

# **WIGHTWASH**



THE ISLE OF WIGHT BRANCH

NEWSLETTER NO 11, MARCH 1995

## **PARKHURST PORTER**



Mr. Burt  
Master Brewer

IT'S HERE!  
**PARKHURST  
PORTER**

The beer to escape with!



GIVE US A BREAK....  
GIVE US A  
**BURT'S!**

*A BREAKTHROUGH FOR BURTS*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

BRANCH MEETING: Wed 22nd March, Chequers, Rookley, 8 p.m.

SOCIAL: Fri 28th April, Blacksmiths, Calbourne, 8.30 p.m.

BRANCH MEETING: Wed 24th May, Ramblers, Godshill, 8 p.m.

SOCIAL: Fri 23rd June, Star, Wroxall, 8.30 p.m.

### **Committee:**

Chairman	Brian Jacobs	527093
Secretary/Branch Contact	Derek Smith	298024
Treasurer	Derek Nicoll	525797
Press Officer/GBG Co-ordinator	Chris Coleman	521494
Social Secretary	Richard Sussex	874962
Membership/Branch Diary	Nick Ward	299477
Committee Member	John Nicholson	299436
Committee Member	Sally Rohulaan	298284
Committee Member	Ray Scarfe	298726
Honorary AuditorS	Roger Barlow(CSE Woodwork)	297722
	Ken Matthews	

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#### **About this newsletter:**

Wightwash is produced at about three-monthly intervals and is distributed free through a number of pubs, including the Travellers Joy, Prince of Wales, Newport, Star, Wroxall, Wight Mouse, Chale. Anybody who would like to receive copies of future newsletters by post can do so on payment of £1 (per year).

If you have any adverts or material: articles, information, pictures, recipes, please contact Nick Ward (299477) or John Nicholson (299436).

**Views expressed in *WIGHTWASH* are not necessarily those held by the Editor, the Isle of Wight Branch of CAMRA or the Campaign for Real Ale nationally.**

## **BREWERY NEWS**

### **Burts**

As shown on the front page, Burts launched a new porter in January, with the slogan "A great beer to escape with!"

For those who haven't found it yet, it's a very full flavoured beer, belying its relatively low strength (3.8% ABV) - worth looking out for. Some think it's the best Burts beer yet and one of the best porters around, so it is to be hoped that it will be continued, despite reports that the present brew is to be the last.

### **Goddards**

The Fuggle De Dum continues to please. (It had a devastating effect on the AGM, held rather unwisely on Friday 13th January. Several staunch members were noted to be somewhat "tired and emotional" by the end of the evening.)

In a new departure the brewer took over Batemans Brewery in Wainfleet, Lincs. for a day to brew and subsequently bottle a batch of FDD, which is now on sale.

## **TONY'S**

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## **PUB NEWS**

Several Whitbread pubs are being extensively refurbished over the next few months, including the New Inn at Shorwell and the Woodvale, Gurnard, both of which are closed at present. The Buddle at Niton is having the attached barn made over as a function room with a bar. The rest of the pub is not affected.

The Anchor in Cowes is to have its cellar extended, but it is not yet known when the work will start.

## OVERSEAS NEWS

The pub chain Tap & Spile, owned by Pubmaster Ltd. of Hartlepool, have been expanding southwards and have now reached the South coast. Not the Island unfortunately, but almost!

They have purchased from Ind Coope the Wellington in Old Portsmouth by the Square Tower and near the car ferry terminal.

Tap & Spile have a policy of offering a wide range of beers, largely from small independent brewers and at sensible prices. The Wellington is now being managed by Jim and Pat Atley, who previously ran the Tap & Spile pub at Leyton, in the East End. Since moving to Portsmouth in December they have already had some interesting beers on offer, e.g. Nethergate (Bitter, IPA and Old Growler), Hardington (Traditional Bitter and Old Lucifer) and Black Sheep. Prices currently start at £1.30 a pint, which is a good 30 to 40 pence less than at the Dolphin, 100 yards up the High Street! Well worth a visit next time you miss the ferry.

BARRY & MO, SOUTHSEA

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### BEER FESTIVAL REPORTS

Several discerning drinkers (well alright then, p\*ss artists) went to the Gosport Winterfest on the 3rd & 4th of March.

One or two tried the 21% ABV Old Igor and lived to tell the tale. The fine selection of interesting beers was greatly appreciated, which is more than can be said for the punk-rock band on the Friday night!

## **TAKING THE PIZZA**

The 'Pizza Hut' in St Albans was recently reported by Camra to local trading standards officers for selling fake real ale pizzas, using a sauce made with bottled Gold Label. One can only marvel at the hyper-sensitive taste buds of those who detected the difference, through the garlic, anchovies, peppers etc.

## **DESTINATION AUSTRALIA**

There was a time when people were transported to Australia for stealing a loaf of bread. The Laura Norder brigade seem to be in the ascendant, now you can get transported just for drinking Fosters Lager!

### **TRAVELLERS JOY**

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- **9 Real Ales (always at least 1 mild or porter)**
- **Beer Garden**
- **Children always welcome (animals in the garden)**
- **Good Pub Food**

*Derek and Ruth Smith are proud to be current holders of Isle of Wight CAMRA Branch "Pub of the Year" award.*

### **WATCH OUT FOR THE RETURN OF THE BIG HEAD!**

Whitbread seem to have recalled one of their least successful advertising campaigns of the 70s, for Big Head Trophy, and issued instructions to their publicans that Boddingtons Bitter should 'ideally' be served with a 17.5mm head. In a brim measure glass that's about 85% of a pint, compared with the 95% minimum recommended by the Brewers Association. They also suggest a 20mm head on Murphys Stout, leaving about 80% of a pint of liquid. If you come across this practice on the Island, please let us know, so that it can be reported to Trading Standards Officers.

