

# *New Marksman*

Issue 37 Funded by the Baily Thomas Provident Fund AUTUMN 2018

Who's this running  
the Little Roots  
Barbecue?



WHO'S THIS  
LITTLE FELLAH?



MBC's MD Ron Kirk  
Writes from  
France



## The Baily Thomas Provident Fund Office

The office is open Monday to Thursday every week [except holidays] and is currently staffed by Denise Wilson who is the interface between the beneficiaries and the trustees. John Else works on a consultancy basis for the Trust and can be contacted via the office.

Contact:

Tel: 01623 473290

Baily Thomas Provident Fund  
Chadburn House  
Weighbridge Road Littleworth,  
Mansfield.NG18 1AH



## The New Marksman Magazine

This magazine aims to give news and information about the activities of the former employees of Mansfield Brewery and the existing Sports and Social opportunities available for all former employees.

Please send information to: Roy Bainton 13 West Hill Avenue Mansfield Notts NG18 1PQ

Telephone 01623 646070 07712973872 Email – [roybainton@hotmail.com](mailto:roybainton@hotmail.com)

Any information, articles or photographs not included in this issue will be used in forthcoming editions of the New Marksman

**ALL ABOARD FOR  
THE  
COACH TRIP!**

Wensleydale Creamery ,Hawes  
Birmingham  
Castle Howard  
Social Evening  
Christmas Lunch, Boundary,  
South Normanton

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Thursday 2<sup>th</sup> November  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

**THIS YEAR WE'RE  
ENJOYING THE RIDE  
WITH GLEN RYDER  
COACHES**



What's in your  
Autumn 2018  
new **marksman**

**ISSUE 37**

**A Golden Wedding, A  
Great Grandma and  
steam trains!**



**MBC Nostalgia**

**MD Ron Kirk**

Writes About the take-over  
of North Country Breweries



**Supervisor's outing  
to Timothy Taylor's**

**All this and much more -**

Don't forget we'd like to hear  
from you, too; those special  
occasions, family events,  
memories, pictures, either call  
me on

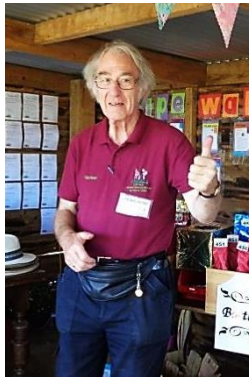
**01623 646070, or**

e-mail

[roybainton@hotmail.com](mailto:roybainton@hotmail.com)

or by post to

13 West Hill Ave.,  
Mansfield NG18 1PQ



John Else comes second in the  
National Air Guitar contest

**Walking Boots,  
Brewery Suits,  
Little Roots  
and Football -  
That was the  
Summer that was!**

We're not used to too much sunshine in Britain, so this summer's been a bit of a shock. So it is a pity Mansfield Brewery wasn't in operation because beer sales have rocketed between June to August. (Well, they have in my back garden, anyway.) This issue sees the first of a series of contributions from a former MD Ron Kirk, now enjoying his retirement in France. As ever, our star correspondent Barbara Brown has kept us up to date on the adventures of the Walking Club. So if you have a story or a report on anything MBC connected, please get in touch. Family news, pictures, memories are all very welcome.

After 31 years in Mansfield, your editor is finally faced with down-sizing (not physically - the diets never work) so we're moving back to our home town of Hull. Will this affect the production of *Marksman*? No. I have various commitments in Mansfield so I'll be back and forth. It's only 85 miles away, and as Hull figures large in the brewery's history, it'll be nice to contact former MBC employees. So from the town of coal and beer to the City of fish and culture should bode well. There are plenty of stories to come - including yours. So as ever, mine's a pint, please!

**ROY BAINTON**

### **Mansfield Brewery Members' Association**

The Members' Association is open to all former employees of the Mansfield Brewery Group of Companies. The Association's monthly meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at **the Debdale Sports Club, Mansfield Woodhouse commencing at 10.00 a.m.** The Committee organises monthly coach excursions which are open to all members and friends. The excursions depart from the Debdale Sports Club, Mansfield Woodhouse where there is easy car parking. If you wish to join any excursion please contact Graham Cooling **on 01623 632620**

# Mansfield Brewery Walking Group

They are generally easy walks  
between 5 and 6 miles.

