

Vol 1 No 6

August 79

THE LONDON DRINKER

10p

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



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Our Cover Photo shows Croydon and Sutton CAMRA members demonstrating their approval of a new "guv'nor" in an old-established Real Ale House in Sutton.

The New Inn in Myrtle Road Sutton has been selling Wethered's Bitter for some years. When the pub was recently modernised and enlarged, the former manager and now tenant, Tony Welfare, insisted on retaining the handpumps despite protests from the brewery. The result is that the tastefully redecorated pub now boasts three handpumps. Tony, a keen CAMRA supporter and Real Ale enthusiast, and keeps an excellent pint of Wethereds. With prospects of other Real Ales from Whitbread, as we mention elsewhere in this issue, Tony is looking forward to offering a wider choice.

CAMRA's South West London Branch will be staging the Second Norwood Beer Festival next month in Norwood Hall, Knight's Hill, SE27. The festival will run from Thursday August 23 to Sunday August 26th. As well as a range of Real Ales, there will be food and entertainment. Opening hours are 5.30p. to 10.30 p.m. on the Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 11p.m. Saturday, and 12noon to 2p.m. on the Sunday.

Norwood Hall is opposite West Norwood (Southern Region Station)

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

The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of either the London Branches of CAMRA or the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

Advertising in LONDON DRINKER is not expensive - and the magazine is reaching an increasing number of Beer Drinkers and pub users every month.

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THE
**LONDON
DRINKER**

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Prices

"I feel I must reply to your erroneous snippet regarding the Anglesea Arms. The implication that the beer is overpriced is far from true. Obviously a free house will be dearer; Young's Special at 40p doesn't seem expensive if I can pay 38p in a Young's House.

As a regular who doesn't live in the area, nor park a Ferrari outside, and the only chauffeur I employ drives a large red thing with a number on the front, I think you boomed. The days of ale at 4d a pint are long gone, and I can only presume that CAMRA employs people with a combination lock on their wallets who bring tears to the eyes of the Queen with their grip on the note!

If you want cheap beer, then you can always buy a beer kit. Don't knock a pub which hasn't got musical wallpaper, or people who are so young they think Chuck Berry is a fruit. Rumour has it that the Nag's Head will soon be seen in the American Express Commercial! As for selling Wells' Bombardier, the publican has no intention of selling it. Your reporter should use his typewriter before his glass, not vice-versa.

On a different point, what I.Q. is required for employment in the Promotions Department at Charles Wells? What with "Wells Fargo" and now "Bombardier" - no doubt for bars where brawling is commonplace - the mind boggles as to what comes next. Perhaps "Tunbridge", sold at Southern Region stations to commuters, "Sadlers" for opera buffs, or "Artesian" for Watney drinkers."

Yours critically,

J. Tuthill
Loughborough Park, SW9

We felt that the above letter was worth featuring on our Prices Page because it demonstrated well the kind of muddled thinking on prices that too many people display. We felt it worthwhile to point out the fallacies of Mr. Tuthill's arguments.

For a start, CAMRA is not complaining about all prices or saying that all ale is overpriced. We are perfectly aware of the existence of high rates of inflation and all that that entails. What we have been taking to task is the overpricing practiced by some brewers (often nearly monopolistic and caused by inefficiency) and the excessive prices that some London pubs charge.

Of course it is the attitude of people like Mr. Tuthill which helps to exacerbate the problem. For a start, it is not 'obvious' that a Free House will be dearer. There is a body of received wisdom that this is normal, but like so much received wisdom it is wrong. And even if it were the case, it makes little sense to compare the Anglesea's 40p with a Young's house's 38p if the latter is also overpriced. That some Young's tied houses overcharge is fact. Before the Budget increases, we knew of several pubs charging 40p for bitter (eg the New Town in

