

# Beer Gutter Press

FOR DISCERNING BEER DRINKERS IN AND AROUND NEWARK · ISSUE 19 · MAY 2004



Newark branch of CAMRA the Campaign for Real Ale – [www.newarkcamra.org.uk](http://www.newarkcamra.org.uk)

## Start training now for the Great Event

### Three days of fun and mouth-watering ales

**O**n Friday 28th of May Newark's Riverside Park will once again be buzzing as the annual Newark Beer Festival begins its three day jamboree.

The Ninth Newark Festival celebrates the 28th Olympic Games, but unlike our friends in Athens, everything will be up and running, ready to welcome you to a brilliant bank holiday experience.

As in past years, beer drinkers from all over the country will congregate in the marquee to sample the incredible selection of over one hundred real ales.

Ales from many local breweries will be available for you to try out, together with

brews from all across the UK. Bitters, milds, lagers, porters, stouts and fruit beers all cask conditioned and made from natural ingredients so pure that even the International

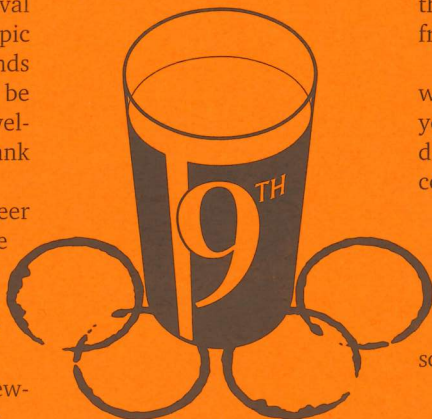
Olympic Committee testing unit couldn't ban you.

If you're a cider or perry drinker you'll drool at the selection we've assembled for you. And like the beers, everything sold at the Cider Bar is free from added gasses.

A fabulous selection of food will be available to help keep you going during this three-day marathon. And then, of course, there's the music.

Quality live music. A mix of rock, pop, folk and soul by some great bands, lovingly selected by Newark CAMRAs band of dedicated talent scouts (they tell us).

For more details of the beer, the bands and the food, visit [www.newarkbeerfestival.co.uk](http://www.newarkbeerfestival.co.uk)



**NEWARK BEER FESTIVAL 2004**

## Warning - don't serve this man!

Cards showing pictures of convicted drunkards have been purchased at auction by the Wolverhampton Archive Service.

The cards were issued 100 years ago by the police in an attempt to tackle drunken behaviour, and any landlord found guilty of supplying these people with alcohol could be fined £10. A tidy sum in those days.

As well as photographs of the offender, the cards contained personal information, together with details of their appearance and distinguishing features.

I notice that the character shown here was born in 1862. That was the year Notts County were founded, so I've little doubt what turned the poor man to drink.



## THEY LIKED A PINT



No. 32. **Diego Maradona** enjoys a glass of Hogs Back Rip Snorter.

## Breath test

A new gadget is being tested that could stop persistent drink drivers from even starting their cars. The device requires motorists to give a breath sample every time they get behind the wheel, and if it detects that they are over the legal limit, it will block the ignition and transmit a message to the police. Can we have a super-market trolley version please?.

## Nice one Fred

The Supreme Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2004 has been awarded to 'Old Freddy Walker'. Brewed by the Moor Beer Company of Bridgwater in Somerset, this 7.3% barley wine was named after an elderly real ale lover from Ashcroft, a village close to the brewery.

## MEMORY LANE INN AND RESTAURANT

Main Street, Sutton on Trent  
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Traditional home-cooked Sunday lunch  
Over 55s lunch menu. Early bird menu 5.30-7.00pm  
Restaurant bookings advisable at weekends

### Restaurant opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 12 noon to 2.00pm, 5.30 to 9.00pm  
Closed Wednesday lunchtime  
Saturday - 12 noon to 3.00pm, 5.30 to 9.30pm  
Sunday - 12 noon to 6.00pm

### Pub opening hours:

Monday - Friday 12 noon to 2.00pm, 5.00 to 11.00pm  
Closed Wednesday lunchtime. Open all day Saturday & Sunday

## 4 guest ales and fine wines

Sky TV for all top-sporting events (big screen)  
Five rooms accommodation all with en-suite facilities  
*A warm welcome awaits you from Brent and Joyce*

# When in Rome

Drive like a maniac. Try to run down pedestrians. Ignore all rules of the road.

