

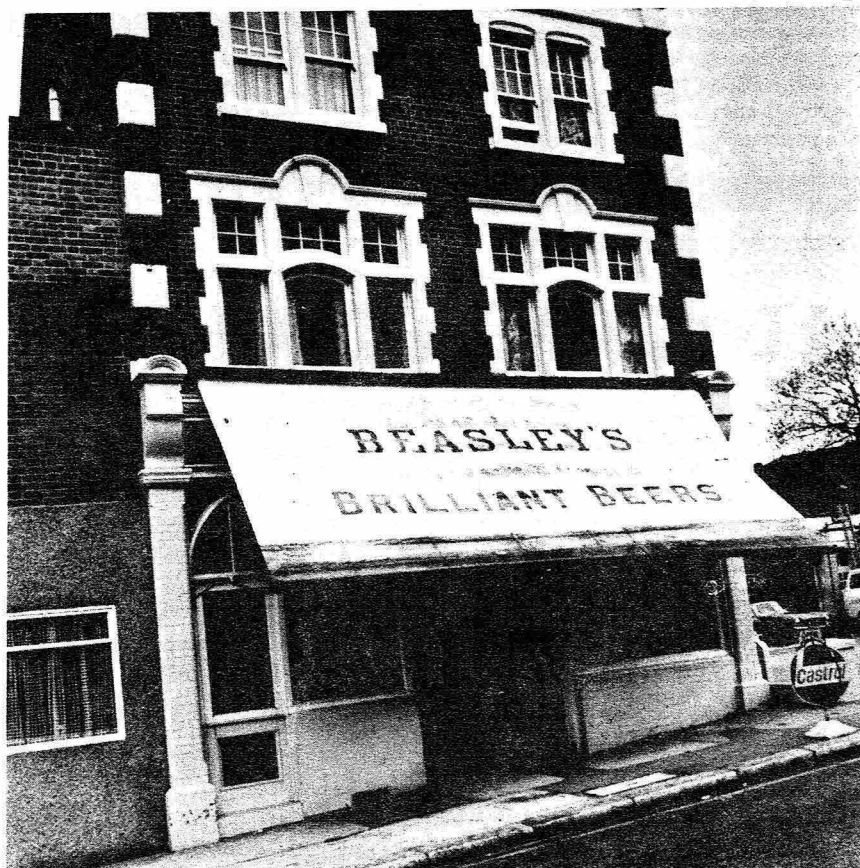
Vol3 No5

June 1981

10p

LONDON DRINKER

Produced by the London branches of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd



Original Beasley's blind at the "Village Blacksmith", Woolwich.

The Bitter Experience

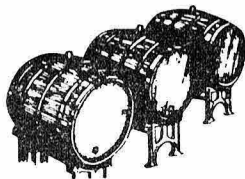
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LONDON DRINKER

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THE BITE AT THE BACK OF THE THROAT

by LAURIE BISHOP

Do you remember the advert for Whitbread Tankard which ended up with the words that form the title of my article this month? I think I've got it right and the idea was that Tankard, the wonderful new keg beer from Luton etc., could grab your taste buds and shake them alive or some other such nonsense. Brewers up and down the country are now faced with a different sort of bite and, as I have said before, it's the bite of the recession.

This time around, however, I'm not going to attack the big brewers. That has been done in the past in this and many other columns. In a way it is not entirely the national brewer's fault (collectively) that they are stuck with all this spare capacity brewing plant and nobody wanting to drink it. This recession was created by world forces and the present government has, quite deliberately, set out not to relieve the economic burden but to try and burn out the problem. Whether this is the right thing to do is not for me to say and I will leave it to the political commentators to discuss it.

Where we in this country have lost out with our national drink is in permitting the Common Market to increase the duty on beer to bring it in line with wine. As I see it, the Europeans are saying that our beer is a cheaper drink relatively than the wine sold in Britain & we should increase the price of beer to, as it were, reduce the differential. Now I don't know about you but I think a much more sensible idea would be to reduce the price of wine. But of course that sort of thing, a price reduction, would not go down at all well in the Palace of Westminster.

All this is bad enough but as far as the British beer drinker is concerned to have a raging recession going on as you fork out proportionately even more for your pint is not perhaps the best way of celebrating the election of Francois Mitterand. The fact that the brewers, probably one of the most conservative (not to say Conservative) industrial groups in the country, are only now beginning to complain bitterly to the government about lost profits

and squeezing the industry is perhaps ironic but not to be laughed at too loudly (Certainly not by Tory politicians for the brewers were one of the biggest contributors to Conservative party funds prior to the 1979 election.

Recessionia

Down here in the affluent south east we do not have things like 4p off a pint of Youngs but we do get a Recession Ale from the Canterbury brewery (although this is not available in London or certainly not to any wide extent). We also get a half price evening at the WELLINGTON opposite Waterloo station on Tuesdays. This is such an excellent pub that you would have thought they would have been packing them in without recourse to such publicity. Mind you its quite a good ploy because only one beer is an offer at half price and it's a different one each time. I understand that some people have gone in and found the beer sold out so they have a (full price) pint of something else. Good for business I should think.

The latest attempts by Courage to improve attendance at their pubs is something like a grand prize draw (I think, I've not been in a Courage pub in ages and only see the details as we drive past). What will Courage come up with next? dolly bird with every ten pints of Directors (by which time you wouldn't be able to do anything with her)? A ticket to watch England play football with every eight pints of Hofmeister (one foolish idea deserves another)?

