



## KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 43

DECEMBER 1992

FREE

# BY GOLLY... GONE!

**Bottle conditioned Guinness, one of the world's most loved beers, is to be axed.**

In June CAMRA forecast the move by the giant Anglo-Irish brewer and in October that prediction came true with an announcement by Guinness that the bottle conditioned stout would be replaced by a "pre-conditioned" version.

The new Guinness, they say, will have a longer shelf life and "greater consistency of flavour".

To cut through all the brewery bullshit, that means all bottled Guinness will now be dead. Pasteurised Bottled keg. It can sit on a shelf for a good long time without going off and it will all taste the same. Scotland and Northern Ireland lost their bottle conditioned Guinness some time ago but it is still available in the Irish Republic.

So it's bye bye to real bottled Guinness. It was one of the world's classic beers and drunk in vast quantities before the brewery put all its powers behind pushing keg and canned versions of the stout.

Rona Cameron of Guinness said the brewery conditioned version would be a more consistent product with a more consistent taste — and she claimed that in blind taste tests organised by the company sixty per cent of drinkers could not tell the difference between the two brews.

Beer expert and journalist Roger Protz, editor of the national CAMRA newspaper *What's Brewing* said: "This is a victory for the mass marketing mentality over brewing sense and consumer preference."

"The Guinness attitude is that of a supermarket where every apple and tomato must be the same size and colour."

"Of course a living beer, whether in bottle or cask, will vary slightly from brew to brew, that is one of the joys and mysteries of the style."

"I would like a Guinness executive to go to Chateau Latour or Mouton Rothschild vineyards in France and complain that their clarets varied from vintage to vintage — I think the response would be interesting!"

Roger has dismissed claims that pasteurised and living beers could not be told apart as "complete bunk".

Earlier this year he and drinks expert Jilly Goolden tasted all the versions of Guinness stout for the BBC 2 programme *Food and Drink*. They easily distinguished the real version from the kegs.

The Guinness decision comes at a time when other brewing giants are showing renewed or greater interest in bottle conditioned beer.

Bass has mounted a big campaign to boost Worthington White Shield (mind you, a lot of people who have drunk the stuff for years say things ain't what they used to be.)

Courage has just brewed a new batch of its matchless Imperial Russian Stout — and even supermarkets are now selling bottle conditioned beers from Belgium.

So what on earth is Guinness playing at? Ever trendier products and weirder TV ads pour from its marketing department while the brewery ignores its core market and its once great heritage.

Whoever came up with this idea will go down in history as the person who finally shot the Toucan.

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## BAR FACTS

By Phil McCarrykeg

Here are some of the latest facts, changes and news from the Derby area pub scene as gleaned by our roving reporters. (You know, those mysterious people with trilby hats, a beer mat stuck in the hatband with the word 'Press' on it and a never-empty pint glass).

The Crewe and Harpur at Swarkestone has been bought by Marston's. Are we looking at yet another Tavern Table tart-up? Only time will tell.

The famed Malt Shovel in Spondon (much in the news as a preservation row raged recently) has turned its function room into a private snooker club.

Strutts, the big Mansfield pub opposite the Royal Infirmary, is under new management, best of luck to the new crew!

Out of town a bit (those reporters get everywhere) — the Swan and Salmon at Alfreton is up for sale and the Lamb Inn at Melbourne is the latest sell-off by Bass.

A new Bank's pub is to be opened at Oakwood (the plastic estate for plastic living) on the junction of Morley Road and Lime Lane.

The Meteor Centre (the one with the UCI Cinema right in the middle of it) is to have a new pub built on site next year which will sell, they say, a selection of real ales. Can't you just hear the line from that old movie — "Of all the real ale joints in all the world, you had to walk into mine..."

The Smithfield, Meadow Road, has had yet another change of licensee, who at present are settling into the routine. Former tenants Dave and Jean Hackett, who had a short but eventful tenure and made a lot of friends, have taken on a Centric Inns pub in Burton. Best of luck to all parties.

(To the best of our knowledge and belief the information contained in this column is factual. No responsibility can be taken for errors or omissions. Ed.)