Bill Bryson once wrote "You turn any street corner in Rome and it looks as if you've just missed a parking competition for blind people". How true this is; the Italians park at all angles including 90° perpendicular to the street. They double park and even park down the centre of the wider streets. Traffic wardens don't seem to exist and every other car has a dent or a scratch or a smashed headlight. They just don't care.

Neither it would appear, do they care much for beer (birra). There are precious few bars (what there is tend to be 'British style' bars) and getting a beer can be a drawn out affair. Most beer selling establishments are cafés and restaurants where you sit down and wait to be served. When you want to leave you have to get the bill. A pub-crawl could take all day!

No swift halves here. Mind you it was too hot to do anything swiftly.

We did however hunt down a little place in the Piazza Testaccio called L'Oasi della Birra which boasts no less than 500 beers on it's menu along with several hundred wines, several hundred cheeses and dozens of types of ham. The beers are from all over the World including the UK, but many of them weren't available. The disappointment was short lived though as our very accommodating hosts

would always offer up the nearest alternative.

As the evening wore on the language barrier proved to be more and more of a problem as we struggled to even understand ourselves at times.

In most café-bars there is only one beer on offer so it's just a matter of shouting 'Birra' and holding up the req-



uisite number of digits. When you have such a vast choice however, things can get a little confusing especially when they haven't got the one you want. There were several slurred attempts to recite the Monty Python cheese shop sketch,

alluding to the lack of beers available.

Some of the many brews that our little crowd did enjoy though were; Polar (5%) from Venezuela, Ceres Stout (7.7%) from Denmark, Barbar Blonde (8%), St Feuillien (7.5%), Chapeau Peche (3.5%) and Afflieem Dubble (6.8%) all from Belgium, and not forgetting the host Country; Baladin Issac (5%), Baladin Wayan (5.8%) and a very popular one G. Menabrea C Figli 150 Year Anniversary (4.8%). I think the latter's popularity was down the fact that it came in huge bottles. Needless to say we all had a wonderful time.

The highlight of our time in Rome was sitting in a beautiful little square in front of the Pantheon under a scorching sun drinking a nice cold glass of the aforementioned 150 Year anniversary birra. One of those moments that you wish could last forever and makes you completely forget the fact that you have to go home soon to what turned out to be a very wet England.

**Bob Smith**

## FESTIVAL OPENING TIMES

Newark's 9th Beer Festival opens on  
Friday 28th May 2004 at 11am until 10pm;  
Saturday 29th May from 11am until 10pm  
and Sunday 30th May from 12 noon until 10pm.

Entrance to the event costs  
£3.50 for non-CAMRA members  
and £2.50 for card-carrying CAMRA members.

Entry includes  
a free festival glass and programme.

# Pints and public service

## A word from Newark's Real Ale-loving Mayor

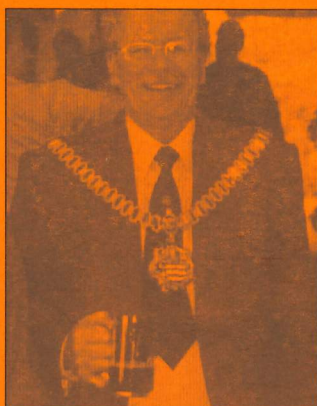
Having agreed to write an article, the next question was, "what about?" I suppose it should be obvious, Beer and the Mayorality, surely. Both are ancient traditions and in the past Newark was famous for its ale houses on nearly every corner and on the other corners houses of ill repute. The Millgate area was notorious I'm told, due to the bargees. Those days we had little breweries with ale houses everywhere, but the "hops" were more common in the other houses – in and out of bed!

I don't know whether the mayors in the past frequented these places or enjoyed beer which was drunk by a very high proportion of the populace, but I suspect they did.

We've had a Mayor of Newark since 1626 in the reign of Charles I, but Newark itself got its first "Charter of Incorporation" in 1549. No doubt both events were celebrated with a fair amount of liquid using tankards now on display in the Town Hall. Some of these hold a fair skinfull!