I see that the ROSE & CROWN opposite the LWT building on the South Bank has now got Fremlins Tusker on handpump. I fear that I shall not be drinking in there though. Tusker is too strong for me to have anything more than a couple of pints at lunchtime and there is now masses of choice around Waterloo with Charles Wells, Taylor Walker, Young's, Ruddle's, Greene King, Shepherd Neame, Arkell's, Wethered's, Bass, Brakspear and other lesser brews too numerous to mention.

THE BITE AT THE BACK OF THE THROAT continued

Generally the prices will be cheaper than what one normally pays for Tusker nowadays. Speaking of Tusker it's interesting to note who drinks it in Whitbread houses in my part of Kent. The locals rarely drink it, preferring Fremkins Bitter. Strangers and jolly trippers always seem to go for it. Perhaps they've got more money than us poor locals.

Obviously Whitbread could be selling a lot more of beers like Tusker. They are suffering from a terrific down turn in trade. This is where I came in but the closure of the Romsey brewery in Hampshire and the halving of the production at the Luton fizz factory, whilst they may stir different emotions in the hearts of CAMRA people, do say two clear things to me. One is that the recession hits all. The other is that if you don't make what people want then, unless you've got a monopoly on sales (a la Watneys in Norfolk) people will go elsewhere.



THIRD GREENWICH REAL ALE FESTIVAL

1 Friday, 19 June 5.30 – 11.00
9 Saturday, 20 June 11.00 – 3.00
8 5.30 – 11.00
1

South East London branch of CAMRA is holding a real ale festival on the above dates in conjunction with Greenwich Council at the Borough Hall, Royal Hill, Greenwich SE10 as part of the Greenwich Festival.

Real ale from brewers all over the country will be on sale with many from the North West of England.

Entertainment will be supplied on Friday by the popular band, Busker's Nite and on the Saturday night by the jazz band, the Ted Bradshaw Band. In addition there will be the opportunity to play traditional pub games.

Admission for the evening sessions is by ticket, cost £1 from Greenwich Entertainments Office, Woolwich SE18 or the Greenwich Theatre, SE10. Purchase of tickets is advised to avoid disappointment.

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LOCAL

FANCY THAT!

A MAN WHO normally wears leather jeans, belts and wristbands with studs, beads and an earring has been told not to enter his local again until he dresses more conventionally.

According to the 'Hampstead & Highgate Express' Mr. Irving Lycett, a 59-year-old actor and author, has been drinking in the KING WILLIAM IV in Hampstead for 15 years, presumably with no bother. More recently, some customers have apparently complained and the assistant manager told the newspaper that families who came into his pub at lunchtime would sometimes walk straight out.

The battle has been joined, and a petition with 500 signatures in support of Mr. Lycett will be sent to the owners, Regent Inns (Courage).

BARGAIN BEERS

A RAGING TORRENT of indifference has descended on this feature. The only new pub this month is the WELLINGTON, referred to in LAURIE BISHOP'S piece elsewhere.

So far we have mentioned the SHIP & SHOVEL in Charing Cross and the WENLOCK ARMS in Shoreditch. There must be others so please, you lazy lot out there, send us the details so we can do the pubs a favour by printing them!

OFF TRADE GROWS AGAIN

CARVAL WINES of West Norwood and Wimbledon sell Greene King beers on draught (incidentally, their shop in Kingston Road, SW20 must provide the only real ale on sale in that benighted postal district!).

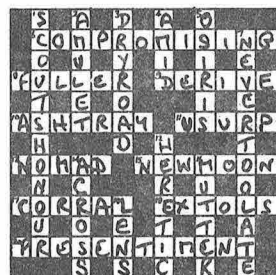
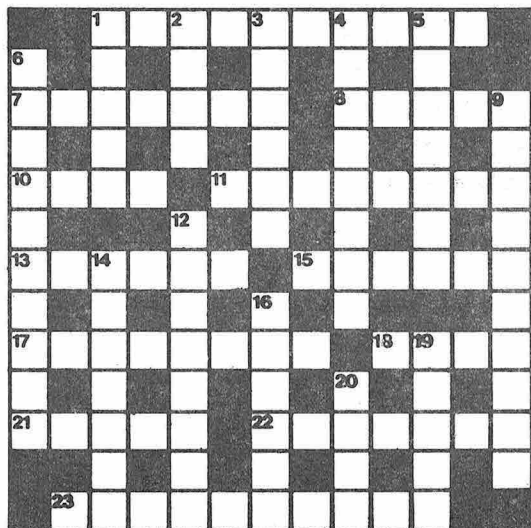
Another Wimbledon shop, passed in the more luxuriant confines of SW19, is the latest in the Alan Greenwood chain. This is at 308 Haydon's Road. 70 draught beers are available.

SPIES IN THE PUB

TRUMAN'S HAVE recently lost over 40 of their pub managers in London, who left as a result of the brewery's spying tactics.

A story in the 'Weekender' tells how the pubs were kept under a 24-hour surveillance by private security men, who were watching out for fiddles. It seems hardly surprising to us that many managers reacted against the pressure.

