

vol.5 no.9
Oct. 1983

12p

LONDON DRINKER

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



Photo: Maxine Cooper.

The Pig's Ear Real Ale Festival, E2. 12-15 October. Details inside on pages 4 & 22

BRANCH DIARY

If your branch is not mentioned below please ring the branch contact. Events for October of which have been notified are as follows. Branches please send details to Andy Pirson.

FESTIVALS: Wed. 12 to Sat. 15 **SECOND PIG'S EAR FESTIVAL** by East London & City Branch. York Hall, Old Ford Road, London E2. (Bethnal Green Underground). Wed. evening 5.00 - 11.00 (Card carrying CAMRA members - free entry). Thu. Fri. & Sat. 11.00 - 2.30 & 5.00 - 11.00 (Lunch-times free entry. Evening 60p per session.) Season tickets £1.50. Advance tickets from Rick Clark, 6 Kenway, Collier Row, Romford, Essex with S.A.E. please. Cheques payable to Pig's Ear Festival. Parties of 20 or more free entry, also from Rick Clark. 40 beers, Good Food, Music. Experienced helpers wanted - please contact Ted Eller, 01-471 1282 or 01-986 3744.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Sat. 1 (7.00) Festival Crawl of Bethnal Green area. Start at JJ's, 180 Brady Street, E1 - Tue. 4 (7.00) Festival of Crawl of Roman Road/ Old Ford Road area. Start at **APPROACH TAVERN**, 47 Approach Road, E2 - Thu. 6 (7.00) Festival Crawl of Victoria Park & Environs. Start **ROSE & CROWN**, 13 Mare Street, E8 - Sat. 8 (7.00) Final Festival Crawl/Assault on E2 area. Ring Branch Contact for venue. - Tue 11 (8.00) Branch Meeting at Festival site. (Membership cards **MUST** be shown) - Wed. 12 to Sat. 15 **PIG'S EAR FESTIVAL** see under Festivals entry. - Tue. 18 (8.00). Committee Meeting. **BLACK HORSE**, Mile End Road, E1. - Thu. 20 (5.30) Off-City Social. **OLD TWO BREWERS**, Brick Lane, E2. - Thu. 27 (5.30) City Social. **YE OLDE CHESHIRE CHEESE**, Wine Office Court, Fleet Street, EC4. - Thu. 3 Nov. (5.30) City Social. **CHESHIRE CHEESE**, Crutched Friars, EC3 (Near Fenchurch Street Station).

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Thu. 13 (8.30) Branch Meeting, **THE NORBITON**, Clifton Road, Kingston - Mon. 24 (8.00) Pub Games Evening, **THE ALBERT**, Kingston Hill, Kingston (to be confirmed. Please check with Branch Contact.)

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Tue. 4 (8.30) Open Committee, **WHITE CROSS**, Riverside, Richmond - Mon. 17 (8.30) Branch Meeting **RED COW**, Sheen Road, Richmond - Thu. 27 (8.30) Social **CARDINAL WOLSEY**, The Green, Hampton Court Road, Hampton Court.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Mon. 10 Oct. (7.30) Committee (open) (8.30) Branch, **OLD NUNS HEAD**, 15 Nunhead Green, SE15. Wed. 19 Oct. (8.00) Social, **UNION JACK**, Union Street, SE1. Mon. 7 Nov. (8.00) Committee (open), **BLACKSMITHS ARMS**, 257 Rotherhithe Street, SE16. Mon. 14 (8.00) Branch, **RAILWAY TAVERN**, 16 Blackheath Village SE3. Wed. 30 Nov. Brewery Day Trip, **KING & BARNES**, Horsham - Ring Branch Contact. Mon. 5 Dec. (8.00) Committee (open), **BRITISH OAK**, 109 Old Dover Road, SE3.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thu. 13 (8.00) Branch Meeting **SPREAD EAGLE**, 71 High Street, SW18. Fri. 28 Crawl (8.30) **GARDENERS ARMS**, SW18, (9.00) **EARL SPENCER**, (9.30) **PARK TAVERN**.

November edition available end of October. Copy should reach editors by 4th October. Closing date for December/January edition 5th November.

Subscriptions (£1.40 for 6 months) should be sent to: Stan Tomkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex.



Despite its seemingly all-embracing title, this magazine is aimed specifically at the REAL BEER drinking consumer and anyone interested in the subject. We have nothing against keg, lager, wines, spirits or any other liquid that takes your fancy. However, no matter what you drink, we have a common enemy - over pricing. Now the brewers have some control over how much is charged for their products, to a certain extent. We know that alcohol is highly taxed. But what of SOFT drinks? They bear very little tax, yet you often end up paying more for a

squash or pop than the equivalent amount of beer. As a good example, I recently bought a beer and a cola in a Croydon pub - the beer cost 75p (expensive enough for ordinary bitter, in all conscience). The cola cost 40p! Doing a few sums, I came to the conclusion that a pint of the stuff would work out at about £1.20. Similarly, you pay between 5p and 10p for a "splash" of squash. Order a glass of diluted squash for a youngster or whatever, and the chances are you will pay about 25p. And I'm pretty-damn-sure that it doesn't cost 15p to wash a glass. Or perhaps pub water is expensive too?

Changing tack slightly, I was amused to hear that the entire stock of London Drinker for July in a independent brewer's pub was bought up by a representative of the company. The reason for this seems to have been Chris's Editorial about "returns" - which many licensees have remarked was absolutely right. I wonder whether the copies were passed around for note to be taken - or ceremonially burned by the drayman (sorry, hangman)?

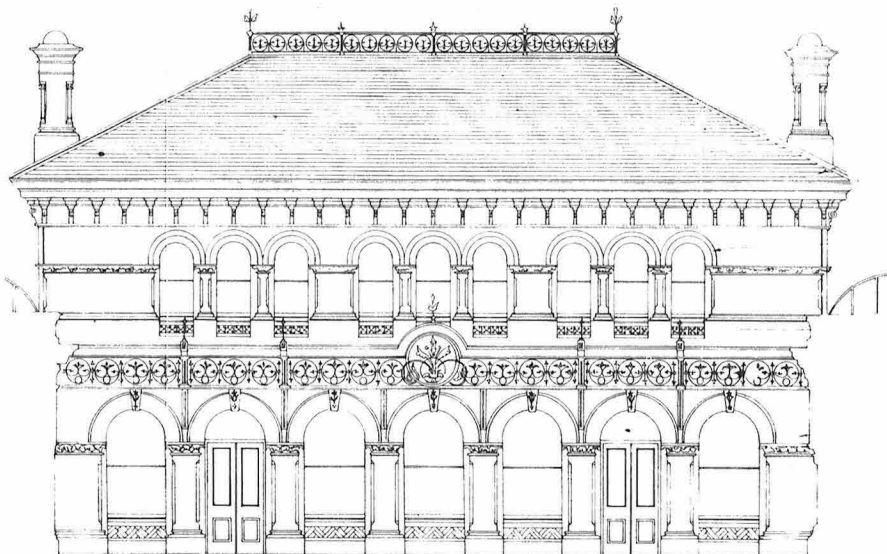
MARTIN SMITH

PHOENIX ARISING

On September 12th a full license was granted by Camberwell Magistrates to Bruce's Brewery for the proposed Phoenix and Firkin homebrew pub to be installed in the former Denmark Hill Station building, which was gutted by fire in 1980. As the hearing was on the day that this issue went to press, further details

will follow at a later date. However, it is hoped that the pub will be open within the next six months. The illustration was submitted to the hearing to show how the building will appear, at the time of writing there is no roof!

Martin Smith



TROT
ALONG TO
THE



BEER FESTIVAL

YORK HALL, OLD FORD ROAD, E.2.

(2 MINS. BETHNAL GREEN STN.)

WED. OCT. 12 - SAT. OCT. 15 1983

HOURS - WED 5-11 p.m.

THURS-SAT 11 AM-2-30 p.m. 5 pm-11 p.m.

ADMISSION 60 p. EVENINGS.

FREE LUNCHTIMES AND FREE TO CARD
CARRYING **CAMRA MEMBERS** ON
WEDNESDAY EVENING.