I became interested in beer many years ago as an underage teenager sneaking into a Worthington's house in Hull after choir practice or the youth club, with my shilling. The main brewer in Hull was Hull Brewery, which had a name for making chemical beer in those days, but we had a lot of Worthington, Bass, Tetleys, Ind Coope hostleries.

The best ones were in the villages outside Hull, where



closing time was half an hour later (10.30pm!) but you needed a vehicle. I was lucky, a friend had an Austin pick-up. A lot of the pubs then served beer straight from the wood and the only beer with a head came out of a pump. I still don't like a lot of head on a pint.

A spell in the army got me to Dorset, where the beer seemed weak, and then to Newcastle where I got a taste for their brown stuff.

After leaving Hull in 1961 I moved to Exeter, with my wife Pauline, and again there was a great selection of beers out of a barrel, including the local Heavitree beers. We also got imports from Dorset as well as the Bass and Worthington. It was in Exeter that I became aware of CAMRA and joined up (got the tie too!), but work and a further house move meant I became a lapsed member.

I moved to Kent (Edenbridge) in 1968 and discovered some new local beers, particularly Shephard Neame and when I

visit my family, my 'local' is one of their pubs with good beer and food. Of course I also came across Youngs down that way.

Whilst in Edenbridge I was Chairman of a Sports Club for many years and we dealt with Whitbread which was quite popular among the Rugby players (the soccer players got drunk on Stella!).

The move to Newark came in 1987 and again new beers, but choices are not as they used to be. John Smith's of course is very popular locally but the old breweries are gone and with that, choice.

In due course, I got interested in local politics and was elected to the Town Council for Ossington Ward five years ago.

I already knew quite a lot about Newark and district because of family connections. My father and his brothers and sisters were born in Farndon and grandmother and later an uncle ran the Post Office there, and I can still remember the noise and smell wafting from the Rose & Crown when I was on holiday at the Post Office or in the cottage (now long gone) in California, which was a short cul-de-sac leading to allotments etc. and the outside privy block (cold in winter).

In 2002 my fellow councillors elected me Mayor and in that capacity one gets to attend all sorts of functions. Some of these involve formal speeches, some only a short greeting, but all require a bit

of research and preparation. I write all my own speeches as I don't think one can speak from the heart if someone else writes for you.

One event I was delighted to be at was the 2002 Beer Festival and I decided I would rejoin CAMRA whilst I was there. Trouble is I get so much to do in the evenings that I don't see you much. Last year I attended over 200 functions and sadly the most likely drink at a lot of these is red or white wine. It won't be the first time that a quick stop for a decent pint is a priority on the way home (fortunately I have a driver!). It's going rather the same way this year, having been persuaded to do the job for a second year running. The last time this happened was 20 years ago.

Being Mayor is quite an experience. One meets all sorts of people and a large number of "volunteers" working hard for the less able. It is very time consuming and whilst there are days without engagements, there are others where there can be two or even three. This is on top of ones work as a councillor and being on the council committees.

Sadly there are not many people willing to work for Newark for nothing. Town Councillors are unpaid. We do need more younger blood to keep things going so start thinking ahead to 2007.

Meantime all the best to all readers and power to the elbow to the real ale breweries. Cheers!

**Councillor Peter Foster**  
*The Town Mayor of Newark*

**The Square & Compass**  
**Normanton on Trent**

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Sunday lunch all day from 12 noon to 8pm  
Call 01636 821439

Good selection of cask conditioned ales permanently available including beers from our own Maypole Brewery.

Wednesday Quiz Night.  
Prizes every week. All teams welcome.

**Newark CAMRA's PUB OF THE YEAR 2003**

## Any complaints?

For complaints concerning adulteration, substitution and short measures contact:

**The Trading Standards Dept.**  
Rolleston Drive, Arnold,  
Notts NG5 7JA

For complaints about deceptive advertising write to:

**Advertising Standards Authority,**  
Brook House, 2-16 Torrington  
Place, London WC1E 7HN

To complain about proposed pub alterations or to view the plans of future developments, contact:

**The Planning Department,**  
N&SDC, Kelham Hall,  
Newark NG23 5QX

CAMRA HQ can be found at:

**CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road,**  
St. Albans AL1 4LW  
Web: [www.camra.org.uk/](http://www.camra.org.uk/)

## Diary

### MILD IN MAY

CAMRA promotes Mild Ale throughout the month. National Mild Day Saturday 8 May. See Newark CAMRA website for details of local events.

