Muswell Hill Bdwy.
N11 Originales, Friern Barnet Rd.
N15 Majestic, Colina Mews Park Road.

Continued over

WHERE TO GET LONDON DRINKER CONTINUED

NW3 Barrels, 150 Haverstock Hill
NW6 Grogblossom, 253 West End Lane.

CLUBS

N22 Wood Green Labour Club, Stuart Cres.

NEW OUTLETS

NW3 HOLLY BUSH, Holly Mount.

STOP PRESS

● STATION DEAL

DRINKERS AT several main-line railway bars will benefit from reduced prices, at least during July. All Taylor Walker and Friary Meux beers on sale will be reduced by 10p. More good news from British Rail is that the Shires Bar in St. Pancras Station has reopened, selling 8 draught beers and draught cider.

● CROYDON BLOW?

IT NOW SEEMS possible that CAMRA may not, after all, be organising the beer at the Battle of Croydon.

Typesetting by COLNE FILMSETTING

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