

The Newsletter of
THE WEST RIDING BRANCH OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF BEERS FROM THE WOOD
(Issue 395 April 2022)

Founded 1963



Welcome to the SPBW West Riding Branch Newsletter for April 2022.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles this month.

Please let me know if you hear about any local beer festivals.

If you have any items for next month's newsletter, please e-mail me at:

graham.cavaye@virginmedia.com

Charlie Cavaye

Pub and Brewery News

Handsome Brewery from the Lake District are going to open a bar opposite Leeds University at the end of March.

The Queen, 863 Thornton Road, Fairweather Green has closed, but the nearby Red Lion, 589 Thornton Road is now open.

The newly refurbished Bowling Green (Wetherspoons) in Otley reopened on the 15th of March

Beer Festival Update

An update from John Hartley regarding **Hull Beer Festival**:

The beer festival is taking place, albeit with a change of date and no involvement from the Hull branch of CAMRA.

The new dates are 28th to 30th April and it is still being held at Hull Minster.

I don't yet know the times for the Friday and Saturday, but I'm assuming they are similar to the Thursday, although they usually finish early on the Saturday so that takedown is completed before the usual Sunday worship.

Newcastle Beer Festival are now selling advance tickets.

Barnsley Beer Festival has been cancelled.

Macclesfield Beer Festival is now 6th to 7th May, previously 5th to 7th May.

Belper Beer Festival now has revised dates and a different venue. Originally to be held at the local rugby club, it is now at the local cricket club.

SPBW National Woodfest

Posted on SPBW Facebook Group by Rob Shacklock:

The 3rd SPBW Woodfest is definitely going to happen (Covid permitting).

From Thursday 26 – Saturday 28 May at the Turk's Head, St Margarets, Twickenham.

Further details will be announced in due course.

If you wish to volunteer to help, please contact Angela Aspin:

email angelaapsin@manx.net.

Coach Trips Update

If you are interested in going on any of our future coach trips, the cost is now £15.

A £5 deposit is now payable to secure your seat.

The dates for your diary are as follows:

April 23 -- Durham and Richmond

May 14 -- Chorley and Clitheroe

June 18 -- Everards Beer Hall and Leicester

All trips depart at 10am from the bottom of Kirkgate in Leeds to return by 9pm.

Please support us if you can.

Payments can be sent on-line to the Lloyds Bank account:

30-96-26 47324560

quoting the trip destination as the reference, or payment can be made at our meetings.

If you require any further information either text or phone me.

Preference is always given to members, but friends and family are welcome if spaces remain available nearer departure.

**John Dyson, Joint Social Secretary,
07843 898986**

SPBW West Riding Branch Clothing Orders

Hi.

I am soon to place an order for some shirts etc.

A full range of items are available.

You can view the catalogue of available items at:

[Football Kits by Hudson Sports](#)

If you would like to order anything, please send an e-mail to:

graham-hewitt@tiscali.co.uk

or phone 0113 2624574 if you need any more information or to place an order.

Prices shown are excluding VAT so remember to add 20% to get the full price.

I will not be at the April meeting to take any orders in person but if you want to write down what you would like you can pass this on to Janet Dyson.

Cut-off date for any orders is Monday 4th April and I hope to have items available for collection at the May meeting.

Many thanks

Graham Hewitt

Belgium Open Invite

Gerv and I have booked a five-day coach holiday to Bruges with Shearings, departing Monday May 16.

Sadly, the cost is far greater, at £389 each, than SPBW members were used to paying on the annual National Holidays January excursions to Ostend, and single supplements will apply.

For those who may wish to join us the tour code is W5BRG/1 titled 'Bruges – Venice of The North'.

The B&B accommodation is at the Hotel Academie.

For those familiar with Bruges, it is close to the De Halve Maan brewery and next door to the wonderful Bieratelier bar.

Monday evening and Tuesday are free to explore with inclusive trips to Ghent on Wednesday and Ostend on Thursday.

At least it'll be lighter in May!

**John Dyson, Joint Social Secretary,
07843 898986**

A Trip to Brighouse

We recently had a day out in Brighouse on a Harrogate and Ripon CAMRA social.

There were seven of us in total, a mixture of CAMRA and SPBW WR members.

Travelling by train from Harrogate and changing in Leeds where we met up with Richard Garvie who joined us for the day.

On arrival at a reasonably bright and sunny Brighouse, our first port of call was the Commercial Railway, (the Commercial or the Railway depending on who you ask).

Situated just next to the railway station, a friendly, traditional Victorian pub with two

dart boards, lots of Tetley memorabilia and eclectic ornaments.

After checking the Calderdale Pub Paper to make sure none of us was the "Snoozer in the Boozer" it was on to the beer.

There were four real ales on offer including Goose Eye Chinook and Tetley Bitter.

