

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

LONDON DRINKER



MOON UNDER WATER

High Barnet

Photo: Andy Milne

VOL 22 • No. 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2000

Prince's Head



28 The Green
Richmond
Surrey
020 8940 1572

**from 7pm on Friday 10th
to Sunday 12th March**

Spring Beer Festival

**over 20 guest ales & ciders
+ Fullers range**

- ◆ served from the barrel
- ◆ includes CAMRA 1999 award winners
- ◆ discounted 4 pint takeouts
- ◆ open all permitted hours
- ◆ food available most sessions
- ◆ situated on Richmond Green only five minutes from the station

In last year's Budget Gordon Brown put a freeze on beer tax and promised that there would be no more increases "this side of the millennium". While the freeze was preferable to an increase it did nothing to help British pubs, brewers, suppliers, retailers, employees and consumers from the negative effects of the growing trade in bootlegged beer.

The first Budget of the new millennium now looms close, but I fear that the Treasury has still not got the message...

There are currently over 1 million pints a day of cheap French fizz being brought over the channel and sold on our streets by smugglers. 5% of all beer drunk in Britain is now sold in France. These gangs are becoming increasingly organised and their networks spread across the country. It is no longer a problem confined to the south-east.

These bootleggers sell their bounty to anyone who has cash at the ready. At car boot sales, on street corners, on housing estates and to pubs and off-licences who have on occasion been threatened if they don't buy.

CAMRA has been calling for a reduction in beer tax for several years. The economic argument appears sound. The effects of a significant cut in tax will increase demand, investment and job opportunities, as well as overall revenue for the government and would effectively take the profit out of smuggling.

But the Treasury remains unconvinced. As the success of the economic model presented by the industry some four years ago depends on the end consumer (ie you and me) getting the full benefit of any tax reduction it fears that, based on past experience, a tax cut would not work.

If you consider the way beer prices have increased over the last ten years; often at twice the rate of inflation, its easy to see that the Treasury has a point. Each year most brewers put up their prices – usually shortly after the Budget and that action is clearly undermining the campaign for a duty cut.

Time for brewers to act

It's time the brewers took this campaign a little more seriously and started making proper commitments. CAMRA is urging all pub operators to declare that the full benefit of any tax cut will be passed on to their customers through lower prices in the pubs they control. Some have already made that pledge, but many have not.

The general economic model for the industry is also in need of a boost. Each large operator should demonstrate its commitment to the campaign by developing models to show how *their* customers would benefit.

Tax induced disorder

Little attention has been paid to the social affects

of high beer tax. There is no doubt that it has led to increased problems with underage and street drinking and the resulting alcohol related disorder. But there are no detailed records to support this view and therefore nothing solid to present to the authorities. To that end CAMRA has joined forces with thirty organisations with an interest in lower duty to try to collate some of this information.

Everyone in society pays for Britain's high beer tax policy. Pub-goers pay through reduced investment, and therefore lower amenity in pubs, and the rest of us pay through increased crime and alcohol related disorder. High beer tax works directly against the controlling influence of liquor licensing law. Community based pubs work to control excessive drinking by providing a socially controlled environment for the responsible consumption of alcohol, which after all is a dangerous drug when used irresponsibly.

There is only one long-term solution to these problems and that is a substantial cut in beer duty. But it would seem that there is still some way to go before the government becomes willing to act

I hope that this March Mr. Brown will start the ball rolling towards lower beer tax, but I suspect that the best we can hope for is another freeze.

The war, however, is not lost and I am confident that better co-ordination between interested organisations will lead to a much stronger argument which will eventually convince the government.

continued on page 5

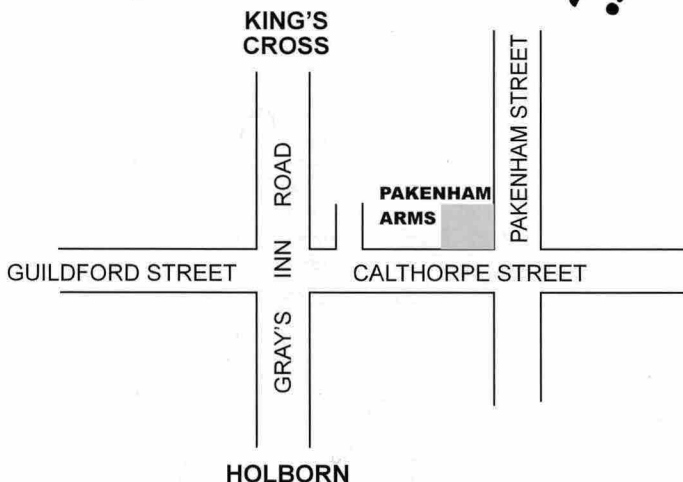
ON OTHER PAGES

CAMRA explained	11
An East London Excursion	12
Letters to the Editors	13
Branch Update	15
Postal Drinker 10	20
Millennium Madness	22
Crossword	25
Capital Pubcheck	28
From our Archives	37
Idle Moments	38

PAKENHAM ARMS

Pakenham Street, WC1 Tel 020 7837 6933

Back on the map!



**featuring a selection of ales from
YORK BREWERY
during February
plus HARVEYS BEST & KISS**

Regular beers: **Fullers & Youngs**

Price per pint from £1.50 - £1.90

4 pint jugs £6.00

Open all permitted hours

YOUNG'S EXPAND TIED ESTATE

In a pre-Millennium shopping spree, Young's have added five new pubs and bars to their tied estate in as many weeks.

First, bringing the total to 187, was the Court House, a former Whitbread Hogshead in Dartford, Kent. Next came the Red Lion in Radlett, Hertfordshire, and the 17th century Cock Inn at Boughton Monchelsea near Maidstone, both bought from the Crowded House pub company.



Regulars at the Cock Inn toast Young's on the day the brewery took over their local.

The Red Lion has 13 bedrooms available and is Young's first tied house in Hertfordshire.

A new, modern café bar, Bar Verve, with equal emphasis on beer, wine and food, was opened in a former high street shop in Slough, Berkshire. Finally, Young's bought the Ship in the centre of East Grinstead, Sussex, from Ray and Elaine Connor who had run the pub as a free house for 28 years.

From a Young's News Release

continued from page 3

Stealth tax

Customs and Excise informed brewers shortly before Christmas that they were planning to levy tax on over-filled casks of beer. They estimate that the new tax will raise between £10m and £15m a year.

This 'stealth tax' could cripple small brewers unless they in turn increase the price of their beer to their customers. And that means price rises over the bar which would further weaken their competitive position with the big brewers. It's a tax which will hit small brewers and community pubs the hardest and CAMRA has joined forces with the Industry to try and stamp it out.

Mike Benner

Head of Campaigns and Communications

YOUNGS TAKE THE PLEDGE

As reported elsewhere in this edition, the government is intent on changing the method of taxation on beer to tax the full contents of a cask. Young's of Wandsworth has joined independent family brewers throughout the country in pledging to fight the threat of price rises at the bar as a result of this new stealth tax on traditional draught beers.

The brewing industry say the tax could cripple smaller breweries unless they increase the price of their beer to licensees, leading to higher prices at the pumps.

Traditionally the brewers have overfilled the casks to ensure that the licensee receives at least what is specified. The smaller brewers do not have, and cannot afford, the equipment to dispense exact volumes of beer into each cask and therefore will find it hard to comply with this new legislation.

The tax was planned to come into effect from 1st January, but have agreed that it will be delayed for a few weeks, but insist that it will be enforced.

Adapted from article in Putney and Wimbledon Times



FIRST BEER FESTIVAL AT THE VAULT

The Vault Free House at Waltham Cross held its first beer festival in November to celebrate keeping its place in the 2000 Good Beer Guide. Seventeen beers were obtained via Crouch Vale Brewery from all over the country, including Mordue Radgie Gadgie, Mauldons Ploughman's Tackle and Bartrams Captain Bill. The local Morris Men performed in the shopping precinct outside on the Sunday.

Sadly, Paul from Enfield and Barnet Branch of CAMRA, who first thought of having the festival, had passed away a few months before. He only lived round the corner from the pub, and would have enjoyed the festival.

Jean Hills and Doug Carter

CAMRA Herts & Essex Borders Branch

Local News Round Up

LOCAL NEWS

Dome pub for Regent

Regent Inns has been awarded the licence to run the only pub in the Millennium Dome in Greenwich (ish). The contract is for one year and requires that a percentage of the gross profits are paid as rent. So far, there is no indication as to the range and quality of any real ale in the pub – reports please!

Regent had been in a bit of trouble after accounting problems led to a surprise loss, but the company has managed to reverse its fortunes and get back in the black. It plans to expand its chain of “Walkabout” Australian theme pubs, with eight more to be added to the seven already open.

Fullers and Youngs show the way

Fullers and Youngs are continuing to prove that there is profit in good real ale. Latest results show Fullers’ brewing division increasing its profits by 65% with a 4 per cent increase in sales of London Pride; meanwhile Youngs has also posted good profit figures, saying it is benefiting from contract brewing niche beers for other breweries, and from the Waggle Dance honey beer it took over from Vaux last year.

King and Barnes confident

Sussex brewer King and Barnes has suffered a torrid year in 1999; early in the year, its head and second brewer were made redundant and the free trade business was sold off in a move that shocked the industry. The aim was to concentrate on producing beer and expanding its pub estate, but just as the plans were going into action came a takeover bid from Shepherd Neame.

Sheps claimed that they wanted the production capacity of the Horsham brewery, but K&B reckon they are after the pubs and that the brewery would close. Chairman Bill King was confident that the Extraordinary General Meeting called to vote on the Shepherd Neame proposal would reject the bid and claims to have the backing of the majority of shareholders. It’s all gone a bit quiet recently so watch this space.

London Porter is back in bottles

Fullers have announced the return of their London Porter, the beer that won the gold medal in its category at the 1999 International Beer and Cider competition. The award was judged at the International Food and Drink exhibition at a time when the beer was only being produced for the export market.

Since then, interest from supermarkets and off licences has prompted Fullers to start production for the home market. London Porter uses a blend of brown, crystal and chocolate malts and Fuggles hops and at 5.4% it is claimed to be the ideal after dinner drink. The only drawback is that it will not be bottle conditioned.

The recipe is based on original 1890s brewing books according to Fullers’ beer and brands director John Roberts, who commented “It is a testament to the brew that a beer of this style is as desirable today as it was over a hundred years ago”.

Dave Lee



WIMBLEDON LANDLORD NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL AWARD

Richard Williamson, manager for the last 18 months of a Good Beer Guide listed Young’s pub, the Rose & Crown in Wimbledon Village, is one of three nominees from the area of London and East Anglia for the Innkeeper of the Year award. The decision will be announced at a Publican of the Year Awards ceremony on March 28 at Grosvenor House. Richard was invited to enter the competition by the British Institute of Innkeeping. ‘Apart from having an excellent team behind you, which I have, and all of whom are well trained and well looked after, hygiene, integrity and quality of product are the most important issues.’

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.

DOUBLES AT THE WAGGON AND HORSES

On Tuesday 30th November last year the Waggon and Horses in Surbiton was packed by local well-wishers and CAMRA members to celebrate the fact that for the second year in a row it was not only voted the Kingston and Leatherhead Branch's London Pub of The Year, but had gone on from there to be voted CAMRA's Greater London pub of the year.



Joe and Brigid Reilly were presented with both awards that night, the branch award was made by Dave Oram, Kingston and Leatherhead's chairman, and the regional award by Robin Forshaw-Wilson, CAMRA's Greater London Regional Director.

The celebrations were assisted by beer provided by Young's and entertainment and food provided by Joe and Brigid

These awards now appear in his 'trophy room', known to the regulars as the Green Room, with all their other awards, including previous Pub of The Year awards, Britain in Bloom, National Community Pub of the Year, and of course the MBE that Joe received last New Year for his charitable work.

Dave Oram

Kingston and Leatherhead Chairman

Back numbers of most editions of London Drinker are available from:

S. Tompkins
122 Manor Way

Uxbridge
Middlesex UB8 2BH

Price 50p each incl. p & p.

A constantly changing selection of ales from micro breweries up and down the country. Over 2000 different ales served to date with always something new to try.

Adnams Bitter & Broadside plus Harveys Best always available. A good selection of German bottled beer including Wheat beers, Kolschbier and smoked malt Rauchbier. Thatchers traditional cider, Belgian beers and Fruit Wines.

Function room for hire. Quiz on Sundays. Cask Marque quality award. Selected for the 2000 CAMRA Good Beer Guide.

**CAMRA SW London Pub of the Year
1992, 1994, 1996 & 1998**

Priory Arms

**Saturday 26 February - "Bulls Eye" Charity Quiz & Darts
£1 per person - the winning team nominates their own charity**

genuine free house

**83 Lansdowne Way, Stockwell, SW8
(5 minutes Stockwell Tube) Tel 020 7622 1884**

National News Round-Up

NATIONAL NEWS

Drinkers and Brewers fight Real Ale "Stealth Tax"

Britain's Independent and Family brewers united to condemn the latest moves to introduce a new "stealth tax" on cask beer that could lead to price increases and threaten the smallest brewers. Customs & Excise announced just before Christmas that they were planning to change the rules on taxing cask beer from 1st January – a change they estimate will raise £10-15 million per year.

Tax used to be paid on the amount of beer brewed, but in 1993 the UK moved to the 'brewery gate' system where tax is paid on the beer that leaves the brewery. The intention was to tax the actual beer sold, in line with the rest of Europe, and the tax payable was on the declared contents of the cask – i.e. tax on 9 gallons of beer for a 9 gallon cask.