ENTERTAINMENT

JAZZ

Folk
BANDS

Saturday
Evening

THE
TEMPERANCE

YARD-OF-ALE CONTEST

AVAILABLE AT THE FESTIVAL WILL BE
THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED "EAST
LONDON & CITY BEER GUIDE"
LISTING EVERY PUB IN THE AREA. 168 PAGES

£1.3

DRINKER CROSSWORD

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

£5 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

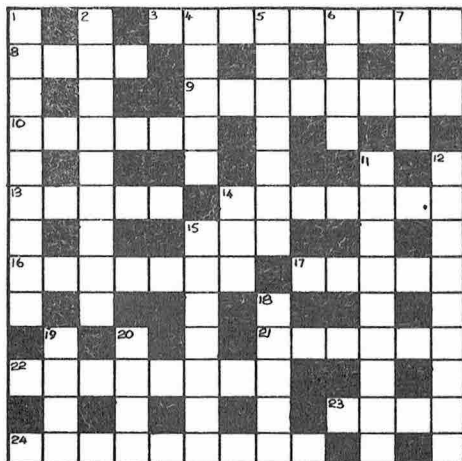
3. Not the issue for a beer drinker. (5,4)
8. Dash when northern beer is spilt. (4)
9. Sled bore broken drinks. (3,5)
10. Festival for mixed-up non-drinkers. (6)
13. The place to get high? (5)
14. Went South East by South to find thirst quencher. (7)
15. Talk about unwelcome beer additive. (3)
16. Getting on the bush with heartless lady following. (7)
17. Material you can find in any long drink. (5)
21. Bear right and left round beer container. (6)
22. Sir, if ale is mixed, will you wear it? (4,4)
23. Drinks may bring you to your knees. (4)
24. The grape might say it - the wine drinker might be it! (9)

DOWN

1. Gave beers away, but found other drinks. (9)
2. Ale is all right, but with suds it causes weariness. (9)
4. Latin love found in dram or egg flip. (5)
5. Run to seed but it lasts out. (7)
- 6,7. Tedious drinker who knows the drill. (4,4)
11. Recall man as underground worker. (9)
12. What it is or where it is could be the solution. (9)
14. Go back and forth, back and forth, to find route. (3)
15. Les sags if he empties too many of these. (7)
18. Honour the South East and get fat. (5)
19. The peace of that magical moment. (4)
20. Rabbit found when we leave the brewer. (4)

All entries to be submitted to:
London Drinker Crossword
25 Valens House
Upper Tulse Hill
London SW 2.

Winner of prize for August crossword:
Linda Humphreys, 1 Inglewood Road,
West Hampstead, London NW 6.



Name.....

Address.....

.....

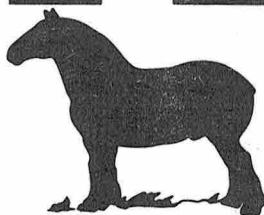
.....

All correct entries received by first post on 26th October will be entered into a draw for the prize.
Prize winner will be announced in the November London Drinker.
Solution next month.

Last Month's Solution



**GODSON'S
BREW
BEST
BRITISH
BITTER
BEER
BETTER**



**...AND YOU'LL NEVER BUY
A BETTER BOTTLED BITTER IN YOUR LIFE**



● A CAMRA MAN IN HONG KONG

This tourist, a Real Ale fanatic, travels abroad 2 or 3 times a year and usually has to put up with some of the local vino (no real hardship in Portugal for example) and may just try a San Mig. or something equally nasty. Never expect any decent beer outside the U.K. unless you look hard for some of the Trappist Beers in Belgium, and one or two others in Holland or Germany. But in Hong Kong one does not expect any treats, apart from lizard wine (with real dead lizards in the bottle), snake wine (with snakes), Ginseng wine and even, alarmingly, something called Paddy Field Sparrow Wine (I did not try that one). But back to beer. San Mig. is brewed in Hong Kong (and Manila and apparently anywhere else, and it's always pretty awful), but you can get Tiger and a Jap lager called Kirin, both pretty mediocre - even for lagers. But I found to my delight some really interesting and excellent beers.

Kirin do a bottled stout which is quite drinkable, but the best come from the Mainland, the People's Republic of China no less. Many really fine beers are brewed there, probably a handover from the ex-German colonies, as they have typically German characteristics.

Worth trying are (if you can find them) Snowflake, Yuchuan, and especially Tsingtao, the latter being a really fine bottled ale, not real by our U.K./CAMRA standards, but very pleasant indeed, and such a joy to get the best of all worlds - a decent beer in such a very foreign part of the world. Ask for it in restaurants, the waiter's eyes light up - here's someone who knows, they think, who doesn't drink the standard tourist rubbish. Tsingtao even produce a PORTER about 30p a pint.

These beers are sometimes available in Soho and at beer festivals, but at a price. Well worth trying. Cheers, travellers.

JOHN DAVIS

● YOUNGS

The "Ordinance" in St. John's Wood was mis-reported in the August issue as having

been bought by Young's. We are now given to understand that it was in fact bought by Watney's, following a last minute "gazumping."

● FREE HOUSE FOR S.W. BRANCH

Free houses are notable for their almost complete absence in S.W. London. Consequently the opening of a former Charrington house in its new guise made a welcome addition recently to the Real Ale scene. Situated a few minutes walk from Battersea Park Station on the corner of Stewarts Road and Ascalon Street, the Duke of Cornwall serves Fullers ESB, Young's Bitter and Charrington IPA on handpump, and is hoping to add Greene King Abbot Ale to its range in the near future. A bit off the map, but well worth finding. More details, space permitting, next time.

M.S.

● CHEAP BEER

is always something we like to hear about. Four pubs doing so are: the Red House, 299 Barking Road, E.13 has been selling Trumans Mild at 50p a pint since May. And: The Pub Continental, 438 Wandsworth Road, SW8 is selling Wethereds Bitter for the same price.

Fifty pence a pint is also the price at the Simon the Tanner in Long Lane, SE1, each evening between 5.30 and 8 p.m., also between 12 and 2 p.m. on Saturday lunchtimes. This is a Shepherd Neame house, but the price applies to all drinks except Lager, which costs an extra florin. Not far away, you can get 20% off your pint of Fuller's at the Leather Exchange between 7.30 and 8.30. More news, please.

● (NEWS ITEM)

"WE ARE AMUSED" to learn that London's latest micro-brewery will be under the stern gaze of Queen Victoria. We are of course talking of the Woolwich pub of that name: John and Pam McDonnell, who have been running the pub as a lively free house since acquiring it from Charringtons in 1977 have decided to add a home brew to the Youngs, Fullers and guest beers already offered. The equipment is broadly similar to that used by Beach's of Southwark and has also been designed and installed by Rod Skinner. The first brew is due around the time this magazine appears, with the "first night" aimed for October 4. John would welcome (decent) suggestions for future beer names, but the initial brew will be known as "McDonnell's Bitter". Bun Ale? ... Albert's Delight? . . .

● CLUB INFORMATION PLEASE

From time to time we have published odd snippets of information about clubs which sell real beer, but overall, our intelligence is scant in the extreme. At present, however, CAMRA is in the process of producing a country-wide guide to clubs which sell the real thing. The exact format of the finished article is not yet known but we shall let you know when we have more information.

In the meantime we would ask you, our readers, to let us know what you can about those clubs in your area which sell real beer. Please tell us the name and address of the club, the real beers sold and whether the club is CIU affiliated or open to members only.

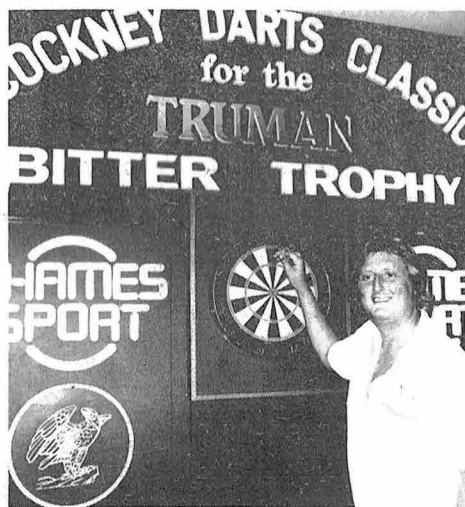
● TRUMAN BITTER TROPHY

For the first time that we can recall a brewery is using the title of a traditional beer to sponsor a major sporting event; the brewery is Trumans and the sport is darts. The Truman Bitter Trophy and a first prize of £2500 is at stake in a competition which was open to all comers subject to their entering on an official entry from available from Trumans pubs during September.

The later stages will be televised by Thames

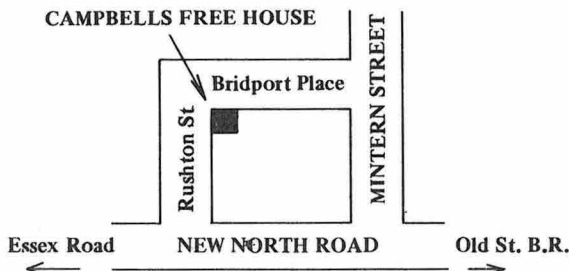
TV in November and December and the winner will also challenge the Crafty Cockney, Eric Bristow for a further prize of £2500.

