

beer moos

Autumn 2010

Issue Seventeen

The Concrete Pint 2010

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

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CAMRA News**

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Pub News

Note to Licensees. If you have news from your pub that you'd like to go in the next Pub News, please send details to the editor by November 25. Tell us what you've got planned for December to mid-March, and report on events that happened earlier. Remember - if you don't tell us about it, we can't print it.

To place a paid advertisement in Beer Moos, contact Neil Richards on 01536 358670 or email him at n.richards@btinternet.com. Readers, PLEASE support our advertisers and patronise their businesses, for without them there would be no Beer Moos for you to enjoy.

News North

Carrington Arms, Castlethorpe As we go to press we've heard rumours that this long-closed tavern is to reopen as a pub-restaurant. Reports please!

Globe, Hanslope held a very successful beer festival in July. They will be holding another Thu-Sat November 4-6 to celebrate Bonfire Night. On the Saturday, there's a bonfire, BBQ, and fireworks starting at 7pm. Entry to this costs £1. The Globe also has a guest ale at £2.25 a pint every Monday and Tuesday. Wednesdays are Steak Nights, Thursdays are Curry Nights, and there's live folk music on the first Sunday evening of each month.

Working Men's Club, Hanslope is holding its first beer festival from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 October, and all Beer Moos readers are invited. Opening times are noon till 11.00pm on all three days, there is entertainment on Sunday afternoon from 3.00-7.00pm with local singer Gary Beckwith, and food will be available throughout the weekend. The address is 28 High Street, Hanslope MK19 7LQ, and nr 33 bus will take you there from MK. More info from Joyce on 01908 511027.

News East

Cannon, Newport Pagnell Our heartiest congratulations go to Adam, Angelita, Molly, and Paul and all their staff at the Cannon for achieving 15 continuous years in the Good Beer Guide. Well deserved, and well done!

Lamb, Stoke Goldington Over 80 customers enjoyed live music from Cloud Nine, Pink Cardiacs and other bands at Whambangthankyoulamb! jazz and blues fest on September 11. Beer Moos also wishes a speedy recovery to landlady Rachel, who recently had a nasty injury, but happily is now on the mend.

Continued.....

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Beer Moos will be published on: 1st December.
We must have your stories, news and advertisements by: 20th November.
Late copy cannot be guaranteed entry.

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To place an advert or enquire about our rate card please contact: Neil Richards - 01536 358670



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Robin Hood, Clifton Reynes Cernunnos Motor Cycle Club presents the 10th Mabon Rally on 24th - 26th September at the Robin Hood. Pre-booked tickets guaranteed a rally badge. Come on two, four, or no wheels, and enjoy good pub grub, silly games, a mighty bonfire, raffle, and much more. For information call the pub on 01234 711574, visit www.therobinhoodpub.co.uk or contact Cernunnos MCC www.cernunnos-mcc.org and 07851 302724. Mabon and Cernunnos are names of Celtic nature gods.

News West

Woolpack, Buckingham held a successful beer festival over August bank holiday.

News South

Bridge, Fenny Stratford has one hand pump only, selling Greene King IPA.

Maltsters, Fenny Stratford has reopened though, as far as we know, with no real ale.

Park, Bletchley When Beer Moos's spy looked in there was real ale on two hand pumps - Marstons Pedigree and Brakspears Bitter.

Plough, Simpson Contrary to earlier reports, landlord Ian Estick has decided to stay on at the Plough for at least a further year. Ian and wife Claire recently became proud parents to Isobel Louise, a sister for their son, now aged 6. The Plough was our branch's Pub of the Season earlier this year.

News Central

Eagle, Eaglestone has re-opened but, as far as we know, with no real ale.

Enigma, Bletchley Beer Moos congratulates Karen and her staff for achieving Cask-Marque accreditation. Well done!

