

VOL.5 No.4
MAY 1983

12p

LONDON DRINKER

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



THE BEDFORD HOTEL, BALHAM

The "No Entry" sign no longer applies to
Real Ale drinkers. See page 16

photo: John Elliott.

BRANCH DIARY

If your branch is not mentioned below please ring the branch contact. Events for May of which we have been notified are as follows. Branches please send details to Andy Pirson.

BEXLEY: Wed 18 (8.00) Branch Meeting TRAFALGAR, West St. Erith – Mon 23 Social KINGS HEAD, Brasted.

BROMLEY: Thu 12 (8.00) Social WHITE HORSE, Palace Road, Bromley (Springfield Bitter) – Thu 26 (8.00) Branch Meeting ANERLEY ARMS, Risdale Road, SE20 – Sun 5 June (12 noon) Social BUFF ORPINGTON, Green Street Green, Orpington.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Tue 3 (8.00) Branch Meeting HAYFIELD TAVERN, 158 Mile End Road, E.1 (upstairs) – Wed 4 (8.00) Darts SCARBOROUGH ARMS, 33 St. Marks St. E1 – Thu 5 (8.00) Social OLD KINGS HEAD, Upper Clapton Road, E5 – Sat 7 (6.30) E11 Crawl Start NORTHCOTE HOTEL, 110 Grove Green Rd Finish EAGLE HOTEL, Holly Bush Hill – Thu 12 (5.30) City Social SWAN, Tudor St. EC4 – Tue 17 (8.00) Committee FISH & RING, White Horse St, E1 (Saloon Bar) – Thu 19 (5.30) City Social CASTLE, Furnival St, EC4 – Sat 21 (7.00) E5 Leaside Crawl Start ROBIN HOOD, High Hill Ferry – Thu 26 (8.00) Social TIGER, Wick Rd, E9 – Sat 28 (7.00) E8 “Unknown’s Crawl Start PRINCESS DIANA – Tue 31 (8.00) Join N. London’s Allcomers Mild Social MALT & HOPS, 33 Caledonian Rd, N1 (near Kings Cross 3/4 milds).

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Thu 12 (8.00) Branch Meeting WOODIES, Thetford Road, New Malden – Thu 19 (8.00) Joint Social with N. Surrey CROWN, Russell Road, Shepperton.

NORTH LONDON: Tue 10 (8.00) BRANCH AGM - THE LAMB, Lambs Conduit Street, WC1 – Mon 2 (11.00) Lunchtime Social DICK’S BAR, Tottenham Lane, E8 – Tue 17 (8.00) Social J.J. MOONS, Landseer Rd. N19 – Tue 24 (8.00) Two Pub Social (8.00) ADMIRAL MANN, Hargrave Place, N19 and LEIGHTON ARMS, Brecknock Rd, N19 – Tue (8.00) Social MALT & HOPS, 33 Caledonian Rd, N1 – Tue 7 June (8.00) Social KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN, 7 Queens Terrace, NW8 (2nd Charles Wells outlet in London) – Every Sun. lunchtime in May Social VICTORIA, Mornington Terrace, NW1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thu 12 (8.00) Open Committee WHITE CROSS, Riverside, Richmond. – Mon 16 (8.00) Branch Meeting FIVE OAKS, Staines Road, Twickenham.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Tue 3 (8.00) Open Committee MELBOURNE ARMS, 81 Sandy Hill Rd, SE18 – Mon 9 (8.00) Branch Meeting (1984 GBG selection) DUKE, Creek Road, SE8 – Fri 20 Charity Pub Crawl of Greenwich. Details from branch contact – Mon 6 June (8.00) Branch Meeting OLD NUN’S HEAD Nunhead Green SE15 (Beer at 50p/pint on production of CAMRA membership card – Fri/Sat 10/11 June GREENWICH REAL ALE FESTIVAL – See advert for details.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thu 5 (8.30) Social BRICKLAYERS ARMS, 32 Waterman St. SW15 – Thu 19 Branch Meeting BEDFORD HOTEL, Bedford Hill, SW12 – Sun 22 (12 noon) Sunday Social DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, Balham High Road, SW12.

WEST MIDDLESEX: Tue 3 Open Committee and Social TIMBER CARRIAGE, Northolt Road, Harrow (Lounge Bar) – Mon 9 (8.30) Games Night BRIDGE HOTEL, Western Ave, Greenford (by flyover, Public Bar) – Wed 18 BRANCH AGM DRAYTON COURT HOTEL, The Avenue, West Ealing (Room off Saloon Bar. All members are asked to attend) – Sat 21 Rickmansworth Crawl – Meet Harrow on the Hill L.T. Station 6.45 p.m.