Sorry we were unable to get the news to you in time to enter but hopefully there will be a further chance for fame and fortune next year.



CAMPBELLS FREE HOUSE

21 BRIDPORT PLACE, ISLINGTON, N1



SAM SMITHS
CHUDLEY LOCAL LINE
McMULLEN AK MILD
and
PITFIELD

HOXTON HEAVY
All beers at 60p a pint
between 5.30 – 7.00 p.m.

Buses 141, 271, 76
pass close by
5 mins walk from
Old Street and Essex Road
Stations

Lunchtime Pub Grub
Easy evening parking
Beer Garden

The Battersea Brewery

High ceiling, tiled wall and sawdust on the floor. Gas lights, cast-iron tables and wheel-back chairs. Handpumped beer brewed round the back, in a Victorian pub without a jukebox, or fruit-machine in sight. A film-set, or Grandad's reminiscences? Neither. It was while distributing a recent issue in down-to-earth, modern-day Battersea Park Road that I visited the Prince of Wales, which incorporates the newly-founded Battersea Brewery. This is a brainchild of Mick Conway, tenant of this and a number of other houses, and sells own-brews Battersea Bitter (og 1035-7) at 66p, and Battersea Best Bitter (og 1038-42) at 70p per pint. For comparison, Ruddle's County sells at 90p, Webster's and Mann's IPA at 76p each. As the latter details suggest, the premises are owned by Watney's, although this small brewery is independent with a separate identity, and pays Watney's - who put half of the money into the project - £15 per barrel for the privilege.

Mick - who also holds tenancies from Ind Coope - became interested in the idea and involved Watney's when the Prince of Wales became available. At the same time the

present brewer, John Gilbert, heard of the scheme on the grape (hop?) vine, shortly after passing his Institute of Brewers exam at Watney's, Mortlake. The brewery - at the rear of the premises behind floor-to-ceiling glass for the interest of customers - currently produces 2 barrels of each of its two beers, and with its 5-barrel fermenters has a present capacity for 15-20 barrels per week. The plant was constructed by John Hickey of Brixton. The brewing process is a totally traditional no-nonsense affair, using East Kent Golding hops for the bitter and Northdowns for the Best - both are very palatable and excellent value for money. These are soon to be provided to the Warrior in Coldharbour Lane at the Loughborough Junction end of Brixton (another of Mick's tenancies - also S.W. London Branch's furthest outpost in that direction) which in due course will also have its own brewery; the plant has already been bought from Hickey's). As I teach locally I look forward to a few staff meetings there!

Dave and Marion Roberts, Managers of the Prince of Wales, are proud of their nogimmicks pub with its genuine Victorian atmosphere. Meals are served at lunchtime - the menu looks superb. Good luck to an

YE OLDE BRIDGE HOUSE

THE BRIDGE BREWERY'S OWN PUB

Bermondsey Bitter, Special Bitter and 007 (OG 1055) available on tap

Now open — The Tower Bar, situated on the 1st floor with a view of the Thames, ideal for parties, meetings.

For details, please ring Mr. A. Driscoll, Bar Manager, on 01-403 2276.

*We welcome brewery visits — please 'phone for appointment.

THE BRIDGE BREWERY

London's newest real ale brewers
218 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 2UP.
Telephone: 01-403 2276

excellent and worthwhile enterprise.

Nearest station: Battersea Park. Buses 19, 39, & 44 pass the door. Normal hours apply

except for 7 p.m. Saturday opening.

MARTIN SMITH

London Drinking by Red Rover

Now that summer is nearly at its end, and you're wondering what to do with the Wife and Brats in the comparatively shorter autumn days, why not take a trip to Chessington, where you can deposit them in the Zoo while you sample one or two (or all!) of the pubs on this month's crawl.

Arriving on the super-efficient 65 bus (I have to say that, I know one of the drivers) my first port of call is the White Hart in Hook Road, the main road leading to the Zoo. This is certainly an impressive looking pub from outside, though once inside is far smaller than it first appears, particularly the Public Bar which just about has room for a Pool Table, Dart Board and a few chairs. The Saloon is considerably larger and comfortably furnished. Courage Best and Directors are on offer and the Best is faultless; my only complaint is the music which is rather wearing at 10.30 in the morning. Continuing along Hook Road (away from the Zoo) and into Clayton Road brings me to a Charrington pub called the Cricketers, which doesn't look as though it's open from the outside but actually is, and is most interesting. It has a large horseshoe-shaped bar, which is divided into Saloon and Public 'areas' (carpet one side - lino the other; you know the sort of thing). Both parts are very smart and a credit to the landlady, who is spraying everything in sight with Pledge. For those of you who know her (Pledge that is, not the the landlady), you can imagine the smell. The pub echoes only to the sounds of human voices, but there is a large juke box in the Public area so what it's like when the local skarns are here. I know not. (At this point the juke box bursts mysteriously into life - you can't enjoy yourself all the time I suppose). Suddenly two horsey females burst in, lean over the bar, and walk out again (are they researching the pub for Worthington White Shield?). Unfortunately they're not built like a certain other horsey female I know, or all this might have been more interesting. Oh yes, the beer! IPA is served from unmarked handpumps but is again most drinkable.

Back to Hook Road and turning left I find another Courage pub called the Lucky Rover (I shall leave it to others to make sarcastic comments about the name!). This has a sort of 'created' Olde Worlde atmosphere but is

very cosy nonetheless. The barmaids are of the 'sprayed-on-jeans' variety (at least one of them has lung cancer, however), obviously designed to attract the 'disposable income' element of young society. The *actual* clientele are nothing like this I might add. The hand-pump is unmarked but the ensuing Directors is most acceptable. I am now getting quite worried; I have been to three pubs and have had no bad beer, whatever is the matter with the licencees round here? Anyway, even further along Hook Road away from the Zoo is the North Star, a Charrington pub serving Bass and IPA, again not looking very open from outside, but most comfortable and welcoming within. In contrast to the White Hart this pub is actually much bigger than it looks from the outside, comprising merely one large bar.

The IPA is again very good and the pub has an all-pervading smell of the hot and cold food temptingly displayed on the bar. Back towards the Zoo and first left eventually brings me to Cox Lane and the Port of Call, a modern estate pub with one long bar and pleasantly furnished despite the rips in some of the seats. The Directors is good, and, at 70 pence a pint is an incredible bargain, especially bearing in mind that Best Bitter is usually more than that. There is a strange video machine that I couldn't possibly explain and is far too difficult for my Directors-fuddled brain so I leave in a huff. Down the road opposite and left at the roundabout, I come to the Blackamoors Head, a large Charrington local near Chessington North Station. The Public Bar has two Pool Tables and a dart board but the Saloon is rather featureless, somewhat befitting the Copt Gilders Estate.

The IPA is in good nick however, although I have to gulp it in seconds in order to catch the bus I am after. There is another pub just down the road called the Bonesgate Bars which used to be a fairly pleasant pub called the Bones Gate, and serving Ind Coope Bitter and Burton Ale. However, ever since the local CAMRA Pub Liaison Officer last went in there they have converted it into a Disco Palace and taken the real beer out - in case he ever came back again!

Straight on to the 65 bus outside and a quick change outside the Zoo on to a 468

and I am outside the Star in Leatherhead Road. (You don't actually need to do this complicated manoeuvre, you can get the 468 from outside the Blackmoors Head, it's just that I have to pay on green buses!). Now the Star is this place where the Public Bar is in Surrey and the Saloon is in Greater London. As I was writing this article, I had to make sure that I was in the Saloon! The pub itself is in fact very 'Surrey' with the emphasis rather on food and coffee than beer. The Guvnor notices my sweatshirt and proclaims that he used to be a director of Crystal Palace Football Club. I make several observations, none of which are printable, and all of which he agreed with. The beer on offer is Watney Stag and London Websters Bitter and Hammertons Traditional Porter. Needless to say I try the latter as I haven't come across it before and it tastes rather like a dry, fizzless version of Guinness. Most pleasant but I'm not really sure who will drink it - probably not beer drinkers because it is black, and probably not Guinness drinkers because it comes from a handpump and is called 'Porter,' which they've probably never heard of. Still, I recommend anyone to give it a try. Returning on the self same 468 (much to the driver's surprise) to the Fox & Hounds in Malden Rushett. A largish roadhouse with a comfortable saloon and

basic friendly public it offers Ind Coope Burton Ale and Friary Meux Bitter, the latter of which I try and is excellent. The Public has a pool table, a bar billiards table (a welcome change) and two video games, on one of which I play with Gorillas and naturally get the high score. A very quick dash now back to the Harrow (about 15 minute run actually, but then it is nearly closing time!). This is the nearest pub to the Zoo and is one large bar, comfortably furnished, good food and another excellent drop of Directors. This therefore makes this unique amongst all my crawls so far - no bad beer and no grotty pubs (the Blackmoors Head being the least interesting).

