

FREE



The Campaign for Real Ale

HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

APRIL

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OH NO – NOT AGAIN!



By now the budget news of the 4 pence per pint (or more) increase will have become a reality and drinkers and publicans throughout the country will have become used to what seems to be almost a monthly occurrence these days – an increase in the price of your pint. While not all brewers have been so bad in increasing the price of their beers – our local brewers still charge the most reasonable prices on the whole – some companies have used the recession as an excuse to slap on rise after rise. Some comparatively weak beers are now selling in some houses for over 60 pence a pint (Wethereds is commonly sold in some houses for this price) while comparatively strong bitters, such as Mac's Country, are available at much lower prices. No doubt sales of some of the higher gravity beers will suffer as they break the 60 pence barrier, and trading down may benefit some of the poorer selling milds, helping to ensure their survival. The fact remains, however, that continuous increases in the price of beer, from whatever quarter, can only damage the British pub in the long run. As reported in last month's newsletter, it is being forecast that thousands of pubs will shut over the next few years. Bad trading conditions are even affecting some of the smaller brewers, who haven't the capital or diversification of interests to support them through a slump. This may make them prone to takeover, or worse, extinction.

● **Price rises** over the past 25 years or so have been heavily weighted against the beer drinker, as opposed to those who choose spirits. Even the current budget has put only 2-3 pence on a Scotch compared to 4-6 pence on a pint. Once upon a time spirits were significantly dearer than beer, now the reverse is true. Since the 50s the price of a pint has risen 2 to 3 times as much as a bottle of whisky in comparison with average earnings. It's time to redress this balance and hold down the price of beer for a change. On health grounds alone beer has far more going for it than spirits, for, drunk in reasonable quantities, it can actually do you good (real beer that is!). The same can't be said for spirits.

● **An article** in the Observer in 1980 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of John MacLean, the man who nearly became the 'British Lenin' and almost brought a Russian type revolution to Scotland in 1919, had something interesting to say on the subject. Much of the unrest which led to the troubles of the time was ascribed to "the lack and poor quality of the beer" by the Cabinet of the day. They authorised an increase in production and strength, and a decrease in price to help reduce the problem. Although there is no suggestion that the problems of those days are comparable with those of today with everyone's relative affluence, there is certainly a case to be made for the price of the "working man's drink" to be held at a reasonable level, especially in areas of high unemployment. Times are not all that hard, but the prospects are for things to get worse. For many people, the old, the out-of-work in particular, a good, reasonably priced pint is going to be one of the few real luxuries of life.

JUDGE SUPPORTS REAL ALE

A Crown Court judge has given the go-ahead to North Hertfordshire's first ever real ale off-licence.

CAMRA Real Ale Investments Ltd., a sister company to CAMRA, which runs pubs like the Salisbury Arms in Cambridge and the Nag's Head in Hampstead, applied last November for a licence to open an off-licence selling beer directly from the cask in Albert Street, Stevenage.

But after objections from Stevenage landlords, and Unwins, who run an off-licence in Stevenage High Street, the application was turned down by the town's magistrates.

However, when CAMRAIL appealed to the crown court in St Albans against the magistrates' decision, the judge declared that competition ought to be encouraged, gave the company its licence, and awarded costs against Unwins and the Stevenage Licenced Victuallers Association.

CAMRAIL hope to open the off-licence, which will supply draught beer in casks and polypins as well as jugs, some time in May.

QUICK ONES

UNINVADED SPACE

A recent ruling by licensing magistrates in Dudley and West Midlands area has decreed that pubs must have at least one room free of juke-boxes, space invaders and fruit machines. It's almost enough to make you wish for all one-bar pubs!

RED FACES AT WATFORD

A new promotion by Benskins of Rotford (or is it Womford?) aims to induce people to try their beer with a 'passport' scheme. By trying a beer in a certain number of pubs (6) the customer will be entitled to a free pint. Although the idea is very laudable the name for the promotion leaves a little to be desired – Benskins Redskins. First runs of the promotion material ran into legal problems (from the Race Relations Board I understand) but these appear to have been ironed out. Although a very pleasant beer I would hardly consider it to be 'firewater for the natives' though. Rumours that the Benskins Redskins passports will be available from a machine in the gents are apparently unfounded.

BENARY MEUSKINS?

Drinkers who have sampled Ind Coope's new Friary Meux bitter, available south of the Thames, and who think it reminds them of the new Benskins bitter, are not far wrong.