DRINKER XWORD 24



Last months winner

Richard Cheshire

3, Chandos Ave, London N20 9ED

Across

1. Backer is the front man? (6, 4)
7. Slope inside eggs back the girl. (7)
8. Hesitant in Oslo at home matches. (5)
10. Not the same? Release! (4)
11. Cop or rot produce from Earth. (4, 4)
13. Have a drink, though every horse is out! (6)
15. Colour for Social Democrats? (6)
17. Centre in edge, loud for top measure. (4-4)
18. See 9.
21. Add to runs, once backed art. (5)
22. Number point 9 keg in 10. (7)
23. Adorn before sent in mixed sport. (4-6)

Down

1. Send in quiet to pay out. (5)
2. A hundred and one pointed. (4)
3. To moor on the turn means full. (2, 4)
4. Cotton seed in measure bone makes a ring. (4-4)
5. Cockney bird's resort for Royals. (7)
6. List again with vessel for giving back. (10)
- 9, 18. Sport a jot snapped inside the mound. (3, 4, 3, 4)
12. Worried Sikh! Flap used for drink. (3,5)
14. King over stile breaks tissue. (7)
16. Slide step in growing lissome without order. (6)
19. American Queens as employers? (5)
20. The beasts 10 in 1 won't go? (4)

Prize first correct entry drawn out of the hat will receive £4 worth of Real Ale

Closing date 20th June

"Will Mr J. Dalton of Sutton, winner in April, please contact us as we have mislaid his address"

LOCAL CONTINUED

• MORE TAP

TONY WATSON, popular landlord of the ALEXANDRA in Wood Street, Barnet has persuaded Truman's to replace his two air-pressure pumps with conventional beer engines serving Tap bitter.

Most readers will be aware that Tap bitter is widely available in Truman houses but generally it is served on an air-pressure system that was designed to mislead the public by looking like a genuine handpump.

CAMRA's Enfield & Barnet Branch had lent Mr. Watson a beer engine for a trial period, but when Truman's were asked to install it they very promptly installed two of their own.

The Branch would also like to thank Dave and Joan Scanlon of the FIVE BELLS in East Finchley. When they heard that the Branch planned to hold a lunchtime May Day holiday social in their Good Beer Guide-listed pub, they arranged with Truman's to be able to supply Tap bitter at half price for the session.

Looking back through the Branch diaries, it transpires that the 31p per pint charged for Tap bitter was the average beer price in London during June 1977. Just four short years ago.

• MORE MACS

Reports have been received indicating the hand-pump installed some month's ago in the QUEEN'S ARMS in Barnet has actually been used to serve some beer.

For a long time, it stood proud on the pub counter sporting a brand new McMullen's Country Bitter pump clip. But customers who specified from the handpump writes DEREK SMITH, were told it was off, not on, broken, didn't work etc.

Now it seems more than a fair chance that discriminating bitter drinkers in the Saloon Bar will get what they ask for. The brewery hasn't seen fit to install a pump in the Public Bar but correspondents report an additional pump in the Saloon. Perhaps this might be used for Mac's famous AK mild but, judging by current brewery policy, we doubt it.

VITAMINS

I was surprised to read in Alan Greenwood's Beer Diary in the April 'London Drinker' that: "Beer is a good wholesome beverage, rich in vitamins and minerals. It is a modest stimulant for relaxation and conducive to good company."

Now I will agree that, taken in moderation, alcohol (beer, if that is the way you like to take it) is conducive to good company and makes most people feel more relaxed. The fact is that it is not a stimulant, it is a central-nervous-system depressant.

Though beer, taken in moderation, is a wholesome beverage, fairly high in calories and a nice addition to a well-balanced diet, it is not rich in vitamins or minerals. One of the first things that alcoholics need when they enter hospital is injections of vitamins.

I enjoy reading 'London Drinker' and I enjoy a good pint. But it does not help the credibility of our movement if we publish incorrect or misleading information.

R.J. Peel
London, N6

Letters

TRY AGAIN

Referring to the April issue of your excellent magazine, I share your regret that the "real ale" bar was not allowed to open in Palmers Green. I hope the applicant will try and try again!

You were kind enough recently to publish the fact that the Wood Green Labour Club was now selling Courage Directors bitter. You may be interested to learn that the club has doubled the sales of Directors due to the enthusiasm of the Stewards and, I am sure, your publicity.

I know that a few CAMRA members are members of the club and perhaps it might be possible for a Branch Meeting to be held in the club one day.

C.J. Richell,
London, N13.

NEWS & VIEWS

OUR GLORIOUS FREEDOMS

MODERATE DRINKERS live longer than non-drinkers. This is the sort of uplifting information we may expect from a new advertising move to celebrate the delights of drink.

Alcohol, like tobacco, is not too popular in certain quarters and the ethic of whether or not one should be allowed to advertise it is being questioned. The Advertising Association, according to 'Campaign', is worried. But the industry has rallied round: magazines and poster contractors have offered space – free – for a drinks campaign and radio and TV may follow.

"The campaign" according to "Campaign" "... is aimed at opinion formers in Government, the medical profession, pressure groups, the media It is intended to show that alcohol contributes positively to the quality of life in Britain."

How very true! Among the ideas put forward are that alcohol in moderation is good for you; that the duty collected is greater than the cost of the Health Service or the Army, that the pub is good for you. One of the likely slogans is "the fact that moderate drinkers live longer than non-drinkers may be hard to swallow."

Any of you still feeling guilty?

● WATER NEWS

LAGER, VODKA among the others competing for the fastest-growing drink is good old water. Not the fluoride-added, effluent-recycled tap variety but the stuff that comes straight out of the spring, the stuff that can cost more than 50p a bottle in the shop.