There is now time for a quick look in the Zoo before reacquiring the Wife and the Brats and sure enough here they all are; the muddled Gorillas, the Giraffes leering at the Girl Guides, the Hippo's asking 'Why?' and the Penguins frothing, looking desperate and leaving their briefcases behind. And as for the keepers, they look like mere boys fussing over their pet weeds. For myself, I go to Chessington South for the 1505 train, but there are plenty of 65's and 71's about (courtesy of Paul Wheeler) for those who prefer to travel by London Transport. See you next time, next place. Cheers.

REAL ALE and REAL JAZZ

AT THE

Prince of Orange

118 LOWER ROAD

ROTHERHITHE

SE16

237 9181

LIVE JAZZ SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK PLUS SUNDAY LUNCHTIME

RESIDENT REAL ALES: TRUMANS MILD, BITTER & SAMPSON BEST BITTER

3 MINUTES FROM SURREY DOCKS UNDERGROUND

BUSES 1, 47 and 188 PASS THE PUB

John & Pam
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO



THE QUEEN VICTORIA

FREE HOUSE

To PARTAKE of our SELECTION of
CASK-CONDITIONED ALES

including our very own

"McDonnell's Bitter"

BREWED on the PREMISES

First TASTING 4th October - First 'half' FREE!

Hot & Cold Victuals ~ Snooker Room
118 Wellington Street Woolwich SE18

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Sir,
I wonder if your readers and in particular the many Charrington IPA drinkers were as astonished as we were to read that "IPA is in danger" (July issue, p.25)!

The "suggestions" you report are the complete opposite of the real picture. Indeed IPA - still our most successful ale by a long way and the most popular real ale in London - is receiving considerable attention from our Company. For instance it was among the beers offered from the CAMRA stand at the Pub, Club & Leisure Show; it has been advertised numerous times on radio in London in the past year, and I am pleased to report that it will be appearing in television commercials for the first time this autumn. Few cask ales receive as much promotional backing.

So much for the "suggestions". Mine's an IPA, landlord!

Yours faithfully,
M.F. ~~Oraranta~~ ^{Oraranta}
Commercial Director
Charrington & Company Ltd.,

Dear Editors,

Without wishing to unnecessarily prolong the issue, there seem to be three basic points which must be made following Mr. R. Berman's "letter" and advertisement in L.D.

1) Mr. Berman referred to 2 correspondents who I think quite rightly complained about the high prices and poor quality in the Sun. He didn't in any way answer their criticisms. This surely makes them right.

2) His "poem" was nothing more than a blatant way to gain free publicity. Are you going to give this sort of opportunity to the many publicans who support CAMRA's aim in practise?

3) The advertisement for the Sun was clearly liable to be offensive to many CAMRA members, especially as Watney's was apparently banned from the Great British Beer Festival for sexist advertising. Will London Drinker be banned from CAMRA events next?

I have so far come across four committed supporters of real ale who would not contemplate joining CAMRA whilst London Drinker keeps up its relationship with Mr. Berman. Where should our priorities be?

Incidentally, the closest thing to an "inner sanctum" in the Sun is the Gents.

Yours sincerely, Ian Worden.

Editor's Note:

If Mr. Berman would care to reply to the

above criticisms, we will be glad to accommodate him. Meanwhile, this correspondence must be considered closed.

Editorial Comment.

Oh dear! What a nasty suspicious bunch we CAMRA members must be, always fearing the worst whenever breweries make changes. Still, you must admit that it is only history that has made us so suspicious; how many times have brewers told us, "We have no plans at present to . . ." only to find a few months later that a favourite beer (often a mild) has vanished forever or a brewery has closed.

We are pleased to receive such glad tidings on this occasion, particularly the news that IPA is to be featured in television advertising - better late than never. In future we shall try to be a little less sceptical, although it won't always be easy, particularly with certain breweries - present correspondents excepted.

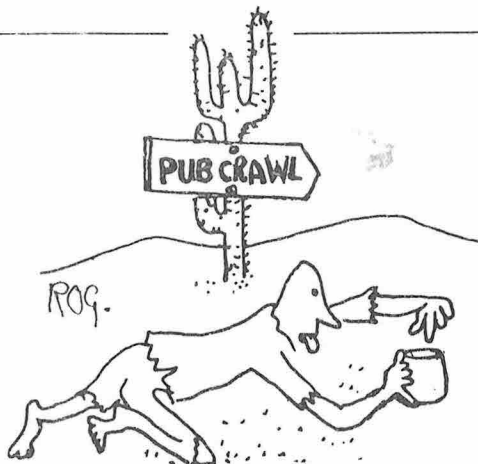
Dear Sirs,

I was sorry to read in the August **Drinker** that the "Bargain Beer" section has been withdrawn. Without setting any definition as to what constitutes a bargain beer, may I mention one pub which will feature in any bargain beer section. The Sun Inn in North Street, Carlshilton (a 1983 Good Beer Guide pub) sells Ind Coope Bitter at 60p (both bars) and Burton Ale at 63p (Public), 65p (Saloon). The guv'nor, Dennis Poulter has pursued a keen price policy for several years and he applies it to all his drinks as well as the excellent lunchtime food. I think that the Sun must be a contender for the Best Value Pub in London award. Any challenges?

Terry Hewitt.

- Shortly before we went to press, a national Sunday paper carried a letter from a N.London barmaid, complaining about men customers who ask for their beer to be topped up because (in her words) "they imagine they've been short-measured." She continues, "Most of them are so well-oiled they go and spill it over themselves again." We reply:

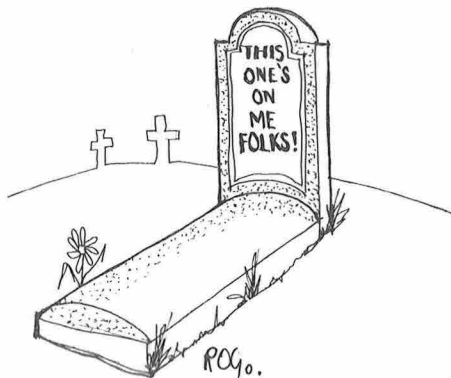
Madam, If full measure had been served in the first place, there would be no obligation or need to top up to a legal pint. And having received the amount of beer for which he has paid, the gentleman customer has the right to "spill" it wheresoever he chooses (within reason) - which he couldn't do if it's still on the richer side of the bar!



West Norwood Wanderings~

Merton finally gets to say his bit.

West Norwood is a relatively undistinguished South London suburb with a wide choice of beers - twenty at the last count, mostly within a few minutes' walk of the station. It is served by trains from Victoria, London Bridge and Croydon, and our crawl begins next door to the station in the Norwood Hotel (1). This is the only local source of Courage Best Bitter. Directors is also on sale, and is available across the bridge at the Horns (2). There was a Horns tavern in the 18th century, serving the (then) drover's road, but that site was excavated to build the railway cutting in the 1850's. The present building dates from just before the last war. Down the hill to the Thurlow Arms (3), a Victorian house recently refurbished in the style of the early 30's - from your own opinion while sampling Taylor Walker, Mainline Bitter or Ind Coope Burton Ale.



You might get an unusual sensation in the games room, which used to be a music-hall. It's oak panels have seen every form of entertainment including wakes, as the Thurlow was built originally to serve (!) the cemetery across the road.

This huge necropolis is worth a wander between pub hours, to see how our ancestors commemorated their dead; the small Greek Orthodox section (straight ahead inside the gate, then fork left) is said to contain more millionaires than any other acre in the country. Norwood Cemetery is surrounded by a 12-foot high wall, originally to discourage body-snatchers, and contains its fair share of the famous - Mrs. Beeton of the cookery book, to name just one. It was the scene of a bizarre episode in 1876, which Martin kindly omitted from his profile of the Bedford Hotel in the May issue. When the inquest on Charles Bravo was held in that establishment, it was decided that the 17 jurors should view his corpse, which was duly exhumed.

