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LONDON DRINKER

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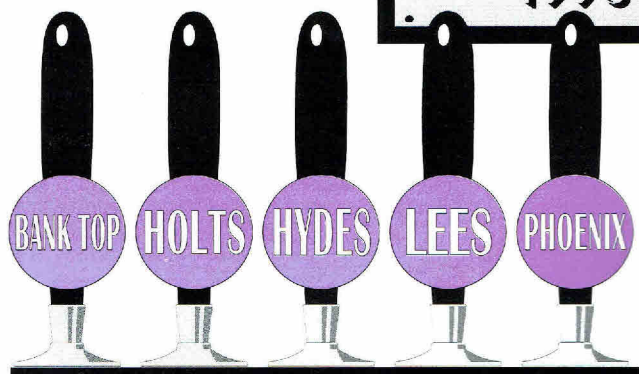
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I recently read some good news in that the worst excesses of the 'theme' pub are coming to an end. Allied Domecq for instance have apparently abandoned their 'Scruffy Murphy' concept, explaining that they 'always saw the Irish theme as transient'. There is a down side to this however. Some of the new-style outlets that are cropping up, especially the 'café-bar' type, do not have real ale as their priority and indeed, may not serve it at all. Some recently opened 'Rat & Parrot' and 'Pitcher & Piano' outlets sell no real ale, despite the latter being owned by one of the best known brewers of real ale, Marstons. Similarly, the 'concepts' that Allied intend concentrating on, the food-oriented 'Big Steak' 'family' pubs and the 'Mr Q's' pool palaces are not likely to give real ale much priority either. Even the Firkin pub chain, which owes its origins to the real ale boom, has an age-range target market of 18 to 45 year-olds and real ale is not supposed to be a young person's drink. Will we soon see Firkins with no real ale? I suspect not but you can see the danger of stereotyped marketing.

I am not against Café-bars or these other concepts as such. I believe that they have their place in the range of venues available but then again there always have been all sorts of pubs of different character and this variety developed from genuine customer demand, not external marketing concepts. I also find it patronising the way that café bars (eg Bass's All Bar Ones) are said to be aimed at 'those who would not normally use pubs' (ie women, I assume). Why presume that I, as a male beer drinker, would myself want to use any pub that I would not be prepared to use in the company of a female friend or relation? Cynic I may be but I suspect that the reasons for promoting such outlets are more to do with the higher mark-up on the food, wines and spirits that they hope to sell instead of that messy and inconvenient real ale stuff.

The sad story of Morrells – whose 'crime' was to make only a small profit whilst doing something that their previous management felt proud to do – shows all too clearly the 'big business' attitude to brewing beer for its own sake. Vaux's decision to offload its breweries and pubs to concentrate on their hotels reinforces the trend. At the same time the number of new bars etc is increasing all the time, many of them new outlets as opposed to conversions of existing pubs. I cannot believe that this growth is being matched by an increase in potential customers. Something must give and soon. My worry is that it will be the ordinary pub, which will be sacrificed in order to prop up the 'flagship' prime site operations that have cost vast sums to acquire and refurbish.

From time to time CAMRA is attacked by the drinks trade for sticking its nose into areas where they think we have no business, such as the operation of breweries and pubs. They say that we should keep to our original objective of promoting

real ale. How exactly are we supposed to promote real ale when they close down the breweries that brew it and set up chains of bars etc that do not serve it? CAMRA's research shows that 80% of people use pubs from time to time and 71% believe the pub to be one of the centres of the community.

I am a forty-something real ale drinker with a beard and a beer gut (although alas no sandals). I appear not to fit into any of the marketing people's concepts (and judging from the picture coverage of the Great British Beer Festival in this month's *What's Brewing*, the CAMRA newspaper, even CAMRA isn't too keen on us beardsies!). I know however that I am happy in an uncomplicated, well run British pub. The direction of CAMRA's campaigning may be changing but the need for it is not diminishing in the least. Prepare to fight for your *real* pubs. The ones that you want and not the ones that you are told that you ought to have.

Tony Hedger

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Brewery & Pub News

ROUNDUP

VAUX became the latest company to announce that they are planning to exit brewing. They plan to concentrate on their hotels and managed theme pubs.

This decision puts the futures of the Vaux Brewery in Sunderland and Wards in Sheffield under threat. Brands such as Samson, Double Maxim, Waggle Dance, Wards Best Bitter and Darley's Dark Mild may disappear if no one is willing to buy the package being offered by Vaux; this package includes both breweries and 350 tenanted pubs. Frank Nicholson, the current MD of Vaux Breweries has expressed an interest in leading a management buyout.

CAMRA will fully support any purchaser willing to buy the pubs and breweries with the intention of keeping brewing going in Sheffield and Sunderland.



The WAGGON AND HORSES in Surbiton and featured on the front page of last month's edition has won the CAMRA London region's Pub of the Year competition and now goes forward to the regional finals. Our congratulations to Joe Reily on this achievement.



Four months after purchasing the Burts brewing operation on the Isle of Wight and promising to retain brewing there, USHERS BREWERY have announced that it is to close. Ushers will retain the six pubs it purchased at the same time.



SMILES BREWERY is expected to be floated on the stock market following its offer of five million shares at 75p a share in order to pay off its outstanding loans and to expand its estate to 20 pubs.



Customs and Excise recently served a winding up notice on BUTTERKNOWLE'S BREWERY, this apparently has led to John Constable declaring himself bankrupt.



Are you a stockbroker adviser? If so you might consider talking to PUBMASTER as they move towards flotation; estimates think that the company will be valued at £250m-£300m when it is floated.



How about becoming the chief executive of FEDERATION BREWERY following the sacking of the previous post holder, David Brook. Not the usual way to thank someone credited with saving your company from financial ruin.



Nader Haghighi of PARISA, the largest independent off-licence chain, has called for an MMC investigation into the merger of the off-licence chains of Whitbread and Allied-Domecq. Parisa was formed by Mr Haghighi when he led a management buyout of Greenalls.



It was announced that the OLD MONK COMPANY is to be floated on the AIM. The company is run by Gerry Martin, brother of Tim (WETHERSPOON) Martin. The company aims to have 30 pubs in the next 12 months.



Many Pub and Brewery Groups, both at home and abroad, are expected to announce a downturn. in their trading. WHITBREAD, REGENT INNS, ALLIED DOMEQC, SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE, SAPPORO, ASAHI and KIRIN BREWERIES are all suffering. At home this is blamed on bad weather, strong pound and declining consumer confidence.



Mergers are in the air at REGENT INNS who are discussing a merger with SFI (formerly SURREY FREE INNS) and at TUDOR INNS & TAVERNS who are to merge with INN KENT LEISURE to form a group under the TUDOR INNS & TAVERNS name.



Hammersmith & Fulham MP, Ian Coleman, is to table an Early Day motion calling for the introduction of sliding scale of excise duty.

Meanwhile SHEPHERD NEAME are still pressing the Government to cut punitive UK beer duties despite their setback in the High Court last month. They now have two legal challenges on the go, one for last year's Budget beer duty rise and another for this. They are hoping that the two cases will be heard together at the Court of Appeal on 25 January 1999.



Finally, DAVID BRUCE just cannot stay out of brewing. His latest venture is to develop bars in Singapore. First one is on Orchard Road and is in the city's former Centre for Performing Arts - obviously not a small building!

Brewery & Pub News

AMBISHUS PUB CO

Following my editorial last month I received a telephone call from Colin Stevens of Ambishus Pub Co who asked politely if I was interested in setting the record straight about the company. Not wishing to mislead, I replied that I should be pleased to do so. So here from the horse's mouth (Not a hungry one) is the background to the company.

The principal shareholders and executive directors of the company are the aforementioned Colin Stevens and his partner Tim Fearn.. There are a number of non-executive directors, including two who are ex-Grosvenor Inns who have rendered a lot of assistance in setting up and running the company; they are Roger Looker and Mike Mills.

You may note that two names in particular have not yet been mentioned.- namely Michael Cannon and David Bruce. While these two gentlemen have both invested in Ambishus, they are both minority shareholders and take no part whatsoever in running the company, nor do they exert any influence over it. In fact, Mr Stevens stated that Michael Cannon is pursuing his interests in a chain of pizza (or was it burger?) restaurants in the USA and he has not spoken to him for about 2_ years. Incidentally, among the other minority shareholders that Mr. Stevens mentioned are the J.D. Wetherspoon

Organisation, Regent Inns and Grosvenor Inns.

Mr. Stevens admitted that Ambishus pubs do have recorded music ("Not rock," he said) and televisions. They are not Wetherspoon pubs and are not trying to be.

On the beer front (and here Mr. Stevens told me he drinks little other than London Pride) Fuller's London Pride and Courage Best Bitter are "must haves" in all their pubs after which the licensees are free to choose from a range of twenty guest beers from the Beer Cellar which changes monthly. He specifically mentioned that he was hoping to put O'Hanlon's on the list when he can contact them.

I should like to apologise to the Ambishus Pub Co, and to our readers for producing a somewhat misleading editorial but I was misled by the silly name and the very public link (albeit a tenuous one) with the former head of the Magic Pub Co. I am pleased to set the record straight.

Andy Pirson



THREE LETTERS FULLER'S BELIEVE IN

For the first time Fuller's ESB, or Extra Special Bitter, will receive an extensive £0.5 million marketing support programme including a national advertising press campaign and a brand new livery. The simplicity of the new advertising campaign continues in the vein of its highly successful London Pride stable-mate which incorporates the memorable - "Whatever You Do Take Pride" theme. For ESB the campaign strapline is equally strong; "Extra Special Bitter - Three Words You Can Believe In". Like the name of the beer itself, it is a confident and straightforward assertion of undisputed quality, something that beer aficionados have known for a very long time.

Once tasted never forgotten, ESB is a true "liquid legend", amongst those in the know and has received more CAMRA awards than any other ale, including a never-beaten three times Champion Beer of Britain and six times Best Strong Ale at The Great British Beer Festival.

Fuller's believe that there is still huge potential for their premium strength brand which up until now has not been maximised. ESB's new contemporary, simple but stylish design, supported by the carefully targeted national press advertising

campaign, will do more justice to this 'ultimate ale' and will encourage new consumers across the country to trial it - be it in a pub or from a supermarket or off-licence.

ESB's status derives from its unrivalled, full-bodied yet perfectly balanced orchestra of flavours. A robust 5.5% ABV in cask and 5.9% in bottle, ESB is brewed with Pale Ale and Crystal malts, and balanced with Target, Challenger and Northdown hops. Rich, smooth and satisfying in taste, the cask-conditioned version, is dry-hopped

with Goldings for extra aroma.

John Roberts, Fuller's Marketing Director comments "ESB is without question the best ale on the market. Up until now its 'clothing' did not do this truly excellent product justice. We have changed that and it is now more suitably and confidently attired. The new advertising campaign, like the brand, is honest and down to earth, we tell it as it is - a brand you can believe in! ESB will now be put firmly on track to explore the significant latent potential that we know exists for such a superb beer - positioned alongside Fuller's other great success story, London Pride."

From a Fuller's press release



THE PRINCESS ROYAL

On page 27 of the September edition of **London Drinker** we show a photograph of Croydon and Sutton CAMRA Branch Chairman Graham Stone with Tony Challice, the licensee of local Pub of the Year, the Princess Royal, West Croydon. Unfortunately we called Tony Challice John.

Sorry Tony.

Tony Hedger

IS OWNING PUBS HABIT FORMING?

An interesting rivalry has developed on the London pub scene. Gerry Martin, brother of the J D Wetherspoon Managing Director Tim, is the Chairman and Managing Director of the Old Monk pub group. The group now has 18 pubs in and around London and the plan is to float the company on the Alternative Investment Market so as to raise the funds to take this up to around fifty over the next three years. Gerry Martin, who was his brother's development manager until opting to go his own way in 1995, intends to retain 60% of the shareholding. This should be good news as his policy is to take his beers from regional and micro-breweries. For anyone wishing to sample an Old Monk pub, one of the most recent to open is the OLD MONK EXCHANGE at 61 Victoria Street, SW1.

APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

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

Name(s)

Address

..... Postcode.....

Signature Date.....

I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership.