In practice, breweries tend to slightly overfill casks, both to ensure enough beer is supplied and to allow for losses when starting and finishing casks, pulling through lines etc. Under the new rules, tax would be paid on the total amount in the cask – regardless of the fact that not all of it can be sold.

Industry sources queued up to condemn the change, introduced at short notice without consultation. Carola Brown of the Small Independent Brewers Association says that micro-breweries will be particularly hard hit: "They simple can't afford sophisticated meters and control systems to reduce over-filling of casks. Most people would applaud them for trying to make sure that their customers get full value. Now Customs will effectively fine those who do".

Anthony Fuller, chairman of the Independent Family Brewers of Britain and of Fullers brewery, added "This is a disgraceful example of the Treasury raising duties without reference to Parliament. It is a stealth tax which will hit hardest those taxpayers the Government should be protecting – the smaller brewer, the community pub and the drinkers of traditional draught beer".

The Campaign for Real Ale has been calling for a reduction in beer taxes to counter the torrent of beer imports from France, which continues to cost the Exchequer millions in lost revenue. The Chancellor froze beer duty in the last budget so as not to ruin the Millennium party.

Following the large volume of complaints, Customs have agreed to postpone the tax increase by a few weeks, but insist that it will go ahead. But Fuller adds "It's unjust and we'll be fighting it all the way".

Swallow is Swallowed

The Swallow Group, the remains of the former Vaux Brewery that closed down its breweries last summer to turn itself into a pub and hotel chain, has been taken over by Whitbread.

A year ago, Vaux was a thriving business that included two breweries and a pub and hotels business. In the face of huge local protests, the breweries were closed despite being regarded as viable businesses. The company was renamed the Swallow Group, and promised big things as a 'leisure group'. Shareholders demonstrated how much faith they had in this talk by jumping at the chance to sell out.

Most of the 199 pubs will be sold on by Whitbread, and the Swallow name will disappear as the hotels are re-branded as part of the Marriott chain. The deal is a boost to Whitbread after it lost out in the bidding war against Punch Taverns for Allied Domecq's pubs.

Big money and Big protests for Wolves

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries announced pre-tax profits up over 11% to £50.2 million in December, and announced the sale of 284 pubs for £40 million. Wolves is also on the verge of becoming Britain's leading regional brewer with its agreed takeover of Mansfield for £253 million.

However, the company is facing growing criticism that its growth is at the expense of consumer choice. Local activists backed by Alan Meale, the local MP, claim that the 125 year old Mansfield brewery will be closed if the deal goes ahead – even though Wolves have promised to keep it open for two years while they assess its viability.

Meanwhile, W&D have provoked an outcry by announcing the withdrawal of Marston's Bitter. Following the takeover of Marstons, there has already been a rationalisation of the beer range with the withdrawal of the cask version of Owd Rodger and the replacement of Bateman's Dark Mild with the totally different Banks's Original in Marstons' pubs. This second phase of rationalisation means the replacement of Marstons Bitter with Banks's Bitter throughout the Marstons estate.

Marstons Bitter looks like being the first casualty of the shake-up of brewing which W&D will have to do if and when the Mansfield takeover goes ahead. A number of breweries are likely to close, with the remaining beers being moved around to one of the survivors. The situation is complicated by the success of Pedigree, now one of the most widely distributed premium bitters, and the contract to brew

National News Round-Up

Burton Ale at Marstons.

However, locals are not happy. In some areas like South Manchester, Bitter outsells Pedigree by up to 12 to 1. Licensees do not believe they can sell Banks's in the large volumes that Marstons achieved – with 40-50 barrels a week going to the Wilmslow Road area. With Banks's Bitter being both weaker and more bitter, the replacement is not 'like for like' and drinkers may just vote with their feet.

Bass plans big spend

Bass has announced that it will spend a total of £240 million over two years on the ex Allied Domecq pubs bought from Punch Taverns last year. Two thirds of the pubs are likely to be converted to the standard Bass brands – the likes of All Bar One, Browns and Edwards.

The pubs were regarded as among the best of the Allied estate, and the investment is a measure of Bass's determination to move into the lucrative branded pubs sector in the more prosperous parts of the country. Finance Director Richard North said "We have moved out whole centre of gravity from the Midlands to the South".

However, with Bass now owning some notable historic pubs in London, it's worth keeping an eye out for any unwanted changes. The small matter of alleged illegal changes to a listed pub in Westminster is still unresolved, and it remains to be seen whether Bass can be trusted to maintain the best of the unspoilt pubs it has inherited.

Welcome for Monopolies ruling

CAMRA has hailed attempts by the Government to break up local monopolies as the beginning of a new era of protecting consumer choice.

Although Trade Secretary Stephen Byers allowed the takeovers of 868 Greenalls pubs by Scottish and Newcastle, and Allied Domecq's pubs by Punch Taverns and Bass, he imposed a ceiling of 25% on the ownership of pubs in and one petty sessional division.

This has meant that S&N has had to untie or sell around 700 pubs in the Nottingham area, where its old Home estate overlapped with the Greenalls one; Bass and Punch will have to sell about 50 pubs between them or face referral to the Competition Commission. CAMRA believes that the 25% ceiling has important implications for consumer choice as it will prevent the domination of local areas by one company. As an indication that the Government is taking competition issues seriously, it has been welcomed but it all depends on the Government having the will to follow it up.

Head of Campaigns Mike Benner said "We have been calling for this very action since the 1980s....

these requirements are a victory for the consumer and a positive step towards halting further consolidation in the industry".

Bar Wars!

Pub and Brewery operators such as Wetherspoons and Wolverhampton and Dudley are leading a wave of price cutting for the New Year in a price war that could see as much as a third knocked off the price of a pint.

The series of January price cuts will further intensify competition in the pub and bar trade. Wetherspoons has been operating regular January price cuts for some years, but industry observers see the latest round as something far bigger – a series of deep nationwide discounts. One regional brewer has been quoted as predicting some pints going from £1.80 to £1.25, which will put margins under severe pressure.

In the short term, the price cuts look like good news for the customer, but the pressure on profits looks likely to renew the drive towards mergers and takeovers which saw a wave of sales of tenanted pubs in 1999. Share prices have dropped dramatically as investors become nervous of the cut-throat competition, and this is likely to leave more companies vulnerable to takeovers. Small brewers are already facing competition from national breweries who can discount deeply, and are struggling to sell their products at a reasonable price.

Microbrewing gets trendy

The image of the micro brewer has been subtly shifting over the last year or so. Once viewed as a small and insignificant game for amateurs in a world dominated by the big multinational groups, it's now starting to attract more attention and become trendy – helped by restaurants such as Oliver Peyton's Mash and the as Freedom Brewing Company in Covent Garden.

According to research company Canadean, the rise of microbrewing has come as a reaction to the mass produced bland brands from the big brewers, with about 350 microbreweries operating in England. These are dominated by the very small enterprise, although the likes of Bass and Scottish & Newcastle have jumped on the bandwagon as well.

However, competition is tough – according to Canadean, the average micro has a life expectancy of just six years. The lack of genuine free houses and the huge discounts offered by the nationals puts many on the brink of bankruptcy. Not a month goes by without news of a small brewery closing or in trouble – but as many are starting up as closing down.

Dave Lee



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
Maggie, 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



THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

Formed in 1971 by a group of young beer lovers, CAMRA has gone from strength to strength and is looking forward to celebrating its first thirty years in 2001.

Despite the general decline in the beer market and real ale's share of it, CAMRA membership continues to rise and currently stands at a record breaking 55,000. Its members are all individuals who share a love of good beer and decent pubs.

CAMRA, in a nutshell, is a volunteer led consumer group which exists to promote decent beer and the best aspects of the British pub. Over the last three decades our members have achieved a great deal. It's fair to say that we saved real ale from the onslaught of dead beer in the seventies. We put real ale back on the map as a serious mainstream product for drinkers in the 1980s and 1990s.

We've successfully lobbied the government on several important consumer issues. We secured a guest beer law in 1990 that meant tenanted pubs owned by national brewers had to let their landlords offer a guest beer. This was great for choice and there are now some 400 small brewers in Britain producing over 2,500 distinctive locally brewed real ales.

We campaigned for more flexible opening hours for pubs which resulted in all-day opening during the week in 1988 and on Sunday afternoons in 1995. And don't forget that pubs will be allowed to stay open on new year's eve so you can bring in the new millennium in good company in your local.

There are many other success stories. But our work is far from done. We enter the new millennium with some old threats and some new.

A New Enemy

Real ale sales have been in decline for the last four years. There's a simple reason for this. The national brewers are not promoting their real ale brands. As they no longer own the huge pub estates of the past, they have lost control over quality in the market. It therefore suits them well to sell bland but consistent smoothflow beers – the new breed of keg beer.

CAMRA is acting to combat these strategies. We are about to launch a major generic promotion of real ale aimed at today's drinkers. In partnership with many independent breweries who rely on real ale, we believe we can make a difference. And who knows – the big boys might

just realise the error of their ways and return to the real ale fold. It's happened before...

Honest Pints

We continue our battle for a fair deal for Britain's 15 million beer drinkers. We think that the law should be changed so that people don't get ripped off by short measures to the tune of 1 million pounds a week.

Thanks to years of lobbying the government now agrees and we can look forward to full pints by the end of next year.

Treating Us Like Adults

Britain's licensing laws are unfair and archaic. Many are left over from Lloyd George's days when the government didn't want factory workers making bombs when they were drunk. I'm sure you'd agree that this paternal approach has no place in 2000 society. We think pubs should be able to open when the landlord pleases, subject to proper consistent controls to protect the public from nuisance pubs.

Such a radical change in the law will help turn our town centres into areas for all, rather than the war zones they have become on Friday and Saturday nights. No longer will everyone hit the streets at the same time after rushing down 'one too many' and queuing for too few kebabs and too few taxis.

Who knows, flexible opening hours could eventually put an end to the Brits' reputation as 'the lager louts of the World' as they will undoubtedly reduce binge drinking and speed drinking.

The Government looks set to issue a white paper on liquor licensing in the spring of 2000. We will be there all the way making sure that the consumers' voice is heard.

Action on Choice

Britain's independent breweries are under threat. Several have been lost this year alone including Morrells, Mitchells, Vaux and Wards. Others like Morland and Mansfield may soon follow. Talk of take-overs and mergers are rife, but they rarely offer any benefits for consumers. Favoured beers are lost forever as 'portfolios are consolidated' and more pubs offer the same old

continued on page 12

A MANOR PARK MEANDER

Manor Park (E12) is a small district on the eastern side of East London that was built up during the rapid expansion of East London during the late Victorian era. At the northern end is Wanstead Flats a large area of grassland that is protected by the Epping Forest Act which extends into the neighbouring district Forest Gate (E7). There are also two cemeteries in this area. Two stations serve Manor Park. In the southern part is East Ham station which is on the District line while in the northern part is Manor Park which is on the Liverpool Street line.

Manor Park has only a handful of pubs and only three of these serve real ale. However all three of these are close to Manor Park station and being close together make a nice small crawl.

For the first pub turn left from Manor Park station and walk up to Capel Street on the edge of Wanstead Flats. Turn left here and a short walk will bring you to the Golden Fleece. This is a plush with a wood panelled and beamed interior and lots of comfortable seating. It is badged as a Steak and Ale house and has an extensive meat based menu with little vegetarian option. As well as the expanse of the Flats at the front there is a garden and childrens play area at the back. Children, provided they are well behaved, are also allowed in the back area of the pub away from the actual bar and fruit machines. Although this is called the restaurant area it is not necessary to eat to sit in it. If you want to check these facilities are still available before setting out the phone no. is 020-8478-0024

Three beers are available Courage Best, Directors and Theakstons XB. The latter is a beer rarely seen in London these days and is a most pleasant surprise

continued from page 11

boring national beers.

CAMRA is not idle here either. We are in talks with the Office of Fair Trading with regards to introducing new legislation to extend the guest beer law to pub chains which don't own breweries and to introduce legislation to curb the power of these ruthless conglomerates.

Clearly, this article is only a brief introduction to the ongoing work of the world's biggest beer consumer group. But rest assured that we will be here long into the future fighting for your rights as beer drinkers.

For less than the price of a pint a month, why not join us?

Mike Benner

Head of Campaigns and Communications

as I consider it far superior to Theakstons Best.

To get to the next pub retrace your steps and just past the station is the Blakesley Arms. This is a basic locals pub with a small public bar and a larger saloon. The beer range consists of the uninteresting Bass and the even less interesting Worthington Best. I hope that this does not mean that those Bass pubs which sell London Pride will be replacing it with Worthington Best, one of the worst real ales ever brewed in my opinion.

For the final pub turn left from the Blakesley and a couple of minutes walk brings you to the Earl of Essex on the corner of Romford Road and High Street North. The Earl is a large Victorian street corner pub with a strong Irish influence. This is not because some clown in the brewery marketing department has decided it should be a fake Oirish pub but because a large proportion of the customers are Irish or of Irish descent. There is live country music on a Saturday night and Irish sport (Gaelic football, hurling and Republic of Ireland soccer internationals) is shown on Sentana, a cable TV company specialising in Irish sport. Five Irish whiskies are available on optic and even the crisps are Irish.