A hole was cut in the lead lining of the coffin and a pane of glass inserted to show the head and shoulders, perfectly preserved in a way that indicated the presence of certain poisons. The lips, frozen by muscular contractions into a snarl, revealed rotting blackened teeth (enjoying your beer?) which so upset one juror that he was carried to the Thurlow to be revived, then sent home to take no further part in proceedings. Perhaps he was a dentist

Unless you're dying to get into the cemetery, walk past the gates and cross the road. The next two ports of call aren't actually pubs, but both are worth a visit. The South London Theatre Centre (4) was once a fire station, but now its only pumps are in the members' bar, and quench the thirst with Moorhouse's Premier Bitter and Pendle Witches' Brew. Temporary membership is available during the runs of monthly performances. A few paces further along brings us to Shoestring Wines (5) where the choice comes from 8 brews, all sold from handpumps to take away - prices per pint are shown in brackets: Victoria Brewery Hellfire - o.g. 1061-4 (69p) and Victoria Special Bitter - o.g. 1042-4 (56p); Devenish Bitter (46p); Gibbs XXX Mild, Marston's Old Roger - o.g. 1080 (85p), Felinfoel Double Dragon (56p); Boddingtons Bitter (60p); Moorhouse's Premier Bitter (51p) and Pendle Witches' Brew (64p); and, the latest arrival in London, Red.

Kite Brewery Bitter, o.g. 1040 (59p). The latter comes from Aberystwyth, Dyfed, and

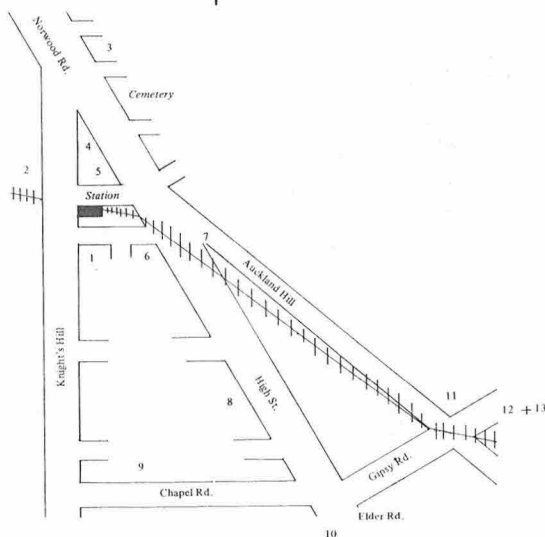
the sole London agency for this brewery and also Moorhouse's is held by Shoestring Wines. Red Kite also brews the "house" ale, Shoestring Stumper, o.g. 1055 at 69p a pint. Most of the above are "guest" beers which, as a rule, are on sale for a month or more at a time; the last 4 mentioned are "residents", and a choice of four real ales is on sale, plus four real ciders, at any one time.

Just under the railway bridge we come to the Gipsy Queen (6), a Courage house where Directors is on sale - except to my guide, who has been barred there since this pub was dropped from the Good Beer Guide for selling Best Bitter, under false pretences, through a handpump. The two facts aren't unrelated, but anyway a better choice is available across the road at the Hope (7), selling Youngs Bitter, Special and Young John's Ale. A small, very popular pub, the Hope is extremely friendly and committed to local charities. It has often been shortlisted for the Good Beer Guide. There is a garden round the back with hatch service. Continue up the High Street to the King's Head on the opposite side. Since being featured in the April issue, this popular local now sells Springfield Bitter in addition to Bass. Country and Western music is performed on Friday evenings, and impromptu music-hall sessions occasionally take place in the hall - which was built for that very purpose. While there, you might like to pass (favourable) comments about London Drinker on to Martin Smith, who is a regular there. Make sure you get a pint for the right one - his namesake works just across the bar.

Continue along the High Street as far as the traffic lights, then go right along Chapel Road to the Bricklayer's Arms (9), a newly-renovated and rambling building on two levels, serving Charrington I.P.A. This was once the meeting place of the local cycling club, and also the brewery tap of Beaton's Brewery, which stood next door. If you have had enough by now, continue to the end of the road and turn right for the station. If not, go back to the traffic lights. If you fancy more I.P.A., go right to the Park Tavern (10). If not. . . .

Cross over to Gipsy Road. At the top of a short but steep climb Ind Coope Bitter is served at the Gipsy Tavern (11). A left turn here will take you, via Auckland Hill, back to Shoestring Wines (5) and the station.

Just one more brew is available in SE27, at the far end of Gipsy Road. The Two Towers, (12) whose name and interesting sign commemorates the nearby Crystal Palace, sells Friary Meux Bitter and Ind Coope Burton Ale. It has a very pleasant back garden, formerly the stable yard. A few yards further on will bring you to the Paxton, a superb Victorian edifice serving Charrington I.P.A. If, from here, you prefer to avoid a trek back to West Norwood Station (there is a short cut, which is too complicated to cover here, especially as there's no beer on the way), go up Gipsy Hill opposite to the station of that name, served by the same trains as our starting point. Its two neighbouring pubs also sell real ale, but that's a different crawl.





MARLER'S BARS

17/19 ARCHWAY ROAD, LONDON N19

(100 yards from Archway Tube)

and

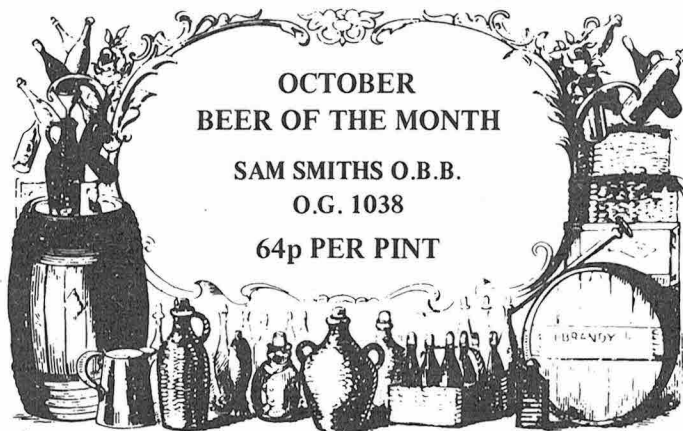
29 CROUCH HILL, LONDON N4

(Opposite Crouch Hill Main Line Station)

usually available

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MARSTONS - ARKELLS & RUDDLES



OCTOBER
BEER OF THE MONTH

SAM SMITHS O.B.B.

O.G. 1038

64p PER PINT

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OCTOBER 1983 - MARLERS, STOKE NEWINGTON

● VAUX MOVES IN

Another four London free houses, including the popular Princess Louise in Holborn and the Ship in Southwark, have been bought up by a regional brewer. This time it's Vaux, which paid £75,000 for the four following the collapse of previous owners Central London Free Houses.

CLFH was part of a group which included the Martlet and Sussex County mini-brewers as well as having control of the troubled Tisbury Brewery. The future of these concerns is not known at present.

Vaux's bid for the four London pubs beat up to 90 others; two other regional companies showed very strong interest. It is intended that a wide range of brews will continue to be served, with the addition of Vaux's own. This Sunderland based company also owns the Ward and Darley breweries in South Yorkshire and Lorimer & Clark in Edinburgh, so there is room for introducing a lot of variety to the London free trade (but let's hope we don't get another "Yorkshire Bitter"!). The company also owns a smallish brewery in Belgium and the Fred Koch brewery in New York (USA).

Vaux follows a line of regional brewers

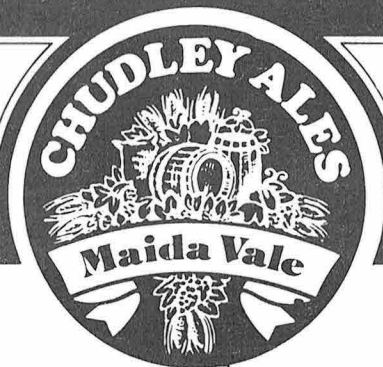
who have bought London pubs in recent years, including Youngs, Eldridge Pope, Gibbs Mew, Fullers, Charles Wells, Greene King, Shepherd Neame etc. Many of these purchases have been free houses and often a choice of a variety of real ales has been reduced to one brewer's products. This is often bad news for the consumer, especially since a number of those remaining can in no way be relied upon to serve a good pint (as is coincidentally the case in a couple near the Princess Louise). Let's hope that Vaux keep up a reliable supply of a good variety of beers - and how about bringing some Sunderland style prices down with them?

Ian Worden.

● PUB GAMES:

Chess sets are available in the Vertical Refreshment Co. pub, 31 Tooley St, opposite the London Dungeon and next to London Bridge Station. One has pieces nearly a foot tall! Virtually every board game you can imagine is available (Monopoly springs to mind) and also darts, Sussex Bar Billiards and various entertainments too numerous to mention. Fuller details will appear in a later edition. Oh, yes, they sell real ale too - Wethered's, Younger IPA and No.3., and Ind Coope Burton.