The walks are held on  
the second Sunday of  
each month,  
commencing at 10.30  
a.m and normally  
finish around 2.30 p.m.

For information contact  
Barbara Brown on  
01623 481488

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## The Long Hot Summer of 2018



**Shorts, sturdy legs and refreshment:  
Barbara Brown reports ...**

Here are the walkers relaxing by a ford near the end of the 5 mile walk in July. There were 21 of us and the walk began from the village of Elkesley on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning. We enjoyed a welcome drink outside a village pub along the way.



Barry and Marion  
on the Happy Big  
Day in 1968



50 years on with  
plenty to smile  
about!

## Marion & Barry Make the Half Century!

September 7th 2018 is the happy Golden Wedding Anniversary for Barry and Marion Crofts. They met at a local dance. Barry tells us *"I spent 18 years employed by Mansfield Brewery until my retirement. Marion worked at Mansfield Hosiery Mills. We are celebrating our Golden Wedding anniversary with a family holiday in Majorca, followed by a cruise in the New Year."*

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO MARION AND BARRY - A HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, A GREAT HOLIDAY AND A CALM CRUISE!**



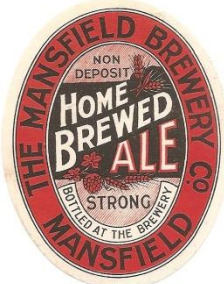
*50th Anniversary*

### **KERRIDGE (née Gale) Dorothy**

Of Moorfield Court, Southwell and formerly of the Red Lion Inn, Farnsfield. Passed away peacefully on 24th June 2018, aged 96 years.

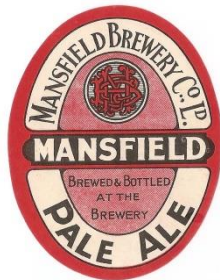
Widow of the late Charles, mother to John and granny to Lydia and Antonia, she will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

It was sad to see this little notice in the Mansfield CHAD of the passing of Dorothy Kerridge, wife of the late Charles Kerridge, who retired from MBC in 1986 after 40 years service. Charles was sales manager, known as one of the 'Three Musketeers' with Harry Ridley and Arthur Tomlinson. Our thoughts go to Dorothy's family. Her funeral took place at St. Michael's Church, Farnsfield, on July 17.



# Pint-Sized History

Recognising that not everyone has read our book, *The Alternative Mansfield Brew*, we thought it would be nice to include this compact history from Marksman in 1999.



It is now 145 years since Mansfield Brewery was founded at Littleworth by three local entrepreneurs - William Baily, Samuel Hage and John Watson.

William Baily was the driving force, but it was the expertise of John Watson, a Sheffield brewer, that was needed to establish the enterprise. Ollerton farmer Samuel Hage had just survived the worst winter on record and probably supplied the brewery with barley. Within a year John Watson had sold his share to the other two partners for £450 (bad move John!).

By 1863 Bilsthorpe farmer William Hage (his connections to Samuel are not recorded) had become a partner and Hage & Baily Maltsters was also formed.

Development at the Littleworth premises moved fast, offices and stables were built round the yard, forming a compact and efficient unit.

Samuel Hage's nephew Addison Titley paid £6,000 for a sixth of the goodwill

wages were paid in kind - a daily allowance of beer - and when a new law enforced a half-day holiday each week, extra leisure time created a demand for more amusement. The pubs, clubs and institutes were soon packed out.

Though some breweries had started in the previous century, none were in the area. But it proved to be ideal because of its proximity to good malt (there were around 40 malt houses in the town) and hop-producing farmland. Another 'plus' was the suitability of its water (Mansfield products are still brewed today with water from the boreholes it used in 1855).

Industrialised and mining communities grew, but it was some years before brewers bought outlets to sell their products and the tied house emerged.

The first recorded pub bought by The Mansfield Brewery Company was the Railway Inn, Mansfield. It was bought for £800 in 1867 and sold to Camerons in 1986.

Baily's sister married Francis Chadburn and their son William Jackson Chadburn was destined to feature largely in the brewery. By 1885 the strong tradition of the Baily-Thomas and Chadburn family involvement was forged.

In 1899, when he was elected mayor of Mansfield, William Chadburn was the major active partner. Into the



in 1935, despite the great depression, major expansion took place with the purchase of Chesterfield Brewery. This added 100 pubs to the estate. The acquisition included TP Wood Wine and Spirits Merchants, which had

previously acquired Timothy Taylors, the wine and spirits bottling merchants based in Mansfield's Market Square.