Fox and Hounds, Stony Stratford September 11th is Moules & Frites day. Wash them down with a nice pint of pale ale for £10 inclusive! On October 16-17 the Fox hosts its third Sausage and Ale weekend, with eight ales £2.50 a pint and Sausage, Mash and Gravy for a fiver. Regular ales are Timothy Taylor Landlord and Great Oakley Wot's Occuring, plus two constantly changing local guest ales. The second Sausage and Ale weekend held on the 14th and 15th August was a great success.

Nag's Head, Great Linford

This ancient pub, dating from the Tudor period, now sports a brand-new and very smart thatched roof. On the roof are two straw ducks which landlord Mic says attract real ducks which come and perch beside them! The pub regularly sells five real ales,



currently Tetley's Bitter, Greene King IPA, Black Sheep bitter, Fullers London Pride, and Adnams Broadside, spread between handpumps in public and lounge bars, so ask if you can't see the one you want - it could be in the other bar. The pub uses chilled beer lines, so every beer should be properly cool even if none has been drawn for a while.

Victoria, Wolverton We've heard that this pub opposite the Agora has reopened. Reports welcomed.

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LocAle is a Champion Beer of Britain

Milton Keynes and North Bucks CAMRA branch is delighted that one of our LocAles - beers brewed within 35 miles of Central Milton Keynes - was awarded Bronze in two categories at this year's Champion Beer of Britain awards. Corby-based Great Oakley brewery's winning ales were Gobble (4.5%ABV) which won joint Bronze in the Best Bitters category, and Delapre Dark (4.6% ABV) which won Bronze outright for Bottle-conditioned ales.

The awards were announced at the Great British Beer Festival held at Earls Court in August, though the actual presentations aren't till October. Owner Phil Greenway (*below*) said 'We are still pinching ourselves.... We are well chuffed.'

Beer Moos congratulates everyone at Great Oakley on this magnificent 'double whammy' of an achievement. Great Oakley ales are quite widely available in free houses in our branch area, and can always be sampled at the Malt Shovel in Bridge Street, Northampton. Why not ask your local landlord to stock the excellent beers from Great Oakley if they don't already?



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Guest Moosings!

Our PR Officer 'Moses' in this issue.

How NOT to get into the Good Beer Guide!

We at CAMRA are often asked how we choose pubs to go into the Good Beer Guide. Some, by their excellence, almost pick themselves, but others apparently try hard to be excluded, as the following tale shows.

Three members of Milton Keynes and North Bucks CAMRA recently went into a pub in our new city, and ordered three pints of an well-known brew. When the beer came, it was hazy, and tasted yeasty and unpleasant, so they asked for it to be changed. Three bar staff then contrived to fob the group off with the following gems:

'It always looks like that.'

'Everybody's been drinking it and nobody's complained.'

Then one barperson held a glass up, wiped the condensation away with his hand, and announced triumphantly 'Look! There's nothing wrong with it – I can see my finger through it!'

At this point our members decided it was time to reveal themselves as Camroids. 'Oh you're from CAMRA' said a barperson sarcastically, but he did then change the cloudy beers for ones in acceptable condition. A few minutes later he came over and, pointing to the reject ales which were still standing on the bar, intoned huffily 'That beer's as clear as anything now.' The members didn't bother to look.

Whatever happened to the adage 'The Customer is Always Right?' Courtesy constrains me from naming the shameful tavern, but Beer Moos readers can rest assured that it will NOT be appearing in the Good Beer Guide!

Compare that with this. At another city pub, a CAMRA trained taster was recently asked by the landlord to sample a beer. She did so, and pronounced it to be in excellent condition.

'That's what I thought too,' said the landlord, 'so I was surprised when a customer said it was 'vinegary' and asked me to change it. But I changed it, of course, immediately.'

What a difference staff attitudes make.

High Praise Indeed for our Pub of the Year

Being situated at Fenny Stratford Canal Lock, licensees Guy and Glynis Plumb at the Red Lion welcome many narrowboat parties passing through or mooring overnight. Recently one such party who had been in the bar one Monday night, returned from their travels on the following Thursday.

