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CAMRA

15p

LONDON DRINKER

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



Awaydray to Horsham – See p.10

Vol
7

No 1

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

CROYDON & SUTTON: Wed 6. North Croydon Survey Crawl. Depart GOLDEN LION 8.30 — Thur 14 (8.00) Sutton Inn Rally (with Kingston & Leatherhead). GREENMAN, 37 High Street, Sutton — Thur 21. Croydon Survey Crawl. Depart CATHERINE WHEEL 8.30.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Fri 1 (8.00) Social. VICTORY, 281 Kingsland Road, E2 — Tue 5 (8.00) Branch Meeting. HORSESHOE, 24 Clerkenwell Close, EC1 — Wed 6 (8.00) Darts Social. ODESSA ARMS, 53 Odessa Road, E7 — Fri 8 (8.00) Social. TOWN OF RAMSGATE, 62 Wapping High Street, E1 — Mon 11 (8.00) Darts Social. WELSH HARP, 32 Homerton Row, E9 — Wed 13 (8.00) Darts Social. TOBY TAVERN, 81 Portway, E15 — Fri 15 (8.00) Social. RAM TAVERN, 26 North Woolwich Road, E16 — Tue 19 (8.00) Committee Meeting. WHITE HORSE, 48 White Horse Road, E1 — Sat 23 Barking Border Crawl. 7.30 start in SPOTTED DOG then BRITANNIA, JOLLY FISHERMAN, WHITEHORSE, BULL, BARGE AGROUND, CAPTAIN COOK and finish in VICTORIA — Mon 25 (5.30) Social. TURNER'S, 11 Broad Street Concourse, EC2 — Wed 27 (8.00) Darts Social. FISH & RING, 141A White Horse Road, E1 — Tue 5 March (7.30) Branch AGM WINDMILL, 27 Tabernacle Street, EC2.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Sun 3 (12.00) Lunchtime Drink. FOUNTAIN, Burlington Road, New Malden — Thu 7 (8.30) Branch Meeting. DRUID'S HEAD, 3 Market Place, Kingston (To be confirmed) — Thur 14 (8.00) St. Valentine's Day Inn Rally. Start at GREEN MAN, 37 High Street, Sutton — Sun 3 Mar. (12.00) Lunchtime Drink. RAILWAY GUARD, 48 Church Road, Epsom.

NORTH LONDON: Tue 5 (8.00) Branch Meeting. STARTING GATE, Buckingham Road, N22 — Tue 12 (8.00) Two Pub Social. COOPERS ARMS 164 Kilburn High Road NW6, then QUEENS ARMS, 1 Kilburn High Road — Tue 19 (8.00) Two Pub Social. CHEQUERS, 841 High Street N17, then pub on route T.B.A. to arrive at VICTORIA, 34 Scotland Green N17 at 10.00 — Tue 26 (8.00) S. Barnes' - Birthday Booze-Up. GREEN MAN, 125 Slough Lane, NW9 (Steve says the drinks are on him!) — Every Sunday lunchtime in Feb. Pub of the Month. LORD PALMERSTON, 33 Dartmouth Park Hill, NW5.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Tue 7 (8.30) Committee Meeting. HOGARTH, Broad Street, Teddington — Mon 18 (8.30) Branch Meeting. WHITE BEAR, Kingsley Road, Hounslow.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Mon 11 (8.00) Branch AGM. BLACK HORSE, 167 Rushey Green, Catford, SE6.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thursday 14th Feb, Branch Meeting at KINGS HEAD, Tooting, SW17. (Back bar). 8pm. Friday 22nd Feb, Social. WARRIOR, Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, SW9. 8pm. Tuesday 26th Feb, 100% SW20 Pub Crawl. Meet LEATHER BOTTLE, Kingston Rd. SW19. 7.45pm prompt.

WEST LONDON: Wed 6 (8.00) Pub of the Month Social. BLUE POSTS, Devonshire Street, W1 — Thu 21 (8.00) Branch Meeting. DEVONSHIRE ARMS, Devonshire Street, W1.
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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.

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CAMRA — THE BIGGEST PAIN IN THE ARSE

This was the message arising from a 'News Target' investigation published in local give-away papers like the "Putney Chronicle" towards the end of 1984. It comes from a London pub gov'nor, speaking anonymously, who said

"Some governors put all the old slops back that have been hanging around in the bar for hours, but I don't agree with that. You can put a couple of gallons of water in the barrel and nobody will notice.

"You can put two gallons of water in 22 gallons of beer without risk - that's £16.

"The gain is £16 for every bucket of beer in one session and that's £32 a day seven days a week.

"But you can do your trade in if you are not careful because some people like the CAMRA mob can tell the difference between a good pint and a bad one.

"In fact they are the biggest pain in the arse you have ever come across to be quite honest.

"The normal average person can't tell the difference."

The Putney Chronicle, part of the London & Westminster Group, describes what's going on as a "multi-million pound swindle" and has passed its findings to a London MP for action in Parliament.

Geoff Fish from Hammersmith environmental services said that he had heard complaints for over seven years about greedy landlords putting waste beer, slops and water into barrels for resale. He particularly pointed out that recycling the dregs from 'dead' glasses carries quite a health risk both from saliva and from contamination if the last 'user' didn't wash his hands after using the toilet. The same applies to slops from the drip tray if they have run down the side of a used glass on the way from the tap.

Also quoted was the West Midlands council consumer services department. They call for more information from brewers on original gravities to aid analysis and point out that chemistry cannot detect slops because the beer undergoes no change when they go in. Equally, up to 10% water can be added without being detected by present methods.

Keeg beer and lager isn't safe either. Despite the kegs carrying enough pressure to "blow your head off" unscrupulous landlords use keys and industrial wrenches called 'Stillsons' to get into them so as to add slops and water. "If you know what you're doing it's a simple job", said the landlord quoted above.



In some pubs the staff are unwittingly drawn in. The governor will tell some staff to do some things and some to do others. None of them sees the whole process.

The Chronicle also reported that the brewers neither encourage nor discourage the practise. They describe it as an "open secret" amongst both publicans and brewers.

Their investigations took several months and echo London Drinker's own reports on slop recycling. We fully support the efforts being made to stop this sort of thing.

There are of course many landlords who will have nothing to do with it. They aim to be honest with their customers and take pride in their beer. We support them and hope they prosper. As for the others, we'd hope that the drinker will vote with his feet and keep well away.

**Chris Cobbold
Ian Worden**

OVER THE TOP?

In our last issue we featured the case of a man who had too much and by way of a follow up, it is instructive to point out that a landlord beside having the right to refuse service to someone who has had too many, also has a duty not to serve alcohol to someone who would as a result be incapable of looking after himself, PROVIDED that he knows this or should know.

But don't rush out to sue the gov'nor next time you come home from the pub with a hangover. A legal case last year held that the licensee was not liable in the case of a drunken customer who had been asked to leave but fell to his death down a cliff on the way home, after climbing a fence without realising what was on the other side. The sort of situation that is worth avoiding, in other words.

