

FREE



THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE SOUTH HERTS. NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1976

NUMBER 4

Your Heritage. Protect It.

-so reads the new slogan adopted by CAMRA as a banner to rally behind. It heralds a new membership drive to increase numbers, which in turn adds more weight to the 'Campaign' and its sphere of influence (more details are on the back page).

Coupled with this, each member can now only officially belong to one branch, although of course you can still attend any branch meetings around the country. The branch has produced its own rubber stamp - so bring along your membership card to the next branch meeting and we will ensure it is stamped for you.

Limited

Many CAMRA members and branches were very sceptical about CAMRA becoming a Limited company. As far as the individual is concerned nothing has really changed except that in the event of CAMRA going bust each member will be liable to a payment of £1 - before this could have been a lot more. The 'Limited' gives CAMRA legal status and means that the term CAMRA can be used in any transactions whereas before it had to be in the name of the individual.

Short Measure

Mr Maurice Chapman of Gloucestershire's Chief Trading Standards Office has revealed from the results of a national survey organised by his department that the next pint of keg beer you buy may not be a pint at all (in more ways than one? - Ed). It is more likely to be 18 or 19 fluid ounces. The survey also revealed that seven out of ten pints were short measure. Mr Chapman said "This problem really arises in pressurised keg beers because the gas content makes them froth over the top". It is felt that the answer lies with the taller line measure glasses.

Were it not that we are fighting for choice we could offer other alternatives (due to the current glass shortage). (chuckle).

Changes

The Goat Inn, in Sopwell Lane, St. Albans is now selling Whitbread 'Draught Bitter' from Marlow by handpump alongside 'Trophy' from Luton, by illuminated plastic gas tap - so you can take your choice. A brace of handpumps have been fitted and it is possible that the Marlow dark mild may soon be following on. The Goat is a Free House but is well and truly under the control of Whitbread and it was only the persistence of the landlord, John Farquer that brought this beer to the city - so full credit to him. A pint will cost you 28 pence. This month's other changes are as follows:

Chipperfield The Royal Oak is now selling Ind Coope bitter, mild & Burton Ale.

Chipping (Nr. Buntingford on the A10)

The Countryman, now selling Greene King Abbot and IPA, Charles Wells Fargo and Ind Coope Burton Ale. (Opening Soon)

Elstree The Battleaxes, now selling Ruddles County.

Harpenden The Engineer now sells Ruddles County and Blue (ordinary).

Hatfield The New Fiddle now sells Ind Coope bitter and mild plus Burton Ale.

Hemel Hempstead The Bell Hotel, High St. now sells Ind Coope Burton Ale.

Hertford The Plough sells Burton Ale

Potters Bar i) The Strafford Arms, Mutton Lane now sells Ind Coope bitter and Burton Ale. ii) The White Horse has Burton Ale.



Touring Ind Coope

About 18 people turned up for what was to be a very worthwhile visit to Ind Coope's Romford brewery. On arrival we were taken straightaway to the Star Room, and over a pint of

Burton Ale, were introduced to brewery representatives including Head Brewer, John Fortescue and Bill Leyland, managing director of Ind Coope at Watford.

History & Today

The history of the brewery can be traced back to 1750 when the landlord of the Star Inn, who brewed on the premises, decided to go into the wholesale business. In 1799 a certain Mr. Ind bought out the Star Inn and through a number of mergers and takeovers joined with Coope to become Ind Coope. In 1856 the company expanded to open a second brewery in Burton-on-Trent, next to the Allsopp brewery. The two merged in 1934 - and since then a number of take-overs in the south-east have seen Ind Coope grow into a huge company. (Many will no doubt remember Benskins, ABC, Taylor Walker etc - who all sadly fell to Ind Coope).

Today's enormous 26 acre site, serves 9 depots, has 150 delivery lorries and employs some 1300 people.

Of the naturally conditioned beers, Best Bitter and Light Mild (KK) are brewed at Romford. British hops are used in these two and the company has its own maltings in East Anglia.

Brewery Tour

We split into two parties, a brewery guide dressed in brewery colours (and looking remarkably similar to an air hostess) assigned to each group. We followed the 'Tour Route' signs clearly marked on walls and moved past the copper lauter tuns, whirlpools, coolers and the fermenting vessels which hold 22,500 gallons. The racking and bottling lines are fascinating in themselves - endless lines of casks and bottles being washed, scrubbed, filled, sealed, labelled etc in a hall which is almost a replica of St. Pancras Station - it is so large.

Double Diamond and Skol lager are also brewed at Romford in large quantities. It was when we entered the Cannery that we saw the sign, which reads, "You are now entering a disaster area". A lot of CAMRA members would no doubt agree, but the sign was referring to the machinery (and not the beer) which apparently has

been faulty, although when on-song produces 1300 full cans in a minute.