One of the party said to Guy, 'This is the second-best pint I've had all week.'

'Thank-you,' said Guy.

'Don't you want to know where I had the best pint?' said the customer.

'O yes, of course,' said Guy.

'It was the pint of Marstons English Pale Ale that I had here last Monday.'

The boating party was from the Wellington in Birmingham, which boasts fifteen handpumps, and has been its local CAMRA branch's Pub of the Year for the last three years out of four. The speaker was its landlord!

The Bitter Taste of Success

Last year, Ray Jones of Larch Grove allotments in Fenny Stratford, had to be content to be runner up in the 'Allotment of the Year' competition organised by Milton Keynes Citizen newspaper. But in 2010, Ray scooped the top prize for having the best allotment in Milton Keynes.

Since January 2010 he has been the happy recipient of all Concrete Cow brewery's spent hops, which he digs into his allotment as a soil improver. Together with Ray's unceasing hard work and constant diligence, were they the clinching ingredient of his success? At Beer Moos we'd like to think so!

Jan Taylor

Buckingham's Brewery - A Bitter Tale

Drivers entering Buckingham on the A422 from Brackley may have noticed a garage that looks suspiciously like a brewery next to an Indian restaurant looking suspiciously like a pub. Their suspicions would be correct, for today's West End Garage was once Buckingham brewery, and the Buckingham Fort its brewery tap, then called The Barrel.

This was the Swan Brewery, and the Dukes of Buckingham, who owned it, leased it out from 1842 onwards to various brewers. The first tenant was Alfred Redden, who also held the lease of a pub in Buckingham. He was succeeded in 1853 by Revill & Thorne, brewers and maltsters, and about this time the brewery was rebuilt, and the present structure erected. The next lessee was James Bacon, who took it for ten years at an annual rent of £660. By this time the brewery had acquired an estate of eight pubs, the yearly rent from which came to £286 – less than £36 per pub, equivalent to about £2500 today. It's instructive to compare these costs with the sums extorted by some pubcos and brewers from their tenants nowadays!

In 1863, in perhaps an ominous foreshadowing of events to come, the lease of the brewery and its tied pubs passed to brewers from Aylesbury, Edward Terry and his son John. Then the Swan Brewery was taken over by Frank Higgins and Charles Richard Swain, a partnership dissolved in 1886, leaving Higgins as the sole tenant.

Despite the different spelling of his surname, Frank Higgins came from the same wealthy family that owned Bedford's Castle brewery, and later endowed the Cecil Higgins art gallery there. This brewery was founded in 1838 on the site of Bedford's castle which stood there till 1381, and it owned one pub in our branch area, the Chequers at North Crawley.

In 1897 Frank Higgins sold the Swan brewery to ABC, Aylesbury Brewery Company, who promptly closed it, asset-stripped its plant, and used the brewing equipment at its Walton Road works in Aylesbury. Some things never change! For some years the Buckingham brewery was used to store ale brewed at Aylesbury in Buckingham's vessels, but in 1904 was converted to house Buckingham's Electric Light Works. Now it is the West End garage, and you can still see evidence of the louvred floor used for drying hops in the upper part of the building.

In its time the brewery saw its share of human sorrow. In the 1880s its general manager was a man called William Caron who lived with his wife and family nearby. In 1889 a wave of killer influenza – the so-called Russian 'Flu – swept across Europe, and among its victims were Mr Caron's two small

Buckingham Brewery now



Buckingham Brewery then



Copyright of Buckinghamshire County Museum

children. Then came the sale to ABC, and Mr Caron was made redundant. According to his former boss, William Caron had seemed very depressed at losing his post in Buckingham, although he had been offered a desirable position at a brewery in Nottingham for which Mr. Higgins had given him excellent references.

