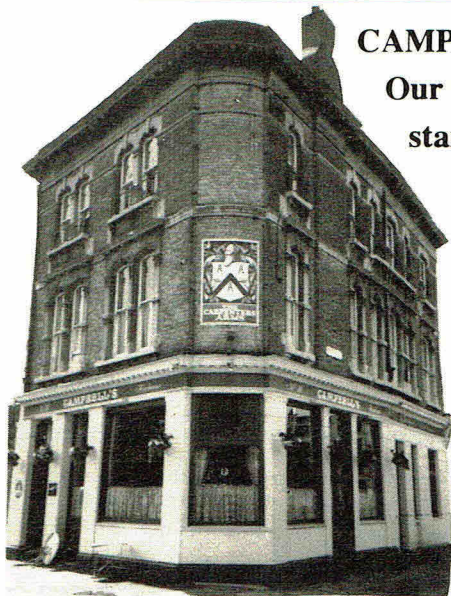




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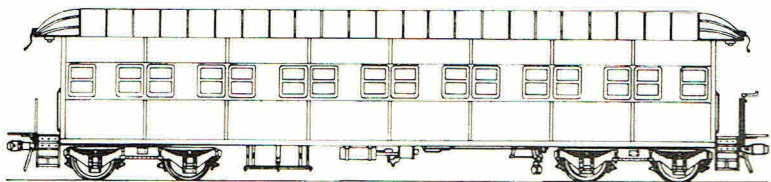
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LONDON DRINKER



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Photo: John Elliott



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

No 5

BRANCH DIARY

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

CROYDON & SUTTON: Tue 4 (8.00) Darts Match v. Bromley Branch. RAILWAY BELL, North End, West Croydon — Tue 11 Croydon Old Town Walkabout. ROSE & CROWN, Church Street (Dep.9.00pm) — Wed 19 (8.30) Branch Meeting. SUN, North Street, Carshalton.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Tue 4 (8.00) Branch Meeting. Venue to be announced — Mon 3 (7.30 for 8.00) Shep's Night. BISHOP'S FINGER, West Smithfield, EC1 — Thur 13 (5.30) Social. HAT & TUN, 3 Hutton Wall, EC1 followed by COACH & HORSES, 26 Ray Street, EC1 — Mon 17 (5.30) Social. BOUNCING BAKER, Cousin Lane, (off Upper Thames Street) — Wed 26 (8.00) Social. EAGLE, 76 Holly Bush Hill, E11.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Sun 2 (12.00) First Sunday drinks. PLOUGH, Blackbrook — Thur 6 (8.30) Branch Meeting. BLACK LION, 58 Brighton Road, Surbiton — Thur 20 (8.30) Social. SWAN, Manor Road, Walton.

NORTH LONDON: Tue 4 (8.00) Branch Meeting. VICTORIA, Morningson Terrace, NW1 — Tue 11 (8.00) Two Pub Social. TRAFALGAR, Castle Road, NW1 then DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, Cowford Road, NW5 — Tue 18 (8.00) Two Pub Social. WHITE HART, 51 The Hale, N17 then J.J. MOONS, 11 Markfield Road, N15 — Tue 25 (8.00) Two Pub Social. ISLAND QUEEN, Noel Road, N1 then NARROW BOAT, St. Peter Street, N1 — Sunday lunchtimes in June, Pub of the Month. COMPTON ARMS, Compton Avenue, N1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thu 6 (8.30) Committee Meeting. DUKE'S HEAD, The Vineyard, Richmond — Mon 17 (8.30) Branch Meeting. EARL RUSSELL, 274 Hanworth Road, Hounslow — Thu 27 (8.30) Social. ROYAL TAR, 3 High Street, Brentford.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Mon 10 (8.00) Branch Meeting. LORD CLYDE, 27 Clenham Street, SE1 — 4-6 July, Greenwich Beer Festival. Borough Halls, Royal Hill, SE10. See July Drinker for details.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Sun 9 (12.00 prompt) Sunday Social. DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, Balham Hill, SE12 — Fri 21 Hooray Henry Crawl of Wimbledon Village. CROOKED BILLET (8.00), HAND IN HAND (8.15), ROSE & CROWN (9.00), BREWERY TAP (9.30).

