

## DRINKER



## **MARQUIS OF CORNWALLIS**

Bethnal Green Road London E2

10113

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

No A

## Where to buy London Drinker

The following is a list of all of the current outlets for London Drinker. Where the full addresses of outlets are not given, these pubs are to be found in one of the local beer guides, covering the whole of Greater London.

these	pubs are to be found in one of t	he loc	al beer guides, covering the whol	e of G	reater London.
OUT	LETS - EAST and SOUTH	SF29	PRINCE OF DENMARK	N17	BOAR
	T PUBS		SHIP	N17	ELBOW ROOM
EC1	ARTILLERY ARMS		5 DULWICH WOOD HOUSE	N17	NARROW BOAT
EC1	BETSY TROTWOOD		HOPE	N19	DOG
	CROWN TAVERN		GIPSY QUEEN	N19	
	HAND & SHEARS		LEY, BLUE ANCHOR	N20	
	HORSESHOE		YDON, DOG & BULL	N20	
	PHEASANT & FIRKIN		YDON, LION	N21	
	ROSEBERRY	CNO	TDON, LION	N22	MOON UNDER WATER
	SEKFORDE ARMS	OFF	TRADE	N22	
EC1	THOMAS WETHERED	E4	Waltham Wines,		NET, ALEXANDRA
	BANKER		72 Sewardstone Road.		NET, OLD MITRE
E1	ARTFUL DODGER	SE3	Bitter Experience, 128 Lee	DAD	NET, WEAVER
E1	LORD RODNEYS HEAD	PF-073-PF-	Road.	COCI	KFOSTERS, TRENT TAVERN
E2	APPROACH TAVERN	BEX	LEYHEATH, Bitter Experience,		ELD, KING & TINKER
E2	NELSON'S HEAD		216 Broadway.		ELD, MOON UNDER WATER
E2	SHIP & BLUE BALL	BRC	MLEY, Bitter End, 139 Masons		
E8	LADY DIANA	Dice	Hill.		ELD, OLD WHEATSHEAF
E8	ROBIN HOOD		*****		BARNET, BUILDER ARMS
E8		OUT	LETS - WEST CENTRAL,	NEW	BARNET, RAILWAY BELL
	VILLAGE		NORTH PUBS	O # 1990	TOTAL NAMES WINOS DVIDS
E9	ROYAL STANDARD		CALTHORPE ARMS		LETS - NORTH-WEST PUBS
E10	DRUM				DUCK INN
E10	TAP & SPILE		CITTIE OF YORKE		GLOUCESTER ARMS
E11	NORTHCOTE		LAMB		MAN IN THE MOON
E14	QUEENS HEAD		MARLBOROUGH ARMS	NW3	FLASK TAVERN
E17	COLLEGE ARMS		MOON	NW4	CHEQUERS
E17	COPPERMILL		PAKENHAM ARMS		WHITE BEAR
SE1	ANCHOR & HOPE		PRINCESS LOUISE	NW4	WHITE LION OF MORTIMER
SE1	FOUNDERS ARMS		RUGBY TAVERN		QUEENS ARMS
SE1	GOOSE & FIRKIN	WC1	SUN	NW7	RAILWAY TAVERN
SE1	HORNIMAN AT HAYS		YORKSHIRE GREY		CROCKERS
SE1	KINGS ARMS	WC2	CROWN & ANCHOR		GEORGE
SE1	LEATHER EXCHANGE	WC2	GEORGE IV		J.J. MOONS
SE1	PRINCE WILLIAM HENRY		LYCEUM		MOON UNDER WATER
SE1	SOUTHWARK TAVERN		FREEMASONS ARMS		O GRAND JUNCTION ARMS
SE1	WELLINGTON TAVERN		COMPTON ARMS		OUTSIDE INN
SE1	WHEATSHEAF	N1	EARL OF RADNOR		EFIELD, PLOUGH
SE3	BRITISH OAK	N1	FLOUNDER & FIRKIN		
SE5	PHOENIX & FIRKIN	N1	GEORGE IV	HAK	ROW, KINGSFIELD ARMS
SE7	McDONNELS	N1	GEORGE & VULTURE	OFF	TRADE
	DOG & BELL	N1	HEMINGFORD ARMS	N1	Beer Shop, Pitfield Street.
	ROYAL GEORGE	N1	KINGS HEAD, 59 Essex Road.	N2	GROGBLOSSOM
SE9		N1	MALT & HOPS		Grogblossom, 235 West End
	PARK TAVERN	N1	MARQUESS TAVERN	14110	Lane.
	ROYAL ELTHAM	N1			Lane.
	ASHBURNHAM ARMS		PRINCE ALBERT	CLU	BS
	BRITISH SAILOR	N1 N2	PRINCE ARTHUR OLD WHITE LION	NW4	MIDDLESEX POLYTECHNIC
	FROG & RADIATOR				STUDENTS UNION
	FOX & FIRKIN	N2	WINDSOR CASTLE	WC1	UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
	BLACKSMITHS ARMS	N4	NICHOLAS NICKLEBY		UNION, Malet Street
	MANOR TAVERN	N4	MORTIMER ARMS	WC2	L.S.E. Houghton Street
	MOBY DICK	N4	OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH		
<b>SE17</b>	TANKARD	N4	TAP & SPILE		LETS - SOUTH WEST and
<b>SE18</b>	EARL OF CHATHAM	N4	WHITE LION OF MORTIMER		T PUBS
<b>SE18</b>	COOPERS ARMS	N7	ADMIRAL MANN		BARLEY MOW
	(PLAISTED'S)	N7	FAT HARRY'S		BUCKINGHAM ARMS
<b>SE18</b>	GATEHOUSE	N8	TOLL GATE		FOX & HOUNDS
	PRINCESS OF WALES	N9	BEEHIVE		MORPETH ARMS
	RAILWAY BELL		WETHERSPOONS	SW1	ORANGE BREWERY
	ROYAL ALBERT	N12	MOSS HALL TAVERN	SW1	PAVIOURS ARMS RED LION
	ANERLEY ARMS	N12	TILTED GLASS	SW1	RED LION
	HOP EXCHANGE	N12	WHOLE HOG	SW1	ROYAL OAK
	CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN		GOAT	SW1	UNICORN, Victoria Place
	COMMERCIAL		K. K. McCOOLS		(above Station Concourse)
	PRINCE REGENT		ROSE & CROWN	SW <sub>2</sub>	HOPE & ANCHOR
	GOAT HOUSE		TANNERS HALL		
الكنان	COM HOUSE	1410	TAINERS HALL		Continued on p31

## EDITORIAL

We have frequently complained in London Drinker about that most pernicious habit of licensees - the returning of drip-tray overflows to the cask. Whilst in no way condoning the practice I think we should all try to understand why many landlords (and landladies) do it. Very often it is the breweries who are to blame and force licensees into this abuse.

Until a few years ago the licensees of one of our local breweries were allowed to include an amount in their stocktaking for drip-tray wastage and for line-cleaning. Let's say this figure was £75 for the period and the stocktaking otherwise showed a £50 shortage, then there would be a credit of £25 in addition to the allowance of 0.5% of gross takings for staff drinks. Suddenly licensees were informed by the stocktakers (not the brewery, but presumably on its instructions) that the ullage allowance had been scrapped and that no credit would in future be allowed in the stocktaking for drip-tray overflows, line-cleaning or even for cask "bottoms".

It was pointed out to the brewery that ullage was a fact of life and dismissing the allowance from the stocktaking would not dismiss the fact! The response was that the staff drinks allowance would have to cover any ullage, as it was assumed that customers would buy sufficient drinks for the staff for them not to need a drinks allowance!

In recent years brewery accountants have intensified pressure on licensees to produce keener and keener stocktaking results. Stocktaking in a pub is a very imprecise art and very dependent on the style of the

stocktaker. This would not be an insurmountable problem if the same stocktaker always attended a particular pub but this is rarely the case and so inconsistencies occur from one stocktaking to the next. This naturally magnifies the licensees' anxiety as stocktaking day approaches.

The end result of all these pressures to produce good stock results is that pub managers look for every opportunity to "maximise" their stocks. Since no allowance is given for ullage many licensees feel justified in returning drip-tray slops to the cask. It is a dreadful practice which is not only unhygenic but also adulterates the beer. It is difficult to imagine how any brewery, particularly one which is proud of its cask beers, can condone the abuse. If you were to enquire at the brewery it would of course deny all knowledge and condemn the practice. Nevertheless the custom is followed in the majority of its pubs and I am positive that the brewery knows what is happening in so many of its houses.

So next time you see a guv'nor carefully transferring the contents of his drip-trays to a bucket and suspect that it will eventually find its way back into the cask, remember, it is probably the brewery which is to blame. If brewers were in control of breweries they would not permit "returns" to the cask. Unfortunately accountants now run our breweries and they are not interested in the quality of the beer, just the quantity of the profits.

Dave Sullivan

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SUBSCRIPTION: (£6.00 for 1 year) should be sent to: Stan Tompkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Drinker.

I assumed Andy Pirson's editorial on pub names (April) was meant to be April Fool. But strangely, I see it is not listed as such at the end. So are we meant to take it seriously? If so it deserves serious criticism.

I can agree with Andy when he complains of brewers arbitrarily changing pub names and, even worse, changing them to non pub like names. But . . . at the moment the brewer are the owners and so they can have what name they like.

Of course it would be desirable if proposed name changes were amenable to democratic control. Say a poll of drinkers in the pub over a monthly period. Changes to planning laws, which Andy suggest, seems a very bureaucratic and probably infeffective way of asserting control. After all, what control does the ordinary drinker have over a planning authority? Before Andy points it out, the answer, of course, is that, notionally, we elect the councillors who sit on it every few years. May be pub names would be a good criteria (sic) for voting in local elections, especially as local councils don't seem able to influence much else these days.

But my gripe with Andy's editorial is not his desire to control unnecessary or frivolous changes to pub names, but his apparent belief that the existing names are OK. If you are a monarchist then the huge number of pub names associated with royalty probably make you happy. But where are the pub names celebrating, for example, the execution of the King in 1649, the Glorious Revolution of 1688 or the granting of women's right to vote in 1918. Such names did exist in the nineteenth century, so by Andy's definition, can we have them back please?

Yours sincerely, Keith Flett, New Southgate, N11

## Editor's reply:

That's the nice thing about April, isn't it; anything you don't like you can easily insult by saying 'I thought it must be an April Fool.' It's nice to think that I hadn't got it totally wrong and that pub names shouldn't be messed around with (unless they have royal connections

- that seems to mean that you want about 90% of the pub names changed where I live in Teddington, assuming that you count all notibility in with your royalty).

I note that you seem to think that so long as brewers own pubs they can ignore planning regulations. I agree that the vandalism that the brewers have carried out in the past would seem to support this view but I don't quite see his alternative being very workable either. Finally, concerning the return to nineteenth century names, that's fine if you can prove that a particular pub is reverting to an earlier name but my main aim was to call a halt to the ridiculous spate of renamings rather than to try to turn the clock back. I should be interested to see evidence, by the way, of a nineteenth century pub name celebrating the enfranchisement of women in 1918.