## FROM OUR AFLOAT CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 5 years ago, I spotted a small ad in the international section of a magazine I subscribe to. It read:

"I am a collector of beers - over 1,000. Can anyone help me find more?" Eric Hovatter, San Diego, USA.

Keen to meet a kindred spirit, I replied, and we've been corresponding ever since.

My first attempt to send Eric beer ended in failure. I'd carefully parcelled up about 20 bottles - mainly Norwegian - each bottle cocooned in bubble-wrap and packed with screwed up newspaper in a stout cardboard box.

What arrived in San Diego was a black plastic bag containing a large ball of wet cardboard and broken glass. Only 2 bottles survived - these being somewhat anonymous as the labels had come off.

The second attempt was far more successful, even if it did take a little longer. I merely waited until the next January when Canberra docked in San Francisco. Eric flew up from San Diego and I just handed the bottles over.

We had a splendid day out visiting two of San Francisco's brew pubs - The San Francisco Brewing Company and the Twenty Tank Brewery, 316, 11th Street - I can recommend their Kinnikinick Standard Ale (The brewer is a nice young chap called Rick Warner and he'll show you round if he's not too busy.)

Incidentally, I should point out that Eric does not actually collect the beers. He drinks the beer and saves the labels. He's not stupid.

Yesterday, almost four years to the day, I met Eric for the second time. Then he was at law school, now he is one of Ventura County's newest (and by the sound of it - most promising) Deputy District Attorneys (16 consecutive trial wins!)

I brought him some British beers plus some I'd picked up en route:- Caribe from St Kitts; Piton from St Lucia; Banks from Barbados and the ubiquitous Corona from Mexico. Eric's collection is now, I believe, approaching 1,800.

After a brief tour of the ship, we set off in his Jeep for Redondo Beach, stopping on the way at a liquor store where I stocked up on some pretzels, corn chips, dips - oh yeah and 42 bottles of assorted American beers. Our destination was Naja's Place (154, International Boardwalk, Redondo), a large rough and ready establishment that opens right on to the quay. Naja, the proprietress, manages to keep a staggering 777 beers in stock, 77 of them on tap. I tried the Escudo from Chile and the dark, nutty Aass Bock from Norway.

Now, if you think I spent a nice sunny afternoon propping up a bar, chatting with my mate Eric about brewers and the intricacies of California state law, with friendly bar-staff serving us cool beer in tall frosted glasses, whilst watching long-legged blondes with cut-off jeans passing by on roller-skates.....- you're dead right.

Sometimes this isn't such a bad gig after all!

**TIM MARSHALL**

## THANKS KEN!

Our cuddly, suede-shod Chancellor really endeared himself to beer drinkers in his panic extra budget. In order to make up for the revenue lost when the second half of VAT imposition on fuel was blocked, he pushed up the duty on beer in line with inflation. This puts the UK duty on a pint of beer between 20 and 30 pence higher than that in France, boosting the ridiculous cross-channel beer trade. Ridiculous because much of the beer being trundled down to the ferries on groaning trolleys is UK produced. The big brewers are cashing in - no change there then. If this were just a question of people bringing back a few tinnies for their own consumption, one would not worry, other than about their taste in beer, but it is hitting the pub trade, particular those in less well-off areas. This eventually means less choice for the pub-goer and fewer jobs in the licensed trade.

## AND THANKS SIR FATWALLET!

*The interesting thing about beer prices is that everything changes the more you look into it. Even though the duty on beer has generally kept pace with inflation, overall prices have risen by twice the rate of inflation on average, over the last twenty years. The reason of course is that every time the duty has gone up the big brewers have used it as a smokescreen to add a bit on for themselves. I say big brewers because they are usually in the forefront. Brewing seems to be one industry where economies of scale don't count. Drinking Joseph Kolts at 90p a pint in Manchester confirms that. Still help may be at hand, the Office of Fair Trading is carrying out an investigation into beer prices. Let's hope the fatwallets in the beverage don't manage to sidestep this one as they have so many enquiries in the past.*

## BEWARE OF THE PSEUDO-KEG!

Coming to a pub near you - keg beer claiming to be cask! Whitbread's new canned beer on draught, Boddington's nitro-keg, is being promoted with some very dubious claims in the trade press.

In the Licensee, Whitbread claimed that "This is a wholly new beer style: it is neither cask nor keg". In the publican they say that their nitro-keg was "similar to cask".

When questioned by CAMRA they retreated from making any comparison. Confused? I bet plenty of publicans and their customers are too. Particularly because Whitbread seem to think that "there are an awful lot of licensees who can't manage cask beer".

It isn't just Whitbread, Bass's Caffreys (keg) beer has been spotted listed with real ales and being sold as a "guest beer".

## PROTECT YOUR PINT - JOIN CAMRA NOW

Membership costs £12 (individual) £6 OAP, £14 (joint). For this you receive the monthly newspaper "What's Brewing" and concessions on many CAMRA products and events. You can also attend the monthly meetings or social events on the Island, details of which are given in this newsletter, mailed to all Branch members.

Joining CAMRA is a commitment to Britain's best-known and most successful consumer organisation. You can help to preserve the distinctive beer styles of this country for future generations.

To join fill in the form below and send it with a cheque for £12/£6/£14, payable to CAMRA Ltd., 34, Alma Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW.

### APPLICATION FORM

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

## STAGE STRUCK?

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