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# LONDON DRINKER

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



The Duke of Devonshire, SW12. See Pub Profile, P.14.  
Photo: John Blackmore.

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# BRANCH DIARY

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

**BROMLEY:** Thu 9 (8.00) Social RAILWAY SIGNAL, Masons Hill, Bromley - Thu 23 (8.00) BRANCH AGM. Venue to be confirmed. Phone branch contact for details.

**EAST LONDON & CITY:** Wed 1 (8.00) League Darts Match. FISH & RING, 141A White Horse Road, E1 - Thu 2 (8.00) Social. BUCCANEER, 73 West India Dock Road, E14 - Sat 4 (7.30) Clapton Crawl. Start ELEPHANTS HEAD, 43 Lower Clapton Road, E15 - Tue 7 (8.00) Branch Meeting. VULCAN (Public Bar), 240 West Ferry Road, E14. (Cask ale WILL be served.) - Wed 8 (8.00) League Darts Match v. Flashers. EDWARD VII, 47 The Broadway, Stratford, E15. - Tue 14 (5.30) St. Valentine's Day Massacre & City Mini-crawl. Start DANDY ROLL, Gateway House, Bread Street, EC4 - Thu 16 (8.00) Social/Darts v. Rugby Team. LORD BROOKE, 47 Shernall Street, E17. Yes, Christian IS playing for us! - Sat 18 (8.00) Woodford Wander with S.W. Essex Branch. Start CRICKETERS, High Road, Woodford Green. - Tue 21 (8.00) Committee Meeting. BLACK HORSE, 168 Mile End Road, E1. - Wed 22 (8.00) League Darts Match. FISH & RING, 141A White Horse Road, E1. - Tue 28 (8.00) Social. ESSEX ARMS, 82 Forest Road, E17. Hopefully we'll meet a local home-brew group (200m from Blackhorse Road Tube.) - Wed 29 (8.00) League Darts Match v. BAY TREE, 59 Vicarage Lane, E15. - All Sundays in Feb. Lunchtime Liquidity at THREE TUNS, 185 Bow Road, E3. - All Sundays in Mar. Lunchtime Pint or Five at FISH & RING, 141A White Horse Road, E1. - Tue 6 Mar. (7.45 sharp) Special General Meeting followed by AGM. WINDMILL (upstairs), 27 Tabernacle Street, EC2. (N.B. Bring your membership cards.)

**KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD:** Sun 5 (12.00) Lunchtime Drink. WHITE HART, Hook Road, Chessington. - Thu 9 (8.30) Branch Meeting. STREETS OF LONDON, Bridge Road, East Molesey. - Thu 23 (8.00) Inn Rally. Start DRUID'S HEAD, Market Place, Kingston.

**RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW:** Tue 7 (8.30) Committee Meeting. WHITE CROSS, Riverside, Richmond - Thu 16 (8.30) Social. CROWN, Richmond Road, Twickenham - Mon 20 (8.30) Branch Meeting. WHITE BEAR, Kingsley Road, Hounslow.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Mon 13 (8.00) Branch AGM. PRINCE OF ORANGE, 118 Lower Road, SE16.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Thu 9 (8.30) Branch Meeting. WARRIOR (Brixton Brewery Co.), 242 Coldharbour Lane, SW9. - Fri 24 (8.00) Old Town Pub Crawl. Start TIM BOBBIN, Lillieshall, SW4. - Thu 8 Mar (8.15 sharp) Branch AGM. SPREAD EAGLE (Back Room), Wandsworth High Street, SW18.

**WEST LONDON:** Tue 7 (8.30) Pub of the Month Social. CROWN & SCEPTRE, 57 Melina Road, Shepherds Bush, W12 - Thu 16 (8.00) Branch Meeting. CHISWICK EYOT, 122 Chiswick High Road, W4.

