

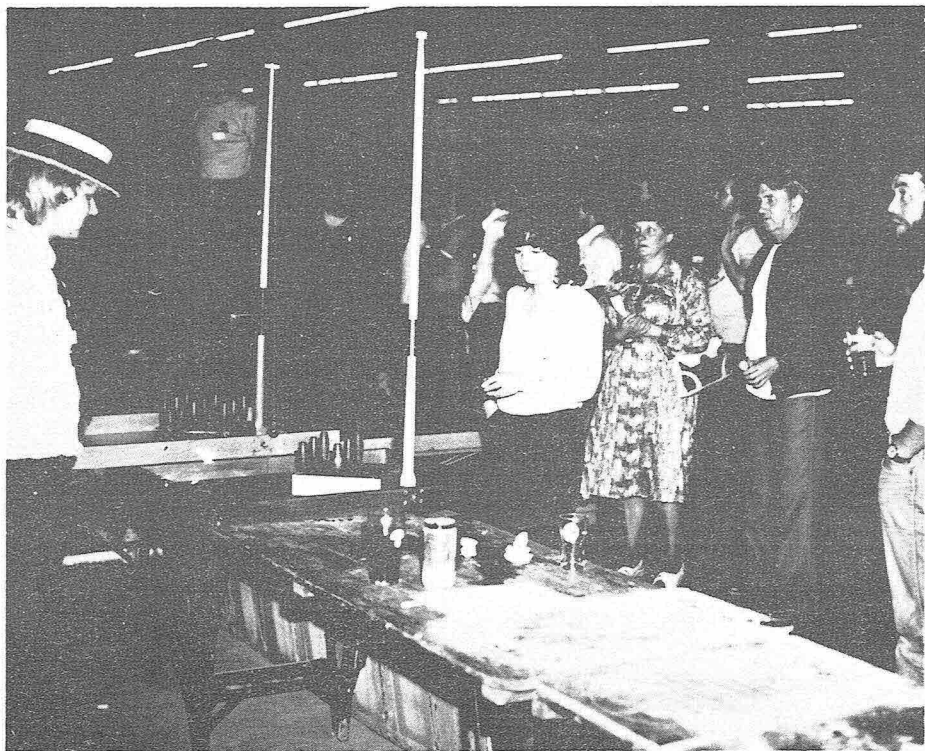
Vol 3 No 9

OCT. 1981

10p

# LONDON DRINKER

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



**Beer and Skittles at the Great British Beer Festival in  
Leeds this year**

# *The Bitter Experience*

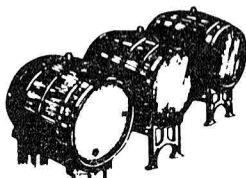
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## **LONDON DRINKER**

Contributions, correspondence and subscriptions  
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# News & Views

## ● WARE COMES TO LONDON

ANOTHER SMALL BREWERY is trying to establish itself in the London free trade. The Victoria Brewery in Ware, Herefordshire started in July in part of the old Victoria Maltings. Although the firm is run effectively by two CAMRA members, Allan Swannell and Tony Burns, it is a Private Limited Company, with 40 shareholders whose money helped to finance the project.

At present they brew Victoria Bitter, described as a 'hoppy' beer with an Original Gravity of 1036. A stronger beer may be added in time for the winter. Yeast is supplied by Rayment's brewery's malt comes from next door, the hops are brought in from Sussex and Hereford and no sugars nor additives are used.



Allan Swannell, who does the brewing, picked up the equipment mostly second-hand. He is proud of the fact that his coppers are actually made from the genuine article. Some of his casks are ex-Horselydown and he has recently been

up North to collect wooden casks which were used until recently by Greenall Whitley of Warrington.

About 25 barrels of Victoria Bitter are brewed each week and there is capacity to at least double this.

London pubs taking the beer include the **Village Blacksmith** in Woolwich, the **Fox & Firkin** in Lewisham, the **King's Head** in Harrow, the **Sun** in Holborn and the **Nag's Head** in Hampstead.

## ● PULLING AGAINST THE TIE

PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD by the EEC for relaxing the system whereby pubs can be tied to a single brewer for their products have stopped short of recommending that draught beer should be 'Freud'.

CAMRA, which believes that the tie should be modified to allow landlords to select, say, one extra draught beer of their choice, is not very impressed. The EEC plan looks rather like a sop to the NULV, who are understandably incensed at the way pub tenants are undercut by supermarkets over the purchase of wines and spirits.

## ● SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

A SURVEY conducted by CAMRA which took in most parts of the country (not London, no doubt because they could not find anyone energetic enough to do the leg work) concluded that Whitbread beers tended to be more expensive than those of other breweries.

Had London been included, we doubt whether the result would have been very different. Does any pub in the Greater London sell a pint of ordinary Wethered's or Fremlin's bitter for under 60p?

Why should this be so? We can think of two reasons. Whitbread may be simply adopting what they regard as the tactics of supply and demand. Everyone wants to drink real ale, so let them pay for it. Alternatively, they may be looking at it from the point of view of their recent miscalculations. Whitbread invested very heavily in new plant, believing that the future lay in lager and processed beers. Now they find that their keg factories are running well under capacity.

# News & Views continued

To close an old brewery is easy. Whitbread do it all the time. To run down a modern plant is an embarrassment. In our area, it is the spanking new Luton factory which has been laying off workers while the traditional breweries in Marlow and Faversham seem to thrive.

In these circumstances, no wonder that excellent Wethered's bitter costs 66p a pint in a Central London pub while nondescript keg Trophy from Luton costs 61p in the same pub.

## ● NOT BEFORE THE CHILDREN

WHAT YOU WIN on the swings . . . . Actor Peter Dawson was chosen to be the new Dr. Who. As a result, he is no longer allowed to advertise Webster's Yorkshire Bitter on TV.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has apparently forbidden him to represent an 'alcoholic product'. And the firm responsible for the advertisements was quoted in **Campaign** as saying that "as star of a childrens programme there is no way he should be advertising beer".