It's nice to know that somebody agrees with me, though. Read on . . .

Andy Pirson

## Dear Editors,

I completely agree with your editorial in the April London Drinker. Pubs are a part of a locality's heritage and to change their names without good cause is to destroy a little bit of our past and to contribute to the homogenisation of our towns and villages. When I visit a new pub I often enquire about the origin of its name; on almost every occasion the barman has no idea why its particular name was chosen. I would certainly like to see a small panel in every pub giving a brief history of the place.

A related matter is that pub signs are often changed even when the names are not, and with the same deleterious effects. For example, one local pub is named the Greyhound because the then landlord served on HMS Greyhound and the sign showed this warship. On his retirement the pub was redecorated and the sign was replaced with one of a dog; no doubt in a few years the reason for the pub's name will be largely forgotten. I'm sure other readers know of similar examples.

On another matter, I recently visited another part of the country and would have liked to buy a CAMRA good beer guide for that area but couldn't find one in the local High Street bookshops. (Perhaps it didn't exist). Would it be possible for the London Drinker to publish

a list of regional beer guides in print and sell them by mail or would these guides be sold to CAMRA members only?

The trivia questions are a good idea but please do include the answers with them. By the time a month has passed I and my cronies have forgotten the questions and probably lent someone else the magazine. It's difficult to hold a quiz on April 13th if we don't get the answers until May 13th for example.

I would also like to see you include some 'brain teaser' probems which need no special knowledge but can be solved with a little thought, and I've written some on a separate sheet. Some of them are quite long so you would probably only use one or two a month, but I am sure other readers would send in lots more since they always start a lot of discussion and are very popular. Most importantly everyone has a chance to solve them.

Keep up the good work, Glyn Thomas, Hounslow

PS Re your solution to the 5 "ands". When I saw your answers on page 10 I noticed that 'Pig and "and" and "and "and Whistle' were on separate lines - that makes six!

## Editor's reply:

Regarding the local beer guides produced for different parts of the country to list them all in the Drinker would take a lot of space which we cannot spare and to stock them would tie up a lot of capital that we don't have. If you are going to a particular locality, I suggest that you ring CAMRA Headquarters at St Albans on 0727 867201. They should be able to tell you what guides are available for the area and either be able to send you one or give you the name and address of a local contact. Better still, join CAMRA and get this information updated at regular intervals in the members newspaper, ''What's Brewing''.

I have resisted putting answers in the same edition of the Drinker as the questions so far as from conversations with other readers they keep themselves amused through the whole month trying to solve some of the posers I set. I feel that if I put the solutions on another page of the same issue many people would give up after about five minutes and look them up.

Then I would lose the pleasure of thinking of all those sleepless nights I cause. Still I am open to argument; if lots of other readers intimate to me that they would like the solutions to any of the problems in "Idle Moments" in the same issue I should be willing to reconsider...

Finally thanks for the brain teasers. I have already done this month's "Idle Moments" but I shall give them a good look for next month - and I promise to have a good go at them before I open the answers that you have enclosed, stapled up.

Andy Pirson

## Dear Editors,

Following the article regarding bus cuts which appeared in the April edition, I was almost left with the overriding impression of another spoof timed to coincide with All Fools' Day. Whilst the general gist of the piece was correct (and one with which I am in full accord), the detail is occasionally so far off the mark as to be misleading. That's what is outrageous, not as claimed.

For instance 19s are to be turned short of Battersea at the World's End public house, Chelsea, and not "just after the bridge" as suggested while the Clapham Junction/Richmond link is to be the 337 (not a 37A). The body responsible for all the cuts (excepting 33s) is London Regional Transport at 55 Broadway (not London Transport which ceased to exist in 1984 - Accept no imitations!) whereas London United should be contacted to protest about the proposals affecting the 33s only which, I understand, have been scrapped anyway.

The whole article smacks of an academic without any intimate knowledge of the bus network or its workings. Just who is 'Alebus', a bus user or a bus abuser? I think we should be told!

## Yours Ron Greenwood, Southall

PS Almost as contemptuous, however, has been the restriction imposed by London Buses (another body!) imposed on one-day Travelcards preventing them from being valid on night bus services, thereby creating a real disincentive for occasional drinkers, like myself, to leave their cars at hime when drinking farther afield.



## 3<sup>RD</sup>SURREY BEER FESTIVAL

DORKING HALLS 21~22<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 1991



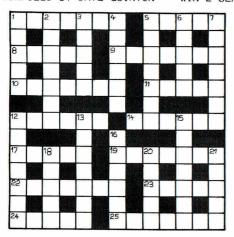
## 40 REAL ALES AND CIDERS DORKING HALLS, REIGATE ROAD, DORKING

11am-3pm admission £1.50, 5.30pm-11pm £3.00 NO ADMISSION AFTER 10.00pm, OR TO UNACCOMPANIED UNDER 18's

SOUVENIR FESTIVAL GLASS FREE ON ADMISSION
FAMILY ROOM - HOT & COLD FOOD AVAILABLE AT ALL SESSIONS
LIVE MUSIC FRIDAY EVENING, SATURDAY LUNCH & SATURDAY HVENING
NOT FAR FROM ANY DORKING STATION!

## LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY DAVE QUINTON WIN 2 SEASON TICKETS TO THE G.B.B.F.



Name	ě
Address	
	٠
	v

All correct entries received by first post on 29th May will be entered into a draw for the prize.

The winner of the prize will be announced in the July London Drinker. Solution next month.

All entries to be submitted to: London Drinker Crossword 25 Valens House Upper Tulse Hill London SW2 2RX

## Last Month's Solution



## ACROSS

1 &	5. Len orders egg scrambled in NW11.	
		7.5
8.	Make up an hour after midnight.	[5]
9.	Grand girls making spectacles of	
	themselves.	[7]
10.	Initially Tranmere Rovers player is a	а
	draw provider.	[7]
11.	Beat certain vegetables.	[5]
12.	Artist's beauty is a tasty morsel.	[6]
	Talk again about soil.	[6]
17.	Celebrity appearing before the Queen	
	Crawler!	[5]
19.	Explain old money.	17
22.	Los Angeles less than clean.	17
23.	Discover king from the north.	15
24.	Uncommon men.	15
25.	Left 17s. They go up and down.	17

### DOWN

	it a bio of coldier to meet social	
	worker.	151
2.	Man the French found on a road.	[7]
3.	Upstanding before getting caught.	[5]
4.	Susan Garfield is short and sweet.	[6]
5.	Hold tight onto Granny Smith's first	
	two fruit.	171
6.	Support breaking of lease.	151
7.	Being born on North American trail.	[7]
12.	Abused revolutionary about wrong.	171
13.	Walks while holy man is carried.	171
15.	Imitate dead bird?	[7]
16.	Gas found in carpet roll.	161
18.	Police chief has chance to show	
	bravery.	101
20.	Turned white when father went in fro	ont.
		(5)
21,	Nudes stripped off in the sandhills.	151

1. It's big of soldier to meet social

Winner of the prize for the March crossword: Odd John (Colchester), 45 Gladwin Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7HW

Other correct entries were received from: Patricia Andrews, Geoff B, Donald Barker, The Bean, Kew Beaumont, Roy Bedow, Jane Best, Brock, Peter Brown, Brendan Casey, Roy Cawood, Jeanette Chapman, M, Chapman, Miss L, A, Clarke, H, J, Colman, A, P, Comaish, Liam Crotty, Andy Darnbrough, Doug King & Queen, Mrs Bubash, Elizabeth Duff, Mike Farrelly, Ian Foord, Tony Fox, Elleen Graves, J, E, Green, John Harmer, John Heekin, Alison Henley, P, Hensman, P, J, W, Horne, Paul Hough, Bob Hubert, Hugh Jampton, Hugh Jarris, Mike Jolly, Miss S, Jolly, T, F, Keane, Colin Kolb, Simon Lammin, Pete Large, Judith Maeer, Charlotte Marley, J, A, Mason, Ian Musson, R, K, Naish, Terry Neill, Noj, Rab Hoolas, Steve Piggott, W, Priestley, M, W, Rose, Oliver Rowlands, Mike Rugman, Clare Snowdon, Glyn Thomas, Troglodyte, Jess Underhill, Martin Weedon, Spud Whale, Chris Whithouse, Susan Wilson, Yak, There were also 2 incorrect entries.

## Existing Establishments

HARRINGAY
THE MORTIMER
ARMS
405 Green Lanes N4

705 Green Edites 117

STROUD GREEN WHITE LION OF MORTIMER

125/127 Stroud Green Road N4

HARRINGAY OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH 10-12 Grand Parade N4

TURNPIKE LANE THE TOLLGATE 26-30 Turnpike Lane N8

WEST GREEN ROAD THE GOAT 414-6 West Green Road N15

STOKE NEWINGTON THE TANNERS HALL 145 High Street N16

WOOD GREEN/TOTTENHAM THE BOAR 413 Lordship Lane N17

TOTTENHAM
THE ELBOW ROOM
503-505 High Road N17

ON THE RIVER LEA THE NARROW BOAT Reedham Close N17

HOLLOWAY
JJ MOONS
37 Landseer Road N19

ARCHWAY THE DOG 17/19 Archway Road N19

WOOD GREEN THE MOON UNDER WATER

423 Lordship Lane N22

KINGSBURY JJ MOONS 553 Kingsbury Road NW7

WEST HENDON
THE WHITE LION OF
MORTIMER

3 York Parade West Hendon Broadway London NW9

WALTHAMSTOW THE DRUM 557/9 Lea Bridge Road E10

## SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

5 new J.D. Wetherspoon Free Houses



The J.D. Wetherspoon Organisation. London's largest independent group of free houses is further extending its influence

Opening Spring 1991

## THE TALLY-HO

High Road, North Finchley, London N12

## JJ MOONS

25-26 Kenton Park Parade Kenton Road, Kenton, Middlesex

## WHITE LION OF MORTIMER

84-86 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middlesex

## OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH

Manor Park Road Harlesden, London NW10

## THE ELBOW ROOM

22 Topsfield Parade, Tottenham Lane London N8



WALTHAMSTOW THE COLLEGE ARMS 807 Forest Road E17

BARNET
THE MOON UNDER
WATER
148 High Street Barnet

ENFIELD THE MOON UNDER WATER

115/117 Chase Side Enfield

NEASDEN THE OUTSIDE INN 312-314 Neasden Lane NW10

SOUTH HARROW JJ MOONS

3 Shaftesbury Parade Shaftesbury Circle South Harrow

EAST BARNET
THE RAILWAY BELL
13 East Barnet Road
East Barnet

CHALK FARM
THE MAN IN THE
MOON

40-42 Chalk Farm Road NWI

STREATHAM
JJ MOONS
2 Streatham Hill SW2

SHEPHERDS BUSH THE MOON ON THE

GREEN 172-174 Uxbridge Road Shepherd's Bush W12

PALMERS GREEN THE WHOLE HOG 430-434 Green Lanes Palmers Green N13

COLINDALE
THE MOON UNDER
WATER

10 Varley Parade Colindale NW9

RUISLIP MANOR JJ MOONS 12 Victoria Road Ruislip Manor

THE WHITE LION OF MORTIMER

223 London Road Mitcham

WEMBLEY JJ MOONS 397 High Road Wembley

## IDLE MOMENTS

Do you remember that last month I said I would include a sentence containing the word "HAD" successively eleven times. Well, you'll have to keep reading. First we're going to have the answers to last month's number puzzles:

- 1. 100 New Pence in a Pound
- 2. 081 Dialling Code for Outer London
- 3. 7 Continents in the World
- 4. 66 Books in the Bible
- 5. 40 Fluid Ounces in a Quart
- 6. 275 MilliLitres in a Half Pint Bottle of Beer
- 7. 70 Three Score Years and Ten
- 8. 12 Ounces in a Pound (Troy Weight)
- 44 International Dialling Code for the United Kingdom
- 10. 7 Dwarves in Snow White

And without more ado here are this month's:

- 1. 3 L of M
- 2. 9 D of LJGR
- 3. 22 P on a FP
- 4. 10 C
- 5. 1 C of C of a MTF (B)
- 6. 1980 BBETW the GS
- 7. 27 S on the CL
- 8. 4 F on the T
- 9. 1000 L on a M
- 10. 1666 GF of L

As for the brewery anagrams here is last month's solution:

HATES WIT
 A SNIPE
 A RISQUE
 TOUR? HA!
 CHILL STEM
 FRED'S PILING
 THWAITES
 PAINES
 TRAQUAIR
 HOUSE
 MITCHELLS
 SPRINGFIELD

And this month's little bundle (I'm keeping the words in between down this month as Ian Amy commented on the amount of space I took up last time):

- 1. CAT IN IT
- 2. DOG RIPPED EEL
- HOG'S CARE
- 4. MARS MEN, SIR
- 5. HIP OXEN

I'm not going to include a normal (if that's the right word!) list of false negatives this month. Instead I am going to refer to a letter I received recently from the most hirsute member of the

North London Branch of CAMRA, one Richard Larkin if you don't already know him. He kicked off with two words that can have opposite meanings. The first INFLAMMABLE meaning can (or cannot) be set afire. I'm not too sure personally about the cannot bit but certainly flammable and inflammable both mean exactly the same thing. His second word is LET; the meaning to allow is obvious. Less widely used is its opposite meaning, to obstruct but it approaches common parlance in the games of tennis and squash and of course if you hold a passport inside the front cover you will find the words "... to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance . . . , ,

Richard's letter went on to say "I must take issue with Rob McGowan on some of his list [February London Drinker]. 'Placable', 'pregnable' and 'reck' are all known; not common, I admit, but used. I think 'maculate' is too, but Webster's Dictionary gives it as being archaic." I do hope we're not going to fall out over it though; I must admit that none of those words fall into the category of ones I ever recall using.

I have had another letter, this time from Jerry Cooke, who is, according to his address label, a balloon pilot from Southall. After saying nice things about Idle Moments he adds more to the correction I printed last month from Martin Butler about the second man in space. To quote from Jerry's letter:

"John H Glenn was not by any definition the second man in space - we all chose him in the pub when we got the February edition - but an argument about what fuel was used for the launch caused me to check the records and the first space flights were as follows:

- 1. Vostock 1 12/4/61 Yuri Gagarin.
- Mercury 1 'Freedom 7' 5/5/61 Alan B Shepard.
- Mercury 2 'Liberty Bell 7' 21/7/61 -Virgil I Grissom.
- 4. Vostock II 6/8/61 Herman Titov.
- Mercury 3 'Friendship 7' 20/2/62 John H Glenn.

Mercury 1 and 2 were sub-orbital, but even if that is counted Comrade Titov gets No. 2. I

know for record breaking purposes the Soviets claimed Gagarin landed with his craft when he actually ejected at 23,000 feet but the Russians were the first in space. But even if you use the FAI definition Glenn is either No. 1 or No. 3 depending whether sub-orbitals are counted or not."

So there you are; it's funny though, my colleagues at work accepted the answer that I gave them. Now with even more trepidation than before I give you the answers to round four:

- 1. Spiders, scorpions, ticks and mites
- 2. Salisbury (Wiltshire) [404 feet or 123 metres]
- 3. John Buchan
- 4. A centau
- 5. Cliff Richard
- 6. DIARRHOEA (note two R's)
- 7. 1957 [October, 4th, Friday]
- 8. Aaron
- 9. Sir Christopher Wren
- 10. Tourist Trophy

So here we go with Round Five:

- Of what pop group were Jet Harris and Tony Meehan originally members?
- 2. Who designed the bouncing bomb, the R100 airship and the Wellington Bomber?
- 3. In what town in London's South West suburbs was Noel Coward born?
- 4. In 1985 who was the only performer at both

Wembley and New York Band Aid concerts?

- 5. What is the World's biggest office building?
- 6. At what temperature are the Fahrenheit and Celsius scales numerically equal?
- 7. Who directed "Blazing Saddles" and "Silent Movie"?
- Franklin D. Roosevelt was President of the USA from 1933 until his death in 1945. What did the "D" stand for? [Harry S. Truman took over from him. What did the "S" stand for?]
- 9. Who played Brian in the Monty Python film "The Life of Brian"?
- 10. What Shakespeare play is depicted on the back of a £20 note (alongside his portrait)?

And now, in case you thought I'd forgotten, the silly sentence I promised you. The background is that Smith and Jones were going an English test at school where they had to define the perfect and pluperfect tenses in sentences by inserting either "had" or "Had had" and to quote one particular example:

Jones, where Smith had had 'had', had had 'had had'; 'had had' had had the examiner's approval.

There you are; it was worth waiting for, wasn't it? See you next month.

**Andy Pirson** 

## SOUTH EAST LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR

At a recent CAMRA branch meeting, voting took place for the South East London pub to go forward to the all London finals.

The clear winner which received three times as many votes as all the other contenders put together was the Crystal Palace Tavern, 193 Crystal Palace Road, East Dulwich, SE22. The Crystal Palace Tavern is a very friendly back street local built in the classic Victorian style to the designs of Sir Joseph Paxton in 1880. Sir Joseph built the Crystal Palace hence the name of the pub, which is in fact nowhere near the Sydenham Hill site of the Crystal Palace itself.

The pub sells Taylor Walker Best Bitter and Ind Coope Burton Ale always in superb condition as one would expect of a pub which has been in the last four Good Beer Guides and where the manager trains new Allied recruits and is a member of the Ind Coope Burton Ale Guild of

Master Cellarmen. Just to emphasise that the quality of the beer is always paramount in this perfect example of a solid London boozer, his bar-cellarman is a CAMRA member.

The local CAMRA branch will be making a special presentation to Brian and Heather Hockney at the pub at 8.00pm on Tuesday 21st May. Members old and new, whether from South East London or not, are warmly invited to join in the celebrations. Those who have not visited the pub before will be in for a special surprise when they realise the warmth of the guv'nor's hospitality. What a pity we do not have more landlords who can create such an atmosphere as Brian. The Crystal Palace Tavern is close to the 78 and 312 bus routes and well within walking distance of the 63, 176, 185 and N79 services.

Dave Sullivan

## **NEWS FROM ENFIELD & BARNET**

During February, CAMRA's Enfield & Barnet Branch carried out their annual pub price survey in Enfield Town and High Barnet. All pubs were visited and prices noted in pubs selling real ale. From this, the cost of a 'standard round' (one pint each of real ale, keg beer and Draught Guinness, a half pint of lager, a glass of wine, a gin & tonic and a fruit juice) was calculated.

Not surprisingly, we found that the price of our round had gone up quite a lot since 1990 with an increase of 11.6% in Barnet and 12.8% in Enfield. We were, however, surprised to find that the cost differential between the two centres had doubled from 10p to 20p.

The breakdown of the breweries supplying the pubs in the two centres is:

BREWER	NO. OF PUBS	AVERAGE PRICE			
BARNET					
Allied	4	£8.05			
Charrington	0	-			
Courage	1	£7.53			
Free*	4	£7.59			
McMullen	3	£7.75			
Truman	1	£8.03			
Whitbread	0	•			
ENFIELD					
Allied	2	£8.11			
Charrington	2	£7.72			
Courage	0	141			
Free*	1	£6.98			
McMullen	3	£7.79			
Truman	2	£8.04			
Whitbread	5	£8.38			

<sup>\*</sup>Each centre includes one pub owned by the JD Wetherspoon Organisation which had a special offer on real ale at the time of the price survey.

Interestingly, if the Enfield figures are recalculated excluding the Whitbread pubs, the average cost of the round is then identical to that found in Barnet.

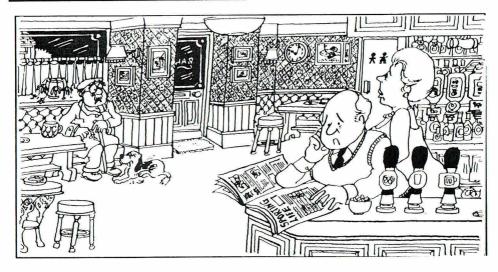
Marty Seymour

## APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

NAME(S)	DATE
ADDRESS	
	POSTCODE
SIGNATURE	TELEPHONE NUMBER(S)
	ividual/joint membership for one year:U.K. £10 er information about CAMRA Overseas £14

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Limited) with this application form to:
THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, CAMRA LTD, 34 ALMA ROAD, ST ALBANS, HERTS AL1 3BW



# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



## The answer is in any Young's pub.

Telephone 081-870 0141 for a complete list.

## **BRANCH DIARY**

If your branch is not mentioned, please ring the Branch Contact. Dates for February of which we have been notified are given below. Branches please send information to Andy Pirson. Branch Contacts page 24.

CROYDON & SUTTON: Mon 6 (12.00) Croydon Social. DOG & BULL, Surrey Street - Thu 9 Selhurst Crawl. Start TWO BREWERS (dep. 8.45), Gloucester Road then GLOUCESTER and FISHERMANS ARMS - Fri 17 Redhill Crawl. 19.33 train from East Croydon. NEW INN, GREYHOUND and HOME COTTAGE - Tue 21 (8.00) Branch Meeting PLOUGH, Beddington (Public Bar) - Thu 30 (8.00) Committee Meeting. HORSESHOE, Thornton Heath Pond - Fri 7 Jun "Mayday" Crawl. MITRE (dep. 8.45), Canterbury Road then DUKE OF YORK, Canterbury Road; CASTLE, London Road.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Mon 13 (8.00) Branch Meeting. ANGEL, 73 City Road, EC1 (Near Old Street Tube). All Welcome.

