

The Cleveland CAMRA Branch Committee ...

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It's Your Round is published by the Cleveland Branch of CAMRA. Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of CAMRA or the editor. Articles may be reproduced if source acknowledged. **If you have news or views, suggestions or complaints**, then Andy is our Branch contact on 01642 231351 or Email adbellcamra@f2s.com Please contact him if you want your news circulated.

It's Your Round!!

Bi-Monthly FREE

2700 copies of this magazine are distributed to over 200 real ale pubs and other Campaign supporters. If any real ale licensee does not receive copies of this magazine directly, and wishes to do so, *free of charge*, please contact (01642) 829032

Greene King Threat to Scotland's Largest Regional Brewer

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is urging Belhaven's shareholders to reject Greene King's bid for Belhaven Brewery. CAMRA's call follows the announcement that Greene King has made an agreed bid for Belhaven Brewery. Belhaven is a very successful Scottish brewer with rising sales and profits and an estate of over 300 pubs. Belhaven has recorded 15 years of unbroken growth.

Ken Davie, CAMRA Scottish Director, said, "We are hugely disappointed at the prospect of losing Scotland's largest Independent Brewery. Belhaven is a successful independent Scottish company that brews excellent beer and runs excellent pubs."

"While we welcome Greene King's intention to keep the Brewery open, the loss of Belhaven as an independent company is a bitter blow to consumer choice and competition in Scotland. Greene King needs to reassure Scottish drinkers that they will continue to brew and promote Belhaven's unique beers such as Belhaven 60/-." "We hope that Belhaven's many individual shareholders will pause for thought before selling their shares to Greene King." [Extract from main CAMRA website]

Summer Pub of the Season -

The Cross Keys, Upsall ...

The Cleveland branch of CAMRA have voted the Cross Keys, Upsall as Summer Pub of the Season 2005, congratulations go to them. Presentation to be held on Sat. Sep 10th. (at 1pm approx). In recent years the Cross Keys has been a showcase for the beers of the closely situated North Yorkshire Brewery at Pinchinthorpe Hall.

Winning beers at the Great British Beer Festival ...

Brewers Gold, brewed by **Crouch Vale** of Essex, has been judged to be the best beer in Britain 2005. 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. The Silver award went to **Rutland Panther** from **Grainstore** (Rutland). Bronze went to **Woodforde's Wherry** from Norfolk.

Best Village
Pub 2004

Beer Guide
2004, 2005

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Diary Dates ... Committee Meetings commence at 7.30 pm and Branch Meetings/Socials commence at 8.30 pm on the 1st Tuesday (or sometimes Monday) of each month, and are held throughout the Cleveland Branch area.

Thu 1st - Sat 3rd Sept. 25th DURHAM BEER FESTIVAL, Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham City.

Tue 6th Sept. - Committee meeting at Dr. Browns, Middlesbrough - 7.30pm. Followed by Social Meeting at 8.30pm.

Sat 10th Sept. - Summer Pub of the Season presentation at the Cross Keys, Upsall. Presentation to be made at approx. 1pm.

Thu 15th - Sat 17th Sept. - DARLINGTON BEER & MUSIC FESTIVAL. Arts Centre, Darlington.

Mon 3rd Oct. - Committee meeting at the Causeway, Hartlepool 7.30pm. Followed by Social Meeting at 8.30pm.

Thu 6th - Sat 8th Oct. - Huddersfield & District Campaign for Real Ale OCTOBERFEST Beer & Cider Festival. Around 85 Real Ales from local and regional breweries. Cider & Perry bar.

Fri 14th & Sat 15th Oct. - 10th Hartlepool Round Table Charity Beer Festival. The Borough Hall, The Headland, Hartlepool. Over 40 Ales.

CAMRA members can email Denise to be added to branch email list for additional / last minute activities. Branch website www.clevelandcamra.btinternet.co.uk

For more info, to book local events and transport needs, please contact Denise 01287 622444 or denise.p@ntlworld.com for details of latest social events, or see entry in 'What's Brewing'.

Durham Brewery news ...