## ● NEW FROM TRUMAN

TRUMAN ARE EXPECTED to launch a new draught beer in the near future. It will have an Original Gravity of 1036, slightly weaker than Tap, and is to be test-marketed during October. Among the pubs which should be taking it are the **Kew Gardens Hotel** in Richmond and the **Pickwick** in Leman Street, E1. It should also be available in a new Truman pub opened recently in Archway, N19. This is the **Royal Oak** in St. John's Way, which replaces a pub of that name knocked down eight years ago to make way for housing.

There is a slight confusing over the name of the new beer, because we have been told unofficially that Truman are thinking of changing the name of Tap to something like 'Best' or 'Special'. But it does look as if there will be two draught beers available from Truman in the near future, which must be good news.

## ● GREENWICH CRAWL

EVERY YEAR THE South-East London branch of CAMRA organise a sponsored pub crawl of Greenwich. In previous years they have raised money for a local newspaper for the Blind and for the Greenwich Task Force.

This year's crawl will be held on either October 23rd or 30th in aid of a local charity for the physically and mentally handicapped. It will start at the **ROYAL GEORGE** in Blisset Hill and will take in fourteen pubs.

For sponsor forms, confirmation of date and any further news please ring the Branch Contact.

## ● SDP NEWS

LATEST TYPE of alcoholic beverage to be the subject of heavy promotion is, believe it or not, claret. After what they describe as extensive research into producing just the right product, Sandeman are bringing out something called Sandeman Claret 1978 (the year of vintage).

Perhaps they will try to sell it in cans? Meanwhile, they do not have to look very far if they wish to find a well-known personality to advertise it.

Changing the subject slightly, Cinzano are convinced that there must be a market for so-called sparkling wine. They are re-launching Asti Spumante, but in new packaging. The fizz will now come in small twin-pack bottles instead of one big one and will have a different stopper. Because women are said to dislike cork, the new bottles will have screw-tops.

## ● BRANCHING OUT

A COUPLE of possible excursions. CAMRA's North London branch may run a trip to Dusseldorf and Cologne towards the end of November. The West Middlesex branch intend to go to Winchester around the same time.

If you are interested, please ring the Branch Contacts in question.

## ● CAMRA WOOS THE ALE GROUPS

CAMRA IS on the point of offering a new class of membership to the Campaign. It will be known as Affiliate Membership and is intended for groups, clubs, societies and other bodies whose broad aims are similar to those of CAMRA

These obviously include 'real ale' sports and social clubs, or 'real ale' societies attached to works or offices or educational establishments. However, CAMRA is prepared to consider applications for affiliate membership from any body having aims and objectives that harmonize

## NEWS & VIEWS continued

with those of the Campaign.

The fee is expected to be £15. Affiliated groups will be entitled to be represented at CAMRA branch meetings, and to vote. They can propose motions for debate at CAMRA's Annual General Meeting. Copies of **WHAT'S BREWING**, the Campaign's monthly newsletter, will be made available.

If it is possible, we hope to run some kind of incentive scheme on the lines of our membership drive earlier this year. Meanwhile, if anyone wants further information about the basic affiliation, drop us a line and we will reply as soon as the final details are agreed.

**THE FORMER HENEKEY TAVERN**  
Incidentally they have not renamed it the **CITY OF YORK** but are holding a competition for the best name.

### ● IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM

**DID YOU KNOW** that **COLLECTING BEER MATS IS A FEMINIST ISSUE?** Have you heard of the **REAL ALE GUIDE TO GAY DOSS-HOUSES?** Are you aware of **POTABO - POTPERSONS AGAINST THE BOMB?** If the answer is 'You must joking' then **LONDON DRINKER** is for you. Our next issue will include all these. **PLUS** complete listings of street parties, dope pushers, skip locations, Rasta hairdressers, Szechuan take-aways and other essentials to modern living. **PLUS** the first part of **PISSED AS A NEWT** - a macro-socio-semiotic exposition by the Leader of the GLC. **PLUS** 25 identical colour photographs of Debbie Harry.

There may be, as stated in **PRIVATE EYE**, no less than 84 rivals to **TIME OUT**. But remember, the **DRINKER** is the only one of these which supports cask-conditioned beer!

## A Fishy Tale

IF YOU EVER HAVE AN EVENING TO SPARE, up the river, I should advise you to drop into one of the little village inns, and take a seat in the tap-room. You will be nearly sure to meet one or two old rod-men sipping their toddy there, and they will tell you enough fishy stories in half an hour to give you indigestion for a month.

Left to ourselves George and I found our way into the parlour of a little riverside inn at Wallingford one evening, for a rest, and other things. An old fellow there, smoking a long clay pipe, began chatting, agreed with us after deliberation that it had been a nice day, and established that we were strangers in the neighbourhood.

When a pause ensued in this conversation, our eyes rested on a dusty old glass case high above the chimneypiece, containing a monstrous trout - so big that I first thought it a cod.

"Ah", said the old gentleman, "fine fellow that - eighteen pounds six ounces. It wur sixteen year ago, come the third o' next month, that I landed him - just below the bridge with

a minnow. You don't see many that size about here now, I'm thinking. Good night, gentlemen, Good night."

Out he went, and left us alone. We were still looking at this remarkably fine fish when the local carrier came in, pot of beer in hand. "Good size, that trout", said George. "Ah, you may well say that sir. It was nearly five years ago that I caught that trout - just below the lock - caught him with a fly. I'd gone out pike fishing, never thinking of a trout, and when I saw that whopper on my line - blest if it didn't take me quite aback - weighed twenty-six pound." And he wished us good night.

Five minutes later, a third man came in and described how he caught it early on in the morning with bleak; then he too left, and a stolid, solemn-looking middle-aged individual came in, and sat by the window.

None of us spoke for a while, but at length George turned to him and said: "I beg your pardon at this liberty, sir, but could you oblige two strangers to the neighbourhood with how you caught that trout up there?" "Why, who

told you I caught that trout?" "Nobody, we just felt instinctively it was you." "Well, this is remarkable, because you are quite right. Fancy you guessing! Took me half an hour to land him – broke my rod, and turned the scales at thirty-four pound."

We thanked him for his indulgence, and when he left in his turn, the landlord came in. We told him all the histories, and he was immensely amused – "Fancy my regulars all telling you that – as if they'd have given it to me if they'd caught it! Ha! Ha! Ha! The real story is that I caught it when I was a lad, with a string tied to a tree. I was playing the wag from school, and that fish saved me a whacking when the schoolmaster saw it; he said I didn't have much to learn if I could land a forty-pounder."