ENFIELD & BARNET: Wed 8 (8.30) Branch Meeting. RISING SUN, Highwood Hill, Mill Hill, N7 - Tue 14 (9.00) Enfield Mac's Mild Meander. WONDER, Batley Road then CRICKETERS (10.00), 18 Chase Side Place - Wed 22 (8.30) Barnet Mac's Mild MEGA Meander. Start SEBRIGHT ARMS, 9 Alston Road then GREEN MAN (9.20), 143 High Street; KINGS HEAD (10.10), 84 High Street - Thu 30 (9.00) Social. GREYHOUND, 425 Ordnance Road, Enfield Lock - Sat 1 Jun (12.00) Joint Pub Crawl with North London Branch around Wetherspoons pubs. Phone Branch Contact for details.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Tue 14 (7.30) Dorking Beer Festival Promotional Crawl of Redhill. Start FLYING SCUD (Honest!) - Wed 15 (8.30) Business Meeting. NORTH STAR, Chessington - Tue 21 (8.00) Games Evening. CLAREMONT, Esher. All London and Surrey members welcome - Tue 28 (7.30) Dorking Beer Festival Promotional Crawl of Reigate. Start ADMIRAL - Tue 4 Jun (7.30) Dorking Beer Festival Promotional Crawl of Guildford. Start STAR.

NORTH LONDON: Sunday Socials for May (12.00) BLENHEIM, Loudoun Road, NW8 - Tue 7 (8.00) Joint Social with Watford Branch. NASCOT ARMS, Stamford Road, Watford (Off Langley Road, Nearest Station Watford Junction) - Tue 14 (8.00) Social & Cellar Tour. SUN, Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1 - Tue 21 (8.00) Joint Social with West London Branch. GEORGE, 55 Great Portland Street, W1 - Tue 28 (8.00) Post-Mortem Meeting for London Drinker Beer Festival. PHOENIX, Alexandra Palace - Thu 30 (7.00 onwards) Social & London Drinker pick-up. YORKSHIRE GREY, Theobalds Road, WC1 (N.B. THURSDAY) - Sat 1 Jun (12.00) Joint Pub Crawl with Enfield & Barnet Branch around Wetherspoons pubs. Phone Enfield & Barnet Branch Contact for details - Sun 2 Jun (12.00) Lunch Time Social. CROWN, Cloudesley Road, N1. Note: This is a one-off social as regular Sunday socials are discontinued from this month.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Tue 7 (8.30) Committee Meeting. BELL INN, 8 Thames Street, Hampton - Mon 20 (8.30) Branch meeting. POPES GROTTO, Cross Deep, Twickenham - Thu 30 (8.30) Social. TURKS HEAD (Public Bar), 28 Winchester Road, St Margarets, Twickenham.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thu 2 (8.00) Committee/Branch Meeting. SHIP, 68 Borough Road, SE1 - Thu 30 (8.00) Social. RAILWAY TELEGRAPH, 112 Stanstead Road, SE23.

SOUTH WEST ESSEX: Fri 3 to Mon 6 ONGAR BEER FESTIVAL. Budworth Hall, Ongar - Wed 8 (8.30) Branch Meeting. EASTBROOK HOTEL, Junction of Rainham Road South & Dagenham Road, Dagenham - Tue 14 (8.30) Essex Mild Social. PRINCE OF WALES, Burnham Road (B1012), Stow Maries - Wed 22 (8.30) Out of Area Social. STAR, Mill End (B184), Thaxted - Thu 30 to Sat 1 Jun SOUTH ESSEX BEER FESTIVAL, Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays. opening times 12.00-3.00 & 6.00-11.00 each day.

Contd. on p.14

Contd. from p.13

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thu2 (7.30) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. SPREAD EAGLE, 71 Wandsworth High Street, SW18 - Thu 23 (7.30) Crawl of Earlsfield. Start SAILOR PRINCE, 332 Garratt Lane, SW18 then COUNTRY HOUSE (8.00), 4 Groton Road; HALFWAY HOUSE (9.00), Garratt Lane; LEATHER BOTTLE (10.00), 538 Garratt Lane, SW18.

WATFORD & DISTRICT: Tue 7 (8.00) Joint Social with North London Branch. NASCOT ARMS, Stamford Road, Watford (Off Langley Road, Nearest Station Watford Junction) - Sat 11 (8.00) Jazz/Blues Evening ROSE & CROWN, Kings Langley. Johnny Mars Blues Band (No admission charge) - Wed 15 (8.30) Chorleywood Canter & Mild Evening. WHITE HORSE, Rickmansworth Road (Greene King XX); BLACK HORSE, Dog Kennel Lane (Ansells Mild) - Wed 22 (8.30) Social. SWAN, College Road, Abbots Langley.

WEST LONDON: Thu 16 (8.00) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. WHITE HORSE, 1 Parsons Green, SW6 - Wed 8 (8.00) St. James' Social. Start FEATHERS, 20 Broadway, SW1 then OLD STAR (9.00), 66 Broadway; BUCKINGHAM ARMS (10.00), 62 Petty France - Tue 21 (8.00) Joint Social with North London Branch. GEORGE, 55 Great Portland Street, W1.

WEST MIDDLESEX: Tue 7 (8.30) International Dominoes Championship First Round. BLACK HORSE, Greenford (Public Bar). £1.50 to enter; Trophy & Cash Prize - Wed 15 (8.00) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. KINGS HEAD, Acton High Street, W3 (Upstairs Room) - Tue 21 (8.30) International Dominoes Championship Second Round. THREE TUNS, High Street, Uxbridge - Thu 30 (8.30) Social & London Drinker Pick-up. DUFFY'S FREE HOUSE, 124 Pitshanger Lane, Ealing, W5.

Deadline for the June edition, 3rd May. Material for July edition to arrive by 1st June. Please be sure to send diary material to Andy Pirson.

## SOUTH WEST LONDON NEWS

In Earlsfield, SW18, a new Young's pub, the Halfway House has opened. Situated on the corner of Garratt Lane and Magdalen Road, near the station, the pub is to replace one of the same name situated a few hundred yards down the road until it was demolished in the 80's. The pub has been formed from the old Paine's off licence and an adjoining shop. The managers are Desmond and Hillary Lennox-Logan formerly of the Railway Bell, Norwood. The pub is open all permitted hours. The Greyhound, Streatham, SW16 has started brewing its own wheat beer, called Casterbrew, although it is expected to be available all year round.

The Priory Arms, 83, Lansdowne Way, SW8, has started taking Hop Back Summer Lightening on a permanent basis. The beer is brewed by John Gilbert, former brewer with the Battersea and Brixton Breweries, at his own brewery behind the Wyndham Arms at Salisbury. It was a great success at the recent Battersea Beerex. Also available at the Priory are Young's Bitter and Special, Webster's Yorkshire and a

guest beer of the month.

In SW14, the Spur, 34 South Worple Way, East Sheen has gone real, serving Webster's Yorkshire and Ruddle's Best and County. All pubs in SW14 (Mortlake) now serve real ale, unlike the Watney's brewery which remains 100% fizz.

In Wandsworth the Old East Hill, 21, Alma Road, SW18 has become another Slug and Lettuce, serving Webster's Yorkshire, Ruddle's Best Bitter and, surprisingly, Bass.

We regret to report the death of Joe Trindle of the Beehive, St. John's Hill, SW11 following an accident.

An obituary appears elsewhere in this month's Drinker. Joe and Betty had built the small Fuller's pub up over a number of years and it was awarded the first South West London Branch's pub-of-the-year award in 1987. The prize was retained in 1988 and the pub remains a Good Beer Guide entry. Our sincere condolences go to Betty and her family

## THE "NIGHTINGALE" WINS 135 ASSOCIATION "PUB OF THE YEAR"

The "Nightingale" Nightingale Lane, SW12, has been voted Pub of the Year by the members of the 135 Association. To gain membership of the association you have to have visited all the Youngs tied houses, so this vote is a fine compliment to the Guvnor and Staff of the Nightingale after the disappointment of being an Evening Standard Finalist, and Runner up (twice) in SW London CAMRA's Pub of the Year vote. It is the first Pub to win the 135 vote twice, the last time in 1986 The Nightingale looks almost out of place in its urban surroundings more like the country pub it was built as about 140 years ago. Often busy, it is lively and friendly with good beer, good food, and a very professional staff. The pub also has a reputation

for its charity walk, now annual, from Windsor to Putney along the river, which over the past 11 years has raised £123,000 for largely local charities. The twelfth walk is to be on 11 May and it is hoped to raise more than ever before.

The 135 Association say that there will be a Presentation probably in early June and details will be given later.

## **Troglodyte**

P.S. The Guv'nor Jeremy Marley and his wife Diane have further reason for celebration - the birth of their second daughter, Charlotte, on 16th March - though her timing could have been better (i.e. not on the day of the Grand Slam Rugby Match).

## CAMAL COMMENT

When I visit Germany, as I often do, I find the tendency of each area to specialise in a particular style of beer a bit restrictive. To depart from the style of the district usually means either bottled beer, or draught beer which has travelled further than is good for it. For example, in Cologne the beer is first class if you stick to Kölsch but not otherwise. If you drink Alt in Düsseldorf it's usually excellent, but other styles are not in the same league. In Munich, the Münchner Hell and Dunkel are superb, but as far as draught beers go, that's your lot. Hamberg is slightly better since it has two distinct styles - Vollbier and Rauchbier. In Berlin, if you don't like Berliner Weissbier you are stuck with one or two mediocre Pils. In other places, the choice is likely to be even more restrictive. Often there is only one sort of beer and that is all you can get even though there may be many otherwise excellent pubs and bars in the town.

There is always an exception to every rule and in this case its Dortmund. Dortmund is one of the universally recognised beer styles, the others being Munich, Pilsen, Dublin, Burton and Vienna. Brewers throughout the world try to copy these styles. All the half dozen or so breweries in Dortmund brew the Dortmunder style and in my opinion Kronen classic is the

best. Two breweries - Kronen and Thier have set up house breweries, brewing and selling the beer on the premises and nowhere else. Interestingly, neither of these breweries brew in the Dortmund style. Instead, they brew a Burton style Ale.

The Kronen house brewery is called Wenkers Bräuhaus and is situated in the market square. The other, Hövels Haus-Brauerei is situated at the other end of a pedestrian shopping street from the market square within spitting distance of the huge Union brewery. Hövels' beer is called Original Bitterbier.

Between Hövels and The Union brewery is the latter's brewery tap, the Pfefferkorn, an excellent pub catering for all classes of people. Here you are able to buy the full range of the brewery's beers including Brinkhoff's No. 1 one of the finest Pilsner style beers I have tasted. Brinkhoff was a former head brewer at the brewery and brewed the beer to his own recipe. The recipe has recently been revived.

All these beers are on draught and fresh from the brewery in each case. It's this choice of excellent beers that make Dortmund such a rewarding town to visit. I shall return there time and time again.

