



KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT YOUR BEER

ISSUE No. 72

AUTUMN 1998

FREE

# GUEST BEER PUNCH HURTS

The Office of Fair Trading are taking a close look at restrictions placed on tenants of pub chains after **Punch Taverns** took over 1400 Bass pubs and offered tenants new conditions. They were delivered an ultimatum to buy through the pub company or pay more for their regular beers. Four out of five tenants have already agreed to the new terms.

Punch are offering a choice from 50 beers from Bass, Whitbread and a range of regional brewers but will not consider beers from small brewers unless the price is right. Small brewers who cannot hope to match the volume and price discounting of their bigger

competitors have protested at this threat to their business.

Punch aren't the only ones to buy an instant estate. Japanese-backed **Avebury Taverns** have bought 253 Whitbread pubs for £42.5 million to bring their number to 720 in a year. They previously

bought 222 from Bass in a deal worth £40 million and are planning a multi-million pound investment programme. Local pubs include the **Cavendish**, Walbrook Road, Derby and the **Nightingale**, Osmaston Road.

## S&N Free Tenants

Meanwhile, **Scottish and Newcastle** are to free 200 tenancies from the tie after their purchase of 310 pubs took them over the Monopolies and Mergers Commission limit. In the past this would have meant selling off the poorest performers but S&N seem committed to increasing choice in their better pubs and could have a free-of-tie estate of 700 pubs within the next three years.

Research Manager for **CAMRA**, the Campaign for Real Ale, Iain Loe gave a cautious welcome to the news. "The best place for discounts will undoubtedly be S&N but there is a real opportunity for cask ale brewers to get in."

## EXTRA £35 M TO CATCH BOOTLEGGERS

The Government have pledged an extra £35 million to catch and punish smugglers who are flooding Britain with alcohol and tobacco. Year on year there has been an increase in customs officers at Dover yet in

June 10,000 vans passed through the port from Calais.

Tim Hampson of the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association said "Forty per cent of crime in Dover is caused by smugglers, there are fully armed gangs. That is the price we are continuing to pay for the Government's tax policy - problems of underage drinking and street crime."

## MERGER CHALLENGED

The merger between Allied Domecq's **Victoria Wine** and Whitbread's **Thresher** chains has been challenged by independent chain **Parisa**. Owner Nader Haghighi has called on the MMC to investigate. Under proposals 300 shops and hundreds of jobs could be lost.

## £1.62 Average Pint

Beer prices have risen in Britain by an average of 4.3% - about the rate of inflation. But in the East Midlands the rise is slightly lower at 3.8% with an average price of £1.62 compared with £1.56 in 1997 according to CAMRA's annual price survey.

The cheapest pint found in the region was £1.30 whilst the dearest was a whopping £2.18. This compares with 99p and £2.60 respectively for the

whole UK. London drinkers are hit with an average £1.92 for real ale and are being ripped off to the tune of £2.12 for lager.

Local lager drinkers have only been hit with a 1.7% increase although at an average £1.76 real ale still gives better value for your money. The steepest increases have been in London where real ale has gone up by 7.3% and lager by 8.7%. Cider has gone DOWN by 2.9%!

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## NEWS

### Rammy's Local?

The **Exeter Arms**, Exeter Place, Derby is set to become Rammy's local now that it is selling **Ram Premier Ale** brewed exclusively for the pub by **Whim Brewery** at Hartington.

### Sporting Mechanics

The former Mechanic's Institute, the **Wardwick**, Derby is being converted to the **Heroes Sports and Diner** by owners First Leisure at a cost of £1.5 million. The cafe-bar will feature 100 TV screens including a state-of-the-art 9 foot square screen - all showing sporting action. Opening is set for the spring.

### Refurbs and Extensions

The **Waggon and Horses**, Ashbourne Road, Derby has had £100k spent on it by **Burtonwood**. The **Blessington Carriage**, Chapel Street, Derby is planning another extension and new women's toilets.

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**Banks's Mild**

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# EXCEPTION ALE!

Earlier this year the Derby branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, voted to present three pubs in their area with **'Pub of Exceptional Merit'** awards in recognition of the quality and consistency of the beers, service and welcome.

In June branch chairman Stephen Boa presented a certificate to David Lalor of the **Station Inn**, Midland Road, Derby (right). David, who has been licensee for 12 years thanked his wife, Lynn and Chris Ward and Mike Watson of Enterprise Inns.



