

CAMRA Pub survey of Hoyland & Hoyland Common

On May 7th 2008 a small group of Barnsley CAMRA conducted a pub survey of the Hoyland and Hoyland Common area, below are our findings.

Furnace Inn

The first pub on our survey was on reflection probably the best of the survey. Overlooking the village pond this traditional stone pub was a great starting point with two real ale's on offer. On our visit the Cask ale's on offer were John Smiths Cask and Black Sheep Bitter. The pub has milt rooms but these are quite open giving the pub an open plan fell. The pub has a large open bar area and is a great community pub.

Porters

Up the hill into town to the next pub on our survey which sadly after a great start things started to go downhill. The pub was tired 'dive' with a distinct run down feel. The range of beer on offer was just as tired as the pub with keg only beer and Coke out of bottles (a glass would have been nice.) Indeed the only thing that wasn't tired in the pub was the over excited family pet dog!

The Gate Inn

Situated next door to Porters the Gate Inn was considerably busier and more pleasant than its neighbour. The pub had a mixed clientele. Sadly the pub was keg only.

Beggar & Gentleman

The Beggar & Gentleman was sadly another keg only run down pub. We were all by this time gasping for real ale and hoped the next pub may be more fruitful.

GT's Bar

Located in the centre of Hoyland is GT's Bar. The pub is well known for live music. On entering the pub we were met with a welcome sight, a hand pump! Unfortunately the John Smith's that was once dispensed from the said pump had been removed. After a lengthy conversation with the landlady we learnt that they hoped to introduce a cask ale soon possibly Theakston's.

Prospect Tavern

We then moved on towards Hoyland Common stopping off at the Prospect tavern. This traditional pub had a nice cosy feel and seemed a great typical community pub. Although keg only the pub was a far more pleasant place than some of the earlier pubs

The Star

The first pub in Hoyland common and it offered cask ale. The John Smith's on offer was very welcome refreshment. The beer was in good condition and enjoyed by all. The open plan pub was quiet but very pleasant. The pub has an open plan feel with a wooden floor and comfy seating.

Prince of Wales

The Prince of Wales on Sheffield Rd once served real ale. Sadly the real ale has gone along with the customers. The pub was very quiet, dark and run down. Members commented on the awful fusty smell inside the pub. The range of beer on offer was again like the pub tired.

The Hare & Hounds

Owned by the FGL chain of pubs the Hare & Hounds has built a strong reputation for good food. The traditional pub was very homely and welcoming. The John Smiths Cask on offer was in good condition. This was my last pub of the night and a nice place to finish what in general had been a disappointing evening. It is a pity with the number of quality breweries we have in the area the

range of cask ale's on offer to the discerning drinker are so limited. Since the survey I have been informed by other CAMRA members that the Cross Keys is sadly keg only.

Phil Gregg
Pubs Officer
Barnsley CAMRA