

FREE!!!!
PLEASE TAKE
ONE!



Issue
12
Summer
2006

CAMRA ANGLE

The **FREE** quarterly newsletter from the
Sunderland & South Tyneside Branch of CAMRA



New Brewery in South Shields

After reaching full brewing capacity
at the Robin Hood the Jarrow



Brewery are to begin further brewing on South Tyne-
side at their Westoe Brewhouse on the ground floor of
the Maltings Brewery Tap in Claypath Lane. The first
brew will take place on Thursday August 10th and will
be the first commercially brewed ale in South Shields
for over 50 years. The first beer will be on tap on
Thursday August 24th from 7.30pm in the Maltings
and commemorative bottles of this first brew will be
available on the night.

BULL LANE



Going Strong

Rumours of the Bull lane Brewery closing down
are entirely unfounded, in fact the brewery is
going from strength to strength, our Brewery
Liaison Officer, Michael Wynn reported at the

BULL LANE



last branch meeting (held in the Dolly Peel South Shields on Tuesday 9th May), that the
brewery is undergoing a trial bottling of some of it's beers, the cask ales are steadily
becoming available nationally and since the brewery is now running at capacity they
have applied for planning permission to extend the premises, that doesn't sound like a
brewery about to close to your editor , in fact it sounds as strong as a bull :-)

The National Beer Scoring Scheme

Have you ever wondered how CAMRA members select pubs for the CAMRA Good Beer Guide? The National Beer Scoring Scheme (NBSS) is a 0-5 point scale for judging beer quality in pubs. It is an easy to use system that has been designed to assist CAMRA branches in selecting pubs for the Good Beer Guide and also monitor beer quality by encouraging CAMRA members from any part of the world to report on beer quality in any pub in the UK.

If you are a CAMRA member, we want you to tell us about the quality of beer in the pubs you visit.

If you are not a member why not join Europe's most successful consumer organisation by filling in the application form on the back page?

How do I take part?

First of all you need a supply of NBSS cards. You can get these from your local CAMRA branch (look out for them at your local CAMRA beer festival), you can download them from the members area of the CAMRA website and you can also get them from CAMRA HQ.

What do I need to record?

- Your name & Membership No.
- The date you visited the pub
- The Name of the Pub
- Where the pub is located
- A score out of 5
- The name of the beer (optional)

What do the scores mean?

0 Undrinkable. No cask ale available or so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it.

1 Poor. Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.

2 Average. Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.

3 Good. Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.

4 Very Good. Excellent beer in excellent condition.

5 Perfect. Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

How often do I complete a card?

This is down to personal preference.

You may choose to score per beer or per pub, averaging your score for each pub visit. In the latter case, the beer name (unless you've only been drinking a single beer) can be left blank.

How is the information being collated?

The NBSS uses credit card size booklets, which should be passed onto your local CAMRA branch who in turn (after taking any local cards) will pass them onto HQ. The completed cards will then be distributed to the appropriate branch.

For more information on the National Beer Scoring Scheme, please email brett.laniosh@camra.org.uk

Note that requests for blank cards should go to your local branch who in turn can order them from cres-sida.feiler@camra.org.uk

Contact Us!

We welcome comments & submissions from fellow drinkers which can be e-mailed to our editor at barry.king@camra-angle.co.uk, or posted to the him at the following address:- Barry King, 19 Orchid Close, South Shields, South Tyneside. NE34 0BE. 0191 4546477
Alternatively why not come along in person to our next branch meeting which will be in the **Alum House, South Shields** on Tuesday 12th Sept. at 8pm



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Manager: Martin Thompson

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Beer by Bus- Sunderland-Penshaw, Great Lumley, Chester- le- Street, No Place, and Consett

Monday to Saturday daytime, there is a half-hourly service from Sunderland to Consett on Go North East services 775 and 778, leaving Park Lane Interchange at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour. The journey to Consett takes 90 minutes and the first stop is the **Grey Horse** on Sherburn Terrace. Service 775 drops you off outside the door while 778 requires a short walk from the bus station or No. 1 Roundabout. The Grey Horse is home to Consett Aleworks, which started brewing in July. It is a small pub consisting of a bar, lounge and outside drinking area in front of the pub. Two Consett beers – Red Dust and Steel Town were on offer as well as Mordue Workie Ticket, Northumberland Irish Stout, Daleside Special Bitter and Cameron Strongarm. Real cider is also on sale.