*Derby Drinker wishes a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all readers!*

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## WOODLARK Derby's Pub of the Year!

**THE WOODLARK** in Bridge Street, Derby has been voted the area's Pub of The Year by Derby CAMRA.

This means that the pub will now go forward to the national Pub of the Year contest and be assessed by independent judges along with some of Britain's finest pubs.

Assessment is this month (December) and the regional winner will fight it out with pubs from two or three other regions to compete in the final. The overall winner will be announced at the CAMRA National AGM in April.

The judges will be looking for a pub which achieves a high standard in all or most of the factors that go to make a 'good pub', such as atmosphere, mix of customers, real ales, food (if available), range and quality of beer, service, comfort, features and fittings and value for money.

Comments made about the Woodlark

by Derby CAMRA branch members during the debate to nominate the area's pub included: "One of the best in the City which serves a community and caters for real ale"; "You can always get a full pint"; "The only pub in Derby to regularly sell Adnams"; "It's family owned and they've made financial commitments to improvements such as new toilets"; "Their summer floral displays have brightened up Bridge Street"; "They've retained their community base as evidenced by their singalong evenings".

There were other strong contenders both from Derby itself and the surrounding County area but in the final vote between the Woodlark and another family run pub there was a two thirds majority for the Woodlark.

Derby Drinker sends congratulations to Maurice and Eileen Margetts, owners of the Woodlark, and to all their unfailingly pleasant staff — well done!

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# A MATTER OF DUTY by IVOR CLISSOLD

**THERE** is concern that the people's friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, may increase beer duty in the forthcoming budget.

Raising duty on alcoholic drinks is an easy option as the rises can be justified on health grounds. But the upshot is that it merely stops people using pubs: they shop instead at off-licences (like Mr. Lamont) and do their drinking at home, unsocially and unsupervised.

The average pint of real ale yields 24p in excise duty. VAT is added to this (a tax on the tax) to total nearly 44p on a £1.30 pint. The higher the strength the more the tax and the more the tax tax.

The British beer drinkers pay more than £4 thousand million a year for their thirsts: that's about two thirds of the cost of the police force!

Unlike everything else, no mention is made of conforming to Europe on this one and no wonder. We are paying 4 times more than the Belgians, 11 times more than the Germans and 25 times more than the French!

Peter King of King & Barnes Brewery points out that from 1st January a couple travelling to the Continent could bring back 500 cans of beer, 21 cases of wine and 2 cases of spirits on one trip. They could save £350 in tax.

"British brewers will be seriously undermined. The difference in duties is absurd. Furthermore, the difference in taxes will encourage people to drink foreign beer at home, rather than British beer in the congenial environment of the pub" said Peter.

The Danes have already cut their beer duty twice due to the much lower taxes over the German border.

"That shows the logic of the single market," says Peter. "If the government is really committed to fair trade in Europe, British duty will have to be brought down."

Here's the shocker — the table of pence per pint excise duty on beer at 5% abv.

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| France      | 1.2* |
| Spain       | 1.5* |
| Greece      | 2.3* |
| Luxembourg  | 2.3  |
| Germany     | 2.8* |
| Portugal    | 5.7  |
| Belgium     | 7.7  |
| Netherlands | 8.2  |
| Italy       | 8.9  |
| Denmark     | 22.6 |
| UK          | 31.4 |
| Eire        | 44.0 |

\* Due to rise to the EEC minimum of 3.7 some time in 1993. After that we will only pay eight and a half times the EEC minimum!

## Second Olympiad

**THE GREAT British Beer Festival** is to return for a second year to Olympia in 1993.

Plans are already in hand to prepare for an expected increase in visitors — and the resulting extra beer!

More than 185,000 pints are to be ordered to cater for the thirsty hordes descending on the West London venue next August.

In fact, 300 real ales will be on offer and side bars will sell perry, cider and foreign beers.

There will be a range of food to cater for most tastes (and line most stomachs) ranging from traditional English sausages to spicy Mexican veggie alternatives.

Live music, pub games and craft stands, CAMRA's infamous Tombola and a separate family room will also be part of the attractions.

The GBBF opens 3rd to 7th August 1993. For further details contact 0727 867201.

