

FREE



The Campaign for Real Ale

HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1980

NUMBER 31



IT'S GREAT — AND IT'S BRITISH

THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL IS STILL ON!

Despite the fire in mid July which gutted the Great Hall at Alexandra Palace, scene of the previous festivals, the event is still to go ahead, although not quite as originally planned. Haringay Council will be erecting marquees on the old racecourse below the hall and during the eight days between Saturday 30th August and Saturday 6th September around a quarter of a million pints of traditional draught beer will be drunk by tens of thousands of thirsty people. The new site with its five marquees will be the biggest yet for the event, and the range of beers will be bigger than ever. There'll be free entertainment, craft stalls and a firework display. For more information see the local press and posters. Entrance is free — see you there!

HOW TO GET THERE: By BR to Wood Green or tube to Wood Green Underground and W4 bus (frequent service).

OPENING TIMES: Saturday 30th 5.30-11.00; Sunday 31st 12-3 and 7-10.30; Monday 1st to Thursday 4th 5.30-10.30; Friday 5th and Saturday 6th 11-3.30 and 5.30-11.

Note to all CAMRA members! Because of the change in circumstances helpers are needed more than ever. Contact your local branch or CAMRA HQ on St. Albans 67201 if you can spare any time at all.

WINNERS

Derby and Groan

Winners of CAMRA's national Derby Draw were announced last month. The £1000 prize went to G. Broadhurst of Wimborne, Dorset who drew the winner, *Henbit*. £750 went to Mrs A. Marr of Darlington with *Masher Willie*, £500 to M. Cairns of Huddersfield with *Rankin* and £250 to T. Joule of Heme Hill, South London with *Pelerin*.

The Hertfordshire Branches again were amongst the best ticket salesmen in the Campaign and two people from the county, D. Woodgate of St. Albans and R. Siphthorpe of The Sun, Hoddesdon drew horses — Mr. Siphthorpe even drew two!

Driven to Drink

On a more local note the South Herts Branch Treasure Hunt, which attracted huge crowds, was won by the crew captained by Bob Norrish and Wendy Casey with 94 points out of 100. In a close fought contest Eric (Condor) Sim came last despite a magnificent performance by his navigator, Pam.

BEST CELLARS

Joe Matthews of the Ship in Hitchin, which has had Mac's Country Bitter on sale through handpumps for some time now, has won first prize in the McMullens' 1979/80 inter-house cellar competition organised by the brewery for its licensed house managers. Brewery representatives paid surprise calls to managed pubs to carry out cellar inspections and to test the quality of the beer being served. Joe has received a framed certificate and a prize of £45.

Other prizes were won by the following managers:

2nd prize: £30 and a framed certificate, P. Downie of The Owl, Lippitts Hill

3rd prize: £20 and a framed certificate, P.J. Lacroft of The Plough, Fiamstead End

4th prize: P. Dodman of the Hare, Harlow. D.A. Burse of the Hilltop, Hatfield.

GREENE KING NEWS

CAMRA representatives recently met officials of Greene King and found them in a jubilant mood, following the publication of the result of Herts North branch's price survey, which named Greene King brews as best value for money locally. However, Greene King had recently raised their prices by some 3p per pint, the rise being attributed to increasing expenses.

Good news for those of us who like to take away draught beer from our local to drink at home. No more struggling with old oil cans or chamberpots — as from September all Greene King pubs will be able to sell you a special plastic 3½ pint container which your landlord will fill with real ale, straight from the pump, and which you will be able to refill at a Greene King pub again and again. This will be cheaper than canned or bottled beer, and taste better too. Congratulations and two cheers to Greene King on their initiative; the third cheer is withdrawn, as at the same time as they introduce their take-away "jug", Greene King will also be introducing new 4-pint cans of pasteurised "bitter". Talk about hedging your bets!

