

# THE LONDON DRINKER

70p

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

	<u>PUB 'A'</u>	<u>PUB 'B'</u>
SAM SMITH OLD BREWERY BITTER	41p	
WATNEY LONDON BITTER	-	50p
RAYMENTS BBA	41p	45p
GREENE KING ABBOT	46p	52p
RUDDLES BITTER	41p	46p
RUDDLES COUNTY	46p	54p
ARKELLS KINGSDOWN	-	78p

**JOIN THE DRINKER  
VALUE FOR MONEY  
CONTEST - SEE INSIDE**

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# This month

PRICES CONTEST	4	LOVE FROM	
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## Apologies

We must apologise for the omission of two clues in the August Cross-word. They were as follows:-

23 down. Game for eight squared squares (5)

24 down. Reminder of the past - like a Watneys Red container? (5)

In view of this error, we have extended the closing date to Sept 29th. Those enterprising individuals who have submitted solutions with inspired guesses as to the answers will also have their entries considered.

July's winner was Richard Lemon, 24 Arden Road, Furnace Green, Crawley West Sussex. He will be invited to be our guest at the GBMF at Ally Pally on September 2nd.

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.

For details, contact our Advertising Editor, Caroline Bennett at 11 Bettridge Road SW6, or telephone 077-8787 ext 324 (Tuesday to Friday only, please)

**THE  
LONDON  
DRINKER**

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# Will beer join the British bad quality product list?

EVERY YEAR at this time some of our beers can be virtual rubbish. I have written on this subject with great regularity, and you have invariably reported my complaint.

Each year, we in the front line, the licensees, have to face complaints from the public.

Do you think that the brewers are going down the same road as other industrialists?

In buying British clothes, shoes, electronic equipment, motor cycles, cars, etc, and you will find that the "couldn't care less" attitudes have put us well down the quality league.

Will beer be the next victim to decline?

W. HAYDON  
Earlsdon Cottage Inn,  
24, Warwick Street,  
Coventry, CV5 6ET

The above letter appeared recently in the publicans' Trade Paper, the "Morning Advertiser"

It's nice to see that Mr Haydon is awake again after all these years. Or has Coventry in some way missed the onslaught of JC, DD, Tartan, E, Red, Tankard, Trophy, lager, etc, etc, etc, which led many drinkers to realise the truth of his remarks years ago?

## FALSIES

Dear Sir,

I recently visited the "Elm Tree" in Harlesden High Street, where I found handpumps with large clips proclaiming Charrington TIA. My pleasure at finding these soon turned to dismay when I ordered a pint as instead of pulling the pump, the barman operated a little lever underneath which brought forth a pint complete with CO<sub>2</sub>!

Can this vile practice ever be stopped, or can at least the pubs concerned be made to state that the beer is pressurised. The Park Tavern in Merton Road, Wandsworth has signs stating this.

Miss K. Youngman  
Tulse Hill SW2

(This practice is clearly liable to mislead the drinker. It is best to complain to the local authority Trading Standards Officer about such cases. However, the response you will get can vary from borough to borough. Wandsworth took the view that the phony handpumps were likely to mislead, which is why the Park Tavern has its notices. Other local authorities seem to take the view that the practice is OK - which gives them the excuse to do nothing. ED)

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# 'Drinker' contest

Our cover this month shows the Price Lists in two London pubs (or to be strictly accurate, one pub and one Station bar). Both carry a wide selection of Real Ales, many of which are common to both establishments. The amenities in the two places are not all that different. Only the prices vary widely.

One of these establishments is in the running for our "Most Overpriced London Pub of the Year" award; the other is likely to prove a contender for "Best Value London Pub of the Year".

LONDON DRINKER is running this two-part contest as an alternative to the EVENING STANDARD's "Pub of the Year" Competition because we feel that the STANDARD has not got its own format right. With beer prices having taken something of a knock recently with the Brewers' rise and the Budget, we believe that a lot of drinkers are becoming more and more price-conscious. The high priced pub whose list is pictured on the cover is in fact a finalist in the STANDARD's competition, which suggests that value for money is not a criterion which will be taken into account by the Judging Panel. Presumably they will discuss with great eagerness the merits of a pub which has freshly squeezed orange juice, and whether it rates higher than another establishment which can offer you passion fruit juice for your lager, but while such crucial issues are being decided, it will be some lackey from the paper who has to hand over the money (if drinks for the panel of nonentities and sub-stars are not free, that is). The judges will in all probability not be asked to take price and value into account, and we regard this as a trifle unrealistic.

The form opposite has two sections, one for each part of the contest. Fill in either or both with the details as indicated and send it off to us. The form will appear again next month, and the final closing date will be October 31st. The names of the winners, and of as many runners-up as deserve mention, will be published in December's LONDON DRINKER, and suitable awards will be made to the winners. And here you have the chance to win a couple of gallons of ale from us. When you send in the pub details, suggest in the space provided, a suitable prize for the pub which wins the "Most Overpriced" Section. The best idea will, if it is practicable, be implemented and the suggestor will get the two gallons.

Please remember that we are not looking for the highest priced pint of beer, or the cheapest pint, but the best value or poorest value. A pint of strong beer like Ruddles' County or Old Peculier will obviously cost more than a pint of Young's Mild. So please take into account what the brews are when submitting your entry.

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Congratulations are due to Gerry Colvin, licensee of the Seven Stars in Footscray. He recently won the South Eastern Regional section of the "Best-Kept Cellar" competition for Charrington Houses. The first-rate pint of IPA from this Good Beer Guide listed pub is only 35p too. Yet again we see an example of quality going hand in hand with value.

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# Entry form

NAME & ADDRESS OF PUB \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

BREWERY (OR FREE HOUSE) \_\_\_\_\_

PRICES \_\_\_\_\_ p a pint (Saloon/Public Bar)\* for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ p a pint (Saloon/Public Bar) for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ p a pint (Saloon/Public Bar) for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ p a pint (Saloon/Public Bar) for \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PUB \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

BREWERY (OR FREE HOUSE) \_\_\_\_\_

PRICES \_\_\_\_\_ p a pint (Saloon/Public Bar) for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ p a pint (Saloon/Public Bar) for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ p a pint (Saloon/Public Bar) for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ p a pint (Saloon/Public Bar) for \_\_\_\_\_

I suggest the following as prize for the "Most Overpriced London Pub of the Year":-

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*If possible, include prices in Public Bar and Saloon, otherwise delete as appropriate.

Send completed forms to "Pub Prices Contest", LONDON DRINKER, 6 Ashburton Road, Croydon, Surrey. The Prize Suggestion part is optional.