He was called out of the room, and we turned to marvel at the fish – it really was an astonishing trout. It excited George so much that he

laid aside his drink – an event of no small remark in itself – and climbed on the back of a chair to get a better view.

And then the chair slipped, George clutched wildly at the trout-case to save himself, and down it came with a crash, with the chair and George on top in roughly that order.

The trout lay shattered into a thousand fragments – I say a thousand, but there may have been only nine hundred. I did not count them. We thought it strange and unaccountable that a stuffed trout should break into a thousand fragments like that. An so it would have been strange and unaccountable had it been a stuffed trout, but it was not.

*Freely adapted and abridged from 'Three Men in a Boat' by Jerome K. Jerome, published in 1889 – MOSTYN LEWIS.*

## THE ALE TRAIL

by Colin Riddett

LAST MONTH Horsham-based brewers King & Barnes launched their 'passport' scheme. Collect a passport at any one of their tied pubs, get yourself a pint of their delicious bitter or mild and ask the licensee to sign your passport. You are then on the Real Ale Trail. Repeat the operation at each of their 58 tied houses which are spread in and about West Sussex. At the end of your journey, you will have drunk excellent real ale and visited some of the prettiest pubs in the South of England. You can also claim your

prize. To all drinkers who complete the trip, King & Barnes will present either a very nice Dartington engraved pint glass or a quality British-made emblazoned sweat shirt.

So King & Barnes join the ever-growing list of brewers promoting their beers in this way. But of greater campaigning significance is the fact that at the same time as the scheme was being launched, King & Barnes' last two 'fizz' pubs were converted. Now they can boast proudly



CAMRA Chairman, Tim Amsden, offering his Dartington Tankard of K&B bitter for scrutiny by 'Sherlock' Mallard of King & Barnes.

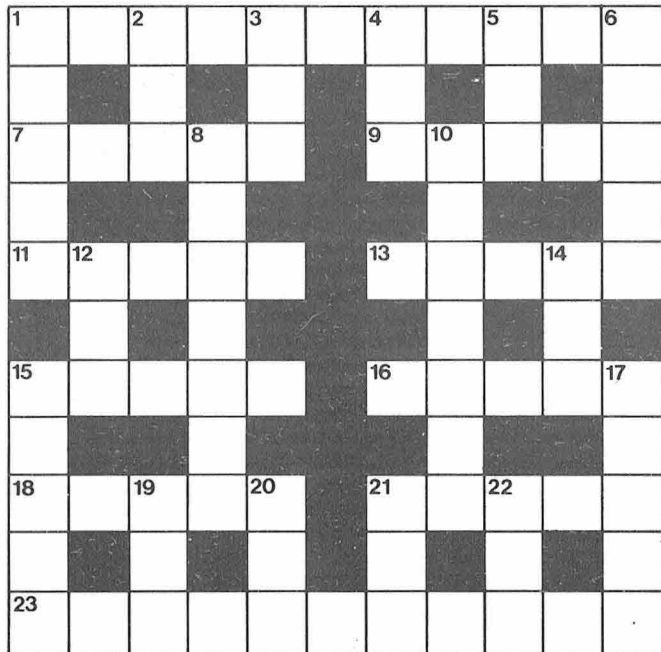
that they are 100% real. Even in 1981, this is an achievement for there are few brewers who can claim this distinction.

The last house to change was the *NORFOLK ARMS* at Roffey in Horsham. Landlord Colin Wayman, who took some convincing by the brewery, is delighted by the initial public response. "I wish I'd done it years ago" was Colin's comment as

he viewed a pub far fuller than usual.

The message is clear. Real ale is equally good news for brewers, licensees and drinkers. We wish King & Barnes all success and hope that some of their competitors will take a lead from this enterprising small brewer's policy of offering real ale in all their houses.

# Drinker Xword 26



## ACROSS

1. Ancestral beer (11)
7. Softly ahead to beg (5)
9. Lowest point of a drain? (5)
11. Hard to do the morning after (5)
13. Clean from a corner of the bar (5)
15. Street beer is not very fresh (5)
16. Not a complicated brewery (5)
18. Wardrobes even contain fat (5)
21. One over the eight can put these under you (5)
23. Golf scorer has nothing in common with 1 Down. (11)

## DOWN

1. He always has too many (5)
2. Genuine Stuff! (3)
3. Din made in part of a brewery (3)
4. Hostelry opposite 12 Down and to the north (3)
5. This with a wink might get you another (3)
6. Big common drink (5)
8. Nell in a special service in Birmingham (7)
10. Brewery with no beer and 20 pubs (7)
12. Get this if you fall over (3)
14. Every drinker needs one (3)
15. Portly ale (5)
17. You don't want to meet one of these after hours (5)
19. First man's bone the night before (3)
20. A couple of beers can give it a boost (3)
21. Can make you sick (3)
22. Means you are sick (3)

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# MARCHING OUT! OUT! OUT!

## A Tramp Round Tottenham

by Laurie Gordon

N17 IS NOT beer-drinker's paradise. With 31 pubs in the district, one would expect more than eleven real ale outlets. There are only three of the Big Six brewers, plus one free house on the outskirts, involved in giving the public a decent pint of beer.

The Underground some distance from our starting point, we are faced with either a 20-minute walk or a hop on to a bus going in the Edmonton direction. Much more convenient is British Rail to White Hart Lane.

On leaving the station, turn right down to Tottenham High Road. There at 843 High Road, selling Bass and Charrington IPA, is the **Chequers** (1). The pub is a large one-bar hostelry which dispenses beer of probably the highest quality in the area.

Retrace your steps back to White Hart Lane and mere seconds away is (2) **Bricklayer's Arms**, 803 High Road, a two-bar pub with Taylor Walker bitter on handpump. Pool in the Public and disco on weekends in the Saloon plus other inevitable distractions. The beer is as consistent as Taylor Walker can ever be.