The Durham Brewery bottled beer Evensong is the CAMRA Champion Real Ale in a Bottle. Voting took place at the Great British Beer Festival on 02/08/05. In 2nd place was Young's Special London Ale, and in 3rd place was Titanic Stout.

Once again we remind readers that they are invited by the Durham Brewery to subscribe to their enjoyable newsletter by clicking on www.durham-brewery.co.uk

The latest issue describes the recent developments in pale hoppy beers.

Esk Valley report from another of our intrepid cyclist pub explorers ...

Egton, Ye Horseshoe - now stocking Copper Dragon from Skipton. They will be serving all 5 of this brewery's beers on rotation. The landlord is an avid reader of IYR!! and it would be nice if we could give his efforts a mention. [And here it is, and it sounds well worth a mention, and a visit. Ed]

Egton, Wheatsheaf - have been selling Hop Back beers but the trouble is they sell out too soon! Black Sheep, the supplier, can only provide "nines" and he puts one on at lunchtime and it is all gone by the evening. Odyssey was on today. Thatchers Gold (not the real stuff as far as I can tell) has also greatly improved the pub's cider sales.

Grosmont - met some CAMRA members who were working up a thirst for the Gallon Walk. Hope you were still thirsty when you arrived at Egton, lads.

Egton Bridge, The Postgate - landlord pointed out that this was a tied house and he takes the two best guest ales on the list, Black Sheep and Camerons Strongarm. He is particularly proud that he has re-introduced Strongarm to the locality and rightly so. I had a few pints of it a fortnight ago and it was excellent. Another one who is enthusiastic about IYR!! The food's good too.

Glaisdale, The Arncliffe - arrived before opening time so can't comment on beer quality (sorry Campbell, I'll pencil it in for a future visit).

Lealholm, The Board - Ring o' Bells Surf Boar, very tasty and refreshing. This is still one of the most friendly houses in our patch. I was offered several T shirts to replace the yellow cycle shirt that was attracting all the thunderbugs. I had to refuse because they were all advertising lager. Jennings Cumberland also available.

Danby, The Wellington - guest ale was Cropton Two Pints

Castleton, The Eskdale - guest ale was Riddleys IPA. Thatchers Gold has also appeared.

They are the pubs with something new to mention. There are so many good folk in excellent pubs providing a variety of good beer nestling in the best scenery in the UK. Contrast that with where I live in Linthorpe. It is no wonder I get on my bike!

Bar End Shifter.

Two of a kind ...

There I was last summer, on holiday, sitting on the patio enjoying the sunshine and a glass of Strongarm bitter. You are probably thinking, there's nothing unusual in that. If I tell you that there were parakeets flying overhead it may give you a hint that the location was not Teesside. I was in the beautiful city of Sydney, Australia (there is also a Sydney in Canada). As for the beer, it was Strongarm, but not the well-known brew from Hartlepool. This Strongarm was from a brewery on the banks of the Esk River, not the Esk River that flows through Whitby but the river with the same name in Tasmania. The brewers name was J Boag & Son.

Even though Camerons and Boags are on opposite sides of the world, both use the same name Strongarm for bitters which are ideal for fine days sitting on the patio. They also both have well designed web sites that give more information about the breweries, their histories and the beers they brew. So why don't you look at www.boags.com.au and www.cameronsbrewery.com ?

Cheers. Tony Doyle.

Legends refurbished ...

Formerly the Royal Exchange, on Stockton High Street, this smartly refurbished town centre bar now offers Strongarm on handpull. Featuring images of great film and music stars such as Monroe, Chaplin, Presley and the Beatles, Legends is a study in Art Deco style. Extensive and considered menus plus specials, the bar has a cool atmosphere with a great sound system, clear dress code and a strict language policy. Operated by the experienced management duo Pat & Ros Golden who are members of the British Institute of Inkeeping and who run other bars in the town centre, it has a small lounge and outside seating as well as the main bar. **TJ.**

Belhaven takeover ...

Belhaven chief Stuart Ross says the deal could "only widen consumer choice". What a load of old tosh! Does he seriously expect us to believe that Belhaven IPA has a future alongside the award-winning GK product of the same name? Or that Belhaven 80/- won't be brewed at Bury St. Edmunds alongside those other Suffolk legends like Morlands (not of Abingdon), Ruddles (not of Oakham) and Ridley's (not of Chelmsford)?