But tragedy intervened, for shortly afterwards shots were heard coming from the Caron home, and when the house was entered, William Caron was found slumped in his pantry with a revolver at his side. Upstairs, his wife was found in a bedroom, killed by two shots to her head.

The inquest verdict stated that Mrs Caron had died from gunshots fired by her husband while he was not of sound mind, and that he had then turned the gun on himself. The affair was headline news locally, and hundreds packed the church for the joint funeral. The couple lie together in Buckingham cemetery near the graves of their children.

As for the Aylesbury Brewery Company, it vanished with a string of takeovers and mergers into the Allied Brewing conglomerate, and with the demise of that, is now just a memory. And Higgins's Bedford Castle brewery was sold in 1934 to Wells and Winch of Biggleswade, who closed it, and were themselves taken over by Greene King in 1961 and closed down in 1997. Asda now occupies their site.

Jim Scott

The writer wishes to thank Ed Grimsdale, Local Historian, The Old Gaol Museum, Buckingham for source material for this article.



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CAMRA and Other News

Good Beer Guide 2011



The 2011 edition of CAMRA's best-selling guide to Britain's best real ale pubs will be launched on Thursday 16th September 2010. This is the 38th edition of our independent guide to great beer and good pubs, and contains descriptions of the top 4,500 real ale outlets in Britain, with information about pub facilities for

families and disabled visitors, history, architecture, food, accommodation, local places of interest and of course, the beer. There's also the unique brewery section, listing all British real ale breweries and their regular beers.

Pubs are entered into the Good Beer Guide solely on the recommendation of CAMRA members in the branch where the pub is located. It is not possible to purchase entry, nor to advertise. For more information visit the new Good Beer Guide Media Site which is available from Tuesday 14th September 2010 at www.camra.org.uk/gbgmedia. Here you will find press releases, regional stories, photographs, book imagery and plenty of other interesting information to support the launch of the guide.

The 2011 Good Beer Guide is sponsored by Cask Marque – www.cask-marque.co.uk and will be on sale from the CAMRA bookshop, online, and at all good bookshops and in many pubs. See Diary on p13 for local launch.

Nottingham Brewer is Crowned King of the Castle!

After a year of local tasting panels and regional heats leading up to the finals, Harvest Pale ale from Castle Rock in Nottingham has been crowned Supreme Champion Beer of Britain at the Great British Beer Festival, Earls Court, London.

Harvest Pale, which has an ABV of 3.8%, is described in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2010 as 'blonde and refreshing with distinctive citrus hop.'

The Nottingham brewed ale was judged the Supreme Champion over other finalists in seven different categories (Bitters, Best Bitters, Strong Bitters, Golden Ales, Milds, Winter Beers, and the Speciality class), including beers from both small microbrewers and large regional brewers.

Good Beer Guide editor Roger Protz, who was on the judging panel, said: 'Against intense competition from 8 other brilliant beers, Castle Rock Harvest Pale stood out and was the unanimous choice of all the judges for its great blend of tangy hop and juicy malt. A wonderfully refreshing and complex beer.'

With Castle Rock brewery securing the Gold award for 2010, this year's Silver went to Timothy Taylor brewery's Landlord, whilst the overall Bronze award went to Surrey Hills brewery's Hammer Mild. Beer Moos offers our special congratulations to Great Oakley Brewery of Corby, one of our LocAle brewers, who won category Bronze awards for their Gobble best bitter and Delapre Dark bottled ale (see p5).

The winner of CAMRA's annual American cask real ale competition, the Michael Jackson Award, is Smuttynose brewery's Big A IPA, from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The 9.7% ABV India Pale Ale was described by the judges as: 'Orange and citrus fruit, with a nicely balanced body, a hint of malt and honey, and lingering hop dryness.'

The Award is named after the late Michael Jackson (no relation to the singer!), author of the World Guide to Beer, in dedication to his efforts to promote good beer.