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## HOUSE GUESTS

**THE OFFICE of Fair Trading** has finally clarified the position on guest beers for pubs after much lobbying from CAMRA.

The OFT agree that a tenant of a national brewer (if there are any left — Ed) is entitled to buy one cask conditioned beer from any source in addition to any so called guest beers they get from their parent brewery.

CAMRA now hopes to encourage tenants to stock interesting guest beers in addition to those provided by the brewery — this should be good news for smaller brewers who have had difficulty in getting guest beer outlets.

Unfortunately, this does not cover the problem of tenants who have lost their guest beer rights because they have been sold to other companies.

That is going to need a change in the law to rectify.

## MEASURE FOR MEASURE

by 'The Sanity Inspector'

**EUROCRACY** took another great leap forward with the Units of Measurement Directive.

This piece of European foolery will override our Weights and Measures Act, which allows beer, cider and perry to be sold in 1/3, 1/2 or multiples of 1/2 pint.

The Directive contains a "derogation", allowing beer, cider and milk to be sold in pints "in perpetuity". What about perry? It seems they forgot. Will they put it right? No way.

This means that from 1995 perry can be sold in any quantity as long as it's a metric amount. You can order a pint of cider, but ask for a pint of perry and your collar will be felt.

However, it will be perfectly legal to ask for 568 ml of perry, and this can even be served in a pint glass, into which, of course, it will fit exactly!

Bottled beers have been sold in metric quantities for some years, but in quantities of 275 and 550 ml.

... so that's 550 ml of brown ale for Harry; a half of mild for Shirl; 275 ml of sweet stout for Flo; I'll have a pint of bitter; 568 ml of perry for George — no he's driving — better make that 275 ml; oh, and 500g of Euronuts...

When I was a lad, you could buy all that and still have change from an ECU.

## DRINKER Comment

### FAREWELL TO THE LIFFEY

**SO, FAREWELL** then, bottle conditioned Guinness.

One of the great classic beers of Britain is to be wiped out in the name of so called consumer requirements.

Why, for God's sake, does everything have to taste the same? Guinness says that bottle conditioned and pasteurised bottled Guinness taste the same — oh no they don't. There is a detectable difference.

This country used to have a wealth of bottle conditioned beers of all strengths. Now few are left — ask a drinker to name two and he or she will probably say Worthington White Shield and Guinness. Not any more.

Yet breweries are once more taking the view that bottle conditioned beers are worth brewing and promoting — so what is Guinness playing at at a time when slowly, these excellent drinks are beginning to make a comeback?

Guinness says that bottled Guinness will now have a more consistent taste.

This means what? Most 'keg' bottled beers have a taste reminiscent of damp cardboard recycled through a fermenting vessel, filtered, pasteurised, re-fizzed and packaged — but it still tastes like cardboard.

Hands off the Liffey water!

## COOPERS ARMS

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Further information on all aspects of Derby CAMRA can be had from any of the following contacts: Chairman — Rob Gilvary (Tel: Derby 45156), Secretary — Duncan Crabtree, 45 Amesbury Lane, Oakwood, Derby DE2 2LX (Tel: Derby 834658).

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## PAST LINES

**CALLING** all Derby Beer Festival souvenir glass collectors.

One of our branch stalwarts, Norman Ratcliffe, has a whole bunch of past years' glasses for sale. Half pint glasses from 1979, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 88, 89 and 90 are all available, plus the rarer pint glasses from 1987, 88 and 90.

He also had, squirrelled away, a small selection of bottled beers which may interest collectors — Ind Coope Silver Jubilee Strong Ale, Ansell's Silver Jubilee Strong Ale, Ind Coope Brewery presentation Ale and Jubilee Stout Celebration 1935 - 1985.

All prices are by negotiation (haggle, you burns, haggle!) and anyone interested should contact Norman on Derby 47012.

## Peeps' Diary

IT BEING once agayn approaching Christmas I am minded of thyngs of my youth.

Then dyd we go a-wassailing, wyth much merrymnt, upon the Feast of St. Thomas, whych bee but four dayes before Yule. From house to house wee dyd goe, with our wassail bowl all beribboned and wyth a golden apple tyed upon itt and mighty good hot ale and other goode thyngs withyn it.

