



Camra Calling

Spring 2009 – Summer 2009

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Member's Newsletter for the North Devon Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

My, how time flies! We are now into our third year of the newsletter. I hope you are still finding it helpful and informative.

Since the last newsletter in December, it has been very busy branch-wise. At the January meeting in High Bickington there were 42 nominations for the 2010 Good Beer Guide discussed. These all were surveyed by volunteers who visited and (shock, horror!) had a pint of beer, just to test the quality of course, not because they like beer. At our February meeting in Combe Martin, we had to choose the best 27 to put forward for the 2010 Guide. It was a very lively discussion and lots of beer was drunk to help with the final selection. Amazingly we managed to find the best 27 with 6 reserves. The 2010 Good Beer Guide will be available to members in September.

The Branch Committee would like to thank all those members who gave their valuable time and effort in nominating, surveying and selecting our entries for the 2010 GBG.

Also at the January meeting the 5 finalists for the North Devon Pub of the Year 2009 were decided. All members have been asked to vote by 12th March. At the time of this newsletter going out the voting is very close, so if you have not yet voted please do so as every vote will count. The result will be announced at the AGM on 14th March in The Town Arms Hotel, South Molton, EX36 3BU which starts at 12.30pm. So if you want to know the result please come along. The May meeting will be held in the winning pub.

Witterings of the Wizard

Greetings for the first Newsletter of 2009 – where does the time go? (I think I must be getting old!)

As you will have seen in the minutes the Christmas Social was a great success again, with an excellent 'Call my Bluff' beer quiz organised by Terry and Trish with help from Phil from Exeter Branch – a great day, good turn-out again and a great result as Fiona and I were on the winning team!

The Exeter Winter Ale Festival was the next major item on my agenda. I was invited to

be one of the judges this year. This was an experience I really enjoyed. It was an excellent festival and well worth the visit, especially if you like seasonal ales, which I do.

I am sure you are aware of the concerns about pub closures as there has been considerable coverage in the media. Part of the problem, as I see it, is the pub companies policy on tied beer choice. I feel that CAMRA members should all do their bit by signing petitions where available and supporting their locals that are not tied to these pub companies. Two other areas that we should be active in are strategies supporting the petitions against the beer tax, which is set to increase by 40% over the next 4 years (the web site is axethebeertax.com) and National Cask Ale Week in April - details in What's Brewing and Branch meeting minutes.

Am I getting too serious? On a lighter note a little ditty I heard at a music session in some or other pub –

All I want is a proper pint of porter
Served in a proper pewter porter pot
I may be off my dot but I want a pint of
porter in a pewter porter pot
Iron porter pots and tin porter pots
They're no use to me
If I can't get a proper pint of porter in a
proper pewter porter pot
I'll have a cup of tea!

I hope to see you all around the Branch throughout the year.

Cheers,

Morris the Wizard.

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National Pub of the Year

North Devon branch have sent their congratulations to the Kelham Island Tavern, Sheffield for winning the National POTY 2008. The Tom Cobley, Spreyton was announced as one of 3 runners up. North Devon Branch have congratulated Roger and Carol Cudlip on the great achievement of being one of the top 4 pubs in the country.

National Beer Scoring System

We are now taking nominations for the 2011 Good Beer Guide (there's no rest!), so if you think your local is worthy of a nomination please tell us about it.

To help us decide the GBG and POTY nominations we are repeating our request for you to use The National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) at www.beerscoring.org.uk All members can use this to score pubs they have visited and real ales they have tasted anywhere in the UK please see our last newsletter for details.

For those not on line we can send you score cards that you can post back to us, or you can telephone our number and Terry will put the scores on for you

Brewery Tour

Our Social Secretary, Chris, intends to arrange another brewery tour. He hopes it will be to Bays and Teignworthy Breweries. If you are interested please make sure that Terry has your e-mail address so that he can send you details in good time. As soon as we know the details they will be available on our web-site. If you do not have access to a computer and want to know about future trips but do not mind being contacted by telephone, please let me know.

Pub Databases

These certainly seem to be all the rage at the moment! No sooner had we told you about our database in the last newsletter then CAMRA HQ announces the launch of their National Online GBG Submission System. This means that all entries for the 2010 GBG will be entered on this new system and used to produce the book later this year. There are three types of entry at the moment, i.e. GBG entries, Reserves and Non-GBG entries.

The bad news is that Terry has spent an inordinate amount of time on our computer in the last two weeks completing these entries (give that man a medal!). The good news is that most entries just need updating and it looks like the information can be easily transferred between our database and CAMRA's.

Please contact Dave Budd, who is responsible for our database, if you have any information or updates on any of the pubs you frequent, particularly if you know of any [pubs closing](#). You can do this by e-

mail on: david.budd@thedairygroup.co.uk or by telephone on: Work: 01271 379669 or Mobile: 07774 196792. He also wishes to be informed of any other establishments e.g. Hotels, Clubs etc., who serve real ale.

Branch Polo Shirts

The branch still has a few polo shirts that you can buy for £15.00 each. The shirt is maroon with our embroidered logo in gold and in sizes of XL and XXL. If you would like one (or more) please contact me.

Website

If you are new to the branch it is possible to read back copies of the newsletter on the web site if you have access to the internet. There are also copies of meeting minutes available. If you are not online please contact me if you require back copies of the newsletter or minutes.

Beer Festivals

2nd-9th March – A Devon wide Wetherspoons Festival - £1.59 a pint. Details on the web site.

21st March - Yeofest – Yeoford Community Hall.

23rd-25th April – 17th Maltings Beer Festival – Tuckers Maltings, Newton Abbot.

6th-10th May – Ten Tors Festival – Plymouth Inn, West Street, Okehampton, EX20 1HH

12th-14th June – Mini Beer Festival – New Inn, Roborough, EX19 8SY

Meetings & Socials

Saturday 14th March 2009 – **AGM** - 12.30pm – Town Arms, South Molton, EX36 3BU. **CARD CARRYING MEMBERS ONLY TO VOTE ON BRANCH OFFICIALS**

Saturday 4th April 2009 – Branch Meeting & Social – 12.30pm – Old Markey Inn, Holsworthy, EX22 6AY

Saturday 9th May 2009 – Pub of the Year Presentation and Social– 12.30pm – Venue to be announced

Any Future Events

If you know of any event or Beer Festivals taking place between June and August 2009 please inform Trish by phone or e-mail before 21st May and it will be included in the next branch newsletter and our web site.