The busses back from Consett leave at 3 (775) and 33 minutes past the hour. The next point of call is adjacent to the bus station, Wetherspoon's **Company Row**, a new aircraft hangar- style building. The beer range was typically Wetherspoons - Directors, Marston Bitter and Pedigree, Shepherd Neame Spitfire and High House Farm Nell's Best.

Back on the bus, a ten- minute journey will bring you to the **Jolly Drivers**. A large pub it still displays its Vaux signage. The pub retains a separate public bar and 2 beers were on offer- Black Sheep Bitter and Caledonian Deuchars IPA.

The next stage is quite long, so you would be advise to use the comfort facilities before re-joining the bus for our next stop, the **Beamish**

Mary Inn at No Place, the bus stops opposite the pub. The Mary is the only North East Pub to win CAMRA's national pub of the year award. The large rambling building consists of a public bar with games room and a lounge- restaurant. The décor is eclectic to say the least. Beers on sale were Bull Lane Nowtsa Matta XB, Copper Dragon Golden Pippin, Black Sheep Emmerdale, Theakston Old Peculier, Big Lamp No Place and BSB (Back Shift Bitter), both brewed for the pub. Thatcher's cider was also available. The pub holds a popular beer festival in January. From No Place, the bus passes the main gate of Beamish Open Air Museum. Visitors to the museum can visit the **Sun Inn**. The recreated 1913 pub is run by John Taylor who owns the Clarendon and Bull Lane Brewery in Sunderland and Bull Lane beers are usually available. Next stop is Chester- le- Street. Chester is a beer desert with only 2 pubs in the centre selling the real stuff- the **Market Tavern** sells Black Sheep Bitter. This pub is busy lively most of the time. Chester's other outlet is the **Butcher's Arms** on Middle Chare- on the left half- way up Front Street. This traditional town centre boozier offers Marston Pedigree, Cameron Strongarm and guest ales from the Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery.

Return to Front Street to catch a bus for the next stop. Go North East Service 21A augments the 775/778 for the next leg, which will pass Durham County Cricket Club's Riverside ground and Lumley Castle. The **Old England** in Great Lumley is a large modern split level lounge bar. Three real ales are on offer, but sadly, since the pub was sold the Sir John Fitzgerald group, the beer range is somewhat limited. Again Black Sheep Bitter and Deuchars IPA were on offer. We rejoin the 775/ 778 back to Sunderland. The

bus passes Peshaw where all three pubs sell real ale. The **Country Park** usually has a rotating guest beer, while the Monument sells Jennings Cumberland Ale and the Grey Horse offers Greene King Old Speckled Hen and Charles Wells Bombardier. For a full description of the Peshaw pubs, see the Peshaw Pints crawl in *Angle 10*. As we reach Sunderland, the **Hastings Hill** is now selling the real stuff after a recent refurbishment and is worth a look. The choice of buses back to the centre is augmented with Go North East 773/4 and X2. The **Chesters** has three ales on offer and the **Royalty** usually has Tetley Bitter. Your bus will drop you off on Green Terrace where you can end the day with one of the nine beers available at **Fitzgerald's**. The day out cost £4.90 with a one- day Regionwide Go' n' Save card bought from the driver on the first bus. For up to date timetable information, ring **traveline** on 0870 508 2 608 or visit Go North East's website on www.simplygo.com.

The Alum House

in South Shields has recently changed hands, your editor does not know any details of the new tenant yet, only that they are upholding the excellent standards of real ale set by all previous incumbents.

Thought For The Day

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Amendments to Local Guide

The following pubs have **ceased** to sell real ale:- **Highfield Hotel** in East Rainton, **Copt Hill** in Houghton le Spring, **Marsden Grotto** in South Shields, **Woodlands** in Washington.

