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LONDON DRINKER

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YOU'RE DUE A DEUCHARS.



CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

Having been asked to write this month's editorial as the new regional Director for CAMRA in Greater London it occurred to me that many readers will not know exactly what role a Regional Director plays.

As I have only just taken over I am still in the process of finding out myself but basically it means that I am co-ordinator (not Fuhrer!) of all 12 of the CAMRA branches from South West Essex to Watford. This involves attending meetings with the Branches, administration of the many local beer festivals (both Croydon and Watford coming up soon - see this magazine for details), Good Beer Guide entries and numerous campaigning issues. This includes the recent CAMRA National Week of Action regarding the full measure.

84% of British adults think a pint of beer should be 100% liquid. How often does this happen though? How many times a week do you have to ask for a 'top up'?

Another important issue is a decent pint of beer at a decent price. Hopefully this is in a decent pub that hasn't been ruined out of all recognition. Protection of pubs, particularly interiors, is a major concern. This is not only in rural areas, London is of significant importance. Did you know that of the 61,000 public houses in the United Kingdom less than 200 have escaped drastic alterations in recent times?

We hear more and more about brewery closures (More and More meaning Morlands), take-overs and how real ale just isn't selling due to the likes of nitro-keg.

The 'REAL' story is very different and nothing like as bad as it seems. Naturally the national brewers give this impression. Hear them chortle when they say there's no demand. There are more micro-breweries than ever before with some excellent beers. Think of Mordue and Coniston, both are brewers of past Champion Beers of Britain. Then think of the great Regional brewery, Timothy Taylor, their wonderful beer 'Landlord' being this years champion. Whilst in London let's not forget the mightiness of Fullers and Youngs. Remember also the tremendous smaller breweries such as Pitfield and O'Hanlons. Real ale dying? Find me a pint of 'Red Barrel'!

The CAMRA Fighting Fund will help to put the Real Ale message across. Simply letting people know it exists.

Another little matter I am involved with is the very publication you are reading at this moment,

the 'London Drinker'. This should be a superb little magazine.

As the CAMRA magazine for a capital city 'London Drinker' should be the flagship and should be selling in thousands. However, there are a few problems. Firstly, it needs contributions in the way of articles, local news from CAMRA branches, humorous anecdotes on beer matters. Intriguing pub-crawls, favourite beers, worst beers, and brilliant little pubs yet to be discovered. 'London Drinker' is a valuable source of information as to what's going on out there. Without contributions from you the readers, the magazine will die. There has been serious talk about this very subject only recently. We also desperately need people to actually get the magazine into the pubs, festivals etc. etc. It is your magazine, please use it.

I have been an active member of CAMRA for some years now and having first been Social Secretary am now in my third year as Chairman of Enfield and Barnet Branch. We don't have a tremendous number of really excellent pubs but with our weekly socials we do try to get to as

Continued on page 5

ON OTHER PAGES

<i>A Blunder Bass</i>	5
<i>London's Pub of the Year</i>	9
<i>Branch Update</i>	12
<i>Learning to Crawl</i>	14
<i>Letters to the Editors</i>	17
<i>Postal Drinker 5</i>	20
<i>Shoreditch to Finsbury</i>	26
<i>Crossword</i>	27
<i>Capital Pubcheck</i>	29
<i>Return to Southwark</i>	34
<i>From Our Archives</i>	36
<i>Idle Moments</i>	38

