



Beer Gutter Press

NEWS FOR DISCERNING ALE DRINKERS IN AND AROUND
NEWARK-ON-TRENT

HOW LONG BEFORE NEWARK IS HOMELESS?

A much loved Notts beer could disappear if brewery giant, Scottish & Newcastle get their way, warns Newark CAMRA.

Home Ales is under serious threat now that S&N have moved to take over the Courage Group for £420 million.

S&N, brewers of Theakstons, Youngers and Home Ales amongst others will become owners of the Courage Directors, John Smiths, Websters and many more well known brands. Breweries are expected to close and smaller brands will disappear in a streamlining programme which will probably see the death of Home Bitter and Mild.

S&N, it is thought, has been planning for a while to cease brewing Home Ales. Already it has contracted out production of the mild to Mansfield Brewery. At the same time the Theakston brands have been ousting Home from bars all over the county. In fact, Theakston XB is now produced in Nottingham as well as Newcastle.

CAMRA is now calling for the takeover to be blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, remembering that, in 1989, Courage tried to buy out

S&N. The deal was not allowed to go through, S&N actually saying that such a merger would be against the interests of the ordinary drinker!

Fears have also been raised of a fresh round of takeovers and brewery closures as other companies vie for a higher ranking in the national brand wars. With the new "Scottish Courage" controlling 30 per cent of this country's brewing, giants like Bass will fight to retain their positions. Whitbread is already said to be stalking the troubled Carlsberg-Tetley consortium.

Here in Newark a petition is being organised by CAMRA to be presented to local MP, Richard Alexander, asking for the deal to be blocked. If you enjoy drinking Home Ales, John Smiths, Courage or any of the other beers involved we urge you to sign it. Better still, write to your MP and voice your objection to the possible brewery closures, job losses, higher prices and reduction in beer brands. Time is not on our side so act now and preserve your choice.

More information on this campaign can be obtained from Richard Studeny, 36 Maples St., Nottingham. NG7 6AD.

Business booming in Eakring.

After ten weeks, sales of new brewery, Maypole's beers have exceeded all expectations according to Danny Losinski.

The Eakring based British Coal manager turned brewer has found that local pubs can't get enough of his Celebration Bitter (4%ABV) and Mayday Bitter (4.6%ABV). The latter, especially with its ruby colour and fruity taste is proving very popular.

Those who have not yet sampled the beers should head for the Wellow/Ollerton area, presuming there's some left.

Meanwhile Alan Gill at Springhead Brewery says that production of the 6%ABV Cromwell's Hat will be wound down to make way for a new summer brew. The beer, unnamed as we went to press, will be a lighter drink.

**MORE BEERY
NEWS INSIDE...**

New keg invasion hits Newark

The Red Revolution may just be a distant memory for some, but real ale drinkers in Newark are aware of the new threat posed by brewery conditioned, dead, keg beers - the nitrokeg.

Long ago, Watneys rolled out the Red Barrel and with the help of other large brewers almost killed off the traditional cask ales we now take for granted. Gassy pop was definitely the order of the day.

Today nitrokegs are easing

their way into our locals and occasionally being mistaken for the real thing. Along with CO₂, nitrogen is added to the beer to mimic the smooth creamy texture of some real ales. Caffreys Irish Ale, brewed by Bass, is a classic example of nitrokeg and has had many a novice fooled.

So what? If the drinker enjoys this particular tippie good luck to him.

What worries CAMRA is that some much-enjoyed cask brews are being replaced by keg, and it's happening around Newark. Tetleys and John Smiths have introduced nitrokeg and more will follow. Even some lagers are jumping on the bandwagon. Meanwhile other beers are disappearing from the bar.

Nitrokeg is seen by brewers as a cheap and efficient way of transporting, storing and dispensing beer. Minimal cellar-manship skills are required which cuts down on training costs in a pub trade which has an increasingly high turn over of licensees.

