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APRIL 1983

12p

LONDON DRINKER

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



THIRD SANDOWN PARK
BEER FESTIVAL
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

BRANCH DIARY

If your branch is not mentioned below, please ring the Branch Contact. Events for April of which we have been notified are as follows:

ALL LONDON: Fri 8 (8.30 a.m.). Cycle to Reading AGM. Meet at STEPNEY GREEN Station.

CROYDON & SUTTON: Tue 19 (8.00) Branch Meeting SUN, North Street, Carshalton – Thu 14 (8.00) Social HARVEST HOME, Beddington Lane – Wed 27 (8.00) Social, THE KENLEY, Godstone Road (on A22 close to Kenley Station).

EAST LONDON & CITY: Tue 5 (8.00) Branch CHOBHAM ARMS, Chobham Road, E15 (upstairs room – Wed 6 (8.30) Darts ROYAL STANDARD, Kingsland Road, E2 – Tue 12 City Social DIRTY DICK'S, 202 Bishopsgate, EC2 – Wed 13, Joint Social with N. London CAMPBELLS, Bridport Place, N1 – Thu 14 Social, EARL DERBY, 119 London Road, E13 – Sat 16 (7.30 p.m.) Pub Crawl of E17 Start at CHESTNUT TREE, 757 Lea Bridge Road, E17. Tue 19 (8.00) Committee WHITE HORSE, 48 White Horse Road, E1 – Thu 21 (5.30) City Social SIR JOHN FALSTAFF, Eastcheap EC3 – Sat 23 (7.30) Pub Crawl of E16 start at CALIFORNIA, 12 Albert Road, E16 – Wed 27 (8.30), Darts ROYAL STANDARD, Kingsland Road, E2 – Thu 28 (8.00), Social CROWN & SEPTRIE (just changed from Charringtons to Shepherd Neame, 84 Ben Johnson Road, E1 – Sat 30 (7.00) Pub Crawl of E14 (Isle of Dogs) start at CHARLIE BROWN'S, 116 West India Dock Road, E14.

KINGSTON AND LEATHERHEAD: Thu 21 BRANCH AGM DRUIDS HEAD, Market Place, Kingston.

NORTH LONDON: Tue 5 Branch PRINCESS OF WALES, Chalcot Street, NW1 – Wed 13 Joint Social with E. London CAMPBELLS, Bridport Place, N1 (Sam Smith Film and talk by Brewery Rep.) – Tue 19, Two Pubs Social, CLISSOLD ARMS and ALEXANDRA, Fortis Green, N2 – Tue 26, Social MARQUIS OF ANGLESEA, Ashmill Street, NW1 (new Charles Wells outlet) – Mon 2 May, Mayday luncheon, Social DICKS BAR, Tottenham Lane, N8.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thu 14 (8.00) Open Committee POPES GROTTTO, Cross Deep, Twickenham – Mon 18 (8.00) BRANCH AGM, WHITE BEAR, Kingsley Road, Hounslow, Thu 28 (8.30) Social, WINDMILL, Windmill Road, Hampton Hill.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thu 14 (8.00), Branch HABERDASHERS ARMS, 47 Culvert Road, SW11 – Sun 24 (12 noon) Social DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, 39 Balham High Road, SW12 – Tue 26 (Joint with Kingston and Leatherhead) Crawl of Merton (8.00) NELSON ARMS, (8.30) PRINCESS ROYAL, (9.15) TRAFALGAR (Gales & Fullers).

BRANCH CONTACTS

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

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A new broom – yes. But sweeping clean? – Well, that is unnecessary when everything is in order. We may be a new Editorial Team, but we have an unenviable task of following our predecessors, Ron Atkins and Mike Hammer-sley, who have run LONDON DRINKER virtually unaided for so long.

A short while ago one of our contacts was told: “London Drinker”? Oh, you mean SOUTH London Drinker!” What rubbish. A number of our team may live near to each other and South of the Thames. (Incidentally, a larger number don’t). But this is an ALL – London beer magazine, and we can only publish what we receive. If your area isn’t featured, it darned well should be, and either no-one is writing, or no-one is campaigning.

The Editorial Team is here and ready to go, with plenty of experience in technical journalism (in the case of one, over eleven years). But with all the goodwill, experience and enthusiasm in the world, without the information we might just as well pack up. So go to it – deathless prose isn’t essential. Just give us the tip, or jot down a few lines, and we will do the rest. Or better still send us your articles. We want to make a go of this, and rely on our readers for support. Over to you

C.C., A.P., M.S.

■ WIN A POLYPIN

of real ale, which is the prize in a competition announced in last What’s Brewing. All you have to do is to produce one of the designs chosen for CAMRA’s Christmas Cards. No restrictions, except that they must relate to Real Ale. There is no limit to the number of entries or stipulation as to the medium used.

■ THE GOOD BEER GUIDE FOR 1983 reached ninth place in the Best Sellers List for February. Order your copy from CAMRA Limited, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW. Cost £3.50 inc. p & p. Cheques payable to CAMRA Limited., please.

■ B & W BEER COMPANY CLOSES

The B & W Beer Company Limited went into liquidation at the end of February. The future of the company, which was a pioneer in the wholesale sector of the trade and is a sister company of the Sun Freehouse in Holborn, looks uncertain. The Union Brewery, which is also part of the B & W Beer Company, also has a doubtful future. In a press statement Roger Berman, the Company Chairman, said that increased competition and other bad luck, including substantial losses made at the London Beer Festival last year, had all added to the downfall of the company. Roger Berman also said that, although Plums 1 in Islington is also to close, his other pubs, the Sun and the Moon at Holborn, Plums 2 in E14 and Plums 3 (formerly the Seven Stars) at Blackheath, are unaffected by the B & W Beer Company going into liquidation and will continue to trade as normal.

■ SWEET NEWS FOR THE BITTER END.

The Bitter End real ale off license, which first opened its doors in December 1980, has moved up the road to 139 Masons Hill, Bromley. The shop which lists 70 different beers including Hook Norton, Theakstons and Samuel Smiths as well as Shepherd Neame and King and Barnes among its range realised that its original premises were undersized within six months of opening but has spent a year completing the legal and building work. The move has also lead to improved parking facilities – a problem at their previous address.

■ THE NEW WATNEY REVOLUTION

Let’s face it, Watney’s was the subject of CAMRA’s first witch-hunt. Do you remember the comment about their products in the first Good Beer Guide? It was “avoid like the plague”. The situation has now reversed itself, and in the majority of Watney’s houses you now stand a good chance of at least one Real Ale from their range. These are: London Bitter, Stag, Webster’s, Mann’s IPA and Ruddle’s County. Within the next year, according to the brewery, any Watney’s house so desiring will be able to have hand-pumped Real Ale, even if it necessitates installing a cellar. And they said we were backing a loser.....



