



ISSUE No. 49

“BORO
BANTED”



JUNE/JULY

PUB OF THE YEAR



The winning pub in the 1994 Solihull Pub of the Year award has now been decided. Every year since 1987 the Solihull branch of CAMRA have polled their members to find the pub that over the last twelve months has in their opinion merited this award. The criteria is simple. The pub has over the proceeding months served their beer to a constant high standard. Although a range of guest beers served through a pub would kindle the interest of CAMRA members it is not a prerequisite. The issue is decided on the overall quality of the product. Although primarily concerned with the 'wet' side of the pub trade the pubs are also judged on the quality of the food they offer.

The first pub to receive the Pub of the Year award back in 1987 was the Navigation in Lapworth, they won it again in 1990 and let me congratulate them again, after a three year lapse, once again they have been voted as the Solihull CAMRA winners of the 1994 PUB OF THE YEAR.

We plan to hold the presentation to Andras just after 12 o'clock on Sunday 19th June. So why not come along to this popular canal side pub and see why it was voted Solihull CAMRA pub of the year.

You'll have no problem finding the Navigation, it's on the Old Warwick Road (B4439) in Lapworth. Just down from the junction of the Stratford-on-Avon and the Grand Union canal.



EDITOR'S ROUND

I think its best to start off with an apology, belated though it is to all those of you who turned up on the Sunday lunchtime to our Beer Festival at the end of January. As it was our first Festival we thought that the 30 odd beers we had on offer would suffice but you proved us wrong. Both Friday sessions were well attended and the Saturday exceeded all our expectations (and the beer!). So I say sorry to those who turned up on the Sunday to be confronted by the sold out signs. The branch has learnt from this experience and at our next Festival we hope to make sure that there is enough beer and cider to last out.

While were on the subject of Beer Festivals, I wonder how many of you managed to get to the Dudley Festival? Now in it's 15th year there were over 130 different beers on offer. I was working in the 'glass' tent and over the three days of the Festival we sold some 5400 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 pint commemorative glasses. At 11 o'clock on Saturday evening when time was called there was only about a dozen barrels left with any beer in them and that didn't amount to much. Talk about gauging you beer orders!

Saturday 11th June is Carnival day at Tudor Grange but for the first time in many years I will not be on site. Needless to say though our CAMRA stall will be there as usual. We will have a wide range of products for sale, books bar towels, beer mats, pictures and so on. We might even tempt you to join CAMRA. After a couple or is it three rainy Carnivals I think were due for some good weather. If you are coming to the Carnival give our stall a look and if it does start raining a bar towel, although not quite the height of fashion will certainly keep you hair dry.



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*'When you have lost your Inns,
drown your empty selves,
for you will have lost
the last of England'*

HILLAIRE BELLOC, 1870-1953

The British Pub is the cornerstone of our way of life, more popular than restaurant, clubs, cinemas or other entertainment. Whether you drink real ale or not, people care about their pubs. Concern covers a wide range of issues. Pub alterations take place with little regard to the pub's heritage and without consulting the pub users. Pubs are closed without any thought given to the community that the pub serves and landlords are evicted with little account being taken of the business they have built up over the years.

Although better known for real ale, CAMRA is well established in campaigning for the British pub. It is the only national organisation that speaks on behalf of the ordinary pub customer.

CAMRA believes that the pub fulfils an important social function in the community, whether or not it sells real ale and offers a unique environment where drinking can take place in a controlled, sensible fashion. Pubs which are of historical interest and character should be preserved and multi-roomed pubs should be retained, including the public bar, to allow for all different types of people.

CAMRA has a Pubs Group which is responsible for devising national campaigns to increase the public awareness of pubs. These include the Pub Design Awards which are run in association with English Heritage. The idea of this is to encourage people to think about the user when they revamp a pub as well as promoting good new designs. The Pub Group's extensive expertise can advise on getting pubs listed (inside & out) so they cannot be structurally vandalised they can also advise people how to go about stopping a pub being closed.