More good news — it is likely that a draught strong Christmas Ale will be on sale in Greene King pubs this winter. To be sold in polypins, this high-strength beer will resemble a draught version of the bottled St Edmund Ale, with a darker colouring. It's worth remembering that this idea was first suggested by Herts North branch secretary Steve Done at a Greene King shareholders' AGM some years ago.

At the meeting, rumours that the Wilbury Hotel at Letchworth was to become a Berni Inn were quashed, and Greene King confirmed that it was not their intention to close the Brewery Tap at Ware. Drinkers in the Watford area will be pleased to learn that the Fox and Hounds at Croxley Green is to be a likely candidate for real ale, when it is extensively renovated in the next couple of years.

Finally, all admirers of the superb Rayments BBA will surely wish to thank Greene King for making available a beautifully designed hand-pump clip for this beer, incorporating Rayments own "jolly brewer" trademark. It is certainly time that Rayments were allowed their own individual identity.

Peter Lerner

COMPOST CORNER

by S. Stirrer

LABORATORY HUMOUR

Working in a scientifically orientated establishment, as I do, one often sees learned papers written on a variety of obscure subjects. One came to my attention recently, and must qualify for some sort of pointless award, it's entitled "Combined radiochemical-neutron activation analysis method for the determination of sulphur and phosphorus in high purity paper and beer." Well, that should really get the hearts thumping down at Youngs and Brakspears. With the larger brewers' preoccupation with laboratories and so forth one can imagine the day when "no pub will be complete without the Acme Linear Accelerator" enabling them to bombard their beer with neutrons to see if its fit to drink. After all, it's technology like that, that's brought us sliced bread, space invaders, electric banana peelers and — keg beer.

WELL OBSERVED

Avid readers of Derek Cooper in the Observer will not have missed his excellent article entitled "Pint of Brasso and a soap sandwich". This article was a lament for pubs as they should be, or, at least, used to be. However, in his suggested Bad Pub Guide the descriptions came close to home. Such pubs would include "a fruit machine, banknotes stuck to the ceiling, jukebox, log gasfire, conveniences labelled Ducks and Drakes, Keg beer, plywood Tudor beams, oleographs of urinating dogs, a Hammond organ, knicker curtains, a Melodaine background music system, fairy lights all the year round, wrought iron work encrusted with plastic grapes, niches full of illuminated artificial flowers, wall-to-wall migraine carpeting." Enough said.

NO(KE)COMMENT

I recently received a letter from a well known local hotel, (I'll not name it to save embarrassment) in which the local branch was invited to partake of their facilities offering our "Society" reduced rates they suggest the Braugham Suite "...purpose built... with dance floor and private bar." Apparently AGM's, etc, can easily be followed with a disco evening. Watch out for the next Herts South AGM! However, I can hardly resist the restaurant by its description: "Take a beautifully proportioned room, panel it with ageing oak taken from an ancient Abbey, furnish it as if you were a wealthy 16th century gentleman of impeccable taste, and all this provides a relaxing atmosphere.... The result is our restaurant." As I said — no comment.

SKITTLE ALLY

Having received no further information about pubs with tables skittles I must assume that the Rose and Crown, Essendon is the only pub in the county left with Devil-among-the-Tailors, the other name for this game. This very enjoyable game is, luckily, still quite common in many parts of the country, notably Cornwall. I suggest that you get down to Essendon and give it a go, it's certainly nearer than Cornwall!

Next month I intend to publish a list of bar billiards pubs. The prospects for this look much better, as I've already received letters from some people about this game. I've also been contacted by a couple of people interested in starting a local league, and a local bar billiards table supplier is prepared to donate a trophy. Anyone out there who is keen on becoming involved let me know.

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

I hope to resurrect Graffiti Corner in forthcoming newsletters beginning with next month's issue being devoted to the best of the Graffiti Wall at the recent Hertfordshire Beer Festival. Entries for future editions (printable ones please!) should be sent to me, c/o the newsletter. Just for starters:

— if French apples are so good, how come they didn't discover the Laws of Gravity?