### NEWARK BEER FESTIVAL

Friday 28 to Sunday 30 May  
Riverside Park, Newark.

### NEWARK CAMRA BRANCH MEETINGS:

**Thursday 6 May, 8.00pm**  
Navigation, Newark

**Thursday 3 June, 8.00pm**  
Admiral Rodney, Southwell

**Thursday 1 July, 8.00pm**  
Mail Coach, Newark

**Thursday 5 August, 8.00pm**  
The Britannia, Farndon

# Beer and dry crackers

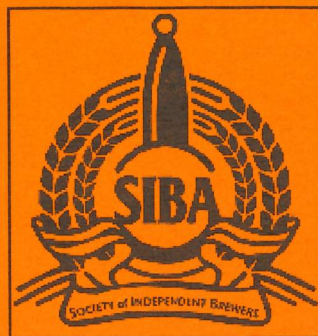
It's a tough job, but some one has to do it!

One wouldn't immediately associate Jacobs Crackers, sparkling mineral water, Tupperware jugs and plastic buckets with beer drinking, but that's exactly what was involved when I took part as a judge in this year's SIBA Midlands Beer Festival to find SIBA's (The Society of Independent Brewers) regional Champion Beer. The invite came from the organiser, Sara Barton of Brewster's Brewery. The festival was held in the Exhibition Hall at Melton Market, Melton Mowbray.

Before the official opening of the festival, six panels sat to decide each of six styles from sixty beers: Bitter, Premium Bitters, Strong Ales, Porters and Stouts, Milds and finally, Speciality Beers. I was appointed to the Bitters' panel

with five other judges including Keith Williams, Chairman of Leicester CAMRA and our panel chair Nina Bates, MD of the beer distributors Flying Firkin.

After all getting acquainted over a buffet lunch we all sat at the round table and got down to business. There were no less than twelve different beers in our category and we had to be as subjective about the last as the first – this would be no easy job! Beers were served up in the aforementioned jugs one by one and scores were given out of 10 for each criteria: aroma, appearance, flavour and after-taste. After individual impressions, debate was encouraged to help come to a subjective decision. Between samples, palates were refreshed with



spring water and dry crackers.

Twelve beers and over two hours later we had a winner (head and shoulders in front), but as it was a blind tasting, we didn't have a clue what it was. Our winner went, with all the other category winners, to another table, which was panelled by all the individual panel chairs in order to sort out an overall winner. Another hour later and we had our winner – it was the one from our table and it was ... Trammie Dodger, from Castle Rock Brewery.

Although the process may sound 'anoraky' (is that a word?) and boring, it was actually a very enjoyable experience and my thanks go out to Sara for a very well organised festival. The rest of the evening was spent chatting with the other panel members and taking a flying visit to Melton's three GBG pubs before grabbing a fish 'n' chip supper and heading home. Another great day out.

More info: [www.siba.co.uk](http://www.siba.co.uk)

**Bold Belvoir**

# Historic porter Mild in May

Back in the early eighteenth century the most popular beer was known as 'three threads'. This was a mixture of three different ales (pale, brown and stock) poured separately into a tankard. A time consuming process for the landlord, and a bind for his thirsty customer. Then around 1720 Ralph Harwood's Bell Brewery in Shoreditch produced a wonderfully rich, dark brew that captured the essence of all three ales in one.

Originally known as 'entire', it quickly became the favourite tippie of the local market porters and its name changed. Porter was born.

Around the corner from the

brewery, The-Blue Last pub in Great Eastern Street was the first to sell the new brew. It still stands today.

Pretty soon porter became the working man's favourite tippie throughout the land and vast profits were to be made, though not without substantial investment and some risk. In 1814 at the Meaux Brewery in Tottenham Court Road (roughly where the Dominion Theatre stands today) a vat of 130,000 gallons exploded claiming the lives of eight people, either by drowning or being overcome by fumes. What a way to go!