**Geoff Broadley** 

## FROM THE HOPPY BEERS IN KENT TO THE MALTY BEERS IN NEWCASTLE THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL 13-17th AUGUST 1991

Once you walk through the doors of the London Arena, Docklands between the 13th and 17th August, there is no doubting that this is the home of the 1991 Great British Beer Festival. The aroma of malted barley and British hops meets the nostrils and makes the palate water. Nowhere else will you find such a tremendous variety of British beer. Each bar present will represent a region and so you can idle your way around Britain without leaving the venue.

The first bar you will see when entering is the Cheviots and Moors bar. Here you will find the beers from the North East and Yorkshire moors. This area has seen a terrific growth in interest in real ale over the last few years. From a beer desert the North East now boasts a large number of micro brewers. Try a drop of the flavoursome Gladiator Bitter from the Hadrian Brewery, Newcastle.

Moving on to the Peaks and Marches bar stop for a taste of pale coloured beer from Manchester. Lees Bitter has the dry, hoppy character for which Manchester is renown.

The next bar is not a beer bar at all but the Cider and Perry bar. Stop here to refresh the palate with a half of perry, very rarely to be found in pubs.

Then we come to more familiar territory and the Downs and Wealds bar. Here are the beers from the South East. For a complete change of character you can sip Broadwood, a malty beer from King & Barnes.

Cotswolds and the Valleys is the adjacent bar. The beers from what must be the prettiest brewery in England can be drunk at this bar. Linger and try Donnington's XXX. A flavoursome light tipple.

Move north then to the Grampians and Lowlands bar. The bar manager here is a Scot, so you can get your recommendation from the horse's mouth! For something new, try the West Highland Heavy from this Argyllshire brewery that was set up in 1989.

Wander back down south again to the Fens and Broads bar. Taste the beers from East Anglia and one of the best milds from the region, Adnams Mild. The rich, dark mild will delight anyone who enjoys a mild beer. Or try Woodfordes Wherry for a hoppy brew.

Across country to the West Country bar next. This region is well known for its large number of small micro breweries supplying the free trade. Spoilt for choice, try the gold coloured beer from Exmoor Ales. The name, Exmoor Gold, is everything the name suggests.

A quick hop back north to the Dales and Lakes bar. For a distinctive brew from the Vaux subsidiary try Ward's Sheffield Best Bitter. A clean, dry, malty taste.

Then to the penultimate bar and the Thames and Chilterns. Treat yourself to a drop of Morrell's Varsity. A robust flavoured drink coming from a brewery where the directors still insist on brewing. Support them by drinking their health with their beers.

Finally, round off the evening on the Black Country bar. Why not finish on the Holden's Special? A strong full bodied beer and a good way to satisfy the palate.

These are just a few of the 300 beers on offer at this year's festival. Make your own crawl around Britain with your own favourites.

Wed-Fri lunchtimes £1, Tue-Fri evenings £2.50. Open all day Saturday £2.50 (reduced entrance fee for CAMRA members). Season tickets for the event are available from the London Arena, priced £6.50. Telephone number: 071 538 1212. For group discount rates contact Malcolm Harding 0727 867201.

All beers are subject to availability.

## ERRATUM

Due to our high tech production methods we managed to lose two lines of text from one of last month's articles. The offending sentence was omitted from the bottom of column 1 of page 23 and it should have read {Case number two concerns Symonds, a company sold to Bulmers by brewers Greenall Whitley. This particular deception takes a different form from the above. Their flagship cider is Scrumpy Jack..."

Our apologies for this omission.

## NEWS FROM YOUNG'S BREWERY

MPs will be able to drink real ale during breaks from Parliamentary business after their Easter recess.

Youngs, the South London family brewers, ended a drought stretching back more than 20 years when they began to serve their cask-conditioned bitter in two of the bars at the House of Commons early in April.

It is the first time since the 1960s that anything but brewery-conditioned or bottled beers have been available at the Commons.

The return of the real ale was made possible by Young's cellar services manager, George Palmer, who made an in-depth study of the facilities at the House and devised ways of overcoming technical problems surrounding the storage of casks and dispense methods.

The campaign to get real ale back in the Commons was started by a group of MPs, including Joe Ashton (Labour, Bassetlaw), Nicholas Winterton (Conservative, Macclesfield) and Dick Tracey (Conservative, Surbiton).

Mr Ashton wrote an article in the 1991 Good Beer Guide in which he complained about having to make a nightly trek to pubs in Whitehall and Westminster for traditional beer.

Mr Winterton, former chairman of CAMRA (Real Ale) Investments, was one of the sponsors of a Commons motion calling for the reintroduction of real ale.

And Mr Tracey, a former Sports Minister, who lives in Wandsworth, forged the final, successful links between Youngs - the nearest brewery to Parliament - and the House of Commons Catering Committee.

Young's beers will at first be available in two bars at the Commons, the Strangers' Bar and Annie's, which is the venue for informal meetings between MPs and journalists. Other bars may eventually join the fold.

## 13TH GREENWICH REAL ALE FESTIVAL

The festival opens on Wednesday 26th June at 5.00 pm at the usual venue, the Borough Hall, Royal Hill. On Wednesday the emphasis will be on beers from small independent West Country breweries. Thursday (opening 5.00 pm) will be a Capital Beer Night with at least 12 milds from small northern independent breweries. A quiz, with four persons per team, will be held; further details next month.

On Friday and Saturday the festival will be open from 12 noon through to 11.00 pm. Live music will be featured in the separate music room on both evenings. Note, there will be no music on Wednesday or Thursday evenings. There will also be a creche on Saturday afternoon.

Admission will be £1.50 from 5.00 pm every evening, but card carrying CAMRA members will be admitted free at all times and holders of the June edition of the London Drinker will be given free entry on Thursday evening.

## ST JOHNS WOOD NOTES

The excellent Knights of St John in Queens Terrace has added Mansfield Riding Mild (at £1.08 per pint, pre-Budget) to its real ales. Already famed for the excellence of its Wells' Eagle Bitter and Bombardier, the "Knights" is in the 1991 Good Beer Guide and manager, Russell Bristow has won the Charles Wells "Best Cellar" award two years running!

Connoisseurs of excellence should visit the Knights soon as the lease runs out next year. Should such a good pub be allowed to die? Seven locals in "The Wood" have gone in ten years, with more to close in the next year. At this rate we'll soon have nothing but cafe-bars left.

The pleasant Princess Royal (Charrington) now has Fullers London Pride as a guest beer.

**Tony Jowsey** 

## FORTHCOMING FESTIVALS

May 3-6	ONGAR, Budworth Hall,		Civic Hall
	Chipping Ongar	June 21-22	3rd SURREY, Dorking Halls,
May 17-19	2ND YAPTON, Yapton &		Reigate Road, Dorking
Ford	Village Hall	June 26-29	13th GREENWICH, Borough
May 30-June 1	7th SOUTH ESSEX, Thurrock		Hall, Royal Hill, SE10



## NICHOLSON'S NEW BEST BITTER Available at the

Black Friar
Bloomsbury Tavern
Butlers Head
Crown
Crown Tavern
Globe
Crown & Two Chairmen
Old Bull Tavern
Punch Tavern
Red Lion EC3
Kingsway Tavern

Ship & Compass
Viaduct Tavern
Dog & Duck
Antelope
Argyll Arms
Australian
Ship
Golden Lion
Clachan
Coal Hole
Barley Mow
Unicorn

Devonshire Arms
Williamsons Tavern
George
Harcourt Arms
Leinster Arms
Prince Alfred
Doggetts Coat & Badge
Catherine Wheel
Horniman at Hays
Red Lion SW1
Southwark Tavern



## MORE NEWS FROM ENFIELD & BARNET

Just a few lines to let you know that I have managed to reintroduce London Drinker into two old outlets and open a new one. The old outlets are the Chequers, Church Road, Hendon, NW4 and the White Bear, The Burroughs, NW4. We are pleased to welcome too the Middlesex Polytechnic Students Union Real Ale Bar, The Burroughs, NW4. The Poly currently serves Ruddle's County and Fuller's London Pride.

The Chequers had a major refurbishment in September 1989 and is now run by Brian and Trish, not to mention Don or Elise Hurry (the only barmaid who appears to have had the saloon bar named in her honour, albeit temporarily I fear - Who knows? These things might catch on). The pub opens all permitted hours and serves Courage Best and Directors. It recently featured 20p off a pint on Tuesday evenings in March, something Courage should be welcomed for trying out; I don't think Tim Martin of Wetherspoons need worry yet though. The White Bear is a Taylor Walker house and has a Choices Menu servery. Has anyone tried a Big Steak in an Allied pub yet? I saw a menu in an Allied pub in Rugby and thought the

The London Midland & Scottish, Church Road, Hendon - a large and somewhat mucked about with Taylor Walker pub is currently closed. Anyone told Wetherspoons?

prices were low (under £15 for a 32oz steak).

And finally . . .

## **GREAT STUFF THIS PROGRESS**

It was a Good Friday which is as good a Friday as any other to enjoy a pint of the real stuff. Intrepid Enfield & Barnet explorers, Lol Fryer and Andy (Malone) Milne, trekked where E&B members rarely boldly trek, i.e. The King George High Barnet (CAMRA unwelcome says our local guide). In we go. "Good evening; two pints of Draught Bass please", hoping that the real ale revolution had come full circle. Alas no. "Sorry," came the reply, "We have IPA only." At this moment there was a 'blip' in the space time continuum as a 'Senior' regular turned and notified us authoritatively that we should try the Moss Hall Tavern, Finchley (run by Fullers since 1979) or if they were busy to go to the Tally Ho in N12 (closed since December pending imminent Wetherspoonerisation). At this moment we pressed our utility belts, shouted "Exit" and promptly ran out of the Holdeck to join the early 1990's.

## Laurence Fryer

PS: We (E&B) are working on having a beer tent in June at the East Finchly Neighbourhood Festival to be held in Cherry Tree Woods opposite the Old White Lion and East Finchley Station, N2.

## "A DICKY IN YOUR BOTTLE ..."

East London & City News

The HAND & SHEARS, Smithfield, was officially reopened by the Lord Mayor of London on Monday 18th March after structural renovations which took six months to complete. As the building is listed it could not be altered, so here is one pub that has not been ruined by refurbishment! Chris Ife is still the guv'nor and the beer was in splendid form when your intrepid reporter paid a visit.

"Hooray, hooray, the first of May: outdoor drinking starts today!" Quite a few pubs have beer gardens, one of the newest being at the LADY DIANA in Forest Road, E8, which offers a good range of well-kept beers at sensible prices. Needless to say it's a regular G.B.G. entry and popular with members of the local CAMRA branch.

Mild drinkers will be pleased to hear that the LORD RODNEY'S HEAD, Whitechapel, is now selling Banks & Taylor mild, the ROYAL STANDARD in Victoria Park Road, E9 has Marston's Merrie Monk, and the TAP & SPILE, 596 Lea Bridge Road, E10, has Tolly's mild (114p/pint, post-Budget). Ben Booth, the new guv'nor here, also sells traditional cider . . .