A quick look at the laboratory where all manner of brewery experiments are carried out and it was a brisk walk back to the sampling room.

Room For A Sample

Tucking into sandwiches and sausage rolls etc, (Ind Coope had laid on a very appetising spread) and with a superb pint of Best Bitter in hand, we put questions to Ind Coope's representatives

Mr Fortescue explained that the Dark Mild was discontinued because it just did not sell enough. The huge fermenting vessels were too large for the relatively small demand for Dark Mild. The Light Mild is considered just about viable (so get drinking lads before this one becomes extinct). He also talked of the incredible boom in lager and prophesied that if the hot summers continue this trend will carry on, with bitters keeping an even keel throughout the year perhaps coming more into their own during winter. He thought CAMRA was probably responsible for the increased 'traditional' bitter and mild demand.

Apparently the hope of Benskins brewery in Watford ever opening again is virtually nil as a compulsory purchase order now looms over the land.

Closing Time

Last orders was called around ten o'clock and after thanking all present, the party split-up and disappeared into the night, to find their own way home.

In summing-up, this is an informative and well-organised tour, although perhaps a little too formal, but the informal chat afterwards was extremely valuable, and we must thank all those from the brewery for their generosity and for taking time off to answer our many questions.

A good time was had by all.

Stop Press

Enfield and Barnet Branch

Branch Meeting: Nov. 10th 8.00pm

The Falcon, 115 South Street, Enfield.

Darts Match Result:

Herts South Branch 4

Enfield and Barnet Branch 3

Next League Match: v Nth London Branch

The Railway Bell, New Barnet. Nov. 16th

The Fleur De Lys, St. Albans, closed for redecoration, may introduce real ale

CAMRA Darts

There have been two darts matches since the September Newsletter - both very close affairs - but both victories for Herts South, including our first League win.

Our first League Match, at home versus Romford branch was held at The Bell and Crown in Hertford and after a pretty disastrous start (losing the first two games) the team pulled itself together and won the next four games - a winning lead, although Romford pinched the last game. So the match ended at 4-3. The man with the 'punishing' dart, Richard 'Dickie Mint' Willet again threw the winning dart, but the biggest cheer of the evening went to captain Chris Gonet who won the 'beer game' for Herts South.

Points

This win gives us 6 points in the League table (1 point for each game won and two bonus points for winning the match). Not a bad start. The next League match is against Enfield and Barnet Branch at the Strafford Arms, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, on 21 October. 8.00pm.

The other match was a friendly against South Bedfordshire branch at the Cricketers, Redbourn. This was also a 4-3 win; in fact the match was won at 4-1 before complacency (or could it have been the beer?) set in and we lost the last two games.

Remember all those wishing to play for the branch in League games must belong to CAMRA and must be registered with the branch. Contact Marion Birch,
Tel: Rickmansworth 73913.

Take It Away

Those who are interested in take-home ale may like to know of a company called Scotgrange Ltd. For nearly a year now they have been delivering Adnam's Ales to the free houses of Hertfordshire. They will supply pins, firkins, or (for the thirsty!) kils to anyone who can collect the beer from their depot at 20 Ampthill Road, Shefford, which is on the main road between Hitchin and Luton. A firkin of Adnams bitter or mild will cost around £10 and taps can be supplied against a deposit. Other beers available from them are Abbot and Everards, with Theakstons in the near future.

So for those who like a barrel in the house over Christmas (and for those who haven't tried it, we can certainly recommend it) this may be the answer.

Donation

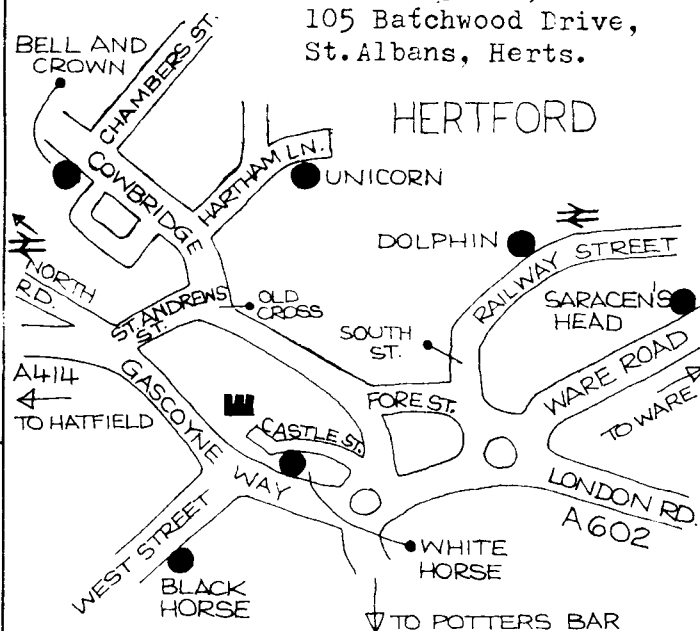
Thank you very much to Jim Tyler of Welwyn Garden City, who has kindly donated £2 to branch funds. Any other contributions would be very welcome as the branch is involved in many projects at the moment (the new 1977 Hertfordshire Real Ale Guide, beer mats, Newsletter etc.) - all of which cost money to produce.