Just as lager and vodka are foreign drinks, so is the market for mineral water in this country dominated by Perrier, which claims over 40% of total sales. Perrier is exceptionally bubbly and otherwise without flavour, to the extent that someone once wrote that the reason so many people drink it must be because they

reckon that anything so gassy and unpleasant must do you good.

It is at least genuine. The leading British brand comes from the Malvern Hills and is marketed by Schweppes, who now intend to push Malvern as a rival to Perrier. Surprisingly, perhaps, given the experiences of British lager and vodka merchants, they are not going to change the name to 'Le Malvern'. In fact, they will underline that this is our very own British water, fit for bulldogs and all that.

The catch lies elsewhere. While the pure Malvern water beloved by whisky drinkers will remain, the brand which will get all the promotion and hard-sell is going to have gas added to it!

● COSTA PLENTY?

ALAN GREENWOOD describes the San Miguel brewery of Malaga on another page. We now learn that Truman are going to import the beer – in 16oz cans – and it will be test-marketed in London.

Unworried by the fact that an earlier attempt to launch San Miguel in Britain fizzled out, Truman say they are confident that it will go down well with returning British holiday-makers. Their Managing Director, Mr Fenwicke-Clennel, claims that the "Brand is already familiar to a significant proportion of its target consumers."

However the beer, a Premium lager, is likely to cost more than those of similar strength.

● LAST MONTH'S MISTAKES

We were wrong to state, in the piece 'Alcohol And You', that "men in the North were likely to consume nearly half their weekly intake in one session." Further reading of the table concerned suggests that we should have said that nearly half the men drank four or more pints at a single session during the week. A much more likely story.

The OLD WHEATSHEAF in Enfield sells Taylor Walker beers, not Wethered's.

Finally, we think we were wrong to imply that Bass' Zamoyski might be some kind of fake Russian vodka. Slavonic Linguistics is not our strongest subject, but we understand that we should rather have implied that it was some kind of fake Polish vodka.

● KIDS' STUFF

THE NATIONAL UNION of Students has made deals with four of the major breweries: Allied, Courage, Scottish & Newcastle and Watney Mann. Discounts of between 5% and 20% will be allowed on all beers which these companies supply to Student Unions.

Unions buy over 150,000 barrels of beer a year, worth about £12m.

● NO CELEBRATION

THE PROPOSED Beer Festival in July to coincide with the Royal Wedding is unlikely to happen. CAMRA were hoping to put something on at Alexandra Palace, but the plans have fallen through.

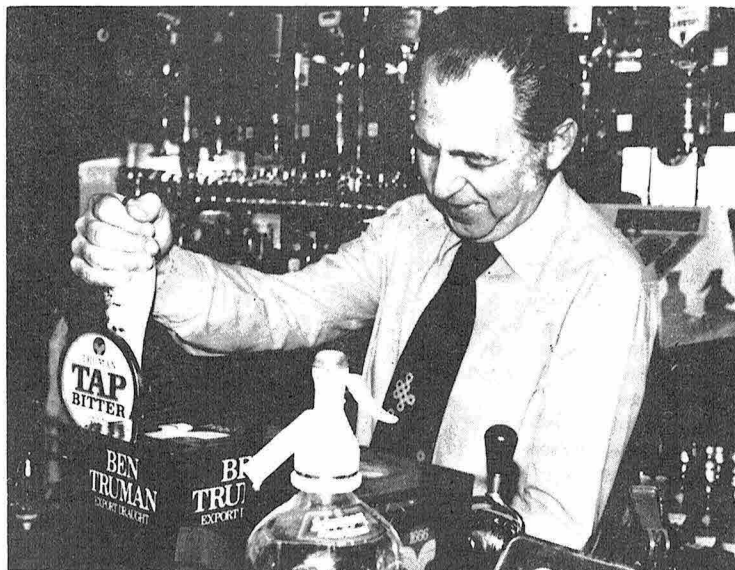
TAYLOR WALKER SCANDAL

The launch of Taylor Walker Bitter must be one

of the least auspicious ever, according to CAMRA's North London branch. Originally the branch was extremely pleased at the number of new Real Ale outlets it stood to gain. But since the beer was launched, there have been serious problems regarding availability, quality and publicity. Several pubs scheduled to receive the beer have not done so. Even the pubs that have actually got the beer seem to have been supplied with little publicity, hardly justifying the launch of a new company and redecoration of pubs in brand new livery.

The worst problem has been the quality of the beer, which must be one of the main factors why the beer is erratic in availability in the pubs. In particular the beer seems reluctant to "drop bright" and over the Easter period it disappeared entirely from pubs as the beer delivered was unsaleable. Licensees who were originally disappointed not to have been chosen to take the beer are now glad to get the excellent new Ind Coope bitter from Burton. One of the pubs listed in the Good Beer Guide has insisted on reverting to Ind Coope bitter.

The situation is now that one is lucky to get a pint at all of Taylor Walker, let alone a drinkable one. Can't one of our largest brewing concerns do better than this?



HAPPY IN HIS WORK

Peter Gordon, landlord of the "Happy Man" in Woodbury Grove, N.4. enjoys pulling a pint of Trumans Tap. The beer has sold so well since it arrived a few weeks ago that Mr. Gordon hopes to put in a second hand pump.

The greatest invention since the bottle!

Corkie & Cannie products are ideal for recorking and resealing bottles and cans. A must around the kitchen. And when you decide to have a day out whether it be a picnic, boating, camping or caravanning, Corkie will keep your partly consumed drinks from spilling or going flat.