	Individual Annual		Joint Annual		Individual Life		Joint Life
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Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to:
Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

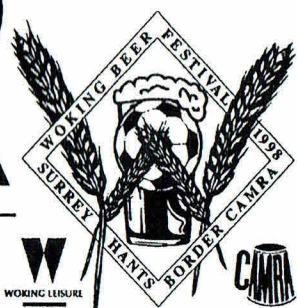


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<http://www.camrabranches.org.uk/surrey/>

PUB NEWS FROM EAST LONDON AND CITY BRANCH

One of the more pleasing developments for the beer drinker so far in 1998 has been the major advance in beer-related reading. Last year CAMRA quite rightly criticised the national press for being wine snobs. Not much has changed there, but since then the specialist beer press has taken up the challenge and there are now a range of publications to satisfy our thirst for information. For CAMRA members, *What's Brewing* gets better and better - if you are not a member and don't see it, why not? Brighton-based, *The Independent Imbiber* has carved out a niche for itself as the principle source of information on new breweries and new beers - it is available on subscription or can be bought over the counter at the Beer Shop, 14 Pitfield Street, N1. The City of London-based Brewers' Guild publication *Grist* has developed into an excellent magazine and deserves to be more widely read by beer drinkers. Currently the magazine is only available on subscription - details from Brewers' Guild Publications Ltd, 8 Ely Place, London, EC1N 6SD. Most recently on the scene comes *The Taste!*, a glossy mass-market job that is proof positive that beer writing is now mainstream. Circulation after four issues is said to be around 20,000 and rising and that figure would surely be higher if it was more commonly available in newsagents. All these publications deserve your support. But there is only one place to find recent news of the local drinking scene - here in *London Drinker*, widely available across the bar throughout London.

I was so inspired by an article on the development of British-brewed wheat beer in *Grist* magazine, mentioned above, that I set out to sample some for myself. It comes in three distinct styles: Bavarian-type, Belgian-type and the more difficult to define British-type. Four small breweries in South East England produce British-style wheat beers which are readily available in our area. Our local brewer O'Hanlon's brew Maltsters Weiss (4.0%) which is usually available at O'Hanlon's, 8 Tysoe Street, EC1, although often only in keg form, and as a guest beer elsewhere. Suffolk brewer St Peter's brew Wheat Beer (4.7%, or sometimes 3.5%) which is regularly available in their Jerusalem Tavern, 55 Britton Street, EC1 in both real and bottled formats. Bedfordshire brewer B&T brew Shefford Wheat Beer (5.0%) from July to September each year which is sometimes to be found at the Lord Rodney's Head, 285 Whitechapel Road, E1 and is also currently ubiquitous on the guest beer pumps of JD Wetherspoon houses. Finally, all of 20 yards outside our branch area, S&N's Yorkshire Grey, brewpub at 3 Theobalds Road, WC1 (now brewing on a full mash basis with consequent

Rose of Denmark



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*A pleasant pint is still available
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- * Brakspear Bitter 3.4%
- * Woodfordes Wherry 3.8%
- * Timothy Taylors Landlord 4.3%

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Friday & Saturday: midday - 11pm
Sunday: midday - 10.30pm
Basket meals until late

improvements in quality although probably still storing beer under blanket pressure) has also produced Hopbine Wheat Ale (4.4%) this summer.

All four of the beers mentioned above are not really what I would call wheat beers - they are more like traditional English ales brewed with a proportion of wheat in the grist. They are served clear and slightly chilled (or over-chilled in some of the 'spoons pubs) and have a distinctive, pleasant taste arising from the wheat. To my palate the St Peter's version is the most flavourful. Other brewers to have produced a beer in this vein in the past include Young's and Hop Back and many micros are now dabbling in the style.

A small number of British brewers have gone for a more authentic continental style of wheat beer. Foremost amongst these are Salopian of Shrewsbury, Quay of Weymouth and Shepherd Neame of Faversham. Only the Shep's beer might be expected to be regularly available in London and this one is in the Bavarian Weiss style. It is brewed under licence from

Prinzregent Luitpold's Kaltenberg Brewery. But I had a job to find any to sample. None was available at the **Bishop's Finger**, 8 West Smithfield, EC1, nor at **Ye Olde Red Cow**, 72 Long Lane, EC1, although in the tiny downstairs bar of the latter I did find Shepherd Neame Goldings and 1698 Celebration Ale, both in excellent condition. In the end I had to go over the water to South London to try the beer where I found the kegged version to be filtered, pasteurised and highly carbonated but still pleasant and the bottle-conditioned version to be excellent - just like the real thing in fact - a cloudy wheat beer at last. Other places where you will find Bavarian-style wheat beers, at a price, are the new brewpubs of **Mash** at 19-21 Great Portland Street, W1 and **Soho Brewing Co**, 41 Earlham Street, WC2.

So there are wheat beers and there are beers made with wheat. Some British brewers are carving out a niche for the latter but I wish that more would go the whole way like Shepherd Neame and have a crack at the former.

Stephen Harris

Alchemy

Brewing Company Ltd

Unit 24C Lyon Road, Hersham, Surrey KT12 3PU

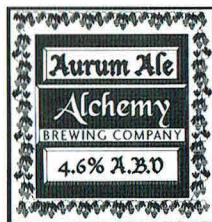
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Aurum Ale (4.6% ABV) *Derived from the latin for gold, this beer is an attractive pale colour with a delicate floral nose and a delicious golden, malt flavour. Finish is pleasantly dry for a mid range gravity due to the combined forces of anglo american hops in the copper.*



Both beers are regularly available at the Bricklayer's Arms, 6-8 Queen's Road, Hersham

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

I, like many other drinkers, have always desired and campaigned for longer and more flexible opening hour, but the latest proposed changes leave me rather worried and faced with a difficult quandary.

For once, most of the interested groups such as pub owners, publicans, police, magistrates, local councillors, politicians, the drinks industry, CAMRA, and yes even drinkers themselves seem to be in agreement over longer licensing hours (apparently only the Church and Alcohol Concern are opposed). I'm rather suspicious as this kind of consensus rarely occurs, and so it made me consider the possible long term consequences.

ON the plus side, firstly it's "good for business" - pubs creates a considerable number of jobs and wealth in an increasing service based and open economy. Secondly, the drinkers has more freedom to drink at a time and at a pace of his/her choosing. All well and good I hear you say, but let me be more polemical.

The forces which are leading to the 24 hour society will, I believe, forever damage our unique pub heritage. Pubs are now regarded (in the main) as profit centres, both for revenue and capital growth. With the proposed legislation then, the city centre pubs can be "open all hours" and the neighbourhood pubs open till midnight; the former would appear to be more profitable. The effect is a further migration of pubs from rural and suburban areas to the high value town and city districts. The pub will be seen as just another part of the leisure industry (along with night clubs, cinemas, café/restaurants) and will have to change in nature, mainly catering for younger people who want a bit of fun. The community pub (or local) would be seen as old fashioned and less profitable; this contrasts with the view of most CAMRA members that it is an integral part of the social fabric, the mainstay of the community and even a way of life.

The trend I have outlined is already in progress; most of you will have noticed pub closures in residential and country areas and pub openings (usually one of the new and eclectic bunch of pub chains) in already quite well-pubbed commercial districts. The new opening times will simply accelerate the development and hasten the demise of a truly unique institution - the British pub.

We should be careful not to shoot ourselves in the foot by allowing the drinks industry to get

exactly what they want at the expense of the consumer. Yes - the "pub" may survive - but not as we know it!

Yours sincerely
R.C.Prior, Pimlico
SW1

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Editors,

Wetherspoons are staging a series of cheap beer promotions on Monday nights. They are mainly keg, lager or bottled but one of interest to real ale drinkers is October 19th when Courage Directors will be available for 99p a pint.

I have visited the three new Young's pubs. The Bells in Staines is a small back street local and the beer was in excellent condition despite it being a hot, humid afternoon. Within walking distance there are Fullers, Ushers, Morlands and Wychwood pubs but most of the beer I had was not in very good condition. I later wandered on to Egham and Englefield Green and found an excellent Gales pub called the Bricklayers (I think).

I was less impressed by the two in Chelmsford. The Riverside is near a sports centre and a shopping centre of the same name. The main problem is that it has a low ceiling which as I am 6ft I found most off-putting. O'Connors is a fake Irish pub again with low beams. On the way home I looked in an old favourite near the station, the Ship. Excellent Ridleys and no worries about bashing your head.

On another matter, the article about pubs near Olympia reminded me of an amusing incident that happened to the nephew of a friend a few years back. He had come down from Birkenhead to stay with his uncle for the first two weeks in August. He was interested to hear about the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia and decided to include a visit when he went around London.

He arrived at Olympia one day at 3pm only to find it was closing for the afternoon and was advised to come back at 5pm. As he walked away he noticed the Frigate & Firkin and decided to wait there with a pint. By the time 5 o'clock came around he had had four pints and decided that was enough, so he took the tube back to Barking.

Yours,
Colin Price



Adnams fine Suffolk ales
including
Southwold Bitter
and Broadside
are regularly available throughout
the Nicholson's estate

Crown Tavern, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1
Fox & Anchor, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1
Viaduct Tavern, 126 Newgate Street, EC1
Butlers Head, 11 Telegraph Street, EC2
Magpie, 12 New Street, EC2
Throgmortons, 27a Throgmorton Street, EC2
Red Lion, 8 Lombard Court, EC3
Ship, 11 Talbot Court, EC3
Walkers of Fenchurch, 18 London Street, EC3
Black Friar, 174 Queen Victoria Street, EC4
Old Bell Tavern, 95 Fleet Street, EC4
Walkers of Holborn, Norwich Street, EC4
Williamsons Tavern, Groveland Court, off Bow Lane, EC4

Bloomsbury Tavern, 236 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2
Coal Hole, 91 The Strand, WC2
Globe, 37 Bow Street, WC2
Marquis of Granby, 51-52 Chandos Street, WC2

Argyll Arms, 18 Argyll Street, W1
Barley Mow, 8 Dorset Street, W1
Clachan, 34 Kingly Street, W1
Dog & Duck, 18 Bateman Street, Soho, W1
Northumberland Arms, 43 Goodge Street, W1
Shelley's, 10 Stafford Street, W1
Three Greyhounds, 25 Greek Street, W1

Leinster Arms, 17 Leinster Terrace, W2
Catherine Wheel, 23 Kensington Church Street, W8
Devonshire Arms, 37 Marloes Road, Kensington, W8
Clifton, 96 Clifton Hill, St Johns Wood, NW8

Antelope, 22 Eaton Terrace, SW1
Golden Lion, 25 King Street, St James's, SW1
Paxtons Head, 153 Knightsbridge, SW1
Red Lion, 2 Duke of York Street, SW1
Walkers of St James, 32a Duke Street, St James's, SW1
Walkers of Whitehall, Craig Court, 15 Whitehall, SW1
Australian, 29 Milner Street, SW3

Doggetts Coat & Badge, 1 Blackfriars Bridge, SE1
Horniman at Hays, Hays Galleria, Tooley Street, SE1
Old Thameside Inn, Pickfords Wharf, Clink Street, SE1
Southwark Tavern, 22 Southwark Street, SE1



Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

How right Derek Smith is (Sept LD) about the "new" Greene King Abbot, once a gorgeous complex pint it is now not even a shadow of its former self. Some 10 years ago I had cause to complain about quality of the Abbot at my local Grays pub. I was rewarded with a guided tour of the brewery in company of head brewer Alistair Healey, criss-crossing with the guide-led tours from time-to-time and ending in the sample room. I can tell you Mr Healey is dedicated to the art of brewing. The Abbot at my local was then inspected by Greene King and the problem solved. Nevertheless, today's Abbot is pathetic. I can only suggest that the Accountants or Sales Promotion team are now brewing it. Black Baron should be with us soon. Last year's was excellent, as was Hair Raiser. Only Mr Healey can save Abbot - if the directors will allow him. Meanwhile, if it tastes of anything, it is stale fish. I am amazed the Good Beer Guide calls it greatly improved.

While on the topic, has nobody noticed how bland Morland Old Speckled Hen now is? Once a full-flavoured, distinctive beer one either loved or detested - I fell into the former category - some 3-4 years ago it became just another bland, inoffensive, full-bodied bitter. One first tasting it I swore the cellarman had connected his line to the wrong barrel. He checked and assured me he hadn't. And it has been the same relatively tasteless beer ever since.

For the last year or more I have been concerned that even my favourite regular beer, Fuller's ESB, may be suffering a decline. It was a super pint, now only better than most. I hope this is only a phase, or less good cellar craft at my usual pub. Draught 1845, which I have met only at Fuller's pub opposite Euston station, is a super pint - but a little strong if you happen to be driving!