It seems that the Romford brewery can only produce beers in batches of a minimum 600 barrels at a time – 172,800 pints. This is more than is needed at any one go of the new beers, so beers are "paired up", with two beers being produced from the same basic recipe at the same time, and ingredients added after brewing to alter the taste.

Benskins and Friary Meux are produced from one basic recipe, and Taylor Walker bitter and the new John Bull keg are also paired together with only the treatment after brewing to differentiate between them.

It is difficult to decide how much this brewing equivalent of badge engineering is conning the public. The evidence is that the beers are sufficiently different to deserve their different names. But Ind Coope must be kicking themselves that they ever invested in such huge plant back in the big-is-beautiful days, and now completely outdated.

Continued on next page

YES WE ARE CAMPAIGNING!

by Jamie Hooper

In March's Newsletter "Disgruntled" of Croxley Green said that he wanted to hear about campaigning, and not foreign bottled beers and loos! Well, he's got a point. When all is said and done, we are a Campaign, and whilst we all enjoy the social side (and why not?), we should still be aiming to achieve our goals.

I am not qualified to talk about the Courage Campaign, that's being coordinated at National Executive level, but at present virtually every Courage pub in South Herts is selling traditionally served ale. However, I can report on the progress in the Macs Campaign in the South Herts Branch's area and one other campaign right on "Disgruntled's" doorstep.

MACS – SOME SMALL SUCCESS

For our only independent brewer, Macs are, as is well known, disappointing in their attitude to real ale. Whilst their 'advertising' plays upon their history and expertise, their commitment to traditionally served ale has been half-hearted. They have a larger than average percentage of managers in their houses, and this means that they have a stronger control than some brewers exercise over the method of dispense. In effect, their attitude means that Country bitter is increasingly available on handpump in their managed houses. However, these handpumps are not sited in all bars of a house, as they seem to have a policy of only one pump per pub, and top pressure is often retained (and often used in preference). What is more, their excellent (and seemingly underrated) AK mild normally continues to be sold only on top-pressure, despite frequently outselling the bitter.

New managed houses recently converted to Country bitter include the **Peahen Hotel** in St Albans and the **Chieftain** in Welwyn Garden City. Other managed outlets in St Albans are rumoured to be installing handpumps shortly.

On the tenanted side, in our branch area we have undertaken a pub survey of those tenants interested in installing handpumps. Several publicans have been found to be interested and we hope to announce new 'converts' over the next few months. One such new outlet is the **Bulls Head**, Turnford, where both Country and AK are available on handpumps.

The best time for persuading the landlord is when he takes over a tenancy, and I would ask CAMRA members to let their branches know when a takeover is imminent. There are quite a few tenancy changes in the pipeline with McMullens at present, and among them are: the Crown, Hertford Heath; the John Bunyan, Coleman Green; the Rifle Volunteer, Ware; the Robin Hood, Ware; the Steamer, Welwyn and the Wine Lodge, Ware. Members are asked to request handpumped ale in these, and other fizzy McMullens houses, and to ask the landlord why he won't supply it.

THE JOSEPH BENSKIN

You may have read in What's Brewing and in the local press about CAMRA's continuing efforts with the Watford Corporation to get this pub re-opened. As it stands, we have found 6 brewers and allied concerns interested in re-opening the pub. The Council have rejected, for the second time, the developer's application for change of use into retail premises (rumoured to be a shoe shop). The ball is now in the court of the developer who will probably appeal to the Department of the Environment. We in the branch wish to join forces with the other objectors to the closure of the "Joe B" and marshal our forces to present a convincing case at the appeal. One side effect has been an approach by Watford Council to formulate with them a policy to protect the remaining pubs in the town centre. In the meantime we are having a pub crawl/walkabout in Watford on Friday April 10th starting at the Wheatsheaf, Lower High Street (Benskins bitter and Burton Ale), via the Hit or Miss (Truman's Tap), to the Sir Robert Peel, King Street (Ind Coope East Anglia bitter and Burton Ale), leaving around 9.15pm to the Estcourt Tavern, Estcourt Road for our final call where Bob Curtis has agreed to put on a '9' of the rarish Greene King XX dark mild – and what must be the cheapest pint in Watford, at a pre-budget 42 pence a pint. This pub is due for renovation this year and we hope that traditional dispense will be restored. **PLEASE SUPPORT THIS SOCIAL!**