Corkie and Cannie re-seal bottles and cans... keep drinks fresher longer.



'Corkie' Available from:
Sainsbury's Hardware Department.
Boots (Larger branches with Houseware).
Timothy Whites. Gough Brothers.
Unwins. Liquorsave.
'Cannie' From: Sainsbury's
Hardware Department.
Gough Brothers.

CANNIE
Rainbow-Thompson Ltd.
PRODUCTS

FILLING THE TANK

VIEWED FROM OUTSIDE, the CRICKETER'S ARMS was a pretentious-looking building with plate-glass windows and a profusion of gilding. The pilasters were painted in imitation of different marbles and the doors grained to represent costly woods. There were panels containing painted advertisements of wines and spirits and beer.

To one side was the Saloon Bar. On the glass of the door leading into this was fixed a printed bill: "No four ale served in this bar". Next to the Saloon Bar was the jug-and bottle department, much appreciated by ladies who wished to indulge in a drop of gin on the quiet. There were also two small 'private' bars, only capable of holding two or three persons, where nothing less than four pennyworth of spirits or glasses of ale at threepence were served.

Finally, the Public Bar, the longest of all. At each end, separating it from the other departments, was a wooden partition, painted and varnished. Wooden forms fixed across these partitions and against the walls under the windows provided seating accommodation for the customers. A large automatic musical instrument – a 'penny in the slot' polyphone, resembling a grandfather's clock in shape – stood against one of the partitions and close up to the counter, so that those behind the bar could reach to wind it up.

Hanging on the partition near the polyphone was a quoit board, with a catching net below for the misguided throws. There was no table in the place, but a shove-ha'penny board was hinged to the other partition and could be folded down when not in use. The coins – old French pennies – were kept behind the bar. Above the partition was a neatly-painted notice, framed and glazed:

NOTICE

Gentlemen using this house are requested to refrain from using obscene language.

Alongside this notice were a number of gaudily-coloured bills advertising the local theatre and the music-hall, and another of a travelling circus and menagerie then visiting the district.

The fitting behind the bar, and the counter, were of polished mahogany, with silvered plate glass at the back of the shelves. On these shelves were rows of bottles and cut-glass decanters of gin, whisky, brandy and of liqueurs of different kinds.

The landlord, a well-fed and prosperous-looking individual in white shirt-sleeves and a bright-maroon fancy waistcoat with a massive gold watch-chain and a diamond ring, was conversing with one of his regular customers, a besotted wretch who came every morning and sometimes earned a pint of beer by assisting the barman to sweep up the sawdust or clean the windows. He was a very good customer. He usually remained in the bar all evening and, apart from spending there any money he could get hold of, he was well-acquainted with other regular customers who would often stand him a drink "for the good of the house".

A group of house-painters working in the neighbourhood paid one of their frequent visits. The landlord served their drinks – one pint of beer, two halves and a pint of porter. The man who had ordered them did not pay but winked significantly at the landlord, who nodded silently and unobtrusively made an entry in an account book that was lying open on one of the shelves. The round totalled sixpence, but the painter was stony broke – two days after payday.

Someone started the polyphone and a shabby semi-drunken man rose unsteadily to his feet and began shuffling and dancing about, singing:

"Oh, we'll all invite you to the wedding . . ."

"Ere! That's quite enough o' that!" cried the landlord, roughly. "We don't want that now 'ere." The semi-drunken man sank abashed and silent to his seat.

At frequent intervals the bar was entered by fresh customers, most of them working men on their way home, who ordered and drank their pint or half-pint of ale or porter and left at once. The house painters diverted themselves

continued

by watching a slapstick game of quoits between the besotted wretch and semi-drunk, and then played shove -ha'penny to general encouragement. For a while they were graced with the presence of the landlady, a large woman with a highly-coloured countenance and a tremendous bust, who was encased in a black dress and a shot-silk blouse.

The semi-drunk treated the house painters twice, the second time having difficulty in assembling the necessary sevenpence. When the polyphone was played again, he burst into a rendering of the "Bulldog Breed". The landlord's ire was roused this time and he repeated his warning more forcibly.

The semi-drunk stopped in confusion, but the landlord was not satiated. "I don't want nothin from you! If you want to make that row you can go somewhere else, and the sooner you goes the better. You've been 'ere long enough."

He had indeed been there long enough to spend every penny he had brought with him, a fact that the observant and experienced landlord

had divined some time ago. He therefore wished to get rid of the fellow before he became helplessly drunk. A burly barman appeared at a word from the landlord and, despite muted protests from the housepainters, clutched the semi-drunk man by the collar, dragged him violently to the door and shot him into the middle of the road, where he fell in a heap almost under the wheels of a brewer's dray that happened to be passing.

As he was ejected the man indignantly cried "It's ort the likes of me that you gets your bloody livin'!"

The housepainters were somewhat divided over whether or not the semi-drunk had received his just desserts. Readers of a more sentimental disposition will be especially relieved to hear that he called round to the CRICKETER'S the following day to apologise for his conduct, and afterwards became one of the regular customers.

(Abridged and adapted by MOSTYN LEWIS from "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists" by Robert Tressell, first published in 1914.)

Mini-Fest

A LOCAL COMMUNITY Festival to be held at Crouch Hill Recreation Centre, Crouch Hill, N8 on Saturday 20 June will be serving real ale, courtesy of CAMRA's North London branch. Opening times: 12 noon to 5 pm.