One should not overlook Young's Special, different from what it used to be but not worse. Wouldn't it be a happy day if Youngs took over Morrell's, as hinted in your columns? Especially if they kept the brewery going.

Yours sincerely,
Jack Spiegel, Southend-on-Sea

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Editors,

I live in Edmonton and the only pub that sells the London Drinker is the Lamb.

Normally you are not able to get a copy till the

second week of the month sometimes the beginning of the third, by then you are too late to support the smaller festivals and functions these weeks.

Would it not be better to issue in the last week of the previous month so people could read and work out where to go in time.

Yours sincerely,

Silvie, Edmonton

Editor's comment:

I sympathise with you in your difficulty in obtaining a copy of the Drinker but unfortunately we are totally in the hands of the very small number of volunteers who distribute the magazine. Our circulation is not sufficiently large to employ commercial distributors and so just about every copy relies upon a CAMRA member getting round the outlets to deliver them - it is just not possible for every one of them to get the magazine into all their pubs by the first of the month.

We are always desperate for more distributors. If anyone can spare time to help, we would urge you to go along to one of your local branch's meetings and volunteer. Alternatively come along to the central distribution which is always early in the evening on the last Wednesday of the month at the Ship, 68 Borough Road, SE1.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Editors,

Thanks to London Drinker for revealing who the Ambishus Pub Co. actually are and, yes, the fall out of their acquisition of pubs from Wetherspoons is still taking place.

Two points about Andy Pirson's Editorial on the matter. Firstly, thankfully for CAMRA, protest does work. The Elbow Room in Crouch End, where the protest of regulars made it on to the front page of the local press, retains guest beers as well as the Ambishus range. The Elbow Room in Tottenham, where similar protests took place, in fact remains a Wetherspoons pub following legal wrangles. The Ambishus take over here has been delayed by some months.

Secondly it is not entirely true that pub owners can do pretty much what they want with their pubs. Legally of course the only recourse of the local Council, or dissatisfied customers is to object to the renewal of the licence. Since CAMRA is not about closing pubs down - even horrible ones - this is hardly to be recommended. However it should be

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Branch Activities

SOUTH WEST LONDON BRANCH CRICKET

Sunday 15 August saw the branch at home to the Watford & District Branch. The visitors won the toss and put the hosts in. They were rewarded with a wicket before a run had been scored, but a second innings stand of 135 between Mark Hamilton (93 not out) and Derek Kan (67) put SWL on their way to 185 for 2 off their 25 overs.

Watford lost wickets early on and were always behind the asking rate. Number five John Garwell made a thoughtful 26 and number nine Streader a combative 36 not out but in the end Watford ran out of overs finishing on 114 for nine. Six of SWL's seven bowlers each took at least one wicket.

Two weeks later the team were at home to an occasional side from their home pub the **Sultan**. The pub batted first and lost wickets steadily finding themselves all out for 43, 20 of them extras, off 17.1 overs. Number eleven, Element was the top scorer with 11. Franklyn Richards and Geoff Strawbridge each took three wickets. CAMRA met the target without loss off 13 overs, Tom Carter top scoring with 19, Alan Millington 10 and extras 16.

Bank Holiday Monday saw the branch at the excellent (pitch and beer) West Herts Sports Club for the return game against **Watford & District**. The hosts batted first and lost their first two wickets for 14 runs. A third wicket stand of 63 between Martin Few (34) and Bill Austin (36) gave Watford every chance of a big score but after they were out wickets fell regularly and Watford finished on 110 all out off 27 overs. Andy Robinson was best of the bowlers with 6-2-22-4, including a sharp return catch.

SWL lost their first wicket with five runs on the board but Derek Kan (51) supported by Mark Hamilton (22) and Andy Harrison (24 no), lead the visitors home with 112 for 3 off 24.1 overs.

The SWL team is open to CAMRA members of all abilities. A report of our September matches will appear in next month's Drinker. We resume our activities with nets in April.

MBJ

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continued from page 13

possible for local Councils to make it fairly plain as to the kind of mix of pubs they expect in, say, a town centre or high road area with the implication that any applications for new licences from offenders would be blocked. Pressure, protest and friendly persuasion can reach the parts the law cannot.

Regards,
Keith Flett,
London N17

Editor's comment:

See my follow up article on the Ambishus Pub Co on page 6 following last month's editorial. The particulars of ownership do not, of course necessarily change anybody's views on how they find the new pubs under the new regime.

AP

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.

Branch Update

Welcome again to our regular branch information page where we have details of Branch Contacts and events as well as general items of news from the various branch areas. This is where branches can tell drinkers across London what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to them. Branch events for October are listed below.

LONDON PUBS GROUP. Eric Martin 0181-697 2147 (H), 0171-973 3274 (W).

Wed 14 (8.00) Social Crawl of Soho area. Meet at ARGYLL ARMS, Argyll Street, W1 then *including* BLUE POSTS (9.00), Kingly Street; OLD COFFEE HOUSE (10.00), Beak Street - Sun 25 (11.15) Guided walking tour of coaching inns in St Albans. Meet at clock tower, ending at 1.00pm at FARRIERS ARMS.

CROYDON & SUTTON. Paul Everitt 0181-686 5053 (H & W).

Thu 1 (8.00) South Norwood Pub Crawl. Meet in the ALLIANCE, South Norwood High Street (depart 9.00) - Thu 8 (5.00) 5TH CROYDON & SUTTON BEER FESTIVAL. Wallington Hall. Thu 8th to Sat 10th. Staff required - Sun 18 (12 noon) Beer & Curry Social. Meet in the PURLEY ARMS, Brighton Road, South Croydon - Wed 21 (8.00) Two Pub Social. Meet in the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, Holmesdale Road, SE25 then CLIFTON ARMS, Clifton Road - Thu 29 (8.30) Branch Meeting. HOGSHEAD, Scarbrook Road, Croydon.

EAST LONDON & CITY. Stephen Harris 0181-519 0163 (H) e-mail: steve@pigsear.org.uk.

Recent brewery visits have proved very popular and all have been fully subscribed. We hope to be able to visit the Mighty Oak Brewery at Brentwood in Essex one evening in late October but arrangements have not been finalised at the time of going to print. Places will be limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please ring the Branch contact for further details.

Friday 2 Oct (8.00pm) Beer Festival Social. JD Wetherspoon's *Oktoberfest* is in full swing and we will meet at the WALNUT TREE, High Road Leytonstone, E11 before moving on to the GOLDENGROVE, The Grove, Stratford, E15 for 9.00pm.

Monday 12 Oct (7.30pm) Branch Meeting. COUNTING HOUSE, Cornhill, EC3. Please note the earlier than usual start time for this meeting which will take place in one of the meeting rooms at this plush Fuller's bank conversion. If time allows we will try out the PACIFIC & ORIENT brewpub at 1 Bishopsgate after the meeting.

Fri 30 (8.00pm) 1998 Club of the Year presentation. LEYTON ORIENT SUPPORTERS CLUB, Brisbane Road, E10. Please bring CAMRA membership cards to ensure entry. No doubt there will be plenty of excellent beer from around the country to sample at this rare opening of our Club of the Year on a non-match day.

ENFIELD & BARNET. Derek Smith 0181-805 1436 (H & W).

Thu 1 (9.00) Social & London Drinker Pickup. ALEXANDRA, 133 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, EN4 (Bus 184, 307, 326) - Tue 6 (9.00) Launch of the 1999 Good Beer Guide. WHITE LION, 50 St Albans Road, Barnet, EN5 - Fri 9 to Sun 11. Trip to Belgium, staying at Hotel Marion, Oostende. Trips to Brugge, Antwerp and Brussels. £20 deposit required. Details & bookings from Tony Roberts (0181-482 9673) - Wed 14 (8.30) Branch Meeting SOUTHGATE CRICKET CLUB, Walker Ground, Waterfall Road, N14 - Tue 20 (9.00) Good Beer Guide Promotion. STAG 1 Little Park Gardens, Enfield Town, EN2. Thu 29 (9.00) Good Beer Guide Promotion and London Drinker Pickup. TALLY HO, 749 High Road, North Finchley, N12.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD. Clive Taylor 0181-949 2099 (H) 01483-714898 (W)

Tue 6 (8.30) Branch Meeting. BLACK LION, Brighton Road, Surbiton - Tue 13 (8.00) Visit some of the best pubs in Croydon. Meet GEORGE, George Street (depart 8.30) - Wed 21 (8.00) Three Pub Social in Epsom. Meet BARLEY MOW, Pikes Hill (depart 9.00) then RAILWAY GUARD and RISING SUN - Thu 29 Chinese Evening in Kingston. Meet CANBURY ARMS, Canbury Park Road then across road to the Chinese restaurant.

NORTH LONDON. Alison Cox 0181-742 0498 (H) 0181-746 8148 (W). Any social queries contact Gary White 0181-801 9513 (H), 0181-772 6045 (W), email: g.white@sfxavier.ac.uk.

Mon 5 (8.00) Branch Social. WENLOCK ARMS, 26 Wenlock Road, N1 - Sat 10 Branch Visit to



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Branch Update

Bedford Beer Festival. Contact Christine Cryne for Details (0181-452 6965) - Tue 13 (8.00) Branch Social in WC1. CALTHORPE ARMS, 252 Grays Inn Road then QUEENS HEAD, 66 Acton Street - Tue 20 (8.00) Central London Beer & Chinese Meal. Meet FLYMAN & FIRKIN, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 then to a local restaurant. Ring Gary for more details - Tue 27 (8.00) London Drinker Beer Festival 1999 Planning Meeting No. 1. THREE CUPS, 22 Sandland Street, WC1 - Mon 2 Nov (8.00) Branch Social. WENLOCK ARMS, 26 Wenlock Road, N1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW. Brian Kirton 0181-384 7284 (H).

By the time you read this the First Twickenham Beer Festival will have taken place. Thanks to everyone, especially from other branches, who volunteered to help out. For a relatively small branch to stage a festival like this "outside" help is invaluable and much appreciated. We will have a "debriefing" session at the Red Lion close to Isleworth (SWT) station, where all will be welcome.

As announced at the festival, the branch "Pub of the Year" for 1998 is the Coach & Horses in Barnes High Street and on Wednesday 22nd October we shall be having an official certificate presentation night which should be an enjoyable occasion with, hopefully, local press in attendance. Please do try to come along.

Any suggestions for a venue for the Branch Christmas Dinner? Call Brian if you have. If the Youngs 135 Association would like to let us know where they will be this year, we shall try to avoid them; don't want to spoil their evening (again)!

Wed 7 (8.00) Beer Festival Debriefing & Social. RED LION, 92/94 Linkfield Road, Isleworth - Thu 15 (8.00) Branch Meeting. PRINCE ALBERT, 30 Hampton Road, Twickenham - Wed 21 (8.00) Branch Pub of the Year Presentation. COACH & HORSES, 27 Barnes High Street, SW13.

SOUTH EAST LONDON. Rob Close 0181-659-8067 (H - answerphone), E-mail: rob_close@msn.com.

The visit to Vale Brewery has been replaced by a visit to the Flagship brewery and a trip down the Medway on the Kingswear Castle, a preserved paddle steamer. Please let Rob know if you want to go. There will be a fee.

A few of us went to Oxford last month. A couple of routes had been planned, but on arrival had to be changed because the first pub was closed for refurbishment! The next pub had been closed some weeks earlier by Morrells, and when we reached the Brewery Gate, we found that this was closed at weekends! Thankfully, the Old Tom was still trading and all the beers were in excellent form, including the mild.

As I noted last month, our meetings have to be organised in advance. Circumstances can mean that the details change at the last minute. In order to provide the best information service to our members, we are considering sending out last minute details on E-mail. If you would like to be kept informed of branch activities, please let me know at the address given above.

October events: Mon 5 (9.00) Social following Committee Meeting. BLACK HORSE AND HARROW, SE6 - Tue 6 (7.30) Millennium Guide Planning Meeting. SHIPWRIGHTS, SE1 - Tue 13 (8.00) Branch Social. GLOBE, SE1 - Sat 17 Brewery Trip to Flagship - Thu 22 (7.30) Club of the Year Presentation. BROMLEY LABOUR CLUB, H G Wells Centre, St Marks Road, Bromley South - Sat 31 (7.30) Quiz Night at HOWARD CLUB, SE9.

SOUTH WEST ESSEX. Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H).