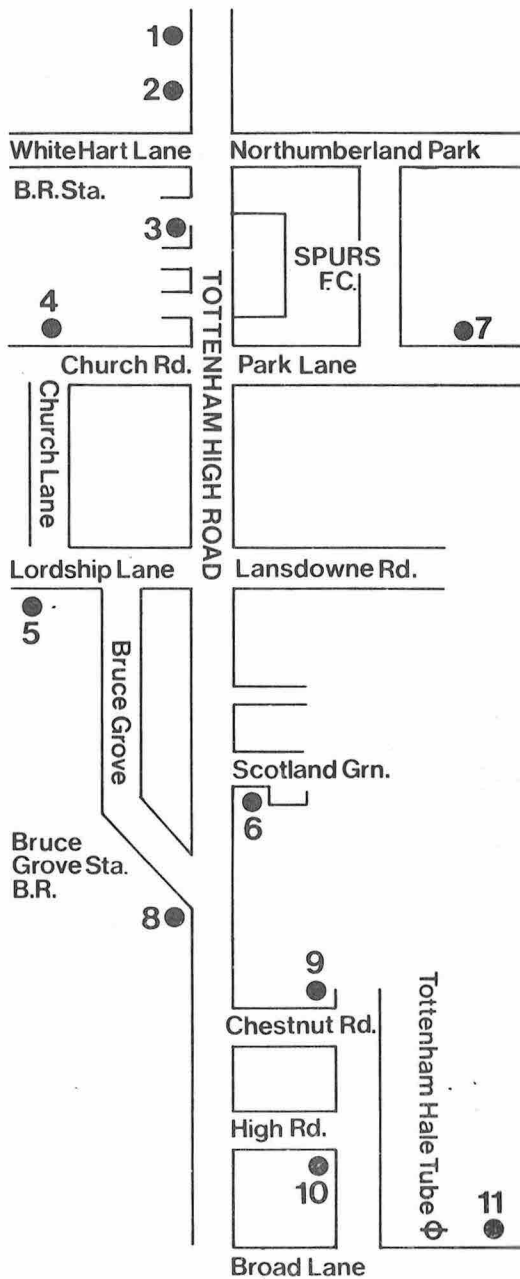
Crossing over White Hart Lane and proceeding towards a famous hooligan club you come to (3) **Whitehall Tavern**, 759 High Road, another Ind Coope house with both Burton Ale and Taylor Walker bitter. One bar, which comes to you fully furnished with pool, space invaders and darts. A popular pub with a fairly consistent pint.

You now have something of a dilemma. Do you carry on up Tottenham High Road or do you deviate to (4) the **Antwerp Arms**, 168 Church Road? This is a pleasantly situated Charrington pub which sells IPA, consistent but a bit pricey.

If by this time you are fed up with Tottenham I suggest that you follow the road alongside Bruce Castle Park into Church Lane where you will emerge opposite (5) the **Elmhurst**, 131 Lordship Lane. Burton Ale and Taylor Walker are served in this two-bar pub, which has the usual money-grabbing machines that the youth of this area seem to like so much.

And there you can get bus 123 or 243 to either Turnpike Lane or Wood Green, having decided this has been yet another wasted

evening. But no, you say, I am feeling venture-some. So turn right out of this pub, cross over Bruce Grove and canter down to the end



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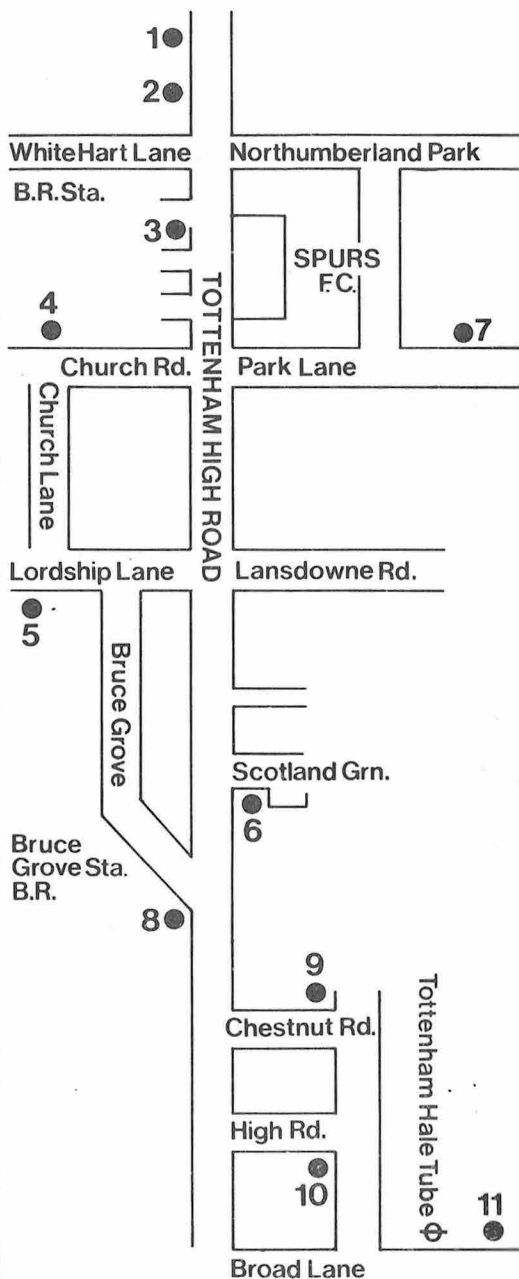
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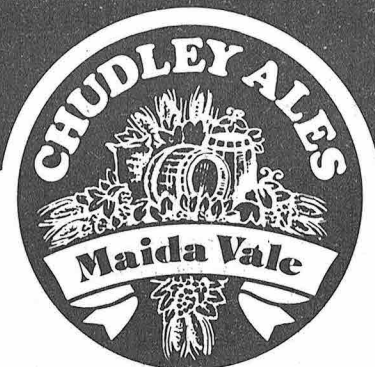
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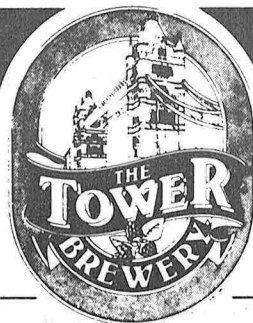
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# DRINKING DOWN UNDER

*Unreal experiences in Victoria by Nick Sack*

TO THE discerning beer drinker, the prospect of a three week holiday in Australia must sound like more of a punishment than a pleasure – perhaps even as the first prize in one of those crooked competitions where the second prize is a six week holiday in Australia. But earlier this year I turned my back on Fullers and Youngs, ventured forth to the Antipodes and came across one or two surprises.