The following pubs have **recently been found** to be selling real ale:- **The Vale** Eastington Lane, **East Boldon Cricket Club**, **The Lord Ashley** South Shields (see pub News on page 10 for additions in Sunderland)

Sunderland pub crowned North East's best

The winner of CAMRA's North East Pub of the Year for 2006 is the **King's Arms** in Deptford Sunderland.

Each of CAMRA's northern branches hold a competition to select their local pub of the year and the winners go forward to the regional competition.

The winner of the regional competition then progresses to the final 16 pubs with the chance of becoming CAMRA's best pub in the whole UK.

The national winner is announced during CAMRA's National Pubs Week in February next year.

The contenders for the North East crown this year were the Newcastle Arms (Newcastle), Boathouse (Wylam), Tap & Spile (Framwellgate Moor), Quakerhouse (Darlington), Ship (Middlestone, near Bishop Auckland) and Causeway (Hartlepool)

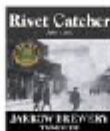
Entries are judged on a number of criteria including beer quality, service, welcome, style and décor.

Branch chair, Michael Wynne said 'Our branch's track record in this stage of the competition is excellent as our pub has won the North East award 3 out of the last four years. Our previous winners were Fitzgerald's in 2003 and the Robin Hood made it all the way to the final four in the last competition. As usual the other local winners were excellent, so it means something special to win this award. The Branch wishes the King's every success in the next stages of the competition'.

The King's is one of the entries in CAMRA'S new inventory of unspoilt pub interiors in the North East.

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JARROW ALES



"Beers You'd Walk A Long Long Way For"

Brewery News

Double Maxim is coming home

The **Double Maxim Beer Company** has found a site at Rainton Bridge and a brewery will be commissioned later in the year to produce Double Maxim, Ward's Best Bitter and Samson, primarily in bottles but there are plans to produce a cask version of Samson.

Doug Trotman and former Vaux brewer Jim Murray are behind the plans. The beers are currently produced by Robinsons of Stockport.

The news comes 7 years after the closure of Vaux

Bull Lane beers are proving a hit and are regularly available in the King's Arms in Sunderland and the Alum House Ale House in South Shields. They have also been available at Washington's Wetherspoons outlet, the William de Wessyngton in Concord. Beers are regularly supplied to Boggarts, a Manchester microbrewer and wholesaler, which means that they have a presence outside the North East. A new beer Amber at 3.6% was added to the portfolio in April.

More recently, a misbrew of Nowtsa Matta came out at 4.9% and has been on sale as Nowtsa Matta XB. A German-style wheat beer, White Bull, also 4.9 has also been produced.

More Micros in Northumberland

Allendale Brewery started production in April in a converted smelt in the village of the same name on a ten-barrel plant. Two beers, Best Bitter (3.9%) and Wolf (5%) were available at the 30th Newcastle Beer Festival. Curlew's Return (4.2%) was available in a number of Tyneside pubs during April.

In it's hometown, Allendale beers are available at the Golden Lion.

Following the demise of **Font Valley Brewery**, Michael Hegarty is brewing again with a new partner. The new venture, **Barefoot Brewery** is located at Whitehouse Farm Centre, Stannington, near Morpeth. Brewing on a ten-barrel plant started in February and the first beer was appropriately called Firstfoot. Locally, Barefoot beers have appeared at the Alum House in Shields and Fitzgerald's in Sunderland.

Brewing returns to Consett

The Derwent Rose Brewery at the Grey Horse in Consett closed when owners Paul and Rosaleen Conroy retired last year. The brewery has been refurbished and is now called the Consett Ale Works. Three beers, Red Dust, Steel Town and White Hot will be brewed.

THE SALTGRASS

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Every Tuesday

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Cheap Entry, Even cheaper prizes :-)

Beer prices up over 4%

A prices survey carried up by CAMRA's 200 branches across the UK has shown that the price of a pint of real ale has now risen to an average of £2.24 from £2.15 in early 2005. The average price of a pint of lager has risen to £2.45 from £2.36. CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner said 'Last year the Chancellor increased beer duty by a penny a pint- however, as our survey shows the cost passed on to consumers has been con-

siderably higher'.