Tue 6 (8.30) Social. PRINCE OF WALES, Roman Road (B1002), Mountnessing - Thu 15 (8.30) Social. QUEENS THEATRE PIT BAR, Billet Lane, Hornchurch - Wed 21 (8.30) Joint Social with Colchester and Board Games. SUN INN, 3 Feering Hill (B1024), Feering - Fri 30 (12.00 at brewery) Brewery Trip to Fuller's, Griffin Brewery, Chiswick, W4. Meet at brewery.

SOUTH WEST LONDON. Mark Bravery 0181-540 9183 (H), 0171-438 7181 (W).

Preparations are now in hand for the 1999 Battersea Beer Festival. It will be held at the usual venue - Battersea Town Hall - from Thursday 11th to Saturday 13th February (The committee has decided to axe the Wednesday night session to save on hall hire costs). This will be the tenth festival at Battersea and we are hoping to have one or two special beers to mark the occasion.

Drinkers at the 1998 event voted Roosters Yankee as their beer of the festival and members will be heading for Harrogate on 17th October to present an award to Rooster's

Two days later the committee will meet at the Priory Arms, SW8 to draw up the shortlist for Branch

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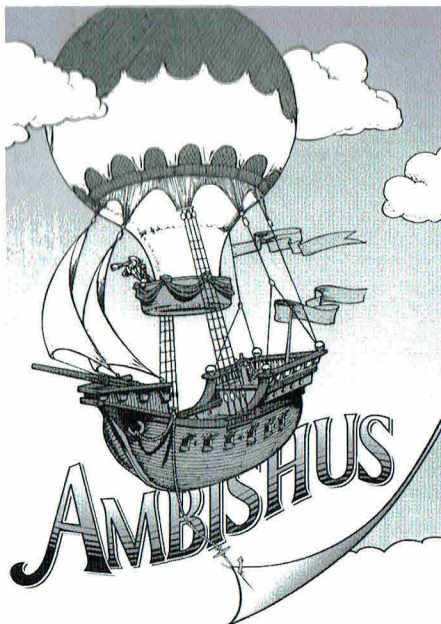
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Nethergate: Umbel Ale
Oakhill: Mendip Gold
Thwaites: Best Mild
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Ushers: Autumn Frenzy
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6 available at any one time

This beer festival will be taking place in other **Ambishus** pubs across the capital. For a full list see next month's London Drinker

Branch Update

Pub of the Year. Copies of the 1999 Good Beer Guide should be available at the meeting and all members are welcome

Forthcoming Meetings: Sat 17 Trip to Roosters Brewery (see above). *Numbers limited.* Contact David Paterson (01932 226940) for further details - Mon 19 (7.30) Open Committee Meeting (Pub of the Year shortlist and *Good Beer Guide* launch) followed by Festival Committee Meeting. PRIORY ARMS, 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8 (upstairs room).

WATFORD & DISTRICT. Tony Smith 01923 221155 (H & W) Fax: 01923 218625.

Tue 6 (8.00) Oxhey Social. RAILWAY then VILLIERS (8.30); HAYDON (9.00); RIFLE VOLUNTEER (9.30); VICTORIA (10.00) - Wed 14 (8.30) Good Beer Guide Launch. WEST HERTS SPORTS CLUB (plus pool tournament) - Thu 22 (8.30) Watford Survey. RED LION then OLD WESTMINSTER (9.00); MOON UNDER WATER (9.30) - Sun 25 (8.00) Committee Meeting. WEST HERTS SPORTS CLUB.

WEST LONDON. Di Kehoe 0171-218 3999 (W).

This month we are planning three events, the first of which is on Tuesday 6th and will be a two pub social in the Victoria area of SW1. We meet for 8.30 pm in the PAVIOURS ARMS, Page Street. This three bar, Art Deco style Fullers pub is set behind the old Westminster Hospital. Which bar? Try the middle one. We then move on to the ROYAL OAK, 2 Regency Street for 9.45. This is a one bar Youngs pub. The nearest tube is Victoria or Pimlico; buses pass close by on either Victoria Street or Vauxhall Bridge Road.

On Friday 16th we shall be holding an early evening social from 6.30 to 9.30 at the HOGSHEAD, 23 Wellington Street, WC2. This is a busy small pub but well known for its wide range of beers. Located off the Strand close to Aldwych close to many bus routes, the nearest tubes are Covent Garden or Temple.

From one end of the Branch to the other, we have another social evening on Thursday 29th this time at the CROWN & ANCHOR, 374 Chiswick High Road, W4; meeting at 8.30 in this large Youngs pub that underwent a tasteful modernising refurbishment last year. Nearest tube is Chiswick Park; buses aplenty.

Our next Branch meeting will be at the BRITANNIA TAP, 150 Warwick Road, W14 on Thursday 5th November; this could be an explosive evening

WEST MIDDLESEX. Paul Dabrowski 0181-571 9146 (H), 0171-713 3882 (W).

Sat 3 (12.15) Oxfordshire Pub Walk. *Start* THREE PIGEONS, Milton Common, *via* LAMB, Little Milton, & *finish* SUN, Wheatley. Bus 300 from Uxbridge (1050) or Chiltern Railways train to High Wycombe then bus. *Further details from Branch Contact* - Thu 8 (8.00) New Pub Social. *Start* TRAVELLER'S REST *then* LITTEN TREE (8.45), PLOUGH (9.30) *and* NEW MOON (9.15), all Kenton Road, Kenton - Wed 14 (8.00) Branch Meeting. DUKE OF YORK, Steyne Road, Acton - Sun 18 (12.00) Joint Social with Central London SPBW & West London CAMRA. *Start* PRINCE OF WALES, Princedale Road, Holland Park, *then* LADBROKE ARMS, Ladbroke Road, SUN IN SPLENDOR, PORTOBELLO STAR, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, all Portobello Road, and ELGIN, Ladbroke Grove (approx every half-hour) Wed 28 (9.00) London Drinker Pick-Up. Red Lion, St Mary's Road, Ealing.

Deadline for the November edition, 9th October. Material for December to arrive by 6th November. **Please be sure to send all diary material to Andy Pirson.**



Beer Festivals

- **Wetherspoon's**
1-4 October 01923 477777
- **Head of Steam**, Euston, NW1
5-11 October 0171 388 2221
- **Wenlock Arms**, Wenlock Rd, N1
19-25 October 0171 608 3406
- **Sultan**, South Wimbledon, SW19
24-25 October 0181 542 4532
- **Spotted Dog**, Garratt Lane, SW18
26 Oct-1 Dec 0181 875 9531
- **Prince's Head**, Richmond
29 Oct-1 Nov 0181 940 1572
- **Priory Arms**, Stockwell, SW8
30 Oct-1 Nov 0171 622 1884

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GOOD OLD ROUGH PUBS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In July, a team of nine made a friendly invasion of this wonderful country. We travelled from Bamberg to Prague and beyond. Gary Morris, the esteemed landlord of The Priory laid a trail of lost property across the country (mobile phone, camera, etc.). Prague, apart from being one of the most beautiful cities in the world, is also one of the busiest having 50million visitors a year.

Most beery visitors follow the much out of date "Good Beer Guide to Prague and the Czech Republic" by Graham Lees. Almost all the entries in central Prague have changed out of all recognition or are closed to tourists since publication, but three have not. The "Radegast Pivnice" (Pub) in Templova, Stare Mesto is more like a German beer hall, but selling all the Radegast Brewery beers in half litre mugs. We got 50Kcs for £1 in July and the beers here were 12Kcs. A rough old pub right in the centre is "U Medvidku" (The Little Bears) in Na Perstyně 5. This bar sells Budvar 12° and Regent Dark 12°. I have visited here for 15 years and it is only slowly attempting to go upmarket. Also "U Fleku" in Kremencova is a must, but visit before 11am as it gets packed with tourists. This is the oldest brewpub in the world and the beer, according to Hop Back's John Gilbert, is the finest in the Republic. £1 for less than half a litre though.



Train fares are less than 2p a km and at those prices, first class travel is a distinct possibility. Also wherever you travel in the Czech Republic you will be struck by the marvellous transport systems which are like stepping back to the 60's here, before the car became king. The Czech's use both but rarely drive in town or city. The transport system shows Britain for being the third world country it is, while the Czech people are tidy, polite and make the most of their slender resources.

The main part of the article is based on our stay in Ceske Budejovice which is easily reached from Plzen or Prague by train. It is also a most compact town where a complete pub crawl can be

undertaken by the robust drinker. Like most of the Republic, Ceske Budejovice escaped damage during numerous wars and retains a marvellous Medieval Gothic Town Square, one of the largest in Europe. Most of the pubs described close at 10.00pm except the two tourist pubs, which remain open till 11.00pm. Still there is plenty of time for drinking as most bars open at 9am.

The nearest bar to the railway station is 'Europa' which is reached via a dingy stairway which opens onto a locals bar serving Samson beers at rock bottom prices (12p a half litre). This is a bar which could be a shock to the system. Mine host had a battered appearance but was friendly enough and the locals were enjoying a sing-along to a large portable tape recorder. This bar, like most others in town reminds me of the days over here before pubs were tarted up to appeal to a wider audience than just regulars. Choose between Dark 10° (4% ABV) or Light 10°. Service is swift and your glass will be recharged as soon as you drink halfway down. You can continue forever like this but to stop the service, just put a coin or a note on the receipt of pencil slashes and the bill should appear!



Fortunately, there isn't far to stagger to 'U Brycky', a classic street corner pub which is a favourite of the Czech army. They are often seen on manoeuvres, drinking for the Republic! Service is just as swift as in the last bar. As usual, in the Republic, just sit down and say 'pivo' at the right moment and relax. There is also a garden drinking area. You could even be in a Young's pub before the new regime implemented changes.

Feature

Just around the corner is another basic bar 'Na Sumave' where the first Budvar 12° (5% ABV) is tasted. Unlike the keg fonts which proliferate in England, note the air-pressure dispense from the bar. Red and white check tablecloths predominate and even though every table is 'Reservé', the landlord will wave you to a seat and ply you with the amber nectar at 25p a half litre.

Forcing your way out, it is a five minute walk to 'Strelnice'. On the way up Riegrova have a look to your right and yet another very basic Budvar bar is visible. This is well worth the diversion, but as I was well oiled when I visited, I forget the name or street name. Strelnice lurks behind large dustbins and is the most basic on our crawl. It is, however, as friendly as the others and Budvar 12° in here costs a mere 9Kcs-70 Hellas (19p). The toilets leave a lot to be desired, which is a feature of some of the rougher bars in the crawl. It doesn't seem to affect the flavour of the beer though!



Next you have to negotiate Prazka, a very busy main road. 'Perla' is at the base of a tower block opposite a swish hotel. Perla is a class 'Restaurence' specialising in the Czech obsession with meat and fish. This is not a country for vegetarians because, outside of Prague, so-called veggie dishes are often rounded off by a covering of ham! This is another locals pub but is being taken 'up-market' by the Budvar Brewery up the road and hence during our visit was as empty as the awful Brewery Tap the 'Budvar Restaurence'. Perla will regain its loyal locals once the beer drops down in price from the outrageous 40p, which it is. Czechs are very price resistant and even though it is literally at the bottom of their stairs they will drink elsewhere in the meantime.

Visitors must visit 'Masne Kramy' in Krajinska which is the old meat market done up in Communist times and is one of the few positive things to come out of that era. Arrive early here for a seat. Waiters will try to press you for a meal, but just Budvars are possible. Be prepared to pay the lady attendant when visiting the Gents! Some visitors stay all day.

Stand agog at the town square and spot the Zvon across the way. This is worth a visit even if you do have to sample the awful Pilsner Urquell fizzy beer. Yes, it really does all taste like this now. Take the road back to the station and almost hidden away you will see 'U Cerpu' on your left. This is an unbelievable theme pub of a 'concentration camp' which sells Staropramen beer from behind a barred grille. One only is the order of the day here unless you relish passive smoking.



Well, there are other bars to be found on the trolley bus routes out of town and most are rough boozers. The Communists described them as Skupina IV and most basic bars still proclaim the fact. Ceske Budejovice is a wonderful place to stay because it is within easy striking distance of Ceske Krunlov, a superb medieval town only now becoming discovered by mass tourism. This is the home of the marvellous Eggenburg Brewery, which is one of the few to have brewery tap. Watch out for it as you go down through the old town gates. The fantastic journey to Krunlov is best done by rail and you must go to the 'Railway Buffet' opposite before you get return train.

