

Vol.5 No.1
FEBRUARY
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12p

LONDON DRINKER

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



STOP PRESS

London Drinker has just received reports that certain Charrington pubs will be selling Fuller's ESB and London Price in the near future.

BRANCH DIARY

The following events will be held by CAMRA branches during February. For branches not mentioned, of which this month there are plenty, please ring Branch Contact.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Thu 3 (8.00). *Social. Fish & Ring*, 141A White Horse Rd., E1 - Tue 8 (5.30). *City social. Pheasant & Firkin*, 166 Goswell Rd., EC1 - Wed 9. *Brewery trip to Gibbs Mew*. - Tue 15 (8.00). *Branch. Railway Tavern*, 131 Angel Lane, E19.

NORTH LONDON: Tue 8 (8.00). *Social. Campbell's*, 21 Bridport PL., N1. - Tue 15 (8.00). *Branch. Swan*, 125 Caledonian Rd., N1. - Wed 23 (8.00). *Two-pub social, NW6. Coopers Arms*, 164 Kilburn High Rd. and Queen's Arms, 1 KHR. - every Sunday. *Social. Lamb*, Lamb's Conduit St., WC1.

WEST LONDON: Sun 6 (12.00). *Noon social. Star Tavern*, 6 Belgrave Mews West, SW1. - Thu 17 (8.00). *Branch. Westminster Arms*, 75 Page St., SW1 - Thu 24 (8.00). *Pub of the month. Nag's Head*, 10 James St., WC2.

BEXLEY: Thu 10 (?). *Darts vs Bromley. London Tavern*, Maple Road, Penge. - Wed 16 (?). *Branch. Golden Lion*, Broadway, Bexleyheath.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON: Mon. 7 (8.00). *AGM. Leather Exchange*, Leathermarket St., SE1. - Wed 23 (8.00). *Social. Jolly Farmer*, 354 Lewisham High St., SE13.

CAMRA BRANCH CONTACTS

BEXLEY	DES WARD	Erith 45716(H)	Erith 33020 x 4 (W)
BROMLEY	ROGER MASON	464 2909 (H)	407 4466 x 294 (W)
CROYDON & SUTTON	DAVE HAMER	647 0992 (H) Epsom	41511 x 66 (W)
E. LONDON & CITY	PETER ROBERTS	Upminster 23581	213-7374 (W)
ENFIELD & BARNET	TONY MORGAN	440-2186 (H)	283 1000 x 2944 (W)
KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD	JOHN NORMAN	546 3476 (H)	Weybridge 47282 x 2659 (W)
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	IVOR BLOOR	699-7335 (H)	934 4396 (W)
SOUTH-WEST LONDON	JOHN DAVIS	670 0734	
WEST LONDON	RODNEY HOLLOWS	723 2798 (H)	
WEST MIDDLESEX	KEITH WILDEY	423 1243 (H)	965 7417 (W)

Contributions, correspondence and subscriptions (£1.40 for 6 months) should be sent to: Stan Tompkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middx.

Editors: Mike Hammersley, Ron Atkins

Advertising: Mike Hammersley
21 Melville Court, Guildown Road,
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5ER
Tel: 01-432-4389 day/0483 32597 evening

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The Views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributor and are not necessarily the view of either the London Branches of CAMRA or the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

News & Views ●

■ IT'S FLEXI TIME

THERE IS STILL time to sign* CAMRA's petition in favour of flexible drinking hours. Apart from quality and cost of beer, licensing hours are the biggest concern for pub-goers. The long afternoon shut-down has become particularly irksome while, from the publican's viewpoint in London, the trade is missing out on the heavy tourist traffic.

"We want to see greater freedom of permitted hours" say CAMRA. "So that between the hours of, say, 10 am and midnight, licensees can choose to open to their best advantage. Pubs may be dead at 10.30 in the morning, but packed out at 2.30 pm or 3 pm – just when it's time to close.

"Wouldn't it be a better idea, both from the customers' point of view and from the licensees', if pubs were allowed to open at times when people want to drink in them?"

A similar system has been operating in Scotland for the past few years to widespread satisfaction. Drinkers and publicans are happy with it and the number of drink-related offences has not increased and in some cases has fallen.

The campaign is supported actively by the National Union of Licensed Victuallers, the English Tourist Board, the British Tourist Authority, the clerk to the Licensing Justices and just about everyone who cares about the subject. Even the manager's union, NALHM, does not oppose it. Many MPs are for it and one should have imagined that a Government financed by big brewers and in favour of market forces would prove sympathetic. So – this is the best chance yet to bring sanity to English licensing laws. If the petition comes to your pub, please sign it. Beyond that, you may think that this is a good time to write to your MP to keep up the momentum. Beyond that, CAMRA suggest you take a trip to Scotland to see how the system should work!

■ THE BOLTED HORSE

ALL THE LOCAL companies in the Ind Coope empire – Taylor Walker, Friary Meux and the rest – have put their prices up by between 3p and 4p a pint. This completes the round of London price rises, we trust, at least until the Budget.

The President of the NULV was quoted in the *Morning Advertiser* as having written all the

'major brewers about prices and is receiving a "generally encouraging" response. As they have all shoved up their prices in recent months, they are entitled to feel encouraged! We are nevertheless pleased that the tenants' union has put pressure on the brewers and note that several "urged the need for a united front in lobbying the Government" over the Budget. The recent increases, though unwelcome, are comparatively modest by previous standards and perhaps the brewers are at last realising that a recession is on.

■ HEAD BASHING

A RECENT POLL has proved a setback for those who regard the frothy head on a pint as a part of the drink. An NOP poll on behalf of the National Consumer Council found that just over half of its 2,000 sample drank beer or lager. Of these, 65% were pleased with the frothy head but did not regard it as part of the measure – i.e. they preferred to pay only for the actual liquid. A further 13% disliked the head. A mere 21%, fewer than a quarter of the beer drinkers, were happy to pay for the foam.

