

AN ORAL HISTORY OF BREWING IN 3 LONDON BREWERIES

INTERVIEWEE	Robert (Bob) Hall Transport Manager
DATE OF BIRTH	1944 Born in Nottingham
PARENTS OCCUPATIONS	Father was a soldier and was disabled from the war. Mother devoted her time to bringing up the family as well as working 2 jobs
INTERVIEW LOCATION	Former Young's brewery site
DATE OF INTERVIEW	Wednesday 20 th March 2019
INTERVIEWER Celia Holman	SUMMARISER Chris Conway

This is an excellent interview for anyone wanting to know the details of the delivery of beer both by horses and vehicles and the backgrounds to many who worked at the brewery.

A long and fascinating interview with Bob who having started work with Young's brewery in 1969 worked for them for 38 years. Joined as assistant transport manager having previously worked for a shipping company calculating shipping costs. Interviewed by James Young who supported his family throughout his time there.

Bob had a range of responsibilities and talks in detail about the delivery of the beer, particularly by the horse drawn teams. He traces the history of the deliveries and changes in how the beer was delivered over his time. Bob explains how work was scheduled in order that the beer could be delivered on time and the complexity of the programming. He also walks the interviewer through his working day and talks about the changes that took place during his working life at Young's. Bob also has a wealth of knowledge on the horses and how they were looked after.

Bob was chairman of the brewers logistics group and had wider influence beyond Young's and describes wider issues relating to transportation at breweries.

He describes how container theft was a massive problem for brewers and Bob played a key role at the brewery in resolving the problem.

Bob talks about the culture of the sample room and the characters who visited it and being the envy of non-brewery workers. Bob talks about the difference between public and saloon Bars and John Young's attitude to them. He gives a good description of John Young and others of the Young family and their philosophy for managing the brewery staff. Bob also refers to the small farm at the brewery, how it came about and the public response.

Bob describes in detail his initial impressions of the brewery and the working conditions and good descriptions of what it was like working there.

Bob has a variety of anecdotes of working at the brewery particularly relating to the drays but also has a wealth of anecdotes about other colleagues.

Bob talks about the family atmosphere at the brewery and how generations of the same family worked within the brewery. He talks about some of the company outings and other

social activities of the staff. He discusses some of the issues relating to drinking habits and the drinking culture in working within the brewery and the tensions that can arise.

He reflects on the changing nature of brewing which initially involved investment in the brewery but ultimately led to its closure. It was explained how staff concerns were generally sorted out by the Young's family. Bob indicated how the excellent terms and conditions kept staff disgruntlement to a minimum.

Bob reminisces on winning competitions and awards and how the entire organisation benefitted from those achievements together with Young's standing against other breweries.