Perhaps it's time to remind our readers of the basic facts about brewery takeovers - Takeovers mean:-

Loss or reduction of consumer choice - **ALWAYS**

Loss of jobs - **ALWAYS**

Higher Prices - **ALWAYS**

Don't let anyone who's taken the money and run try to tell you otherwise!

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Good Beer Guide 2005
CAMRA Cleveland Pub of the Season
Spring 2003 and 2005

Black Horse, Whitby ...

When in the Branch's premier holiday resort, why not start at the Black Horse in Church Street ? This pleasant two-roomed local is run by the enthusiastic Sue Paling who certainly knows her real ale! With Taylor's Landlord and Brains SA as regulars and a rotating guest beer, the Black Horse offers a good choice plus value Bed & Buffet breakfast. and snacks all day. Open 12-11 daily. [11-11 Summer].

Real Cider - another outlet we overlooked !

This time it's The Little Angel in Whitby. A few months ago we said there wasn't much real cider available in the Cleveland area. Since then we've had a steady trickle of pubs telling us we overlooked their real cider. The Little Angel in Whitby is the latest. It has Weston's Old Rosie on handpull.

Apologies for the omission.

Ed.



Report from Ye Dolphin, Robin Hoods Bay - Spring 2005 Pub of the Season Award ...

The weather was fine for the presentation of Spring Pub of the season 2005 at the Dolphin and this attracted members from around the region to this most attractive seaside village. The hosts showed us great hospitality during their busy lunchtime period with several excellent ales available. The picture shows the Cleveland Branch Chairman Robert Tate (left) outside the pub with our hosts Dave and Ellen Mason. Many thanks for the warm welcome.

BRANCH WEBSITE

www.clevelandcamra.btinternet.co.uk

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Too easy to believe! **Why not get your local to include it as part of the Pub Quiz, and send in a bulk entry in one envelope?**

1. Name Hartlepool's new thatched pub?
2. Which Hartlepool pub has a new extension?
3. Staff of which pub are abseiling down the Baltic?
4. Licensees of which pub raised £4,000?
5. Which brewery can be found in Stokesley?

Most answers can be found in this edition.

Congratulations to our latest winners, Andrew Oates of Yarm & Lizzie Evans.

Help!!!! Martin Macaulay, please re-submit your e-mail address. All entries to the address below, or email to jo.powell2@ntlworld.com by the end of November 2005.

Current Cleveland Camra committee may not enter!

Send to: **Competition 88, 10 Faidene Avenue, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7NH.**

Entries can also be made on the website - www.clevelandcamra.btinternet.co.uk.

Beers from around the area ...

The Branch is gradually increasing its weekly email circulation of current beers around the area, for the benefit of local beer drinkers. If you wish to receive the weekly Cleveland Beers From Around The Area email, or if you wish to report the current availability of a particular Real Ale please send an email request to one of the committee members on the back page.

Cleveland Camra Roll of Honour ...

2003 Spring POTS: **Pot & Glass**, Egglescliffe.
2003 Summer POTS: **Dolphin**, Robin Hoods Bay.
2003 Autumn POTS: **Tap & Spile**, Guisborough.
2003 Winter POTS & POTY: **White Swan**,
Stokesley.

2004 Spring POTS & POTY: **Horseshoe Hotel**,
Egton Bridge.

2004 Summer POTS: **Capt. Cook**, Staithes.
2004 Autumn POTS: **Spread Eagle**, Stokesley.
2004 Winter POTS: **White House**, Hartlepool.
2005 Spring POTS: **Dolphin**, Robin Hoods Bay.
2005 Summer POTS: **Cross Keys**, Upsall.

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Bricky's Bits ...

Lots of Money!

Warmest congratulations to Anne and Dave Bunyan, licensees at Egglecliffe's Pot & Glass. On a recent auction night at the pub, £4000 was raised for the North Tees Cancer Fund. The Good Beer Guide-listed Pot & Glass is the latest pub to go No-smoking!

Fagged Out!

The Plimsoll Line at Redcar, part of the Wetherspoon chain, is the latest pub in our area to go totally No Smoking.