Also a trip to Trebon by bus is very rewarding but don't miss the musty old Hostinec on the walk into town on your left-hand side. Regent beers at their best away from the touristy throng. All the bars mentioned represent the Czech's love of beer after a hard day's graft. As most of them start work at five, they have time for a pub lunch and a few sherbets in the evening. Walking home from a bar in Ceske Budejovice after 10pm can be an eerie experience if you are used to the crowds tipping out of the pubs in England.

If you love travel and good beer, go while you can. Try the impossible language and you will be rewarded with some memorable moments.

Get there while you can and enjoy the rough old pubs while they last.

Chris Cobbold

From Our Archives

It seems my personal gremlin has been working overtime - my last column apparently failed to arrive at the typesetters', as had its predecessor exactly five years before. Also missing was an apology for an unfortunate omission from my August contribution. Several lines were missing, and the impression given was that I had made uncomplimentary comments about the Greyhound, Sydenham. What I originally wrote was that the pub had undergone a refurbishment costing £60,000, which had enlarged it and, so it claimed, made it the best, with the most facilities in the district. The remainder of what seemed to be the same paragraph in fact referred to Becky's Dive Bar near London Bridge. Therefore I must put on record my sincere apologies to the proprietors of the Greyhound for what must have appeared a serious and unjustifiable libel.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO the blue cover of the 28 page October 1983 issue bore a photograph of the two Pearlies outside The Pearly King, Bow, to draw attention to the second Pig's Ear Beer Festival that month. The Editorial discussed the excessive cost of soft drinks in pubs, and cited an example where a pint of beer in a Croydon pub cost 75p (described as expensive), and a glass of cola 40p - or about £1.20 a pint even though it was not taxed. The Phoenix & Firkin above Denmark Hill Station had been granted a licence. At the time its ground floor was a shell, having been gutted by fire 3 years previously, and everything above was completely missing. John Davis, then a member of the SW London CAMRA Committee, and an inveterate traveller, described the joys of beer in Hong Kong. The newly opened Battersea Brewery, which was featured on the cover of the September issue, was described and its operations, prices and the like explained. In "London Drinking", Red Rover found himself in the environs of Chessington, and Merton provided a Pub Crawl of West Norwood complete with historical and some very gruesome information. A gremlin provided an ironic error which read:

"... the latest arrival in London, Red.

Kite Brewery Bitter ..."

That is how it appeared and it raised a few eyebrows. The Red Kite Brewery of Aberystwyth began operations in 1982 and ceased in 1984. A pity, it was a good drop.

"Round the Houses" was the first part of an unsigned series described as "Featuring the travels of a North London idiot on the Fullers/Youngs Passport." Fullers had recently issued a passport, and that for Young's was ongoing, so he decided to do both simultaneously, beginning with Kensington.

The Windmill Wheelers, a cycling group of regulars at the Windmill, Hampton Hill, was planning a charity ride to Brighton - the leading light being Andy Pirson.

John McDonnell was about to start brewing at

the Queen Victoria, Woolwich, acquired in 1977 from Charrington as a free house 6 years previously. Meanwhile, Vaux's had bought four London pubs, including the Princess Louise in Holborn and the Ship in Southwark - for £75,000 the lot.

TEN YEARS AGO the October 1988 issue's cover used blue as the theme colour - by the use of "screening" this was two-tone. Seven others of its 32 pages featured blue as the second colour to good effect, in particular on a full-page advert for - of all things - two shellfish stalls! The Editorial was headed by a pastiche of six photographs of signs outside London pubs, displaying opening times. This only formed part of the basis of the Editorial, the bulk of which was about pricing policy following the introduction of flexi-hours. An article reproduced by permission from a brewery house magazine outlined plainly the exact requirements of the legislation permitting longer hours, intended originally for publicans but naturally of interest to all pubgoers.

Following his Historicrawl the previous month of Pevensey, Sussex where in 1066 William the Conqueror's invasion force landed, Merton followed this up with one of Waltham Abbey, supposed burial place of Harold II who died at the Battle of Hastings on October 14th that year.

Fullers took out a two-page advert announcing the return of Mr Harry. There was a total of 11.5 pages of paid advertising. The previous month one full page caused some complaints from CAMRA members. It concerned a 3-day Beer Festival in 14 JD Wetherspoon pubs in N London, where Younger Bitter, Wadworth 6X, Marston Pedigree and Greene King Abbot were offered at, respectively, 59, 69, 79, 89 pence a pint. Unfortunately they chose the theme title of "The Great British Beer Festival", which, though we haven't sole rights to use it, ruffled a few feathers. You can't win 'em all.

FIVE YEARS AGO the "guest" colour on 6 of the 36 pages comprising October 1993 edition was

From Our Archives

mid-blue (it's difficult to describe colours accurately), including both covers. The front depicted the Radnor Arms, NI, and the back was an advert listing the names of pubs in and around London stocking Adnams Extra for the month.

The Guest Editorial was penned by John Gilbert, owner of the Hop Back Brewery, Salisbury. He discussed the consequences of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on the beer industry.

Idle Moments featured number puzzles, brewery anagrams, General Knowledge, and a semi-technical brain teaser regarding the amount of sparks per minute produced by the ignition coil of a car in given circumstances.

A new West London Pub Guide was planned, covering over 1200 pubs, and an appeal was made for surveyors, particularly for the inner postal districts.

The history, activities and Branches of the Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood (SPBW) were outlined - it was the approaching its 30th birthday.

From Our Archives - from which the first 2 sections of this derive, began with a resume from then still extant notes, of what SHOULD have appeared under the title the previous month, had not the script been lost in the post.

Michael Jackson's Beer Companion, published at the end of September 1993, was the subject of a comprehensive review.

Mark Dorber, then head bar cellarman of the White Horse, Parson's Green, contributed a learned work on Adnams Extra, voted Champion Beer of Britain at that year's GBBF.

On a purely personal note and totally unconnected with the above, when preparing this towards the end of August, I was pleasantly surprised to see a copy of the February '98 issue of this magazine (the first of the "new image") on TV, pinned to the wall in the background of an internal pub shot in "The Bill". Either the scene setters are particularly fastidious about atmosphere or - more likely - the scene was shot in a pub sympathetic to our cause. (Which one, I wonder?). One good plug deserves another - I always enjoy the series. Many of the exterior shots are filmed in areas I came to know during my first two score years as a native Londoner. It reminds me of home - no, not the nick!

That's all for this month. More next time.

Cheers,

Martin Smith

MAGPIE & CROWN

128 High Street
Brentford

0181 560 5658

* **Rotating House Bitter:**

Nethergate IPA
Cottage Southern
Brakspear's Bitter

* **Traditional Cider**

* **Draught Hoegaarden**

* **Draught Czech Budvar**

* **Draught Hofbräu**

* **Bed & Breakfast**

* **Selected for the 1998
CAMRA Good Beer
Guide**

* **Open all permitted hours**

**Ever changing guest
beers from micro
and small regional
breweries**

- from
£1.70
a pint



* *singing voice required Friday evenings*

WHATEVER
YOU DO,
TAKE PRIDE.

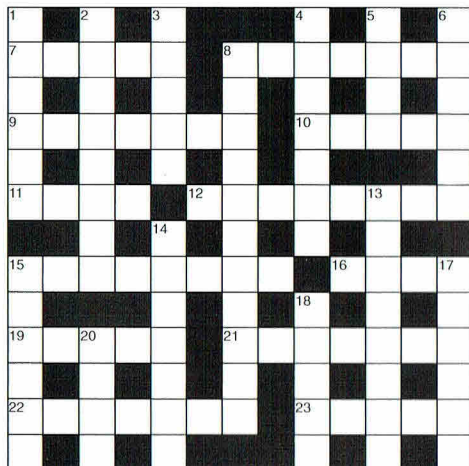


Crossword

LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

£10 PRIZE TO BE WON



Name

Address

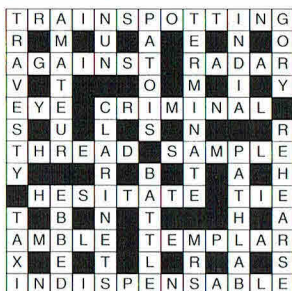
All correct entries received by first post on 28th October will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the December 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

7. Swift and quiet in attack. [5]
8. A man with no ideals, boxer is taken in by others. [7]
9. Revolutionary saying of Groucho? [7]
10. The gift of a boy. [5]
11. bowler who nips back. [4]
12. Nothing tainted is mixed in the medicine
15. The drugged state of royalty? [8]
16. Article from an elite magazine. [4]
19. Nimble soldier falling in the drink. [5]
21. In games fouling causes problems. [7]
22. It's clear I've been beaten hollow. [7]
23. Poetry from overseas. [5]

DOWN

1. Crikey! It's bread and biscuits! [6]
2. It's fair to inform about drink. [8]
3. Let in. . . or let out! [5]
4. Do you get it during happy hour? [7]
5. Knock a drink back in town. [4]
6. It may stand out in a square. [6]
8. Calling up soldier with little bouquet. [11]
13. Trams coming back after strike call to be quicker. [8]
14. Outbuildings where Princess Royal's hiding Mark Phillips? [7]
15. Find shelter on outskirts of English paradise. [6]
17. Does the Queen have to make inspection? [6]
18. Sort of riddle? [5]
20. Flag is mainly Hibernian. [4]

Winner of the prize for the August Crossword:
Tommy Atkins, Aldershot

Other correct entries were received from:

Paul Adams, Al Ben Ernie John & Trevor, Pat Andrews, Geoff B. John Blundell, Alan Brooke, Ben Burfutt, E.Carr, A.P.Comaish, Chas Creasey, Dik Denman, Kathryn Everett, Paul Gray, Marion Goodall, J.E.Green, Alison Henley, Billy Hernon, Graham Hill, Pete Large, Dylan Mason, M.J.Moran, David Oddy, Derek Pryce, Geoff S, Super Scooper, Bryan Smith Isa & Penny, Bill Thackray, Fred Vere, Tony Watkins, Martyn Weedon, David Woodward, Yak.

There was also one incomplete entry.

Please note that entries must be on the original grid (not a photocopy) to be entered for the prize draw.



proudly announce the opening of

The Bridge House

218 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1
(on the southside approach to Tower Bridge)

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Southwold Bitter and Broadside
plus rotating guest beer

Modern British Cooking

Function Room (with own bar) available

Open all permitted hours

Cellar and beer line cooling to ensure
ales are served at optimum temperature

A large, light blue, stylized silhouette of the Tower Bridge serves as a background for the bottom half of the advertisement. The bridge's two towers and suspension cables are clearly visible, though the image is somewhat faded and has a grainy texture.

**“A taste of Suffolk
in London”**

LESBIAN & GAY NEWS

LAGRAD is a group of lesbian and gay members of the Campaign for Real Ale organising to extend the Campaign to the lesbian and gay scene. The group meets regularly on the first Wednesday of every month from 7.00 p.m. onwards in the upstairs bar of the King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, London W1. All are welcome.

OCTOBER PROGRAMME:

Wednesday 7th 7.00 p.m. THE KING'S ARMS, 23 Poland Street, W1, (0171-) 734 5907, (Monthly meeting).

Friday 23rd Two pub early evening social of two new gay real ale venues: Halfway to Heaven then The Stag.

6.00 p.m. - HALFWAY TO HEAVEN, 7 Duncannon Street, WC2, (0171-) 930 8312: new pub to the real ale scene - a well established venue that's seen the light. Bass house selling Draught Bass and London Pride following its recent refit.

7.30 p.m. - THE STAG, 15 Bressenden Place, Victoria, SW1, (0171-) 828 7287: new pub to the gay scene - Victoria's newest venue, Friday

night is cabaret night if you can last that long. A Scottish Courage house selling Directors and Courage Best.



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

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Please send all articles for publication to London Drinker, 10 Oakhill, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0TG, or to Andy Pirson on disc (or by e-mail).

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £7.00 for 11 editions should be sent to: Stan Tompkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2BH. (cheques payable to: CAMRA London)

ADVERTISING: Barry Tillbrook. Tel: 0181-989 7523.

Printed by Crown Colourprint Ltd, Unit 9, Mole Business Park 3, Randalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7BA.