Despite its enormous size (almost the area of the USA), Australia accommodates only nine brewing companies, although most of these brew in more than one city. The well-worn cliché of the thirsty Australian and his ice-cold Fosters is in need of a timely up-date; Fosters is but one of a total of eighty brands brewed in the country, and although some differences in palate are slight indeed, this is a respectable number for a country supporting a population of only twelve million.

Fosters is actually brewed by Carlton United Breweries in Melbourne, the base for my holiday, and is one of a range of eleven bottom-fermented beers produced by the company. Far more popular is the ubiquitous Carlton Draught, with its well-fermented, slightly sweet taste and distinctive amber colour. Rather more acceptable to my palate are the bottled Victoria and Melbourne Bitters, both actually lager-beers, although the latter has a fairly pleasing well-hopped, bitter taste. Carlton also brew a dark Double Stout, but this is disappointingly low on flavour, lacking any characteristic roasted barley taste suggested by its name.

Melbourne pubs are dominated by the Carlton Brewery, and most sell the same range of beers, but pubs in the city centre are thin on the ground. The Coach and Horses in Flinders Street is a comfortable and reasonably-priced bar with waitress service, well-frequented by the legal profession. In nearby Swanston Street, the Stage Door Bar was on the occasion of my visit tended by a young man who during his study at Oxford University had evidently grown quite fond of “warm English beer”. This bar sports the increasingly common video projector and large screen, a feature not to be found down the road opposite Flinders Street Station in the Young and Jacksons Pub, which is a truly basic drinking shop with bare walls and scrubbed floors, and which is, I am informed, out of bounds for women.

Like their railway gauges, the Australians have different glass sizes in the various states. In Victoria, the most common measure is simply the Glass, holding slightly more than a third of a pint. Also available is the Pot (half-pint), and the not-surprisingly rather rare Pony which accommodates only a fifth of a pint. But despite these small measures, the Australians are big drinkers, and their high position in the World table of consumption per head is no doubt maintained with the help of the Jug, a self-descriptive large vessel periodically topped up at the bar and shared round at the table. Licencing hours in Victoria are 10 am to 10 pm (except on Sundays when pubs remain closed), but despite this temptation most beer is consumed in the home where a well-stocked fridge is an absolute must.

Most Melbourne suburbs are well-served by large Carlton pubs, but Eltham's eponymous Tavern is a rare Victoria outlet for Tooth's beers. Brewed in New South Wales, these have a drier, hoppier palate than most, although of course they are filtered and pasteurized, and served at the standard ferociously cold temperature. Just out of town, the St Andrews Pub is another Carlton house, set in delightful rural surroundings and the regular haunt of a wide variety of country people. Beards and bush-hate are much in evidence, and the boisterous atmosphere is something to savour, if not the beer. But a surprise was in store because this pub stocks the naturally-conditioned, bottled Cooper's Sparkling Ale, brought in from Alelaide where it is fermented and conditioned in wooden casks. Coopers Ale proved a welcome change with its generously-hopped flavour and characteristic cloudy colour and yeasty sediment.

Finally, a word about food and wine. Most pubs in and around Melbourne serve excellent roast meats, Steaks and fish, garnished with adventurous salads, at very reasonable prices; my companion and I were able to eat well for around eight dollars (about £4) for the two. Comparable food in England is generally of poorer quality and costs over twice the price. And don't forget Australian wine. Both red and white are most agreeable, extremely cheap, and provide a welcome respite from Carlton Draught!

James Paine's

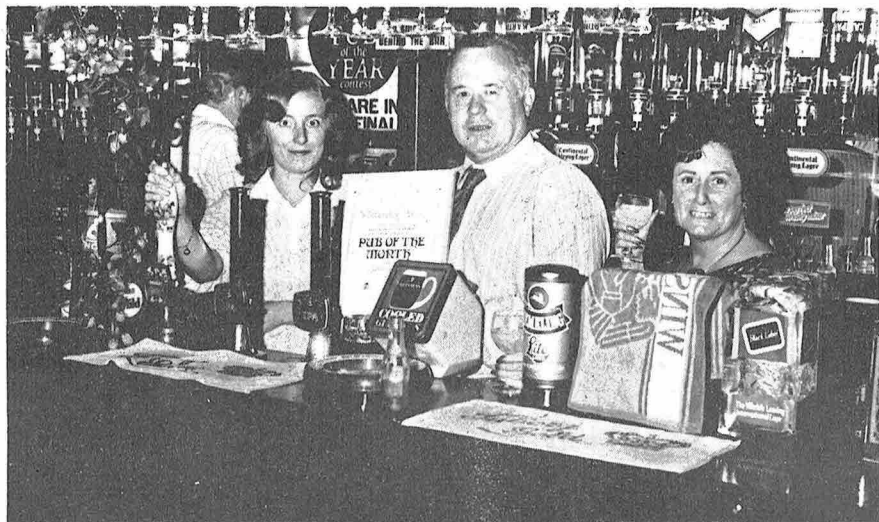
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**FINE TRADITIONAL ALES  
FROM A COUNTRY BREWERY  
ST. NEOTS, CAMBS.**



# LOCAL



## ● PRIZE PUBS

OUR PICTURE SHOWS landlord Ron Coulston of the Wattenden Arms, Old Lodge Lane, Kenley receiving his 'Pub Of The Month' award from CAMRA's Croydon & Sutton branch. The pub is tucked out of sight somewhere near the Kenley Aerodrome (where ever that is) but is something special, as it also reached the final six of the EVENING STANDARD 'Pub Of The Year' competition.

It wins a glowing report from the branch's ROGER FARENDEN, who praises its excellent food which is available during the lunch hours and in the early evening. We are pleased to include it in our Bargain Beers listing, as all the beers are reduced to 50p between 5.30 and 7 p.m. Draught beers are Bass and Charrington IPA.