For a complete list of winners visit <http://www.camra.org.uk/page.aspx?o=324177>

CAMRA Reveals Success of 'Real Ale in a Bottle' Campaign

New research shows 37% of bottled ale buyers recognise CAMRA's accreditation scheme.

When CAMRA was founded in 1971, there were only 5 bottle-conditioned beers in production in the UK, and the style seemed to be dying. In 2009 there were 1300! Why the increase?

Much of the credit must go to CAMRA's Real Ale in a Bottle (RAIB) scheme. Launched in 2004, it uses logos on the labels, and collars on the necks of beer bottles, to announce that the beer inside is bottle-conditioned. Only brewers participating in CAMRA's RAIB accreditation scheme may use the logos and tags, and market research is showing that 37% of bottled ale buyers in supermarkets and off licences recognise the RAIB symbols and know what they mean.

Bottle-conditioned beer, also called 'real ale in a bottle,' is beer which hasn't been filtered or pasteurised, but continues to ferment and mature in the bottle just as real ale in a cask matures in the pub cellar. Bottle-conditioned beers are the next best thing - and equivalent to - the draught real ales in your local pub.

CAMRA Helps Preserve British History With New Pubs Heritage Website

CAMRA has re-launched its Heritage Pubs website www.heritagepubs.org.uk which covers the country's best historic pub interiors in all their astonishing variety. The updated site has photos and information on CAMRA's campaigning work to save Britain's iconic pubs, and lists the precious few, just 293 in total, whose interiors have either remained intact for a long time or contain particularly outstanding features. It also lists a Top Ten of especially cherished examples of Britain's historic pub interiors for you to visit on your travels round the country.

All Party Parliamentary Save the Pub Group

The post election re-launch meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Save the Pub Group on Wednesday June 9th was attended by over a dozen MPs and saw Brian Binley, MP for Northampton South, (hence adjacent to our branch area) elected as Vice Chair. Group chair Greg Mulholland MP, said: 'Our early priorities include reform of the beer tie, a Decentralisation and Localism Bill giving communities the right to buy pubs threatened with closure, and a Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill to ban below-cost sale of alcohol.'

CAMRA also strongly supports moves by Nigel Adams MP to bring forward a Bill to help protect valued community pubs and other local services. Mr Adams's Protection of Local Services (Planning) Bill will close planning loopholes that allow pubs, post offices, local shops and community centres to be demolished without planning permission. It could also be used to prevent pubs being converted to other uses without the community having a say.

CAMRA Pub Design Awards 2010

CAMRA has launched its Pub Design Awards competition for 2010 to recognise the best design work in the pub industry. The work must have been completed during the year 2009 to be eligible for the 2010 award. The awards, which are judged in association with English Heritage and the Victorian Society, aim to encourage high standards of architectural design in the refurbishment and conservation of existing public houses, and in the construction of new ones. CAMRA has already received strong nominations for consideration.

Branch Visits

As we reported in the last Beer Moos, Rushden's Historic Transport Society was honoured by CAMRA as Best Club for Real Ale in 2010. So of course our branch had pay them a visit.

And what a visit it was! In the atmospheric, restored old station, with its real gas lights and railway-related bric-a-brac, eight real ales awaited us, all in superb condition, and at very reasonable prices. Our group did full justice to them all, and there was real cider too for those who preferred that. The club staff were very welcoming, even opening the little transport museum for us to explore. All in all we had a most enjoyable and convivial evening, and our thanks go to Social Secretary Doug Dillow for organising it.

Branch members also attended the Great British Beer Festival at Earls Court in early August, and Peterborough Festival over the Bank Holiday. We have visits lined up to festivals at Steppingley and Bedford, and to Vale Brewery at Brill, so keep an eye on our website and come along with us.

Viking Juice!