We dyd ask each house holder too drynke wyth us the healthe of ye season and to then add hys goodly measure of ayle to thee bowle.

Be itt told, many a younge wassailer dyd go homeward wyth either an aking hedde or a cracked one!

For thee, fair reader, I shall give a most ancient receipt for the wassail bowle, Viz: Lambes Wool.

Take up three pints of goode ayle and heat itt upon the fyre until hott. Add into itt six hens egges, all parts beaten well, and set before a gentill fyre once more.

Then doe ye take fine roasted Englishe apples, sugar, and spices of the Orient (viz: nuttmeg, cloves and hott ginger) and add to the whole.

Thys being well brewed, drinke itt hott... "Our Loyal Hearts to cheer, then prithee, make no more ado. But bring up Christmas Beer."

## OVERHEARD CONVERSATIONS

*The Pipecleaner*

A local brewery's technical services staff were alerted by a number of complaints from customers of a local pub about the quality of the draught beer.

A technician visited — the beer was indeed awful. He was shown the cellar and was startled to discover all immaculate. The beer from the cask was superb, so the pipes came under suspicion.

"When did you last clean the pipes?" asked the technician. "Four days ago," said the licensee, "I do them every five days".

"Show me how you do them."

The licensee produced a sterilised bucket and measured into it the correct amount of water and cleaner. Then using a pristine cloth, he proceeded to carefully wipe the outside of the pipes...

## KEEP IN THE DARK

**BASS' oddball brewery in Walsall seems to have its future more secure than at any time since the war.**

Highgate Brewery has been brewing the Midlander's traditional drink — mild — for yonks and jolly good stuff it is too. Now Bass plan to promote Highgate Mild in the South, but under the name "Dark". According to the marketing people, "Dark" sounds stronger than "Mild".

This is not a Bass mega promotion but there is a six figure budget which should get the message across to Bass tied houses as well as southern free trade.

Highgate was taken over by the Mitchells and Butlers in 1939 and was only kept open because it was entitled to a ration of malt and hops

which would otherwise have been lost. In those days it was doing 1,000 barrels a week: all mild, sorry — "dark"

The closure of Wolverhampton's Springfield Brewery last year has helped Highgate, as cask Springfield Bitter is now brewed there, which along with the excellent Highgate Old brings production up to about 600 barrels a week.

It's good news that Bass is at last going to promote Highgate; instead of leaving it to CAMRA. But according to a local licensee they will have to look into their packaging control.

A number of lifeless casks of Highgate have been delivered to his establishment recently, making the ale drink flat and reducing shelf life drastically.

## Beer Orders Probe

**THE HOUSE of Commons Agriculture Select Committee is to launch a probe into the results of the much publicised MMC report.**

The inquiry will centre on the Government's Beer Orders resulting from the 1989 research into the industry.

The Beer Orders cover guest beer rights and releasing pubs from brewery ties — the Committee will look at the likely effects of continuing present arrangements and will consider alternatives.

The Agriculture Committee briefly considered the MMC Report and then Trade secretary Lord Young's response to it in 1989 and this inquiry is a follow up to that investigation.

The Committee can hear evidence, reach conclusions and publish a report — but it can't force the Government to act.

CAMRA nationally has welcomed the inquiry.

## This Christmas DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

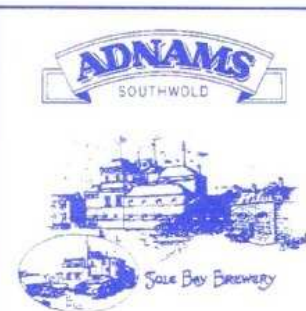
## CHARITY COUNTS

**THAT** excellent city centre Hoskins pub, the Friargate, has always recorded the number of guest beers served.

This is now in three figures and with 150 beers served in sight as we go to press licensee John has good reason to be proud.

He has decided to hold a Charity Auction some time this month (December) to mark the occasion, as if he didn't have enough to cope with just before Christmas.