We should also like to congratulate the winner of the STANDARD trophy, which turned

out almost inevitably to be a Young's pub. This year it was the RAILWAY BELL in Canning Street, SE19.

## ● BTH JOINS TF

AFTER THE good deeds of British Rail's Traveller's Fare, their British Transport Hotels are getting into the act. The Great Northern Hotel next to King's Cross Station has opened a new bar which sells real ale.

The beers in question are Ruddell's bitter and County, at 59p and 69p respectively. Others may be added, though the bar (called 'Potters', believe it or not) seems too small to become an all-purpose beer exhibition.

We hope the venture is a success and that it breeds imitators. We recall some years ago staying at the Royal Victoria in Sheffield, a typical BTH mausoleum built in the days when hotels were palaces and not glass boxes.

Staggering in after closing time we thought about a swift nightcap before turning in. Resplendent in our armchair in the lounge, we summoned the waiter and enquired whether the hotel sold Worthington White Shield – it being pretty obvious that they did not serve draught beer.

The waiter shook his grizzled head and gave an apologetic smile. "I'm sorry, but we don't serve anything good like that in here!"

## ● BARGAIN BEERS

AFTER THE SILENCE comes a flood of news. Thanks very much everyone and keep it up.

We have mentioned already the WATTENDEN ARMS. Others in the South East corner of our empire include the SUN in North Street, Carshalton which sells Ind Coope Burton bitter at 50p (public) and 51p (Saloon) a pint at all times. Also the CAVALIER in Wallington Square, Wallington which has a Happy Hour on Monday-Thursday between 8 and 9 pm. All the beers are reduced by 25%, which works out at roughly 50p a pint. The BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Charlotte Street, EC2, Lunchtime 12-2 pm. Mon-Fri. an ordinary bitter at 56p a pint.

Some months back we mentioned the LORD WELLINGTON, 132 Weston Street, SE1 as a possibility. Nothing happened, until we suddenly received two separate accounts. The pub sells Ringwood bitter and Young's Special and these are reduced to 40p a pint at certain times. According to Mr. S. ROONEY of Pimlico, this happens between 11.00 and 3.00 on Mondays – Friday. According to TONY AYTON of East London, this happens before 7 pm. Add these up and you have plenty of cheap drinking time.

Another double header for Welch Bros. of 130 East Finchley High Road, N2 IRVIN MORGAN of Tetherdown, N10 tells us that they knock 10p off their several draught beers between 5.30 and 7.30 on weekday evening and throughout Sunday lunchtime. Shortly after we received his letter, the pub got in touch to arrange sales of the DRINKER and also to pass on the news.

Which leads us on to ask all landlords: if you sell beer at reduced prices, run Happy Hours or do anything else in that line, please let us know. Don't wait for your friendly CAMRA member to drop us a line, because some of them are worse than useless!

The KING EDWARD VI in Bromfield Street, N1 reduces its Wethered bitter to 50p a pint between 5.30 and 7.30.

To recap on previous entries. The ROYAL CONNAUGHT in High Holborn; the MOON in Bloomsbury; the PIED BULL in Streatham; the ISLAND QUEEN in Islington; the WENLOCK ARMS in Shoreditch; The SHIP & SHOVEL in Charing Cross; the WELLINGTON in Waterloo; The OLD WINDMILL in Hadley Highstone and MARLERS in Islington.

## ● MERMAID IN THE DRINK

THE BAR IN the revamped Mermaid Theatre near Blackfriars Station now serves cask-conditioned beers. Those from Greene King, Wells and Shepherd Neame are currently on tap and prices are in the low 60s per pint.

The handpumps have a peculiar mechanism which is quite fascinating to the uneducated eye.

## ● HAMPSTEAD BLUES

A RECENT crawl round the Hampstead area was not to the liking of TONY BAKER and he has written to us with his complaints.

Some of these would probably apply to other areas, but we were struck by the fact that three out of the seven pubs he visited did not, in his view, have an adequate number of bar staff on duty. These were the HORSE & GROOM, the NAG'S HEAD and the WELLS HOTEL.

With the recession no doubt the minds of people towards economy, both true and false, we wonder if other readers have noticed any increase in the length of time it takes for them to be served.

## ● A WORTHY GESTURE

ELSEWHERE WE have referred to the new Truman pub, the ROYAL OAK. Apart from the beer, it has the advantage of being specially designed with the needs of disabled people in mind.

The toilets have facilities for the disabled. Also there are no stairs in the interior of the pub, although it is built on different levels. Only ramps.

Others please copy, and we congratulate Truman on a gesture which is suited to this International Year Of The Disabled.

## ● A FAMOUS NAME REVIVED

GET OUT YOUR cheque books! Join American Express! Chef & Brewer have opened another CLARENCE.

This companion to the famous Whitehall drinking den is in Old Brompton Road and sells Godson's Black Horse, Truman Tap, Adam's bitter and others.

Actually, we should not joke about the price because we understand that they have been very accommodating the CAMRA members and that some beers are reduced. Details, please.

## ● CURTAINS FROM THE COMPTON

A NICE TOUCH from the landlord of the COMPTON-ARMS in Canonbury. Just before

their recent beer in Highbery Fields, some of North London's CAMRA people were in the pub chatting to him. He asked them how they were going to keep the barrels cool, and the answer was that they didn't know.

"Take my curtains, dunk them and use them for lagging" he offered. Shortly afterwards the drinkers in the pub were startled by strange men clambering over the tables and pulling down the curtains. The beer came out fine and the branch is very grateful.

## ● LUCKY SMOKES

AN UNUSUAL triumph for the HOPE, a Young's pub in Norwood High Street. Winston Cigarettes are running a promotion trip to America with 100 prizes.

HOPE regulars have won two of them.

# TARAG

## THE ANAGALACTIC REAL ALE GUIDE

### EPISODE 12 TRIAL ON HYBODROJE

After the bodies had been removed and the remaining supplies of Deadwater beer destroyed the festival continued. It was a great success. Lazarus was carried away over the shoulder of Herbert, who cursed and said that carrying this reprobate off was not his idea of picking someone up. Laclair and Graafian followed, both subdued by drink.