Beer In Town No.1. Hertford

The Bell and Crown: 29 Cowbridge (Mac's)
The Black Horse: West St. (Greene King)
The Dolphin: Railway St. (McMullens)
The Saracen's Head: Ware Road (Mac's)
The Unicorn: Hartham Lane (McMullens)
The White Horse: Castle Street

(Courage Directors; Greene King;
Youngs Special; Adnams)

For further information of Real Ale pubs in Herts. write for the local guide, price 10p from Neil Campbell,
105 Batchwood Drive,
St. Albans, Herts.



PUB OF THE MONTH

Collect signatures (from the landlords of any 3 of the 4 listed pubs), bring the card along to the next branch meeting and you stand to win a prize:

1. The Goat, Sopwell Lane, St. Albans.
Whitbread
 2. The Cricketers, Redbourn
Ind Coope
 3. The North Star, Mardley Heath
McMullens
 4. The Elephant and Castle
- Amwell. Ind Coope

Come and Join Us

With the forming of CAMRA into a limited company the National Executive have decided that the time is ripe for a drive for new members and to re-enlist lapsed ones. Like all similar organisations, CAMRA relies to a great extent upon the size of its membership for financial support and to provide a louder voice in its dealings with breweries. Every member matters and each can do valuable work for the campaign. If everyone were to enlist just one extra member then CAMRA's strength could double in no time. After a year of consolidation the next step is to push up the membership and to involve more members in branch activities.

So get a friend to join and bring him or her along to the next branch meeting. New membership forms and posters have been produced, so if you would like some of these or any information about the branch write to or phone: Dave Burns, 16 Garthland Drive, Barnet, Herts. Telephone: 01-440-6566.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

CAMRA is an independent organisation fighting to improve the quality of beer and pubs throughout the country. Why not join and help us improve the lot of the drinking person?

For your £2.00 subscription you will receive a copy of the monthly "What's Brewing", CAMRA's newspaper on what is going on in the world of beer.

SOUTH HERTS. NEWSLETTER

I wish to become a member of CAMRA.

I agree to abide by the ideals of the Campaign and I enclose £2.00 as my annual membership subscription. (Any additional amount received will be welcomed as a donation).

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone No.....

Signature.....

Please send to: The Membership Secretary
The Campaign for Real Ale, 34 Alma Road,
St. Albans, HERTS, AL1 3BW.

DIARY of EVENTS

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Oct. 26 October Branch Meeting:
West Herts. Sports and Social
Club. 8 Park Avenue, Watford.
8.00pm. (Fullers, Sam Smiths,
Youngs and Greene King).

Nov. 29 November Branch Meeting:
The Goat, Sopwell Lane,
St. Albans. 8.00pm
Whitbread (Marlow)

Hertfordshire North Branch

Oct. 27 Joint Social with Stevenage
Folk Club at The Chequers,
Woolmer Green. 8.00pm.

Committee

The current branch committee is as follows:

Bob Norrish	Chairman
Dave Burns	Secretary
Neil Campbell	Treasurer
Richard Steward	Campaign
	Organiser
Adrian Green	Just Married and
	Events Organiser
Marion Birch	Social Secretary
Jim Axford	Press Officer

Any queries involving the branch should be directed to either

Bob Norrish St. Albans 59507 or
Dave Burns 01 440 6566

Where to get it

This Newsletter is produced monthly by the Hertfordshire South Branch of The Campaign for Real Ale. All letters, contributions etc., should be sent to the editor by the first day of the month: Les Middlewood, 81a Linden Way, Southgate, London, N14 4NG.

Further copies of this Newsletter can be obtained from the editor or from any of the pubs listed below:

<u>Harpenden</u>	The Queens Head
<u>Hatfield</u>	The New Fiddle
<u>Hertford</u>	The White Horse
<u>St. Albans</u>	The Jolly Sailor
<u>Shenley</u>	Pink's Hotel
<u>Thundridge</u>	The Windmill
<u>Tyttenhanger</u>	The Barley Mow
<u>Watford</u>	The Victoria Tavern