ODDS'N'ENDS

MORE FESTIVAL NEWS

Last month's Hertfordshire Beer Festival proved to be yet another good event although reduced attendances on Saturday meant that only about 90 per cent of the beer was sold. One of the high spots was the excellent food which proved very popular. Due to the lower attendance the festival organisers still have a number of festival commemorative glasses which will be sold to anyone who contacts Dennis Ward on Ware 67463. Discounts are available for bulk purchases.

It is expected that the festival will have made a small profit for the campaign.

BADGES

Hertfordshire South Branch has just taken delivery of a badge making machine. Get your own badges made for parties, fêtes — or anything. No minimum order. Contact Eric Sim on Hatfield 60647 for details.

THE CORNELL COLUMN

by Martyn Cornell

NEO-BENSKINS

One of the small ironies of Ind Coop's return to the old names of companies they took over 20 and more years ago is the number of pubs now sporting the Benskin's pennant in Hertfordshire that were never, originally, Benskin's pubs at all.

A third of all Ind Coope pubs in the county once belonged to the East London brewers, Taylor Walker. The company, whose colours were green and black, owned about 150 Hertfordshire pubs inherited from Christies of Hoddesdon in the east and the Chesham Brewery Co in the west.

Taylor Walker was taken over by Ind Coope in 1959, two years after the Romford brewers had taken over Benskins. Just like Benskins, the Taylor Walker name has been revived by Ind Coope — but only for pubs in London. Taylor Walker pubs in Herts, regardless of their history, are now being kitted out in the red and gold Benskin's colours, and selling Benskin's bitter.

Former Taylor Walker pubs, where you can now get Benskin's Bitter for the first time ever, include the Old Bull's Head, Ware, the White Hart, Stevenage, the Plough, Elstree, the Townshend Arms, Hertford Heath, the Mayflower, Hemel Hempstead and the Red Lion, Potten End.

Meanwhile the new Benskins bitter seems to be going down very well with Hertfordshire drinkers. One landlord reported that people in his pub had been changing from lager to Benskins, a very welcome development. Former Benskins landlord Wally Hazard, who looked after the Goat, Codicote in the days of the Watford Brewery, told me: "The taste is about as close to the old beer as you could get without using Watford water. It even needs looking after in the cellar in the same way that the old beer did."

Certainly Ind Coope-Benskins management have taken to heart the messages they have received from landlords who remembered the old beer about how it had to be looked after, and are now, it seems, recommending a wait of no less than 10 days between racking and serving.

NOT QUITE AK-URATE

The current series of advertisements from Hertford brewers McMullens, which claims among other things that their AK mild "has been a local favourite since 1829", needs to be taken with a pinch of salt.

The 1829 claim for AK is apparently based on an ad which appeared in 1929, and which said that Mac's had been brewing the beer for 100 years — hardly the sort of cast-iron historical evidence which would convince the A.J.P. Taylors and Hugh-Trevor-Ropers of this world.

In fact the very first advertisement for McMullen's beers never appeared until 1836, and showed that Peter McMullen was brewing just two beers, called XX and X.

At least the company has avoided claiming any great pedigree for its Country bitter, which was first produced in 1963.

THERE IS A GREEN'S FIELD FAR AWAY

Whitbreads have now almost completed moving headquarters from London to new offices on the site of the Old Green's/Flowers brewery in Luton — which reminds me that I heard recently of the ultimate fate of the brewery buildings.

J.W. Green's brewery took over five breweries in Hertfordshire, and owned around 130 pubs in the county, when the company took over the brewery and the name of Flowers of Stratford on Avon.

In 1962 Flowers was taken over by Whitbread, who eventually built a big new keg-only brewery near the M1 motorway in Luton, leaving the old Green's brewery in Park Street West, Luton empty and unused.

Schemes came and went for the site, until eventually Whitbread decided to knock the brewery down and build an office block there to house the various scattered departments of Whitbread (London) Ltd. The bits and pieces of the demolished brewery were sold off as hard core — and now provide the underneath of a road up to a pig farm in Ashwell.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER SCRAP TOGETHER

A strange I-thought-if-it-first, no-you-didn't, yes-I-did battle has broken out between two of the Big Six brewers, Scottish and Newcastle and Allied Breweries.