MCPs RULE OK

Last month the ladies of CAMRA South Herts issues a challenge that, as the gentlemen's team was so poor, even they could beat them. The gauntlet was taken up at the Rose and Crown, St Albans (a mid-market pub so I'm told – Ed), and the men soon got off to a 3-0 lead. Marion and

continued on back page

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Readers can hardly have failed by now to have noticed that the new edition of Real Draught Beer in Hertfordshire is now on local bookstalls, in their local pubs or, if not, available from their local CAMRA branch. Perhaps the second (or third if you count the Good Beer Guide) most important publication of the year in the What's Brewing quarterly special, the latest edition of which is now out. Costing a mere 50 pence it's available from bookstalls and CAMRA head office. It's full of fun and facts with articles on CAMRA's last ten (or should I say *past* ten) years, pub games, real cheese, a new Epic serial 'Bar Wars' and an article featuring one of Britain's best-loved comedians. Indispensable for anyone remotely interested in pubs – **DON'T MISS IT!**

CART IT ABOUT

The Campaign's push to increase take-away draught beer sales in pubs got under way locally this month with the introduction of 1 gallon containers which can be purchased by licensees for that very purpose. The plastic containers which are adorned with a sticker carrying the words "CAUTION Real Ale in Transit" are available to all publicans and CAMRA members for the very reasonable price of 30 pence each. The Campaign for Real Take-home (CART) was introduced last year and the containers, produced by the Reading branch of CAMRA, have been so popular that they are now offering them for sale to other branches. If you would like to get some, complete with free posters advertising the service, contact your local branch representative or the newsletter.

Greene King already do their own take-away containers and Ind Coope are expected to be doing likewise soon (as reported last month). Courage have been doing free 2 gallon containers since before Christmas and Fullers also run a similar scheme. Macs, Whitbread and several other brewers in the area don't seem to have caught on to the idea yet but in times like these, when sales are all important, they may soon do so. In the meantime CAMRA is bridging the gap.

LORD HELPAM

Lastly may I finally lay to rest the Lord Pelham in Watton at Stone, which appeared in the last edition of Real Draught Beer in Hertfordshire. As most people will have realised the establishment is a complete fiction. It was spawned from the fact that the Rayments Brewery Liaison Officer, and now a CAMRA National Executive member, lives in the aforementioned village. The fellow's passion for all things from the Furneux Pelham company (not to mention his cats and dustbin lids) seemed to be prime fodder for a joke on these lines.

After a minor deluge of 'phone calls and letters asking how to get to the place let me put everyone's mind at rest. Peter Lerner's house does not sell Rayments. Although, come to think of it Peter, it's not such a bad idea

THE BARLEY MOW

VARIETY IS
THE SPICE
OF LIFE



TRY OUR
14 REAL
ALES

TYTTENHANGER GREEN

In addition to our normal range there will always be a cask on the bar from our range of guest beers which could be one of the following: Eldridge Pope, Bourne Valley, Donnington, Arkell, Archers, St Austell or Brakspear's 6X.

You can still get a good pint for 50p!

Brakspears Bitter 50p pint

Greene King KK 50p pint

Also Fullers ESB at 64p for most of April

Why not try out good value Saturday lunches?

Our aim is to sell the best beer in the county – if ever you are dissatisfied with it we will change it without question.

MAC'S No. 1 – PETER THE POACHER



One hundred years ago this month Peter McMullen, founder of the company that is now Hertfordshire's only surviving independent brewery, died at his home in Port Vale, Hertford.

Unlike the date of his death, however, the date that Peter founded his brewery is not as certain as the company today likes to make out. There are also one or two details of his life that are not to be found in any official history. Peter was born in 1798, the fourth son of Irishman William McMullen, gardener and seed merchant. William spent more than £60, a large sum in those days, apprenticing his son as a cooper, first to Richard Rose of Hitchin, and then to William Good of Royston.

However, at the Easter 1817 quarter sessions in Hertford, Peter's apprenticeship to Good was dishonourably dissolved because of "neglect of duty and bad behaviour".

Less than 18 months later, Peter, now working as a labourer, was hauled before the local magistrates again, and fined £5 for poaching.

In 1820, however, Peter married Sarah Manning, a 27-year-old from Royston, and although Sarah's unpublished diaries described her husband as "a somewhat unruly lad in his youth", marriage seems to have calmed him down.

At an auction in the Salisbury Arms, Hertford in June 1826 Peter bought a 50-year-lease of a building known as Bridge House, and adjoining property on Mill Bridge, Hertford.

The following year, 1827, according to family tradition and company publicity, Peter began brewing in Back Street, Hertford, now Railway Street. There is, however, no known documentary evidence to prove this, and although Peter and his wife lived in Back Street in the early part of their married life, exactly where is not known.