Spare a thought for Hagar the Horrible, Erik Bloodnose, and all the other lads from the longships. For when after a hard day's rape and pillage they relax over a beer, it costs them £6.40 for a paltry 40cl (0.7 pints) making the cost per pint an eyewatering £9.20! Yes, that is what beer costs across the bar in Norway. It's enough to make the horns droop on a Viking lad's helmet, and cause Punch, Greene King, and (because much of that is tax) George Osborne, to eat their avaricious hearts out with envy.

Norway is one of Europe's most scenic and pleasant lands to visit, especially in midsummer when the sky is still bright at midnight. Trains and buses are clean and punctual, the people are friendly and helpful and almost all fluent in English, and the food is delicious – I can specially recommend reindeer sausage. But when it comes to anything containing alcohol, prices go insane.

So if you have to pay Norwegian prices you may as well go for the best. The two national beers, Hansa and Ringnes, are high-quality continental-style lagers which show up our UK lagers for the cheap rubbish most are. But if you want variety and are in Oslo, head for the Oslo Mikrobryggeri, a brewpub located in the capital's inner suburbs at Bogstadveien 8. You take tram 11 or 19 to Rosenborggata stop, and the pub's entrance is just off the main drag in Holtegata.

Oslo Microbrewery opened its doors on 15th September 1989 and was the first brewery to start in Norway since 1899. When I was there they had six beers on and I tried five. All are brewed on the premises, but are kept under 1.3 bar gas pressure so would not meet the UK definition of real ale, and the dispense (see photo) most certainly would offend CAMRA purists, as the pressure-dispense fonts are disguised as handpumps. Nonetheless, this is Norway, not Britain, and they have their own traditions and there's no reason why they should copy us. The beers were in any case quite delicious, and did not taste at all gassy, though all were on



the cold side for my taste. You can drink them in British pint glasses or – as I did – in 33cl sizes, just over half a pint.

All bar two beers from Oslo Mikrobryggeri have ABV of 4.75%. First I tried Oslo Pils– this had a sharp taste I didn't care for but seems to suit others as it is one of their best-selling lines. Then I tried Steamer, a smooth deliciously malty brew rather like a Scottish 'heavy'. Then I tried the Porter and what a gem it was – richly flavoured, almost scented, with smoked malt in the brew. Then I tried the two ABV 5.5% beers. First was the stout, which had an authentic bitterness and chocolately aroma though I'd have preferred a slightly heavier mouthfeel. And lastly I drank their IPA which I can only describe as truly marvellous. Even at £6 for 33cl!

Barman Tor was helpful and informative, and I soon found myself chatting to some of his customers who included a Latvian diplomat. The company has another brewpub in the northern city of Trondheim and you can get more information at www.onb.no – it's in Norwegian but if you browse it using Google Chrome there's an effective translate option.

So, if business or pleasure takes you to Oslo - and if your wallet can stand it - a great evening's drinking awaits you at the Mikrobryggeri. Highly recommended. Skål everyone!

Jim Scott

Diary Dates

Please note that this diary information is always subject to change – check online for latest information at <http://www.mkcamra.org.uk/diary.htm>

☞: Items marked with a ☞ symbol are 'official' CAMRA events.

September 2010

☞ **Thursday September 16.** Branch Social and Launch of Good Beer Guide 2011, Lamb, Stoke Goldington, 8pm.

☞ **Saturday September 18.** Beer and Curry Festival at the Drovers Arms, Steppingley. 5.30pm till late. 30 real ales, also Bavarian lagers, cider, perry, wine and Indian food in marquee. Entrance £5 includes glass and first drink. Live music. Mini-coach departs Wetherspoons, Midsummer Boulevard 6pm – Cost £10 (Max 10). Apply social@mkcamra.org.uk Info <http://www.droversarms.eu> or phone 01525 715697.

☞ **Monday September 27.** Branch Meeting, Cannon, Newport Pagnell 8.30pm.

October 2010

This is the month of our beer festival, the Concrete Pint, so there are no meetings.