This should interest a government waiting to see whether it should bring in the section of the 1979 Weights and Measures Act which would outlaw the head as part of the pint. We would be interested in a regional breakdown of the polling, as the head is largely a northern phenomenon while Londoners are happy to do without it.

■ HORNS OF A DILEMMA

HAVING INDULGED US with all their recent draught beers, Watney reverted to their old form just before Christmas and brought out a keg beer. Called Antler bitter, it has caused quite a stir because the price has been fixed at a maximum of 58p a pint.

Some Watney landlords have complained that this price is absurdly low. CAMRA is upset because Watney have never attempted to fix the prices of their draught beers – in fact, they used to claim that price-regulating was impossible.

One landlord who supports the price told the *Morning Advertiser* that the beer was mainly to attract people to pubs in depressed areas. He revealed that those who sold the beer would still get a gross profit of 44%, which is not bad going but obviously much less than they are used to.

■ TRUE TO FORM

A HANDSOME PRODUCTION, which is intended to be an annual event, is the *Truman*

Pub Profile. This is a free magazine produced by Truman for the benefit of its licensees and includes photos and pen-pictures of several of their houses.

For us, Truman's year was summed up by the photograph of a crowded bar on page 9. You can see two handpumps, on one of which the clip is turned inwards, indicating they have run out of beer yet again!

■ CLEANING UP

A SUBJECT WHICH has occasionally been raised in the *Drinker* is pub hygiene. A typical complaint is of "inadequate glass-washing facilities and this is the theme of *Steve Webster* of Stevenage. He mentions a Central London free house in which the Barman "did not wash one single glass properly. . . .two or three glasses were partially dunked, slices of lemon, cherry and even a tobacco butt emptied into the water and then, without even a proper agitation, the soapy glasses were either then used immediately or else left to drain for a short time". We have passed on the details to the CAMRA branch in which the pub falls. On this question, we are very much in favour of modern glass washers being installed into all pubs and would

even consider running a list of pubs which use them. We must confess, though, that one of our regular haunts operates a system very akin to the one Mr. Webster describes.

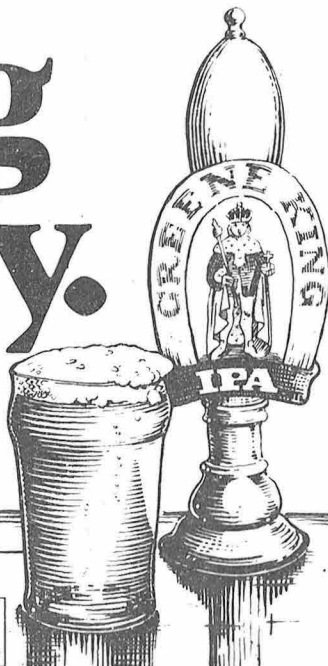
■ WE WUZ RITE

OUR CROSSWORDS MAY be full mistakes, but we do sometimes scoop the world. The magazine that gave you real ale in Sri Lanka has pulled it off again, this time a bit nearer home.

In September, we reported that Allied were intending to start a chain of free houses based on the handful of Nicholson pubs they had taken over. This has now been confirmed. As we suggested the existing pubs will be supplemented by others from within the Allied group, reaching a total of about 50.

Nicholson's pub are dotted around London, though the most famous are such City pubs as the *Black Friar*, the *Punch Tavern* and the *Old Bell*. Many of them are in a pretty rough state and renovation, including improved cellar conditions, is a priority. Several of the pubs were barely distinguishable as free houses because all their beer came from the same brewery. In future this will change.

Living history.



**Greene King IPA bitter.
Makes opening time worth waiting for.**

There is also a strong possibility that Nicholson will start their own mini-breweries in a couple of pubs which could supply beer to others in the chain.

The man in charge at Nicholson's is Alan Hall, who is well known to CAMRA and who was most recently looking after Ind Coope East Anglia. Readers with long memories may recall a letter he wrote to us three years ago when he was Sales Director of Ind Coope in which he criticised us for inaccuracies in some story about Ind Coope KK Mild and also sent us a list of the, then KK outlets. In wishing Mr. Hall the very best in his new job we cannot resist saying that we hope he has far better luck with Nicholson's than he did with KK!

■ PINCER THRUST ON HOURS

TO TIE IN with CAMRA's campaign on flexible licensing hours, we are pleased to report a splendid piece of initiative by our Enfield & Barnet branch. They have applied to the Barnet and South Mimms Licensing Division for the evening licensing hours to be extended from 10.30 to 11.00 pm on Mondays - Thursdays, which will bring them in line with Fridays and Saturdays.

The branch pointed out that the Licensing

Act 1964 gives magistrates the power to increase the hours. The Clerk of the Court advised them to inform the police and the licensed trade representatives, which they have done. The hearing of the application has been set for February 10th.

■ ANYONE FOR CLIPS?

WE HAVE BEEN asked by Mr. Mike Pugh of Cwmbra if there are any collectors of pump clips among you. He describes himself as a serious collector and is interested in buying, swaps and the like.

As his address is rather long and rather Welsh, it would be safer for interested parties to write to us and we shall forward your letters to him.

■ JOKE

Question: What does the barman in a Watney's pub say when you order two pints of Ruddell's County?

Answer: One Hundred and Eighty!!

■ CORRECTION

Our story about Truman's concern over prices in the last issue should have read: "They were now giving guidance to their tenants. . . ."

QUIZ PLACE THE PUBS

Here is another of David Carlyle's London pub poser. Can you identify the hostleries from the clues? Answers next month.