New Beer

RUMOURS HAVE been circulating for some time about a new draught beer from Truman. A couple of our correspondents stumbled upon a Truman's house in Stoke Newington which was selling a mysterious beer from handpump dispense which was simply labelled 'Truman's Bitter'. The landlord did not know too much about it, so we assume it was part of a test-market job.

It seemed to be weaker than Tap, darker in colour and 'rather bland' in taste, though our explorers hastened to qualify the latter by pointing out that their taste-buds might have been affected by the various brews consumed on their way to the pub.

We look forward to the finished article. Tap bitter is going well and the brewery is obviously keen to expand its commitment to draught beer. We hope that they are sensible enough to remove one of their processed beers from those pubs in which they install the new beer so that it is given a fair chance to sell.

REAL ASIAN BREW

discovered by LAURENCE WILTSHIRE

SINCE MANY beer-drinking British and possible readers of 'London Drinker' now visit Sri Lanka, you may wish to give some publicity to the fact that real ale is produced there by the Ceylon Brewery Co. at their brewery, 6,000 feet high and surrounded by tea plantations, in the hills near the town of Nurawa Eliya. Of course, 99% of the brewery's production is (top-fermented) bottled lager-style beer, but they also produce a pale ale and a stout which are sold on draught in just two pubs: the CEYLON BREWERY TAVERN in the town centre of Nurawa Eliya and UITD SILVA'S BAR in Kandy (3,000 feet high).

Their beers are served by handpumps. The pale ale is a strange light colour and tastes more like a German beer. Very heady. The draught stout is much better, although again lacking in bitterness. It is made from roasted malts supplied by Paul's Malsters of Ipswich.

All malts and hops have to be imported from various European countries and both brews are 90% malt to 10% rice pellets. No sugar or maize flakes are used. The chemist assured me that these draught beers are not filtered,

pasteurised or artificially processed and there is no carbonation.

The two draught beers used to be sold at bars and hotels in Colombo but suffered from lack of demand from the local citizens after independence from Britain. The brewery continues to supply the two pubs mentioned because draught beer is now a tourist attraction. And presumably it is also easier in the tropics to keep live beer at the higher altitudes.

This brewery can be visited at 10.00 am any weekday and they are proud to show you their old British copper boiling vats etc. It was founded in 1911 and is now locally managed. Of course a brewery in a country like Sri Lanka is utterly dependent on the government allowing them to import 'luxuries' like malt and hops and in the past there has been trouble. At the moment, the political outlook is very favourable. Perhaps they will make more real beer!

As far as I know, this is the only real ale produced anywhere in Asia or indeed in any tropical country in any part of the world!



Kandy

Alan Greenwood's Beer Diary

AT THIS TIME of the year, many London Drinkers will be thinking of holidays and to many that means the Mediterranean and Spain. Unfortunately, whilst there should be plenty of sun there is unlikely to be even the smallest drop of your favourite real ale. So, in keeping with caring nature of this magazine, your diarist has unselfishly undertaken an investigation to advise you on your holiday refreshment.

Firstly, spirits. They may appear cheap but, considering the negligible duty and the fact that most drinks like Bacardi and Martini are actually made in Spain, they are in retrospect extortionately expensive. Wines can vary from the very good Rioja to some very poor wines. Most are quite strong and are more likely to leave you feeling dehydrated than refreshed.

The local Sangria (wine and fruit juices) can be very good but can also contain anything the barmaid wishes to use on you, knocking you unconscious even for days. The milk is not suitable for a decent cup of tea, although it is superb in coffee and chocolate which, like Coke and other minerals, are very expensive.

The quality of tap water is most dubious and this is best avoided.

The only other drink available is beer which, being nearer to our own hearts, I feel merits a little more investigation. Never being one to miss an opportunity to visit a brewery, I trundled along to the San Miguel Brewery in Malaga. My first impression was that it looked more like a laundry, but the Spanish have a peculiarity of quite often building the front door at the back. Consequently, my first sight was indeed the washhouse of the bottling plant.

Moving round to the front at the back, I was much more impressed, being greeted with the beautiful aroma of good natural and honest malt cooking gently in the mash tun. The mash tun, like the boiler was made of gleaming copper, like those of so many decent English breweries back in the good old days before stainless steel appeared.

Water is a big problem in Spain, being in short supply, but five wells under this brewery help. After chlorine and other unwanted minerals are removed the final water used for brewing is not dissimilar to the famous brewing water of Burton-on-Trent.

San Miguel, the second brewery in Spain, produce two beers: the popular 1051 — gravity beer and a stronger 1062—gravity beer known as Selecta. Both are lager-type beers which means basically that they are made from a paler-coloured malt and, once brewed, undergo a process known as lagering. Lager is a Scandinavian word which in English translates as "larder" (a store where food matures). San Miguel beer is matured or lagered for at least three weeks until it acquires its dry, clean taste. Then it is bottled.

The fact is that the Spanish are to drinks what the Japanese are to electronics — very good imitators — so that when it comes to beers they could produce traditional real ales. They brew lager principally because it can be served chilled and is more suited to the climate but, have no fears, their lagers are a damn sight better than are the synthetic concoctions generally brewed in this country.

So Cheers! and a very good holiday.