## 'In 1933 shares were listed on the London Stock Exchange'

20th century buildings were added, including a bottling stores, output increased and the plant grew from producing 500 barrels to 800 barrels per week. Today 3.4 million pints of Mansfield Bitter are sold every month!

By 1906 the existing premises had become obsolete and a completely new brewery was built next door. Sidney Deakin was the first qualified brewer to be appointed in 1918, followed by his son Edward. Beers are still named after him today.

The company prospered and in 1925 was incorporated as a limited company. That year the fermenting room expanded to cope with increased trade. Old rough stone vessels made way for smooth impervious slate.

In 1933 Mansfield Brewery shares were listed on the London stock exchange. And

The purchase of Hornbys, mineral water manufacturers, in 1955, saw eight more pubs: Plough, Farnsfield; Robin Hood, Edwinstowe; Holmefield Arms, Whitwell; the Ravensdale and Savages Vaults, Mansfield; Crown, Southwell; Vine, Chapel St Leonards; and Great Northern at Stretton.

Over the years pubs have been bought and sold and the company has continued to expand. This brought prosperity for local people and suppliers. Sometimes even three generations of families worked for the company at the same time. They were proud to do so.

## 'a clear demonstration of the success of the enterprise'

when he joined the company in 1873 - though not as a part owner of the property - a clear demonstration of the success of the enterprise.

When the brewery was founded it was 'the norm' for innkeepers to brew their own beer but times were changing fast. The steam machines of the industrial revolution had already secured domination.

Part of the working man's

Compare that to the latest major acquisition of seven Morland public houses in August at a cost of £10.5m.

Tied houses were the future market for beer and in 1877 Mansfield Brewery expanded by purchasing and leasing pubs. In those days inns were still used to hold inquests and other public hearings.

Time moved on, William



William Chadburn



# 29 YEARS LATER, MARGARET GETS ANOTHER SURPRISE!

The original report is from Marksman in December 1989



● Margaret pictured with her grandson.

The photo (left) is from the December 1989 edition of Marksman, with Margaret Brooks celebrating the birth on July 4 of her grandson.

## 2018 and she's A Great Grandma!

Margaret worked for MBC from September 1983 until July 2000. As reported above, she became a Grandmother for the first time. Now that Grandson has made her a proud Great Grandma when on March 14 this year Joshua (pictured with Margaret) was born. Today, Joshua's dad Samuel is head of Science at a school not far from the brewery in Wolverhampton. Obviously that smell of the hops and malt does you good! Our congratulations Margaret, and welcome to Joshua!



## MBMA RIDES THE NORTH YORK MOORS RAILWAY FROM GOATHLAND TO WHITBY



# The Usual Suspects ...



*A flock of Supervisors: (from the left)*

*Peter Featherstone, Graham Cooling, Andy Leman (Head Brewer) John Else, Mark Leedham, John Bartle, Martin Cullimore, Terry Johnson, Graham Kinder, George Roe, Alan Singlehurst, Ian Boucher, Kevin Hall, Geoff Speight.*

## Supervisors visit Timothy Taylor's Brewery



The Mansfield Brewery supervisors visited the Timothy Taylor's brewery on their annual week-end away in May. Timothy Taylor's is a regional brewery based in Keighley, West Yorkshire and was founded in 1858. They moved to their present larger premises in 1863 and the brewery has been substantially modernised. Timothy Taylor's is renowned for its cask conditioned beer including Landlord bitter.

The weather was excellent and on the following day the group enjoyed a day on the Keighley and Worth Valley railway. Before returning home on Sunday the group walked near the remarkable Bingley five locks rise on the Leeds & Liverpool canal.

### WHAT ON EARTH'S GOING ON HERE?

Here is another of Denise McIntosh's entries at the Pleasley Scarecrow Festival, a cheeky but appropriate one with those balloons, but very apt as all the proceeds went to the Breast Cancer Charity!







**FOLLOW THE VAN? NO -  
THE VAN FOLLOWED US!**

In our last edition we celebrated Phil Haynes's achievement in completing the challenging run for bowel cancer. Phil's sent us this memory of another energetic challenge almost two decades ago. Mansfield Brewery were fully supportive! Says Phil:

“On Sunday 1st August 1999 nine people seven of them Mansfield Brewery employee's (including myself) did a 75 mile bike ride from the Ling Forest pub, Mansfield to Skegness Clock Tower.