Meanwhile, Mikill had caught Cyclon and Tarquag. Forcefully he strode away with his captives struggling pitifully, one under each arm. Mikill turned the prisoners over to the Galactic Police and, with the satisfaction of knowing that the evil Cyclon Gehenna and his henchman Tarquag faced public trial the next day, walked back to Security Section. Here he was frozen in suspended animation, ready to be called upon for the next festival.

As the following dawn broke on Hybodroje, the crowds massed in the Central Stadium for the public trial of Cyclon Gehenna. They rose as the Supreme Lord High Judge of Hybodroje shuffled in. He wore a long black cape which hung from his slightly stooped shoulders. He had black plastic-framed spectacles on his nose. His hair was grey, sparse and parted on one side. He carried a large bag of golf clubs and a framed picture of a strange woman.

Carefully he placed his golf clubs down, put the picture on his bench, looked at it and crossed himself. The Supreme Lord High Judge then began the proceedings. His name was Dennis.

The defendants stood in the dock. The Clerk of the Court read the charges. "Cyclon Gehenna, alias Ant. W. Benn, Also known as the most evil being in the Universe, you are charged as follows." He paused. "That with malice aforethought, you did poison several casks of beer at the Hybodroje festival causing the untimely demise of four persons. Let it be known that the penalty for beer poisoning is death. Now Cyclon, how do you plead?"

Tarquag interrupted. "He's guilty. He made me do it. He..." Tarquag was rudely interrupted by a savage blow to the head. Cyclon was forcibly restrained by two large members of the Galactic Police.

Cyclon grinned at the Court. His yellow-hued skin seemed to glow. He looked about with his seven red eyes and spoke. "If it please the Court (Supreme High Court Judge Dennis woke up) I plead innocent. What I did, I did for the benefit of beer drinkers throughout the Universe. Let me explain."

GARY D. WILLIAMSON

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Polypins off the shelf. Glassware.  
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# THE LINDEN DRUNKER COLUMN

I ask you, what kind of sense does it make? The big brewers are spending our money like water. (Given the quality of some of their products that might seem not unreasonable. But surely we have a right to expect more?) Whitbread are the latest miscreants. The company has announced yet another brewery closure — at Tiverton in Devon. Falling sales are blamed, but we — and the 82 workers being put on the dole — should not forget that the company's profits are still rising.

Whitbread has spent money on doing up Tiverton in recent years so its closure is a genuine surprise. Now west country pubs in the Whitbread empire will be served from such local breweries as Cardiff, Magor and Ports-mouth.

The news comes just two months after Whitbread closed the Romsey brewery in Hampshire. Both Tiverton and Romsey were famed brew-houses in the days of Strongs and Flowers. But, apart from the loss of traditional brews, what is most striking about all this is the absurd waste of money. Whitbread has had to close Tiverton and Romsey — as well as the small Wateringbury brewery in Kent, which shuts in January — because of a gigantic planning cock-up.

Whitbread, like most planners, love drawing straight lines on graphs. What goes up, they reason, must carry on going up. So the beer boom of the mid-1970's would become the boom of the 1980's. Not so. Sales have plummeted largely because of the high prices we are being asked to pay to finance the extra brewing capacity which is now not needed. Whitbread spend £30 million to build its giant stainless steel fizz-only beer factory on the banks of the Severn estuary near Newport to serve the boom. Now, rather than doing the gentlemanly thing and mothballing Magor, the company is shutting down the breweries which were once the backbone of its empire.

If it were the shareholders who were feeling the draught I wouldn't mind. They put the current crop of dithering directors in post, after all. But it isn't. The directors are still there;

share dividends rise and profits boom. It's the customer that suffers, once again.

There is a myth that Watneys are good boys, these days. Don't believe it. If there was once thing worse than spending our money on tarding up their pubs in the early 1970s to conform with the Red corporate image, it was spending the rest of the decade handing over even more of our money to put in wood panelling and cover up the red with lashings of green and brown.

Now they have another wheeze. To celebrate the rising pre-eminence of Australian culture their startling Test Match fees for instance Watney is to put draught (yes draught) Fosters lager into 1,000 London pubs this winter. Before you laugh into your tucker bag and collapse beneath your koolabah tree, remember who pays for it. We are assured that this will be the best 'real' Fosters with unadulterated real Australian yeasts. My guess is that this stuff will go the way of Courage's great Bristol experiment with 'draught' Colt 45. You've never heard of it? Well that just goes to show.

I understand Watney are on the lookout for an animal motif for Fosters on a par with Courage's brilliant Hofmeister 'beer with the bear' idea. I suggest the kookaburra which, in my dictionary, is defined as a 'laughing jackass.'

You will have noticed, of course, the story about the Truman's brewery in Brick Lane. Hours after winning a big architectural prize, the brewhouse was discovered with water pouring through the ceiling into design award buckets. Presumably someone left the tap on.

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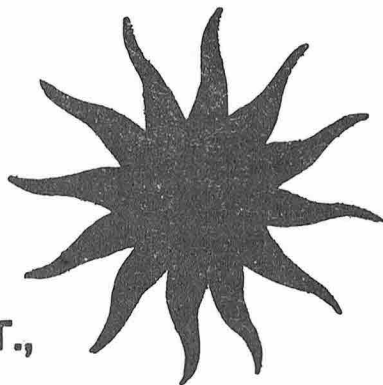
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# BRANCH DIARY

The following events will be held by CAMRA branches during October. For details of other branch meetings, please ring Branch Contact concerned.

**CROYDON & SUTTON:** Thu 15. **Croydon crawl.** Start **Dog & Bull**, Surrey St (until 8.30); then **Tamworth Arms**, Tamworth Rd. - Sun 25 (12.00). **Social.** **Prince of Wales**, Cheam.

**ENFIELD & BARNET:** Wed. 14 (8.00). **Branch** **Five Bells**, 165 East End Lane, N2. - Thu. 22 (8.30). **Social.** **Rising Sun**, Winchester Rd., N9. - Tue. 3 Nov. (8.30). **Social.** **Ye Olde Cherry Tree**, The Green, N14.