Prince's Head

28 The Green, Richmond, Surrey ♦ Telephone 0181 940 1572

Giles and Vickie invite you to their

Autumn Beer Festival

from 6pm Thursday 29th October until
Sunday 1st November

over 20 real ales & ciders

served from the barrel ♦ including CAMRA 1998 award winners

open all permitted hours ♦ food available most sessions ♦ 5 minutes from Richmond station

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 139

The aim of 'Capital Pubcheck' is to share information about the latest happenings on the London pub scene including new pub and bar openings, name changes, acquisitions, closures, notable changes to beer ranges etc. Cross references to CAMRA's various pub guides covering Greater London are also provided to enable easy updating.

Information is gathered from a variety of sources including London Drinker readers, individual CAMRA members and branch contacts, breweries, pub operators, landlords etc. If you would like to contribute to 'Pubcheck' please send your news to the address below. A pro-forma is available for regular contributors.

Of this Month's twelve brand new pubs or bars, only seven dispense real ale and five of these only offer one or two token draught beers amongst the keg beers and cocktail; shakers, despite being run by such erstwhile stalwarts of real ale as Eldridge Pope, Davy's and Fuller's. The latter has however opened a fine new 'Ale & Pie' in SW1 Westminster and Wetherspoon's have opened an attractive conversion in SE1 near Tower Bridge. An Adnams 'Free House' has opened in an ex-micro brewery pub nearby and Shepherd Neame have acquired another pub in Greenwich SE10. A pub leased by Young's in W14 near Olympia has reverted to Scottish & Newcastle. Finally, the former noted real outlet, the Malt & Hops at Kings Cross has succumbed to the latest "café-bar" genre with not a handpump in sight.

The numbers in brackets after each entry refer to the page number in the following guides: E - East London & City Beer Guide, 3rd edition; K - 'Real Ale Drinkers Guide to Kent Pubs', 8th edition; N - North London Beer Guide, 3rd edition; SE - South East London Pub Guide, 4th edition; 3SE - South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition; SW - South West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; W - Real Beer in West London; X - Essex Beer Guide, 8th edition.

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

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, CLERK & WELL, 33 Rosoman St. Reopened and renamed **PACIFIC SPICE**. Fuller: London Pride. Emphasis on food. Formerly THOMAS WETHERED. (E25, U79, U132, U136)

EC3, 1 LOMBARD STREET, 1 Lombard St. No real ale. A new bar and restaurant in former bank.

EC4, BAR EXCELLENCE, 2 Old Change Court, off Cannon St. Hardy: Country Bitter (£2.10), Royal Oak. Latest outlet for the Eldridge Pope chain. Opened late August in a new free standing oval shaped building complete with 'spire' in the centre of a small office square, built over an underground car

park entrance. A stylish design with tinted plate glass windows and main entrance at the upper level with a disabled-friendly ramp. The interior is airy and cool with varnished light pine floors, turquoise pillars and raised seating area at rear. A lift and staircase lead down to the lower level bar with access to the square at the rear, similarly furnished with orange colours. Background music, air conditioning and spotlights on the ceiling. Emphasis on bottled beers, wines and food. The handpumps (unlike the fizz fonts) have no clips to identify the beers dispensed. Real ale is not always available and reportedly not always in the best of condition. Disabled WC, outdoor drinking. Opens 11-11 Mon-Fri only despite sign outside advertising Sat opening.

EC4, FINE LINE, 1 Bow Churchyard, off

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK

UPDATE 139 continued

Cheapside. Fuller: London Pride (£1.40). Latest Fullers café-bar on ground floor of office building opened early September. Glass frontage and doors lead into cream painted bar with light pine flooring, bar top and furniture. 'Abstract' coloured paintings. Emphasis on food and cocktails. Disabled WC. Opens 11-11 Mon-Fri only.

EC4, HEELTAP & BUMPER, 2-6 Cannon St. Theakston: XB (£2.30). Large new bar under office building in former bank premises. Opened early September and part of the Davy's Free House chain. Furnished in similar style to nearly all contemporary openings with light pine flooring and furniture, scattered carpets etc. Two more discreet side rooms off with leather sofas. Large screen TV. Spiral staircase leads to an upstairs bar with similar decor. A total contrast to the normal Davy's style. Opens 11-11 Mon-Fri, 11-6 Sat.

WC1, QUEENS HEAD, 66 Acton St. Boddington: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride; Flowers: Original Bitter or Greene King; IPA. Reopened after a stint as a wine bar. Still Bass owned. (W50, U53, N29, U110)

EAST

E14, FINE LINE, Fishermans Walk, 10 Cabot Square, Canary Wharf. Fuller: London Pride. Another Fullers café-bar opened late August, next to the Cat & Canary under office block overlooking dock. Light pine flooring and furniture, cream walls and ceiling, abstract paintings and background music. Stairs next to bar lead to mezzanine seating area. Opens 11-11 Mon-Fri only.

NORTH WEST

HARROW, O'NEILLS, 335-339 Station Rd. No real ale. Latest Bass conversion in typical 'Oirish' style in former shop unit. Regrettably this chain no longer offers a real ale option.

HARROW, V.I.P. BAR, 16 College Rd. No real ale. Free House in former shop unit.

WEALDSTONE, OLD BANK, 91 High St. No real ale. Irish Free House in former bank premises, opened June 1998.

SOUTH EAST

SE1, BRIDGE HOUSE (YE OLDE), 218 Tower Bridge Rd. Reopened mid August and now named simply **BRIDGE HOUSE**.

Adnams: Bitter, Broadside, seasonal beers; Guest beer (eg. Fuller: London Pride). Now badged as an 'Adnams Free House' with reasonable prices and good quality beer. Open plan stylish bar with pastel coloured walls, wooden floor with rugs, smart chairs and leather sofas. TV and background music. Restaurant downstairs with access also from Horselydown Lane. Opens 11.30-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun. (SE11, U102, U105, U131)
SE1, HEELTAP & BUMPER, Chaucer House, White Hart Yard, off Borough High St. Theakston: XB. Another Davy's Free House opened in early 1997 but not previously reported. Apparently originally opened under 'Guinea Fowl' name as a traditional Davy's wine bar but revamped as the first of a café-bar chain with pine furniture, cream painted walls, low lighting, piped music, etc. Stone flagged floor betrays its past. Downstairs eating area. Opens 11-11 Mon-Fri only.

SE1, POMMELERS REST, 196-198 Tower Bridge Rd. Courage: Directors Bitter; Greene King: Abbot Ale; Marston: Sundance; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; 3 Guest beers; Weston: 1st Quality

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Tel 0171 388 2221

5-11 October

Festival of Ales from NORTH YORKSHIRE

including very rare ones!

- ★ **Swaled Ale**
- ★ **Easingwold**
- ★ **Black Dog**

During October we **hope** to have a
Dublin Beer Festival

- however, since Porter House are brewing
to capacity, it may not be possible

THE INAUGURAL 

CHAMPION BEER OF SCOTLAND

THE DEFINITIVE, CLASSIC 80/- ALE

CALEDONIAN BREWERY EDINBURGH

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Roger Protz - World A-Z of Brewing

Web site: <http://www.Caledonian-Brewery.co.uk>



Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK UPDATE 139 continued

Cider. Latest Wetherspoon Free House opened late August in former Tower Bridge Hotel which had been closed for some time after a spell as a homeless hostel. Corner entrance leads into main seating area with red painted ceilings and walls through to bar at rear. Side bar and no-smoking/eating area has green painted walls, screened alcoves and decorative ceiling. Chandeliers, fussy carpets etc. complete the scene. The name reflects the leather industry which used to predominate locally and photos of leather boots, shoes, cricket balls and gloves decorate the walls along with old black and white photos of the Tower Bridge area. A pommel is apparently the upward projecting front part of a leather saddle. Disappointingly there is a dearth of information panels to explain the significance of the name or highlight local history as had, until recently, been the norm in all new Wetherspoon pubs. Good value food (an overcooked meal was reimbursed and replaced with no quibbles). Disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.

BROMLEY COMMON, BRICKLAYER'S ARMS, 143, Masons Hill. Shepherd Neame: Bitter, Spitfire, Bishops Finger, Seasonal beers. Reopened tenanted Shepherd Neame pub now refurbished and expanded into shop unit next door which retains the name 'R.O.Jones' above, to commemorate its time as an ironmongers. Well lit and comfortable with wood panelling, ceiling fans etc. (3SE221, U83, U86, U138)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), SANCTUARY, 33 Tothill St. Fuller: Chiswick Bitter, London Pride, ESB, Seasonal beers. Latest Fullers 'Ale & Pie' house opened early September in imposing 5-storey former office building reputedly previously occupied by MI5. Upper storeys now converted to the associated Fullers 34 bed 'Sanctuary House Hotel'. A red and blue painted plaque on the frontage highlights its former name. The interior is decorated in typical style with bare floorboards (tiled around bar), dark stained woodwork and furniture. Raised, carpeted seating/eating area at rear. Globe lamps over bar and chandeliers

elsewhere. Decorative screens and glass pillars, wooden slatted ceiling. Prints and pictures of friars etc. to emphasise the monastic theme reflecting the derivation of the name from the sanctuary of Westminster Abbey nearby. Background music, disabled WC (in hotel), food available until 9pm. Open all permitted hours.

SW11, NAPIER ARMS, 126 St Johns Hill. Reopened earlier this year and renamed **ONE TWO SIX**. No real ale, H removed. Now a Free House, ex Phoenix Inns. (SW89)

SW11, PITCHER & PIANO, 94 Northcote Rd. No real ale. New outlet for Marston owned chain opened around the beginning of May in former restaurant premises. Disappointingly none of the company's real ales are available.

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

WC2, RAT & PARROT, 24 Tavistock St. Scottish & Newcastle. Early (1988) member of the chain now closed and absorbed into 'Old Orleans' restaurant next door. (W56, U54, U74, U106)

EAST

E11, CUCKFIELD. Bass. No real ale. (E128)

NORTH

N1, MALT & HOPS. Enterprise (ex Gibbs Mew), renamed **RUBY**. Now a Free House, H removed. (N50)

NORTH WEST

HARROW, GREENHILL. Free House, demolished to make way for new housing development. (W113, U68, U73)

HARROW, MORRITT ARMS. Free House, demolished for new supermarket development. (W113)

HARROW, SILVER TRUMPET. Free House, H removed. (U78, U79)

SOUTH WEST

SW11, BARRINGTONS. Free House, closed, future uncertain. (SW86)

WEST

W14, ELM. Ex Grand Met (Watney), H removed. (W94, U92)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

German Beer Fest



Fri 30th Oct
Sat 31st Oct
Sun 1st Nov

*featuring
on draught:*

*Schumacher Altbier, Schneider-Weisse,
Früh Kölsch, Schlenkerla Rauchbier,
St Georgenbräu and various Dunkels*

*plus a selection of bottled beers including:
Erdinger-Weisse, Früh Kölsch, Schlenkerla
Rauchbier & Weizen*

*German Food & Drinking Songs
(Leder Hosen optional)*

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1992, 1994 & 1996

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a genuine free house

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(5 minutes Stockwell Tube)
Telephone 0171 622 1884

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK UPDATE 139 continued

CENTRAL

EC3, BAR EXCELLENCE. -Draught Bass. (U124)

W1(S), HANDSEL TAVERN. 5/6 Argyll St. Renamed **BAR(LOGIC)1.** -Beers listed except Boddington: Bitter. +Draught Bass, +Brakspear: Bitter. Former Whitbread pub acquired by Regent Inns as a Free House and completely refurbished in contemporary style. Spacious ground floor with pale yellow walls, quarry tiled flooring, wooden furniture. Tables with non-slip surface and 'light projector' clock. Small cellar bar downstairs called Sub(logic)2 decorated in similar style with comfy sofas, TV, loud music in evenings. (W42, U80)

WC2, ST MARTINS TAVERN. Renamed **THEODORE BULLFROG.** -Beers listed. +Brakspear: Bitter. +Wadworth: 6X. +Young: Special. Now Enterprise, ex Whitbread and refurbished. (W56)

NORTH WEST

HARROW, ROYAL OAK. Renamed **RAT & PARROT.** -Beers listed except Theakston: Best Bitter. (W113, U67, U106, U122)
WEALDSTONE, GOODWILL. Reverted to **GOODWILL TO ALL.** Still fizz. Now badged as part of Mr Q's chain. (W156)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, ANTIGALLICAN. -Courage: Directors Bitter; +Flowers: IPA. +Guest beer. Now a Free House, ex Courage. (SE9, U105)

SE10, SPANISH GALLEON. -Beers listed. +Shepherd Neame: Best Bitter, Spitfire, Bishops Finger. Former Courage pub acquired by Shepherd Neame. Beware Master Brew 'Smooth' only on nitrokeg. (SE101)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(P), CONSTITUTION. -Beers listed. +Courage: Best Bitter (£1.50), Directors Bitter. +Theakston: Best Bitter. (SW40)

SW1(P), WHITE SWAN. -John Smith: Bitter. -Wadworth: 6X. +Theakston: Best Bitter. Refurbished and now badged as part of the T&J Bernard chain (see Captains Cabin for description) (SW44)

SW1(SJ), CAPTAINS CABIN. -John Smith: Bitter. +Greene King: Abbot Ale. +Theakston: Best Bitter, Old Peculiar. +Guest beers

(£2.48). Refurbished and now badged as part of T&J Bernard chain. New version of theme with cream paintwork/plaster, light brown woodwork, 'wooden beams', stone flagged floor around bar, brewery bric-a-brac etc. One large bar with separate areas for eating etc. 'No quibble' replacement policy for poor quality products. (SW45)

WEST

W2, BRITISH OAK. Renamed **D. LAFFERTY'S.** Still fizz. Now an Irish theme pub with the usual bric-a-brac. (W58, U54, U74)

W14, ALBION. -Young: Bitter, Special. +Ruddle: County. +Guest beer (£2.15) (from small and regional breweries). Reverted to S&N upon expiry of Young's lease inherited when Finch's were acquired. Young's livery removed and now badged as part of T&J Bernard chain. (W94, U67, U95)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 124

NEW PUBS ETC.

