

FREE !

No 20 — APRIL/MAY 1983



NEWS of the BOOZE

GALES FORECAST THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH

Following the success of Ruddles County bitter in Watney pubs in the London area, Phoenix Brewery, the newly renamed southern arm of Watneys, have come to an agreement with George Gale & Co Ltd by which they will supply Gales H.S.B. to any of their pubs where there is a demand for it. Phoenix currently distribute Tamplins bitter (brewed for the south by Norwich Brewery), Stag bitter from London and Ushers Best Bitter from Trowbridge. Gale's HSB will provide their public houses with a strong ale which already has a good (some would say legendary) reputation.

HSB has already been on sale in a very few Phoenix pubs during the past year, in return for which Phoenix have been supplying some Gale's pubs with Carlsberg lager. John Cornish, CAMRA's Liason Officer with Gale's, expects more Gale's pubs to take lager in exchange for the HSB; rumours that Watney's parent company, Grand Metropolitan, had bought a substantial shareholding in Gale's were "completely untrue", he said.

Some landlords of Gale's pubs are unhappy about the new trading agreement, as they say that the sale of Gales beer in other nearby pubs will provide them with unfair competition. They would like to have seen safeguards written into the agreement, such as Phoenix pubs next door to Gales houses being denied supplies of HSB.

The general feeling though, is that there is little threat to Gales landlords, who will be able to stock the entire range of Gales ales at probably a considerably lower price than Phoenix pubs. Although the price of HSB is likely to be very high (Ruddles County sells for at least 92p a pint in Watney's pubs) it is to be hoped that real ale will gain many more converts through this arrangement, which also proves once again that there is always room for improvement in the availability of good real ale, even in the south! Non-members of CAMRA please take note that the more members we can gain, the more readily available your favourite beers will become...(there's a membership application form on the back page!).

* What is it? New Gales beer - see page 2!

FARNHAM BEER EXHIBITION

Tickets are now on sale for the 7th Farnham Beer Exhibition, which takes place at the Maltings, Bridge Square during the evenings and Saturday lunch-time of 28, 29 and 30th April. Check with the box office (Farnham 725887) for availability. The Beerex, which is organised by Farnham Lions, CAMRA and the Maltings Association will once again have over seventy real ales, plus traditional ciders, food and entertainment. New beers this year should include rarities such as Philips' Royal Love Potion or Aelrics Saxon Ale, the dark delights of Black Hog and dozens of other beers difficult or impossible to find around here. Tickets cost £1.75 and include as usual a souvenir glass.

1983 BEEREX EDITION



Should your 'local' be in the Good Beer Guide?

"Why the hell don't those CAMRA twits put my local in the Good Beer Guide? They serve the best pint in all Hampshire there!"... "They must have inspected the Newt & Parrot during the manager's holiday - for 50 weeks of the year their beer tastes and looks like draught salted porridge, yet it's recommended in the GBG every flippin' year!"

Those are the sort of comments that you and I hear often enough in pub bars - but they are comments which should never come from readers of this newsletter, because each year readers (CAMRA members and any non-members who know a good pint when they taste it) are asked for recommendations for (a) additions to the Guide, (b) deletions from the Guide, and (c) pubs already in the Guide which should definitely STAY in it.

Although this year's edition of the GBG has only been out for a few months the time has already come to ask for your recommendations for the 1984 edition, as surveys must begin this month. If you do have any recommendations, be sure to let our branch secretary know as soon as possible; there is no guarantee that your local will find itself in next year's GBG, but if it is brought to our attention, and serves as good a pint as you say it does, then it's in with a very good chance... and if you don't bring it to our attention, please don't let me hear you describing us as "CAMRA twits" for missing it!

- M.A.

10 YEARS IN G.B.G.

As you probably know, the latest Good Beer Guide is the tenth edition. Only a small number of pubs throughout the country have attained the distinction of being included in every edition, so CAMRA are awarding a certificate to each of them as an expression of our thanks for providing us with a consistently tasty pint of beer.