**NORTH LONDON:** Wed. 21 (8.00). **Social.** **Victoria**, North Hill, N6. - Tue. 27 (8.00). **2-pub Social.** **Prince George of Cumberland**, 195 Albany St., NW1, then **Queen's Head & Artichoke**, 30 Albany St., NW1. - Tue. 3 Nov. (8.00). **Social.** **Rydon Arms**, 225 New North Rd., N1.

**RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW:** Mon. 19 (8.00). **Branch.** **The Albany**, Station Approach, Twickenham (Speaker: Roger Crossan, local LVA Chairman). - Thu. 22 (8.00). **Social** **Griffin**, Brook Rd. South, Brentford. - Sun. 1 Nov; (12.00). **Social.** **Castle**, South St., Isleworth.

**SOUTH-WEST LONDON:** Sun. 18 (12.00). **Social.** **Nag's Head**, York Rd., SW11. - Fri. 30 (7.30). **Battersea crawl.** **Castle**, Battersea High Rd, SW11 then **Woodman**, **Raven** and finish **Duke of Cumberland**.

**WEST MIDDLESEX:** Tue. 13 (8.00). **Games evening.** **Bridge**, Western Ave., Greenford. - Wed 21 (8.30). **Branch.** **Northcote**, Northcote Ave., Southall. - Thu. 29 (7.30). **Ealing Campaign crawl.** Start **Red Lion**, St. Marv's Rd., W5.

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**KING'S HEAD**, High St., Harrow-on-the-Hill  
**NAG'S HEAD**, Heath St., NW3  
**SUN**, Lamb's Conduit St., WC1

# CAMRA Branch Contacts

BEXLEY	BILL BECKETT	300-9757 (H)	283-1000 x 2943 (W)
BROMLEY	R. MASON	464 2909 (H)	407-4466 x 294 (W)
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)	
NORTH LONDON	LAURIE GORDON	448-1692 (H)	359-1340 (W)
RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW	ANDY PIRSON	977-1633 (H)	
SOUTH-WEST ESSEX	CHRIS CASHMORE	Brentwood 211703 (H)	283-1030 x.356 (W)
SOUTH-EAST LONDON	MIKE WARNER	852-7759 (H)	227-3391 (W)
SOUTH-WEST LONDON	JIM SMITH	671-3482 (H)	
WEST LONDON	RODNEY HOLLOWS	723-2798 (H)	
WEST MIDDLESEX	KEITH WILDEY	423-1243 (H)	828-7733 x.41 (W)

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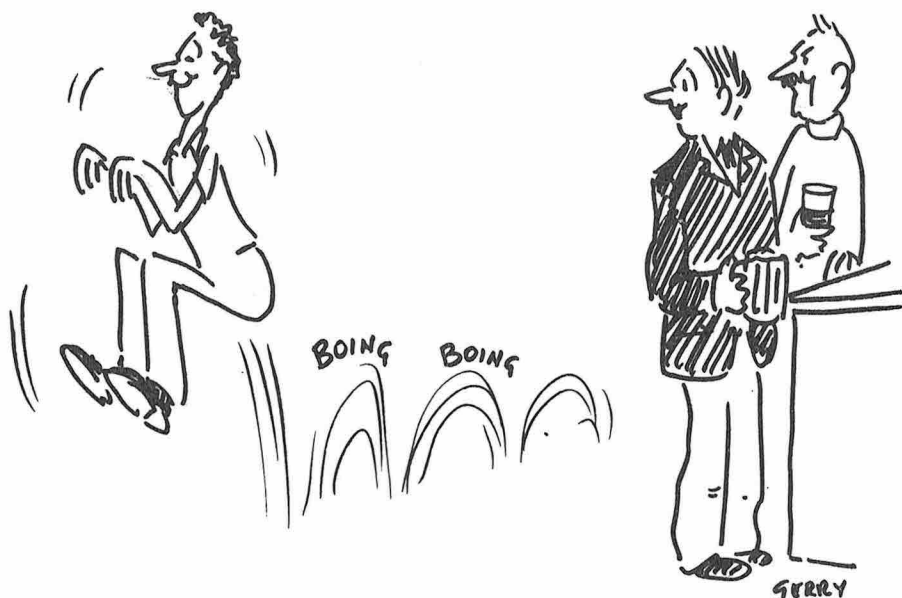
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SE13	Alan Greenwood's, 252 Lewisham High Street.
SE23	2 Brewer's, 97 Dartmouth Park Road.
SW11	Majestic Vintners, Hester Road.
SW19	Alan Greenwood's, 308 Haydon's Road.
BROMLEY	Bitter End, Masons Hill
KINGSTON	Alan Greenwood's, 1 Hawks Road.
TOLWORTH	Alan Greenwood's, 120 The Broadway.
WALLINGTON	Alan Greenwood's, 8 Butter Hill.

### NEW OUTLETS-OFF TRADE

E17	Old Cellar, Pretoria Street.
SE27	Carval Wines, Norwood High Street.
SW11	39 , Webbs Road.

# WHERE TO BUY LONDON DRINKER

## OUTLETS — SOUTH

### PUBS

SE1	GOOSE & FIRKIN, Southwark Bridge Road.
SE1	HORSESHOE, Melior Street.
SE1	LEATHER EXCHANGE, Leather Market Street.
SE1	VICTORY BAR, Waterloo Station.
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.
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.
SW16	PIED BULL, 418 Streatham High Road.
SW17	LEATHER BOTTLE, Garrett Lane.
SW19	ALEXANDRA, Wimbledon Hill Road.
SW19	KING'S HEAD, Merton High Street.
SW19	PRINCESS ROYAL, Abbey Road.
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.

### NEW OUTLETS-PUBS

E1	MACKWORTH ARMS, 158 Commercial Road.
E2	ROYAL STANDARD, 165 Kingsland Road.
E14	IRONBRIDGE TAVERN, 447 East India Dock Road.
N1	POTTERS BAR, Gt. Northern Hotel, King's Cross.
N2	WELCH BROS. 130 East Finchley High Road.
SW16	LEIGHAM ARMS, Wellfield Road.
SW16	MITCHAM MINT, Lilian Road.
SW17	KING'S HEAD, Upper Rooting Road.
WC1	LAMB, Lamb's Conduit Street.
WC2	GEORGE IV, 28 Portugal Street.
W1	BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Aybrook Street.

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