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



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Prices~Over the Odds

by Roger Warhurst

A year ago in the August 1982 edition of *London Drinker* we published the results of a survey of cask conditioned beer prices carried out by the West London branch of CAMRA. The survey compared prices in June '82 with those of December '79, and found that, whereas prices generally had risen by 36% over that period, the price of a pint of bitter in West London had risen on average by 56%. Even allowing for increased excise duty in successive budgets, it appeared that prices were 3½p per pint above what would have been necessary to keep pace with price rises generally.

A follow up survey was carried out in June '83 and compared price rises since June '82. As before, a sample of pubs was drawn from within a sector of West London from the West End through Kensington, Chelsea, Fulham, Hammersmith and Chiswick to Acton. Again notoriously high priced pubs have been excluded so that the prices quoted represent a reasonable average of those charged throughout West London.

The saloon bar prices charged in tied houses controlled by the 8 major London brewers (93% of Greater London pubs) are compared in Table 1.

Table 1 shows that the average price of a pint of ordinary bitter in the saloon bar of a West London tied house is now over 73½p compared with 66½p a year ago. Premium bitter now costs 78p compared with 72p a year ago. Prices for ordinary and premium bitters taken together have therefore risen on average 9.6% over the year. This compares with national figures showing price rises generally of 3.7% for all items, and 7.1% for all alcoholic drinks over a similar period. Average earnings have increased by 8.2% and manual workers wages are up by 5%.

(Source: Monthly Digest of Statistics, HMSO)

So, if the price of a pint of ordinary bitter had risen in line with prices generally over the year we would be paying 69p. Add on 1p for increased excise duty in the Chancellor's budget and you get 70p. This leaves a sum of 3½p per pint unexplained. A similar amount was unaccounted for in the previous survey. How much longer must we continue to pay over the odds to maintain the brewers profit margins?

Value for Money

The relationship between retail price and strength of beers is complex since the price of a pint also reflects various fixed costs such as labour, plant and transport which do not vary significantly according to how strong the beer is. Nevertheless a crude relationship can be derived by dividing the retail price (column c) by original gravity (column b).

The results in column e show that in general strong and premium bitters continue to be better value for money than ordinary bitters, and in fact, the gap has widened since premium bitters have gone up on average over the last year less than ordinary bitters. There appears to be a marked reluctance amongst many brewers to pass the 80p average for a pint of premium bitter.

Some of the highest percentage rises over the last year have occurred in Fullers and Youngs pubs. Although Fullers ESB and Youngs Special still offer particularly good value for money, the same can no longer be said for Fullers Chiswick Bitter or Youngs Ordinary Bitter. The days when one could rely on the small independents to regularly undercut the Big Brewers appear to be over.

Lowest percentage increases have been registered in Charrington, Truman and Watney pubs, but Truman Bitter is still overpriced for its strength, and the Watney ordinary bitters - London, Websters and Mans - are still relatively poor value strength for strength.

Best buy currently amongst the ordinary bitters is Charrington IPA closely followed by Courage Best Bitter. Amongst the premium bitters, Youngs Special still clings to first place closely followed by Ind Coope Burton Ale. Fullers ESB maintains its position as the best value strong bitter, and best value for money overall.

Mention should also be made of Sam Smiths who control 12 tied houses in Greater London. Sam Smiths have only increased the price of their 1041 OG Old Brewery Bitter by 2p (2.9%) over the year, with the result that they are now more realistically priced in relation to the other brewers supplying London.

Free Trade.

Comparisons are more difficult in the free trade because the range of beers available

is constantly changing. The limited number of comparisons that can be done indicate slightly lower increases generally in the free trade than in the tied trade. Table 2 indicates prices currently being charged for various beers available in West London

free houses. In general you pay 4/5p more for beers of equivalent strength in free houses compared to tied houses. One notable exception is Ruddles County which averages 84½p in free houses and an incredible 93½p in Watney tied houses.

Table 1 - Comparison of prices of tied houses June '82 - June '83.

Ordinary Bitters (OG 1035-1039)

	O.G.	June '82	June '83	% incr.	Price per O.G.(pence)
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Fuller Chiswick Bitter	1035.5	61.6	70.3	14.1	1.98
Truman Bitter	1036	72.3	76	5.1	2.11
Young Bitter	1036	62.6	70.3	12.3	1.95
Wethered Bitter (Whitbread)	1036.6	67	74.5	11.2	2.04
Allied Bitters (Benskin, Taylor Walker etc.)	1037	64.8	72	11.1	1.95
M & B Springfield Bitter	1037	—	70	—	1.89
Watney London Bitter	1037.5	68.7	75.1	9.3	2.00
Webster Yorkshire Bitter (Watney)	1037.5	—	77.8	—	2.07
Mann IPA (Watney)	1038	—	78.2	—	2.06
Courage Best Bitter	1039	67	74	10.4	1.90
Charrington IPA	1039.5	67.4	72.8	8.0	1.84
Average	1037.2	66.4	73.7	10.2	1.98

Premium Bitters (OG 1040-1043)

Fuller London Pride	1041.5	67	74	10.4	1.78
Taylor Walker Mainline (Allied)	1042	—	75	—	1.79
Bass (Charrington)	1044	74.2	79.3	6.9	1.80
Watney Stag Bitter	1044	75	79.6	6.1	1.81
Flowers Original Bitter(Whitbread)	1044	—	76	—	1.73
Truman Best Bitter	1045	73.7	79	7.2	1.76
Courage Directors	1046	74.7	81	8.4	1.76
Fremlin Tusker (Whitbread)	1046	72	79	9.7	1.72
Young Special Bitter	1046	69	76.5	10.9	1.66
Ind Coope Burton Ale (Allied)	1047.5	71	79.3	11.7	1.67
Average	1044.6	72.1	77.9	8.9	1.75

Strong Bitters (OG 1048-1056)

Ruddle County (Watney)	1050	—	93.3	—	1.87
Truman Sampson	1055	—	87	—	1.58
Fuller ESB	1055.75	75.5	82.8	9.7	1.49
Average	1053.6	—	87.7	—	1.65

Table 2 - Sample Free House Prices

Beers

Weak Bitters (OG 1030-1034)

Ruddle Bitter	1032	67	74	10.4
---------------	------	----	----	------

Ordinary Bitters (OG 1035-1039)

Adnam Bitter	1036	68	74	8.8
Young Bitter	1036	—	77	—
Arkell BBB	1038.5	69	76	10.1

Premium Bitters (OG 1040-1043)

Sam Smith OBB	1040.9	74.3	78.5	5.7
Brakspear Special Bitter	1042	70	75.5	7.9

Strong Bitters (OG 1048-1056)

Eldridge Pope Royal Oak	1048	75.5	84.3	11.7
Ruddle County	1050	82	84.5	3.1
Fuller ESB	1055.75	78	87.5	12.2



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Real Beer in London - Update 2

We are resuming our updates to CAMRA London's *Real Beer in London* guide. All previous update information published in London Drinker has been absorbed into the *Real Beer in London Supplement* booklet. Information received subsequent to the Supplement on additions, deletions or changes to real ale pubs in Greater London will be published regularly in London Drinker.

Such information is not only of general interest but also enables CAMRA in London to monitor progress by the various brewers in terms of real ale availability. If you know of any outlets for real ale not listed in *Real Beer in London* and its Supplement or where the details listed are incorrect or have changed, do not assume we know already but put pen to paper and write to **RBIL Update, 2 Sandtoft Rd., London S.E.7.**

Central

- EC1 TWO BREWERS, 121 Whitecross St. Wethered: Bitter
- EC3 THREE TUNS, 36 Jewry St. Charring-ton: IPA.
- EC4 BB'S BISTRO, Walbrook. Truman: Bitter.
- EC4 FARRINGTONS, 42 Farringdon St. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- EC4 PAVILION END, 32 Watling St. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors, Young: Special Bitter.