The beer range is Courage Best, Directors and bottles of Imperial Russian Stout are still available. My visit was in late November so how long they will last is anyones guess. I do remember that a few years ago London Drinker pointed out that Russian Stout was available in a certain South London pub. Within a week the entire stock had been drunk. At the time of writing Russian Stout is also available at the Black Lion in Plaistow E13.

One of the keg pubs in Manor Park is the Victoria Cross in Jack Cornwell Street. Both pub and road are named after a local lad who won the Victoria Cross as a midshipman at the Battle of Jutland during World War I and is one the youngest holders of the award. Another pub is the Ruskin Arms which has achieved some fame as a live rock music venue.

Colin Price

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

Colin Price may well think that Wetherspoons' 'no music' policy can have its disadvantages (Postal Drinker 7). Personally, I like a bit of peace and quiet in a pub (something hard to find these days).

I seldom get out to the pub till after 9pm, and by that time our local Wetherspoons is wall to wall with people. They can generate enough noise to drown out any piped music!

Derek Selby
Chelmsford

On the subject of Wetherspoons, the Editors have received a copy of the following letter addressed for the attention of Mr T Martin, Managing Director

Dear Sirs

I am writing to complain regarding the attitude of your staff at the Hamilton Hall.

Myself and two friends, a solicitor and a regional director, were having a pre-Christmas get together. one of our party was smoking at the bar and was told in no uncertain terms that this was not allowed. In the ensuing bonhomie the 'smoker' gravitated towards the bar. Again he was told he could not smoke within the designated area. On returning to the safe zone we were confronted by a person who would not look amiss in the KGB - earpiece et al, informing us that if the 'smoker' transgressed again we would not be served.

Although I appreciate the reasons behind this 'no smoking at the bar' stipulation, I feel that adequate air conditioning, not only in your houses but throughout the industry, would solve the problem.

JEJ Healy
Enfield

We look forward to publishing Tim Martin's response to Mr Healy's observations - Ed.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Editors

Further to my recent letter I can confirm that Courage Imperial Russian stout is available at the Earl of Essex, E12. My visit there was in early November so how long it will last is anyones guess.

I was interested to note in Decembers Archives that it is ten years since I wrote an article on pubs adjacent to the Romford to

Upminster line. Prior to this there had been several articles about railway crawls, the authors going along railway lines and getting off at each station for a pint at the nearest real ale pub. My article was a bit of a mickey take of this as there are only three stations on the Romford Upminster line.

However the opening of the new Docklands Light Railway extension and the Jubilee line extension does open up the prospect of cross river crawls along these lines. It is now far easier to get from East London to South East London (especially the Greenwich/Deptford/Lewisham area) and vice versa.

One old favourite I was able to visit was the Ashburnham Arms in Greenwich. This is a Good Beer Guide entry with four Shepherd Neame beers available and those I tried were in tip-top condition.

In my Postal Drinker writings I have been critical of Sheps. If all their pubs were as good as the Ashburnham Arms they would do a lot better. Those of you living South of the river will find it a lot easier to get to East London pubs. One I can recommend is the Queens Head, a Youngs pub close to Limehouse station.

Colin Price
Barking

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Editors

I just wanted to respond with a couple of comments and information to the latest Postal Drinker 7 wanderings of Colin Price. The White Bear in Hendon (NW4) that he remembered is on the Burroughs but has been a Firkin pub for about five years (it used to stock the usual Allied range and a few guests and may now do so again!). The Greyhound is still my favourite pub in the area, yet its range and quality was much better when it stocked Ushers' beers until quite recently. To switch south of the River, I'm pretty sure that I visited the Spread Eagle in Wandsworth Town last year on a mini-pub crawl of the Young's pubs near the brewery and found it to be a gem. Yet, on a Saturday evening, it was completely empty, maybe because, as with all the other pubs I went to nearby, Wandsworth Town loses out to livelier Clapham up the road.

Keep the reports coming, Colin!

Jason Lever
Edgware

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

When in 1982 it was first mooted to turn LD into a 'freebie' sponsored by advertising I was amongst the most vehement opponents, a fact which led to my becoming part of the second Editorial Team, along with Andy Pirson and its last survivor, Chris Cobbold, who has recently retired from the post.

One of the present changes is that my contributions will be much foreshortened, with 8 archive issues being reviewed in less than the space previously allotted to four. Any further abridgement of my already truncated articles will need to be done by the Editors, and I wish them luck - I'm not noted for my brevity!

Seriously, though, I wish the magazine all the best for the future. It would be a pity to see such an essential publication go to the wall through lack of support from within.

Martin Smith

LD Archivist & former Joint Editor

This month's archives article is on Page 37 - Ed.

★★★★★

Dear Editors

Ever keen to expand my knowledge of London pubs, and sample the delights therein, I recently paid a visit to the Duke of Cambridge, St Peter's Street, Islington, to try a beer called Singhboulton, named after the licensees.

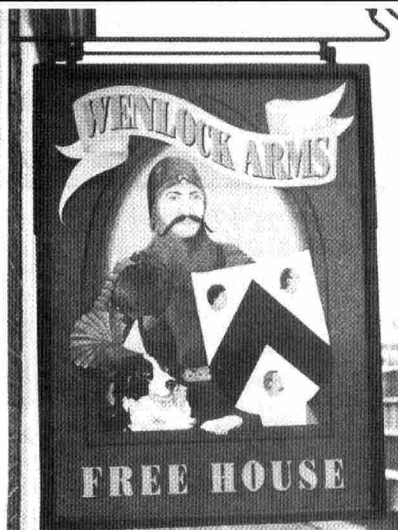
Brewed by Pitfield with an OG of 3.8, one would expect the relatively low alcohol content to be reflected in the price.

I don't know what other London drinkers would expect, or be prepared to pay for a pint of average session bitter, but I dare say that they, like myself, would find £2.70 hard to swallow.

If you think that's exorbitant, how about this. Back in May in the beer tent at the Pro Cannabis Rally, held at Clapham Common, two hemp beers were sampled, Greenleaf and Cannabia, the price of a small bottle of either being £1.50. The Duke of Cambridge also sells Cannabia, but the same size bottle costs £3.50.

Considering that Cannabia contains no tetrahydrocannabinol, the active high inducing agent, £3.50 is, to put it quite bluntly, taking the piss!

T Mellor
Yiewsley



A genuine Free House featuring a selection of the very best in Cask Ales, Traditional Cider and Perry

- Mild always available
- Cask Marque quality award
- La Trappe Trappist ale & Pilsner Urquell both on draught
- Function room free to CAMRA members
- Thursday night is Quiz Night
- Jazz piano Sunday afternoons
- Jazz/Blues every Friday and Saturday evening
- Open daily from midday

CAMRA
NORTH LONDON
PUB OF THE YEAR
1995 & 1996

26 Wenlock Road
London N1

020 7608 3406

Nearest Tube stations are Old Street (exit 1) and Angel. Wenlock Road is off City Road via Windsor Terrace
<http://www.wenlock-arms.co.uk/>

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 February / March are listed below.

LONDON PUBS GROUP. Eric Martin 0208-697 2147 (H), 01223-582735 (W).

February - Wed 9 (8.00) Historic Pub Crawl of Chalk Farm and Campden. Start Sir Richard Steele, Haverstock Hill NW3. All welcome. - March - Wed 8 (8.00) Business meeting. Royal Oak, Tabbard Street SE1. Anyone interested is welcome.

CROYDON & SUTTON. Paul Everitt 0208-686 5053 (H & W).

EAST LONDON & CITY. Ben or Robyn 0208-521 4410 (H). Email robyn@pigsear.org.uk. Social enquiries Bob Walker 0208-924 0346 (H).

ENFIELD & BARNET. Derek Smith 0208-805 1436 (H & W).

February - Tue 1 (9.00) Social, St Monica's Social Club, 6 Cannon Hill, Southgate, N14. - Tue 8 (9.00) Social. Barnet Conservative Club, 33 High Street, Barnet EN5 (next door to Felix and Firkin). Be prepared to ring for admission. - Wed 16 (9.00) Branch meeting. Inn on The Green, 295 Green lanes, Palmers Green N13 (near junction with Aldermans Hill). - Sat 19 (12.00 noon) Brewery visit. Youngs Brewery, High Street, Wandsworth SW18. Cost £4.50 per person, money to Tony Roberts (0208 482 9673) when booking. - Thu 24 (9.00) Social. Old Wheatsheaf, 3 Windmill Hill, Enfield EN2. - March - Tue 7 (9.00) Social. Winchmore Hill Cricket Club, Firs lane, Winchmore Hill N21.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD. Clive Taylor 0208-949 2099 (H) 01483-714898 (W)

February - Thu 3 (8.00) Branch meeting and AGM. The Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Road, Kingston. AGM starts at 8.30, bring your membership cards for voting. - Thu 10 (8.00) Social. Battersea Beer Festival. - Sun 20 Kingston Pub stroll. Start at Bishop Out of Residents, riverside, Kingston. - Tue 29 (8.30) Social. Royal Oak, 90 Coombe Road, New Malden. - March - Sat 4 (12.00) Joint Social crawl of Epsom with Surrey/Hants Borders. Meet Kings Arms, East Street, Epsom. - Wed 8 (8.30) Branch meeting. Stoneleigh Inn, The Broadway, Stoneleigh. - Mon 13 (8.00) GBG selection meeting. Waggon and Horses, 1 Surbiton Hill Road, Surbiton, bring membership cards for voting. - Wed 22 (8.00) Beer and curry night. Meet in White Hart, 378 Hook Road, Chessington. - Sat 25 Visit to Youngs Brewery. See branch contact for details.

NORTH LONDON. Alison Cox 0208-742 0498 (H) 0208-746 8148 (W). Any social queries contact Gary White 07005 355399, email: gwhitegeog@bigfoot.com.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW. Brian Kirton 0208-384 7284 (H).

February - Wed 2 (8.00) Open branch meeting. Red Cow, 59 Sheen Road, Richmond. - Tue 8 (8.00) Brentford Crawl. Start at Waggon and Horses, 26 Kew Bridge Road, then Pottery Arms, Griffin, Princess Royal, finishing at 10.30 in Magpie and Crown. - Wed 16 (8.00) GBG 2001 discussion and short-listing. Old Anchor, 71 Richmond Road, Twickenham. - March - Thu 9 (8.00) Open branch meeting. Masons Arms, 41 Walpole Road, Teddington. - Wed 15 (8.00) GBG 2001 final selection meeting. Old Anchor, 71 Richmond Road, Twickenham. - Tue 28 (8.00) 2 pub social on Twickenham Green. Start Prince Blucher, 124 The Green, then (9.30) Prince Albert, 30 Hampton Road. - April - Wed 19 (8.00) Advance notice of AGM, venue to be advised.

SOUTH EAST LONDON. Dave Lee 0208-694 2687

January - Mon 31 (8.00) Catford Beer Festival Planning meeting. Ashburnham Arms, Ashburnham Grove SE10. - February - Mon 7 (8.00) Branch/Committee meeting. Market Porter, 9 Stoney Street SE1. - Tue 15 (8.00) Social. Banker's Draft, 80 Eltham High Street SE9. - Sat 26 (12.00 noon) Good Beer Guide Survey crawl. Meet at the Bromley Labour club, St Marks Road. - March - Wd 1 (8.00) Catford Beer Festival planning meeting. Ashburnham Arms, Ashburnham Grove SE10. - Mon 6 (8.00) Branch/Committee meeting. Watch House, Lewisham High Street SE13. - Tue 14 (8.00) Social. Rutland, 55 Perry Hill, Catford SE6. - Tue 23 (8.00) Social. London Drinker Beer Festival. - Mon 27 (Catford Beer festival Plannng meeting.

continued on page 17

WHATEVER
YOU DO,
TAKE PRIDE.



Branch Update

continued from page 15

Ashburnham Arms, Ashburnham Grove SE10.

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

February - Wed 2 (8.00) Social. Cricketers, 299-301 High Road (A11), Woodford Green. - Tue 8 (8.30) "Foxy" Social. Starting Fox, 176 High Road (off A1013), Orsett Heath; and then (10.00) Foxhound, 18 High Road (B188), Orsett. - Wed 16 (8.30) Ilford Double Social. Starting Rose & Crown, 16 Ilford Hill (A118 near A406); and then (10.00) Hogshead, 74/76 Cranbrook Road (A123), Ilford. - Tue 22 (8.30) Grays Double Social. Starting Grays Athletic Football Club, Bridge Road, Grays and then (10.00) Theobald Arms, Kings Walk, Grays. - March - Thu 2 (8.30)

Social. Eva Hart, 1128 High Road (A119), (junction with Station Road), Chadwell Heath.

SOUTH WEST LONDON. Mark Bravery 0208-540 9183 (H), 0207-438 6418 (W).

January - Mon 31 (6.30 pm) Battersea Beer Festival publicity crawl. Meet The Falcon, 2 St. John's Hill. SW11, on crossroads by Clapham Junction station (depart 7.00). - February - Thu 3 (6.30 pm) Battersea Beer Festival publicity crawl. Meet Bedford Arms (Hogshead), 409 Clapham Road, SW9, opposite Clapham North tube station (depart 7.00). - Wed 9 to Sat 12 Battersea Beer Festival. Battersea Grand Hall SW11. - Fri 18 (7.00) Post Festival Social. Queen Adelaide, 35 Putney Bridge Road, Wandsworth SW18. - Thu 24 (8.00) Open committee meeting. Priory Arms, 83 Lansdowne Way SW8.

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

WEST LONDON. Di Kehoe 0207-218 3999 (W).