In July it was the turn of Paul and Wendy Weston of the **New Zealand Arms**, Langley Street, Derby. On receiving the award from Stephen Boa Paul Weston said *"The award is a great honour for us and the staff whose hard work and dedication has helped the pub to be so successful."* (picture left)

Roy and Beryl Calladine of the **Cliff Inn**, Crich had to wait until August when *Derby Drinker* editor David George presented their award. (Picture right) The couple have been at the Cliff Inn since 1974.



## Kimberley Pub Sell-off

Kimberley brewer, Hardys and Hansons are off-loading 16 pubs through agents Fleurets Ltd. Local pubs included are the **Sitwell Arms**, Ripley (£70k), **Waggon and Horses**, Alfreton (£90k), the

**Clock**, South Normanton (£105k), the **White Hart**, South Normanton (£90k), **Douglas Bar**, Normanton Road, Derby (£90k) and **Rutland Arms**, Carrington Street, Derby (£75k). Telephone 0121 236 5252 if you're interested.

Meanwhile Phoenix Inns are selling 270 pubs including the **Swan and Salmon**, Alfreton for £110k.

### Bar 121 Closed

Live music and dance venue, Bar 121 closed in August and will re-open late September following an extensive re-fit.

### Tyne Mill's Lined Glasses

Tyne Mill pubs including the **Alexandra**, Derby, **Victoria Hotel**, Beeston, **Red Lion**, Kegworth and **Derby Tup**, Chesterfield have introduced lined glasses so drinkers get a full pint. They join **Banks's** and **Wetherspoons** pubs where a full pint is guaranteed.



## Mick at the helm

Mick Coleman has recently taken over at the **Navigation**, London Road, Shardlow. He's been in the trade for 14 years having started at the **Green Man**, St. Peter's Street, Derby and gone onto three Good Beer Guide rated pubs in Nottinghamshire before returning to the area in June.

Apart from offering at least three different beers and more at the weekend Mick has ambitious plans to co-ordinate a **Shardlow Beer Festival** involving as many of Shardlow's lovely pubs as possible. Watch this space.

### Late Moon

Paul Waddington of the **Half Moon**, Littleover e-mailed *Derby Drinker* with details of their Beer Festival at August Bank Holiday - 10 beers a barbecue and entertainment but all too late for you, dear readers.

We'd love to publicise as many pub festivals as possible but can only do so if we receive information in plenty of time. Take note. The copy deadline for the next issue is November 13th for publication in early December.

# NEWS

## Buxton gets George Cross

The **Buxton**, Boyer Street, Derby was been re-opened as the **George Cross** on August 1st by Derbyshire and England cricketer, Domonic Cork. After a £160k refurbishment the Inn Business pub run by John and Sarah Brentnall has kept the Victorian feel but added a stage and kitchens.

## White Swan's First Impression

The **White Swan**, Shepherd Street, Littleover has made it to the last four of Allied Domecq's 'First Impressions' competition. Licensees Kevin and Allison Neale's efforts in improving the exterior and facilities to provide a more welcoming impression on visitors has been rewarded with £300 and a plaque.

## Corner Pin's Pedigree

Of Allied Domecq's 1600 Vanguard pubs the **Corner Pin**, Chellaston serves the best pint of Pedigree according to the Marston's trade support team. Licensees Bob and Sandra Nelson were presented with £300 worth of vouchers and a quality certificate by Marston's head brewer Paul Bayley.

## Safe beer mats

10,000 beer mats promoting safe sex are being distributed to pubs and clubs locally by the Southern Derbyshire Health Authority. *Are brewers joining in by encouraging men to drink more - £300 and a plaque to the safest pub?*

*Jan & Steve*  
welcome you to  
**The Rowditch Inn**  
246 Uttoxeter Road, Derby  
for  
*Real Ales, Real Hospitality*  
*and Really Competitive Prices*  
*Student friendly - table top games*

**Paul, Wendy & Staff**  
welcome you to  
  
**New Zealand Arms**  
**Peel Street, Derby**  
*an excellent range of real ales*  
**CAMRA award winners**

*The Old*  
**DOLPHIN INN**  
  
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**and Tuesday**  
*Food served all day*  
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**seven real ales**  
**Full range of food served**  
**11am - 7.45pm**  
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**Derby Drinker** is distributed free of charge to pubs in and around the city. Published by the Derby Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale and printed by J.M. Tatler & Son Ltd., Abbey Street Works, Derby.