And that's yer lot! I'm off for some Merrie Monk. Cheers!

"East Ender"

Views expressed in this publication are those of their individual authors, and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editorial team or the Campaign for Real Ale Limited

## BEER BRIEFING

## LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 61

The pub and real ale scene in London is constantly changing. The aim of this column is to keep "London Drinker" readers up to date with events as they happen and record confirmed changes to pubs and beers as they are reported.

This month we record four new Charles Wells pubs in London, three acquired from Charrington and one a free house; a new Sam Smiths pub, ex-Allied in Soho and a brand new Youngs pub in SW18. Belhaven appear to have replaced Allied beers with those from Courage in those few pubs selling real ale. Further information would be welcome. More pubs have been lost to offices and restaurants.

The numbers in brackets after each entry are intended to make it easy to update your London beer guides. They refer to page numbers in the East London & City Beer Guide, 2nd edition (E prefix); the North London Beer Guide, 2nd edition (N prefix); the South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition (SE prefix), Real Beer in South West London (SW prefix); Real Beer in West London (W prefix); the Essex Beer Guide, 7th edition (X prefix) or previous updates (U prefix). • indicates guest beers introduced into Big Brewers pubs following recent legislation.

If you would like to report changes to pubs or beers please write to: Beer Guides Updates, 2 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR.

## NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

### CENTRAL

EC4, BENTLEY'S, 2 Budge Row. Boddington: Bitter. Marston: Pedigree. New Free House/Bar with restaurant attached. W1 (S), GLASSHOUSE, 55 Brewer Street. Samuel Smith: OBB, Museum Ale. Renamed GLASSHOUSE STORES. Finally reopened after extensive refurbishment as a Sam Smith tied house. New basement/food bar. Open all licensed hours. (W42, U54)

## EAST

E2, PRINCE OF WALES, 76 Bishops Way. Wells: Eagle Bitter. Acquired by Charles Wells from Charrington and reopened. (E74, 159)

E3, VICTORIA, 110 Grove Road. Wells: Eagle Bitter. Also acquired by Charles Wells from Charrington. (E86)

E12 EARL OF ESSEX, 616 Romford Road. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter. (E127)

E12, STAR, 30 Snowshill Road. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter. John Smith: Yorkshire Bitter. A Belhaven pub. The deal with Allied seems to have been superseded with one with Courage in Belhaven pubs. (E127, U39, U43, U47)

E18, BOAR & THISTLE, 142 Hermon Hill. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. Formerly FIR TREES. (E167, U15, U56)

## NORTH

N1, PRINCE OF WALES, Felton Street. Wells: Eagle Bitter. Another Charrington pub acquired by Charles Wells. (N46)

## NORTH WEST

NW10, KATIE O'CONNOR'S, 149-151 High Road, Willesden Green. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. Young: Special. New Free House in former shop premises.

STANMORE, QUEEN OF HEARTS, Honeypot Lane. Charrington: IPA. (W144)

**WEMBLEY, GRAPEVINE,** 428 High Road. Free House. No real ale. New pub in former club premises.

## SOUTH EAST

ERITH, PRINCE OF WALES, 14 Avenue Road. Ruddle: County. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. Reinstatement. (SE255, U47)

## SOUTH WEST

SW3, PJ's, 52 Fulham Road. Courage, no real ale. Formerly the CRANLEY. Reopened as a "Bar & Grill" with emphasis on food. SW4, SPRINGFIELD, 155 Larkhall Lane. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. Reinstatement. (SW25, U53)

SW10, PITCHER & PIANO, 214 Fulham Road. Ruddle: County. Formerly the SOMERSET ARMS. Reopened as a wine bar/brasserie. Expensive at £1.75 a pint! but bottled imported fizz even more so. (SW38, U51, U59)

SW11, LORD RANELAGH, 2 Lavender Road. No real ale. Reopened and renamed GALLEON. (SW40, U34)

SW14, SPUR, 34 South Worple Way. Ruddle: Best Bitter, County. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. All surviving pubs in SW14 now sell real ale. (SW45)

SW15, MR MICAWBER'S, 147 Upper Richmond Road. Free House/Wine Bar. No real ale. SW18, HALFWAY HOUSE, 521 Garratt Lane. Young: Bitter, Special. New Youngs tied house in former Paines off licence and the shop next door, near Earlsfield Station. Named after former pub in the area demolished in the 70's. Young's 155th pub.

Contd. on p..25



FIRST PRIZE: 12 POLYPINS OF LONDON PRIDE - 1 EACH MONTH FOR A YEAR.

SECOND PRIZE: 3 POLYPINS OF LONDON PRIDE.

THIRD PRIZE: 1 POLYPIN OF LONDON PRIDE.

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR BEE

NOW IS THE CHANCE TO PROVE YOURSELF. JUST SAMPLE THE BEERS AND TELL US WHAT THEY ARE - A PIECE OF CAKE !. FILL IN THE ENTRY FORM BELOW, COMPLETE WITH A CHEOUE OR POSTAL ORDER FOR ONLY £4. REGISTER TODAY AS PLACES WILL BE LIMITED. EACH ENTRANT WILL RECEIVE A FREE PINT AND FOR YOUR CONTINUED ENJOYMENT THERE WILL BE ONGOING ENTERTAINMENT PLUS A BAR-B-Q. SO BRING YOUR WIVES, CHILDREN AND SUPPORTERS AND HAVE A FUN DAY.



CONTEST TO BE HELD AT THE FOX & GOOSE, HANGER LANE, EALING ON SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 1991 IN CONJUNCTION WITH CAMRA. THE WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT 4 P.M.. THE JUDGES DECISION WILL BE FINAL.



O. CAMINA	West middlesex, of Abbotsbury durdens, Edsteole, I milet, middx. MAS 15x	
I would like	to enter the Fullers Challenge and I enclose a Cheque or P.O. for £4 + an S.A.E.	
NAME		
E PER BROOKS		

**ADDRESS POSTCODE** 

TELEPHONE NO. (H)

ARE YOU A CAMRA MEMBER?

I am over 18 and accept the judges decision as final.

## OBITUARY

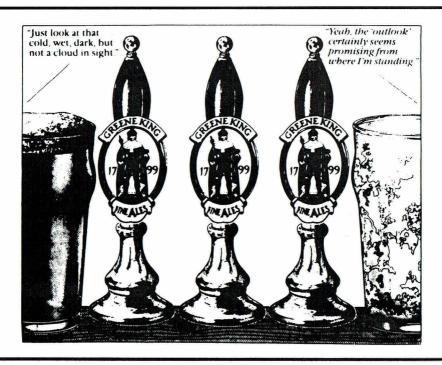
As one of the London Drinker Editors, I have the sad duty to announce that, following a tragic accident at his home, The Beehive in St John's Hill, SW11, Landlord Joe Trindle passed away and was cremated last month. His funeral was attended by hundreds of his friends and customers. Joe had been in charge of this small Fullers pub for over 14 years and before that had been a long standing Bookmaker. London drinkers from far and wide have been welcomed to this pub by Joe and his wife Betty and by his loyal and dedicated staff. Such was their popularity and service to the local community, that the local CAMRA branch awarded its 'Pub of the Year' prize to the Beehive for two consecutive years.

As well as being a regular Good Beer Guide entry, Joe & Betty have been supporters of this magazine for many years and often provided me with rare insights into the pub trade. Joe always had friendly words of advice when asked and I will miss him a lot; pubs like his are few and far between in London. To his widow, Betty and his children, Robert and

Janet, I extend my heartfelt condolences and to his staff, especially Dave, and Ian, I hope that we'll be enjoying your company for many years to come. Whatever else happens, I'll always look to the far corner of the bar from the door and expect to see him there.

Chris Cobbold





## BITTER TASTE FOR PUBLICANS

Doug Christie surveyed the Victorian pub in London's Hatton Garden that he had just bought from Bass, the UK's biggest brewer, and reflected: "It's not all wine and roses being a pub-owner".

Or even beer and skittles, Britain's national brewers might add as they comtemplate the problems of selling or leasing nearly 11,000 of their tenanted pubs by November next year to comply with government orders freeing them from tied beer supplies.

The slide in the property market has reduced the value of tenanted pubs by about 20 per cent over the past 18 months. The effect has been illustrated most strongly over the last year by the £500m reduction - equivalent to nearly £60,000 a pub - in the value of Inntrepreneur Estates, the soon-to-be-merged pub interests of Courage and Grand Metropolitan.

Several sales of small packages of pubs last year yielded average prices of £200,000. Vaux, the Sunderland-based brewer, reported that it paid about £163,000 for tenanted pubs.

Since October, Bass has sold 111 pubs for £21.3m, an average of just over £190,000. More price falls are expected. Courage, which aims to sell 1,100 of its smaller pubs after the GrandMet deal expects them to raise £157m, or about £143,000 apiece.

Apart from GrandMet, which entered the market early and has sold 1,400 pubs in the past 18 months, the nationals have as yet put few of their pubs up for sale.

Whitbread has sold about 300 of the 2,200 it has to free, and the company has been pressing the government, apparently to no avail, for a relaxation of the deadline. Allied-Lyon has sold 450 of the 2,250 it must unload. Bass has sold, or agreed terms on, 650 pubs of the 2,680 earmarked for disposal.

Inn Data, the market analyst, says that last month there were £239m worth of pubs being offered, a fifth of them by the big brewers.

Mr John Spicer, analyst at Kleinwort Benson, estimates that there are still pubs worth a total £1.5bn-£2bn to be released. Who will buy them? Many potential buyers are prepared to wait for better opportunities. The nationals are

pushing their smaller pubs on to the market first. But eventually they will have to release bigger ones and, even if interest rates fall further, the number that will be available will keep prices down, they calculate.

The regional and local brewers, for whom the enforced sale provides a one-off chance to extend their estates, increase turnover and improve brewing efficiency, have so far bought relatively few.

"I think most of us are in the same ball game", says Mr Michael Hurdle, chairman of Marston's, the Burton-based brewer. "We area all looking for pubs that make money". Marston bought 49 pubs from Allied and four from Whitbread last year to bring its total number to 890. It is waiting to buy more - "there must be better things to come", says Mr Hurdle.

Leisure companies had been expected to figure among the buyers. "But a number have run into financial difficulties and it is now hard to see them as net purchasers", says Mr Spicer. "In fact, some may be under pressure to sell."

The only big buyer has been Mr Nazmu Virani's property and leisure group, Control Securities, which also owns the Belhaven brewery in Dunbar, Scotland. It bought 220 pubs from GrandMet for £46m a year ago. it has been quiet since but still aims to build its 820-pub estate up to 2,000.

A number of new pub retailers have entered the scene. Northumbria Inns in Newscastle-upon-Tyne has bought a dozen pubs in the north-east and intends to expand to around 50. The Sussex-based Allen Partnership which bought 27 Scottish pubs from Whitbread for £9m, has similar ambitions.