WEST MIDDLESEX. Paul Dabrowski 0208-571 9146 (H), 0207-713 3882 (W).

February - Thu 3 (8.00) Two-pub Branch Social. Starling, Rickmansworth Road, Pinner Green and Case is Altered, High Road, Eastcote. - Wed 9 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Drayton Court Hotel, The Avenue, West Ealing. - Sat 12 (11.00) Mayoral GBG Crawl through Ealing Borough. Plough and Crown, Northolt, Black Horse, Bridge and Hare & Hounds, Greenford, Beaconsfield Arms and Three Horseshoes, Southall, Plough, Norwood Green, Fox (assuming pub is still open), Dolphin and Viaduct, Hanwell, Drayton Court, West Ealing, Rose & Crown, Castle, Red Lion, King's Arms and North Star, Ealing and Duke of York and King's Head, Acton *by bus and/or bike - details and timings from Branch Contact*. - Sun 20 (12.00 noon) GBG Surveying Crawl along Brent Valley Walk and Osterley Park. Viaduct, Dolphin and Fox (assuming pub is still open) *all* Hanwell, Hare & Hounds, Syon Lane, Osterley *then* Plough, Tentelow Lane, Norwood Green *approx 1 pub every hour*. - Wed 23 (9.00) London Drinker Pick-Up. Red Lion, St Mary's Road, Ealing.

Deadline for the April / May edition, 10th March. Material for June / July to arrive by 12th May. **Please be sure to send all diary material to Dave Oram (LDEditor@tesco.net).**

IDLE MOMENTS - THE ANSWERS

As promised in Idle Moments here are the solutions to the puzzles set in this month's column.

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 15 Players in a Rugby (Union) Team
2. 3 Sons of Queen Elizabeth the Second
3. 54 Cards in a Deck (Including Jokers)
4. 12 Tribes of Israel
5. 100 is C in Roman Numerals
6. 8 Legs on a Spider
7. 1815 Battle of Waterloo
8. 17 Number One Hits by the Beatles
9. 10 Fluid Ounces in a Half Pint
10. 15 Red Balls in a Game of Snooker

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

1. HOME COUNTY
2. TRAVELLERS INN
3. CASTLE ROCK
4. TOWNES
5. BLACK ISLE
6. RESTALRIG
7. MORDUE
8. SHARDLOW
9. FENLAND
10. PACIFIC ORIENTAL

5BY4:

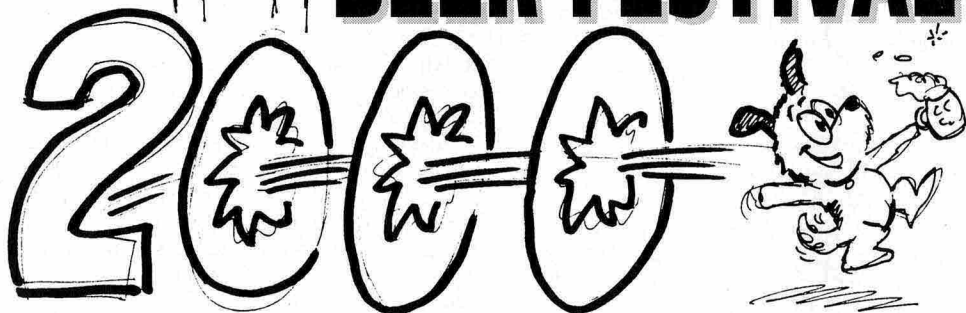
1-A, 2-G, 3-J, 4-F, 5-B, 6-I, 7-H, 8-E, 9-D, 10-C.

CAMRA South West London Branch



presents the 11th

BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL



100 real ales from across Britain

Foreign Beers – Cider and Perry – Food

9th to 12th February 2000
Battersea Grand Hall

Behind the Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11

Wednesday 9th February 5pm to 11pm

Thursday and Friday 10th-11th February 12 midday to 11pm

Saturday 12th February 11am to 6pm

£2 admission (£1 on Wednesday before 7pm; £2.50 on Friday after 4pm)

£1 discount for CAMRA members at all times

DRINKER'S VIEW

Activities in the Midlands and North might not seem relevant to drinkers in London, but happenings there serve as a warning to us all. Not so long ago, drinkers in their respective areas could enjoy Vaux, Mansfield and Marstons beer in their local pubs. Now, Vaux is just a memory, Marstons Bitter is being withdrawn and the future of Mansfield is under threat.

Vaux was not a troubled, unprofitable company – it was a well regarded and viable local brewery – the North East's version of Youngs and Fullers. Now, within the space of a few months, it's gone. The breweries are closed and the pubs have been flogged off.

Don't make the mistake of thinking it can't happen to your favourite brew. We should be thankful that latest news from our local breweries is good as the management there shows how well a brewery can do by sticking to what it knows best – selling good beer in good pubs. Long may they continue.

So, the taxman's at it again. Not content with exporting jobs and revenue to the continent through extortionate beer duty, the Government now plans to change the rules and squeeze another ten million quid or so out of the real ale breweries. In other words, out of drinkers' pockets and the incomes of the marginally profitable small businesses already hit by predatory pricing by the big boys and which the Government waffles so much about wanting to help.

Bad enough news in itself, but the fact that Customs attempted to sneak the change through over Christmas, maybe in the hope that nobody would notice, is particularly annoying. They now promise a delay for consultation, although what price consultation when at the same time they insist that the measure will go ahead?

Dave Lee



Great British
Beer Festival
August 1st-5th
Olympia

SWIFT HALVES

Costs associated with the sale of its managed estate to Scottish and Newcastle have pushed Greenalls into the red, with the company reporting a loss of £304 million in December. Excluding the costs, operating profits were well down and there are hints that the loss-making wholesaling business will be sold.

Anyone remember the Romford Brewery? The site where Edward Ind (of Ind Coope fame) brewed beer 200 years ago has been closed for some time, and it has now been sold to Countryside Properties. They plan to build houses on the site along with shops and a museum to be leased to the local council (Havering), along with a cinema and leisure complex. The £12 million scheme started in January and the first residents will be moving in during September.

Shepherd Neame mounted a £250,000 advertising campaign for its Spitfire ale in London before Christmas. The beer was also laid on at the Ritz in Piccadilly for the celebration of the award of the CBE chairman Robert Neame for services to brewing, tourism and the community.

Dave Lee

THE HEAD OF STEAM



Euston Station
London NW1
Tel 020 7388 2221

CAMRA
North London
PUB OF THE YEAR

BEER FESTIVALS

from 14 February
SCOTTISH ALES

from 13 March
IRISH ALES

Lots of news - visit our website

www.headofsteam.freeserve.co.uk

POSTAL DRINKER 10

Welcome to the tenth and penultimate instalment of Postal Drinker, my attempt to drink a pint of real ale in every one of the hundred and nineteen postal districts in London. I have kept up to schedule and now have twenty-one districts left for the last two months of the year. At the beginning of November I am still working in Central London but I am not sure for how long the job will last so I decide to get a few done while I still have a travelcard. As previously mentioned all my articles are available on the internet at the Hassrale website <http://www.edmund1.demon.co.uk>.

On Monday the first I get the tube to Brixton Underground station and walk round to the Trinity Arms in Trinity Square, Stockwell (SW9). This is a small one-bar Youngs pub and as Winter Warmer is now available I have a pint. The Trinity is a well-furnished pub with little in the way of facilities apart from drinking and talking. It is well worth its place in the Good Beer Guide where it is described as an oasis of calm yards from Brixton market. When I get home later that night my copy of London Drinker has arrived and I see that South West London CAMRA were having a social there later that night.

Leaving the Trinity I go back to the station and get the tube to the Oval in Kennington (SE11). There is a little of note in the South East London guide so I have a wander around and eventually arrive at the Prince of Wales. This is a small pub in Cleaver Square recently taken over by Shepherd Neame. It is dimly lit giving it the feel of a nightclub and appears to be aimed at the business trade which makes it seem a bit incongruous for the area. The beers available include Late Red which is Sheps seasonal beer for the autumn. It is vaguely similar to Fullers Red Fox and O'Hanlons Red but is not quite as distinctive. However it is slightly unfair to judge a beer after drinking a pint of Winter Warmer.

Leaving the Prince of Wales I cross Kennington Park Road into Walworth (SE11) and walk on to the Beehive in Carter Street which is in the middle of a housing estate. The Beehive appears to be a slightly up-market pub furnished in a wine bar style with pictures and cartoons of politicians decorating the walls. Like the Prince seems to be a bit incongruous for the area. Four beers are on handpump and I have a pint of Fullers London Pride. A wide range of wine and about fifty malt whiskies are available. According to London Drinker there is a Camra social here later in November.

On the Tuesday the second I head to Blackfriars station and get a train to Steatham (SW16) and walk down to the Pied Bull near the Common. This is a large multi-bar Youngs pub which is a former Evening Standard Pub of the Year and is a current Good Beer Guide entry. For a change I have a bottle of Youngs new bottle conditioned beer London Ale which at half a litre is almost a pint. This is a beer which does not seem to be available in all Youngs pub and is more aimed at the off license trade. Youngs also do a bottled Special which is not pasteurised but is cold filtered and half pint bottles of London Ale are not bottle-conditioned. I believe that there were suggestions in London Drinker that the bull would be refurbished as a cafe bar but, thankfully, they do not seem to have materialised.

Leaving the Pied Bull I head north to the town centre and Streatham Hill station which is quite a trek. As I head up the High Street I pass several large pubs of the town centre superpub type. When I get to Streatham Hill station there is a train to West Norwood (SE27) due in a few minutes so I decide to make that my next district. West Norwood station has several small pubs in the vicinity and I choose the Hope. This is a small somewhat nondescript Youngs pub and I have a pint of Ordinary. The Hope is also a current Good Beer Guide entry although I would not say my pint is up to that standard. Perhaps I am unlucky and have called on an off night.

I get the train back to Streatham Hill and head up to Brixton (SW2) and enter the Crown and Sceptre. This is a Wetherspoon pub and is also a Good Beer Guide entry. Only four beers were available so I have a pint of Boddingtons. There are few customers and the atmosphere does seem a bit flat. This may be because the Wetherspoon Halloween beer festival ended at the previous

weekend and they have not fully restocked yet. Just after a beer festival is probably not the best time to visit a pub.

On Wednesday the third I get a train from London Bridge to East Dulwich (SE22) to visit the Crystal Palace Tavern. This is a two-bar, back street locals pub on a street corner built in the late Victorian era. At the front is a basic public bar and a more well furnished saloon is at the back. Four beers from the Allied range are available and I have a pint of Marstons Pedigree. The pub is a favourite of South East London Camra and is well worth its place in the current Good Beer Guide. Listing to the locals conversation it appears they have some concern for the pubs future as Punch Taverns are taking it over. In its current state the Crystal Palace is well worth a visit. Let us hope no drastic changes are made.

I head back to the station and get a train to Peckham (SE15). This is an inner-city district with about seventy pubs most of which do not sell real ale. I was unable to find the Nags Head, Del Boy and Rodders local, but after walking from Peckham Rye station to Queens Road I chance upon the Asylum in Asylum Road. This is a small two bar local decorated with some old photographs of Peckham. Courage Best and Greene King IPA available so I have a pint of the latter. Most of the customers are watching the evenings European football on a large screen TV.

I then find out that my work in Central London will last until mid November so I leave the last three pubs until later in the month. For the first of these I take the tube to Earls Court and leave by the Warwick Road entrance. Turning right I head up to West Kensington (W14) and find the Radnor Arms, a small Everards pub which is a Good Beer Guide entry. Everards Tiger and a special Millennium beer are available and I have a pint of the former. Warwick Road also has a Fullers pub and a Youngs pub so it is well worth a visit for an evenings drinking.

From Earls Court I get the tube to Fulham Broadway and head down the Fulham Road to West Brompton (SW10). Just past Stamford Bridge, the Chelsea ground, is Billing Road, a small side turning, and the Fox and Pheasant. This used to be a Bass pub but is now run by Greene King and I have a pint of IPA. The Fox is a small two bar pub with the feel of a county

pub, even to the extent of having an outside toilet. It seems ideal for a quiet drink if you are in the Chelsea area unless, of course it is match day.

As I am allowed to go early on my last day at work I head down to Chiswick (W4) for the last pub of November. As this is the location of Fullers brewery there are several Fullers pubs here and their winter beer, Jack Frost, is now available. Jack Frost is available in the Mawson Arms on the edge of the brewery site. It is a dark beer with fruity overtones but is on the weak side for a winter beer being below 5%.

The Mawson is a plainly furnished pub that acts a brewery tap. The walls are decorated with a large amount of old photographs, price lists, posters and other memorabilia. It is also known as the Mawson Arms and Fox and Hounds which leads me to believe it was originally two pubs but a photograph from the thirties shows it as one pub. Several of the customers are Fullers employees and one of them advises me that Jack frost is brewed with blackberry essence. This gives it the fruity overtones without giving it the full fruit flavour of a Belgian fruit beer.

This completes Novembers eleven pubs and leaves me with ten pubs left for December to complete my intention of drinking a pint in every London postal district.

Colin Price



Beer Festivals

- **Head of Steam, Euston, NW1**
from 14 February 020 7388 2221
- **Prince's Head, Richmond**
10-12 March 020 8940 1572
- **Head of Steam, Euston, NW1**
from 13 March 020 7388 2221

**Obtain a free listing in
London Drinker to promote
your forthcoming Beer Festival
call Barry Tillbrook
020 8989 7523**

SUPPOSE THEY GAVE A MILLENNIUM AND NOBODY CAME.....

