

Camra Calling

Winter 2008 – Spring 2009

01837 83353

trishburrows@talktalk.net

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



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
To All Our Members*



Regional Pub of the Year

North Devon branch would like to send their congratulations to Carol and Roger Cudlip of the Tom Cobley Tavern (just outside our area) for winning the Southwest Region POTY 2008 and wish them luck in the final rounds of the competition. We hope that they win the National award again. The Tom Cobley was recently announced as the Good Pub Guide National Pub of the Year 2008 in the Beer category. If you have not yet been to the Tom Cobley it is well worth a visit and Roger will always give you a warm welcome.

Witterings of the Wizard

At last my life has quietened down a little – some of the time being forced upon me by having a second knee replacement operation; no more excuse for using a mobility scooter. Before that the last folk festival of the season produced another good beer find in Swanage. A new brewery called Dorset Piddle from Dorchester; the beer was 'Piddle' (4.1%) a good tasting ale; we also liked the t-shirts the barmaids wore "Have you had a Piddle today?"

I have discovered how to make landlords very happy, apart from buying their beer – give them their Welcome Pack from CAMRA for their first time of entry in the GBG. I know of 2 who were like kids with new toys!

We've attended several beer festivals since the last newsletter, notably Minehead, South Devon's, Hunters Inn at Heddon Valley, Seven Stars at Winkleigh, Trout and Tipple

at Tavistock – all had some excellent beers to enjoy.

Congratulations must go to the Tom Cobley Tavern at Spreyton for winning the Region POTY yet again. Well done Roger, Carol and staff. We will continue to support them as often as possible (it's a rotten job but someone's got to do it!).

It is great to see that attendance at meetings continues to be excellent, (certainly above national average), which must mean that a lot of you are happy with the present format. If you would like to express an opinion about future meetings please feel free to do so. I am always willing to listen to anything a member has to say (unless I'm married to her!).

mandf.elsworth@btinternet.com

Good Beer Guide

We are still taking nominations for the 2010 Good Beer Guide (GBG), so if you think your local is worthy of mention please tell us about it. Our meeting on January 17th 2009 at the Golden Lion, High Bickington, EX37 9BB is to discuss the nominations that we have received and to distribute the survey forms. The forms will have to be completed and returned by the time of our February meeting for the pub to be considered for the 2010 guide.

At the January meeting we will also be taking nominations for our Pub of the Year (POTY) 2009. We will be asking every member to vote on the final (probably four) nominations either personally, by e-mail, telephone or post. To help us decide the GBG and POTY nominations we are repeating our request for you to use The National Beer Scoring System (NBSS). All members can use this to score pubs they have visited and real ales they have tasted anywhere in the UK in one of the following ways (but we are obviously more interested in North Devon pubs). If you are on line please go to: www.beerscoring.org.uk where you will be asked for your CAMRA

membership number and a suitable password to access the system, which is easy to use.

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. Scoring is from 0 to 5 including ½ points, (Undrinkable to Excellent for beers) or you can give a general score for the pub (Poor to Excellent). There is also space for any additional comments you wish to make.

Brewery Tour

At the beginning of October we were invited back to Country Life Brewery for a social evening. Simon and Anna were fantastic hosts and everyone enjoyed themselves. Simon gave us a very informative tour of the brewery and Anna made sure that there were no empty glasses. We had a lovely fish and chips supper that Anna had driven to get from Westward Ho! Those that were there would like to thank Simon and Anna for their hospitality and a very enjoyable evening.

Early next year our Social Secretary, Chris, intends to arrange a trip to another brewery. It will be too late for the newsletter but 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.

Pubs Database

Dave Budd, our Pubs Officer has been working hard to develop a Pubs Database for the North Devon Branch area. From a humble beginning the database is now taking shape and many thanks are due to all the members who have contacted Dave with information and updates.

We are hoping to put the database on the North Devon CAMRA web site in the near future, so it is imperative that any information we have is relevant and up to date as it will be in the public domain.

Please contact Dave Budd to either obtain a copy of the Pubs Database or provide

information and updates on any of the pubs you frequent. 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. Finally, if you know of any **pubs closing** in your area, please tell Dave as we have to inform CAMRA HQ at the end of each year.

Branch Polo Shirts

The branch has a supply of polo shirts that you can buy for £15.00 each. The shirt is maroon with our embroidered logo in gold and in sizes of large, 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. After every meeting we will update the web site with future meetings and socials.

Beer Festivals

5th/7th December – Music & Real Ale Festival – Red Barn, Woolacombe, EX34 7DF

9th/10th January 2009 - Exeter & East Devon Branch Winter Ales Festival – Lower Exhibition Hall, University of Exeter.

Meetings & Socials

Saturday 17th January 2009 – Branch Meeting – 1.00pm – Golden Lion, High Bickington, EX37 9BB. To distribute survey forms and nominations for POTY.

Saturday 14th February 2009 – Branch Meeting – 12.30pm – Castle Inn, Combe Martin, EX34 0HS. To decide entries for GBG 2010.

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION: Saturday 14th March 2009 – AGM -12.30pm – Town Arms, South Molton, EX36 3BU. CARD CARRYING MEMBERS ONLY.

Any Future Events

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