

Oxford Journal - Saturday 07 March 1908

WHEATLEY

Notice of objection had been served in the case of the following licences at **Wheatley**:—"The White Hart," the "King and Queen," the "Chequers," and the Railway Tavern, the first three being fully-licensed houses and the last a beer-house.

Mr. Andrew Walsh, representing the brewers and licensees, applied for the renewal of these licences.

P.C. Humphreys said that coming into **Wheatley** by train one first came to the Railway Hotel. The Railway Tavern and the "King and Queen" were both 107 yards away. The "Red Lion" beer-house was 206 yards from the Railway Tavern, and the "Sun" was 58 yards beyond the "Red Lion." The distance between the Railway Tavern and the "King and Queen" was 58 yards. In the High-street the next house from the "King and Queen" was the "White Hart," 132 yards away, which was a posting house, and had stabling and yard. The "Chequers" was 197 yards from the "White Hart." Of the four houses he thought the "White Hart" did the best trade, then the "King and Queen," then the Railway Tavern. Beyond the "Chequers" was the "Crown," which was the market house, with a lot of stabling and accommodation. This was 130 yards away. The class of trade at the Railway Tavern and "Chequers" was a working-class trade.

Cross-examined: There were no public-houses at Holton or Waterperry. The nearest house from half of Holton would be the "Sun," and from the other half the "King's Arms," which would also be the nearest from Waterperry.

Alfred Phelps, tenant of the Railway Tavern, said he had been there for over nine years. He did a good trade and had accommodation for a good number of travellers. They had had twelve lodging there at a time. He paid a rent of £10, and he lived entirely out of the house.

Mr. Langham said the house was owned by Hall's Brewery. The average trade done was 101 barrels per year, and £34 worth of bottled beer. Since 1898 £166 had been spent in repairs.

Charles Heath, the licensee of the "King and Queen," said he had held the licence for ten years, and depended upon it for his living. He let no rooms to lodgers, and the only entering was the provision of bread and cheese. He had stabling

for five horses. A slate club of 60 members met on the premises every week. He paid £14 a year rent.

By the Bench: The stabling was let, but if anyone wanted to put up a horse he could put it up.

Mr. Lucas said the house belonged to Morrell's Trustees. The average trade was two barrels a week of beer and 1½ gallon of spirits, and was increasing. During the last three years £14 had been spent in repairs.

William Spearing said he had held the licence of the "White Hart" under Morrell's Trustees for 4½ years. There was a large yard and coach-house, and he regularly put up horses. An Odd-fellows' club met on the premises, 120 strong. This was originated there, and the owners went to the expense of building the club-room especially for them. His house was regularly used by in-

habitants of Holton. He did nothing besides keep the house and the posting business.

Mr. Lucas said the average trade was nearly three barrels a week in beer and 5½ gallons of spirits.

In regard to the "Chequers," Mr. Lucas said the rent was £9 a year. The average trade was nearly two barrels of beer and nearly two gallons of spirits a week. During the last three years £21 had been spent in repairs.

Thomas Messenger, the tenant, said he had held the licence for two years, and made his living out of the house. There was a slate club of 36 members meeting at the house, and stabling for two horses, but there was room for ten. He had five persons lodging at the house.

By the Bench: There were pigs in the stables, but they could soon be turned out. He sometimes worked as a jobbing gardener.

The Justices decided to refer the "Chequers" to Quarter Sessions for further consideration, but renewed the licences of the "King and Queen," the "White Hart," and the "Railway Tavern."

Comment

The writing was on the wall
for the Chequers, closed 1910

A post house, posthouse, or posting house was a house or inn where horses were kept and could be rented or changed out. Postriders could also be hired to take travellers by carriage or coach and delivered mail and packages on a route, meeting up at various places according to a schedule. Routes included post roads.