We set off at 7.15am and arrived at Skegness at 2pm. Our route took us through Ollerton, Tuxford onto the Lincoln By-Pass then through Horncastle and Burgh Le Marsh. We had a Brewery Van as support all the way and on arrival at Skegness went for a well-earned Pint and Chips. Except for a light shower early on it was a glorious sunny warm day.”

*Left to Right in photo-- (Andy's friend#,) Peter Palmer, John Tyler (Van Support), Andrew Wheeler#, (Andy's son#), Mark Hughes, Philip Haynes, Chris Warner and Alison Tasker.*



## **PADDINGTON WINS A PRIZE!**

**One of our walking group members, Denise McIntosh, decided to make a model Paddington Bear out of a bale of hay and enter the annual Pleasley Scarecrow Festival which took place on Sat/Sun 16th and 17th June.**

**Her entry won joint 3rd place, Well Done Denise!**



## **A visit to Thrumpton Hall by Jenny Hall, Alan & Barbara Brown.**

Thrumpton, the family home of Miranda Seymour, an accomplished writer, proved to be really interesting. We discovered that previous occupants had connections way back to the Gunpowder Plot and also were as varied as Lord Byron. Our visit coincided with a National Gardens Open Day event and was a rare occasion to have a tour around the house by the owner, Miranda, as well as see the formal rose garden and enjoy a walk around the lake. The entrance fees were being donated to help Breast Cancer Charity.

# More from Mansfield Brewery Walking Group



Reports by  
Marksman's  
intrepid Barbara  
'Boots on the  
Ground' Brown

We have had some really enjoyable walks so far this year, not too far away from home and all very different. First photo (above) is of the April walk which took us around Blidworth woods with unexpected views and an insight into how a former coal tip can be transformed into beautiful woodland for the benefit of all. I hasten to add, the photo was taken where the trees had recently been cleared to make a viewpoint, as you can see, the dogs in the party enjoyed the chance to do a bit of digging and rolling!



Anyone who would like to join us would be very welcome, don't be put off, we walk very steadily and enjoy a good deal of chatter and banter as we go along, with regular stops, especially when going uphill!

**Call Barbara Brown  
on 01623 481488**

*Walkers don't  
get old...*



*...they  
just ramble on!*



The May walk took us from Whitwell, through Steetley where we had the chance to pop into the beautiful little church shown here. It looks almost like something you would expect to see in a French village!

In June our walk commenced from the pretty village of Bleasby and took us through some quintessential English villages and along the River Trent where we enjoyed a coffee stop alongside the lock and weir



# SWIMMING TO SUCCESS!

**By Philip White**  
**Fermenting Team**  
**Leader –**  
**Mansfield Brewery**  
**1995 – 2002**  
**father of**  
**Thomas White**



When Thomas was 8 he had completed all elements of his council swimming lessons and the next step was to join a swimming club. Our nearest was Arnold Swimming Club, he signed up and it was clear to see that he loved it.

By the time he was 10, he had won his first Nottinghamshire County medal – 50m Breast Stroke. The same year he qualified for the Midlands Age Group Championships, coming 2nd in both 100 Breast & 200 Breast. This then became his favourite stroke. When he was 13 he qualified for the Home Nations (England) for the first time in 200 Breast and came 16th in the country for his age. The following year his best qualification was for the British Championships in 100 Breast and came 23rd. Last year he qualified for the British Championships again in 100 Breast, came 11th overall, he also qualified for the 200 Breast but unfortunately due to illness had to pull out. This year he has become overall Nottinghamshire County Champion in 200 Breast (photos above) and he has also qualified again for the British Championships in 100 Breast and 50m & 200m Breast in Home Nations.

The training schedule is not for the faint hearted as it is very time consuming. He swims for 18 hours a week which includes 4 early mornings. He also has to pull in 4 gym sessions, but he does get Sundays off! We as parents are very proud of what he has achieved, and we are very grateful to The Baily Thomas Provident Fund in helping to support him in doing something that he clearly loves and is good at. Who knows where it will lead ....



**Mansfield Bluesman**  
**Johnnie 'Little Roots'**  
**Else sans Guitar**



*Somethin' Else!*

That's better! We thought we'd give John a guitar to rock among the radishes.