1. Which pub is next to Watney's Albion Brewery?
2. If you travel by Tube from Central London to Richmond, which Riverside pub do you pass over?
3. Where will you find an unusual complex of bars, restaurant and craft shops and perhaps have a drink on the verandah in front of a duck pond?
4. Where, with a bit of luck, may you have a pint of Young's at 5.00 a.m.?
5. Which well-known mews pub has a red sentry box outside?
6. In which City pub may you find Davey's Old Wallop?
7. Which Young's pub has a view of St. Pauls?
8. Which pub by Charing Cross Hospital was named after a breed of dog?
9. To which bar do the cellars belong where they roast and grind coffee for British Rail buffets?
10. Which historic pub stood for centuries in part of Cambridgeshire?
11. Which low-down pub may have connections with Holmes' old foe?
12. Would you believe it that a cockney was served Watney's when he asked for a pint of pigs in a Petty France battle-cruiser?
13. What is the only pub in Oxford Street?
14. While the kids are enjoying the London Dungeon, where can you sample a pint of Bass?
15. Which pub in South-East London was named after the art of fire-making?

CAMPBELLS FREE HOUSE

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DON'T COME ALONG TO
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10 p.m. – 11 p.m.

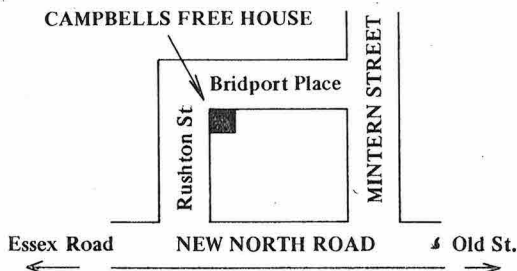
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Brewers' Empires

by Mostyn Lewis

THE GRIP of the national brewing companies of London's pubs is still secure despite recession and some pub sales. London's tied estate consists of 94% of the pubs, 88% of them belonging to the Big Six:

Allied	—	14%
Bass	—	19%
Courage	—	17%
Whitbread	—	7%
S&N	—	1%
Grand Met.	—	30%

The large estates owned by Allied, Bass, Courage, Whitbread and Grand Metropolitan (Watney, Truman) have been built in various ways. The first was the acquisition of individual pubs by purchase as a policy of deliberate expansion, just as in other industries (baking dairies) producers have sought to command retail outlets as a secure market for their products.

Such purchases may sometimes be fortuitous: brewers in the late-19th Century loaned large sums to publicans to build the florid masterpieces characteristic of the time. Many were hopelessly uneconomic - you have to sell an awful lot of pints at 3p a time to service £50,000 loans! Mortgages defaulted and brewers' empires grew.

Some brewers themselves were caught by this over-optimism and had to sell all or part of their estate to other brewers. Other companies drifted in and out of the brewing business, perhaps selling up when the family patriarch, who was the prime mover in the business, died. Sometimes, the shareholders decided to wind up the concern, sell the assets and put their money to alternative uses.

Home-brew houses ceased production when the

brewer retired or died and the pub was sold to a brewery. Alternatively, the pub's trade was tied to a brewer in return for a contribution to the cost of repair and re-decoration.

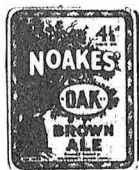
All these methods produced a situation where, by 1915, 95% of London's pubs were brewery-owned or at least the licencees were. An off feature of pubs in London and other large cities has been the way that the Licence and the 'tie' to a brewer each have sometimes a different identity. Pubs can be owned by a property company, a merchant bank, a charity, a local council or a private individual, but held by brewers on long leases as the successors to past concerns and indistinguishable from the brewers' wholly owned property.

Another feature in London is that of chains of pubs which are tied to different brewers but owned or managed by a company not connected with any of those brewers. Recent examples have been the Rose, Finch and J.T. Davies chains but there have been other examples, especially where the owning company is primarily interested in the entertainment or catering side of the pub.

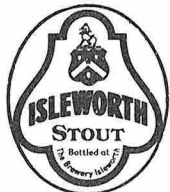
As the proportion of tied pubs in London has been constant for so long, it is not surprising that breweries seeking to expand were drawn more and more to absorbing whole companies to obtain fresh outlets. Brewers had absorbed small companies in the past, but the inter-war and post-war periods saw, not sprats taken by mackerels but good-sized mackerels being taken by massive sharks. This culminated in Courage's demise in 1971 at the hands of snout-barons Imperial.

Famous and long-established names disappeared. While some have been revived recently by Allied and Grand Metropolitan, some will never return.

In future editions, we will show the 'family trees' of the major brewers.



Noakes of Bermondsey. Fell to Courage in 1930 (Courage)



Isleworth Brewery. Fell to Watney Combe Reid in 1924 (Grand Met.)

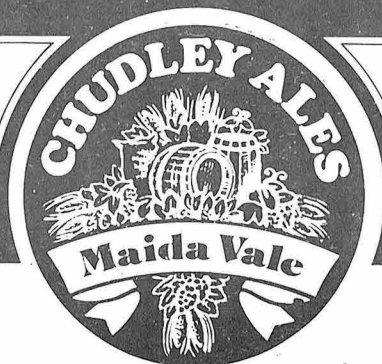


Crowley of Croydon. Fell to Hoare in 1927 (Bass)



Meux of Westminster. Fell to Friary, Holdroyd & Healy in 1961 (Allied)

LORDS STRONG ALE
O.G. 1050
LOCAL LINE BITTER
O.G. 1038



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● LOCAL ●

■ ABBEY WOOD LIVES!

THE LAST DESERT has been reclaimed. **Steve Millam**, who lives in what we thought was the 'dry' postal district of SE2, has sent details of a couple of real pubs. The **Abbey Arms** at 31 Wilton Road sells Courage Best bitter and Directors (and Imperial Russian Stout). You can also find Webster's Yorkshire bitter in the **Jolly Marshman** in Bracondale Road.