It may not be the keg revolution of yesteryear but it's a definite step in the wrong direction for those who appreciate a decent pint.

So for those of us who don't want to see a return to the days of nationally promoted, freezing cold, bland beer, insist on real ale. Don't let our traditional brews slip away!

Seasonal awards for local boozers

The Newark branch of CAMRA soon hopes to be introducing its Pub Of The Season award to the area.

Four times a year a presentation will be made to a pub voted for by the branch members.

Winning pubs will be chosen not only for serving real ale in excellent condition but also for their performance in other areas. These include friendliness of the bar staff, general atmosphere, quality of food, if served, and role in the community.

There are many different types of establishment within the branch's boundaries and each will be considered on their individual merits.

Winners of the award will be announced in Beer Gutter Press. The local papers will also be informed.

As with entries for CAMRA's Good Beer Guide nominations can also be made by non-members.

If you know of a pub which deserves the title of Pub Of The Season drop Newark CAMRA a line explaining why and we'll include it in those being considered every three months.

The address for your suggestions is on the back page of Beer Gutter Press.

NEWSLINE
(01636) 77246

Welcome to the new voice of East Notts drinkers

This is the first issue of Beer Gutter Press, the new newsletter of the Newark-on-Trent branch of The Campaign For Real Ale, Britain's largest consumer organisation.

Many such newsletters are produced by CAMRA branches up and down the country and distributed to the pubs within those areas. They aim to keep all drinkers abreast of news within the brewing industry and inform them of local CAMRA activities such as branch meetings, social evenings and trips to breweries.

The Newark branch has now been running for two years and has gained recognition within the local licensed trade. We see ourselves veering more towards

the social side of pub life though we actively campaign on beer related issues when necessary.

As well as news and letters, advertising will play a part in Beer Gutter Press as we need some dosh to help fund a print run which will take the newsletter into every pub in our area. With a huge potential readership, the newsletter is an ideal place to tell drinkers about your pub, beer festival, taxi service or whatever.

Should you wish to sponsor any particular aspect of the newsletter or think you may wish to advertise on a regular or occasional basis don't hesitate to contact us.

Call Chris Constantine at the Beer Gutter Press on Newark 77246. Or write to:

Beer Gutter Press,
2 Parliament Street,
Newark-on-Trent,
Nottinghamshire.
NG24 4UR

Calling rural crawlers

Do you have a favourite walk which starts and finishes at a pub? Next year CAMRA is publishing a book of such walks and would like to hear your suggestions. If your walk is mainly off-road and doesn't involve any straight lines write to us here at Beer Gutter Press.

Hole to be reopened?

Rumours abound that £300,000 is to be spent on reopening the Hole Arms in Caunton. The pub last served drinkers in 1987 and pints could once again be pulled by next March.

Jack Dee to face the dole

CAMRA has often protested at "Draught Ale in a can" being used to describe the pasturised fizz which is supplied with the infamous widget and drunk by comedians. Now, it seems Bass is planning the real thing. The brewers have filed a patent application which would make secondary fermentation (and therefore real ale) in a can possible. The only problem remaining is how to stop the drinker being sprayed with yeast as the can is opened!

Local support

Don't forget British Pub Week starts on June 18th. It's the idea of Britain's brewers and is another good reason to get down the local and drink some booze.

All day Sunday

Pubs should be able to open between 3 & 7pm on Sundays by this August. The change in the law should prove popular with both licensees and drinkers around Newark. Recently, sixteen pubs in Camden Town, N.London became exempt from the traditional hours and on the first Sunday one actually ran out of beer before closing time.