In our branch area we are fortunate in having no less than five pubs which receive this accolade:

The Leathern Bottle, Smithbrook, near Cranleigh (King & Barnes).

The Queens Head, Farnham (Gales).

The Black Horse, Gomshall (Youngs).

The Red Lion, Milford (Gales).

The Fox, Worplesdon (Courage).

(continued in next column)

"HYBRID" KEG BEER FROM GALES

It is to be hoped that the mention of a new Gales beer on page 1 didn't make you too excited, for the beer, to be introduced soon, is weak, fizzy and is to be known as "Continental Bitter". The beer is to be introduced "to wean lager drinkers onto bitter"... who are you kidding, Mr Gale? Let us hope it doesn't frighten drinkers away from other Gales beers!

10 YEARS IN THE GOOD BEER GUIDE (continued)

The certificates will be presented to these pubs at CAMRA meetings during the coming month or so - the presentation meetings arranged by the time of writing are the Leathern Bottle (13th April), the Fox (5th May) and the Queen's Head (10th May). Check the Branch Meetings column in News of the Booze and What's Brewing for further details.



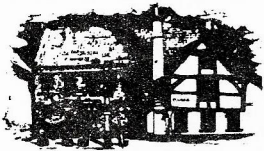
New Gibbs' Beer at Festival

"Over-ambitious", it has to be admitted, was the first thought that crossed my mind when Trevor Willatts told me that over forty different beers had been ordered for the beer festival which he and other members of Rushmoor Labour Club were organising in the little Labour Hall in Cove. Ambitious, maybe, but not over-so, for the weekend long festival was very well organised, with all the beers in tip-top condition (at least, those that I tried - I was not going to try ALL of them in the short time I was there!).

I was already enjoying a glass of the new Gibbs' beer, Wiltshire Bitter, when a couple of friendly Gibbs representatives introduced themselves and suggested that they should buy a glass of the new beer for me to try. I explained that I was already drinking it, but accepted another anyway; the second glass seemed to taste even better than the first! Anyway, suffice

to say that this is, in my opinion, Gibbs' best beer so far. The newsworthy item which arose from this episode was, however, that Gibbs are to try out a traditional mild again. Apparently the mild which appeared for just a couple of weeks in 1981 was dropped so suddenly not due to lack of demand, but because Gibbs decided that they did not after all, at that time, have the capacity to brew it. The new mild is provisionally scheduled for release during the summer.

Thanks to Trevor and Co for a most enjoyable event. The club's next beery event is another in their series of "mini-festival evenings which take place on the last Wednesday of each month; Wednesday the 30th March is Wadworth's night, which will include 6X at just 50p a pint, admission free. The Labour Hall is in Cove Road (opposite Cove Green), Farnborough. - M.A.



PUB NEWS

The William Cobbett (illustrated above), in Bridge Square, Farnham, must surely be the first pub in the area to return to a traditional floor for you to fall over onto after too much of their traditional beer! Landlord Ken has installed flagstones at the "public" end of the bar, and very good they look, too!

THE "GOOD LIFE" AT THE PIG & WHISTLE

The Pig & Whistle can be found just south of Alton (a little outside our branch area, in fact) on the A32, and is well worth a visit for its excellent home-brewed beers. Home made beer is just the beginning, however, for pub-produced cider is next on the cards, followed by the Pig & Whistle's own wine, and the establishment of a working farm on land at the rear of the pub - virtual self-sufficiency! By the way, if you're not just there for the beer, you will find the food at the bar or in the separate restaurant pretty good, too.

Many thanks to Guido Rosignoli for the excellent cartoon frieze (Farnham Beerex?) at the foot of these pages.

INFORMATION

If you wish to know more about the Campaign for Real Ale and its local or national activities, please contact:

Alan Davies (branch secretary),
68 Bishops Wood, St Johns,
Woking, Surrey.
(tel. Woking 20579)

ads...

SMALL ADS in News of the Booze are free to CAMRA members. Rates for others on application to the editor.