# LITTLE ROOTS SUMMER OPEN DAY

Quite A few MBC people, notably John Else, are involved with the superb charity, Little Roots, which held a Summer Open Day on Saturday 30th June from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm.

It currently has over 2000 visitors per year and the participation of several local primary schools keeps the allotment in Mansfield Woodhouse busy. One of these schools also operates an after school gardening club and we hope to see others joining this facility soon. The allotment itself produces a wide variety of fruit and vegetables available to buy on a 'pick your own' basis, these funds being used to enable us to maintain our site and pay for our materials.

Children learn how to plant, care for and harvest the vegetables, fruit and flowers that are grown on the allotment. This supports the science curriculum whilst giving a wonderful opportunity to learn in an alternative setting to their classroom. we also run an afterschool gardening club during Spring and Autumn terms and a Summer gardening club during the school holidays.

Members of our local community can visit the allotment at any time and contribute to our activities. Our local Children's centre under 5's group are also regular visitors.

This was a chance to see the allotment in full bloom with fruit and vegetables. Everyone enjoyed free games and activities with refreshments and snacks.



Barbara and Alan Brown were among the helpers. Barbara reports: I helped Richard by making up the Pizzas before he baked them in the clay oven. Alan helped alongside Geoff Moss at the Bacon Buttie stand where Walt was head Chef!

Val Moss and her friend Kay manned the front desk, signing people in, handing out children's quiz sheets and customer feedback forms.



# Ashleigh's Future's in the Bank!



Ashleigh Randall is the daughter of Julie and Paul Randall. She graduated in January this year from the University of Sheffield after completing a Post Graduate Master's degree, where she was awarded a Master's of Science (MSc) in Data Analytics with Distinction. Ashleigh's dad Paul worked in the Mansfield Brewery kegging department and Ashleigh's grandfather was supervisor in the Bottling department. Ashleigh has now gone on to work for Barclays Bank in Canary Wharf as a Data Scientist. Everyone is very proud of all Ashleigh has achieved, and we would like to thank the Baily Thomas fund for all their help over the 5 years.



BARCLAYS BANK AT LONDON'S CANARY WHARF

## Another Sad Departure



We're sad to report the passing of Barry Bartle, pictured here in his days as a truck driver for MBC. Barry was born in 1932, and joined the company aged 23 on September 19<sup>th</sup> 1955. He served as a driver and prior to his retirement worked in bottling until he ended his 40 years of service on July 28 1995. His funeral took place at Mansfield Crematorium on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Any donations kindly made at the funeral will be given to Kings Mill Hospital, specifically the ward where Barry was well looked after. A well respected colleague and family man, Barry was predeceased by his wife Pam and leaves his son Ian, daughters Susan and Lesley, 8 Grandchildren and 3 Great Grandchildren (very soon to become 4 ) Our thoughts are with his family on this sad occasion. There will be a full obituary in our next edition.



Tracey Storey  
and Carole  
Lamond

It may be a bit early for Yuletide, but we've had this nice article in from Carole Lamond (nee Scott) where she celebrates her Christmas traditions and recalls those at MBC.

## TRADITIONS

*A tradition is a belief or behaviour passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past.*

As we near another Christmas, I am curious about our traditions – do you have a special date that you make your own Christmas cake/pudding, do you make your own cards, do you sing Carols, do you trim the tree in a particular way, do you spend hours detangling the Christmas lights, do you sit with your children/grandchildren writing that special letter to Santa Claus?

My tradition is meeting Tracey Storey at a Christmas lunch in London in early December. This is when Christmas really begins for me – literally at 5am when I have get up early to catch an early flight. Tracey was my line manager when we worked in the Personnel Department in the late 1980s. Although 300 miles separate us today, we still speak to each other every month, and pick up once a year as if we had seen each other yesterday. Tracey now runs a successful business specialising in childcare in the Midlands and London, and I am an HR Business Partner and qualified Executive Coach based in Scotland.

After our stay in London, we travel back to the Midlands for an early Christmas dinner and present exchange between the two families - my boys having made the 600 miles round trip.

Another tradition that I loved was the annual Mansfield Brewery Tenanted Trade Christmas party which was held every January. I recently found photos of the VE Day themed party, and look back at them with a huge smile on my face remembering the three Johns, Matthew and Neil all dressed up and causing the usual mayhem!