EAST

- E1 DEAN SWIFT, 2 Deancross St. Mann: IPA.
- E1 LORD RODNEYS HEAD, 285 White-Chapel Rd. Charrington: IPA.
- E1 NACS HEAD, 17 Whitechapel Rd. Courage: Director.
- E2 ANGEL & CROWN, 170 Roman Rd. Charrington: IPA.
- E3 NEW GLOBE, 359, Mile End Rd. Wethered: Bitter.
- E5 GOLDEN SHOE, 47 Meeson St. Manns: IPA. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- E6 COCK, 56 High St. North, Charrington: IPA.
- E6 HAMMERS, 78 High St. South. Webster: Stag Bitter. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- E10 HARE & HOUNDS, 282, Lea Bridge Rd. Charrington: IPA
- E10 NANCYS, 557 Lea Bridge Rd. Courage: Directors.
- E11 THATCHED HOUSE, 245 High St. Charrington: IPA.
- E12 WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR, 630 Romford Rd. Watney: London Bitter.
- E13 CASTLE, 546, Barking Rd. Charring-ton: IPA.
- E13 GOLDEN LION, 343 Barking Rd. Manns: IPA.
- E13 LORD STANLEY, 15 St. Marys Rd. Watney: Stag Bitter.
- E13 PRINCE ALBERT, 135 Broadway, Ruddle: Country. Watney: Stag Bitter.
- E13 RAFFLES, 244 Barking Rd. Charring-ton: IPA.
- E14 BUCCANEER, 73 West India Dock Rd. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. Wethered: Bitter, Younger: IPA. Re-instatement - formerly the BLUE POSTS.
- E14 WHITE HORSE, 9 Poplar High St. Truman: Best Bitter
- E16 BRITISH FLAG, 190 Victoria Dock Rd Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- E18 WHITE HART, 159 High Rd. Bass Charrington: IPA.

NORTH

- N1 GEORGE & VULTURE, 63 Pitfield St. Fuller: London Pride, ESB.
- N1 RED LION, 41 Hoxton St. Watney: London Bitter.
- N1 WATERSIDE INN, Crinan St. Bass, Charrington: IPA, Fullers: London Pride, Samuel Smith: OBB. A new pub.
- N8 HORNSEY TAVERN, 26 High St. Watney: London Bitter, Stag Bitter.

- N10 VICTORIA STAKES, 1 Muswell Hill, Bass:
- N15 FOX, 384, West Green Rd. Taylor Walker: Bitter
- N15 HOBSONS CHOICE, Phillip Lane, Mann: IPA, Watney: Stag Bitter, Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- N15 VICTORIA, 170 St. James Rd. Watney: Stag Bitter.
- N16 CRICKETERS, 18 Northwold Rd. Watney: London Bitter, Stag Bitter, Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- N16 THREE CROWNS, 175 Stoke Newing-ton High St. Wethered: Bitter (G)

NORTH WEST

- NW1 LAUREL TREE, 113, Bayham St. Charrington: IPA.
- NW5 CRIMEA, 36 Inkerman Rd. Courage: Directors.
- NW5 OXFORD TAVERN, 256 Kentish Town Rd., Watney: Stag Bitter, Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- NW5 QUEENS ARMS, 2 Queens Crescent. Charrington: IPA.
- NW6 ALLIANCE, 40 Mill Lane, Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- NW6 BIRD IN HAND, 12 West End Lane, Truman: Bitter, Best Bitter.
- NW10 PANTILES, St. Raphaels Way, North Circular Rd. Ind Coope: Burton Ale, Taylor Walker: Bitter, Mainline. (Re-instatement)
- NW10 WILLIAM IV, 786 Harrow Rd. Courage: Directors.

SOUTH EAST

- SE4 BROCKLEY JACK, 410 Brockley Rd. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors. (Re-instatement)
- SE11 KINGS ARMS, 94 Kennington Lane, Watney: London Bitter, Stag Bitter.
- SE18 GREYHOUND, 18 Kingsman Parade, 246 Woolwich Church St. Charrington: IPA.
- SE22 HERNE TAVERN, 2 Forest Hill Rd. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors.
- SE27 PARK TAVERN, 56 Elder Rd. Charrington: IPA.
- BELVEDERE HALFWAY HOUSE, 165 Lower Rd. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors.
- CROYDON CROWN, 90, Stanley Rd. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- CROYDON PORTER & SORTER, Station Rd. Courage: Directors.
- SOUTH CROYDON CALIFORNIA, 267 Brighton Rd. Watney: London Bitter, Stag Bitter, Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.

SOUTH WEST

- SW1 ROSE & CROWN, 90 Lower Sloane St. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- SW6 BEDFORD ARMS, 204 Dawes Rd. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- SW7 NELSON, 24 Montpelier Place, Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- SW8 DUKE OF CORNWALL, 1 Ascalon St. Fuller: ESB, Youngs: Bitter, Charring-ton: IPA.

- SW8 PUB CONTINENTAL, 438 Wands-worth Rd. Wethered: Bitter.
- SUTTON SECOMBE CENTRE, Cheam Rd. Fuller: ESB.
- SUTTON WOODMAN, 10 Lower Rd. Weth-ered: Bitter.
- TOLWORTH TOBY JUG, 1 Hook Rise, Charrington: IPA, Mitchells & Butlers: Springfield Bitter.
- WALLINGTON MELBOURNE, Manor Rd. Charrington: IPA.
- WALLINGTON WINDMILL, 37 Stafford Rd. Charrington: IPA.
- WORCESTER PARK NORTH END TAVERN 245 Cheam Common Rd. Charrington: IPA.

WEST

- W7 OLD BILL, Copley Close, Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- HAMPTON RAILWAY, 125 Station Rd. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
- HAYES TUMBLER, 64 Station Rd. Courage: Directors.
- HAYES WAGGON & HORSES, 15 Uxbridge Rd. Watney: London Bitter, Stag Bitter.
- HILLINGDON BRICKLAYERS ARMS, 4 Uxbridge Rd. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter
- HOUNSLOW HUSSAR, 497 Staines Rd. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.

Temperance Features at Beer Festival

The Temperance Seven Jazz Band will be the star attraction at the Pig's Ear Festival - the second great Beer Festival organised by the East London & City Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). As every Cockney knows, 'Pig's Ear' is rhyming slang for beer. The traditional brew will be available in copious draughts - over 14,000 pints from 16 different breweries with such esoteric names as Pendles Witch's Brew, Ailrics Old Ale, Hellfire, Nutcracker, the fearson Old Tom and the indigenous Hoxton Heavy, not to be confused with our tactful stewards!

The Beer Festival will be held as last year in the heart of Bethnal Green at York Hall, Old Ford Road, London E2, only 2 minutes walk from the Central Line Station, which is four minutes travelling time from Liverpool Street.

The dates and times that our unusual tipples will be available are:

Wed. Oct. 12 - Sat. Oct. 15, 1983

Wednesday 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Thursday - Saturday. 11 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

On Wednesday evening card carrying CAMRA members will be admitted free. Admission

prices are 60p for evening sessions and lunch-time sessions are free, as are organised parties of 20 or more. (Contact: 01-980 0564). The Pig's Ear Festival will be bootied off by Frank Clark, Manager of Orient F.C. the only East End football club to promote Real Ale, on Wednesday October 12 at 5 p.m. Local Publican and the O's midfield dynamo Tommy Cunningham and other players will be present.

If your taste for ale pales - superb and diverse entertainment is provided:

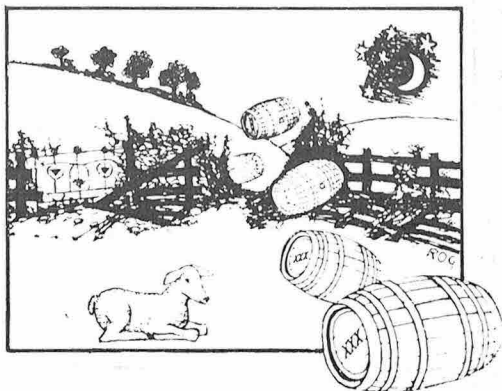
Wednesday evening: TBA Stompers

Thursday: Blozabella Folk Group

Friday evening: Ken Simms & his Dixie Kings - Stars of the '100 Club'.

Saturday evening: The Temperance Severn plus traditional pub games, Morris dancers and a 'Yard of Ale' contest every session. Finalists will be rewarded on the Saturday night for their liquid enthusiasm and copious intake.

Specially produced souvenir glasses will be available and a Festival Ale: 'Pig's Ear Special', brewed by Pitfield Brewery, the only off-licence brewery in Britain. Also, on sale for the first time will be the 'East London & City Beer Guide', a 140 page comprehensive guide compiled by members of the East London & City branch of CAMRA and costing £1. In addition to full descriptive comments on all pubs that serve Real Ale, every pub in the area over 1,000 is listed. Another valuable feature is street maps are provided throughout, marking Real Ale pub locations. Although all branches select their best pubs for inclusion in the national "Good Beer Guide" this is the first time that a London branch of CAMRA has published a guide listing all the pubs in their area. East London & City's patch is of particular interest - it stretches from Fleet Street to the outskirts of Barking and from the Isle of Dogs to the leafy extremities of Chingford and contains two of London's most famous rivers. While the lesser of these, the Thames, has achieved some notoriety, the most important to East London & City members is the mighty River Lea, which, while technically not of Yangtse or Nile proportions, has a vital function as it wiggles down from the North Circular regions to Docklands of marking East London's week-day closing hours boundary of 10.30 p.m. misery to the East and 11 p.m. happiness to the West. For further details of odd opening and closing hours plus other matters too fascinating to discuss in the limited space available - buy the Guide.