I opted for the Chinook which was on good form.

Next it was on to Miller's Bar courtesy of the directions from Richard Garvie.

The pub is situated just across the River Calder behind the old flour mill, hence the name.

We were joined here by another Harrogate member who had missed the earlier train and had had to kill time in the Scarborough Tap for an hour!

Miller's is a food led community pub which features six real ales including a dark beer from Northern Monk: Northern Star, a chocolate, biscuit caramel porter at 5.2% which several of us opted for and it was very nice too.

Next it was over the navigable section of the Calder to a cycle workshop and cafe called MAMIL.

The name means "Middle Aged Men in Lycra", obviously not SPBW members then.

This place was a surprise.

We entered from the riverside towpath through a single door into a modern cycle themed cafe bar which can also be reached from the street behind with the very Yorkshire name of Oowler Ings Road.

A long thin bar featuring many craft beers, mainly from Vocation Brewery and three "festival" taps serving real ale - also from Vocation.

Most of us went for the Bread and Butter at 3.9% which was in excellent condition. It was mostly full of dining families when we popped in, although a few cyclists were ranged outside soaking up the spring sunshine by the canal.

Bare floors, bicycles on the wall, as decoration, it's different and not an unpleasant place.

Recycled kegs as urinals and a sink in the gents.

Our next port of call was the Market Tavern.

A shed like building in Brighouse's open market, one smallish square room and full of the friendly older demographic most of us are members of.

Six pulls of interesting beers from all over but mainly from Yorkshire on this occasion.

A large collection of pump clips can be viewed outside the toilets, on the way to the outside undercover drinking area nestling next to some of the market stalls.

It's GBG2022 listed and rightly so.

North Riding Jamaican Rum Stout 5.5% was the choice here at £3.90 a pint.

It was then time for some ballast to soak up the beer, so we went for lunch at Richard Oastler (JDW).

Four guest beers were available including Daleside Blonde 3.9% from Harrogate and Moorhouses Pendle Witches brew 5% both £1.60 with CAMRA discount.

This is a small Wetherspoons in an old Methodist chapel, the counter is at the far end.

Under some sort of renovation or repair when we visited, the mezzanine floor was inaccessible due to scaffolding.

The old organ still exists above the servery – no names inferred here.

The toilets are downstairs and there's a beer garden at the rear.

Then it was onto the Crafty Fox, a micro pub and probably a shop conversion given the long thinnish shape.

There's a counter down one side and lots of scaffolding tables and metal/wooden stools.

There's an upstairs drinking area with chunkier scaffolding tables and metal/wooden stools.

GBG2022 listed and it was also recommended by a discerning local.

Not much to say otherwise.

It's fairly standard for this type of new venue, pleasant enough with a functional space, nice beer, but little intrinsic character.

I went for the Salopian Mixed Metaphor 4.6% £1.95 (½).

On the way back to the train station we called back in at the Commercial Railway for a swift half of Tetley's before returning to the station.

Given the frequency of the return trains, we opted for a stop off in Dewsbury for one in the West Riding Refreshment Rooms which had the usual line up of nine real ales and was extremely busy.

All in all, a good day out with some interesting pubs and reasonable prices.

Easy to get to on the train and well worth a visit.

Steve Fairweather and Allan Gauld

Wolverhampton

On the hottest day of the year so far, in the middle of March, I visited Wolverhampton in the West Midlands and in the heart of the "Black Country".

I have visited once before, but on that occasion also visited Bridgnorth in Shropshire and some of the pubs in the villages on the outskirts of Wolverhampton.

Therefore, many of these pubs were new to me.

I started with breakfast and coffee in the local Wetherspoons, the Moon Under Water.

My first beer was in the Posada which only had Ossett Yorkshire Blonde and Robinson's Unicorn available.

However, they had eight handpumps and the manager informed me that although they had ordered extra beer, most of it was drunk by the locals during the previous evening.

This is a lovely old pub which is Grade II listed and has original features.

The Ossett Yorkshire Blonde was a good start to the day.

My next port of call was the Lych Gate Tavern, which is located in one of the oldest buildings in Wolverhampton.

The bar is accessed down a short flight of stairs from street level.

It is run by Black Country Ales and sells four of their beers plus six changing guest ales.

I chose the Black Country Bradley's Finest Golden which was very nice.

The pub was very relaxing with locals reading newspapers and passing the time.

The furthest pub away I visited was the Chindit which is about a mile out of town towards the west of the city.

The pub was previously an off licence and is set in a residential area.

A nice, comfortable pub with a good choice of ales, Hop Back Summer Lighting, St. Austell Proper Job, Wye Walley HPA and Oakham Citra.

I had the Wye Valley HPA which was excellent.

The next pub was the Royal Oak which had eight beers mainly from the Marston's stable. I chose the Banks's Sunbeam.

