

MILD & BITTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DERBY BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

ISSUE 1
NOVEMBER 1975

REPORTS

Last Month's Socials

Thursday 16th October 6.45pm. Sixteen thirsty Derby members clambered aboard the minibus. After 30 minutes or so, and after asking half the population of Whitwick the location of the Hare and Hounds we eventually got our reward with a couple of pints apiece of handpumped John Smith's bitter. This was the last delivery, the pub is to be turned into a keg palace with a new landlord. The present landlady donated a bottle for our raffle and we sped off to Sutton Cheyny.

Taking a short cut down a very narrow dark lane, Dave Johnson (chief navigator and map loser) came into action, opening and shutting the gates. Two miles further on were a few coloured lights. "It's a Bank's pub" shouted Tony Tucker - and we had found the Hercules Inn. It's a small two room pub in which we were made very welcome by the large jovial landlady.

Our final objective was the Red Lion, and this the only Hoskins pub, we found without difficulty. Inside we found quite an atmosphere as some of our brothers from the Northampton Branch were there, on their way back from Marstons. Some of us took to the dartboard, others pinched Jeff Fletcher's sandwiches while his attention was diverted. I asked the landlord for some Hoskins beermats. "Not had any since 1932" was the reply. On the way home Keith Normington was the outstanding singer. A very enjoyable evening.

(Terry Morton)

Coach and Horses, Horsley, Wednesday 29th October. Congratulations to our Belper Sub-Committee, and the landlord, Pat Dare, for making this enjoyable evening possible. About 20 members from Belper and Derby turned up, despite the foggy conditions.

Excellent pints of Pedigree and No 5 mild were on hand pumps, and later from the kitchen appeared sandwiches and hot potatoes, "a very welcome surprise". A darts match had been organised against the locals. After 6 pairs had played the score was 3 all, then the locals took the last game to win 4 to 3. In the dominoes 5's & 3's, our lads managed a 2 all draw.

 Buster! Dave Johnson, as always, in top campaigning form, sold one National Beer Guide.

A rumour that a brush pushed down the back of Tim Williams' jacket was the only thing keeping him upright towards the latter end of the evening was later found to be untrue. (If I was swaying about - which I strongly deny - it was purely due to turbulent air conditions caused by the darts. TW.)

(Terry Morton)

Midlands Real Beer Festival, Saturday 1st November. Only ten of us braved the journey to Brum. Being as it was only last night all I'm going to say is that we all had a great time, and the atmosphere and the organisation was almost as good as the beer.

(Tim Williams)

Belper Sub-Committee

I have been ordered by our beloved leader, Chairman Tim, to scribble a few lines from the outpost of Belper, for our first very own newsletter, so - here goes.

Well, all that has happened in Belper lately is our first social, at the "Coach and Horses", Horsley. (See above) We got a good attendance of CAMRA members, despite Tim's map and the lousy fog. I dunno what anyone else thinks, but the format of this type of social seemed

Belper S=C cont.....

very successful. Thanks to the CAMRA men and women who took part in the matches, or just turned up.

We haven't really had a Belper meeting as such yet - the first official one is November 12th at the Grapes, High Street, (anyone interested please turn up). We had a visit to the Grapes by a few members in October and found some interest from the landlord and the locals, so we'll have to see how it goes.

Oh yes, one more thing, there's this off-license in Belper that cracked on it was selling Real Ale (Ruddles in fact), but it turns out it was only in bottles and cans, due to the unavailability of the REAL THING. A cardinal sin in itself, but wait, the worst is to come - he says it's recommended by the Campaign of Real Ale. Anyway I had a word with him pointing the error of his ways. He seemed most apologetic and said he saw what I was on about. After this the ad. still appears next week, but with the 'recommendation' in small type. So we got a letter up to the local rag in which the ad appears and we'll wait and see what happens.

Oh, and he says he can't get Real Ale until next April, but he has a couple of barrels of his own that he would fill. He wanted one, and you lot can form a queue behind me.

(Is that alright Tim, can I have my beer back please?)

(Ian Grimshaw)

TOPICS

CAMRA Ltd.

It is proposed that CAMRA be incorporated by Guarantee not by Share Capital. If shares were issued membership enlargement would be limited, and costly and lengthy procedures would have to be followed to increase share capital to keep pace with membership. Every member of CAMRA Ltd. will be liable for its debts up to the amount of £1 if it goes into liquidation. Normal annual subscriptions will continue to be paid. As there will be no share capital, no profit or dividend will be paid.

A proposed Memorandum of Association sets out the "objects" of CAMRA Ltd. These incorporate the existing aims of CAMRA, and give extra powers to the directors to take any necessary measures to further the objects of CAMRA Ltd., e.g. manufacture of goods, investment, purchase and lease of property. The directors are empowered to carry out any additional activities, which they think likely to further the aims of CAMRA, but any substantial change from the original aims of CAMRA Ltd. will result in considerable litigation on behalf of aggrieved members, and possibly its liquidation.

The internal affairs of CAMRA Ltd. will be regulated by Articles of Association. These authorise the appointment of directors to carry out the day to day running of the company, and define the procedures to be followed by the directors, and by the company in general meeting. These regulations must be strictly adhered to by law.

An annual General Meeting must be called every 12 months, and the necessary procedure is laid down. These shall deal with accounts, finance, the appointment of directors, and other important business. Extraordinary General Meetings can also be called.

The directors are officers of the company and can be effectively controlled by its members. Certain provisions are written in dealing with the removal or disqualification of directors. on specific events, e.g. their bankruptcy. If the members feel that the directors are acting in a manner detrimental to the aims of CAMRA, there is provision written in for the calling of an EGM for the removal of a director or directors. Further any director or member who acts in a manner detrimental to CAMRA can be removed. If any director or member makes a profit or benefits by privileged information then the company can claim for such profit, or the value of any benefit received.

