

VOL.5 No.6
July 1983

12p

LONDON DRINKER

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



The Crown & Greyhound, Dulwich. Photo: John Elliott.

BRANCH DIARY

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

ALL LONDON SOCIALS - Mon 11 (8.00) GBG 10 Year Certificate Presentation FOX & HOUNDS, 29 Passmore Street, Pimlico, SW1 - Tue 26 (7.30) GBG 10 Year Certificate Presentation STAR TAVERN, 6 Belgrave Mews West, SW1.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Tue 5 (8.00) Branch Meeting BEDFORD HOTEL, 200 Victoria Park Road, E9. - Thu 7 (8.00) Social MANBY ARMS, 19 Water Lane, E15 - Tue 12 (5.30) City Social PEACOCK, 41 Minorities, EC3 - Sat 16 Chingford Crawl, start LARKSHALL, Larkshall Road, E4, 7.00 - Tue 19 (8.00) Committee Meeting ROYAL STANDARD, 84 Victoria Park Road, E9 - Sat 23 Pete Robert's Essex Ale Ramble to Marks Tey and Colchester. Book day return to Colchester. Meet Liverpool Street Station. (10.05 Colchester train) via Ilford (10.15), Romford (10.21) & Marks Tey (11.06) - Tue 26 Social SWAN, 1 Balaam Street, E13 - Sat 30 E2 "Unknowns" Crawl. Start DUNDEE ARMS, 339 Cambridge Heath Road, E2, 7.00.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Thu 7 (8.30) Branch Meeting FOLEY ARMS, Foley Road, Claygate.

NORTH LONDON: Tue 12 (8.00) Branch Meeting SWAN, 125 Caledonian Road, N1 - Tue 5 (8.00) Two Pub Social CANONBURY TAVERN, 21 Canonbury Place, N1 then COMPTON ARMS, 4 Compton Ave, N1 - Mon 18 (7.30) Arrows with SPBW VICTORIA & ALBERT BAR, Marylebone Station, NW1 - Fri 22 Belsize Park Crawl GEORGE (8.00), HAVERSTOCK (8.45) both Haverstock Hill then WASHINGTON (9.30), Englands Lane, LOAD OF HAY (10.15), Brent Street, all NW3 - Tue 26 (8.00) Two Pub Social ROBINSON CRUSOE, 177 Green Lane then ROCHESTER CASTLE, 143 Stoke Newington High Street, both N16 - Tue 2 Aug (8.00) Two Pub Social GREEN MAN, 125 Slough Lane then PLOUGH, Kingsbury Road, both NW9 - Every Sunday Lunchtime, Pub of the Month CHEQUERS, 841 High Road, N17.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Mon 18 (8.30) Branch Meeting SWAN INN, Upper Square, Isleworth - Mon 11 Social KINGS ARMS Lion Gate, Hampton Court.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Fri 15 (8.00) Branch Meeting LORD RAGLAN, Wandsworth Road, SW8 (Upstairs) - Sun 24 (12.00) Social DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, Balham High Road, SW12 - Thu 28 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting PIED BULL, 418 Streatham High Road, SW16.

WEST LONDON: Thu 21 (8.00) Branch Meeting WHITE HORSE, 1 Parsons Green, SW6 - See also All London Socials.

BRANCH CONTACTS

BEXLEY	DES WARD	Erith 45716(H)	Erith 33020 x 4 (W)
BROMLEY	ROGER MASON	464 2909 (H)	407 4466 x 294(W)
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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)
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Contributions, correspondence and subscriptions (£1.40 for 6 months) should be sent to: Stan Tomkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

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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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Most of us, at one time or another, enjoy a good moan about pubs, beer, service, hours, juke boxes, piped music or anything else you care to mention connected with drinking in the public house. It is, indeed, virtually unique to Britain, as elsewhere in Europe no one is fortunate enough to have an institution devoted solely to the consumption of alcohol. Recently, of course, more and more landlords and breweries have been trying to widen the appeal of the pub by providing food and, indeed, in some establishments you wonder if you are in a pub at all. Try ordering a pint in some pubs at lunchtime!

I have a pet hate at the moment, and others have agreed that the problem, if anything, is on the increase and widespread in London. Dear reader, I talk of undernourished pints, pints with not only a head, but shoulders as well. In other words a pint that is not a pint.

A few years ago, a contentious court action and ruling decided that, in the case of Guinness, the head of a pint is viewed as part of a pint. This ruling opened the way for unscrupulous land-lords to attempt to apply the ruling to all draught beers. Last year, after another case brought to the courts by the Yorkshire Weights and Measures Department, the judge again ruled that all draught beers, unless sold by metered pumps, could fit into the Guinness category (i.e. head as part of the pint); However, an important rider was added to the ruling and that was "unless the customer asks for it to be topped up with beer". So, the onus was placed on the customer to make sure he got a full pint. You may ask "What is the problem?" until you try visiting a few different establishments and compare the service.

