

Beer-Gutter Press

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



FIGHT ON THE HOME FRONT CONTINUES



Despite the protestations of CAMRA and other interested parties, Jonathon Evans, the consumer affairs minister has rejected calls for the takeover of Courage by Scottish & Newcastle to be investigated by the Monopolies & Mergers Commission.

The new Scottish Courage has now become the largest brewing group in the UK. Nevertheless the Director General of Fair Trading has proposed some restrictions on the growth. These include the selling of 115 tied pubs to cap the Scottish Courage estate at 2,624. They would also be required to end Courage's supply agreement with the 1,000 pubs of the Inntrepreneur estate of which several are in the Newark area. Comments on these undertakings are now invited by the Office of Fair Trading.

Meanwhile the campaign to keep Home Brewery open continues. A march through Nottingham to the Daybrook premises this summer produced much needed publicity. Most Home drinkers are now aware of the threat to their favourite pint.

At the Newcastle Arms, Newark's only remaining outlet for cask conditioned Home,

drinkers gave a big thumbs down to a trial of Younger's Best bitter. The beer, which has recently been produced as a real ale for the first time, is thought to be Scottish Courage's replacement for Home Bitter in this area but regulars in Appletongate are obviously not happy at such a prospect. Should the brewing giant decide to close Nottingham's last brewery the pub's best selling beer would be lost forever and there would be a lot of unhappy palates.

Anyone interested in helping ROBIN (Retain Our Beers In Nottingham) in the fight to keep Home open should contact Newark CAMRA or write to Richard Studený, Nottingham CAMRA, 36 Maples St., Nottingham. NG7 6AD.

Packhorse returns

After a £7,000 refit the Packhorse in Newark's Albert Street reopened this summer.

Now run by Dick Nice and his family on a five year Inntrepreneur lease it is hoped that the pub will become a welcoming watering hole for those who enjoy their real ale.

At last, traditional John Smiths is being served as well as Pedigree. Cellarman, Steve Nice said that if the Marstons goes well another guest pump may be added in the future.

**MORE BEERY
NEWS INSIDE...**

More Upton Merriement

The Cross Keys at Upton is at it again this Autumn. Up to thirty brews will be on offer during the latest beer festival to be held on October 4th - 8th at the award winning pub.

Drinkers can enjoy all day Saturday & Sunday opening and as usual the focus will be on

sampling the wares of small and obscure breweries from around the country, though expect there to be a few old favourites as well.

Any pre-booked parties of ten or more will be treated to a free buffet and everyone can enjoy the live music each evening.

More info on 01636 813269.

Strawberry Fields forever (and ever)

Bateman's summer beer, Strawberry Fields, has been wreaking havoc in pubs throughout the East Notts area. It seems that its flavour lingers in beer lines long after the brew has gone, no matter how much flushing and cleaning is performed. A remedy has been found though: flush the pipes with cola. Honest. That stuff eats away at anything!

Do you have any hot news for the Beer Gutter Press?

Is your local about to be turned into a fun pub? Has the landlord just started to stock guest beers? Are you thinking of starting your own brewing empire?

Don't ring Reuters! Call the Beer Gutter Press newsline and let the imbibers of East Notts know all about it.....01636 77246

Watch out for Norman



Four more punters take Norman's taste challenge at GBBF

As temperatures soared inside London's Olympia, thousands enjoyed the brews on offer at The Great British Beer Festival held there during August.

The start of the extravaganza was marked by the announcement of 1995's Champion Beer. The winner this year being Norman's Conquest, a strong dark beer brewed in Somerset by the Cottage Brewery.

Local brewer, Springhead had two beers make it to the final. Both Roaring Meg and The Leveller obtained runner up status in the strong bitter and best bitter classes respectively.

Although understandably confused with The Leveller's classification, Springhead's Alan Gill was pleased with his beers' performance.

Second and third in the Champion Beer stakes were Harvey's Porter from Sussex and Hadrian's Centurian Best Bitter from Newcastle.

No doubt all the winners will be making appearances at our more adventurous public houses in the near future so keep those taste buds on standby.

Festival update

November will see the first CAMRA beer festival held in Retford. Organised by the North Notts branch in association with the local council, it will be just a short hop on the train for a mega guzzling session on the 17th & 18th of the month.

Meanwhile many folks are asking about a Newark beer festival. One was actually being planned for this summer, to be held during the Town Festival, but after much deliberation the Town Council decided against it. Now CAMRA is eyeing spring '96 as a possible date for the do. As usual, stay tuned.

Beer Monster in Belgium

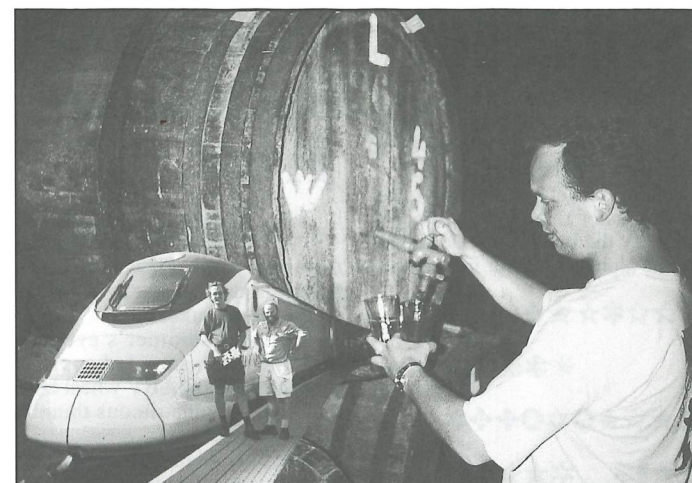
The country which taxes car radios, is famous for its incontinent statue and produces some damn fine beers is now just a few hours away by train. If you've got the £99 fare, do what we did and leap on the Eurostar via the Chunnel to Brussels.