"I've been counting Young John's for hours and I still can't get to shleep."

Alan Greenwood's Traditional Ways for Traditional Ales

DO PEOPLE REALLY WANT CHEAP BEERS

Ever since Alan Greenwood opened his first Beer Agency shop with the unique Pub Take-Away service, over 9 years ago, value has been an important factor. Not that all his beers are cheap, the stronger they are the higher the Tax and Duty so they cost more. At the same time many of the interesting beers available have travelled along distance which has to be paid for. However, now matter what price paid by Alan Greenwood the margins are all the same, nothing is inflated.

Even so, money only goes so far, and at the Beer Agency they are conscious that many people have to deprive themselves of the simple pleasure of a decent pint of Beer on some evenings. So they are introducing for a month a special offer of 10% off all bright, real ale, beer dispensed into take home jugs on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

This makes the value of the Draught Take-Away beer better value than ever. So don't sit in on Monday or Tuesday evening feeling depressed, make a note in your diary to go to your nearest Alan Greenwood's Beer Agency, there are now eight local ones for London and Surrey, and enjoy some decent low price real ale. If you dont, the price might as well go back up again.

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ORDER BARRELS IN ADVANCE

ROUND THE HOUSES

Featuring the travels of a North London idiot on the Fuller's/Young's Passport.

It always amused me when I first tramped round on the Fuller's passport how many nooks and crannies there were in London. Yeading, Molesey, Hanworth, Rainham (West-ish London) *et al.* Places I would never dream of visiting. So when Fuller's announced their new passport I decided to have another bash and so as not to make any wasted journeys I decided to have a crack at the Young's list as well.

On receiving my passport from the Brewery I sorted out an unused Youngs tied house list from the back of a cupboard and dusted off my A to Z which had accompanied me on my earlier trip round the respective breweries' tied estates. The A to Z had been marked with all the approximate positions of the Young's and Fuller's tied houses within London and it was only a matter of updating the hallowed pages with the new pubs and the selected pubs. The Nashville, now a trendy free house, the White Bear, Southall, once standing between the gas tanks and the Western Railway, both were crossed off my book. The Railway, Carshalton, an addition to the Fuller's estate and conveniently situated on the Sutton/Beddington pub crawl.

My main worry on completing the "lists" was at the number of pubs spread around the Home Counties. I decided then that I should leave those pubs till last, when I shall dust the bicycle off.

I decided to start my attack with a crawl around Kensington. This would take in three Fuller's and two Young's pubs. The route was set and Saturday morning was chosen for Part One.

On Sunday evening I caught the train to Notting Hill Gate (having overslept Saturday), and wandered down Kensington Church St. to the Churchill. This is a magnificent pub which is lovingly cared for, with plenty of wood around the place. The name struck me as very apt and I could easily imagine Churchill sitting in the bar puffing a cigar. I should think that the pub gets pretty crowded in the evening. After exchanging a few short stories with the barman about the Fuller's passport and sinking an excellent pint of London Pride I trotted off down the road and heading west I passed Adam and Eve Mews (strange name) and headed down Allen Street towards the Britannia.

This is a two bar pub with shoulder-high wood panelling in the saloon bar. I decided to have a pint of Young's Ordinary and profered both money and Young's list to the barmaid. After signing the list she made a remark concerning the number of pubs in Richmond. I told her to look at Wandsworth. Once again the beer was in excellent condition, and I had little difficulty in sinking the pint.

I retraced my steps to Kensington High St., and continued west. On reaching Warwick Road I turned left and headed towards the Warwick Arms. Across the road I spotted the sign on the the wall of an old Charrington pub, reading FREE HOUSE. I decided to investigate. My first impression on entering the Radnor Arms was how narrow it was. I made my way to the bar. It looked like one of those pubs where the beer tastes like old books and you need a mortgage to buy it. "I could still leave" I thought but it was too late, the barmaid was there. I decided to try the Adnams. The barmaid poured a full pint - 69p, cheaper than I thought. It was excellent. It hadn't been such a bad idea coming in after all. I drank the pint slowly whilst looking at the bottle collection on a high shelf.

From the Radnor I crossed back over the road and down to the Warwick Arms. Its interior is one that would fascinate the simple-minded (i.e me) for ages. Little bits of bric-a-brac around the pub. I decided to try the Chiswick. My worst mistake of the evening. There is only one way to describe the beer, awful. I managed to drink some but eventually departed leaving the pint on the bar, to head next door to the Britannia Tap (a pint of Young's Ordinaire would restore my taste buds after such a savage attack). I looked in *Real Beer in London*. "Beware, Chiswick is bright". Maybe I should have stuck with London Pride. I will know better next time.

I dashed into the Britannia Tap and had a very good pint of Young's Ordinary. The walls of the pub are covered with pictures including the original London Drinker election cover. Nice to see LD on sale behind the bar too.

From the Britannia Tap I wandered down to Cromwell Road, over the railway and past the old Nashville (now the Three Kings), down North End Road towards the Seven Stars. I was tempted to have a quickie in the Three Kings but as I had visited the pub

only a few weeks previously I decided to press on.

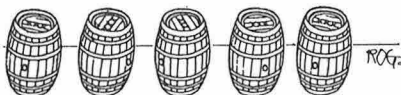
The Seven Stars is about a five minute walk from the Three Kings and at first sight reminded me of those hideous 50's style council houses. Inside it has two spacious bars and the counter length is considerable. The London Pride was in good condition. And so ended my first stab at a mammoth crawl whose saga will be continued in due course. . . .

"THEY MUST BE MAD" DEPARTMENT

It is quite a well known fact to regular readers of this August organ that some CAMRA members are regular cyclists who think nothing of cycling fifty-odd miles in a day. Others, on the other hand, tend to be strictly "cycle to the local pub" types who look to some other form of transport if the distance to be covered exceeds five miles - or even much less. Among the latter category come a group of regulars at **THE WINDMILL** in Hampton Hill in the far flung South Western corner of the Metropolis. These intrepid heroes, spurred on by the urge to prove all things possible, are to attempt to

cycle fifty miles, no less, from the Windmill to Brighton. The event is to take place on Sunday 9th October and approximately twenty of these daring (daft?) maestros (masochists?) of the bicycle will be making the attempt under the banner of the "Windmill Wheelers". Well, what do you expect, originality?

On a more serious note the riders are seeking sponsorship from friends, colleagues, etc. (enemies even) and all proceeds will be given to Richmond Mencap, the Richmond Branch of the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults, which is very active in helping to make life a little more pleasant for those much less fortunate than the majority of us. If any readers would like to make a donation to the fund your money will be most graciously accepted at the Windmill, Windmill Road, Hampton Hill, or, if you wish to post it, by Andy Pirson at the address given at the front of this magazine. Please make cheques and postal orders payable to Richmond Mencap.



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SE3 Bitter Experience, 128, Lee Road.
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 SE23 2 Brewers, 97 Dartmouth Park Road.
 SE27 Shoestrung Wines, 8 Norwood High Street.
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 SW1 WILTON ARMS, 71 Kinnerton Street.
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 SW11 ANCHOR, Holgate Avenue.
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 SW11 PRINCE OF WALES, Battersea Park Road.
 SW11 LATCHMERE, 503, Battersea Park Road.
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 SW12 BEDFORD HOTEL, Bedford Hill.
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 SW12 PRINCE OF WALES, 270 Cavendish Road.
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 W5 PLOUGH, Northfields Avenue.
 W5 RED LION, St. Mary's Road.
 W6 CROSS KEYS, 157 Black Lion Lane.
 W6 TRUSCOTT ARMS, Shirland Road.
 W8 CHURCHILL ARMS, 11 Kensington Church St.
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 W14 BRITANNIA TAP, 150 Warwick Road.
 W14 RADNOR ARMS, 247 Warwick Road.
 BEDDINGTON PLOUGH, Croydon Road.
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 HILLINGDON STAR, Uxbridge Rd. Hillingdon Heath.
 HOUNSLOW CHARIOT, 34 High St.
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 HOUNSLOW EARL RUSSELL, Hanworth Road.
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 MITCHAM CRICKETERS, 340 London Road.

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