■ NEW TIES

BREWERS FROM outside London are still snapping up pubs. In Loudoun Road, NW8, the **Blenheim** has changed from Courage to Greene King. Abbot, IPA and Mild are all on sale. Gibbs Mew have picked up three pubs recently, though the only one we know that is open is the **Nelson's Head** in Horatio Street, E2. Gibbs are also testing a new beer of about 1043 Original Gravity, which has been seen in the **Malt & Hops**, Caledonian Road and elsewhere.

■ FREE SPREAD

NEWS CONTINUES to centre on North London. The Priory Road pub we mentioned in our previous issue turns out to be the **New Priory Inn**, 169 Priory Road, N8. A range of beers, with Felinfoel Double Dragon and Rayment's BBA being the less common.

The **Balmoral Castle** at 427 Caledonian Road, N7 sells six beers, including both Greene King Abbot and Fuller's ESB. Also in Caledonian Road, the former **Duke of Richmond** is now called **Tarmon** and sells Abbot, BBA, Bass, Young's Special and Fuller's London Pride. The **Clarence** in Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 is now called **Steptoe's** and sells beers from Chudley, Everard, Fuller, Ruddie, Sam Smith and Wadworth.

One to keep an eye on, not your usual pub swap, is the **Kingsley Hotel** in Bloomsbury. This Trust House Forte Hotel which has been selling Brakspear's bitter has been bought by Mount Charlotte Investments.

■ WHITBREAD FREE

MORE WHITBREAD pubs are operating as free houses. The latest is the **Princess of Wales** in Chalcot Road, NW1 which sells Abbot and Badger Best in addition to Wethered's bitter. Others are expected to follow. One of these is the **Anchor** in Lewisham Hill. Last February, we said that the pub had been renamed Kisses Cocktail Lounge (selling such imperishables as 'A pair of nickers' - cocktails costing £2). Apparently the youth of Lewisham were not over-impressed,

because it is back to the **Anchor** with re-installed handpumps selling Wethered's and the like. We hope, incidentally, that some brewery archivists are recording the dates when pumps are put in and taken out. Such information will be invaluable when the history of this period is written, as well as being material for the **Guinness Book of Records**.

■ BARGAIN BEERS

AS WELL AS telling us about SE2, **Steve Millam** points out that the **Tramshed** in Woolwich sells a wide range of beers at lunchtime for 60p a pint.

The **Princess Alexandra** in Portobello Road, W11 reduces its beers by 10p a pint between 5.30-7.00 pm and 11.00 - noon.

The **Nag's Head** in Hampstead is selling Moorhouse bitter for 62p (64p Saloon) 'controlled' until the Budget.

A new free house, **Campbell's** in Bridport Place, N1, has a bargain week 14-18 February (see advert.)

Because we are not too certain about the effect of recent price increases we are making no claims for our consolidated list. We presume, though, that those pubs marked with an asterisk still offer exceptional value.

All Day

The **Packenham Arms**, WC1; the **Hop Picker** in E2; **Dick's Bar**, N8; **Welch Bros.**, N2; the **Sun*** in Carshalton; the **Royal George** in SE19; the **Royal Albion** in Hounslow; the **Pied Bull** in SW16; the **Ranelagh**, N11; the **Crane**, SW18; the **Grand Junction Arms**, NW10; the **Castle**, SW15; the **Anchor & Hope**, E5; the **Good Samaritan***, E1; the **Queen's Arms**, NW6; the **Cricketers** in Enfield; the **Duke of Cambridge** in SW11; the **Pint Pot** in N1; the **Prince of Wales**, at Thornton Heath; **Marler's*** in N19 and the **Gardeners Arms** in Mitcham.

Early Evening

Ship & Shovel* in WC2; the **Moon*** in WC2; the **Old Windmill** in Hadley Highstone; the **Salisbury** in Barnet; the **Wattenden Arms** in Kenley; **J.J. Moons** in N19; the **Malt & Hops*** in N1; the **Red Lion**, EC1; the **Pint Pot** in N1 and the **Prince of Wales*** in SW8.

Other Evening

Leather Exchange Tavern* in SE1; **Worcester Arms**, W1; **King's Head**, SW19; the **Golden Lion**, SW1, the **King's Head**, W3 and the **Norfolk Hotel*** (Mon-Tue) in SW7.

Lunchtime (part)

Bricklayer's Arms, EC2; **Edinburgh**, SE15; **Ship & Shovel*** in WC2; the **Worcester Arms**, W1; the

King's Head, W3, the Golden Lion, SW1; the Ebury Arms, SW1; J.J. Moons, N19; the Salisbury, Barnet and the Pint Pot in N1.

Specials

The Malt & Hops* in N1 (weekends and Tuesday), J.J. Moons in N19 (Fridays); the King's Head, W3 (Sunday evenings); the Crown* in NW8 (Fridays); the Princess Louise in WC1 (Fridays) and the Norfolk Hotel* in SW7 (Sunday).

■ FULLER FAVOUR

WE HAVE BEEN a bit hard on Fuller's for not going ahead faster with installing beer engines. The following success story has been sent to us by **Andy Pirson**.

The Cross Lances at 236 Hanworth Road in Hounslow had handpumps fitted on 13 November to sell Fuller's London Pride and ESB. The pumps were fitted at the request of the new licensee, Tony Sharp, who only moved into the pub himself on 27 October.

Before that, he managed the Black Horse in Green ford for four years on behalf of his cousin. Bearing in mind the reputation of the Black Horse for its beer, this is good news for drinkers in Hounslow which only a few years ago was known locally as almost a complete beer desert.