The two have gone to the High Court over S and N's use of the name Kestrel and a picture of a swooping bird of prey for its new, cold and gassy "lager", which Allied (owners of Ind Coope) claims infringes one of its own trademarks, Falcon.

S and N, on the other hand, says that Allied hasn't used the Falcon trademark for at least five years, and merely resurrected it to get one over on S and N.

Meanwhile, ornithologists have pointed out that the bird shown by Scottish and Newcastle in its ads for Kestrel is actually a falcon anyway — and besides, the slogan "It bites" used by S and N is grossly inaccurate, since neither kestrels nor falcons bite their prey.

And who is paying for all these expensive legal shenanigans? Why, you the drinker, of course.

ADVERTISE IN THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER!

Circulation 4000 for details see bottom of back page.

KNOCKING BACK YARDS

by Steve Bury

After riding my trusty Velocipede from Shenley, I arrived at the Verulam Arms, St. Albans with the little veins in my forehead pulsing and the feeling that I had ruptured muscles I never knew existed. A couple of pints came as a welcome relief. The only trouble was that I had, very suddenly, two and a half pints more on top of a well shaken meat loaf dinner.

This brings me to the yard of Ale or Oxford Yard, several of which, filled with Benskins, were downed on Friday 20th June in a truly charitable spirit to help save St. Albans Abbey. This arduous though enjoyable task always reminds me of the true origins of the yard. Back in the days when the country was criss-crossed with coaching routes the mail coach moved at the fearsome speed of 12mph. The horses must often have felt somewhat as I did on arrival at the Verulam stops for a change of horses were regular especially at the tops of hills. Prestige, as well as the option of getting to carry the mail if you could consistently keep up good times, made competition fierce and introduced the first Yard of Ale. When the horses were changed the passengers and crew were not always allowed to disembark. At the top of "Barnet Hill" for instance, the 'MITRE' stables could change a team in under a minute. The coach companies supplied free ale for the driver and guard. One pint per man at each stop which included the horse changes. To save the barman having to climb up on the coach, a 36" long, over-sized straight beer glass was provided and the ale was handed up to the driver who drank half and gave the guard half. The problem was one of human nature; the driver drinks more than half or all of the ale, the coach has to pull out immediately to keep its schedule, and the Publican has only been paid for 2 pints. Coaches were liable to be slowed up drastically as the guard turned his blunderbuss onto the over-eager driver.

At this point Oxford becomes involved, several dons came up with an answer which was to put a bubble in the bottom of the glass. If a driver then drinks more than the pint, the next pint trapped in the bubble will rush down and go all over him. Bad luck lads, because where free beer is at stake there is always a way around the problem, as is proved regularly at drinking functions in the 1980's almost as convincingly as in the 1780's. Mind you, the beer's a lot weaker these days!

ALE AND HARDY

If you're on holiday down in the West Country this summer, and the weather continues wet, try to get to Dorchester any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Eldridge Pope, the Dorset brewers of Britain's strongest beer, Thomas Hardy Ale, run tours of their Victorian brewery for individuals or groups on those days during the summer, and all you need to do to get yourself on one is ring Dorchester 4801.



Despite puzzling rumours that the Plough at Great Munden was impossible to get to, 60 brave souls somehow managed to get there on Friday, 30 May, putting the unenthusiastic to shame. These intrepid travellers were well rewarded for their exertions. The gathering was entertained by the Somerville Gentlemen's Band (all the way from Warwickshire!) and everyone agreed it was well worth the effort (*It wasn't any effort* - Ed). Both CAMRA members and locals enjoyed a merry evening of music and laughter, and requests for similar evenings have been received, although the suggestion from one quarter that the Somerville Gentlemen's Band should appear every month is a little impractical - and would probably prove too exhausting!

