



THE TIPPLER



Newsletter of the Gloucestershire Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

Real Ale does have a Future - Help us Prove It

The major brewers would have us believe that Real Ale is in a declining market. As we go into the third Millennium the pundits have nothing but Doom and Gloom for the survival of what is probably the most distinctive beer style in the world. Well CAMRA believes firmly they are wrong and is fighting on to prove it.

It is often said that pubs are ceasing to offer Real Ale and prefer to stock keg or nitrokeg beers, which need no expertise to handle.

There is happily not much evidence in Gloucestershire. Cheltenham now has Goff's in the Promenade and the reopened Mitre in Sandford Street, followed by the long awaited Wetherspoon's pub, The Moon Under Water, in the Bath Road. More widely we understand that Gloucestershire is targetted for as many as seven new Wetherspools over the next year or so. Not a sign of real ale in decline.

Nevertheless, it is true that all beer sales, including real ale, are down and will

[Continued on p.2]

Boat wins SW award again

Our Pub of the Year, The Boat at Ashleworth Quay, has won the SW Region Pub of the Year award as it did three years ago at its first attempt.

So once again The Boat has a chance in the national CAMRA Pub of the Year competition. Best of luck, Jacque! We feel sure that it must be Gloucestershire's turn to win this time.



*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year*

2000

*to all our readers
from CAMRA in
Gloucestershire*



continue that way while the Government does nothing to lower the scandalous rate of beer duty.

It is also true that the year has seen some sad losses in the independent brewing industry and times are undoubtedly hard. Closures and takeovers have crowded in, with a new horror story every month.

The power of pub chains grows apace, despite some setbacks at the hands of the Competition Commission. The effect on small brewers denied outlets hard won when the pubs belonged to the big brewers is a problem the OFT must tackle.

On the face of it the big brewers look as if they have a point. Bass is leading the race to talk down real ale, claiming this summer that 2 out of 3 pints would be lager by 2004!

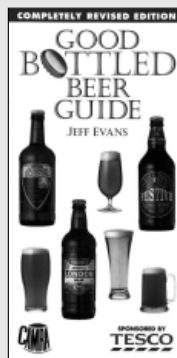
Perhaps the big brewers think they have the clout to create the future according to their own profit driven predictions. Well, if we just sit back and do nothing the nightmare of the early 1970's may indeed return. CAMRA has mobilised support from ordinary drinkers before and is fighting to do so again. Once again it is support from you, the drinker which will make or break the future of real ale.

We head into 2000 building up a fighting fund to support a high-profile promotion campaign aimed at putting real ale back on the public awareness map. Join us, work with us, contribute to our fighting fund and help keep the flame alive. Don't let the new century begin with the doom merchants being proved right.

Real Ale in a Bottle!

That can't be right, can it? Well, it may seem like a contradiction in terms but, yes, you can have real ale in a bottle. The definition can apply to bottled beers which contain yeast and mature in the bottle (bottle-conditioned beers).

The choice of bottle-conditioned beers is now staggering and CAMRA Books has the whole field covered in the new edition of the award-winning Good Bottled Beer Guide compiled by Jeff Evans. In a handy, pocket-hardback format, it is priced at just £8.99 (£7.99 to CAMRA members).



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CAMRA Bottle-Conditioned Beer of the Year 1999

A note from our Dursley sub-branch rep Chris Arrowsmith

The Guardian newspaper sponsors the CAMRA Bottle-Conditioned Beer of the Year award. The paper invites its readers to volunteer to be a member of the tasting panel, I was fortunate to be selected for this onerous task. The tasting took place at the GBBF at Olympia on Monday 2nd August 1999 and the panel comprised of 10 members of whom 6 were Guardian readers and the remainder were CAMRA members including the GBG editor Roger Protz who was chairman.

The panel had the 7 beers to judge which are shown at the bottom of the page. Points were awarded from 0 to 10 for appearance, aroma, initial impression, aftertaste and overall impression. The panel's scores were totted up to give the final result. I enjoyed the event very much; it was interesting to hear the comments from the panel and enjoy the wide range of tastes. However, we all agreed on which beer we did not like!

See if you can match the beers to my descriptions and predict the final order. The outcome can be found on page 7.

