



If only Ena could see the change in Ken Barlow . . .



The TV Ken Barlow.

MAYBE it's the hairy legs. Or the unmistakably masculine jaw.

Whatever it is, this is the disguise that doesn't quite come off. And a good job, too.

Because under that dolly-girl exterior is one of the straightest guys that ever sank a pint in the Rover's Return of TV's "Coronation Street."

It's Ken Barlow. He is about the only character in the series that Ena Sharples doesn't gossip about.

He is handsome. He is kind. He has got a lovely wife.

He wouldn't be seen dead dressed like a girl in Coronation Street.

And he is not going to be, either.

The mini-dress and silky wig are for a play called "The Disorderly Women," which opens in Manchester tonight.

Actor Bill Roche, who has played Ken Barlow in Coronation Street from the beginning, is one of the stars.

He spends the whole of the second act dressed like a girl.

Fortunately, the illusion does not have to be pressed too far.

Bill explained: "I'm not supposed to be a girl. I'm supposed to be a man disguised as a girl."

It's obvious what he means.

Ken Barlow as the TV fans have never seen him . . . in mini-dress and wig all dressed up for his role in a stage play.