Directories for 1826 and 1829 describe Peter as a cooper – despite that dishonourable discharge – at nearby Old Cross, Hertford.

However, in October 1830, a few months after William IV had come to the throne, the Beerhouse Act was passed. This allowed any householder to sell beer after paying just two guineas to the local magistrates for a licence. By the end of the year no less than 24,243 licences had been issued – and it seems highly likely that among those taking advantage of the new law was Peter McMullen.

A newspaper report of a trial in July 1831 mentions as a witness Peter McMullen, "a cooper, and landlord of the William IV beershop, Hertford". What more natural chain of events than Peter opening a new venture under the new law, and naming it after the new king!

McMullen does appear as a brewer and beer retailer, and cooper, at Mill Bridge in a directory that appeared in 1832. Four years later, in 1836, the first McMullens' advertisement was published. The address was given as William IV brewery, Mill Bridge, and the beers listed were XX at one shilling (5p) a gallon, and X at 8d a gallon (3½p). The response must have been good, for later that same year Peter bought his first tied house, the Greyhound at Bengoe, together with other property.



Peter still continued to advertise himself as a cooper, and maltster, as well as a brewer, and even when he retired in 1863 McMullens still only owned a handful of pubs – there were bigger brewers even in the town of Hertford.

However, when Peter stepped down the business was taken over by his two youngest sons, Alexander Peter, aged 28, and Osmond Henry, 26. Early in 1864 the brothers bought the Cannon brewery in Princes Street, Ware. Business was expanding, and the Mill Bridge premises, now known simply as the Bridge brewery, were proving too small. So Alexander and Osmond carried on brewing at Ware as well, and the two breweries were used together for almost 30 more years.

By 1871, when the McMullen trademark was an inverted crescent, the company was producing nine draught beers, double stout, extra stout, porter, pale ale, KK family ale, XXX strong ale, XX, and AK bitter. The last-named is still going strong, of course, but these days sold as a mild. In November 1874 the brothers acquired the business run by Isaac Everitt at the Star brewery in Westmill Road, Ware, selling the brewery itself to another Ware brewer, William Wickham.

Two years after Peter McMullen's death, in 1883, the offices at the Bridge Brewery became the first premises in Hertford to be lit by the new electric light. The work was done under the supervision of one of Alexander Peter's sons, who was apprenticed to a firm of electrical engineers in London.

Gradually the business was built up, with more and more pubs being acquired, until McMullens was the biggest of the five brewers left in Hertford. To cope with the extra business, at one point, McMullens seem to have leased a third, small brewery behind the Duncombe Arms in Hertford. However, in November 1891 a big new brewery was opened on a piece of triangular-shaped land in Hartham Lane, Hertford. The Cannon brewery was closed, and the Bridge brewery became solely offices and wine stores.

The partnership between the two brothers, known as P. McMullen and Sons, lasted until March 1 1897, when the concern was turned into a limited company under the title of McMullen and Sons Ltd., with Osmond Henry as first chairman, and 90 public houses.

Alexander Henry, although a partner, was more interested in running the family seed business. Perhaps his only real claim to fame was that his daughter Nora married Andrew W. Mellon of the great Pittsburgh banking and steel family. Mellon was Secretary of the treasury to two U.S. Presidents, and U.S. Ambassador to Britain in 10932.

Meanwhile, a few days after the new company was formed, it made its first take-over, of the tiny Welwyn brewery and its one tied house. Then in 1898 McMullen's bought George Henry Lee's brewery in Sun Street, Waltham Abbey, together with 18 more public houses.

Judicious buying-up of pubs, privately and at auctions, meant that by 1902 McMullen's were the second largest brewers in Hertfordshire, with 131 full licences and beerhouses, and eight off-licences. The company's position was quite a tribute to Osmond Henry, for all the other brewers in the top fifteen except one had been founded at least 50 years before McMullen, and at least five were a hundred years older or more. McMullen's had passed every single one except Benskin's of Watford.

The Epping brewery was acquired in 1907, and turned into a stores – it had no tied houses. Osmond Henry McMullen died in May 1914, and his place as chairman was taken by his son, Lieut. Col. Osmond Robert McMullen. The company came through the Great War unscathed – though the price of beer rose from 2d a pint to 7d – and on the very last day of 1920 McMullens bought their near neighbours, William Baker's Hope Brewery at Old Cross, Hertford, together with 20 tied houses.