Beer K: *A dark ruby coloured beer, with a malty nose, it had a malty hoppy flavour with a warm lingering aftertaste. (4.8%)*

Beer L: *A crystal clear light coloured beer with a sulphurous hoppy nose, it had a very hoppy, bitter flavour with a lingering bitter hop aftertaste, the alcohol content of the beer was noticeable very enjoyable. (5%)*

Beer M: *Very light golden coloured beer mild in flavour with slightly sweet taste, the aftertaste wasn't immediately apparent, after a while a dry aftertaste came through. (5%)*

Beer N: *A copper coloured beer with a pronounced lactic acid flavour the aftertaste was full bodied and lingered on the palate an unusual and enjoyable beer. (5.3%)*

Beer O: *A rich copper/brown beer with a pronounced musty aroma which I did not find unpleasant, it had a crisp bitter flavour followed by a sharp hoppy aftertaste. (6.3%)*

Beer P: *A golden coloured beer with a sweet aroma which had a smooth warming flavour, with a mild malty aftertaste, a very pleasant drink. (6.4%)*

Beer Q: *A tan coloured beer lacking in aroma, it had a sharp, unpleasant, metallic, carbonised flavour, with minimal aftertaste. (6.2%)*



Fullers
1845



Hampshire
Pride of Romsey



Hop Back
Summer Lightning



King & Barnes
Festive



Morland
Hen's Tooth



Salopian
Entire Butt



Young's Special
London Ale

Prize Christmas Acrostic

Here's our usual Christmas prize puzzle. Solve the clues and copy the letters into the grid opposite which when complete will spell out a well-known quotation from a 19th century poem. The title of the poem and the poet's name can be found reading down the first column of the clue answers below.

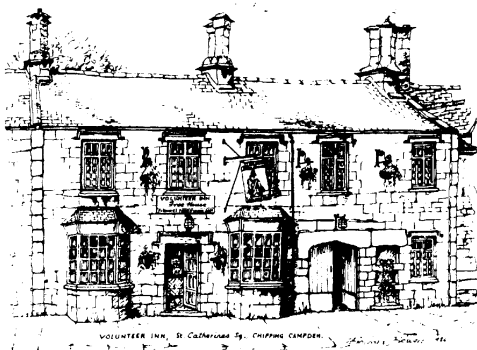
Send the title and author on a postcard to the Tippler editor (name & address on the back page) by Saturday 15 January 2000 and the first name out of the hat will win 2 complimentary tickets to the Cotswold Beer Festival 2000 to be held at Postlip Hall near Winchcombe on the weekend of 28-30 July 2000.

- A. Is their beer drunk by fellows after a scrum?
- B. Muddled, like a bad egg.
- C. Spots without thinking.
- D. Smashing part of brewing.
- E. Poor mites, these things.
- F. Horses are what he keeps or lets out.
- G. Could a Moslem prince be wrong, Bwana?
- H. Is their beer so happy?
- I. I'm shy - well not really!
- J. Take from a wardrobe.
- K. Tool British architect takes to church.
- L. Does their beer hit the bullseye?
- M. Whip this up, what a mess!
- N. Cross bar.
- O. Four score year's following the boat.
- P. Does their beer use real country hops for a start?
- Q. Grasping about at the end of the D.
- R. Let's chat about the property.
- S. Is their beer more 'eated?
- T. It's about getting inside the sharp flavour.
- U. Does their beer spoil the waist?

70	9	42	110	29	51	26	121
97	22	79	4	89	111		
13	55	103	24				
83	37	107	46	119	6	18	
33	112	94	105	63			
75	49	123	19	116	40		
59	92	61	124	73			
68	11	102	28	1	54		
47	115	36	27	7	82	90	104
66	109	39					
96	32	120	17	64	44		
5	101	77	113	25	52	34	
125	57	10	86				
87	78	23	62	14	35		
126	88	3	31	60	15		
117	30	81					
72	50	106	118	43	58	21	85
99	65	71	108	80	12	93	48
41	53	95	16	74			
122	20	38	91	67	2	56	
69	100	8	76	84	45	114	98

H1	T2	O3	B4	L5	D6	I7	U8	A9	M10	H11	R12	C13	N14	O15							
		S16	K17	D18	F19	T20	Q21	B22	N23	C24	L25	A26									
I27	H28	A29	P30	O31	K32	E33	L34	N35	I36	D37	T38	J39	F40	S41	A42	Q43	K44	U45			
		D46	I47	R48	F49	Q50	A51	L52	S53	H54	C55	T56	M57	Q58	G59						
O60	G61	N62	E63	K64	R65	J66	T67	H68	U69	A70	R71	Q72	G73	S74	F75	U76	L77	N78	B79		
		R80	P81	I82	D83	U84	Q85	M86	N87	O88	B89	I90	T91	G92	R93	E94					
S95	K96	B97	U98	R99	U100	L101	H102	C103	I104	E105	Q106	D107	R108	J109	A110	B111					
		E112	L113	U114	I115	F116	P117	Q118	D119	K120	A121	T122	F123	G124	M125	O126					