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Web site:

<http://ds.dial.pipex.com/derby.camra/>

Advertising rates are - front page £35, back and inside pages £30. Discounts for payment in advance

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Copy deadline for the next issue, due to be published early December is 13th November.

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Advertising Standards Authority: Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place London WC1E 7HN

### S&N to offer cash-back

Scottish and Newcastle Retail have introduced debit card cash-back systems to its pubs and restaurants. Now you can pay for your round and get enough cash for the next one!



### Freisland Sports Centre Sandiacre

Friday 13th (6.30 - 11) and Saturday 14th November (12 - 3 and 6.30 - 11)

35 beers and ciders

Hot and cold food and entertainment

Tel: 0115 949 0400

# The Right Approach?

Dear editor,

As a young(ish) former Derby Drinker now based in the smoke, I read your comments on the lack of a 'youth' market for real ale in the latest issue of your journal with interest.

I agree that it's frustrating that the expanding choice of micro breweries and guest beers in pubs is failing to capture the imagination young drinkers, especially in view of the ever expanding number of outlets for such brews. Just having them there isn't enough though. It seems that in order to shift units, a drink has to be rammed down your throat. I refer to the huge marketing campaigns for beers like *Caffreys*, *Carling Premier*, *Fosters*, and especially *Carling*.

It seems that unless you 'dumb down' a beer, portraying it as a 'Friday night lads' beer, then monied under 30's aren't going to be interested. Even *Worthington* have plumped for this approach. 'It's a man thing' after all.

The big brewers simply aren't going to invest money into a 'minority' brand-in spite of any reputation for excellence it may have. When I first started drinking in the mid eighties we were influenced by what our dad's drank and bitter was the most commonly available-and cheapest-form of booze around. Subsequently our tastes have stayed roughly the same. We

weren't bombarded with images of successful role models knocking back Sol and were happy to drink in 'old men's' pubs in Belper and the surrounding area rather than trek into Derby for over-priced wazz down Sadlergate.

However... it isn't acceptable to sit back and blame profit-orientated big brewers for the ageing population of CAMRA members. I know that the 'beard and sandals' myth is largely untrue, but let's face it, Real Ale festivals are dominated by stout chaps over forty with commemorative glasses strapped to their belts.

I've been to every Derby do since 1986 and even this year at the age of thirty was easily amongst the youngest ten per cent in the hall. My younger sister and her boyfriend went to the Friday night session more for the occasion than any interest in real ale. Their opinion? "Dead. No atmosphere". They won't be going next year. I know that you tried to attract a younger crowd with the choice of live acts, but the word needs to spread first. Perhaps the time of year is to blame. When I was a student, a fair crowd of us from the local Polytechnic went to the CAMRA bash in Stoke, which always used to be held in October. I'm sure this made a difference. Perhaps a September festival could have the same effect on Derby, when students are around, and have a full grant to play with?

Why not get the local colleges and university involved with a 'Real Ale Trail' of Derby pubs, with a wall chart, stickers, T-shirt and cheap beer, like the old May Mild trail? Get a stall for Derby Uni's Freshers Week with incentives to join. I know some older members may grumble about this, but you have the right approach. If real ale is to survive you need to attract new devotees of the stuff NOW.

Good luck, and keep up the good work.

Yours Sincerely,  
Mark Sheldon, Kentish Town, London NW5

### Editor David George replies:

Thanks Mark. I read this letter to a recent branch meeting and there was an audible gasp of disbelief at the "no atmosphere" comment. We'd welcome the views of more young people on that score - and ideas on how we can improve.

The festival is held in July when the Assembly Rooms is at its least expensive. Any other time of year would result in prices that students couldn't afford. As for a stall at freshers week - we'd love to and perhaps commercial organisations are willing to fork out the equivalent of several weeks shop rent but we can't. The Student Union has a beer supply agreement and they make it very difficult for anyone to encourage students to drink anywhere but the Union. We'll look closely at the other ideas and any more we receive.

You may remember Mark Sheldon from his Radio Derby days.

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### Application Form

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for £..... Rates are Single £14, Joint £17, OAP and Under 26 £8 (£11 Joint), Overseas £18 (joint £21) Under 26 please add date of birth .....

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Post Code .....

Signed..... Date .....