Many bar people have been instructed by the landlord/lady to make sure the customer's pint glass is always full, and are quick to act upon complaints. These are usually the places where the beer is of an excellent

quality and where the place is packed with regulars; the result of a conscientious gov'nor. And what of the other places? They range from pubs where a polite request for a top-up elicits strange looks, to pubs where the same request brings forth verbal insults. When you think how much we are paying for a full pint, this response is a scandal. These pubs are often run by publicans who have worked out their profit margins to such an extent as to include sales of beer which is deliberately under-measured, so the barman is under instruction to underfill if possible. Hence the insults. The same publicans are often those who follow the despicable and unhygienic practice of "returns" - but more on this subject in a later issue.

Such publicans are thankfully in a minority and as I see it the main problem with partially filled pints results from bad management and training. Many pubs are chronically understaffed when they are at their busiest and speedy service under pressure will almost invariably result in a short pint. When this is not the case often the barman is unfamiliar with the dispensing device (usually a hand-pump) and operates it in a totally inefficient and wasteful manner, often pumping more beer over his person and the drip tray than into the glass. Then the excuse sometimes given is "Two pulls is one pint, mate". Other barmen are the opposite - too scared to spill a drop, even when lifting the glass from the nozzle to the customer. Why, oh why cannot a publican take a few minutes to instruct new barstaff on dispense! This must save money and avoid complaints. Then again, some landlords never drink draught beer and can only operate an optic. Usually in these cases, the beer is out of condition anyway.

To conclude on a lighter note, I've been thinking of the few occasions when I have not insisted on a top-up: (1) when offered free beer, (2) the barmaid is particularly attractive and is starting to chat you up, (3) during "afters" or "lates", (4) at 3.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m. exactly (5) when the bar is very crowded and you get served out of turn because you are a regular, What about you?

Chris Cobbold.



BARGAIN BEERS

ALL DAY

Dick's Bar, N8; Welch Bros., N2; the Sun* in Carlshalton; the Royal George in SE19; the Royal Albion in Hounslow; the Ranelagh, N11; the Crane, SW18; the Anchor & Hope, E5, the Cricketers in Enfield; the Duke of Cambridge in SW11; the Pint Pot in N1; the Prince of Wales, at Thornton Heath; the Gardeners Arms in Mitcham and the Nags Head in NW3. SW5*Clarence, Old Brompton Road 20p off a pint, SW6 Cock Tavern, North End Road, 20p off a pint.

EARLY EVENING

Ship & Shovel* in WC2 (Monday and Thurs); the Moon* in WC2; the Old Windmill in Hadley Highstone; the Salisbury in Barnet; the Wattenden Arms in Kenley, J.J. Moons in N19; the Malt & Hops* in N1; Marlers Bar In N19; the Red Lion, EC1; the Princess Alexandra in W11; the Crown, Albert Embankment, SE1 and the Ship, Borough High St. SE1. Streets, Lower Marsh SE1.

OTHER EVENING

Leather Exchange Tavern* in SE1; Worcester Arms, W1, King's Head, SW19; the Golden Lion SW1, the King's Head, W3, the Norfolk Hotel* (Mon-Tue) in SW7; and the Imperial in WC2.

LUNCHTIME (part)

Bricklayer's Arms, EC2, Edinburgh, SE15; Sun, Lambs Conduit Street, WC1, Ship & Shovel* in WC2; the Worcester Arms, W1; the King's Head W3, the Golden Lion, SW1, the Ebury Arms, SW1, J.J. Moons N19; Marlers Bar in N19; the Salisbury, Barnet; the Princess Alexandra in W11 and the Tramshed* in SE18.

SPECIALS

The Malt & Hops* in N1 (weekends and Tuesday), J.J. Moons in N19 (Fridays); the King's Head, W3 (Sunday evenings); the Crown* in NW8 (Fridays); the Norfolk Hotel* in SW7 (Sunday).

Would branches consider what price now qualifies for entry in this column and inform the Editor as soon as possible.

REAL ALE and REAL JAZZ

AT THE

Prince of Orange

118 LOWER ROAD

ROTHERHITHE

SE16

237 9181

LIVE JAZZ SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK PLUS SUNDAY LUNCHTIME

RESIDENT REAL ALES: TRUMANS MILD, BITTER AND BEST BITTER.

3 MINUTES FROM SURREY DOCKS UNDERGROUND

BUSES 1, 47 and 188 PASS THE PUB