'High excise duty rates have negative consequences for consumers, the economy and local communities. A reduction in excise duty would reduce incentives for small-time smugglers to bring cheap alcohol from abroad in to the UK.'

'We understand that pubs have increasing costs such as rates, energy etc, but these rises seem excessive and disproportionate'.

The key findings of the survey are:

- ◆ The average price of real ale rose by 9p (4.28%) to £2.24.
- ◆ The average price of a pint of lager rose by 9p (4.04%) to £2.45.
- ◆ The cheapest region is the North West where a pint of real ale costs £1.97 and lager costs £2.21.
- ◆ The most expensive regions were London and the South East where a pint of real ale costs £2.42 and a pint of lager costs £2.64 and £2.61 respectively.
- ◆ The highest price rise was in the North where real ale went up from £1.96 to £2.06- an increase of **5.34%**, the greatest rate of increase in the whole country.
- ◆ Lager drinkers fared little better as the price increased from £2.23 to £2.33, an increase of 5.12%.

The survey also tracked price

changes for Real cider from £2.17 to £2.44 (12.75%), Keg cider £2.27 to £2.32 (2.24%), Nitrokeg (smooth) beers £1.95 to £2.08 (6.79%) and Keg stout £2.37 to £2.42 (2.26%)

The survey was carried out in February before the latest increase in duty by a further penny a pint. At the bar, this has translated in to an increase of between 5 and 10p a pint.

With the notable exceptions of Wetherspoons and the Fitzgerald's group, the practice of rounding prices to the nearest 10p now seems the norm.

What was the most expensive pint in the North? :- Colleagues in Tyne-side and Northumberland CAMRA recently reported that a pint of Ruddles County sells for a whopping **£3.10** in the Red House on Newcastle's Quayside. Is this a record?

Local Beer Festivals

The 26th Durham Beer Festival runs from 31 August to 2 September at Dunelm House, New Elvet. Around 100 beers, ciders and perries will be available. The festival is open from 5- 11 Thursday and 11- 11 on Friday and Saturday.

A little farther afield, Darlington's Rhythm 'n' Brews festival at Darlington Arts Centre, Vane Terrace runs from 14- 16 September as part of the Darlington Blues Festival. The festival is open from 6-11.30 Thursday, 12- 3 and 6- 11.30 Friday and 11.30 – 4 and 7- 11.30 Saturday. Tickets are essential for the evening sessions. Contact the Arts Centre on 01325 486 55 for details.

Thank You For Having Us

The branch would like to thank the following pubs for allowing us to hold branch meetings on their premises:- The Robin Hood, The Clarendon, The Dolly Peel and the Stables, plus of course the Mid Boldon Club where we hold our committee meetings.

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CAMRA "Pub Of The Year"
2006 and runner-up 2005.

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Why not visit our sister pub in the Durham area The Three Horseshoes, Leamside, serving ale from the finest micros.

Pub News

Since we published our local pub guide, there are 6 new outlets for cask beer in Sunderland.

The first just missed the print date for our local pub guide, **Chaplins** in Stockton Road has 3 handpumps serving Darwin Evolution, Black Sheep Bitter, and Taylor Landlord. The **Chesters** on Chester Road recently re-opened after refurbishment. There are 3 handpumps selling a rolling list of guest beers selling at £1.75 a pint.

A second outlet for the real ale on High Street East in Sunderland is The **Quayside Exchange** with a single handpump selling Black Sheep Bitter.

In the city centre, the **Dun Cow** on High Street West is trying a weekly guest ale.

The **Hastings Hill** has re-opened after refurbishment and now offers guest beers on 3 handpumps.

Fitzgerald's in Sunderland is taking advantage of the new licensing regime and is now open until m/n on Friday and Saturday.

The **Blue Bell** in Fulwell has reintroduced real ale with Adnam's Broadside and Theakston XB on sale at £1.79 a pint and **JD**

Wetherspoons have acquired the premises of Windmills in Fulwell. The pub is expected to open later in the year after a refurbishment expected to cost £1.2 million. These changes are welcomed as Fulwell has been a bit of a beer desert recently.