(Bill Murphy)

The Derby Area Good Beer Guide

Camra is unlikely to achieve much lasting success until the brewer's sales figures show that the most popular pubs are those which serve good draught beer. It follows that the production of our own local Good Beer Guide is one of the best ways in which we can help the campaign.

If we produce a local guide it should be as reliable and comprehensive as possible. We should not direct unsuspecting members of the public to pubs which serve real ale badly, nor should we lay ourselves open to justifiable criticism from the regulars of any pub serving excellent real ale, which we didn't happen to know about. We must therefore look at all pubs, and, because we are all fallible, we must not include any pub in a guide purely on the basis of one person's recommendation, or solely on the evidence of how the beer tasted on one particular night.

In view of the very large number of pubs in our area (about 800) it was decided that the only way in which we could hope to achieve these objectives was to invoke the help of all members. This was done quite simply by asking everyone to fill in the 'voting forms' available at each meeting, with the pubs they visit or use regularly, giving their opinion of the quality of the beer. The information provided in this way could then be collated by the Good Beer Guide Sub-Committee, who would investigate the inevitable conflicting reports, and draw up the final selection of pubs.

This system was introduced in June. Since then the GBGS-C members have done a tremendous job, and put in their own votes covering over 400 pubs. Unfortunately we have as yet only received a handful of reports from other branch members.

We want to produce our guide in January/February ie before the National. This gives a very tight schedule: the final selection has to be made; the pubs' descriptions and amenities determined; the editorial written; and arrangements made for printing and sales. This will involve the GBGS-C in a lot of work, and give them less time for beer tasting.

We are therefore making a final appeal to all members to get those voting forms in. Everyone must know several pubs well enough to comment on the beer already, and it takes very little effort to go out and visit half a dozen or so new ones. Every report is checked, but no one is going to be criticised for making mistakes, we all do, that's why we want a broad consensus of opinion.

A list of potential local guide entries is now available to members. It shows those for which further votes are required because they've had favourable comments, but it does not show the large number of pubs for which there have been no votes at all. We need your votes on these too, even if they're keg, it saves someone else checking.

Whether we can compile a guide worth publishing hangs in the balance. We need maximum effort by all members, and those voting forms in as soon as possible, mid-December at the latest.

(Tim Williams)

PROJECTS

ASTOUNDING SHOCK SENSATION - there are always more ideas available than people available to do them. But if one of the following appeals, please apply to the chairman.

- i. Any gourmets, gluttons, or gourmands? That any self-respecting restaurant or hotel can happily sell only keg is incredible. A useful addendum to our local guide would be a list, even if incomplete, of real ale eating places. Who would like to take this on?
- ii. Any (more) artists or designers? It would be nice to have a Camra Derby symbol or logo. Based on a ram? Applicants should be able to produce a finished design.

DERBY DIARY

Wednesday 12th November Belper Area Sub-Committee discussion meeting and social, at the Grapes, High Street, Belper, 8pm. Everyone welcome, particularly those who live in the area.

Saturday 15th November Loughborough Pub Crawl. This has been arranged by Loughborough to give all members from nearby branches a chance to meet members of the NE, and the rest of the 60 delegates to the Regional Conference. It's expected to be a massive event, and will start from the Great Central Hotel from about 8 to 9pm. Trains out 6.00 and 8.03pm (arr. 6.18 and 8.22), trains back 10.55 and 11.23pm (arr. Derby 11.19 and 12.32 - via Nott'm)

Monday 17th November What's Brewing Sales Pub Crawl. Meet at the Green Man (Lounge), St. Peter's Street, 8.15pm.

Thursday 20th November Good Beer Guide Sub-Committee Meeting, Alexandra, 8pm. It is important that all S-C members attend this one, but if you can't make it, inform Nick Potter - Derby 511355 (H).

Saturday 22nd November Masterbrew - Inter-Branch Quiz Competition and Social, at the St. Ann's Well Inn, St. Ann's Well Road, Nottingham, 8pm. Admission approx. 30p for buffet, Shippo's direct from cask, and extention till 11.30. Derby will have a team of 4, come along and support them. Last bus back to Derby at 12.02, or stagger back to station for train at 1.39am.

SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER MYSTERY COACH TRIP to North Derbyshire. Bus leaves Draycott 6pm, Derby Market Place 6.20, and Belper 6.45. Your chance to try Tetley's, Stone's, Robinson's, and finally, Theakston's. We should also be meeting members of other branches at the last stop. Limited seats, so book your's with Terry Morton (Derby 674025) as soon as possible.

Monday 1st December Committee Meeting

Thursday 4th December Meeting to establish support for a Matlock Area Sub-Committee. We could do with as many members as possible to turn up and support this event. It will be at the Boathouse, Matlock, from about 8pm. Further details - Tim Williams, Derby 676027.

WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER BRANCH MEETING Alexandra Hotel, Siddals Road, Derby, 8pm.

NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING AGENDA

1. Register and Levy
2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising
3. Secretary's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Sales and Publicity
6. Belper Area Sub-Committee Report
7. Good Beer Guide Sub-Committee Report
8. Socials
9. Branch News
10. Beer Break
11. Any Other Business

POSTSCRIPT

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this first newsletter (and apologies for all the cuts that had to be made). Particular thanks again to Dave Johnson, without whose negotiation of the purchase of the duplicator, a newsletter would have been impossible.

(Tim Williams)