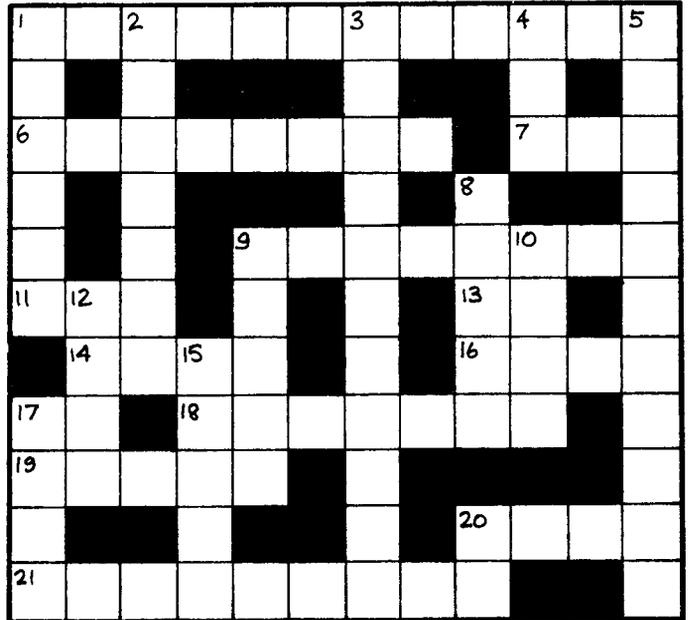
Special thanks must go to the landlord and landlady, Stan and Bett Moore, for being so obliging and helpful, and also to the good sports of Herts South Branch for their support.

Several people have asked how they can book the Somerville Gentlemen's Band or obtain their L.P., which is just about to be released. Further details on booking and records from S. Lerner, Ware 830616, or from the group's Agent - Karen Umpleby, 44 Granville Street, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. (Leamington Spa 35749).

Sandie Lerner

QUICK CROSSWORD

by Nigel Meadows



ACROSS

- The conversion of C₂H₅OH and CO₂ (12)
- This pub only sells Eldridge Pope (5,3)
- Kind of strong beer brewed in East Anglia (3)
- Old Everard's gravity (8)
- She will not have any blue Liebfraumilch (3)
- Born (2)
- The pig would not like this in the eye (4)
- A wide-mouthed 'lager' jug (4)
- I start to drink mead (2)
- These ales are on the brink of god sole (7)
- One gives out the cards for a perfect pub (5)
- The only 'real' place for live beer (4)
- Liquor made by the 'other' process, trickled down (9)

DOWN

- A rude quarter barrel! (6)
- Green clothes for the king (7)
- Handed down old beer? (11)
- Where you will not be thrown out at closing time (3)
- too much, according to his wife! (5,6)
- Paid the penalty for drinking Watneys (5)
- Isle of Man brewery (5)
- The Hertfordshire letter (4)
- In finding us editing old newsletters (4)
- As yet, fungus cells (5)
- You may drink this (4)
- You can drink and drive with one of these plates (2)

COME OFF IT, HARRY!

A few months ago, the Newsletter published the results of Herts North branch's beer price survey, which branch members compiled with reference to pubs' price lists. At the end of the report, we commented that we had been unable to include certain pubs, because they were not displaying their price lists. We added that this was a legal obligation, and the landlords should watch out, because someone might report them to the authorities (although CAMRA wouldn't).

Our news reports obviously reach high places; as quick as a flash, one of CAMRA's senior activists received a letter from Mr Harry Shindler, Secretary of the National Association of Licensed House Managers, accusing us of "spying" and dangerously spreading our activities into "other areas".

Mr Shindler should know that inquiring into prices is a normal activity of any consumer organisation, and CAMRA is of course the only such organisation speaking for the beer drinker. Our warning to landlords about price lists was given in a friendly fashion - we aim to keep on good terms with all local licensees and do not want to see them fall foul of the authorities. We do not accept that either beer prices or the laws affecting pubs are not matters in which CAMRA should be interested.