WEST LONDON: Wed 5 (8.00) Pub of the Month Social. SUN & 13 CANTONS, 21 Great Pultney Street, Soho, W1 — Thur 20 (8.00) Branch Meeting. DEVONSHIRE ARMS, 21A Devonshire Street, Marylebone, W1.

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.

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

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: (£1.70 for 6 months) should be sent to: Stan Tomkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

WORD SEARCH WINNER.

The winner of the April Word Search competition was Mr. D. Jones of 21 Waterloo Road, East Ham, E6. Condolences to S. Hanson of Victoria Park, Manchester who found 25 brews. Altogether 5 correct entries were received.

INFORMATION PLEASE.

We are hoping to re-introduce Bargain Beers and a Rip-Off section. Any information from interested parties will be most gratefully received — and published.

GUEST EDITORIAL

For some time now misgivings have been expressed about the sales of alcoholic drink in off-licences. This does not refer to the traditional pub off-licence but rather to the supermarkets, corner shops and petrol stations that have cashed-in on this booming bonanza.

Since the passing of the 1961 Licensing Act, off-licences have increased by over 60% whilst full on-licensed premises have fallen by nearly 10%. If this trend continues, then the future of the pub as a local community centre could be in grave difficulty. Most of us would agree that the amendments to the licensing laws in the early sixties were welcomed by a great number of people since they offered easier access to sales of drinks, and also offered the prospect of healthy brewery competition. Experience has, however, shown that exploitation has damaged not merely the facility itself but also the accepted codes of competitive practice and social responsibility. This in turn has led to (a) unfair competition and (b) alcohol abuse, both of which have a detrimental affect on the traditional public house and its customer. The big brewery combines can, once again, be seen in their true colours of (a) financial muscle and (b) total disregard for public interest. Huge discounts are offered for goods supplied which leaves no possible margin for competition by the smaller independent brewer. Backed, of course, by massive advertising! And what do the public get - A neatly packaged bundle of characterless canned crap! For this little bundle of fun the tied public house has to pay the bill by way of ever-recurring price increases.

In addition to this grossly unfair competition, off-licences may trade from early morning to 11pm without an afternoon break. Some

disregard the law and sell drink even later. And in supermarkets there is no supervision on the sales of alcohol as there is in public houses. Are we supposed to call this "fair" competition? No wonder the off-licence market is booming, with financial incentives such as these and with little or no restrictions. Why can't public houses be treated similarly? And as for sales of drink in petrol stations, how insane can you get? Who will be first with the slogan "Get a tiger in your can . . . and arrive home DEAD on time!"?

On the social abuse side, there is:

(a) increasing evidence of alcoholism arising from drinking in the home. These statistics are fed into the national network of alcohol abuse and used by the temperance societies as a means of denigrating the public houses. And (b) we have all seen or read about football holliganism. Have you noticed cans and bottles are invariably used by these youngsters? These are almost certainly obtained in supermarkets which are open to the public and have no supervision. Again, the public house gets the blame.

For the protection of our traditional public house and its customer we must seek an end to these blatant unfair practices.

Jim Scanlon

KARFA AND BEER EVENTS

This summer the Kent branches of KARFA will be running beer trials at a number of Kent County Cricket Club matches.

On Saturday June 20th we will be at a special match in aid of "Project 300" at Oxford Cricket Club, near Sevenoaks. The local club will be playing a Kent Select XI.

From Saturday July 15th until Tuesday July 16th we will be at Mile Park, Maidstone, for the County Championship and Sunday League matches against Northamptonshire.

As usual we will be running the tent throughout Canterbury Cricket Week, which this year runs from the 13th until the 16th of August. Dinner and Warwickshire provide the opposition for these matches.

Kent Cricket Club also hosts the 10th Kent Beer Festival. This will be at the St. Lawrence Ground, Canterbury from July 25-27.

It is hoped to run more special events at the tent, involving the Kent players and possibly some of the opposition.

For further details of any of these events, contact Don Ward at 35 Vickers Road, Erith, Kent DA 5 1JH (Telephone Erith 6096 (8) or Orgington 8537 ext. 44 (Friday only)).

BRANCH CONTACTS

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| E.LONDON & CITY | JULIAN FARROW | 980 0564 (H&W) | |
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