John's last Charity bash marked 100 guest beers and proved to be a very rewarding evening — he is hoping that his latest effort will be equally worthwhile.



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or

Full/H & W overseas membership for one year — £14

\* Delete as appropriate

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd., with this completed Application Form to: **Tim Williams, 30 Breedon Hill Road, Derby.**



# CHRISTMAS QUIZWORD — WIN £10



## GREEN MAN

WE HAVE an absent minded winner this issue — one Gary Holman of 85, Crossman Street, Sherwood, Nottingham.

He isn't sure whether he picked up his copy of DD in the Victoria, the Alex or the Brunswick. Trevor - what had you been selling him, mate? Whatever it was we want some.

Mr. Holman, judging by his entry, is also a bit of an environmentalist (recycled envelope, wildlife stickers etc.) Now he can recycle a crisp £10 beer voucher in the Alex (or the Brunswick, or the Vic...)

Send entries, with your name, address and where you picked up your DD, to Derby Drinker Quizword 43, 42 The Fleet, Belper DE5 1NU.

### Clues

All the clues refer to famous beers or breweries and words on the grid can be found backwards, forwards or on a diagonal.

Good Luck!

1. Initially brewed as secret service. (4)
2. Is this fella a flatlander? He's a superhero, plural, with note. (8)
3. Squirrel this away, it's disappeared by joining so called friends. (7)
4. Och, laddie. It's a braw beer or an old London market. (10)
5. Is it tea or beer? It's both. (6)
6. What a good dog has... a really good dog. (8)
7. Does this one give everyone wind? (5)
8. Scribes ale, we hear. (6)
9. Take this, you coward! (7)
10. Earth? Yes, once. (7)

### SOLUTION No. 43



## LETTERS ... LETTERS ... LETTERS

Derby Camra were pleased to receive the following letter from Marston's Brewery.

Dear CAMRA Branch,

You will no doubt have seen that the Whitbread Investment Company disposed of the excess of their Marston's shares to financial institutions.

So far as we at Marston's are concerned, it is the best possible outcome for us. We remain an independent company and our future independence will be determined by our success as a business.

I know that, had we had to fight against a hostile bid, we would have had your full support and I know that you were ready for such a fight.

It's better really that things turned out the way they have, but I simply wanted to thank you for your support in any case.

D. W. Gordon  
Managing Director

And a letter from Sea Shepherd, the action group which wants to help save whales and dolphins.

(And a jolly good thing, too!)

Dear CAMRA

I am writing to thank the branch and the Beer Festival Committee members for allowing us to hold a Sea Shepherd stall at this year's Beer Festival.

We did very well and received tremendous support from the customers. The total raised from the sales and donations was £682.87.

Thank you once again for the chance to raise money to help whales, dolphins etc. at the Festival and the best of luck for future events.

Sandra Barker  
Sea Shepherd Local Group

## Gisbourne Arms

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from the jug.

TETLEY BITTER on draught

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## DERBY CAMRA DIARY

Everyone is welcome at Derby CAMRA socials and meetings.

### DECEMBER

**22nd, Tuesday:** Social at the Drill Hall Vaults, Newland Street, Derby (Marstons).

**29th Tuesday:** Social at the Seven Stars, King Street (Youngers).

### JANUARY

**5th Tuesday:** Social at the Vine Inn, Ford Street, Derby (Allied).

**10th Sunday:** Join Camramble 4 for a walk and a pint — Phone Les Baynton on Derby 773871 for details.

**12th Tuesday:** Social at the Alexandra Hotel, Siddals Road, Derby (Free).

**14th Thursday:** Branch Meeting at the Vernon Arms, Locko Road, Spondon (Burtonwood) including a talk, and demonstration of how to taste beer!

**19th Tuesday:** Social at the Smithfield, Meadow Lane, Derby (Bass).

**26th Tuesday:** Social at the Rowditch, Uttoxeter Road, Derby (Allied).

### FEBRUARY

**11th Thursday:** Branch Meeting at the Victoria Inn, Midland Place, Derby.

### MARCH

**11th Thursday:** Branch Annual General Meeting at the Station Inn, Midland Road, Derby.



## REV



## BY ROB

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR - REV