Herts North Branch have invited Mr Harry Shindler to a future meeting, to tell us what he thinks CAMRA should be doing, and Mr Shindler has kindly accepted the offer. Further details will be published in the Newsletter - we can look forward to a lively and controversial meeting.

Peter Lerner

AROUND THE PUBS

Welcome to Peter Orr, new Landlord of the **Jolly Sailors**, Buntingford's only real ale pub. Peter has added a new handpumped beer to his range, Watney's London Bitter.

Burton Ale is now on sale again at the **Greyhound**, St. Ippollits, alongside Ind Coope bitter. The **Bull** at Watton at Stone now has an additional handpump in use, for Benskins Bitter, and it is hoped that a third pump will soon be installed for Ind Coope KK light mild. The **Royal Oak** at Albury now has handpumped Abbot Ale, in addition to Greene King KK and Rayment's BBA. Ian and Chris Miller's **White Hart** in Stevenage Old Town is now resplendent with brand new handpumps, to serve Benskins Bitter, Ind Coope Burton Ale and KK Light Mild.

Full range of ales at the new free house in Bushey, the **Royal Oak** consists of Everard's Old Original and Tiger, Young's Special, Younger's No. 3 Ale, McEwans 70/-, Theakston's bitter, Greene King Abbot, Fullers ESB and London Pride. If that's not enough Bateman's and Devenish will soon be on sale as well to test their popularity.

Another new free house, this time at Goose Green, near Hoddesdon, has opened selling Adnams bitter, Rayment's BBA, Greene King Abbot and Youngers No. 3. The **Huntsman**, previously the Green Man, is situated off the beaten track in a nice wooded setting. Ideal for summer afternoons. The second 'phase' of Benskins introduction is now under way. The **Verulam**, St. Albans Road, Watford is now selling the beer. Wethered's bitter is back on sale at the Talisman, Hitchin.

We must sadly announce the closure, during August, of yet another of Hertfordshire's unspoilt small country pubs, the **Fox** at Meesden. Although this Rayment's house served its beer by top pressure, nevertheless this was a genuine and welcoming old pub well-liked by many CAMRA members. Even in affluent Hertfordshire, so close to London, the closure of the village pub exemplifies the decline in our rural communities.

Anyone who has used the excellent **Plough** in Ley Green, North Herts Branch's Pub of the Year last year will be pleased to hear that Jack Day, the landlord, is now out of hospital and well on his way to recovery.

LETTERS

I reckon old Alan Parker (July issue) couldn't hear what he was thinking about when he wrote "most pubs do have traditional games, but the public... do not play them" - he must have been sitting next to a space invader machine at the time. The man seems to forget that darts is one of the most popular pub games in Britain and that in many parts of the country shove ha' penny, bar billiards, dominoes and crib etc command equal popularity. Keen space invaders players will no doubt be pleased to find out that Mr Parker's own pub - the Old Bull's Head in Ware has a room reserved for the "art" of space invading at the expense of bar billiards. As a member of the public I often enjoy a game of darts or billiards - even in his very pub when visiting Ware.

I'm not against video games or fruit machines, it's just that I find the noise they usually emit about as beguiling as a rasping fart in a confined space - i.e. pretty obnoxious (why on earth can't the noise be muted). Traditional pub games have to my mind more of a social appeal and should stand proudly alongside the young pretenders.

Les Middlewood, Southgate

BRANCH CONTACTS

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Hertfordshire South Branch
Eric Sim Tel: Hatfield 60647
Herts-Essex Borders Branch
Terry Smith Tel: Epping 73677

JOIN CAMRA NOW!