BUY OR EXCHANGE older British beer labels: contact Don Mansell, 1 Cardigan Close, St Johns, Woking, Surrey. Telephone BROOKWOOD 80171 (evenings or weekend).

WANTED OLD BREWERY ITEMS - labels, ash-trays, badges, etc. Contact Alan Davies, WOKING 20579.

GET IT POSTED - If you are unable to collect News of the Booze at CAMRA meetings, send first or second class postage stamps for each copy you require to the editor (address at top of page 2).





SURREY/HANTS BORDERS *Branch Meetings*

Meetings begin at 8.30pm unless shown otherwise.

April

- WEDNESDAY 6th (8pm start) - Acquaint yourselves with the PUBS OF GODALMING, starting with the RAILWAY, followed by the SUN, KINGS ARMS & ROYAL, and the ANCHOR.
- SATURDAY 9th & SUNDAY 10th - CAMRA NATIONAL A.G.M. at READING UNIVERSITY. Make sure that you are there to help shape the Campaign's future, and enjoy yourself at the A.G.M. Beer Exhibition. Check "What's Brewing" for full details.
- WEDNESDAY 13th - Presentation of "10 year" certificate at the LEATHERN BOTTLE, on the Guildford-Horsham road at Smithbrook, near Cranleigh. (see page 2)
- THURSDAY 28th to SAT 30th. - 7th FARNHAM BEER EXHIBITION. See front page for details.

May

- THURSDAY 5th - "10 year" certificate presentation at THE FOX, WORPLESDON. I hear that the landlord of this excellent house is to retire soon, so let's have a decent turnout to wish him good fortune and happiness.
- TUESDAY 10th - Another celebration of 10 years in the Good Beer Guide, this time for one of my favourite pubs (where I first learned to love Gale's!), THE QUEEN'S HEAD, The Borough, Farnham.
- SATURDAY 14th (11 am start) - Lunchtime "All Surrey Liason" meeting at the Railway Sports Club, Goldsworth Road (opposite the market area), Woking.
- WEDNESDAY 18th - Yet again, we are presenting a certificate, this time to the BLACK HORSE, GOMSHALL (Youngs). See page 2.
- TUESDAY 24th - Social at the CHEQUERS, CROOKHAM (to be confirmed).
- SATURDAY 28th to MONDAY 30th - Our annual CAMPING WEEKEND. Provisionally at BROCKENHURST, in the New Forest. Ring Mike Andrew (Farnham 723116, 6pm-8pm) for details.

Your heritage. Protect it.

I/We wish to become a member/members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

- I enclose £7 (£10 Overseas) for full membership for a year ☐
We enclose £7 for husband and wife membership ☐
or I/We enclose completed standing order authority ☐
(Any additional amount will be welcomed as a donation)

FULL NAME(S) (Block capitals)

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals)

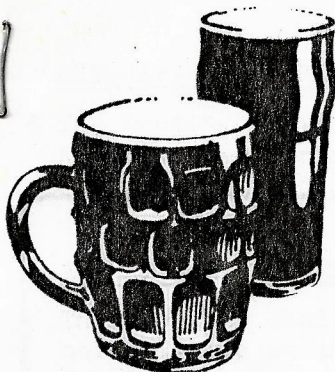
SIGNATURE DATE

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

● All applications should be sent to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.



If you care about your beer and pubs, and want to keep a taste of tradition, join now.



Extra!

Supplement to News of the Booze no.20.

Since edition 20 went to press, details of the Camping Weekend have been finalised, and a number of items of late news have come to hand which will be of interest to members, so here they are!

HOP BLOSSOM LICENCE LOST

The Hop Blossom, in Long Garden Walk, Farnham (a former Good Beer Guide entry), is likely to close down following the loss (subject to appeal) of Landlord Tony Brown's licence. Twenty-three local residents objected to the renewal of his licence at a hearing which lasted more than four hours. The main objections were on grounds of the noise made by customers who stood outside the pub drinking, and a number of occurrences of customers vomiting and urinating in the street and in neighbours gardens. Other complaints were of glasses being thrown in the street, and allegations that some customers of the pub had urinated through the letterboxes of houses in the street.

