

Camra Calling

Summer - Autumn 2009

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

NORTH DEVON PUB of the YEAR

At the AGM in March the results of the vote for our Pub of the Year 2009 was announced. The winner is The Hunters Inn at Heddon Valley near Parracombe.

On Sunday 10th May our Chairman, Morris Elsworth, presented the owner, David Orton, with the winners framed certificate. Many thanks to all our members who attended a memorable day that contained a great selection of real ales and an unexpected free buffet with impromptu music!



The POTY runner up is The Castle Inn at Combe Martin. The chairman is presenting the certificate to landlord, Allan Stephenson, on Sunday 31st May at 12.30pm. If you are able to make it, please come along. Friends who are non-CAMRA members will also be very welcome.

POTY Selection Process

At our AGM in March it was agreed to change the way that our Pub of the Year is decided.

A group or groups of volunteer judges, selected from the whole North Devon membership, will be responsible for choosing our POTY. The judges will be expected to visit the nominated pubs at different times of the day and week and independently score them using a suitably amended score sheet that is currently used for selecting the Regional POTY. Finally, the scores will be added up and verified by the Chairman. The eventual winner will be announced at the AGM as in previous years. Hopefully, this will provide the Branch with a more objective system of POTY selection by using a more recognised method that is used at all levels of CAMRA.

Witterings of the Wizard

Yet again I am aware of time passing as we are nearly half way through another year – so many beers and so little time!

My calendar continues to be full – one of the highlights of the last 3 months has been my birthday present, a long weekend at Nether Stowey Brewery learning the art of brewing! Or as our host was heard to say "Welcome to the 'how to drink a pub dry' course". I attended a little beer festival at Yeoford, it was just a fund raiser for their village hall, but the ales were all donated. I particularly enjoyed 'Scuppered' from the Ales of Scilly. Several of us worked at the SIBA festival at Tuckers Maltings. It was so busy that for the first time ever I worked up a sweat just pulling pints! We also worked the bar and CAMRA membership stand at the County Show. It was a long and arduous day that ended with being 'locked in' for a further two hours when two traffic accidents made it impossible to leave the show ground, so we were forced to return to the bar for another 2 hours!

We were invited to attend the Exeter and East Devon Branch's POTY presentation at The Tom Cobley Tavern. Roger also received his National POTY finalist's certificate. At the end of the presentation Roger announced to a packed pub that he had a presentation to make to 2 people who support his pub more than most. He then presented a plaque 'One nice witch and one old wizard live here.' to a very embarrassed Fiona and me!

On a more serious note I am a little concerned that there seems to have been a drop in attendance at the last few branch meetings. I am hoping that this is only a seasonal blip; but if you have any reason for not attending that you would like me to know about then please contact me directly.

And finally – I was more than a little concerned when our Branch Secretary was heard to say "I fancy a pint of lager"! However, we had just finished a delicious curry at The Tom Cobley, so I bought him a pint of Otter Amber.

Cheers,

Morris the Wizard.

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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 of you 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 Franks, has arranged a trip on Saturday 30th May to Teignworthy Brewery plus a tour around Tuckers Maltings. After the tours we are all going to a local pub for a late lunch. Unfortunately the tour is now fully subscribed and there are no more vacancies.

However, if you are interested in future tours, please make sure that we have your e-mail address so that we can send the details to you 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 but want to know about future trips and do not mind being contacted by telephone, please let me know.

Pub Database

If you have any information or updates on any of the pubs you frequent please contact Dave Budd who is responsible for our Pubs Database,. You can do this by e-mail on: david.budd@thedairygroup.co.uk or by telephone on: Work: 01271 379669 or Mobile: 07774 196792.

If you know of any **pubs closing** then this is particularly important as we have to inform CAMRA HQ at the end of the year. Also, any information about other establishments that serve real ale, e.g. Hotels, Clubs etc. will be gratefully received.

There has been some teething troubles with putting the pub database on our web site, but it is hoped that this facility will be available for general consumption by the time the next newsletter is published.

Website

If you are new to the branch it is possible to read back copies of our newsletter and minutes of meetings on the web site if you have access to the internet. You can also view the Branch Diary where meetings and events are listed, so it's worth a look. If you are not online please contact me if you require any back copies to be sent to you.

Beer Festivals

29th-31st May – Beer Festival – Royal Exchange, Torrington, EX38 8BT.

30th - 31st May – Clovelly Beer Festival – New Inn, EX39 5TQ & Red Lion, EX39 5DL.

5th-6th June – Mini Beer Festival – Hatherleigh Rotary Club, at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum, 6pm-11.30pm Friday and 1pm - 11.30pm Saturday. The festival is being held in aid of two children's charities.

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

28th-29th June – Summer Beer, Cider & Music Festival – Rougemont Castle, Exeter, EX4 3PU, 11am – 11pm both days.

3rd-5th July – Mini Beer Festival - Woody Bay Station, Parracombe, EX31 4RA.

4th-8th August – Great British Beer Festival - Earls Court, London SW5 9TA

28th-31st August – Landmark Beer Festival - Ilfracombe, EX34 9BZ

29th-30th August – Rackenford Beer Festival – Village Recreational Ground, EX16 8DU, Noon till late.

11th-13 September – Heddon Valley Beer Festival – Hunters Inn (POTY), Nr. Parracombe, EX31 4PY.

Meetings & Socials

Saturday 28th June 2009 – Branch Meeting - 12.30pm – Taw River,

Sticklepath, Okehampton, EX20 2NW.

Saturday 18th July 2009 – Brief Meeting/ Social – 12.30pm – London Inn, Molland, Nr. South Molton, EX36 3NG.

No date has yet been set for the August meeting.

Any Future Events

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