■ PERK FOR CAMRA

MEMBERS OF CAMRA should note that a pub in Plaistow is offering cheap beer on production of a valid membership card. John McDonald, landlord of the Red House, 299 Barking Road, E13 is knocking 10p a pint off his Truman beers on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

■ COMPETITION NEWS

OUR SEARCH for cheap and pricey pints has now closed. Winners, if any, announced next month.

Early entries were mainly in the 'spectacular mispricing' category. Not an entry - and as a member of CAMRA'S National Executive, we would not let him win anyway - but a note from **Tim Webb** about a pub somewhere in Leicester Square where the Greene King Mild, a mere 1031 Original Gravity, cost him 80p a pint. That will take some beating.

■ SNAKES AND NUTTERS

MORE FUN PUBS for Roger Berman. He has converted his Southern Stars in Deptford into Razzberries, where there is a charge each night. All his three (so-far) showbars sell his Union beers on draught but no other draught beers. More of the same at the Surprise in Bowling Green Lane, EC1. Flashing lights, bar staff

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RESIDENT REAL ALES: TRUMANS MILD, BITTER AND BEST BITTER.

3 MINUTES FROM SURREY DOCKS UNDERGROUND

BUSES 1, 47 and 188 PASS THE PUB

dressed as penguins and a glass cage with two snakes, called Boris and Doris. A further 'surprise' is that both Benskin's and Taylor

Walker bitters are served, along with Burton Ale.

Real Beer in London ~ Update 11

All beer served by handpump.

ADDITIONS

SURBITON Royal Oak, 261 Ewell Rd.

Courage: Best bitter, Directors.

SURBITON Royal Standard, 68 Brighton Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

SURBITON Victoria, 143 Ewell Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

WORCESTER Worcester, Malden Rd.

PARK Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

W6 Carpenters Arms, 89 Black Lion Lane. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

W6 Hope & Anchor, 20 Macbeth St. Truman: Best bitter.

W6 *Old Ship, 25 Upper Mall. Watney: Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

W8 *Kensington Arms, 84 Pembroke Arms Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

W8 *Princess Victoria, 25 Earls Court Rd. Watney: Stag. (A rare instance of Webster's served by air pressure!)

W9 Eagle Tavern, 15 Clifton Rd. Truman: Best bitter.

BRENTFORD Magpie & Crown, 128 High St. Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

BRENTFORD North Star, 84 North Rd. Courage: Best bitter, Directors.

FELTHAM Sawyers Arms, 25 Ashford Fuller: Chiswick bitter, London Pride, ESB.

HAMPTON Jolly Coopers, 16 High St. Watney: London bitter, Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

HAMPTON HILL Duke of Clarence, 147 High St. Watney Stag.

HOUNSLOW Earl Haig, 286 Bath Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

HOUNSLOW Greyhound, 223 Hanworth Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

HOUNSLOW South Western Hotel, 158 Whitton Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

HOUNSLOW Sun, 148 Hanworth Rd. Courage: Directors.

HOUNSLOW Windmill, 45 Bell Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

ISLEWORTH Kings Arms, 33 South St. Watney: London bitter, Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

TEDDINGTON Adelaide, 57 Park Rd. Watney: London bitter; Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

TEDDINGTON Hogarth, Broad St. Charrington: IPA.

TEDDINGTON Kings Arms, 69 High St. Mann: IPA; Watney: London bitter, Stag.

TEDDINGTON Kings Head, 123 High St. Watney: London bitter; Mann: IPA; Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

TEDDINGTON Tide End Cottage, 8 Ferry Rd Mann: IPA.

TEDDINGTON Waldegrave Arms, 209 Waldegrave Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

W1 Admiral Duncan, 54 Old Compton St. McEwan: 70/-; Younger: IPA.

W1 Spice of Life, 38 Romilly St. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

W1 Store, 15 Beak St. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

WC1 Swan, 7 Cosmo Place. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

WC2 Angel & Crown, 58 St. Martins Lane. Bass; Charrington: IPA.

EC4 Bouncing Banker, Cousin Lane. Courage: Directors; Taylor Walker: bitter.

E1 Royal George, 7 Selby St. Truman: Best bitter.

E3 Cotton Arms, 92 Pauls Way. Truman: Bitter, Best bitter.

E3 Moulders Arms, 50 Bromley High St. Mann: IPA.

E4 Larkshall, Larkshall Rd. Courage: Best bitter, Directors.

E9 Eagle, Wick Lane. Mann: IPA.

E12 Three Rabbits, 833 Romford Rd. Charrington: Crown.

E14 Blacksmiths Arms, 25 West Ferry Rd. Truman: Bitter, Best bitter.

E14 Prince Alfred, 86 Locksley Rd. Truman Bitter, best inn.

E15 Dew Drop Inn, 22 Brydges Rd. Charrington: IPA.

E15 King Harold, 116 High Rd. Charrington: IPA.

E17 Artful, 80 Brunner Rd. Mann: IPA.

N1 De Beauvoir Arms, 28 Stamford Rd. Courage: Directors.

N4 Stapleton Hall Tavern, 2 Crouch Hill. Bass.

N7 Bedford Tavern, 160 Seven Sisters Rd. Charrington: IPA.

N8 Harringay Arms, 153 Crouch Hill. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

N8 Hornsey Tavern, 26 High St. Watney: Stag.

N14 Rising Sun, 7 Chase Side. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

N15 Prince of Wales, 100 Cornwall Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

N16 Bird Cage, 58 Stamford Hill. Truman: Bitter, Best bitter.

N16 Pegasus, 109 Green Lanes. Courage: Best bitter, Directors.

N16 Prince of Wales, 1 Allen Rd. Courage: Directors.

N19 Enterprise, 194 Sussex Way. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

ENFIELD White House, 570 Hertford Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

ENFIELD Windmill, 32 Windmill Hill. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

TWICKENHAM Nelson, 175 Hampton Rd. Fulwell. Courage: best bitter, Directors.