The Three Horshoes, Leamside, Co. Durham

Daryl Frankland, longstanding supporter of CAMRA and real ale, has recently acquired this pub and the branch would like to wish him every success in the hope that it will become as popular as the other pubs he has turned into real ale havens, the **Kings Arms**, **Saltgrass** and **Courtyard**.

DOUBLE GOLD FOR CROUCH VALE AS BREWERS GOLD IS VOTED BEST BEER IN BRITAIN FOR A SECOND YEAR IN A ROW Champion Beer of Britain 2006 announced at the 'Biggest Pub in the World'

Brewers Gold brewed by Crouch Vale of Essex was today judged to be the best beer in Britain for an incredible second consecutive year by a panel of brewers, beer writers and journalists at the Great British Beer Festival at Earls Court.

The beer is described in the 2006 edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide as: "Honey-toned golden ale, with grapefruit sharpness offset by suggestions of melon and pineapple."

The Essex brewed beer was chosen as the overall winner from over fifty finalists in eight categories including beers from tiny micros to major regional brewers.

Roger Protz, one of the finalist judges and Editor of the Good Beer Guide said: "It's a tremendous victory for a brewery committed to its cask beer and richly deserved for this marvelous hoppy and fruity beer."

Colin Bocking, Managing Director of Crouch Vale brewery said, "I am speechless. It was enough of a surprise to have won Champion Beer of Britain in 2005, but to have been voted Britain's best beer for a second year in a row is truly unbelievable.

"Thanks to all the people who have supported the brewery over the years, especially those that have enjoyed this remarkable beer. This great news could not have come at a better time for us as we are in the middle of expanding the brewery."



Who are CAMRA?

CAMRA has been called 'Europe's most successful consumer organisation' - but still needs your help. We're a not-for-profit body run locally and nationally by elected unpaid volunteers.

CAMRA is completely independent of any commercial interest, and relies totally on people like you for funds and support. Help us stand up for the rights and choice of ordinary drinkers.

CAMRA Members enjoy the following benefits:

What's Brewing

Lively and informative monthly newspaper packed full of the latest news and features on beer and pubs.

Member's Handbook

Information-packed Member's Handbook which tells you all about how CAMRA works, our campaigns, what is real beer and how to be a good member!

Product Discounts

Discounts on many products, including CAMRA's best-selling, annual Good Beer Guide.

Up-to date information

Information about new beers and breweries, take-overs, closures and campaigns via What's Brewing.

Festival Notice & Discounts

Advance notice of beer festivals around the country, and discounted admission.

Branch Social Activities

Participate in branch activities such as socials, beer festivals and brewery visits!

Great British Beer Festival

Play a part in CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival, the country's biggest beer extravaganza.

APPLICATION FORM IS ON THE BACK PAGE



Application for CAMRA Membership by cheque or credit card

(Full & Concessionary/Joint British Isles/EU)

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the campaign.

Title..... Surname.....

Forename (s) DOB

Partners Name..... DOB

Address.....

.....

Post Code..... Telephone Number (s).....

E-mail address

Type of membership: (Please circle as appropriate)

1. British Isles /EU full membership £18
2. British Isles / EU Joint membership £21
3. British Isles / Concessionary membership £10
4. British Isles / Concessionary Joint membership* £13

If appropriate, please indicate the reason for concessionary membership (Please tick as appropriate) Note: For concessionary joint membership both members must be eligible for that category e.g. both retired. (Please circle)

1. Disabled
2. Retired
3. Under 26
4. Unemployed

Paying by Credit Card

If you would like to join CAMRA by credit card then please complete the following:

Please charge my Access / Mastercard / Visa / Delta / Switch

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Name on card:

Expiry Date:

Issue Number for Switch Cards

Signed

**If you are joining CAMRA by Direct Debit then please remember to
enclose the signed Direct Debit Mandate.**

Please post all of the relevant documentation to: The Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW

Tel: (01727) 8867201, e-mail: camra@camra.org.uk

* Both members must be eligible to receive concessionary membership and in the same concessionary category to apply for Joint Concessionary membership. i.e. both members have to be under 26 or both members have to be over 60.