A friendly hostelry where I had a good chat with one of the regulars who said he had a brother-in-law who lived in Leeds.

This was the day after Leeds United beat Wolverhampton Wanderers away and I was regularly asked throughout the day whether I was down for the football – all very friendly, though.

On to the Combermere Arms, which had a bit of an Irish feel to it, maybe because it was recently St. Patrick's Day, although the landlord was definitely Irish.

I had the AJ's IPA, which I was informed was from Walsall.

They have quite a pleasant outside drinking area with trestle tables, and it was certainly warm enough to sit outside.

This is the pub that is famous for having a tree growing inside the gent's toilet.

I next visited the Clarendon Hotel which is the brewery tap for Marston's Breweries and is situated right next to the Park Brewery.

The Marston's family of breweries now includes Banks's, Wychwood, Brakspear, Ringwood and Jennings amongst others.

Tetley's Bitter is also brewed here since the brewery in Leeds was closed.

The pub itself is modern inside and comfortable with televisions showing the sport.

I chose the Marston's 61 Deep with a tasty cheese & onion cob to go with it.

I walked back into the city centre and visited the Hogshead, which had ten national beers available, from which I had the Dark Star Hophead.

The pub was very lively with sports tv and food very popular.

There is a pleasant, enclosed beer garden at the back of the pub.

The Duke of York was also very busy and had only 3 real ales available.

I had the Wye Valley HPA once again.

The Wheatsheaf, another Marston's pub which mainly sells Banks's beers was also very busy and I just had a quick half of the Banks's Amber Ale.

My final pub in Wolverhampton was the Great Western which is a short walk from the railway station.

The pub, which stands alone in this former industrial heartland, is run by Holden's, and has lots of railway memorabilia.

I chose the Holden's Golden Glow from the seven ales available.

The building is Grade II listed and the pub is a former CAMRA National Pub of the Year.

A fantastic pub to finish in after a great day out in Wolverhampton.

I found everyone I met up with very friendly and had some great beer along the way.

Charlie Cavaye

Woodstock '22

This event, on Saturday 19th March, did not appear on the last beer festivals list as there was uncertainty whether it was actually a beer festival, but it was mentioned in the Newsletter as a social for the newly formed Greater Manchester SPBW branch.

The venue was the excellent Flying Horse pub in Rochdale, a town which lies conveniently on the Northern rail line to Manchester Victoria.

It's a short downhill walk from the station to the town centre or you could catch the Metrolink tram - a mode of transport sadly lacking in West Yorkshire.

On arriving at the pub, I spotted our member Ian Roper who introduced me to members of Greater Manchester SPBW.

I also spotted two of Nigel Poustie's Sunbeam Ales from Leeds - born in LS11, a 5.1% APA and Parachuting Hedgehog, a 3.8% dark mild.

I asked the barman which other beers were from the wood and, surprisingly, they were it!

Having enjoyed the APA, Ian and I set off on a short crawl of the centre.

Close by is Bombay Brew, the Flying Horse's sister pub.

It's an Indian restaurant with a large drinking area and Vocation brew their house beer.

The decor is amazing.

We visited the town's two micros which have differing offers.

The Pint Pot is cosy, with a mesmerising mural, and featured a varied range of ales from Acorn, Constellation, Golden Duck and Oakham.

The D'Ale House has more local ales featuring the town's Pictish Brewery.

Behind, and cut off by, the monstrous shopping centre is The Baum.

There's a bank of eight hand pumps from near and far and the Bristol Beer Factory's 4.5% milk stout was delicious.

We returned to the Flying Horse for more beer and a Dublin Coddle, an Irish dish of leftovers which tastes far better than it sounds.

Back up the hill to the station we popped in to the Cask & Feather.

It's a large pub which I felt was perhaps recovering from Covid slower than others.

Rochdale pubs are definitely worth a visit.

It's a difficult spot to incorporate into a coach trip but a Yorkshire Day rail excursion could be an option.

John Dyson.
Joint Social Secretary.

SPBW West Riding Branch Events

Sunday 3rd April

Branch Meeting
Hooper Micropub
209 High Street
Wibsey
Bradford
BD6 1JU

Meet 12 noon for a 12:15pm start

Saturday 23rd April

Branch Trip to Durham and Richmond

Meet 10:00am at bottom of Kirkgate,
Leeds

Sunday 1st May

Branch Meeting
Leeds Brewery

Meet 12 noon for a 12:15pm start

Saturday 14th May

Branch Trip to Chorley and Clitheroe

Meet 10:00am at bottom of Kirkgate,
Leeds

Sunday 12th June

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Branch Meeting
Venue to be advised

Meet 12 noon for a 12:15pm start

Saturday 18th June

Branch Trip to Everards Beer Hall and Leicester

Meet 10:00am at bottom of Kirkgate,
Leeds