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Gloucestershire CAMRA Pub of the Year for 1998

Events Diary

Glos Branch Meetings

Monday 10 January - Committee Meeting, Red Hart, Awre, 8.00pm

Monday 7 February - Committee Meeting, Cirencester, (venue tba), 8.00pm

Monday 6 March - Committee Meeting, Goff's, Promenade, Cheltenham, 8.00pm

Sub-branches

Cheltenham sub-branch meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month. **9 December** - Goff's, Cheltenham, 8pm - informal Christmas 'do'; **13 January** - The Moon Under Water (J.D.Wetherspoons), Bath Road, 8pm; **10 February** - Brown Jug, Bath Rd. 8pm, Suffolk Arms, Suffolk Rd. 9.30pm; **9 March** - Prince of Wales, Portland St. 8pm. Also: **4 February** - minibus to Winter Ale Festival at the White Bear, Bredon Rd., Tewkesbury. Contact: Graham Green, 01242 510867.

Cirencester sub-branch meet on the second Tuesday of the month. **10 December** - Christmas gathering (with food!) at the Five Mile House, Duntisbourne

Abbots; **11 January** - Red Lion, Ampney St Peter; **8 February** - Royal Oak, Leighterton and on to the Kings Arms, Didmarton. Also a trip to the Rebellion Brewery (Bucks) is being arranged in January; contact Richard Poley, 01285 770273, for details.

Dursley sub-branch usually meets on the last Tuesday of each month. **14 December** - Christmas Social, Old Spot, Dursley. Contact: Chris Arrowsmith, 01453 548991.

Gloucester sub-branch usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. **15 December** - Christmas Party, Black Swan, Southgate St. Contact: Duncan Murch, 01452 384960.

Forest of Dean sub-branch meets generally on Mondays. **20 December** - Swan, Pillowell, 8.30pm for a Christmas natter; **17 January** - White Horse, Mitcheldean, 8.30pm. Contact: Dave Watts, 01594 543396

Tewkesbury sub-branch meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. **21 December** - Black Bear, High Street (Christmas Bash); **18 January** - White Bear, Bredon Road; **15 February** - Town crawl, meet at the White Bear, 8pm. Also the Winter Ale Festival (see below). Contact: Peter Martin, 01684 292598.

Tewkesbury Campaign for Real Ale Millennium Winter Ale Festival

for the fifth year at the White Bear, Bredon Road

Friday 4th February 2000: 7pm - 11pm

Saturday 5th February 2000: 11.30am - 3.30pm & 7pm - 11pm

Sunday 6th February 2000: noon - 3pm

Free entry to all sessions

CAMRA members only preview session: Thursday 3rd February: 7pm - 11pm

**WINTER ALES, PORTERS & STOUTS FROM SOME OF
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September Competition Result

The winner of the Colourful Festival competition in the previous Tippler was Mr N Stanlick of Benhall, Cheltenham. He will receive two complimentary tickets to the 2000 Cotswold Beer Festival.

The colours and associated beers were:

1. WHITE Knight (Goffs)
Adder (Mauldons)
2. BLACK Cat [Mild] (Moorhouses)
Dog [Mild] (Elgood)
3. RED Hot Poker (Berkeley)
Cuillin (Isle of Skye)
4. GOLDEN Brown (Home County)
Arrow (Cottage)

CAMRA Bottle Conditioned Beer of the Year 1999

See p.3. The beers in the final order were:

1st Beer P: Youngs Special London Ale



2nd Beer K: Salopian Entire Butt

3rd Beer L: Hampshire Pride of Romsey

4th Beer O: Fullers 1845

5th Beer N: King & Barnes Festive Ale

6th Beer M: Hopback Summer Lightning

7th Beer Q: Morland Hen's Tooth

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Name

Address

.....
..... **Postcode**

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for

Signed

Date



Local contacts

Cheltenham area:
Adrian Eastman - 01452 855727

Cirencester area:
Rob Tough - 01285 860618

Dursley area:
Chris Arrowsmith - 01453 548991

Forest of Dean:
Geoff Petheram - 01594 510648

Gloucester area:
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North Cotswolds:
Brian Healey - 01608 650635

Stroud & Stonehouse:
Nick Williams - 01453 757818

Tewkesbury area:
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