

CAMRA Survey of Dodworth Rd
and Racecommon Rd
3/10/07

Our survey started at the Cranberry on Dodworth Rd. A nice small semi open plan feel pub with games area. Unfortunately the pub had no cask ale however they do have a selection of bottled beers always available some of which are bottle conditioned (Fiddlers elbow.) We then moved on to the Marlborough again on Dodworth Rd. This two roomed pub is currently up for lease through admiral taverns. The pub did not have any cask ale at the time of our visit. The pub usually has John Smith's cask however like many pubs in the borough the beer had been sent back due to quality issues. The pub is set to see a revamp of the beer/ lager range this will see the removal of the only handpump! Next on our survey was The Barnsley Trades Club on Racecommon rd. This typical Club had John Smiths Cask at a very cheap £1.68 per pint! CAMRA members were made very welcome and we found what was to be the only real find of the night. Upstairs at the Trades is a lounge style room that house the original brewery bar from the former Barnsley brewery. The room also has on display lots of memorabilia and photographs from the brewery. It was very nice to see some of Barnsley's heritage being preserved instead of being thrown in a skip! As with other pubs on the survey poor quality of John Smiths Cask was reported (14 casks returned.) It was then on up Racecommon rd to our next stop The Shaw Inn. The busiest pub of the night, the two-roomed pub had a typical local cosy feel. The pub had three cask ales to choose from Black sheep best bitter, Marstons Pedigree and John Smiths Cask. As with other pubs the john's cask quality issue was made aware (five casks sent back.) We then moved next door to the Longcar Inn. Unfortunately the pub had no cask ale and no atmosphere. We therefore had a swift half of Guinness and left. The final pub of the survey was the Shaw Lane Sports Club where on a visit earlier that week was found to have the usual three cask ales namely Magnet, Phoenix Wobbly Bob and Acorn Barnsley Bitter.

Overall the survey was good and again it showed that real ale on the fringe of the town is selling well. Lets hope that the town centre may follow suit.

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