The back room of the Rat & Bucket is not a well known watering hole; in fact it is rarely used these days as anything more than a room that the landlord uses to entertain a few cronies from the trade on quiet weekend afternoons. These sessions are known to some unkind observers as the local lodge of the Society of Short-Measure Purveyors, Stale Pie Distributors and Allied Trades.

So what were the exchanges among this august convocation on New Year's Day, 2000? Most such gatherings start a little slowly for obvious reasons, but eventually a Lager Top grunted: "Just goes to show, you can't get loyalty from customers these days, not even regulars".

"Too right", murmured a small Malt. "Bloody quiet last night! I dropped the charge on the door from forty quid to fifteen and still only had 20 people in - and 5 of them were so-called mates I let in the back for damn all to make the numbers up. Didn't even cover the bouncer's wages....."

"Where the hell was everybody?" interrupted an angostura bitters and tonic a little blearily. "I'm on a main road and I was only charging twenty quid. There were only six in the place at eleven so I got fed up, gave them their money back and told them to piss off home."

"What did you do with your staff?"

"Gave 'em a drink and sent them home. A bit shit-faced they were. Expecting fifty notes in their back pocket at the end but I told 'em - if I don't take it, you don't get it. It's a tough trade."

"I didn't have a choice" grumbled a vodka and orange. "Area manager said policy was to charge a tenner and stay open till one at least. Did 'nt see much of him on the night - off at some company thrash. What bugged me with it was the punters - "What do I get for me tenner?" "You get bleedin' in - what do you expect - a champagne bleedin' supper? You know what one said? - Oh, I'll just stay home then and drink me French bootleg cheapies. Cheek!"

"I didn't open" enjoined a large port and lemon. "Shut the place down and took the grandchildren to the Council fireworks. It was alright, but all the pubs round the Common were private parties at thirty notes for a buffet and no drinks chucked in. Didn't know the bouncers so couldn't slide in without paying. Catch me spending thirty notes just to get a drink in a pub."

It all went a bit thoughtful for a while after that until a half of best reeled in looking like death

warmed up.

"What's with you 'Arry? Late night with the box or canoodling with that blonde piece who does your side orders? Told you she was a bit young for you."

"Not so much luck - just bloody busy till I got rid of the last ones at four. Must have had two hundred in the place - could have had more but a lot thought I'd be closed or private."

"You mean you just opened normal? No tickets, or anything?" ejaculated a Bacardi Breezer.

"No, knew that was a dead duck. Had a couple of spare staff in case I had to lock the doors if we got full but they did more serving than anything. Just put some nibbles out and sold Millennium Feasts for a tenner - only a fancy mixed grill but we sold fifty of 'em - ran out of venison burgers. Anyway, can't stop, I'm off round Thomas Cook's to book a trip on the proceeds." And with that he was off.

"Jammy bastard!" grumbled the small Malt. "Typical to coin it when everybody else loses out. Catch me taking a chance like that - I don't get out of bed for a New Year if there's not a monkey in me back pocket before I start."

There were a few grunts of agreement, but after all this was a very unrepresentative sample of the licensed trade. All characters are fictional and any resemblance to anyone living, moribund, or near you is entirely coincidental.....

Mostyn Lewis

ADVANCE NOTICE Kingston Beer Festival

30th June-1st July

Surrey County Council
Social Club

(Further details in later editions)

USE A PEN, PENCIL, TYPEWRITER, QUILL?

I don't supposed it has escaped anyone's attention that London Drinker these days seems to be full of press releases. Wetherspoon, CAMRA x 3, Fuller's x 3 were the quota for November with a mere four in December's issue. Why should that be? Quite simple really, we the reader and London branches are not supplying copy for the magazine. Surely there are drinkers out there that can write a few lines on their favourite pub? Don't branches have Press Officers these days? Does no one turn up to branch meetings these days with pub information? Yes we do have Capital Pubcheck but there is usually more information behind pub openings/closures etc than two lines at the back of the magazine.

You don't have to have any GCE's or OBE's (owes banks everywhere?), at least I haven't and if you have read my articles and have already come to that conclusion then, as a doctor (I'm not sure what she was doctored in) I worked with once said "If you write something grammatically incorrect or spelt something incorrect the person that has pointed that out knows what you mean. Don't worry about it".

How? Dust off your fountain pen/quill (glad to see the back of those slates and chalk, weren't you?) and get writing to the editors or send them an email. I think only TXT files can be accepted via email (Most formats are acceptable - Word, WordPro, Amipro - Ed). You can attach pictures in EPS (Apple MacIntosh) or TIF format as some of you may have seen in my November article. Don't be a dinosaur - have a go. If you haven't a TIF picture then convert it via Microsoft Imaging (Start - programmes - accessories - imaging). The following formats can be opened: BMP, JPG, PCX, DCX, XIF. Convert them by clicking on File - open - save as and choose the TIF option. No I'm not an expert. By the way if you send a typewritten document I think it is scanned in and some zeros come out as capital O's as you may have been able to tell by my October article. There was no pub called the Mite nor is there a Meymoff Street. It may get edited! My habit of quoting prices in pence got edited, if the Stock Exchange can quote in pence then so can I.

London Drinker always appeared to be southern orientated, 11 out of the last 13 issues had front covers with pictures of pubs with SE, SW or southern based pubs on it but it is up to those of us north of the Thames to send in photos.

AND FINALLY THE NEWS FROM THE EAST

E15 in 1892 a pub was build in Stratford named the Black Bull. Since then it has been Mooro's (something to do with Bobby Moore), Moonlights and lately Mulligan's. It has now

continued on page 24

DARTMOUTH ARMS

35 York Rise, Dartmouth Park, NW5
(5 minutes Tufnell Park tube)

telephone: 020 7485 3267

e-mail: nick@dartmoutharms.freemove.co.uk

**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT WITH A
FIRM COMMITMENT TO REAL ALE**

Regulars

Adnams Best Bitter and
Youngs Special

Guests (currently)

Joseph Holt Bitter and
Cottage Golden Arrow

- Traditional home cooked British food.
Menu changes daily and includes
Sausages & Mash, Fresh Seafood,
Roast Meats and Full English Breakfast
- Real fires ● In-house bookshop

continued from page 23

been renamed again. What to? Back to the Black Bull of course.



A Yates's Wine Lodge has appeared in the Broadway. Availability of real ale is in Capital Pubcheck on page 29.

Further information will appear in Update 27 of the East London & City Beer Guide that was published late 1991. I continue to keep updating my database. Anyone wanting updates 1-26 can e-mail me at keith.emmerson@btinternet.com.

Keith Emmerson

CELEBRATIONS AT THE 8 BELLS IN EWELL

Ken and Marlene Bowman are celebrating the award of The Kingston and Leatherhead Surrey Pub of The Year. On Wednesday 3rd November last year the Branch visited the pub to make the award and congratulate the couple. Ken and Marlene provide a warm welcome to everyone and serve it up with well-kept beers from Greene King, and also provide a good guest ale.



Marlene and Ken are pictured behind the bar receiving their award from Dave Oram, Kingston and Leatherhead Branch Chairman.

The evening was celebrated by sampling all the beers available, just to confirm that the quality was still as good as ever.

Dave Oram

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

Editors: Ian Amy, 10 Oakhill, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0TG; Dave Oram, 10 The Ridings, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8HQ.

Please send all articles for publication to London Drinker, 10 Oakhill, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0TG, or by e-mail to LDEditor@tesco.net

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £3.00 for 6 editions should be sent to: Stan Tompkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2BH. (cheques payable to: CAMRA London)

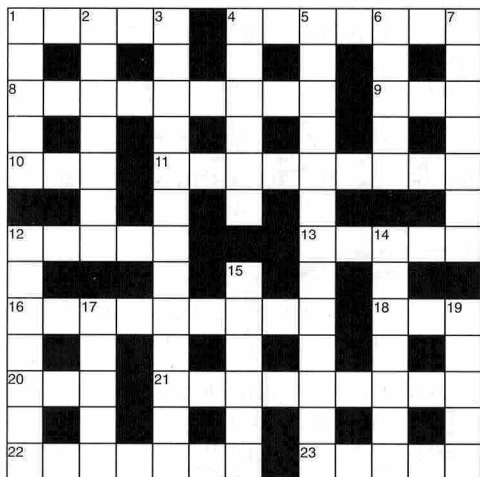
ADVERTISING: Barry Tillbrook. Tel: 0181-989 7523.

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

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

£10 PRIZE TO BE WON



Name

Address

.....

.....

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

Prize winner will be announced in the June London Drinker.
Solution next month.

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

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

1. Throw right fist as soon as possible. [5]
4. Leavers go off in fairly large numbers. [7]
8. Slice top off pond in town. [9]
9. Animal deity returns. [3]
10. Sin of hesitation, apparantly [3]
11. Dear old spouse being thoughtful. [9]
12. Breeze with zero energy. [5]
13. Try to avoid manufacturing flower. [5]
16. It's magnificent at the Battersea Beer Festival this month! [4,5]
18. In brief, I try to be healthy. [3]
20. Will Manchester United shortly get the bird? [3]
21. I am press, note at once. [9]
22. Drinkers making meals. [7]
23. Give up crop. [5]

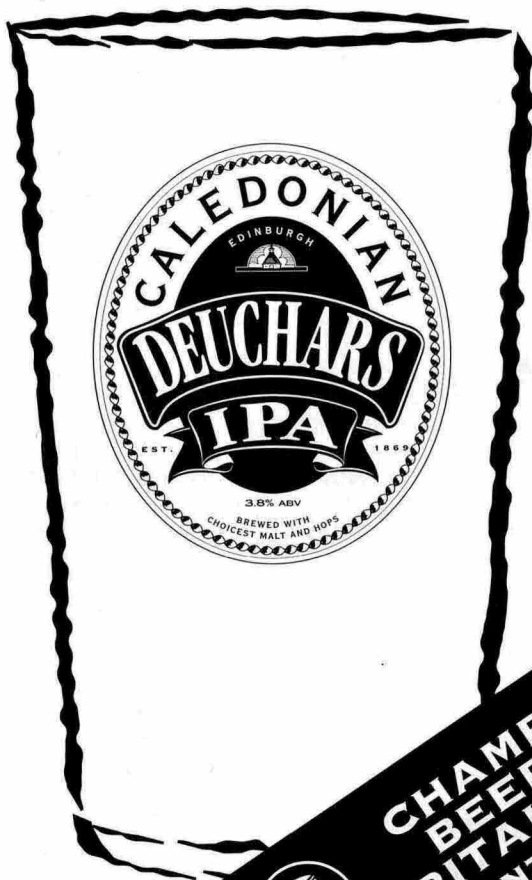
DOWN

1. Fleas wiped out? Wrong! [5]
2. Loves to come back with small change at the end. [7]
3. Order of cardinals amounting to twelve. [5,4,4]
4. Refuse to put hole in boats. [6]
5. Steady van line turning out for a special occasion. [10,3]
6. Are they outspoken? In most circles they are. [5]
7. Can't stand being drunk. [7]
12. Suspenders? [7]
14. Fed up; dead let down. [7]
15. Given these, you should pass. [6]
17. English joke or set up. [5]
19. The first to study footprint. [5]

Winner of the prize for the November Crossword:
Marion Goodall, London SW19.

Other correct entries were received from:
Geoff B, John Blundell, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr,
Chris Fran & a spotty dog, Charles Creasey,
Kathryn Everett, Alan Fawcett, B.H.Fletcher,
Michael Flynn & friend, Alfred D.Grate,
Eileen Graves, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Albert Hall,
Jonty Hawkes, J.Hayes, John Heath, Billy Hernon,
Sheerluck Holmes, Tom Kemp, Pete Large,
K.I.May, Al Mountain, Rab Noolas, Mick Norman,
Ben Nunn, S.Osgood, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce,
Lyn Randall, Geoff S, Super Scooper,
Bryan Smith & Isa Nunes, Young Smokey,
Bill Thackray, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon,
Susan Wilson, Yak, Peter Yarlett.

YOU'RE DUE A DEUCHARS.



**CHAMPION
BEER OF
BRITAIN ~ 1999
BRONZE AWARD**



CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

BALL OF CONFUSION

You need your wits about you as a pub-goer. This may seem like a fairly flacid Al-states-the-obvious statment, but as time goes on, it is rarely been more correct.

We in the Campaign have become used to the blandishments of those in the pub-owning and brewing games not quite telling us the full story. I'm not suggesting for one moment that it is riddled with out-and-out liars, but that there is ample room for confusion in the drinker's experience.

The last ten years have seen a radical upheaveal in British brewing with names and beers coming and going. CAMRA members pool their knowledge to ensure that we are 'in the know' about the workings of this brewery, that pubco, this alehouse and that campaign. By sheer weight of information and informed opinion, we are perhaps more aware than the vast majority of the drinking public. Our constant watching brief makes us by nature an eternally-vigilant organisation, and I dare say, probably irritates the hell out of some operators who would prefer the public not to know what is actually going on behind the scenes.

When I was new to pub-going (many moons ago...), I knew that my local was a Watney's house. I knew that I could buy Watney's beer there. My growing interest in our brewing culture and its modern-day practice helped me see where they as a company fitted in to the scheme of things. I knew that Grotny's were part of a bigger firm, Grand Met, who also ran the naffly - quintessential seventies restaurant chain, Berni. Had it not been for my close attention to all things beer-like at the crucial hour, I may not have noticed that Watney's beer slowly vanished from the bar. So my days of drinking Stag bitter (I was young then!) at my local came to a close almost without so much as a by-your-leave.