I/we wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale (Limited).
I/we agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.
(Please use BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Send to the Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

FULL MEMBERSHIP £5 A YEAR. JOINT MEMBERSHIP £6 A YEAR.
(One copy of What's Brewing only)

WHAT'S ON

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Sunday August 3rd

Cricket at Verulamium Park versus the Villiers Arms, Oxhey. Meet at Farries Arms, Lower Dagnall St., St. Albans. 2.30pm (McMullens)

Thursday August 7th

Darts against the White Lion, St. Albans at Rose and Crown, St. Michaels, St. Albans. 8pm prompt (Benskins)

Tuesday August 12th

Barbecue and social at Crooked Billet, Colney Heath. Welby Wanging - Committee versus the Branch! 8pm start (Free House)

Sunday August 17th

LAST cricket match of the season (!) versus Enfield and Barnet Branch. Details as for Sunday August 3rd.

Wednesday August 20th

BRANCH MEETING at the Coach and Horses, Newgate Street. Prompt start at 8pm (Ind Coope).

Wednesday August 27th

Social at the Royal Oak, Bushey. 8pm (Free House)

HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Tuesday August 12th

Joint social with Herts-Essex Borders Branch at The Star, Standon. 8pm (Greene King)

Wednesday August 13th

BRANCH MEETING at the Old Bull, Royston. 8pm prompt start (Free House)

Wednesday August 20th

Social at the Cat and Fiddle, Pirton. 8pm. (Charles Wells)

Wednesday August 27th

Social at the White Hart, Stevenage Old Town. 8pm (Benskins)

Thursday September 11th

BRANCH MEETING at the Red Lion, Stevenage Old Town 8pm (Greene King)

Saturday September 13th

Coach trip to Oxford. Contact John Law (Stevenage 721015) for details.

HERTS-ESSEX BORDERS BRANCH

Tuesday August 12th

Joint social with Herts North Branch. For details see above.

Saturday August 16th

Upper Clapton Rugby Club, Thornwood Common. Traditional Ale Festival and Fête. Nine different ales and CAMRA stall. Open 2pm - entrance £1.50.

Wednesday August 27th

BRANCH MEETING at the Bell, Ongar. 8pm.

Wednesday September 10th

Ridleys Brewery visit. Approximately 15 places. Meet at brewery 2.15pm. Contact branch for details.

Monday September 22nd

BRANCH MEETING at the Bull, Much Hadham 8pm start (Benskins).

1980 DARTS CHAMPIONSHIP

At last, the South Herts Branch's annual darts championship got underway in May at the Bell and Crown, Hertford. With the winner for the last two years, last year's runner-up and two other team members all unable to attend the field was wide open. By eight o'clock we had enough people to start, and the competition of 3 x 501's began. A good time was had by all, with excellent food being provided, but the actual darts playing was rather slow. Several ladies entered, but Charlotte Meadows was the only one to get through the first round, and she went on to be beaten by chairman Eric Sim in the second semi-final. Unfortunately this game lasted into drinking up time, despite a bar extension, so the final had to be postponed.

Play Off

For the next four weeks Eric and Nigel kept trying to play the final, at the skittles match, at meetings, after the cricket, before the treasure hunt, etc., but something always managed to prevent it actually happening. Eventually it took place, appropriately enough, during the 'anything goes' week in aid of St. Albans Abbey. Squeezed in between the Mayoress pulling a pint and the yard of ale contest, at the Verulam Arms, Nigel Meadows took the title, 2-0 as a revenge for his wife's defeat.

Result: Quarter finals (all first round winners)

Nigel Meadows 2 - Dave Burns 1

Dave Cousins 2 - Les Middlewood 0

Charlotte Meadows 2 - Tony (the other one) 0

Eric Sim 2 - Mike Birch 1

Semi finals

Nigel Meadows 2 - Dave Cousins 1

Eric Sim 2 - Charlotte Meadows 0

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The Hertfordshire Newsletter is produced by the Hertfordshire South, the Hertfordshire North and the Herts-Essex Borders branches of CAMRA. The editor gratefully receives any articles or letters for publication. Articles should preferably be typewritten and double spaced, handwritten items as legible as possible please. Send to D. Burns, 11 Turpins Chase, Oaklands, Welwyn, Herts. tel. 7805.

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