

The Brewing Week 12th - 26th August 2010

Adnams beer volumes decline

Adnams has announced that its own-brewed beer volume for the six months to 30th June have fallen by 6.8%. Whilst pre-tax profits fell by 27% to £641,000 the company has announced that it intends to pay an unchanged dividend of 65p per B share and 16.25p per B share.

Adnams said that its pub estate had found trading "particularly tough" in the last six months but was helping its licensees through the current market.

Mitchells & Butlers to sell 333 pubs

M&B continues to sell off what it considers as its non-core assets. Following on from its sale of its Hollywood Bowl bowling alleys it has sold 333 pubs for £375m to a private equity firm TDR Capital who are backing the Stonegate Pub Company. One of the founders of TDR is Manjit Dale who was also a member of the Bankers Trust team which backed the original creation of Punch Taverns in 1997.

The sell off is part of M&B's strategy to move away from drink-led operations in order to focus on food-led establishments.

The break down of the 333 pubs is as follows

52 Scream bars

71 music and late night venues

75 unbranded town centre pubs

67 community pubs

68 other, smaller pubs.

And Town & Country look to pick up these M&B pubs

Town & City pub group chairman Ian Payne is hoping his group will be able to merge operations with those of Stonegate. Payne has apparently been working with TDR Capital for several months and is confident that he can pull the two pub groups together once the original sale has been given the go ahead by M&B shareholders.

SABMiller considers a bid for Foster's Lager

SABMiller is considering making a £7bn bid for the beer making arm of Fosters. The Fosters Group has already announced that it intends to split its beer making business from the wine side of its operation in April next year. BUT SABMiller may decide that if it waited till the official split up next year other players such as Molson Coors and Asahi may decide to make their own bids.

Camerons to brew keg Tetleys

Camerons Brewery has reached an agreement with Carlsberg to brew Tetleys keg Mild and Imperial at its Hartlepool plant. Transfer of brewing is expected to take place in mid 2011.

Brewing Centre to be re-opened by Royalty

The Princess Royal, i.e. Princess Anne, is to revisit the Brewery Museum in Burton upon Trent next month. In 1977 she opened what was then the Bass Brewery Museum. In September she will return to Burton to give the now renamed National Brewery Centre the Royal Seal of approval.

Iain R Loe

26th August 2010