In 1925 Hertford Corporation decided to widen the Mill bridge, which meant knocking down the Bridge brewery offices. So in 1927 the offices, mineral water factory and wine and spirit stores were moved to the Hope brewery, where they have been ever since. A pub, at first called the New Bridge Inn, later the Woolpack, was built on the old Bridge brewery site.

Even in 1935 McMullen's bottled beers seem to have been naturally conditioned, and bottles bore the legend: "No artificial gas is used". A new bottling store was added to the Hope brewery site in 1936, however, as the company apparently went over to pasteurising its bottled beer like most other brewers.

After the Second World War, in 1946, Osmond Robert was succeeded as chairman by his son, Lieut. Col. Robert Peter McMullen. Colonel Peter, as he was known, was 32, a director of the company since he was 24, and a man with a distinguished war record.

Death duties when Osmond Robert died hit the company hard, and it almost folded under the impact. But it survived, and although McMullen's directors have had to fend off several approaches to sell, there has never been a direct takeover bid for the company. There have been rumours, however – in 1950 McMullens had to put an advertisement in the local paper denying that they had been bought by one of the big brewers.

In the 15 years from 1949 to 1964 the number of independent brewers in Hertfordshire dropped from seven to one – McMullen's. That same year the company ceased brewing its draught XXX dark mild, and introduced Country Bitter. Gradually, too, the old wooden barrels were phased out, so that by 1968 there were none left in use.

Based upon the old family tradition, the company celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1977 with a party at the brewery sports ground for 500 employees, tenants and managers, complete with the band of the Scots Guards. By this time McMullens had 162 tied houses, all within 30 miles of the brewery, which together with its associated works stretched over four acres.

A year later the firm's finances and shareholdings were rearranged so that the death of a major shareholder would no longer mean a threat to the company's independence. Finally, in 1980 the fifth generation of McMullens took over at the helm, when John McMullen, Peter's great-great grandson, became company chairman.

PUB NEWS

The **Waterford Arms**, Waterford, near Hertford has reportedly stopped selling Greene King XX dark mild.

The **Railway**, Oxhey (near the station no less!) is now selling the new InD Coope East Anglia bitter on handpumps. Nearby the **Estcourt Arms**, on the corner of Woodford Road and Queens Road (by the pimple in the road), is pumping up Benskins bitter. Further west, in Croxley Green, the **Coach and Horses** is another new Benskins outlet.

Wyllyotts Manor, Potters Bar, which was reported in last month's newsletter as having been taken over by Watneys, has now definitely lost its real beer. The manager told our local representative that there was no prospect of its return in the foreseeable future.

More Macs pubs are changing over – for details read Jamie Hooper's article on page 2: *Macs – Some small success*. The **Adelaide Wine Bar** in St Albans has discontinued Fullers London Pride and now sells Charles Wells Bombardier and IPA on handpump. They also have one of the only extended licenses in the area allowing them to open until 11.30 Sunday to Thursday and 12.30am on Friday and Saturday. The management have made the stipulation that no-one enters after normal pub closing times. Lunchtime opening is 12.00, except Sunday, when they are closed. So if you like a wine bar atmosphere, a disco or occasional live music, this could be the place for you. And real beer too!

The **Cromwell Hotel**, in Stevenage High Street, now has handpumps selling McMullen's Country bitter and Watney's London Bitter. However, the beer is in what the hotel calls its steak and chop bar – so be prepared to pay steak bar prices.

At the **Roebuck** motel, on the edge of Stevenage, a guest beer will be appearing alongside the usual Rayment's BBA, changing every six weeks. The first is Courage Director's Bitter, but as the motel's handpumps were installed by Greene King, that company is insisting that every 'second "guest" should be one of their beers. Next one will therefore be Greene King IPA.

The **Countryman** at Chipping, on the A10 north of Buntingford, has dropped Adnams bitter and Marstons Pedigree, and is now selling Greene King Abbot and Courage best bitter, as well as Greene King IPA.

From page 2

Pam embarrassed Nick and Steve, who were the only male pair to lose, and then the girls went on to win both fours, leaving the gents with a narrow 4-3 victory. At the same time a dominoes match was under way, but after the men had claimed 2 victories here the ladies played for time. They took so long to get their second win that there was insufficient time for the decider, so we had to settle for an honourable 2-2 draw.

There are more friendly competitions this month at the Rose and Crown, Essendon. Everyone is welcome as we are all amateurs in CAMRA (*you can say that again – Ed*). Some small prizes will be available as an incentive.