Welcome

A warm welcome to Tracey & Alex Aldea, new licensees at the Vane Arms, Longnewton.

Wash & Brush Up

Talking of the Vane Arms, Gordon the Boss tells me a refurbishment in on its way- new upholstery, carpets etc. Oh, and check out the floral displays on the outside as well as the Cumberland Ale on the inside!

Reckless Eric!

Fearless Eric Short and some of his staff are to carry out a sponsored abseil down the Baltic at Gateshead with the aim of raising £1000 for the R.N.I.B. Sponsors and donations to the bar, please. By the way, all 4 participants hate heights!

Funny how, despite the national press, we keep getting good things to report from our real-ale pubs.

It's getting Bigger!

At long last, the extension of the Causeway, Hartlepool into the former Handisides

off-licence next door has been completed. The new area gives a far better stage for live music and its own new toilets including one for the disabled. And the beer's as good as ever too!

Leo Goes for Gold

Already well known in the area as a pub operator, Hartlepool businessman Leo Gillen now has 2 real ale pubs. The Gillen Arms at Clavering (do I remember a branch meeting there many years ago with a fine fish supper from Leo's chippy next door?) has now been joined by the Golden Lion (lion - Leo - geddit?) at Throston. Three real ales when Bricky called; Directors, Pedigree and John Smiths, all at £1.50 a pint. Open plan, smart and clean, and boasting a thatched roof - not many of those in the area!

The pub has full disabled facilities and serves food lunchtimes and evenings.

Real Ale in Hartlepool goes from strength to strength. Other towns please take note!

Little Bricky.

The Causeway

Hartlepool (01429) 273954

Cask Ales
5 Minimum

CAMRA
Good Beer
Guide Listed

Pub Grub 12-2 Monday to Saturday
(No Sunday lunches)

Happy Hours 3-5 Monday to Friday

Folk Club - Sundays
Acoustic Guitar & Vocals - Tuesdays
Jazz - Wednesdays
Blues Club - Thursdays
Guitar & Vocals - Saturdays
- all music is 8.30 for 9.00 -

History of Brewing Part 3. Ancient Egypt - the last great Pharaoh('s wife)

A light-hearted look at brewing, through the ages, to cut out and keep.

Imagine the scene, it's 1,180 BC, one of the Mrs Pharaoh Rameses III, (there were 2 major, many minor wives) suitably bathed, dressed and made up begins the day with a drink of hqt or hnqt (that's beer to you and I) as made by the ladies of the household. Should she have been a worshipper of the goddesses Bast, Sekhmet or Hathor, getting drunk was a very important part of the worship. The ancient Egyptians regarded getting drunk with amusement, no stigma attached.

Beer was frequently offered to the gods and goddesses and when a wealthy person died, was embalmed and put into their tomb, (or pyramid, for the seriously wealthy) beer went in with them. Ready for the afterlife.

The Ancient Egyptians were not sexist, women were as valued and highly regarded as men – providing they were wealthy, it was wealth that counted, not gender.

The Egyptian method of beer-making – which may have been very similar to that used in Britain – was for the ladies of the household to use emmer wheat to make special beer-making, yeast rich bread. This was then lightly baked in an oven, then it was crumbled and strained and used to begin the brewing process. After fermentation it was stored in sealed jars. Dates (or other sweet fruit), coriander or extra yeast might have been added. It would probably not have been very fizzy, thick and probably sweet. As beer was often thick and full of impurities, nobility and certainly the ruling classes, used to drink it through straws – in one instance (as found by archaeologists) a golden straw, long enough to reach from the pottery jar of beer to the Pharaoh's mouth!

Workmen cutting and moving stones to build the Giza pyramids (a bit before our Mrs Pharaoh's time) were occasionally partly paid in beer – five types (and four types of wine) were found by archaeologists there. It was the staple drink of the poor, slaves and peasants- adults and children alike. There is also a rumour it could be used to treat gum disease. A great deal has been learnt about this era from the pictures and hieroglyphs found in tombs, another civilisation only too pleased to leave behind the legacy of how to produce beer.

Cerridwen.

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Quiz Night Monday - **£50 CASH** to winning team

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