TWICKENHAM Prince of Wales, 136
Hampton Rd. Watney: London bitter,
Stag.

TWICKENHAM White Swan, Riverside,
Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

UXBRIDGE Queens Head, Windsor St.
Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

WHITTON Duke of Cambridge, Kneller
Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

WHITTON White Hart, Kneller Rd.
Watney: Stag.

* At the time of checking, these pubs were
selling some beers via DCL Air Pressure Pump.
These should be replaced soon.

If you know of any pub that has started selling
draught beer or whose details in **Real Beer in
London** are incorrect the compilers would be
very pleased to hear from you. Please write
to: RBIL Update, 2 Sandtoft Rd. SE7.

Alan Greenwood's Beer Notes ●

IF ONE IS to believe all the films, books and
anecdotes about newspaper men, ace reporters
from Brian Hanrahan to Lou Grant spend most
of their time contemplating doom and
despondency, short-lived success and continual
frustrations, whilst clinging steadfastly to
numerous gin and tonics in endless hotel bars.
This preoccupation with gin may explain why
there are so few articles to appear in the press
about breweries or beer.

A great shame, for the brewing industry abounds
with fascination, character, achievement and
innovations. In the days when there were
numerous breweries, at least one in each town,
their influence was far-reaching. They were
always the guiding forces or benefactors as they
sponsored or governed local institutes, football
clubs, hospitals, theatres, even political and
religious activities. Today, breweries wield
multi-million-pound influences and their stories
are even more worth recording.

There have been a few exceptions to the gin-and-
tonic brigade and their efforts have now become
legendary. Michael Jackson whose books on
beer have become the reference bibles for all beer
facts and information. Richard Boston, one of
CAMRA's earliest members whose articles in the
Guardian did so much to counteract the,
then, fast-disappearing, Real Ale.

Good articles also appear twice a week in the
publicans' daily newspaper, the **Morning
Advertiser**, by Richard Brent and occasionally in
the **Evening Standard** by Derek Paine. Richard
Brent and Derek Paine, who appears in the
opening shots of TV's 'What The Papers Say',
have tremendous affinity and accord to the point
that each knows as much about the industry as
the other. Brent's articles about the varying
fortunes of the industry are written in a highly
stylised manner with the constant use of phrases
tailor-made for the jovial host or jolly brewer:
'after this years heady display', 'I hasten to add
the party is not over', 'having struck a rich
profits ferment'; 'should keep shares bubbling
cheerfully'. But behind the panache of whimsical
phrases is one of the most knowledgeable,

interested and experienced observers of the
industry of our times.

Brent has reported regularly on the brewing
industry since the early 50's and as such has
covered this century's most turbulent years. He
can recall the immediate obliteration of the
original Taylor Walker within the first three
months of Allied's take over. The step-by-step
strategy used to create Bass Charrington,
Britains biggest brewing group. He knows with
impunity everyone from Roger Berman,
Londons newest brewers, to Charles Tidbury,
Head of the mighty Brewers Society.

It has been claimed by his CAMRA critics that
Richard Brent is, firstly, anti-CAMRA, but
secondly, and even worse, is anti-Real Ale. In his
defence it must be said his articles are not
specifically written for CAMRA readers but for
a cross section of the industry, and if John
Smith's, with its, Keg-only policy, is the only
part of the Courage group to show prosperity,
then that is what must be reported. In reality
Richard Brent is very aware of CAMRA's aims,
and has on numerous occasions emphasised the
benefits to breweries that have responded to the
call. Going one step further I have never seen
him touch the notorious, reporter's gin, nor the
bland lagers, about which he so often has to
refer, but I know he has been known to savour
the delights of a decent pint of Young's.

It is a hard life as a journalist. Instead of retiring
to those doom-laden hotel bars where his fellow
reporters may go, Brent keeps himself sane with
a good sense of humour, that includes avidly
supporting Brentford Football Club and
following the yearly fortunes of the famous
Granada-region brewers, Ridley & Newton,
whose financial report is always declared with
absorbing interest on April 1st each year.

If only he could be persuaded to write that long
overdue book on the most interesting period in
the industry before it is all forgotten.

* * * * *

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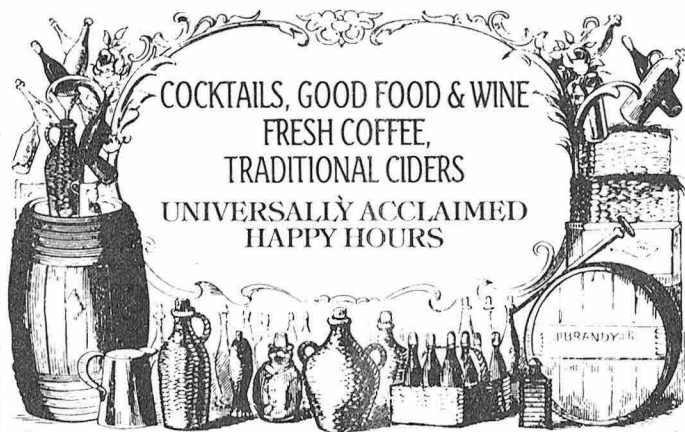
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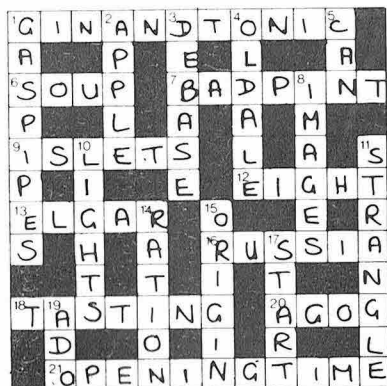


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Real Beer in London ~ Update 10

Continued from Last Issue (Dec/Jan 82/3)

Please cross check with Update 11(This issue)

SURBITON Royal Oak, 261 Ewell

Rd. Courage: Best bitter, Directors.