BRANCH CONTACTS

BEXLEY	DES WARD	Erith 45716(H)	Erith 33020 x 4 (W)
BROMLEY	ROGER MASON	464 2909 (H)	407 4466 x 294(W)
CROYDON & SUTTON	DAVE HAMER	647 0992 (H) Epsom	41511 x 66 (W)
E.LONDON & CITY	CHRISTIAN MUTEAU		636 2169 (W)
ENFIELD & BARNET	TONY MORGAN	440 2186 (H)	283 1000 x 2944 (W)
KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD	JOHN NORMAN	546 3476 (H)	Weybridge 47282 x 2659 (W)
NORTH LONDON	Laurie Gordon	448 1692 (H)	359 1340 (W)
RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW	ANDY PIRSON	977 1633 (H)	
SOUTH-WEST ESSEX	CHRIS CASHMORE	Brentwood 211703(H)	283 1030 x 356 (W)
SOUTH-EAST LONDON	DAVE FOORD	690 5104 (H)	632 5886 (W)
SOUTH-WEST LONDON	JOHN DAVIS	670 0734	
WEST LONDON	RODNEY HOLLOWES	723 2798 (H)	
WEST MIDDLESEX	KEITH WILDEY	423 1243 (H)	



WHY DID YOU JOIN CAMRA

The variety of motives for joining the Campaign is probably endless, ranging from preserving part of our heritage to getting a good choice of drinks. I did so simply for information – knowing where to get a good pint. As a cyclist I don't want a gutful of gas. I want to know where to find a decent pint in unfamiliar territory.

As a youngster I spent a fair amount of time in a Simonds pub run by relatives, and when I first pulled a pint I was still in short trousers. My teens were passed in Young's country and, in consequence, Real Ale has never been a novelty to me. No need for convincing.

It happened one evening in December 1972 that I was staying in Southampton and went out for a pint with a friendly Youth Hostel warden. We visited a Gales pub, the Bay Tree, and there, for the first time, I encountered a CAMRA branch. I joined on the spot. Not that I'm a campaigner by nature – far too conservative to indulge in banner-waving and the like. But I've never regretted joining – much the reverse. Apart from the required information, I've made a number of friends, had a lot of fun – beer festivals, brewery visits and the like – and I'm never short of a topic of conversation over a pint, in any company. As another result I've landed this job.....But then, that IS campaigning, and here I go with a bit more.

We in London are spoiled for choice. There must be precious few British beers that you can't sample somewhere in the metropolis. More and more beers are going back to traditional beers and methods of dispense. Even the old bogeyman, Watney's, is doing the drinker proud, if you ignore price. The battle seems won; CAMRA had apparently done its job in London. NONSENSE! Once complacency sets in, so does the rot. *And the rot is starting.* Members are beginning

to feel that it's not worth the effort to attend the occasional Branch meeting, or to pass on information about useful discoveries. Fairly soon the licensed trade will form the impression that we're finished and slip back into the bad old ways.

CAMRA was instrumental in saving traditional beers from oblivion, but it still happens. It is easier to remove a handpump than to install one – “We don't get any call for it” – and there is no questioning the fact that it is easier to order, keep and serve bright beer or fizz than the real thing. It's up to us to show the licensed trade what we want, and to protect a gullible public from the sort of situation that led to CAMRA being formed. The customer IS always right, even if he has become conditioned to keg and wants it – AND WE DON'T. But unless we show ourselves as a knowledgeable group worthy of consideration, the trade will assume CAMRA is defeated, and that they have won the battle – AND THEY WILL BE RIGHT.
Martin Smith.

NORTH LONDON NEWS

The Knights of St. John, Queens Terrace, St. John's Wood, NW8, is now a Charles Wells tied house, selling Eagle Bitter and Bombadier. The nearby Ordnance Arms is also up for sale – perhaps there is a chance of more beers for NW8, which already has Greene King and Fullers tied houses.

The Victoria, in North Hill, Highgate N6, has now added Wethereds S.P.A. (a new brew for London) to its existing range of Wethereds Bitter, Winter Royal, Fremilins Tusker and Flower's Original.

The Hornsey (N18) postal district is now “100% real” with the Hornsey Tavern, the latest convert, selling Watneys Beers.

COPY DATES:

The current printer's schedules require scripts on the 2nd Monday of each month, which naturally means a different date each issue. In order to simplify matters, may we please have all copy by the **FIRST** of the month *PRECEEDING* publication. Everything for publication in the **JULY** issue should be in our hands by **JUNE 1st** and so on.

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