This was almost ten years ago but I still see around me pubs carrying the faded and tatty livery of Watney as well as other defunct breweries and identities like Chef & Brewer and Courage. I knew pretty soon after their exit that Grand Met had given up the brewing game but I don't think the public did and while there were still pubs bearing their name, the drinking populace carried on regardless. Did anyone ever ask me why they could no longer get a Watney beer in a supposedly-Watney house? No, but the seeds of confusion had already been sewn.

Who would have told the public anyway?

Grand Met themselves? It's somewhat of an altruism but the commercial world is always keen to tell you its good news whilst at the same time failing to mention anything that could be seen as negative, less you get the wrong idea.

Until late last year, a pub which shall remain nameless proudly displayed its William Younger's identity. Inside it sold the same Theakston's and Courage ales that its fellow S & N houses did but somehow its identity was routed in its pre-merger past as it professed to sell ales, by implication, from far-away Edinburgh. Now Younger's and McEwan's are no more; casualties of brand managers who felt no regard for Father William and the Cavalier.

It's the beers they do and do not brew which add to the confusion as well. Ask one hundred people in the street about the origins of a pint of Guinness and you can almost bet that the majority will say it's brewed in Dublin. Arthur and his little helpers have done such a convincing job on the public that you can't see the cracks at all, the slightly-romantic idea of an old brewery beside the Liffey being more acceptable than an anonymous keg factory beside the north circular! A perverse thought struck me - what would happen if Guinness brewed all of it here and actually imported it into Ireland? If Guinness didn't tell anyone, how would the Irish public know?

A notorious rough-house of a pub in my area recently had a facelift in an effort to sweep away the dowdy appearance that had dogged it for some time. It now 'belongs' to a company that exists in name only! That the place continues to sell exactly what it did before is far from consequential it would seem and, as long as the clientele perceive a change, than that's good enough. The pub is still what it was, proof positive that you can't polish a turd!

Worthington White Shield is brewed by King and Barnes, Theakston's beers are rarely from Yorkshire and Courage Best, that 'beer of the south', is now brewed at Tadcaster! No wonder they keep quiet about that. It's just as well we know these things otherwise there'd be a lot more confused drinkers...

Al Ferrier

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 152

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.

The past two months have seen 11 new pubs and bars reported across Greater London including three Yates's Wine Lodges in E15 Stratford, SW19 Wimbledon and Ilford, the latest Wetherspoons in nearby Goodmayes, a new wizard Inns' pub in E4 Chingford, Belgo's latest Bierodrome in SW4 Clapham and a new Freedom Brewery brewpub in W1 Soho. Hall & Woodhouse have opened a 'mirror image' of their historic Ship & Shovell pub across the passageway in WC2 Charing Cross. One of the few remaining traditional city boozers run by Fullers has closed for redevelopment in EC4. Another traditional pub in SW1 Whitehall has been 'refurbished' out of all recognition by Scottish & Newcastle, albeit in mock traditional style. Young's have done a more sympathetic job on the Brook Green, W6 Hammersmith, which now offers accommodation, but with the addition of a rather gaudy cellar bar. Bass are rebadging some south London pubs under the 'Southside Pub Co' name but seem to be removing real ale in the process. Details of any further sightings would be welcome.

The numbers in brackets after each entry refer to the page numbers in the following guides: E - East London & City Beer Guide, 3rd edition; K - Guide to Kent Pubs, 10th edition; 8K - Real Ale 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, 9th 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 REALALE

CENTRAL

W1(S), FREEDOM, 14/16 Ganton St. No real ale. New Freedom Brewery Co brewpub in former commercial premises, opened December 1999. Small ground floor bar with a staircase leading down to spacious basement bar where the brewery can be viewed behind glass panels. Fitted out in 'minimalist' style, similar to the Covent Garden outlet, with Scandinavian pine wood panelling and sparse, uncomfortable furniture, stainless steel bar top and bare concrete flooring. The beers are all dispensed under gas pressure through continental style fonts and comprise Freedom Pilsner (5%), Wheat (5%), Pale (4.5%), Organic (5%), Soho Red (4.6%) and a special (currently Dark 5%). Prices vary between £2.90 and £3.20 a pint! Best value is a 3 beer sampler at £1.50. A restaurant area to the left serves freshly prepared food 11-3, 5.30-11. bar food is also available. Both the bar and restaurant have state-of-the-art 'plasma' flat wide

TV screens. Open 11-11 Mon-Sat, closed Sun.

EAST

E4, THOMAS WILLINGALE, 136/8 Station Rd. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Best Bitter; Wadworth: 6X; Guest beer (currently house beer Pitfield: Willing Ale 4%). New Wizard Inns Free House, opened November 1999 in former grocery shop and restaurant/function room premises opposite Chingford station. Mock Tudor exterior with period windows. Large, spacious, comfortable bar subdivided by wood panelling into a variety of drinking and eating areas with carpeted or polished wooden floor, tiled around the bar. Red and cream decor, pictures around the walls. No smoking area at rear. Table service for food, daily specials on blackboard. Named after 19th century local hero who led a fight against the attempted enclosure of Epping Forest by the then Lord of the Manor; name suggested by local CAMRA member following newspaper competition. Disabled WC. Car park at rear. Open all permitted hours. A good effort but, for a pub chain led by a CAMRA founding member,

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK

UPDATE 152 continued

the beer range is dreary by comparison with what is potentially available today - more Pitfield and its like, please!

E15, YATES'S WINE LODGE, 12/14 The Broadway. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Best Bitter. New, expensively furnished outlet for fast growing chain, opened November 1999 in former shop premises. Large wood framed windows along frontage. Marble bar counter and impressive wooden bar back lined with wine bottles. Usual Yates's range of wines including blob. Fussy carpet and well lit with a variety of seating areas subdivided by balustrading. Light wood furnishing, cream painted walls and ceilings give a lighter feel than usual. Pictures of original 'first generation' Yates's bars adorn the walls. Food, disabled WC and piped 'music'. Open all permitted hours.

E17, TAP (THE), St James St. Reopened and renamed **FEAR**. Now a bar and nightclub. No real ale. Formerly **WILD ROVER** and **ESSEX BREWERY TAP**. (E167, U105, U125)

GOODMAYES, STANDARD BEARER, 7-13 Goodmayes Rd. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Directors Bitter; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; 2 Guest beers. Chrome window surrounds on frontage and green

nameplate fascia disguise this new Wetherspoon Free House opened in December 1999 in former shop premises. The interior is more traditional with blue carpet, low, cream painted ceiling, wood panelling and cornices, red and grey painted walls with abstract paintings, old Ilford photos and local history panels. Chrome staircase leads to upper no smoking/seating area. Another no smoking area at rear leads out to walled outdoor patio. The pub name reflects its proximity to the 'Great Essex Road', the London to Colchester Roman Road along which Roman legions passed in former times. Food, disabled WC, open all permitted hours.

ILFORD, YATES'S WINE LODGE, 109-127 Cranbrook Rd. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Directors Bitter. New outlet for the chain on ground floor of new office development, opened December 1999. Nasty '60s style 'Tesco' royal blue tiles and sand coloured brick facade with large, chrome surround windows. Double door/porch area leads into well lit, spacious bar area with cream painted walls, etched glass mirrors, globe chandeliers, pictures of old Yates's and light wood panelled bar and bar back. Small, raised 'no smoking' alcove to side (a first for Yates's?). Stairs and lift lead to balcony bar overlooking main bar area, and disabled WC. Piped music, food until 8pm. Open all permitted hours. An uncomfortable mix of contemporary and traditional styles which reflects the dilemma

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
UK and EEC	£14 <input type="checkbox"/>		£17 <input type="checkbox"/>		£168 <input type="checkbox"/>		£204 <input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of the World	£18 <input type="checkbox"/>		£21 <input type="checkbox"/>		£216 <input type="checkbox"/>		£252 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student/Unwaged	£8 <input type="checkbox"/>						
Disabled	£8 <input type="checkbox"/>						
Retired	£8 <input type="checkbox"/>		£11 <input type="checkbox"/>		£96 <input type="checkbox"/>		£132 <input type="checkbox"/>

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



Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK

UPDATE 152 continued

faced by many pub chains trying to satisfy conflicting customer profiles.

NORTH

N1, DISGRACELAND, 196 Essex Rd.
Reopened and renamed **NUBAR**. No real ale.
(N40, U137)

N1, OLD IVY HOUSE, 32 Hertford Rd.
Reopened about 6 months ago, still fizz. (N54, U112).

N1, GEORGE ORWELL, 382 Essex Rd.
Reopened and renamed **LIGHT HOUSE BAR**.
No real ale. (N46, U137)

NORTH WEST

NW1, LANDSDOWNE, 90 Gloucester Ave.
Draught Bass; Guest beer (eg Woodforde: Wherry Best Bitter). (N169)

SOUTH EAST

SE22, FRANKLINS, 157 Lordship Lane. No real ale. Free House, bar and restaurant in ex-commercial premises.

CROYDON, BAR METRO, 33 George St. No real ale, despite having a dish on the menu called Steak and Real Ale Pie. Free House. Formerly Rue St George wine bar.

SOUTH WEST

SW4, BIERODROME, 44-48 Clapham High St. No (British) real ale.. Latest in Belgo owned Free House chain, opened November 1999 in former shop units. Restaurant to left and bar ahead of entrance under arched, wood panelled ceiling. Keg Belgian Beers on tap include Hoegaarden, Leffe Blonde, Leffe Brune, De Koninck, Antoon and Westmalle Dubbel. Many bottle conditioned beers. Open 12-12 Mon-Wed, 12-1am Thur-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

SW4, KASBAR, 50 Clapham High St. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop premises.

SW8, CANTON. Reverted to **CANTON ARMS**. Adnams: Bitter. (SW76, U141)

SW11, BARRINGTONS, 165 St Johns Hill.
Reopened and renamed **BOOM**, H removed.

Now a café-bar and restaurant. (SW86, U139)

SW18, FRENCH'S WINE BAR, 55 East Hill.
Reopened and renamed **DITTO**, still no real ale, a bar and restaurant. (SW111, U149)

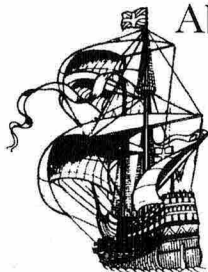
SW18, ROYAL OAK, 135 East Hill. Flowers:

THE MAYFLOWER

117 Rotherhithe Street, Rotherhithe, SE16
Telephone 020 7237 4088

Landlord Phil Glover invites you to enjoy the unique atmosphere of this historic Thameside inn

Greene King IPA • Triumph
Abbot Ale • Guest Beer



- ✱ Restaurant on the first floor overlooking the river
- ✱ Private jetty adjoining the bar
- ✱ Open all permitted hours



Originally known as The Shippe in the village of Rotherhithe, this inn is the very one from which the Mayflower set sail on her historic voyage in 1620

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK

UPDATE 152 continued

IPA. Now Punch Taverns, ex-Bass. Changing display of work from local artists exhibited. (SW114)

SW19, YATES'S WINE LODGE, 16-26 Hartfield Rd. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Best Bitter. Opened December 1999 in new building on site of several shops. Large windows follow the prevailing trend and help give the pub a brighter aspect than earlier examples of the chain. Otherwise typical Yates's decor, mostly carpeted with some polished wood areas etc. Stairs lead to upper bar. Food until 8pm Mon-Fri, 6pm Sat/Sun. Disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.

WEST

W3, GOLDSMITHS ARMS, 130 East Acton Lane. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter. (W64, U92, U107, U148)

RUISLIP, LULA'S BAR, High St. No real ale. Newly opened Free House, bar/restaurant. Full address awaited - information welcome.

RUISLIP, SWEENEY'S, 101 High St. No real ale. Newly opened Irish Free House, pub/carvery.