After a spell of closure, the former Courage pub had reopened as a Victorian-style free house in 1978. At that time the wide range of beers were well looked after and the Hop Blossom quickly found itself in the G.B.G. In recent years, however, there have been a number of complaints of bad beer, and the pub is no longer to be found in the guide. In former years we have had some most enjoyable meetings at the Hop Blossom, and thanks are due to Tony Brown for continuing to support such aspects of CAMRA as the flexible hours petition, despite the pub's deletion from the G.B.G. It is a great shame that after such an encouraging reopening 4½ years ago, the pub should have declined to the extent that it now seems likely to close its doors forever.

As for the future of the building, there is still a chance that it could regain a licence in the future, but only if a new owner could satisfy the licencing justices that the more unpleasant minority of the pub's present customers could be eliminated. The pub's neighbours would also need to be convinced that the nuisance could be removed, or they shall surely object to it ever reopening - and they will now need a lot of convincing.

SUMMER HOURS TO CONTINUE IN FARNHAM

Licensing justices have approved an application for weekday hours to be extended until 11pm from May 1st to August 31st again this year in the Farnham area.

MARINERS REOPENS

The Mariners, on the A287 at Millbridge, Frensham, has reopened after a change of ownership. At the end of March the beers available there were Courage Best and Directors, and Webster's Yorkshire Bitter, all on handpump, and Ballard's Best, together with Brakspear Special Bitter straight from the cask. Three of these were sampled, and all were in excellent form. The atmosphere is less formal than at one time; although food still plays a major part at the Mariners, it is very much a pub these days.

FIRST WETHERED IN FARNHAM

Sevens Wine Bar & Bistro, in the Borough, Farnham now has draught beer available too, in the form of Wethered Bitter. I have always enjoyed eating at Sevens, but it will be more of a pleasure next time!

WOKING FALLS!

The Albion, opposite Woking station, believed to be the town's last fizz pub, has at last installed a handpump serving Charrington I.P.A. Rumours are that Bass is to follow shortly.

CHEQUERS CONFIRMED

The meeting provisionally arranged for Tuesday 24th May at the Chequers, Crookham, has now been confirmed.

ANNUAL CAMRA CAMPING WEEKEND - SPRING BANK HOLIDAY, MAY 27th to MAY 30th.

This year we shall sample the delights of the New Forest. Camping in the Forest is only allowed at the official Forestry Commission sites, which work out cheap for families, or a couple of people sharing a tent, but unfortunately a bit expensive for one person. The facilities, however, are good, and we have chosen Hollands Wood, Brockenhurst, as the site is just a short walk from the railway station and a number of good pubs (Whitbread, Eldridge Pope, Marston's and Wadworths beers are among those available). Further afield are numerous pubs to suit every taste; beers such as Gale's, Badger, Ringwood and the rare New Forest Brewery's product can be found in the area.

Between opening times there is the beautiful countryside to be explored, the coast is near at hand, and other attractions such as the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Bucklers Hard, Breamore Carriage and Countryside museums can be visited.

For those who want more than canvas over their heads, two Brockenhurst inns offer real ale and accomodation. they are: The Jugged Hare (tel. Lymington 23551) and the Rose & Crown (Lymington 22225).

The Forest camp sites are very popular at Bank Holidays, so it is essential to book early. To avoid any delay, it is advised to book direct:

Send cheque for £4.20 per tent (regardless of number sharing) per night (minimum booking: 3 nights) to:

FORESTRY COMMISSION DISTRICT OFFICE

SEAMANS LODGE,

SEAMANS LANE,

MINSTEAD,

LYNDHURST,

HANTS.

(tel. Southampton 0703 - 813494)

The minimum booking can be from Friday night to Sunday night, or Saturday night to Monday night, whichever you prefer.

DON'T FORGET - BOOK NOW!