SW12, ECLIPSE. Address should read 157 Balham High Rd.

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 138

NEW PUBS ETC.

N17, BANK. Is a Free House.

SE26, PUKKABAR. Is a Free House.

SW11, ASPARAGUS. Marston: Pedigree should read Marston: Sundance.

PUBS CLOSED ETC.

BROMLEY COMMON, BRICKLAYERS ARMS. Refs should read (3SE221, U83)

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

WC1, OLD CROWN. Refs should read (W48, U81, N26)

N15, J J MOONS. Should read -Beers listed except Tetley: Bitter.

E1, BROWN BEAR. Despite appearing on Nicholson's list of pubs, it remains an Allied Domecq tenancy.

SW18, SPOTTED DOG. Courage: Best Bitter is on regularly. Guest beers are from independent or micro breweries.

HANWORTH, SWAN. Is a Free House.

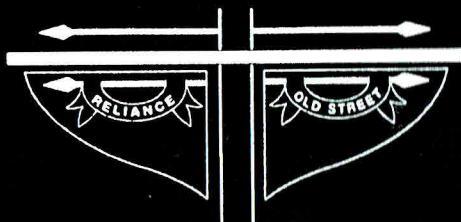
CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 137

Heading "NEW PUBS ETC." should read "PUBS CLOSED ETC."

WC2, LAMB & FLAG. Is ex-Courage

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- Superb Ales from Adnams Brewery, Suffolk's oldest brewery, as well as wines from their award winning wine merchants
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Idle Moments

Hello again. Well, contrary to my most optimistic estimates, I have actually found some time between the Drinker and Twickenham beer Festival (which will be all over by the time you read this) to do Idle Moments. Let's kick off with this month's quotation; it comes from Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902) and is possibly the best bit of jingoism in history:

"Remember that you are an Englishman, and have consequently won the first prize in the lottery of life."

Now, on with the show, starting, as ever, with the answers to last month's number puzzles:

1. 70 is "Three Score and Ten"
2. 6996 Test Runs Scored by Don Bradman
3. 1 Number One Hit by Buddy Holly
4. 160 Stones in a Ton
5. 99 Ice Cream with a Chocolate Flake
6. 4 X was Brakspear's Old Ale
7. 6 is the Atomic Number of Carbon
8. 69 is Soixante-Neuf in French
9. 300,000 Pounds was the First Prize in the Open Golf Championship (in 1998)
10. 9 Children of Queen Victoria

And as I'm pushed for time we'll just jump straight into this month's now:

1. 140,000 D in the COD
2. 24 L was the CC of the NLAE
3. 4 E on C
4. 40 S in a P (OM)
5. 16 S in a SQ
6. 3 W on MW (by the NCM)
7. 1915 S of the L
8. 1431 J of AB at the S
9. 4 K in a D of C
10. 911 P with the E at the B

I know; I think I'll try to make this month's column drivell free. Free of drivell, that is - not drivell at no extra charge. So we shall just carry on with last month's brewery anagrams:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. GRIND THESE | HENSTRIDGE |
| 2. DARING SHEP | SPRINGHEAD |
| 3. LONE GIN RAID | READING LION |
| 4. BORN TOUGH | BROUGHTON |
| 5. PLOVER OIL | LIVERPOOL |

And then this month's (You can tell they are this month's as they are the ones without the answers):

1. MAD LOVER INN
2. SLEW NOT!
3. NOT COINS
4. WALES DEAL
5. MY HEN IS COLD

For 5BY4 I've done song titles with numbers in before but they just used the numbers one to ten. This time I've called it "The Numbers Game" and widened out the choice of numbers used. All you have to do is match the songs (1 to 10 for those whose brain cells are getting weary) with the performers (A to J) - answers as usual at the end:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 76 Trombones | 1. Chicago |
| 2. 25 or 6 to 4 | 2. Beautiful South |
| 3. Five Minutes | |
| 4. Three Coins in the Fountain | |
| 5. Two Tribes | |
| 6. Nineteen | |
| 7. Twenty Tiny Fingers | |
| 8. 48 Crash | |
| 9. One Last Love Song | |
| 10. Sixteen Tons | |



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Idle Moments

3. Paul Hardcastle
4. Frankie Goes to Hollywood
5. King Brothers
6. Stranglers
7. Alma Cogan
8. Frank Sinatra
9. Tennessee Ernie Ford
10. Suzi Quatro

And finally it's Trivia Time. I was thinking that the first three questions last time were so easy that I wouldn't bother with the answers, but then I thought, "Well, I've typed them so I might as well use them." So here they all are:

1. "...standing on the shoulders of giants."
2. Around the edge of the new £2 coin
3. Isaac Newton (to Robert Hooke)
4. Devonshire, Chatsworth (in Derbyshire)
5. Mary Hayley Bell
6. Richard II
7. Olympic and Britannic
8. They were all killed in the sinking of the Titanic
9. The Panama Canal
10. Bedford gaol

And here without more ado (Note - omit usual crap joke about running out of ado) here are this month's questions:

1. What happened on the Iffley Road track in Oxford on 6th May 1954?
2. To what saint is Westminster Abbey dedicated?
3. What part of Westminster Abbey was added in the 18th Century, designed by Hawksmoor (adapting a design by Wren)
4. In the Second World War, what did the acronym PLUTO stand for?
5. By what name is the Earl of Chatham (1708-78, ennobled 1766) better known?
6. Who was "Mad, bad and dangerous to know"?
7. What is the name of the iron age hill fort 2 miles south west of Dorchester (the one in Dorset)?
8. Who "must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and sky"?
9. And who added the line, "I left my vest and socks there, I wonder if they're dry"?
10. How long before they committed suicide did Adolf Hitler marry Eva Braun?

You know, I never realised how polite my computer is; its spelling checker didn't recognise

the word "crap" - until now, that is.

Anyway, finally here are the answers to 5BY4:

1-E, 2-A, 3-F, 4-H, 5-D, 6-C, 7-G, 8-J, 9-B, 10-I.

That's it for now; see you next time.

Andy Pirson

FORTHCOMING FESTIVALS

7-10 Oct	21ST BEDFORD Corn Exchange St Pauls Square Bedford
8-10 Oct	5TH CROYDON & SUTTON Wallington Hall Stafford Road Wallington
16-17 Oct	21ST BATH The Pavilion North Parade Road Bath
16-17 Oct	15TH EASTLEIGH Nightingale Centre Nightingale Avenue Eastleigh
30-31 Oct	OVERTON St Lukes Hall Winchester Street Overton Nr Basingstoke
30-31 Oct	WORTHING Richmond Rooms Town Hall Complex Stoke Abbott Road Worthing
6-7 Nov	5TH WOKING Woking Leisure Centre Woking Park (Admission by ticket only - see details on page 8)
12-14 Nov	EALING Ealing Town Hall New Broadway W5

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE IT, IT'S GARRY GOBSHITE'S DIARY

AUG/SEPT

Early August is the time of the Great British Beer Festival, and I pay my obligatory visit. As expected the range and quality of beers on offer is first rate. However, not everything else is perfect in "The World's Biggest Pub" so here are Garry's tips for greater enjoyment next year. (Cut out and keep)

1. **Try to get in for nothing** Unlike the world's smaller pubs, GBBF charges outrageous admission fees. If you know a friendly landlord try and cadge his spare complimentary ticket to the Trade Session.
2. **Bring your own food** Unless you want to pay £2.50 for two rashers of bacon in a cotton wool roll, or £3 for a baked potato (filling extra) it is wise to pack a few sandwiches unless you want to pay the World's Highest Prices for junk food.
3. **Bring your own glass** Hire of a Festival glass is £3, and while this is returnable, there are those who make a bit of ale money by nicking glasses to cash in. Moreover, if everyone brought their own it would prevent the St Albans bean counters from experiencing spontaneous orgasm at the sound of breaking glass.
4. **Bring your own bottle of water** That way you can wash your glass without having to queue up for the wash basins in the bogs. The alternative is to have to follow a pint of krick lambic with one of English bitter and wonder why the latter has acidic and fruity undertones.
5. **As an alternative to 3 & 4** hire a festival glass and return it after each drink, using the money to hire a fresh one. That way you can get what all the world's smaller pubs give you as a matter of course - a fresh glass with every drink.
6. **If possible, do not travel by Silverlink Metro or Connex South Central** The timetables for both companies belong in the realms of fiction and Kensington Olympia station does not have toilets for the use of passengers (sorry, customers). If you find yourself in any discomfort, you may have to go back to the World's Biggest Pub and will probably be stung for another admission charge, so allowing you to have the World's Most Expensive P***.

Waiting for a delayed Connex train from Watford, I and some colleagues decide to have a quick pint in the Flag & Firkin. After about 2 minutes in there I begin to realise why some people rate Wetherspoon's pubs.

Visit Cantillon Brewery Museum in Brussels where I have a long and interesting conversation (in

English) with its proprietor, M Van Roy. He tells me the following story about the World's Greatest Living Beer Writer (WGLBW) Mark I (1). Apparently, WGLBW MkI rang Cantillon Brewery to do a film feature on the brewery and asking that Cantillon arrange to be brewing on the appointed day. "No can do," says Van Roy. "But surely you can make an exception for M____ J____," says WGLBW MkI. "No," replies Van Roy, "We do not brew in the summer months because we cannot brew lambic properly in the summer." (as any fule kno). In return for this anecdote I tell him how WGLBW Mark II(2) has become a stooge for Interbrew. He is less than amused. Cheers,

Garry Gobshite

(1) His readers think he's the greatest (2) He think he's the greatest

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— Where to Buy London Drinker —

The following is a list of all the current outlets for London Drinker of which the editors have been informed. Full addresses are only given where there are two pubs of the same name in the same postal district.