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) with this completed application form to: **Tim Williams, 39 Breedon Hill Road, Derby**



## 21st DERBY

### Burton Beer Festival

**September 24 - 26** at Burton Town Hall. Wide range of beers, ciders and German bottled beer stand. Hot and cold food and entertainment all sessions. Thursday 12 - 3pm and 7 - 11pm, Friday 12 - 3pm and 6.30 - 11pm, Saturday 11.30 - 3pm and 7 - 11pm. Admission including a glass is £1.50 lunchtimes and £4 evenings (CAMRA members £1.50). For further details contact Chris Fletcher on 01283 569310.

### 22nd Nottingham Beer Festival

**15 - 18 October** at the Victoria Leisure Centre, Sneinton, Nottingham. Hundreds of beers, open all day Saturday (17th), and entertainment including folk band Five go Off In A Caravan on Friday and Folk-rockers Kelly's Heroes on Saturday night. Telephone 0115 911 7331 for details.

### 3rd Erewash Beer Festival

**13 - 14 Nov.** - see page 3 ad

## 22nd Derby Beer Festival

at the

## Assembly Rooms,

**Market Place, Derby**

**7 - 11 July 1999**

**Put it in your diary  
coach trips,  
enquiries,  
volunteers contact :  
01332 770209**

## The Furnace Inn

Duke Street, Derby



**Kimberley Mild, Bitter  
and Classic  
and a warm welcome**

# Another Success

A volunteer bar worker toasts the success of the 21st Derby Beer Festival with a well deserved glass of Golden Guinea - brewed especially for the event by Roosters Brewery.

Attendances looked to be well down until Saturday night when a record attendance for one session packed in for a memorable night with the Rattlers in the Great Hall and Midnight Pumpkin Trucks in the Darwin Suite.

The beer order for the Darwin - increased from last year - was just right with the last drop being served just before closing time. By the end of Sunday lunch there was very little left at all in the Great Hall.

The quality of the beer was generally very good as the Assembly Rooms cooling system did its work again. But the rubbish sent to us by a couple of breweries will mean they won't be asked to supply again - ever!

Visitor number 200,000 - a man from Nottingham making his first ever visit - was the recipient of free entry, a glass and some beer to go with it.

The good, and bad, points have been dissected and the work has begun to organise the 22nd Festival to be held from 7th to 11th July 1999. If you'd like to get involved in organising or helping or have any ideas on how we can improve the event then get in touch with Nigel Barker on 01332 369748 or Derby CAMRA on 01332 770209

## Richard's a winner

The only person to send us some witty captions to the photo of the Beer Festival Committee meeting was Richard Lewis from Alsager, Stoke on Trent. He sent in seven which managed to insult Littleover, the Beer Festival Committee, Derby County, real ale, and your editor, amongst others. But his winner is "Tickers, Scratchers, Scoopers: do we really agree to providing a dregs bar. Better provide some ale as well." manages to insult the insultable.

Thank you Richard - a £10 cheque is on the way!



## Pubs in Films

Scottish author, Allan Foster is writing a film-fan's sightseeing guide to Britain. One of his categories is pubs used in films (NOT TV) so if your local has been noticed in Hollywood get in touch with him on 01537 223888.

## Beer in a box

Cambridge company Scientific Generics have come up with cardboard alco-boxes which could replace aluminium cans for beers and carbonated soft drinks. They claim their boxes are capable of holding any carbonated drink and able to withstand five times normal air pressure. The company are seeking a partner to develop the idea with several leading brewers said to be interested.

## Dead Poets Inn

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## DERBY CAMRA DIARY

### Branch Meetings

These start around 8.00 and should finish by 10.00 to allow some time for socialising:

**8th October** at the Alexandra, Siddals Road, Derby

**12th November** at the Foal and Firkin, The Morledge, Derby

### Survey trips

The serious business of checking on our area's pubs beer quality and drawing up the short-list for inclusion in the 2000 Good Beer Guide:

**2nd October** to the rural area North of Ashbourne  
**23rd October** to West Derbyshire.

Both buses leave from the Council House at 7.45. Phone Gareth Stead on 273501 if you'd like to come along.

### Socials and trips

We hold informal socials every Tuesday evening from about 9.00. Any number from 2 to 22 turn up and anyone interested in beer is welcome - we can usually be found in the lounge. Give Gareth Stead a call (see above) to check which pub.

Coach trips are fully booked at present - see next issue.

*From the team that brought you the Flowerpot and the Smithfield*

## The Friargate

114 Friar Gate

tel: 01332 297065

**Derby's only real ale house run by a woman**

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*From the team that brought you the Flower Pot*

## The Smithfield

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Quarter mile from Market Place

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