Whatever traditions you have I am sure they create an enduring memory for you too.

*Carole Lamond (nee Scott)*



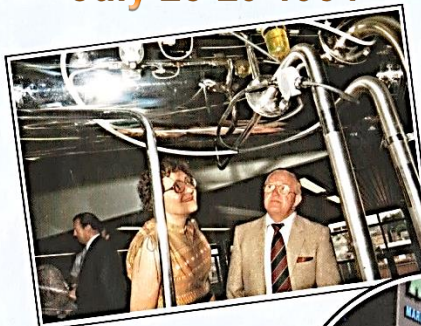
JOHN GOULDEN & JOHN WALKER



MARYLIN DOBB & NEIL BIRCUMSHAW

July 28-29 1984

# SUMMER SUN SHINES AS BREWHOUSE OPENS



When you look down Littleworth now at that ugly space where the state of the art brewhouse stood, it's a sad comment on the times we live in. Hard to think that within three decades this celebration on the opening of the brewhouse in 1984 would be just a memory. Yet over those two glorious days, 750 guests, employees and their families enjoyed this special occasion, which marked a significant investment and a huge commercial success. Were you there?

*Pictures from Marksman, Sept 1982*



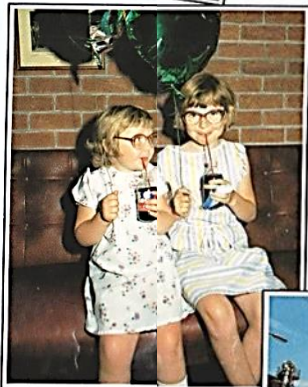
Above: 84 years old Oliver Radford, who retired 20 years ago, reckons its nice to be back.




Left: Brian Oldham gets to grips with a turkey leg.



Someone has to clear up when its over.



Above: Gerry and I



As one of the former Managing Directors of Mansfield Brewery **RON KIRK** was involved in many key decisions in the company's history. He now lives in St. Malo, France, where he works as a writer, and he's written us a series of articles about his time with MBC, which will form part of a book. In this first article, we learn about the acquisition of **NORTH COUNTRY BREWERIES.**



## **REFLECTIONS OF A BREWERY MD**

I was well into my second year and, as usual in a new job, more and more of the basic routines were becoming familiar. Then one morning the secretary of John Hings popped her head round my office door and said, "John would like to have a quick word". John told me that he had learnt on the grapevine that North Country Breweries was on the market and they were circulating a sales prospectus, but not to us. He thought it surprising, since Robin Chadburn and the chairman of Northern Foods, the owners, had been school friends. He asked what should we do? I suggested Robin gave Northern Foods a call and asked why we hadn't been on the circulation list and could we have a copy of the sales prospectus. Apparently, the reply came back that our pockets were not deep enough but kindly their chairman suggested we came over to Hull for lunch on the Friday for a discussion.

What followed was the most expensive fish and chip lunch ever, as the minimum acquisition price had to begin with a 4, or in other words £40m. This represented some 25 times their last profits or in other words a potential return of just 4%. We agreed we would be back within a week with our offer. A very important factor for Northern Foods was that any acquisition would be executed professionally and their employees properly protected the best we could.

The week that followed I regarded as our finest hour. All the senior management were mobilised to visit all NCB pubs and for us then to meet up at a hotel in Hull. Each person involved was sworn to total secrecy and not to discuss what we were doing even to their spouses. In essence for an offer to work we had to be confident of the rationalisation savings, a 26% increase in sales volumes over three years (1<sup>st</sup> 13%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 8% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 5%) and importantly a smooth integration. The retail and free trade would drive sales volumes and the brewery and personnel functions, led by Richard Chadburn and John Else, would drive the integration of the brewery and the personnel. My job was to translate the projections into a fundable financial plan and raise the money required.

The following week we had formulated an offer and returned to Hull to negotiate the final figure. I had prepared for John and Robin a crib sheet negotiating increasing figures in £2m incremental steps until a point, at which, we would be forced to walk away. At one point in frustration of my belligerence in resisting price increases the two chairmen went into a separate room and did the deal in private on a handshake.

Within three weeks we owned the business and began to manage the combined businesses. Chris Clarke of Samuel Montagu guaranteed the money until we could syndicate the funding to 30 international banks. We achieved our sales over three years and the integration worked very smoothly. Our hour had come, we could conquer the world!