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, BLAKES. Whitbread, closed. Formerly SQUARE, originally COACH & HORSES (E14, U79, U113)

EC1, CLOAK & HABIT. Free House, closed. Formerly MORGANS DINER / OCEANS. (U44, U54, U70, U92, U109)

EC4, MASTER GUNNER. Young, closed for refurbishment along with surrounding Paternoster Square area. (E51, U67, U110)

EC4, SAMUEL PEPYS. Bass, now converted to flats. (E54)

EC4, VINTRY. Fuller, closed for refurbishment. Sad end for one of the few remaining traditional city boozers. Formerly QUEENS ARMS. (E52, U50, U88)

EC4, WHITE SWAN TAVERN, 28/30 Tudor St. S&N, closed for redevelopment. (E56, U106)

W1(Mar), SEYMOURS. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and boarded up, future uncertain. (W36)

W1(S), BURLINGTON BERTIE. Renamed **BAR MONACO**. Free House. H removed. The

sad loss of what originated as Regent Inns' flagship real ale pub in the West End. (U97, U146)

WC1, WHITE HART. S&N, closed, signage removed. (W51, N32, U106)

WC2, KINGS ARMS. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and under conversion to let as shop. (W54, U59, U74)

EAST

E1, ROSE & PUNCHBOWL. Ex-Belhaven, closed. (E72)

E3, RAILWAY TAVERN. Free House, being converted to flats. (E92)

E3, RISING SUN. Converted to a transport café, now demolished. (E92, U84)

E3, TWILIGHT ZONE. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), now partly converted to a pizza take-away, with remainder a vacant unit. Formerly OUTPOST, GI BIOS and MELODY PARK INN. (E91, U91, U113, U143)

E6, DUKES HEAD. Free House, now H removed. (E104, U71, U81, U110, U113, U120)

E6, WHITE HORSE. Bass, H removed. (E105)

E8, ROSE & CROWN. Whitbread, closed, signage removed, future uncertain. (E116, U79)

E9, BEDFORD. Bass, converted to flats but retaining hanging pub sign. (E119, U76, U108, U118)

E9, VICTORIA. Whitbread, H removed. (E122)

E13, LORD RAGLAN. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), now being demolished. (E136)

E14, ROSE & CROWN. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), converted to residential use some time ago. (E148)

E14, ROYAL NAVY. Ascot, closed. (E148, U99)

NORTH

N1, ADMIRAL KEPPEL. Ex-United. Upper storeys converted to flats, signage removed, ground floor and basement for sale but unlikely to reopen as a pub. (N37, U109)

N1, DOWNHAM ARMS. Ascot, closed, rebuilding in process, probably for conversion to residential use. (N41)

N1, MILD MAY TAVERN. Renamed **H₂O**, closed for refurbishment for shops and residential use. (N52)

N1, ONES. Free House, converted to flats but retaining original name, 'Southgate Arms' and 'Barclays Ales and Stout' in tilework. (N54)



IT'S SOMETHING SPECIAL

Young's - No Ordinary Beers
Want to be in the Special club? Call 0181 875 7000

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK

UPDATE 152 continued

N1, ROYAL GEORGE. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), closed, boarded up. (N57)

N1, WEAVERS ARMS. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed, future uncertain. (N61)

N1, WHITE HORSE. Free House, no real ale. (N62, U112)

N9, GOLDEN FLEECE. Bass, H removed. (N99)

BARNET (EN5), CROWN & ANCHOR. Free House (Local Image), H unused. (N250)

BARNET (EN1), PLOUGH. Whitbread, H removed. (N230, U109)

BARNET (EN2), WHITEWEBBS HOUSE. Whitbread (Brewers Fayre), H removed. (U131)

NORTH WEST

NW3, ENTERPRISE. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), H removed. (N184)

NW3, HARE & HOUNDS. Bass, H unused. (N186)

NW3, OLD OAK. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), H unused. (N189)

NW6, ARKWRIGHTS WHEEL. Renamed **SCRUFFY MURPHYS**, H removed.

Presumably now Punch, ex-Allied. (N203)

NW10, MASONS ARMS. Bass (ex-Allied), H unused. (N223, U151)

NW11, HOPS. Free House, converted to pizza take-away. (N227)

HARROW, RAYNERS HOTEL. S&N, no real ale. (W113, U106)

STANMORE, CROWN. Punch, ex-Allied (Ind Coope), no real ale. (W144)

SUDBURY, FUSILIER. S&N, H unused. (W144, U106)

WEALDSTONE, LEAPING BAR. Renamed **LEAPING FROG**, Whitbread, H unused. (W156)

WEMBLEY, CENTURY TAVERN. S&N, no real ale. Formerly **CENTURY HOTEL**. (W156, U106)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, FROG & NIGHTGOWN. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), now converted to 'La Goonda' night club. (SE16, U119)

SE14, FIVE BELLS. Bass, H removed. Now badged as part of 'Southside Pub Co' estate. (SE127)

SE15, KINGS ON THE RYE. Free House,

converted to flats. (SE136)

SE15, MACS. Now solely a Vietnamese Club named Links. Formerly **DROVERS**, originally **KENTISH DROVERS**. The exterior mural on the side of the pub depicting Kentish Drovers and an historic and prominent feature on the Old Kent Road is now in a sad state of disrepair. (SE135, U112, U120)

SE15, RISING SUN. Bass, closed and boarded up. (SE139)

SE22, BERNADI'S VINEYARD. Free House, converted to residential use. (SE197)

SE22, EAST DULWICH TAVERN. Renamed **EDT (EAST DULWICH THEATRE)**. Now a bar and comedy club, presumably Free ex-Bass, H removed. (SE198)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(P), TUT 'N' SHIVE. Whitbread, demolished for redevelopment. (SW44)

SW6, ADELAIDE. Free House, now converted to flats. (SW65, U134)

SW6, IMPERIAL ARMS, 8 Lillie Rd. Innentrepreneur, H unused. (SW67, U144)

SW9, ROYAL OAK. Bass, H removed. Now badged as part of 'Southside Pub Co' estate. (SW83, U133)

SW17, WHEATSHEAF. Innentrepreneur, H unused. (SW110, U142)

MITCHAM, SWAN. Ex-Allied, now demolished. (SW147, U144)

WEST

W2, GREAT WESTERN, Ex-Grand Met (Watney), H removed. (W59, U55, U73, U80)

W2, MARQUIS OF CLANRICARDE. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), closed and boarded up, future uncertain - rumoured conversion to residential use; if so, another historic pub and former coaching inn will be lost. (W62, U79)

W9, FRANKFORT. Renamed **RODERICKS BAR**, ex-Grand Met (Watney), no real ale. (W83, U92))

W9 PRINCE ALFRED. Ex-Allied (Nicholson), now presumably Punch Taverns, H unused. One of London's gin palaces. (W84, U95)

W11, STAR. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), now converted to flats. (W90, U74, U126, U143)

W13, SPINNING WHEEL. Free House, no real ale. (U54, U151)

HARLINGTON, RED LION. Innentrepreneur, ex-Grand Met (Watney), no real ale. (W110, U76)

RUISLIP, BLACK BULL. S&N, no real ale.

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK

UPDATE 152 continued

(W131, U107)

WEST DRAYTON, ANGLERS RETREAT.

Morland, H unused. (W161, U73)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, FROG & FIDDLE. Reverted to **NEW MARKET.** No change to beer range. (E21, U83, U121)

EC1, HAT & TUN. Renamed **DEUX BEERS.** Now a café-bar, -Charrington: IPA; +Draught Bass; +Greene King: IPA. Real ale not always available. (E18)

EC1, TURNMILLS. Renamed **LAS BRAVAS,** now a bar and restaurant. (E26)

EC2, CITY TAVERN. Now badged as part of Whitbreads 'Hawkins & Co' estate. (E30)

EC4, WHITE SWAN, 18 Farringdon St. Now badged as part of S&N's 'T&J Bernard' estate. (E56, U69, U106)

WC1, MABELS TAVERN. -beers listed except Boddington: Bitter and Flowers: Original Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Guest beers. Note full title. (W47, U95, N24)

WC2, SHIP & SHOVELL. A second half of this Hall & Woodhouse pub has been opened at No 1 Craven Passage directly opposite the original pub at Nos 2/3, in former shop unit. It is a mirror image of the original, although smaller, with wood panelling throughout, a small conservatory at rear and drinking/eating area upstairs. Beers at No 1 are the same as in the main pub except for the guest beer, which is normally one of the Oving: beers from the Gribble Inn brewpub.. (W56, U131, U137)

NORTH

N1, FINNEGANS WAKE. Renamed **FW'S,** -beers listed; +Morland: Old Speckled Hen. Formerly **MARKET TAVERN.** (N51, U109)

N1, STEAM PASSAGE, Now subtitled

FORTY FOUR, -beers listed; +Draught Bass; +Wadworth 6X. (N58)

N3, LEGENDS. Renamed **INNISFREE.** (N69)

N4, MULDOONS. Renamed **GASLIGHT.** (N75)

NORTH WEST

NW3, FREEMASONS ARMS. -beers listed except Draught Bass; +Worthington: Draught

Bitter. (N185)

NW3, G E ALDWINKLES. Reverted to **WHITE HORSE,** -beers listed; +Courage: Directors Bitter; +Greene King: Abbot Ale; +Wells: Bombardier. (N185)

NW3, GARDEN GATE. -Charrington: IPA; +Fuller: London Pride. Formerly **RAILWAY TAVERN.** (N189, U145)

NW3, HOLLY BUSH. -beers listed except Tetley: Bitter; +Greene King: IPA; +3 Guest beers from independents. (N186)

NW3, KING WILLIAM IV. -Tetley: Bitter; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Guest beer (Brakspear: Grim Reaper at time of survey). (N188)

NW3, MAGDALA TAVERN. -Charrington: IPA; +Greene King: IPA; +Wadworth: 6X. (N188)

NW3, STAG. -beers listed; +Theakston: Best Bitter. (N190)

NW8, CROCKERS FOLLY. -beers listed except Brakspear: Bitter and Greene King: Abbot Ale; +Adnams: Bitter; +Gales: HSB; +Young: Bitter. (N213, U142)

NW10, WILLIAM IV (WIV). -Wadworth 6X; +Adnams: Bitter (N225, U133))

HARROW, FORNAX & FIRKIN. -Firkin beers; +Adnams: Bitter; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Marston: Pedigree; +Wadworth: 6X. Now Punch, ex-Allied. Quality of some beers reported as poor at time of survey. Formerly **CONSTELLATION.** (W113, U112)

HARROW, PHILOMATH & FIRKIN. -Firkin beers; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Tetley: Bitter; +Wadworth: 6X. Formerly **GAYTON HALL.** (W113, U126, U151)

NORTHWOOD, GATE. -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +Wadworth: 6X. (W134, U151)

PINNER, FROTHINDERS & FIRKIN. -Firkin beers; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Tetley: Bitter; +Wadworth: 6X. Formerly **SEDGWICKS,** originally **GEORGE.** (W135, U78, U79, U151)

PINNER, ORANGE TREE. -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: Abbot Ale; +Young: Bitter. Beers dispensed in 1 pint high ball glasses only. Fresh food recommended. Two main meals for £10 on Mondays. (W135, U79, U132, U151)

PINNER, WHITTINGTON. -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Morland: Old Speckled Hen. (W137)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, ANCHOR & HOPE. Renamed **BAR**

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK

UPDATE 152 continued

CITRUS. Refurbished by Charles Wells in contemporary style with large windows, pine furniture, polished wooden floors, cream painted walls, ceiling fans etc. Blackboard for food including stir fry and vegetarian specials. Real ale range unchanged. Open 8.30(for breakfast)-11 Mon-Sat, 10-10.30 Sun. (SE8)

SE1, NOLIAS. Renamed **BECKET'S BAR** but retaining original name THOMAS A BECKET on frontage. (SE36, U129)

SE1, PAGODA. Renamed **BLUE ROOM.** Still fizz, H unused despite advert for Hancocks HB on window. (SE28)

SE11, TANKARD. Renamed **BAR ROOM BAR.** (SE111)

SE22, NEW HAMLET INN. Address is 31 Grove Valle (correction to SE guide). (SE200, U102)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(SJ), SILVER CROSS, 25-33 Whitehall. - John Smith: Bitter; +Greene King: IPA; +Theakston: Old Peculier; +2 Guest beers. Beers listed in guide remain as regulars; others may vary. One of London's most characterful, wood panelled pubs, the once long, narrow single bar pub has been greatly expanded to accommodate 700 customers by incorporating properties next door (formerly offices and a pizza restaurant) to the rear and also by the addition of a cellar bar. The vaulted ceiling and fireplace from the original pub have been retained in what is now a small side room, served by a bar hatch. The new part has been fitted out in mock-traditional style with wood panelling, 'smoky' brown paintwork and a variety of seating areas with polished wood, tiling and carpeted flooring, chandeliers etc. The pub has been added to the 'T&J Bernard' chain by S&N and the walls are adorned with breweriana from the former Edinburgh brewery including photos of former directors, beer bottles, labels, pictures of brewery workers, drays etc. There are also some nice early black and white pictures of the Trafalgar Square/Embankment areas and assorted bric a brac. A curved staircase (and disabled lift) leads down to a cellar bar similarly fitted out. Food. Open all permitted hours. (SW46)

SW3, TRAFALGAR. -beers listed except

Draught Bass and Fuller: London Pride. Major refurbishment with mid-brown furniture and flooring. Comfortable but noisy. (SW88)

SW6, ATLAS. -Draught Bass; +Wadworth 6X; +Wells: Bombardier. (SW65, U142, U143)

SW6, FAT SAMs. Renamed **ASPECTS,** still fizz. (SW67)

SW6, LILLIE LANGTRY. -Guest beer. (SW68)

SW6, PRINCE OF WALES. -beers listed except Courage: Directors Bitter (SW70)

SW6, ROSIES. Reverted to original name **BRITANNIA,** still fizz. Now badged as a WJ and J Sanderson pub. (SW70)

SW8, VICTORIA, 642 Wandsworth Rd. Renamed **SW8 BAR/CAFE,** -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. Now run by CCC Leisure. (SW80)

SW9, FLOURMILL & FIRKIN. -Firkin beers; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Tetley: Bitter; +Wadworth: 6X. (U138, U151)

SW9, 'O'. Renamed **CIRCLE,** but retaining 'O' as logo. Formerly **COACH & HORSES.** (SW81, U131)

SW11, RIVER RAT. Renamed **RIVERSIDE.** (SW90)

SW15, COAT & BADGE. -beers listed; +Draught Bass; +Boddington: Bitter; +Young: Bitter. (SW100)

SW17, CORNER PIN. Now subtitled **RIVERSIDE** function room and only operates as a pub proper 4-11 Tues and 12-10.30 Sun. (SW108)

SW17, FAITH & FIRKIN. -Firkin beers; +Adnams: Bitter; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Tetley: Bitter; (SW108, U146, U151))