☞ **Fri-Sun 1-3 October.** Visit and presentation to

Marble Brewery of Beer of the 2009 Festival certificate. Ibis Hotel, Charles St, Manchester M1 7DG, £88.20 per room for 2 nights. 1250 train from MK – return on 1815 from Manchester to MK.

☞ **Wed-Sat 6-9 October.** Bedford Beer Festival, Corn Exchange, Bedford MK40 1SL. Open Wed 4-11pm, Thu-Sat 11.30am-11pm. Free before 5pm. From 5pm: Wed £2, Thu £3, Fri £5, Sat £1. CAMRA members free at all times on production of current membership card.

Fri-Sun 22-24 October. Hanslope Working Men's Club Beer Festival. Details from Joyce on 01908 511027.

☞ **Wed-Sat October 27-30** Milton Keynes 'Concrete Pint' Beer Festival, The Pitz, Woughton Campus, Wednesday evening 17.00 – 23.00 Other days 12.00 – 23.00

November 2010

☞ **Monday November 8.** Branch Meeting, Hanslope Working Men's Club, 8.30

☞ **Thursday November 25.** Social to welcome new members joining at the Concrete Pint festival, J D Wetherspoon, 201 Midsummer Boulevard 8pm.

December 2010

☞ **Monday December 13.** Branch Meeting at Cross Keys Woolstone 8.30pm.

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

Join CAMRA today...

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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Have you Scored yet?

CAMRA's National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is an easy 0-5 point scale for judging beer quality, and to find out which pubs consistently sell well-kept ale. So we invite all real ale drinkers, not just CAMRA members, to send us their beer scores for pubs both in our area, and elsewhere in the UK. We forward scores for out-of-area pubs to the relevant branches. These results help us decide which pubs to consider for the Good Beer Guide.

E-mail your scores to us at pubs@mkcamra.org.uk, bring them to any of our meetings or social events, or submit them online at www.beerscoring.org.uk. You'll need to give your name, CAMRA Membership Number (if you're a member), Date of Survey, Pub's Name and Location, Beer Name and Brewery, and of course, your score.

0 Undrinkable	No cask ale available, or so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it.
1 Poor	Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
2 Average	Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
3 Good	Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.
4 Very Good	Excellent beer in excellent condition.
5 Perfect	Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

Peter's Puzzles



1. Which Wetherspoons in Milton Keynes is listed in the 2010 Good Beer Guide?
2. What is the missing word in this sequence? Charlie, Alpha, ????, Romeo, Alpha
3. Scottish craft brewer, BrewDog is reputed to brew the strongest beer in the world - Sink the Bismarck. How strong is it? 11%, 21%, 31%, or 41%?
4. Which iconic brewer registered the red triangle as its trademark in 1875? It is listed as trademark number one, and a brewery employee queued overnight to get it - also number two - the red diamond.
5. Which Yorkshire brewers brew:-
(a) Landlord (b) Old Peculier?
6. Which beer was crowned 'Champion Beer of Britain' at the recent Great British Beer Festival?
7. At that festival, approx how many pints were served (on average) every minute? 10, 25, 40, 60, or 75

8. What is the name of the pub in Astwood, listed in the Good Beer Guide?

9. Which pub is opposite the swing bridge over the canal at Fenny Stratford?

10. Most folks know it as the Harvester on Watling Street, Loughton, but what is its real pub name (although not noted for its real ale)?

ANSWERS
1. 201 Midsummer Boulevard 2. Mike
3. 41% 4. Bass 5. (a) Timothy Taylor (b) Theakstons
6. Harvest Pale ale (brewed by Castle Rock brewery
in Nottingham) 7. 75 pints 8. Old Swan 9. Red Lion
10. The Fountain

What's in a Name

CLOUDED YELLOW – St Austell Brewery

This is a pale yellow, bottle conditioned wheat beer, 4.8%, from St Austell Brewery. The name does, in a way, speak for itself. But there is also a butterfly by the same name (Latin: *Colias Croceus*) which visits Britain during the summer months, and which naturally has a place on the bottle label.

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