DRAW RESULT

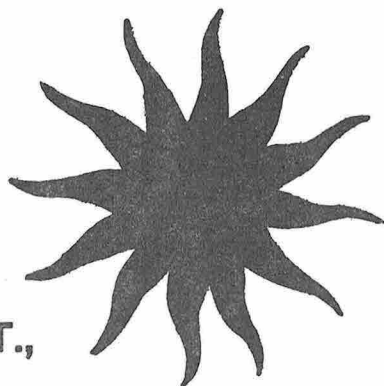
CONGRATULATIONS TO Mr. T. Smith of Clerkenwell who wins the first prize in our Grand Membership Draw. Also to Messrs. L. Forde of Clapham, S. Duffy of Kingston and R. Cowan of Streatham who come respectively 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

We have asked them to choose their prizes and will print the result in our next issue.

Meanwhile, thanks to the winners and to the other 38 people who joined CAMRA during the time specified and thereby qualified for the luck dip. The draw was made last month at the VICTORIA BAR in Marylebone Station during the launch of Roger Protz's book 'Capital Ale' (to be reviewed next month).

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TARAG

THE ANAGALACTIC REAL ALE GUIDE

Episode 9

THE HYBODROJE CRAWL

Cyclon Gehenna, the most evil and ruthless megalomaniac in the Cosmos, finished combing the thick black hair of his arms, dusted the nether regions of his insidious yellow scaly body with Cruex, which prevents 'jock itch' and donned his Superman 2017 Souvenir T-Shirt and his MCC tie. Affecting an air of hedonistic superiority, and followed by his scowling assistant Tarquag, Cyclon stepped out into the fragrant night air of Hybdroje.

Even though his mind was boiling with dark thoughts about his mission, the ultimate pollution of the Intergalactic Brewing Corporation with WV Gamma 4, he decided that a few pints and a ploughman's lunar cheese and pickle lunch would not come amiss. Especially when a night of treason, sabotage, killing, looting and mayhem was to follow.

The first inn they came upon was the BUGGERED AUSTRALIAN, a place where one could have intimate conversations of a personal and private nature taped and sold throughout the universe. The beer was fizzy and of a poor standard. It was not frequented by royalty.

Cyclon and Tarquag passed by and entered the BETHLEHEM ARMS, a crowded local. Begrudgingly, Tarquag bought the round, pausing briefly to bite the barman for giving him a short pint.

The conspirators settled down, watching a visual display unit which was announcing a price increase on beer as part of a Budget to be affected three weeks hence. Cyclon noticed the barman, still bleeding from the effects of Tarquag's teeth, wipe out the chalked-up price list and re-write it to include a new price increase of his own.

Cyclon then noticed that the bar served Jung's Special, the strongest beer in the universe. Time passed, the ale flowed and finally Cyclon passed out. Without ceremony.

Tarquag dragged his besotted master back to their hotel. "I suppose that committing the most hideous crime in the history of the Galaxy will have to wait," he muttered.

GARY D. WILLIAMSON

CAMRA BRANCH CONTACTS

BEXLEY	BILL BECKETT	300-7757 (H)	283-1000 x.2912
BROMLEY			
CROYDON & SUTTON	DAVE HAMER	647-0992 (H) Epsom	41511 x.55 (W)
E. LONDON & CITY	PETER ROBERTS	Upminster 23581	213-7374 (W)
ENFIELD & BARNET	TONY MORGAN	440-2186 (H)	
KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD	ANDY BAGLEY	399-0915 (H)	
	LOUISE JOSELYN		855-7777 x.699
NORTH LONDON	LAURIE GORDON	359-1340 (W)	
RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW	ANDY PIRSON	977-1633 (H)	
SOUTH-WEST ESSEX	CHRIS CASHMORE	Brentwood 211703 (H)	283-1030 x.356
SOUTH-EAST LONDON	MIKE WARNER	852-7759 (H)	227-3391 (W)
SOUTH-WEST LONDON	JIM SMITH	671-3482 (H)	
WEST LONDON	DI KEHOE	603-3103 (H) early evening please.	
WEST MIDDLESEX	KEITH WILDEY	423-1243 (H)	828-7733 x.61 (W)

BRANCH DIARY

THE FOLLOWING events will be held by CAMRA branches during June. For details of other meetings, please ring Branch Contact.

CROYDON & SUTTON: Mon. 8 (8.00). Pub of the month. ROYAL STANDARD, Croydon. - Sat. 13 (6.00). Social with North Sussex. STOUT HOUSE, Horsham (½ price travel on 'Persil' tickets). - Tue 16 (8.00). Branch. SHIP, High St., Croydon. - Fri. 19 (8.00-12.00). Midsummer Madness! GREYHOUND, Carshalton (tickets at £3 available from Branch Contact). - Fri. 26 (7.30). Social with South-West London. Start TWO BREWERS. - Tue. 30 (8.00). Croydon Crawl. Start CATHERINE WHEEL. - Wed. 8 Jul. Trip to Salisbury and Gibbs Mew Brewery, Ring Branch Contact for details.

ENFIELD & BARNET: Wed. 10 (8.00). AGM. MOSS HALL TAVERN, Ballards Lane, N12 (Guest speaker: Michael Jackson). - Tue. 16 (8.30). Tap conversion Social. ALEXANDRA, Wood St., High Barnet. - Wed. 24 (8.30). Midsummer Social. TRENT TAVERN, Cockfosters. - Thu. 2 Jul. (8.30). Social. RISING SUN, Highwood Hill, Mill Hill.