SW17, GORDON BENNETT. -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter; +Draught Bass; +Hancock: HB; +Theakston XB. (SW109, U135, U151)

SW18, Former SLUG & LETTUCE Finally renamed **21 ALMA ROAD.** (SW114, U141)

WEST

W6, BROOK GREEN. Now **BROOK GREEN HOTEL.** -Young: Porter. Completely refurbished with 14 en suite hotel rooms upstairs. Ground floor bar has retained traditional wooden bar back and etched glass mirrors but with large windows along frontage. There is a yellow painted patio at rear. Basement bar with emphasis on food has exposed brick and bright, green painted walls and polished wooden floor

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK

UPDATE 152 continued

complete with abstract paintings, old bottles in a wall case and greek figures - uh! It can be reached directly from the street or from the ground floor bar. Beer range same in both bars. Food available 12-3, 6.30-10. Open all permitted hours. (W74, U73)

W3, RUFFY BAUMANN. Renamed **SPORTS BAR.** (U123)

W5, PHOTOGRAPHER & FIRKIN. -Firkin beers; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Tetley: Bitter; +Wadworth:6X. (U105, U151)

W7, ROYAL VICTORIA. -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Courage: Best Bitter. Now Intntrepreneur, ex-Grand Met (Watney). (W79, U43)

W9, WARRINGTON HOTEL. -Brakspear: Special; -Ruddles: County; +Brakspear: Bitter; +Greene King: IPA. (W84, U55, U62)

W9, WARWICK CASTLE. -beers listed except Draught Bass and Fuller: London Pride. (W84, U67, U95)

BRENTFORD, MARY O'RIORDANS. Reverted to **NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS.** (W98, U52, U79)

HESTON, ELM TREE. Renamed **PRIDE OF ERIN**, now Intntrepreneur, ex-Grand Met (Courage), still fizz. (W120)

HOUNSLOW, COACH & HORSES. +Morland: Old Speckled Hen. Refurbished and now badged as part of 'John Barras & Co' estate. Formerly **BARNABYS.** (W126, U68, U95, U99, U107, U147)

HOUNSLOW, HARVEYS IN THE TOWN. -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. Formerly **NOBLE HALF, PALIO, MUSWELLS** and **ROYAL GEORGE.** (W128, U90, U101, U137, U151)

HOUNSLOW, MOON UNDER WATER. -beers listed except Boddington: Bitter and Courage: Directors Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +2 Guest beers (normally Greene King: Abbot Ale and Hop Back: Summer Lightning. (U62, U92, U99, U121)

ICKENHAM, SOLDIERS RETURN. -Courage: Directors Bitter; +Greene King: Abbot Ale. Now badged as part of Tanners Pub Co estate by S&N. (W130, U107)

UXBRIDGE (COWLEY), COACHMANS INN. -beers listed except Marston: Pedigree;

+Courage: Best Bitter; +Theakston: Best Bitter. Now S&N, ex-Grand Met (Watney). (W152, U81)

UXBRIDGE (COWLEY), CROWN.

+Marston: Pedigree. Now run by Cooper Inns, ex-Grand Met (Courage). (W152)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 151

NEW PUBS ETC.

N14, CAFE RIO is a Charles Wells bar.

PUBS CLOSED ETC.

E16, WINSOR HOUSE should read **E6.**

N9, RAILWAY should read **N7.**

HAYES, CAPTAIN MORGANS should read: **WELCOME INN**, renamed **CAPTAIN MORGANS.** Free House. No real ale. (U78, U108)

WEST DRAYTON (YIEWSLEY), BENTLEYS should read: now Free House, ex-Grand Met (Watney) etc.

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

ENFIELD (EN3), PLOUGH should read **KINGS ARMS**

HOUNSLOW, ROCK & FODDER. Refs omitted: (W128, U90, U101, U137)

EX-ALLIED PUBS ACQUIRED BY BASS

W1(S), THREE GREYHOUNDS. Refs should read, (W44, U80)

WC2, FULMAR & FIRKIN should read: note correct spelling of title.

N3, TAYLORS. Add *(no real ale).

N10, FANTAIL & FIRKIN. Refs should read, (N103, U126)

N20, BLACK BULL should read Big Steak rather than Taylor Walker.

SW19, FREEDOM & FIRKIN should read **SW17.**

W5, PHOTOGRAPHER & FIRKIN. Ref should read **U105.**

W12, FRINGE & FIRKIN. Formerly **BUSH.**

The above listings include verified, corrected and expanded information included under the 'Pub News' heading on Page 7 of the December/January edition, which was published without reference to the compilers of this column.



Looking Back

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

TWENTY YEARS AGO Grand Met had sanctioned 'limited experiments' with real handpumps. London Drinker listed 37 known outlets of Truman Tap Bitter and Watney Stag and London Bitters on handpump or electric pump. London's first new brewery, Godson's, had stopped brewing Anchor Bitter after only a few months and had just one draught beer, Black Horse, OG 1048. The Nag's Head, Hampstead, had introduced Gales HSB at 56p a pint when no other London pub was selling it, and Simon Tower Bridge Bitter at 39p, also available at London's other CAMRA Investments' pub, the Village Blacksmith in Woolwich. London Drinker was available from 16 known outlets.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO a London Drinker supplement profiled the 14 remaining outlets in Greater London for Real Mild. M&B Highgate Best (light) and Dark were on offer at 50p a pint at the Capital Mild Night at the White Horse, Parsons Green. The Battersea Brewery had introduced Nine Elms Mild at 76p. Hall & Woodhouse had just acquired four London pubs. Of the 5454 pubs in the area covered by Real Beer in London as at December 1984, 3901 (71%) sold real ale, up from 69.5% a year before.

TEN YEARS AGO we heralded the first Battersea Beer Exhibition. Shepherd Neame had just launched Bishop's Finger on draught, ABV 5.4%. Boddington had just been taken over by Whitbread, whose sad record for closing breweries was the subject of our March 1990 Editorial. A

Scottish bar was provided at the London Drinker Beer Festival that month.

FIVE YEARS AGO the Prince of Wales pulled a pint of Young's in the Dog & Bull, Croydon; his grandmother had done the same in the Queen's Head, Stepney, seven years before. Silly names were in fashion. In Hounslow the Wellington had become the Hungry Horse and the Palmerston the Pickled Newt. Rat & Parrot proprietors, S&N had sought legal protection against the Rat & Carrot title paraded by the Major Pub Co. Thirty beers would be available at £1.50 a pint at a mini-festival at the General Roy in Feltham. London Drinker Beer Briefing celebrated its 100th update.

That concludes my first mini-version. Cheers.

Martin Smith

The Brewery Tap

John and Heather extend a warm welcome to all

Five rotating Cask Ales

Guests soon to appear include
Banks's, Joseph Holts, Hydes
and John Willie Lees

Genuine home cooked food every lunchtime

Open all permitted hours

Nostalgia Juke Box

68 High Street, Wimbledon Village, SW19

(10 minutes from Wimbledon station)

020 8947 9331

Idle Moments

Let me start by welcoming you to Idle Moments, particularly those of you who are new Readers of London Drinker as we enter a new era in the magazine's history. Perhaps I ought to start with a bit of an explanation for those of you who are new to the column what it is about - well, not a lot really. It started (checking back in my records) in March 1988 following an inconsequential conversation with friends in my local pub about something as silly as non-rhyming limericks and it has sort of gone downhill from there.

What is a non-rhyming limerick?" I hear you ask (or more likely, "What is this pillock on about?") Well, possibly the best way to explain that is to reprint one of the very first from that edition twelve years ago:

*Having no cash in her wallet,
a famous practitioner of ballet
dived into a river,
as a bet for a fiver
to stun a fresh trout with her mallet.*

So there you are, you see; it looks like it should rhyme but doesn't. Now isn't that the very epitome of a waste of time. You have my very good friend John Eastwood to thank for that.

Over the years the column has developed more into a series of puzzles that you can use to keep you amused (if such is your wont) when you find yourself with a pint, some time to kill, no company (or like minded company) and only football or some such rubbish on the goggle box. Such a set of puzzles and straightforward questions follow.

By way of explanation to regular readers, as we are now bi-monthly, I have abandoned the practice of keeping you waiting until the next edition for the solutions. From now on you will be able to find them somewhere else in this

edition (unless the Editor has decided to be nasty).

So here we go then. The longest running element of Idle Moments is the numbers puzzle. For example, if the puzzle is "3 W on a RR" the solution is "3 Wheels on a Reliant Robin." (No, not Rolls Royce). Over the years I have prided myself with never repeating a puzzle but this was leading to some pretty obscure puzzles, so from now on some, less or more (expression stolen from Angus Deayton) may have been used before.

1. 15 P in a R(U)T
2. 3 S of QE the S
3. 54 C in a D(IJ)
4. 12 T of I
5. 100 is C in RN
6. 8 L on a S
7. 1815 B of W
8. 17 NOH by the B
9. 10 FO in a HP
10. 15 RB in a G of S

Another long running puzzle is the Brewery Anagram (eg "Sad man" is an anagram of Adnams), so here are some of them to play with:

1. TOUCH MY ONE
2. TRILLS RAN EVEN
3. LACK ESCORT
4. OWN SET
5. BILL'S CAKE
6. LARGE STIR
7. MUD ORE
8. LARD SHOW
9. ANN FLED
10. I FACE COP IN TRIAL

And so we come on to 5BY4. I'm afraid that as I took up quite a bit of space with the intro you will have to wait until next time for an explanation for the name but what you have to do is match the ten things in the first list (numbered 1 to 10) with the ten in the second

**Advertise
in next month's
LONDON DRINKER
from only £45
(quarter page - all inclusive)**

**call now
Barry Tillbrook
020 8989 7523**

— Idle Moments —

list (with letters A to J). They have been all kinds of things in the past such as songs and singers, football clubs and ground names and so on. This time I am going back to a subject I have used a few times in the past, that of people and the names they were born with. The first list is the stage or professional names and the second gives the original names. Simple, isn't it. So here we go then - these are the professional names:

1. Danny Kaye
2. Cliff Richard
3. Larry Grayson
4. Kirk Douglas
5. Stan Laurel
6. Jerry Lewis
7. Frankie Vaughan
8. Bob Dylan
9. Al Jolson
10. Jackie Coogan

... and these are the original names:

- A. David Kaminsky
- B. Arthur Jefferson
- C. John Leslie
- D. Asa Yoelson
- E. Robert Zimmerman
- F. Issur Demsky
- G. Harry Webb
- H. Frank Abelson
- I. Joseph Letvitch
- J. William White

Usually at this stage I finish off with some general knowledge questions but as I took up too much of my space allocation with the introduction they will have to be quietly forgotten this time. Instead I shall just finish off with an invitation to you dear readers; if any of you have ideas for puzzles of this kind or can even think of a non-rhyming limerick or two, please feel free to send them in. You can post them to the editorial address or if you have the technology you can email me on andy@pirson.demon.co.uk. Meanwhile, all it remains for me to do is to wish well until next time and to urge you not to dive for the answers too quickly - after all, you do have two months to solve them.

Bye for now.

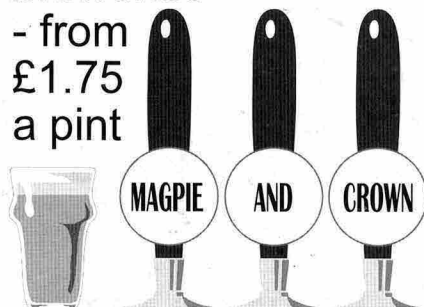
Andy Pirson

MAGPIE & CROWN

PUB OF THE YEAR
CAMRA Richmond & Hounslow

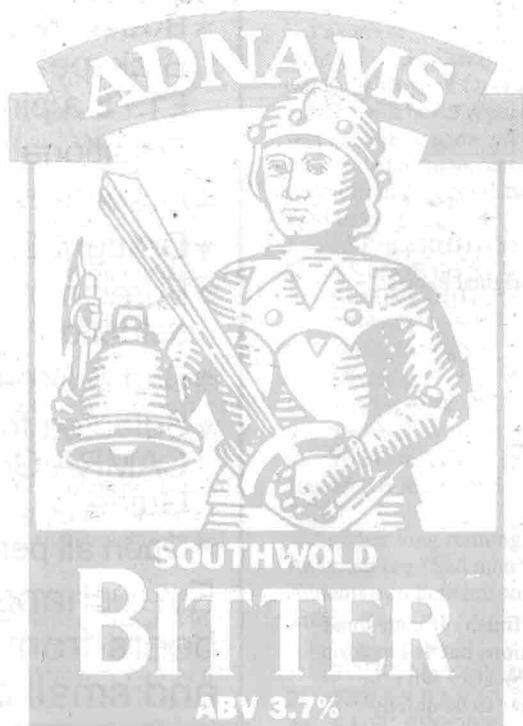
128 High Street
Brentford 020 8560 5658

- * **House Bitter:**
Brakspear's Bitter at
£1.75 a pint
 - * Traditional Cider
 - * Draught Hoegaarden
 - * Draught Czech Budvar
 - * Foreign bottled beer
selection
 - * Bed & Breakfast
 - * Selected for the 2000
CAMRA Good Beer
Guide
 - * Open all permitted hours
- Ever changing guest
beers from micro
and small regional
breweries
- from
£1.75
a pint



* singing voice required Friday evenings

Appearing in discerning
outlets all over
London



from
Suffolk's oldest brewery -
Britain's finest beer