Nigel Meadows
(South Herts Darts Champ
and Captain)

COMPETITION TIME

Last month's competition was won by Sandie Lerner, spouse of the Famous Lord Pelham, of Watton at Stone. Your prize will be winging its way to you some time in the next decade. This month's brain teaser, not recommended for those on ESB neurone-reducing tonic, goes as follows: A man has six barrels for sale, some containing beer, and some containing lager. He charges twice as much for the lager as he does for the beer! The barrels hold 8, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 31 gallons each. A pub buys £168 worth of each. Which barrel was left unsold?

Answers please by April 13th – the winner will be the first selected by the editor's own Infra-Draw Method (dice). Threatening letters should go to the compiler Nigel Meadows. If the problem looks like an 'O' level maths paper then it may well be since Nigel is a schoolteacher. Now sit down, and get on with your competition, or there'll be lines to do in next month's newsletter.

BRANCH CONTACTS

Hertfordshire North Branch Martin Connelly ☎ Hitchin 52907
Hertfordshire South Branch Eric Sim ☎ Hatfield 60647
Herts-Essex Borders Branch Terry Smith ☎ Epping 73677.

BRANCH DIARY

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Wednesday April 8th

Darts match versus South Beds CAMRA at the Farmers Boy, London Road St Albans, starting at 8pm. (Benskins).

Friday April 10th

Watford pub crawl starting at 8pm in the Wheatsheaf, High Street, Bushey Arches, or join in at the Sir Robert Peel, King Street, at 9.15. For more details see Jamie Hooper's article on page 2.

Tuesday April 14th

Games evening at the Rose and Crown, Essendon, 8pm. Skittles, dominoes, shove ha'penny, etc. (InD Coope East Anglia bitter, KK and Burton Ale).

Wednesday April 15th

Romford brewery visit, 7.15 start. Numbers strictly limited.

Friday April 24th

Bar billiards match versus the Grange Hotel, 276 London Road, St Albans, 8.00pm prompt. A new source of real ale, so a good turnout is required. (Wells).

Tuesday April 28th

BRANCH MEETING at the White Hart, Old Welwyn, 8.00pm. John Blackwell of the Barley Mow, Tyttenhanger and Chairman of the St Albans LVA will be giving a short talk on "Running a pub". (Wethereds).

Monday May 4th

May Day Madness, as usual at the White Horse, Burnham Green. Tug-of-War, darts, etc. starting at 5.30pm. (InD Coope KK and Burton Ale, Benskins bitter).

HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Wednesday April 1st

BRANCH MEETING at the Three Horseshoes, Norton, near Letchworth. 8.00pm start. (Bass, Charringtons).

Wednesday April 8th

Social at the Lytton Arms, Old Knebworth, 8.00pm. (Benskins, Greene King, Youngs).

Wednesday April 15th

Social at the Raven, Hexton, 8.00pm. (Wethereds).

Wednesday May 6th

BRANCH MEETING at the Plough, Great Munden, 8.00pm. (Rayments, Greene King, Bass).

HERTS-ESSEX BORDERS BRANCH

Monday April 13th

BRANCH MEETING at the Bull, Much Hadham, 8.00pm. (Benskins).

Monday April 27th

McMullens Brewery visit, 10.00am start.

Monday April 27th

Inter-branch social with Chelmsford and Mid-Essex branch at the Black Horse, White Roding, Essex. 8.00pm start. (Ridleys).

For more details of any of the above meetings please contact the appropriate branch contact.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

During the winter months turnout at CAMRA social events in South Herts tends to fall off a little, which is not surprising in this cold weather. However, it is rather a pity as socials are a great opportunity to enjoy yourself, meet fellow drinkers, have a few jars and find out more about the Campaign without being conned into hard work.

We have a lot of events during this month, quite well spread round the area. If you have never been to a CAMRA event, and wonder what it's all about, please come. You will always be made welcome (particularly good darts players). Bring your friends as well (they needn't be members), or come alone and make friends. Any readers of this newsletter who have any ideas for socials please contact me at one of these meetings. We are really interested in any traditional pursuit (*and some not so traditional – Ed*), like pub games – but not Space Invaders please (*I could've written that! – Ed*). We are willing to visit any pub or club in the South Herts area. Basically we are prepared to take on anybody at anything! During the last year we have won at Tug-of-War, cricket, Cheese Skittles, crib, dominoes, Table Skittles, welly-wanging, shove ha'penny, bar billiards and have consistently lost at darts and soccer!

Nigel Meadows
Herts South Social Secretary
Contact Potters Bar 50498

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