More entrepreneurs may emerge; but finance is tight. There are doubts about the viability of many pubs if they are detached from a large tied estate.

The depressed housing market is preventing first-time buyers from selling their homes in order to re-invest in pubs. Even demographics are against the brewers: there are fewer 38-44 year olds, the age group in which pub-owning ambition is usually fulfilled.

Contd. on p.29

## **BOOK REVIEW**

## Michael Jackson's Pocket Beer Book 3rd Edition - £6.99

Michael Jackson is known to television audiences in Britain for his Channel 4 series, 'The Beerhunter' first screened last year and repeated in April this year. Internationally, he is recognised by beer-buffs as the leading expert on the brews of the world about which he writes and popularises.

Many of those beers, from the golden lagers of Budweiser and Pilson to the Trappist beers of Belgium, the copper ales of Britain, the black stouts of Ireland and the enigmatic Steam Beer of California, are now available in this country and in his Pocket Beer Book Michael Jackson lists and rates them with over 1,500 other ales, lagers, stouts and rarer specialities.

Since its first publication in 1986, the beer scene in North America has boomed and this third edition includes many new 'boutique' and 'micro breweries' spawned there in the last few years. The latest European beers and 'designer' lagers from Japan and the Far East are now all covered making this the single most comprehensive guide to beer ever published. Its concise size belies the 80,000 words it contains but ensures its pocketability to take bar-hopping, supermarket shopping and travelling.

In the country by country chapters Michael Jackson recommends bars and pubs, local specialities and events for travellers, often with addresses, and for often-neglected British ales, Michael has devised regional tours of Britain taking in the best of local brews and recommending good pubs in the locale to try them in on route.

## YOUNGS GUEST PROGRESS

From a local club steward we hear news of Young's progress into the guest beer market. The other day André McGill at the Western Geophysical Social club in Isleworth phoned to invite my Branch to a small beer festival he was running for his members. Unfortunately it clashed with the CAMRA national AGM in Sheffield so I was unable to make it.

However, while he was on he told me that the Young's rep who visits him had told him that Youngs now have 57 direct accounts with tenants of major breweries' pubs as well as beer supply agreements with seven breweries.

He also mentioned that they have recently bought a pub in the middle of Oxford from Abingdon brewers, Morland. From a copy of Ram News, Young's news sheet sent to me by Colin Price of Barking, I note that the pub is the 400-year-old Kings Arms in the heart of the college area of the city. Ram News also tells us that it is one of as many as 50 new pubs the Brewery hope to add to their estate.

**Andy Pirson** 

## **BRANCH CONTACTS**

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CROYDON & SUTTON	TERRY HEWITT (081) 660 5931 (H)
EAST LONDON & CITY	BERNARD BOORMAN (081) 531 4959 (H) (081) 595 6300 (W)
ENFIELD & BARNET	DENNIS O'ROURKE (071) 430 5269 (W)
KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD	ALLAN MARSHALL (081) 942 9115 (H) (071) 227 3377(W)
NORTH LONDON	GARY WHITE(081) 801 9513 (H)
RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW	DOUG SCOTT(081) 568 4641 (H)
SOUTH WEST ESSEX	ANDREW CLIFTON Romford (0708) 765150 (H)
SOUTH EAST LONDON	ANGELA SMITH (071) 430 5081 (W)
SOUTH WEST LONDON	MARTIN BUTLER (081) 542 3158 (H) 081-862 6154 (W)
WATFORD & DISTRICT	MARTIN FEW 0923 52412 (H)
WEST LONDON	ROBERT McGOWAN (081) 691 8019 (H) (071) 242 0262
	x2650 (W)
WEST MIDDLESEX	IRENE DIX (081) 573 8144 (H)

## BEER BRIEFING LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 61 Continued

## PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE EAST

E1, THREE SUNS. Truman, converted to off licence. (E67)

E11, WOODBINE. Renamed CHURCHILL'S, H removed. (E126)

E12, AVENUE. Charrington, closed - sold for Hindu temple. (E127)

E12, VICTORIA CROSS. Taylor Walker, H unused. (E127, U34)

E12, WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR. Watney, H unused. (E127)

### SOUTH EAST

SE1, SAMSONS. Free House (fizz), closed & boarded up - future uncertain. Note correct title. (SE40)
SOUTH WEST

SW3, DRUMMONDS. Charrington (fizz). Closed for conversion to McDonalds restaurant. An ignominious end to the formerly infamous Kings Road pub, the CHELSEA DRUG STORE, which featured in a Rolling Stones song of the 60's. (SW22)

SW3, MARKHAM ARMS. Taylor Walker, closed for conversion to an Abbey National Building Society office. Yet another Kings Road pub disappears in the "Royal Borough" which is becoming a particularly soft touch for avaricious developers. (SW22)

SW15, RANGER. Charrington, H unused. (SW47)

SW18, PUNTERS. Free House (fizz), closed, future uncertain. (U52)

## OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES CENTRAL.

EC1, BETSEY. + Harvey: Best Bitter. (E11) EC1, COACH & HORSES, 26 Ray Street. + Tetley: Bitter. + Young: Special. (E15) EC1, TWO BREWERS. - Wethered: Bitter. + Boddington: Bitter. (E23, U39)

EC2, DIRTY DICKS. - Bass. - Courage: Best Bitter. + Boddington: Bitter. + Marston: Pedigree. + Ruddle: Best Bitter. + Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. (E29)

EC2, RAILWAY TAVERN. - Wethered: Bitter. + Marston: Pedigree. (E29)

EC2, WOODINS SHADES. + Young: Bitter. (E32)

EC4, RISING SUN. - Beers listed. + Fuller: London Pride♦. + Ruddle: County.

+ Cathedral Bitter (origin unknown). (E46) EAST

E2, SPREAD EAGLE. Renamed PENNY FARTHING.

- Beers listed in Update 42. + Boddington:
Bitter. + Flowers: Original Bitter.

+ Wethered: Bitter. Now a Free House, ex Watney. (E78, U42)

### NORTH

N16, STEPTOES. - Beers listed except Fuller: ESB. + Adnams: Broadside. + Wadworth: 6X. + Wells: Eagle Bitter, Bombardier. Former Free House acquired by Charles Wells but retaining a range of real ales. (N93) N16, PRINCE OF WALES. - Fuller: ESB.

+ Fuller: London Pride. A Charrington pub.

### NORTH WEST

NW1, EXMOUTH ARMS. + John Smith:
Yorkshire Bitter. (N118)
NW7, ROOKS. Renamed BRIDGE TAVERN. Still
fizz. Formerly ON BROADWAY. (N152)
WEMBLEY, WILD DUCK (STALLONE'S). - Beers
listed. + Ind Coope: Burton Ale. + Tetley:
Bitter. + Young: Special. (W159)
SOUTH EAST

SE1, GRANGE. - Ind Coope: Burton Ale. + Courage: Directors Bitter. + John Smith: Yorkshire Bitter. Further evidence of the switch to Courage beers in Belhaven pubs. (SE25, U39, U46, U53)

BEXLEYHEATH, DRAYMAN. Renamed CHARMERS, still fizz. (SE211) SOUTH WEST

SW2, J J MOONS. - Marston: Pedigree.
+ Weekly guest beer, starts on Fridays
until 36 gallons sold out. Formerly CROWN
& SCEPTRE. (SW19, U57)

SW3, QUEENS ELM. + Young: Special◆. (SW23) SW5, BOLTONS. Renamed GEORGE WHITAKER & SONS. + Bass. + Fuller: London Pridet. + Wadworth: 6X♦. Now a Victorian "Bar & Diner" with separate eating area. (SW25) SW6, BRITANNIA. Renamed BLACK ROSE. Still

fizz. (SW27)
SW7, ANGLESEA ARMS - Ward: Sheffield
Bitter. - Young: Winter Warmer. + Eldridge
Pope: Thomas Hardy Country Bitter.
+ Guest beer◆. (SW31)

SW8, CAVENDISH ARMS. Still no real ale. H now removed. (SW33, U54)

SW8, DEWDROP. - Beers listed. + Tetley: Bitter. (SW33)

SW8, PLOUGH INN. + Young: Winter Warmer. Note full name. (SW34)

SW11, FALCON. - Fuller: ESB. + Fuller: London Pride. + Young: Special. (SW39) SW11, NORTHCOTE. - Ruddle: County. (SW41,

SW16, LEIGHAM ARMS. + Bass. + Fuller: London Pride. (SW48)

SW18, OLD EAST HILL. Renamed SLUG & LETTUCE. + Bass♦. + Ruddle: Best Bitter. (SW53, U55)

SW19, PRINCE OF WALES, 336 Western Road. + Ruddle: County. + Young: Special. (SW56)

Contd. on p..27

Contd. from p.4 Dear Sir

Two points arising from the letters to the editors in the April edition: first, I object to the immature insult from Mr F Egan. If I do not like his preferred beer, that does not make me a 'boy drinker'. Like you, I prefer Fullers to Ruddles, even though I was brought up on the latter. I would go so far as to say that any one of Fullers three real ales is better than either of Ruddles. Unlike Mr Egan, however, I am willing to accept that another drinker may think otherwise, without my trying to insult him.

And the second point re Jim Gordon's letter. The wheat beer referred to in the March edition, Loewenweiss, is a Bavarian, not a Berlinner weiss; the two styles are very different. Berlinner weiss is a style, not a brand; I have bought both Berliner Kindl weiss and Schultheis in London in the past. The style is like the driest ginger beer you can imagine; part of the dryness stems from a lactic fermentation. It is so dry that it is traditional to add a syrup to it. It makes an excellent summer thirst quencher; is it the beer drinker's answer to Pimms? It is usually about 2.5% ABV.

The Bavarian weiss is another story. Most examples come in at 5% ABV; the wheat content of the mash, about 51%, gives the beer a nice 'light' style; I sometimes describe it as a 'picnic beer'. I have found, when selling it at the foreign beers bar at various CAMRA beer festivals, that it seems to suit a wide range of customers; the lager drinker, the real ale enthusiast and often, even a lady who says that she doesn't like beer! As to the yeast content, I invite any of your readers to buy one bottle of hefeweiss (i.e. with the yeast) and one of kristal or klares (filtered) and compare them. Even if you serve the hefeweiss as you would a White Shield, leaving the sediment in the bottle, I think that you will find the unfiltered the more tasty. When I serve this beer at festivals, I always pour it bright, give my customer the glass and the bottle, and tell him that the German custom is to drink it with the yeast. This usually gets one of three reactions: "Oh well, if it's the custom ... ", "At these prices, I'm having the lot!" or "Not likely: you know what yeast does to you." I assure you that the last is erroneous; I've had more than a few nights drinking weissbier, and never had a problem with my digestion as a result.

Yours sincerely, Richard Larkin, London NW3

Dear Sir,

I read with interest articles about the cheapest beer in Britian published by London Drinker. In the February edition we were told that the J D Wetherspoon Organisation were selling Youngers Scotch Bitter for a limited period at 79p - apparently 1 penny cheaper than Holt's Mild. In the second article that appeared in the March edition, we were further told that the All Nations sells its Bitter at 78 p. Surely this must be the cheapest pint in Britain? WRONG! Its Holt's Mild.