**NORTH LONDON:** Tue 7 (8.00) Social. The PASSAGE, Upper Street, N1 (near Angel) - Mon 13 (8.30) Ladies Night. VICTORIA, Mornington Terrace, NW1. Further details from Anne Lodge, Tel: 888 5300 (evenings) - Tue 14 (8.00) Way out West in the GRAND JUNCTION ARMS, Acton Lane, NW10 (near Harlesden Station) Tue 21 (8.00) Two Pub Social. GOOD INTENT, Wedmore Street then J.J. MOONS, Landseer Road, both N19. - Tue 28 (8.00) Three Pub Social in Tottenham. (Start VOLUNTEER, Chestnut Road; then CITY ARMS, Highcross Road and finish aboard THE FERRYBOAT, Ferry Lane, all N17. - Sat 3 Mar. Stagger around Dalston with East London Branch (possible Border Raid). More details next month. - Tue 6 Mar (8.00) Branch Meeting. Venue to be announced. - Every Sunday lunchtime in Feb. Pub of the Month, THE WELLS, Well Walk, Hampstead, NW3.

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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 Limited.

LONDON DRINKER is published by the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

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March edition available end of February. Copy should reach editors by 4th February. Closing date for April edition 5th March.



Alf Slinn, president of the National Union of Licensed Victuallers, has recently issued a vitriolic attack on the West Midlands Consumer Services Department, which our regular readers will remember, is responsible for campaigning for a full pint by way of leaflets and beer mats aimed at drinkers in its area.

"Our Alf" commented: "What these people simply refuse to believe is that the **British** drinker demands froth on his pint as any licensee serving flat beer will soon find out."

He is probably talking about the good people of the Midlands and parts of the North who like drinking their pints through frothy heads resembling ice cream cornets. As most of these pints are delivered into over-sized glasses by electric metre dispense or handpump there are few problems with underfilled glasses.

Alf continues: "Despite the fact that the High

Court has ruled that froth is a legitimate part of a pint, they continually harp (sic) on the subject, presumably knowing that the public house is always good for a story."

He omits to remind his readers that the High Court ruling also states that the customer is **entitled** to ask for a top-up, giving the impression to his members that those of us who do so, are somehow troublemakers, to be grouped with the West Midlands Consumer Services Dept.

"Our President" goes on: "What annoys me is the fact that they (WMCS Dept) set themselves up as judge and jury in the matter - they will tell people what they will have, whether they want it or not!" *Surely, all people who ask for a pint expect to be given one?*

Our learned friend concludes: "I challenge them to do some research on the subject, let them go into pubs to establish the real wishes of those they are trying to protect before squandering tax and ratepayers' money on this sort of nonsense."

How many times have you been reminded by a publican or a member of his staff about your rights to a full pint? How much money is it worth to a publican and to brewers to keep quiet about the new law or even to mislead the public? At least London Drinker is not spending public money - only yours! - to remind beer drinkers of their rights; but even so, I say more power to your elbow, West Midlands Consumer Services Dept, and **Up yours** to Alf Slinn.

Chris Cobbold

## John Smith's returns to the fold

CAMRA made the breakthrough it has been waiting for last month, when John Smith's announced that they were resuming production of cask-conditioned beer.

The Yorkshire company were the only remaining brewery left in the country which still refused to supply its pubs with real ale. Now the first dray carrying traditional John Smith's bitter is expected to pull out of their Tadcaster brewery in February.

Initially the ale will be introduced to 25 pubs within a 30 mile radius of the town, but by late 1985 the handpumped bitter is expected to be in nearly 500 pubs throughout the North and Midlands, with a full production target of 30 million pints a year.

John Smith, Courage's northern arm, say the

beer is brewed to exactly the same recipe as when the company last produced cask-conditioned ales in 1976. It is a real version of the current bright bitter, and will be sold at the same price.

Smith's chairman, John Whitworth, admitted that they had suffered at the hands of CAMRA, but said they had changed their policy now because of the increased demand for cask-conditioned bitter that they had observed over the last couple of years, which justified the cost required.

The Campaign's national liaison officer with the Courage group Adrian Hobbs said: "This must be the greatest success story in the Campaign's history. They deny that we had anything to do with the decision, but I feel that a combination of factors, plus the isolated position of John Smiths, finally led to their capitulation."

