

Barnsley Town Centre Survey – 4

Date 2nd May 2007

Pubs Visited: Courthouse, Isaacs & Co, Ice Bar, Tempo, Yates, Blah Bar, No 7, Joseph Bramah

Wednesday 2nd May saw us out on the town again, this time starting at the re-vitalised **Courthouse** where most of the drinkers were engrossed in Man Utd's European Cup exploits. Theakston's Bitter and XB were sampled and very nice too. A walk up Regent St. to the **Citrus Rooms** was less productive as it was shut but **Isaacs & Co** on Shambles St was open with a DJ in action, no real ale and very few drinkers. No sign of a price list on display either. Guinness sufficed in the absence of real ale.

The **Ice Bar** didn't have a price list either but it was full, had a DJ, 2 for 1 drinks offers and a lot more girls, perhaps because of the absence of football on TV. The girls soon moved on, probably to try another bar but possibly because of the influx of CAMRA members... a sort of old fogey factor.

The former Lord Nelson, now **Tempo**, was empty when we arrived for another nitro-keg Guinness. Not that we stayed long because of the extremely loud music. The African toilet attendants seen on a previous town centre outing were in evidence at Tempo with their array of toiletries for sale. Not a lot of business for them that night and it was impossible to get out of the gents without being sprayed with some sort of aftershave sample. One bonus was a very tidy gents, which isn't that common in Barnsley town centre.

Yates was a lot busier but again had no real ale. Forgoing the Guinness I tried a bottle of Tyskie, the 5.6% ABV Polish beer, which is getting quite common in Barnsley with the influx of our European cousins. It was OK but it wasn't real ale. The layout at Yates is good and the music relatively subtle and it was possible to go to the gents and come back smelling the same as when you went in.

BLAH BAR was heaving, noisy and pretty expensive. More of a 30's crowd perhaps and I can see the attraction in that it's a shade more fashionable. No real ale of course and the only drink of interest was a Bourbon with some silly name but it made a change and at least it wasn't gassy. We were on the last lap now and our penultimate stop was at the **No. 7** which seemed a bit old fashioned after BLAH. Steady enough place and quite busy but again no real ale. **Joseph Bramah** was the final call and at least we started and ended the evening with a pint of proper real ale.

Colin Wilson