NORTH LONDON: Tue. 9 (8.00). Darts with SPBW. MARQUESS TAVERN, Canonbury St., N1. - Tue. 16 (8.00). Branch. RAILWAY, Crouch End, N8. - Tue. 23 (8.00). Crawl NW8/NW1. Start CROWN, Aberdeen Place. - Tue. 30. (5.30) Recruitment drive. Start SUN, Lamb's Conduit St., WC1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Mon. 22 (8.00). Branch. PRINCE OF WALES, High St., Feltham.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON: Wed. 10 (7.45). Pool & Darts with Kingston. CASTLE, Church Rd., Wimbledon. - Thu. 11 (7.45). Branch. NAG'S HEAD, York Rd., SW11. - Fri. 19 (8.00). Crawl with North Sussex. Start ALMA, York Rd., SW18. - Fri. 26 - see 'CROYDON & SUTTON'. -

WEST MIDDLESEX: Mon. 8 (8.30). Open Committee & Social. RED LION, Uxbridge Road, Hillingdon Hill. - Wed. 17 (8.30). Branch. DRAYTON COURT HOTEL, The Avenue, W13. - Wed. 24 (8.30). Midsummer Social. CASE IS ALTERED, Eastcote Rd., Eastcote. - Mon. 29 (8.30). Social. BLACK HORSE, Harrow Rd., Dusbury Hill. - Tue. 7 Jul. (8.30). Games. BRIDGE HOTEL, Western Ave., Greenford.

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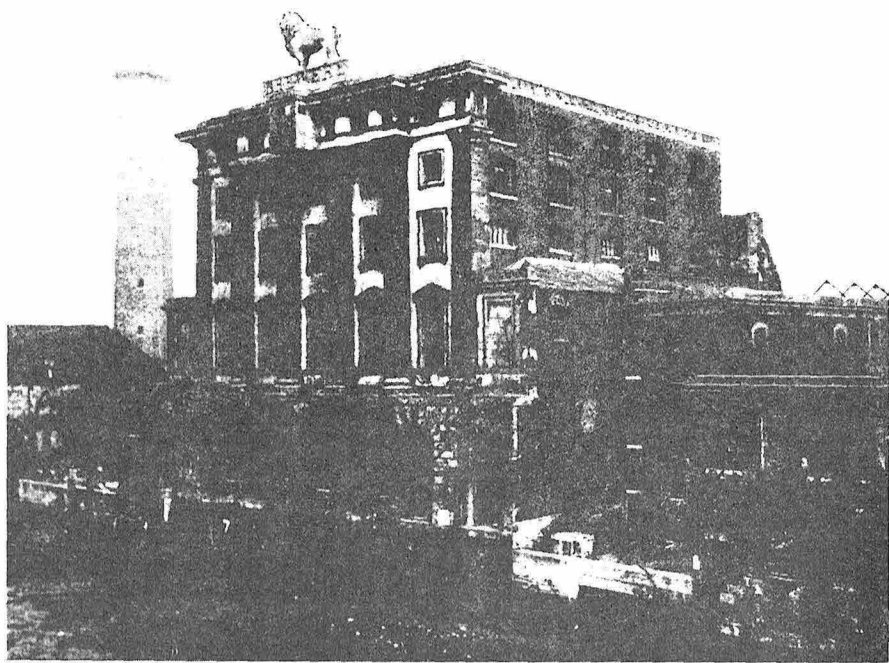
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SE1	WELLINGTON TAVERN, Waterloo Road.
SE3	HARE & BILLET, Eliot Cottages.
SE4	WICKHAM ARMS, Upper Brockley Road.
SE10	ROYAL GEORGE, Blissett Street.
SE13	DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, High Street.
SE13	FOX & FIRKIN, 316 Lewisham High Street.
SE15	OLD NUN'S HEAD, Nunhead Lane.
SE18	MELBOURNE ARMS, Sandy Hill Road.
SE18	VILLAGE BLACKSMITH, Hillreach.
SE19	ROYAL ALBERT, Westow Hill.
SE20	LONDON TAVERN, Maple Road.
SE27	HOPE, 49 Norwood High Street.
SW15	JOLLY GARDENERS, Lacy Road.
SW16	PIED BULL, 418 Streatham High Road.
SW19	ALEXANDRA, Wimbledon Hill Road.
SW19	KING'S HEAD, Merton High Street
SW19	PRINCESS ROYAL, Abbey Road.
SW19	ROYAL SIX BELLS, 22 High St., Colliers Wood.
BROMLEY	PRINCE FREDERICK, Nichol Lane.
CARSHALTON	FOX & HOUNDS, High Street.
CARSHALTON	GREYHOUND, 2 High Street.
CHEAM	PRINCE OF WALES, Morden Road;
CROYDON	BUILDER'S ARMS, Leslie Park Road.
CROYDON	CATHERINE WHEEL, High Street
CROYDON	LION, Pawsons Road.
CROYDON	MITRE, Canterbury Road.
CROYDON	SHIP, 47 High Street.
SURBITON	RAILWAY TAVERN, Ewell Road.
SURBITON	VICTORIA, Victoria Road.
SUTTON	LORD NELSON, Lower Road.
SUTTON	NEW INN, 18 Myrtle Road.

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Alan Greenwood's, 226 Kennington Park Road.

Alan Greenwood's, 252 Lewisham High Street.

2 Brewer's, 97 Dartmouth Park Road.

Bitter End, Masons Hill.

Alan Greenwood's, 1 Hawks Road.

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