Have a glass at the festival, and enjoy a taste of history.

Throughout May, CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale will be encouraging the public to try Mild Ale, and celebrating National Mild Day on Saturday 8 May.

Dating back over 400 years, this traditional style of beer has disappeared from many pubs, and is in danger of becoming extinct in some areas of Britain.

Although generally weaker in strength than other types of beer, some can be quite potent as with Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby weighing in at 6% ABV.

Many local events will be taking place, so check out the Newark CAMRA web site for details.



## Smoke screen

CAMRA the Campaign for Real Ale has become the first consumer group to back the Government/Industry's Charter for Smoking in Public Places.

Whether you're for or against smoking in bars, the charter aims to provide information on the pub's policy before you enter the bar, and if the landlord's policy doesn't agree with yours, you can take your custom elsewhere.

Research has shown that 50% of adults disagree with a total ban on smoking in pubs, and that 83% believe that where possible pubs should provide rooms to meet the needs of both smokers and non-smokers.

CAMRA's Mike Benner made the comment that unless landlords took the charter seriously and signed up, a total ban on smoking in public places was likely to result before too long.

## MAYPOLE BREWERY CHAMPION BEER

# Lion's Pride



FROM THE HEART OF ENGLAND

## Morrison's promise

Supermarket chain Morrison's have finally completed their £3bn take-over of Safeway to become Britain's fourth largest supermarket group. Safeway have been great supporters of CAMRA and their stores have reflected this by stocking a superb range of bottled beers, both British and foreign.

Morrison's conceded that their beer offering lagged behind Safeway's, but said "It will be our job to weld together the best of both worlds regarding price and choice". Lets hope so.

## New Harvest

Nottingham's Lord Mayor Brent Charlesworth called into the Vat and Fiddle pub to pull the first pint of Castle Rock Brewery's new beer Harvest Pale. Originally called Trammy Dodger to celebrate the city's new tram system, it was launched as a one-off at the 2003 Nottingham Beer Festival.

Castle Rock's head brewer Pete Wooding said, "Harvest Pale is the culmination of what makes the perfect beer for the 21st century palate. It's mid-strength at 3.8% ABV, and thanks to its particularly pale malt base and its blend of two high-alpha acid American hops, it has been

# JOIN CAMRA NOW

## Membership Application

Please fill in your details and send to:

CAMRA, Membership Secretary, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

TITLE SURNAME

FORENAME(S) DATE OF BIRTH

PARTNER (IF JOINT MEMBERSHIP)

TITLE SURNAME

FORENAME(S) DATE OF BIRTH

E-MAIL ADDRESS

POSTAL ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S)

Please indicate below (circle amount) which category applies to the recipient:

Single	£16	Under 26	£9	Retired	£9
Joint	£19	Under 26 Joint	£12	Retired Joint	£12

I ENCLOSE A CHEQUE PAYABLE TO CAMRA FOR £

SIGNED DATE

proved particularly popular with those who enjoy tastes at the higher end of the beer spectrum". Harvest Pale will be a regular at Tynemill pubs.

## Bradford

An enthusiastic coach load of

Newark CAMRA members descended on the Bradford Beer Festival. Great ale, a brass band and the strangest tombola ever seen. The bizarre prizes meant that most punters dreaded winning. Wonderful! On to sample some of the city's finest curry, then back home in a rather toxic bus.

**Beer Gutter Press** is published by the Newark-on Trent branch of **CAMRA, The Campaign for Real Ale**. We welcome short beer related articles, puzzles or letters for publication. Our advertising rates are incredibly cheap and you can be sure of your message reaching a huge proportion of imbibers in East Nottinghamshire. Contact us now to book your space in the next issue.

All material should be sent to: Beer Gutter Press, Woodside, 11 The Green, Collingham, Newark, Notts NG23 7LQ. Telephone 01636 892204. e-mail: newsletter@newarkcamra.org.uk or harryconstantine@waitrose.com Web site: www.newarkcamra.org.uk Opinions expressed within Beer Gutter Press are not necessarily those held by the editorial staff or by CAMRA at a local or national level.



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REAL ALE