SURBITON Victoria, 143 Ewell Rd.

Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

WORCESTER PK Worcester, Malden Rd.

Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

W6 Carpenters Arms, 89 Black Lion Lane.

Webster: Yorkshire bitter

W6 Hope & Anchor, 20 Macbeth St.

Truman: Best bitter.

W6 *Old Ship, 25 Upper Mall. Watney:

Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

SW10 Black Bull, 358 Fulham Rd. Webster:

Yorkshire bitter.

W8 *Greyhound, 1 Kensington Sq.

Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

W8 *Kensington Arms, 84 Pembroke Rd.

Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

W8 *Princess Victoria, 25 Earls Court Rd.

Watney: Stag.

BRENTFORD Magpie & Crown, 128

High St. Watney: Stag; Webster:

Yorkshire bitter.

FELTHAM Sawyers Arms, 25

Ashford Rd. Fuller: Chiswick bitter,

London Pride.

HAMPTON Jolly Coopers, 16 High

Watney: London bitter, Stag; Webster:
Yorkshire bitter.

HAMPTON HILL Duke of Clarence, 147

High St. Watney: Stag.

HOUNSLOW Earl Haig, 286 Bath Rd.

Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

HOUNSLOW Greyhound, 223 Han-

worth Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

HOUNSLOW South Western Hotel, 158

Whitton Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

*At the time of checking, these pubs were
selling some other beers via DCL Air Pressure
Pump. These should be replaced soon.

If you know of any pub that has started selling
draught beer or whose details in **Real Beer in
London** are incorrect the compilers would be
very pleased to hear from you.

Please write to: RBIL Update, 2 Sandtoft Rd.
SE7.

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If it rots boot leather
what will it do to your stomach

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HAVE FUN IN 83

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CLAPHAM SW4
215 CLAPHAM PARK RD
01-720 6999

HAMPSTEAD, NW3.
150 HAVERSTOCK HILL
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01-669 5158.

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PM 5.30 — 9.30
7.00 — 9.00

That was the year....

NINETEEN EIGHTY-TWO was an important year for London's beer drinkers. As you know, the number of pubs selling cask-conditioned beer shot past the 50% mark. It was also the year when the recession started to bite and when organisations began to experiment with ways of attracting new customers - the two events were sometimes connected.

We decided to take a brief look at what happened in 1982, beginning with the big brewers, and to try to deduce from our findings some of the possibilities for 1983.

CHARRINGTON

New beers, old names

THE PROGRESS towards installing hand-pulled beer engines did not proceed as fast as we had hoped. At least the improvement was steady, and Charrington still have probably the best record of any of the Big Six for actually having their draught beer on sale and available in the appointed pubs.

Charrington IPA was given some modest promotion, which did its sales no harm.

Apart from Crown bitter, which is on sale mainly in East London and continues to be brewed by Tolly Cobbold, the draught beers were essentially new products. Bass is said by many to have lost its magic since the Burton brewery threw out their Union fermenters. Charrington IPA, having moved from London to Birmingham, has for the past few months been brewed at Wolverhampton. The beer has certainly changed, whether for better or worse is still not clear.

Charrington, then, plod along and one must hope for continuing steady expansion of their draught outlets.

ALLIED

You name it

Taylor Walker at last came up with Mainline. There have been problems of quality and availability, but Allied have in the past been surprisingly persistent in pushing their draught beers and one hopes that Mainline eventually slips into the groove. Taylor Walker bitter, for instance, has survived all kinds of set backs and is now generally on tap and drinkable.

With so many beers being brewed at Romford in bulk, there has been a blurring of taste and quality. Allied seem to recognise this and are supposed to be thinking of installing more home-brew kits and perhaps even starting new small breweries. This would be a logical step and Allied in recent years have been the big brewers most capable of following the logic of their

actions. The Nicholson chain should prove a good test.

TRUMAN

Great beers. Who wants 'em?

Truman's problem is the opposite of Allied's. Their new beers are tasty and distinctive so that one pays them a compliment by saying that it is possible to actually dislike them. To drink them has not been so easy. They have made no effort to cut down on the number of keg bitters in their pubs. If they have tried to encourage landlords to push the beer, this has not always been apparent.

The result: some inferior pints and lots of pump-clips turned the wrong way. Truman need to get their act together in 1983. One bright spot is their strong Sampson bitter which could do for them what ESB did for Fuller's.

WATNEY

Never a dull moment

The launch of Webster's Yorkshire bitter was probably the success story of the year. Watney also promised to replace their air-pressure systems with proper beer engines. They introduced Ruddle's County into a few pubs. They changed their name to Watney Combe Reid. They put out a cheap keg beer and tried to control the price.

This will no doubt be the year when the effect of all chopping and changing will become apparent. The draught beers have had a reasonable promotion and the smart new clip designs are a welcome bonus.

WHITBREAD

Great beers. Shame about . . .

Real ale continued to spread slowly throughout the Whitbread estate. Flowers Original from Cheltenham began to edge out Fremlin's Tusker. There were suggestions that other beers, notably Fremlin's bitter, were sometimes being dispensed from Wethered pumps.

Whitbread's draught beers, at least their ordinary bitters, are probably superior to those which the other big brewers sell in London. The trouble is that they are not always well kept, they run out at the drop of a hat (though this seems to happen less than before) and they are priced well above their keg beers.

They have changed their management structure and have experimented with everything from home brewing to 'free' houses to video pubs. Again, one hopes they have got it right for 1983.

continued over

COURAGE

Great ads. Shame about . . .