CAMRA lobbies both the U.K. and European Parliaments and also has links with organisations such as the Victorian and Georgian Societies to help protect the British Pub Heritage.

If you do care about your pub, what can you do? Firstly, use it! In these recessionary times, fewer people are using their local pub. If you don't then don't be surprised if it goes out of business due to lack of custom.

So you want to drink at home? Don't reach for that can on the supermarket shelf, get a carry keg and take draught beer from your local pub home with you, it will taste much better than any stuff out of a can.

BRANCH MEETINGS



- JUN 11 Sat. Solihull Carnival. Tudor Grange.*
JUN 13 Mon. Branch meeting at Old Colonial, Danson Lane. 8.30pm.
JUN 19 Sun. Pub of The Year Award to the Navigation, Lapworth. 12 o'clock.
JUN 24 Fri. Beer & Balti. Adam & Eve, Bradford St. B'ham + meal. 8.00pm.
JUL 11 Mon. Branch meeting at Navigation, Lapworth in the garden 8.30pm.



MAKE MINE
Real
MILD



The Griffin Inn Shustoke

Excellent homemade food available
12.00 - 2.00 Monday - Saturday



*A very traditional Inn
serving a wide variety
of well kept ales.*

Solihull Round-up

As regulars of the GRESWOLDE in Knowle have for some time found out it has been closed since the beginning of January and by all account have undergone a dramatic change when it reopens. The recently refitabished RED LION in Earlswood has had Fullers London Pride on offer. Future guest beers, we understand will be available. Over in Shustoke I'm reliably informed that the GRIFFIN has acquired the necessary equipment to produce their own beer. I look forward to the time when it's up and running and to partake of the beers they will have on offer. The Golden Lion, now a Courage training pub, so I understand has recently been offering Old Speckled Hen. Drinkers at the Red Lion in Shirley can expect, apart from the Holts, Plant & Deakin Mild a choice of Benskins or A.B.C. bitter as their 'guest beer'. Sunday 19th June is the time and the place? The NAVIGATION in Lapworth. For just after 12 o'clock Andrew Kimber will be presented his award by the Solihull branch of CAMRA for being chosen as Pub of the Year for 1994.

The refitabished Black Boy I understand is still keeping to the Bass range of beers. I have been told, indirectly that a M&B tenant in the Solihull area has been advise against stocking mild beer. A new outlet in Solihull is Oliver's where you will find a range of the Carlsberg-Tetley beers on offer. Joseph Holt bitter appeared for the first time in the Solihull area at BERNIES OFF LICENCE, Shirley. They have always got 1/2 dozen beers on tap and if your local pub can't operate a take home service then BERNIES are there to offer you an ever changing range of beers to enjoy at home.

Don't forget that the Solihull Carnival takes place on Saturday 11th June at Tudor Grange. Solihull CAMRA will have a stall there, we hope you come along and see us, Membership of CAMRA is only £12.00 a year. If you are interested then have a chat to someone at the stall, they'll be glad to give you any details. The Old Colonial is still taking in guest beers and a little bird has told me that they are planning to hold a small beer festival sometime in the summer.