OUTLETS - EAST and SOUTH EAST PUBS

EC1 ARTILLERY ARMS
EC1 BISHOPS FINGER
EC1 LEOPARD
EC1 MASQUE HAUNT
EC1 O'HANLONS
EC1 PHEASANT & FIRKIN
EC1 SEKFORDE ARMS
EC1 SHAKESPEARE
EC1 SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE
EC3 SWAN
EC4 BLACK FRIAR
E1 LORD RODNEYS HEAD
E2 CAMDENS HEAD
E2 CONQUEROR
E3 COBORN ARMS
E7 OLD SPOTTED DOG
E8 PRINCE ARTHUR
E9 FALCON & FIRKIN
E11 BIRKBECK TAVERN
E11 GEORGE
E15 GOLDEN GROVE
E17 COLLEGE ARMS
SE1 ANCHOR & HOPE
SE1 GOOSE & FIRKIN
SE1 GLOBE
SE1 GRAPES
SE1 JUBILEE TAVERN
SE1 KINGS ARMS
SE1 LORD CLYDE
SE1 MAD HATTER
SE1 MARKET PORTER
SE1 PRINCE WILLIAM HENRY
SE1 ROYAL OAK
SE1 SHIP, 68 Borough Road
SE1 SHIPWRIGHTS ARMS
SE1 WHEATSHEAF
SE1 WHITE HART, Cornwall Street
SE1 WINDMILL, 44 Lambeth High Street
SE1 ZANZI BAR
SE3 BRITISH OAK
SE3 CROWN
SE3 FAIRWAY & FIRKIN
SE3 HARE & BILLET
SE5 FOX ON THE HILL
SE5 PHOENIX & FIRKIN
SE6 BLACK HORSE & HARROW
SE6 TIGERS HEAD
SE7 ANTIGALLICAN
SE7 ROYAL OAK
SE7 VICTORIA
SE8 CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN
SE8 DOG & BELL
SE8 OLD MANOR HOUSE
SE9 BANKERS DRAFT
SE10 ADMIRAL HARDY
SE10 ASHBURNHAM ARMS
SE10 RICHARD I

SE13 HOGS HEAD
SE13 QUAGGY DUCK
SE13 WATCH HOUSE
SE16 BLACKSMITHS ARMS
SE18 EDINBURGH CASTLE
SE18 ROSE'S (PRINCE ALBERT)
SE20 MOON & STARS
SE22 CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN
SE25 ALLIANCE
SE25 GOAT HOUSE
SE26 DULWICH WOOD HOUSE
BARKING, BARKING DOG
BARKINGSIDE, NEW FAIRLOP OAK
BEXLEY, BLUE ANCHOR
CHELSFIELD, FIVE BELLS
CHISLEHURST, SYDNEY ARMS
CROYDON, BUILDERS ARMS
CROYDON, CRICKETERS ARMS
CROYDON, DOG & BULL
CROYDON, GEORGE
CROYDON, PRINCESS ROYAL
CROYDON, ROYAL STANDARD
CROYDON, SKYLARK
ILFORD, GREAT SPOON OF ILFORD
LOUGHTON, LAST POST
PURLEY, FOXLEY HATCH
SOUTH CROYDON, RAIL VIEW
WALLINGTON, WHISPERING MOON
CLUBS
SE9 HOWERD CLUB
SE13 LEWISHAM LABOUR CLUB
SE18 PLUMSTEAD RADICAL CLUB
SE28 BELMARSH PRISON
CROYDON, RUSKIN HOUSE
ORPINGTON, JUBILEE SPORTS BAR
OFF TRADE
E18 Gales Off Licence, 204 High Road, Woodford Green
SE3 Bitter Experience, 129 Lee Road
SE3 Oddbins
BEXLEYHEATH, Maison Maurice (beer & wine wholesalers)
BROMLEY, Bitter End, 139 Masons Hill
GRAVESEND, AVS (beer wholesalers)

OUTLETS - WEST CENTRAL and NORTH PUBS

WC1 CALTHORPE ARMS
WC1 CITTIE OF YORKE
WC1 PENDERELS OAK
WC1 PRINCESS LOUISE
WC1 RUGBY TAVERN
WC1 THREE CUPS
WC1 UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
WC1 YORKSHIRE GREY
WC2 CROWN & ANCHOR
WC2 FULMAR & FIRKIN
WC2 GEORGE IV
WC2 HOGS HEAD
WC2 MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY

WC2 MOON & SIXPENCE
N1 179 UPPER STREET
N1 COMPTON ARMS
N1 EARL OF RADNOR
N1 MARQUESS TAVERN
N1 WENLOCK ARMS
N6 OLD GATE HOUSE
N9 LAMB
N11 BANKERS DRAFT
N12 ELEPHANT
N12 TALLY HO
N13 WHOLE HOG
N16 EBOR ARMS
N16 ROCHESTER CASTLE
N17 ELBOW ROOM
N17 NEW MOON
N19 DOG
N21 HALF MOON
N21 ORANGE TREE
BARNET, MOON UNDER WATER
BARNET, WHITE LION
BARNET, YE OLDE MITRE INN
EDGWARE, BLACKING BOTTLE
EDGWARE, CHANGE OF HART
ENFIELD, MOON UNDER WATER
ENFIELD, OLD WHEATSHEAF

OUTLETS - NORTH WEST PUBS

NW1 HEAD OF STEAM
NW1 QUINNS
NW1 SPREAD EAGLE
NW2 BEATEN DOCKET
NW3 DUKE OF HAMILTON
NW3 FLASK TAVERN
NW3 THREE HORSESHOES
NW4 CHEQUERS
NW4 FOOTMAN & FIRKIN
NW4 GREYHOUND
NW11 WHITE SWAN
HARROW, MOON ON THE HILL
HARROW WEALD, SEVEN BALLS
HATCH END, MOON & SIXPENCE
KENTON, NEW MOON
NORTH HARROW, J.J. MOONS
RUISLIP, J.J. MOONS
SOUTH HARROW, J.J. MOONS
STANMORE, MALT HOUSE
WEALDSTONE, ROYAL OAK
WEALDSTONE, SARSEN STONE
WEMBLEY, J.J. MOONS
OFF TRADE
N1 Beer Shop, Pitfield Street
NW6 Grog Blossoms, 235 West End Lane
CLUBS
NW4 HENDON SOCIAL CLUB, Middlesex University Bus. School

— Where to Buy London Drinker —

OUTLETS - SOUTH WEST and WEST PURS

SW1 ANTELOPE
 SW1 BARLEY MOW
 SW1 BUCKINGHAM ARMS
 SW1 FOX & HOUNDS
 SW1 MOON ON THE MALL
 SW1 MORPETH ARMS
 SW1 ORANGE BREWERY
 SW1 ROYAL OAK
 SW1 STAR
 SW2 CROWN & SCEPTRE
 SW3 COOPERS ARMS
 SW3 CROWN
 SW3 SURPRISE
 SW4 BREAD & ROSES
 SW6 DUKE OF CUMBERLAND
 SW6 WHITE HORSE
 SW7 ANGLESEA ARMS
 SW8 PRIORY ARMS
 SW8 SURPRISE
 SW9 BEEHIVE, 407 Brixton Road
 SW9 TRINITY ARMS
 SW10 FERRET & FIRKIN
 SW11 ASPARAGUS
 SW11 BEEHIVE
 SW11 EAGLE ALEHOUSE, Chatham Road
 SW11 WALSH'S
 SW12 GROVE
 SW12 MOON UNDER WATER
 SW13 COACH & HORSES
 SW13 RED LION
 SW13 ROSE OF DENMARK
 SW14 HALFWAY HOUSE
 SW15 GREEN MAN
 SW15 RAILWAY
 SW16 HOGSHEAD
 SW16 PIED BULL
 SW17 CASTLE
 SW17 J.J. MOONS
 SW18 OLD SERGEANT
 SW18 SPOTTED DOG
 SW18 SPREAD EAGLE
 SW19 HAND & RACKET
 SW19 PRINCESS OF WALES
 SW19 PRINCESS ROYAL
 SW19 ROSE & CROWN
 SW19 SULTAN
 SW19 TRAFALGAR
 SW19 WIBBAS DOWN INN
 CARSHALTON, GREYHOUND
 CARSHALTON, RAILWAY TAVERN
 CARSHALTON, WINDSOR CASTLE
 CHESSINGTON, NORTH STAR
 CHESSINGTON, WHITE HART
 CHEAM, RAILWAY
 KEW, COACH & HORSES
 KINGSTON, ARTFUL DODGER
 KINGSTON, CANBURY ARMS
 KINGSTON, COCONUT
 KINGSTON, CRICKETERS
 KINGSTON, FIGHTING COCKS
 KINGSTON, KELLY ARMS
 KINGSTON, KINGS TUN

KINGSTON, NEWT & FERRET
 KINGSTON, PARK TAVERN
 KINGSTON, RAM
 KINGSTON, TWO BREWERS
 KINGSTON, WILLOUGHBY ARMS
 KINGSTON, WYCH ELM
 MITCHAM, WHITE LION OF MORTIMER
 NEW MALDEN, ROYAL OAK
 RICHMOND, DUKE OF YORK
 RICHMOND, DYSARTS
 RICHMOND, ORANGE TREE
 RICHMOND, TRIPLE CROWN
 RICHMOND, WHITE CROSS
 SURBITON, CAP IN HAND
 SURBITON, CORONATION HALL
 SURBITON, NEW PRINCE
 SURBITON, SURBITON FLYER
 SUTTON, FIELDER & FIRKIN
 SUTTON, NEW TOWN
 WALLINGTON, WHISPERING MOON
 W1 BEEHIVE, 7 Homer Street
 W1 CLEVELAND ARMS
 W1 HOGSHEAD, Dering Street
 W1 MOON & SIXPENCE
 W1 MORTIMER ARMS
 W1 PRINCE ALFRED
 W1 WINDMILL
 W2 ARCHERY TAVERN
 W2 ROYAL STANDARD
 W3 KINGS HEAD
 W5 T.J. DUFFY'S
 W5 RED LION
 W5 ROSE & CROWN
 W5 WHEATSHEAF
 W6 ANDOVER ARMS
 W6 BROOK GREEN HOTEL
 W10 VILLAGE INN
 W11 FROG & FIRKIN
 W12 CROWN & SCEPTRE
 W13 DRAYTON COURT
 W13 THE FORESTER
 W14 BRITANNIA TAP
 W14 RADNOR ARMS
 BRENTFORD, MAGPIE & CROWN
 CRANFORD, QUEENS HEAD
 FELTHAM, MOON ON THE SQUARE
 HAMPTON, WHITE HART
 HAMPTON COURT, KINGS ARMS
 HAMPTON WICK, WHITE HART
 HAYES, MOON UNDER WATER
 HAYES END, MOON & SIXPENCE
 HOUNSLOW, CROSS LANCES
 HOUNSLOW, MOON UNDER WATER
 ISLEWORTH, RED LION
 ISLEWORTH, ROYAL OAK
 SOUTHALL, BEACONSFIELD ARMS
 TEDDINGTON, HOGARTH
 TEDDINGTON, QUEEN DOWAGER
 TWICKENHAM, HOGSHEAD
 UXBRIDGE, PRINCE OF WALES
 WHITTON, ADMIRAL NELSON
 WHITTON, WHITE HART

OFF TRADE

W11 Grog Blossom

CLUBS

W1 Univ. of Westminster S.U. Bar,
 104 Bolsover Street

OUTSIDE LONDON

ADDLESTONE, CRICKETERS
 ASCOT, CRANBOURNE TOWER
 BEDFORD, WELLINGTON
 BRIGHTON, EVENING STAR
 CATERHAM ON THE HILL, KING & QUEEN
 CHERTSEY, CASTLE
 CLAYGATE, FOLEY ARMS
 COLCHESTER, ODD ONE OUT
 CROXLEY GREEN, SPORTSMAN
 DENHAM (Bucks), LAMBERT ARMS
 EAST MOLESEY, KINGS ARMS
 EGHAM, JOLLY FARMERS
 EGHAM, PRINCE OF WALES
 EGHAM, WHITE LION
 HUNGERFORD, RAILWAY
 KNEBWORTH (Herts), LYTTON ARMS
 KNOWL HILL (Berks), OLD DEVIL
 LALEHAM, FEATHERS
 LEATHERHEAD, PENNY BLACK
 LEWES, GARDENERS ARMS
 LONG DITTON (Surrey), NEW INN
 MANCHESTER, JOLLY ANGLERS
 MORTIMER WEST END (Hants), RED LION
 OUTWOOD (Surrey), DOG & DUCK
 OXFORD, WHARF HOUSE
 POTTERS BAR, CHEQUERS
 READING, HOP LEAF
 READING, HORSE & JOCKEY
 ROFFEY (Horsham), NORFOLK ARMS
 ROTHERWICK (Hants), COACH & HORSES
 SALISBURY, WYNDHAM ARMS
 STEVENAGE, RED LION
 SOUTHAMPTON, WATERLOO ARMS
 STOW MARIES (Essex), PRINCE OF WALES
 STRATFIELD SAYE (Hants), NEW INN
 SUNNINGDALE, ROYAL OAK
 TILLINGHAM (Essex), CAP & FEATHERS
 WALTON ON THAMES, REGENT
 WEST HORSLEY (Surrey), KING WILLIAM IV
 WEYBRIDGE, JOLLY FARMER
 WORCESTER PARK, GAMECOCK
 WORTHING, VINE
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CLUBS
 WATFORD, WEST HERTS SPORTS CLUB



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