THE MAIL COACH
INVITES YOU TO ENJOY ITS

**BOOZE
& BLUES**

14TH-16TH JULY 1995

AT LEAST 15 REAL ALES & CIDERS
AVAILABLE DURING THE FESTIVAL

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NEWARK-ON-TRENT

(01636) 605164

Newark Festival. A Newark Town Council Event



Protect your pleasure
JOIN CAMRA NOW

Just fill in the form and send with a cheque
for one year's membership
(payable to CAMRA) to
THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY,
CAMRA, 230 HATFIELD ROAD,
ST. ALBANS, HERTS. AL1 4LW

UK/EU Rates:
Full: £12 Joint: £14
Disabled/Retired/Student/
Unemployed: £6

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

I wish to join the Campaign For Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign. I enclose a cheque for £.....

Signed.....Date.....

Your pint- average or nectar?

Do you enjoy your beer and pub culture enough to want to travel all over East Notts sampling copious pints throughout the year? Would you like to have an active part in deciding which establishments are deemed worthy of a place in the Good Beer Guide? If the answer is "Yes" then you should be a CAMRA surveyor.

Newark CAMRA, as a sub-branch of Nottingham, is responsible for the surveying of pubs in an area bounded by Elston and Hoveringham in the south and Rufford and Collingham in the north.

During the year we try and visit as many pubs as possible, as many times as possible to drink as much beer as possible! All for the cause of scientific research, you understand.

Each pint consumed is given a score ranging from 0 for undrink-

able to 4 for nectar of the gods. Only the quality of the beer is marked. Factors such as temperature and clarity are obviously noted but surveyors' decisions are not allowed to be influenced by personal preferences of particular brands, the volume of any piped music, or the attractiveness of the bar staff!

In February all the information is collated during a boozy session at home and the highest scoring pubs noted. These are revisited by branch members and then at a special meeting we decide which of the short-list will be submitted as entries for CAMRA's national Good Beer Guide, published each October. At present we only have a handful of slots in the GBG so decision making can be hard.

Another problem is that most of the branch's active members tend to live in and around

Newark, so far flung villages do not get visited as much as we'd like. You could be reading this item whilst drinking nectar of the gods in a pub not currently listed in the GBG. Don't keep it to yourself. A decent pint of beer is worth shouting about!

So what do you do? If you haven't already, you could buy a copy of the GBG and fill in the reader's recommendation form. You could contact CAMRA in Newark or you could come along to one of our regular meetings held at various pubs throughout the year. Perhaps you could invite us to hold a meeting at your local. We promise not to drink it dry.

Survey forms are available from Chris at the address mentioned elsewhere in Beer Gutter Press.

NEWARK CAMRA DIARY

Thursday July 6th, 8pm.

Branch meeting at Newcastle Arms, Appletongate, Newark.

Saturday July 8th.

Bus trip to Derby Beer Festival and village pubs.

(Beer festival runs from 5th-9th July at The Assembly Rooms)

Tuesday July 11th, 7-9pm.

Tour around Springhead Brewery, Sutton-on-Trent.

£4.50 includes beer and snap.

Friday July 14th - Saturday July 15th.

Grantham CAMRA Beer Festival, Guildhall, Grantham.

Thursday August 3rd, 8pm.

Branch meeting at Queen's Head, Market Place, Newark.

Saturday August 5th.

Bus trip to Great British Beer Festival, Olympia, London.

(Beer festival runs from Tue 1st - Sat 5th August)

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Brewery trips to Hoskins, Steam Packet and Tomlinsons.

Also "Booze In Burton" - a Saturday pub crawl around a beer paradise.

Remember, CAMRA membership entitles you to discounts on the cost of trips and reduced price (sometimes free) admission to

CAMRA beer festivals. Join today and start saving.

CAMRA members also receive the monthly newspaper "What's Brewing" which features all that's happening in the world of real ale. What more could you want?



Beer Gutter Press is published by the Newark-on-Trent branch of CAMRA.

We welcome short, beer-related articles or letters for publication. All material should be sent to:

**Beer Gutter Press,
Newark CAMRA,
2 Parliament Street,
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Nottinghamshire.
NG24 4UR**

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