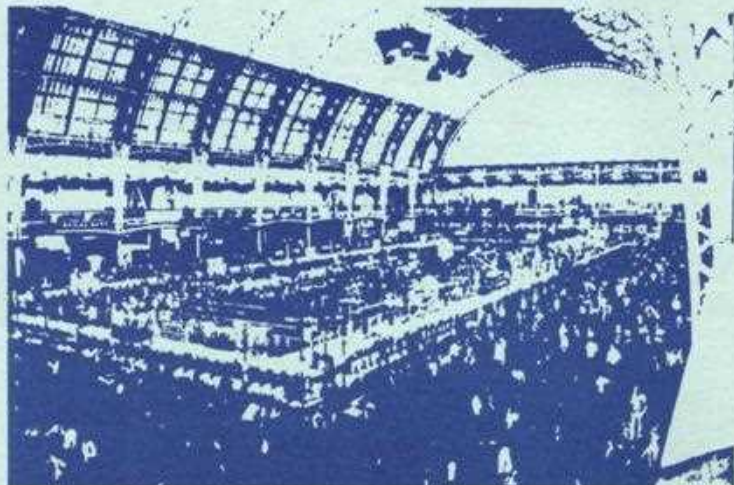


EUROPEAN BEER FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR

Great British Beer Festival

2nd-6th August 1994

Grand Hall, Olympia



*Nearly 500 real ales, ciders
& imported beers*

*Family Room (until 9pm
eves), Food, Breweriana,
Seating for 1000 people*

Tue- Thu eve: 5.00pm - 10.30pm; £3.00

Wed- Fri lunch: 11.30am - 3pm; £1.00

Fri eve: 5.00pm - 10.30pm; £3.50

Sat: 11.30am - 10.00pm; £3.00

Doors shut 10pm weekdays, 9.30pm Sat

*Live Entertainment
every session including:*

Tue with 

Wed: Classics, Thu: Jazz

*Sat eve: Eric Delaney
& Band*

Group rates contact: 0272-248894

*Extended tube service to Olympia
during the Festival*

CAMRA Membership gives:

- Monthly copies of *What's Brewing*, CAMRA's entertaining and highly regarded newspaper.
- Generous discounts on CAMRA products and publications (including the best-selling *Good Beer Guide*).
- Advance warning of beer festivals throughout the U.K. and Europe – and discounts when you get there.
- An invitation to join CAMRA's activities such as brewery trips, meetings and socials.
- **ABOVE ALL**, you will belong to a flourishing and successful consumer movement which is acting as a champion for beer drinkers and pub users.

APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

I/We wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

Name(s)

Address

..... Postcode

Signature Date

I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership:

	Individual Annual	Joint Annual	Individual Life	Joint Life
UK and EEC	£12 <input type="checkbox"/>	£14 <input type="checkbox"/>	£120 <input type="checkbox"/>	£140 <input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of the World	£16 <input type="checkbox"/>	£18 <input type="checkbox"/>	£160 <input type="checkbox"/>	£180 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student/Unwaged	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>		
Disabled	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>	£70 <input type="checkbox"/>
Retired	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>	£70 <input type="checkbox"/>

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) with this application form (or a photocopy) to:

The Membership Secretary,
CAMRA Ltd., 34, Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts., AL1 3BW



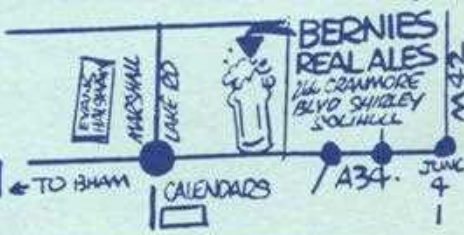
BERNIES REAL ALES



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CALL ON US AT ▼



LOCAL BRANCH CONTACTS

BIRMINGHAM

Babs Ellgood. Tel: 021 779 5730(h).

COVENTRY & MID WARWICKS

Paul Hamblett. Tel: 0203 417675(h). & 0203 221939(w).

REDDITCH & BROMSGROVE

John Moisy. Tel: 021 476 5559(h).

SHAKESPEARE

Vaughan Hully. Tel: 0789 778726(h). & 021 544 5050(w).

SOLIHULL

Malcolm Field. Tel: 021 745 8981(h). & 021 622 2323(w).

TAMWORTH & SUTTON

John Kippax. Tel: 021 354 2479(h). & 0527 576969(w).

The Boro Banter is the newsletter of the Solihull branch of CAMRA and the views expressed in the Banter are those of the individual contributor and are not necessarily the views of either the Solihull branch of CAMRA or the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. Editors: Steve Dyson and Malcolm Field. Advertising rates are available from Peter Hinks on 021 773 3080.

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