Round the corner from Midi station is the Cantillon brewery—where Monday to Saturday you can walk through the door, hand over 70F (£1.60) and have the run of the place. You don't get to drink it dry but you do see an amazing piece of working history.

Cantillon is one of the last remaining gueuze manufacturers, a local style made from blends of lambic beers.

Lambics were once the most popular beers of Brussels. They are created using wild, airborne yeasts which descend overnight through louvres in the brewery's roof onto the exposed liquid which will then ferment in oak barrels. Once fermentation has died down the huge barrels are sealed and the beer left to mature for up to three years. We tasted a two year-old and agreed that it was a beer equivalent of scrumpy.

Eventually this flat beer is blended with younger lambics and bottled. Sugars in the



Beer monsters: fast trains, slow maturation, bad guts.

younger beer promote a secondary fermentation and therefore some sparkle. Even so, the bottles are left racked on their side in the cellar for another two years.

Ours being a summer visit, there was no brewing in progress. Cantillon's lambics are not artificially cooled so use the colder nights from October to May for the process. We did, however wonder through vast rooms piled high with dusty, oak casks and around cellars walled with horizontal green bottles, all containing silently maturing beer. Surely no British brewery could offer such sights!

Often described as Belgian champagne, when you do eventually get to drink it, you may, as

we did, struggle to finish a glass. Fantastically sour and a little acid tasting, at home you'd take it back to the bar, but here in this cobweb-ridden old building you grit your teeth and persevere. After all, this is a classic beer style you're drinking and the brewer and his family are watching you sample their wares. We were also offered some kriel, gueuze fermented with cherries, but declined. Call us cowards, but stomachs were rumbling and Brussels' fine culinary fare had yet to be sampled, along with hundreds of other Belgian beers!

Cantillon Brewery can be found at Rue Gheude 56, just 10 minutes walk from Brussels Midi/Zuid station, the Eurostar terminus.

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Stinker!

Below are listed the names of eight beers, all of which can be found in the 1995 Good Beer Guide, published by CAMRA.

Can you replace each symbol with a letter from the alphabet to identify the brews? All 26 letters of the alphabet appear in the quiz.

1. ☆☆☆☆★◆*

***☆☆★◆*

2. ☆☆☆☆★◆◆*

3. ★▷* ☆★◆◆*

4. *☆☆☆* ★★

5. *☆☆☆☆* ☆★◆

6. ★★*

◆★☆☆★◆*◆*

7. ★☆☆★◆*

8. *☆☆★◆*

Answers in the next issue.

Cloudy in Sutton-on-Trent

The Newark branch of CAMRA were proud to be amongst the first to taste Springhead Brewery's latest brew, Hersbrucker.

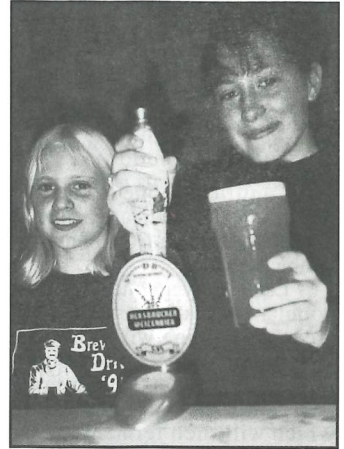
During a summer's evening visit members sampled copious pints of the 3.6%ABV wheat beer and gave it a unanimous thumbs up.

Brewer, Alan Gill explained that whereas previous beers had been named after English Civil War subjects he felt that his new drink should take the name of the Bavarian hops used in the recipe.

The refreshing beer is available to pubs in its traditionally cloudy form as well as a fined, clear version for establishments where the customers might not accept cloudiness. Only a slight difference in taste can be noticed between the two.

Springhead is amongst the hundreds of breweries now producing limited edition and

seasonal beers. As drinkers grow accustomed to greater choice, many landlords are constantly on the lookout for new brands to serve as guests. According to Alan Gill, a small brewery can no longer survive on one or two bitters. In some ways we are seeing a return to days gone by when many beers were produced according to the ingredients and conditions of the season. This, of course can only be good news for those of us with roving taste buds.

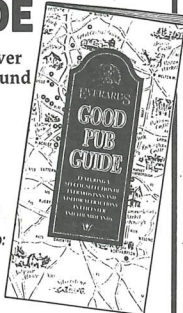


Hersbrucker. Gerrit darn yer!

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For all the Family

NEWARK CAMRA DIARY

Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd September.

Bingham Beer Festival. Bingham Leisure Centre.

Thursday 5th October, 8pm.

Branch meeting & buffet at Cross Keys Festival, Upton.

Thursday 19th - Sunday 22nd October.

Nottingham Beer Festival. Victoria Baths, Sneinton.

Thursday 2nd November, 8pm.

Branch meeting at The Staythorpe Electric Club, Newark.

Coming in December: Ruddles Brewery Social Evening.

Beer Gutter Press is published by the Newark-on-Trent branch of CAMRA. 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 Notts. Contact us now to book your space in the next issue.

All material should be sent to:

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