The effects of the closure of their London brewery have not been so bad as feared. The best bitter may not travel too well from Bristol, but it is no worse than latter-day Courage Horselydown and the draught form is getting into more pubs. From all the stories, there does appear to be genuine commitment to draught beer at Bristol. Courage have sustained themselves by catchy advertising and by various promotions. We doubt if this will be enough for much longer. They are said to be re-thinking, which with them has traditionally been a bad sign.

YOUNGER

Long way to go

Edinburgh is a long way off, but that is where Scottish & Newcastle draught beer comes from. They have started to sell other beers, notably Shepherd Neame, in their pubs as well as their own. It seems that the two Younger's beers, Scotch Ale and IPA, have edged out McEwan's 70/- at present.

With so many keg beers and so few pubs, Younger's are not well placed to make an impact. They have, however, kept faith with real ale since they introduced it and it appears to be accepted by their customers.

INDEPENDENTS

Whole lotta shakin'

Fuller's have bought a few pubs. Otherwise, they have hardly progressed in putting beer engines

into their tied houses.

Young's are now selling their mild via something called a 'cash breather'. This is not yet accepted by CAMRA, but if it helps to stop the mild going off it is probably justified. One of their pubs opened a Cocktail Lounge, which gave rise to the picture of they year: Chairman John Young behind the bar doing a fair impersonation of Edmundo Ross.

From out of town, McMullen, Greene King and Gibbs Mew opened pubs in or near Central London. As pubs continue to go on the market, we may expect some more.

Small brewers Chudley, Victoria, Grand Vale and others continue to make inroads, while the Bridge Brewery has opened its own pub.

FREE TRADE

Happy hours and funny clothes

Definitely where the action was. Several new or converted houses, many of them aggressively marketing real ale, though the area involved seems to be mainly North and North-East London. Several of these were new licences, buildings which had previously been shops or garages. We also saw the first 'fun pubs' where the bar staff provided part of the entertainment. With the number of small brewers expanding, with pubs being sold off and with even big brewers experimenting with free chains, we can expect plenty of action in 1983. As competition heats up, prices in the free trade are beginning to move in the drinker's favour. Our final thought is that London CAMRA should adopt a much more positive attitude towards the free trade, if only because there is likely to be a lot of it about in 1983.

A supplement to *Real Beer In London*, which will include all the changes over the past years, is to be published in March.

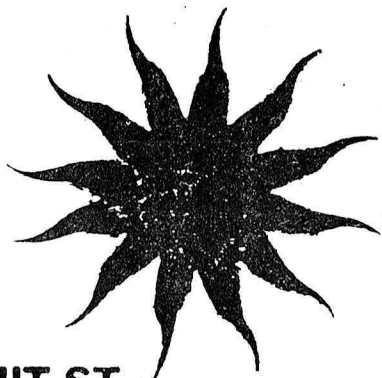
All information on the pub changes will be very welcome. Please sent to *Real Beer In London*, 2, Sandtoft Road, SE7.



When Len Mecklenburgh retired from *Coach & Horses* in Isleworth after 23 years, he was given a video recorder from Young's Brewery. Here he is pictured with his wife Eileen and John Young.

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WC1 QUEENS HEAD, 66 Acton Street.
WC1 SUN, 63 Lamb's Conduit St.
WC2 GEORGE IV. 28 Portugal St.
N1 CROWN, Cloudesley Rd.
N1 EUROPA LOUNGE, Kings Cross Station.
N1 LORD WOLESEY, White Lion St.
N1 MALT & HOPS, 33 Caledonian Rd.
N1 PINT POT, 54 Pentonville Road
N1 MARQUESS TAVERN, Marquess Rd.
N1 POTTERS BAR, Gt. Northern Hotel,
King X.
N1 PRINCE ARTHUR, 49 Brunswick Place.
N1 SWAN TAVERN, 125 Caledonian Road
N2 FIVE BELLS, East End Rd.
N2 WELCH BROS. 130 East Finchley
High Rd.
N2 WINDSOR CASTLE, The Walk, Church
N6 ANGEL, 37 Highgate High St.
N6 DUKES HEAD, 16 Highgate High St.
N6 VICTORIA, 28 North Hill.
N8 DICK'S BAR, 61 Tottenham Lane.
N9 COCK, Hertford Rd.

- N9 RISING SUN, Winchester Rd.
N10 MARTIN'S FREE HOUSE,
89 Colney Hatch Lne.
N12 MOSS HALL TAVERN,
283 Ballard's Lne.
N19 Marlars, 19 Archway Road
N19 J.J. MOON, Landseer Road
N20 BULL & BUTCHER,
1277 High Rd. Whetstone
N22 STARTING GATE, Buckingham Rd.
NW1 SHIRES BAR, St. Pancras Station.
NW1 VICTORIA & ALBERT BARS,
Marylebone Stn.
NW1 VICTORIA, 2 Mornington Terrace.
NW3 HOLLY BUSH, Holly Mount.
NW3 NAG'S HEAD, 79 Heath St.,
BARNET ALEXANDRA, Wood St.
ENFIELD KING & TINKER, Whitewebbs Road.
ENFIELD CRICKETERS, Chase Side Place.
ENFIELD OLD PARK HEIGHTS HOTEL,
Old Park Rd.
OFF TRADE
N1 2 Brewers, 8 Pitfield St.
N10 Finlay Wines, 392 Muswell Hill Bdwy.
N11 Originales, Friern Barnet Rd.
N15 Majestic, Colina Mews Park Road.
NW3 Greenwood's 150 Haverstock Hill.
NW6 Grogblossom, 253 West End Lane.
BOREHAMWOOD Grogblossom, Shenley Road.
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N22 Wood Green Labour Club, Stuart Cres.
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N1 CAMPBELLS, 21 Bridport Palace.
N6 HAMPTONS, 385 Archway Road.



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