In managed houses throughout their tied estate, the Mild was 75p a pint in February (pre-Budget) and 77p (post-Budget) when the increase in duty is charged. The reason I can be so sure of the post-Budget price is because Holts, unlike most, adheres to the Chancellor's rise in duty and does not add on an extra increase just for the hell of it.

Yours faithfully, David Vickery, Barking

Editor's reply:

I agree with you that Holt's fully deserve their reputation for cheap beer - also for damned good quality beer! Our little fill in pieces were more posing the question "Is this the cheapest beer in Britain?" rather than stating it is fact but they have had the desired effect of keeping the correspondence going.

I am sorry to disappoint you, however, in your unshakeable belief that when the Chancellor said two pence on a pint he meant exactly that. For one thing the Chancellor only ever mentions a single figure per pint but the duty levied, and consequently the increase, is proportional to the original gravity. In this case it is a fair bet (without checking all the figures) that the duty increase on Holt's Mild probably is two pence a pint. Secondly, do not foreget that Mr Lamont also increased VAT from 15% to 17.5% thus raising the gross price (including the duty) by a further 2.17%. In fact a friend who returned from Manchester a couple of days ago (as I write this) told me that the price had gone up 4pa pint and that somebody's reaction to this had been to put a brick through one of the brewery's windows. Andy Pirson

## Contd. from p.25

BEER BRIEFING LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 61 Continued

SW19, PRINCESS ROYAL. + John Smith: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW56, U56) SW19, WILLIAM MORRIS, 20 Watermill Way, Merton Abbey Mills. + William Morris: Best Bitter (origin unknown). Beer choice varies with 5 from a list of 12 real ales available at one time. Choice upstairs may vary from main bar. Note full address. (U53)

KINGSTON, CANBURY ARMS. + John Smith: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW65, U60)

KINGSTON, PARK TAVERN. - Charrington: IPA. + Ward: Sheffield Best Bitter. + Young: Bitter, Special, Winter Warmer. Non Youngs beers may vary. Now a Free House, ex Charrington. (SW66)

KINGSTON, WILLOUGHBY ARMS. - Flowers: Original Bitter. (SW66)

WEST

**W4,** CHISWICK EYOT. Reverted to ROEBUCK. (W68)

W4, SUTTON LANE. Reverted to HOLE IN THE WALL. (W69)

W12, SPORTSMAN. Renamed OPERA ON THE GREEN. Still fizz. (W92)

TWICKENHAM: THREE KINGS. + Wadworth:6X♦. (W151)

WEST DRAYTON (YIEWSLEY), NAUGHTIES. Renamed BENTLEYS. (W161)

WHITTON, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE. + Devenish: Cornish Original Bitter♦. (W162)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 60

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

SW15, DRUMMONDS. Formerly RAILWAY. PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE N1, FLYING SCOTSMAN. Formerly SCOTTISH STORES.

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES W1(S), JOHN SNOW. Already recorded in Update 53. Delete entry & reference in introduction.

TWICKENHAM, PRINCE OF WALES. Brakspear: Special Bitter is a guest beer.



# King & Barnes fine sussex ales LEISUREWEAR

Ties Red or Blue Dray-Horse Design Blue/Red/Green/ Brown/Silver Barrel Design (all over) Blue Sussex/Festive Stripe	Sweat Shirt Royal Blue long sleeved.	Lambswool Pullover Navy Blue 100% lambswool.	Rugby Shirt Jade & Blue Quarters Long sleeved.	Polo Sweat Shirt Royal Blue Long sleeved.	
Polo Shirt White	T-Shirt Royal Blue	Teddy Bear	Broadwood Sports Bag	Bodywarmer Royal Blue	
		Red or Blue Traditional colour with shirt in red or blue. 18" high.	Green with Broadwood Logos		

All these new leisurewear items incorporate the King & Barnes Horse-drawn Dray emblem. Please allow 14 days for delivery. All prices include VAT and post and packing.

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Sweat Shirt	S	M	L	XL	XXL		£10.27		
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Polo Sweat Shirt		M	L.	XL			£13.72		
Polo Shirt		M	L	XL			£11.42		
T-Shirt	S	M	L	XL			£6.19		
Teddy Bear Red Blue							£11.36		
Broadwood Sports Bag							£7.75		
Bodywarmer	S	M	L	XL			£10.25		
	Ties Dray-Horse Red Blue @£5.61 Barrel Blue Red Green — £5.61								
Brown Silver & Sussex	Brown Silver & Sussex/Festive Stripe Blue @ £4.46 £4.46								
Diagon make about	lal	- 4- K		D			TOTAL		

Please make cheques payable to **King & Barnes Ltd.**, and write name and address on reverse side of cheque.

Contd. from p/23

In the end the brewers will have to rely heavily on selling or leasing pubs to sitting tenants. Most of Bass's sales so far have been to its tenants. But Mr Christie, who has bought Simpsons pub-restaurant in Hatton Garden, says that it is a move that requires hard-headed calculation. "It's easy to stand behind a bar and be a sociable host," he says. "It's much harder to make a consistent profit. Not everyone can run a business".

Mr Terry Parrott, who bought the village pub at Wivelsfield, Sussex, where he has been tenant for three years, echoes those views. "We've always wanted our own pub and we are delighted to get it", he says. "But we've never had delusions about what it entails."

The brewers are finding their tenants generally adopting such pragmatic attitudes. Few sales have yet been made and efforts to negotiate leases have run into problems with another deadline.

Many tenants will be given security of tenure under the Landlord and Tenant Act next July. Unless leases can be agreed in the next four months, the brewers have said they will issue notices to quit to protect shareholders' interests.

The National Licensed Victuallers Association claims that the brewers are being unrealistic about the prices they are asking for both freehold and leasehold properties.

"Tenants are being offered their pubs in the middle of a recession on terms they cannot afford and would be foolhardy to accept", the NLVA says. It advises tenants to sit tight and brewers to drop their prices by 20 per cent if they do not want to see the pubs boarded up.

## **YOUNGS REACH 155**

Young's 155th pub - the Halfway House - has opened its doors in Wandsworth, South London. The pub, in Garratt Lane, outside Earlsfield Station, carries the same name as a Young's

Station, carries the same name as a Young's house in the same street, which was demolished in 1976 as part of a council housing development.

The new Halfway House was originally built as a pub in the 19th century but never succeeded in gaining a licence. It stands on the corner of Magdalen Road on land that once belonged to Magdalen College, Oxford, and had been operating as two shops, one of them an off-licence, since at least 1928.

Youngs bought both shops in 1986 and a full licence was granted for the Halfway House last year. Work began almost immediately to convert the two shops back into a traditional pub, with fine woodwork and etched glass.

The licensees are Desmond and Hillary Lennox-Logan, who had previously run the Railway Bell, a Young's pub in Norwood.

The pub was officially opened by 64-year-old Joss Sawyer, who works in Young's brewhouse and recently celebrated 50 years as a brewery employee.



## BACK NUMBERS

To date 134 editions of London Drinker have been issued: back numbers of the following are available:

1979: March, April, May, June, August, September, December.

1980: February, March, April, May, July, August, September, October, November, December.

1981: February, April, May, June, July, August, September, November, December.

1982: March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, December.

1983: February, April, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

1984: All issues (May 1 copy only)

1985 to date: All issues.

If you need any of the above for your collection, they are available at 50 pence each, post free, from: Stan Tompkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

## REAL ALE IN COPENHAGEN

Well, there used to be lots of it around, if I can believe what the old-timers told me during a recent visit. Copenhagen had about a dozen breweries "within living memory", but now there are only three - Carlsberg, Tuborg and Bryggeriet Apollo. The first two you will have heard of, but not, I fancy, the third.

To set this in context, the Danes are not best known as beer drinkers. The national drink is an unpleasant, schnapps-like solvent called Aquavit. This is flung back at speed, before it gets anywhere near the drinker's tastebuds. Slow drinkers will be punished with a sensation somewhere between toluene and methyl methacrylate. As the solvent is on the way down, the Danish drinker will chase it with a mouthful of lager, partly to obviate the need for throat surgery and partly to drive the alcohol out of the gut and into the bloodstream.

All this goes on between nibbles of raw fish and incompetently-made sandwiches called smorrebrod (which have the food on the outside and the bread in the middle). After about twenty minutes, most Danes are completely pissed. Now, the role of the lager in all this is not exactly prominent. It is there purely to chase down the Aquavit and, by virtue of its high CO<sub>2</sub> content, get the alcohol rapidly into the blood.

This explains a lot. I have sometimes tasted lager, and have asked myself the question, "Why?" Deprived of the Aquavit, raw fish and cocked-up butties, no wonder I did not understand. But on discovering that lager is used in its own backyard in the same way that we add vinegar to fish and chips, all becomes clear. Which begs the interesting question, "Would the Danes swallow it, literally, if bombarded with telly adverts eulogising Sarson's as a beverage?"

Just recently, Carlsberg have started bottling a few new styles of "lager". I mean bottling, too. You cannot get any beverage in a can in super-Green Denmark. One is a gold-label version of their ubiquitous "Hof" brand. The Gold Label drink is still served with enough dissolved CO, to flatulate a rhinoceros, but

after drinking six or seven you can definitely feel the effects of the alcohol. Then there is "Carlsberg Stout", black as the hobs of Hell, unexpectedly tasty - somewhere between Mackeson and Russian Stout - and definitely alcoholic.

The Danes seem to have taken to drinking these two without the Aquavit, raw fish, etc, and spotting the trend, some genius opened Copenhagen's first brew pub since the Middle Ages - Bryggeriet Apollo. On Vesterbrogade and bolted on to the Tivoli Gardens, it has Restoration Macdonalds architecture outside and is all stripped pine and businessmen inside. Try not to let this put you off; they really do have the only real ale for hundreds of miles.

Served in oversized 250cc glasses (and no other way), BA's one style is slightly cloudy (like Waddie's), has a dull amber colour (like Robinson's), a densely malty flavour (like Sam Smiths) and a long, sweetish aftertaste (like Fullers ESB). Six of them put me in quite a good mood, though at Dkr 19-00 a glass, the total outlay of £10 is painful by UK standards but par in high-priced Denmark.

I got to talk to a member of the brewing-staff not difficult as the brewing process can be watched whilst you are having your drink. He confirmed the evidence of my own eyes: no pasteurisation, no chilling process and only light filtering to recover the yeast. No mysterious fractionating columns, no computer-controlled refrigeration gear, no pallets laden with unmarked sacksful of mystery ingredients and the laboratory consisted of a rack of hydrometers.

The food is good, too, and you can put back some of your outlay on beer by stopping off for lunch. It's all "green" food (no additives, no chemicals, no dyestuffs) and to be on the safe side they even make up their own mustard and ketchup!







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