

OPENING TIMES

ST. NEOTS
& DISTRICT



BRANCH NEWSLETTER.

Issue No.9

Free - Monthly
Circulation 500 Copies

July 1979

Editor: Dave Cox, 41a, Kings Road, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE19 1LD
(Tel: Huntingdon 72250)

All material for inclusion in the August Newsletter must be in the Editor's hands not later than 25th July.

PUB NEWS

The Old Falcon on the Market Square in St. Neots is now selling Charrington's IPA. It has just reopened following complete internal redecoration.

The Wrestlers in St. Neots is now selling Ind Coope Burton.

By the time this newsletter is published the Old Sun in Huntingdon St., St. Neots should have Thomas Wethered's Bitter. One of the three original handpumps has been refitted.

The Royal Oak, St. Ives has introduced Ind Coope Burton on handpump.

The Royal Oak at Wennington has just installed Fined Stag Bitter on electric pump. According to our correspondent this pub is well known for its interesting bar snacks.

The Fox at Catworth now sells Manns IPA by air pressure.

The Saddle at Kimbolton is rumoured to be selling Manns IPA but this has not been confirmed.

The Axe and Compasses at Hemmingford Abbots now has Fined Stag Bitter.

The Prince of Wales at Hilton has added Greene King Abbot, served from the cask, to the draught Paine's already available.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

4th July: Social meeting at the Darby & Joan, Abington Piggotts.

5th July: Joint Social with N. Beds at the Bell, Eaton Socon. This is a farewell meeting to Mr. & Mrs. C. Day who are retiring from the pub.

18th July: Branch meeting at the Green Man, Leighton Bromswold.

18th-21st July: Cambridge Beer Festival at the Corn Exchange, Cambridge.

28th July (Sat): Cricket Match against St. Neots solicitors. Meet at the Spread Eagle, Croxton lunch time.

1st August: Social meeting at the Spread Eagle, Buckden.

All branch and social meetings begin around 8pm.

PAINES

Members of the St. Neots Branch send their best wishes to Wally Pateman, head brewer at Paine's, who is recovering from a recent illness. We hope to see him back at the brewery soon. Meanwhile Sid Johnson is assisting with the brewing.

GREENE KING XX DARK MILD

According to the brewery, sales in the 6 weeks trading period to the beginning of May shot up by an encouraging 20% over the same period last year. Hopefully if this trend continues Greene King (Biggleswade) will continue to brew XX dark mild for a long time to come.

THE 4TH ST.NEOTS BEER FESTIVAL

It's thank you time folks!! It was you, the customers, who made this 4th beer festival the best so far. You drank over 15,000 pints of beer and Cider, 58 of you enrolled to become CAMRA members (where I ask, can we hold our future meetings???) and everyone of you took your ale in a wonderful way with no "agrp", even, we are told, the guy who drank a pint of Courage Russian Stout!!!

Congratulations must go to Kevin Halliday, who drank his yard of ale, that is 2½ pints of Greene King XX Mild, in the incredible time of 9.5 seconds. Also congratulations to 'Dusty' who came a gallant second with 11 seconds. Dusty must-also be congratulated on downing two yards of ale in less than 5 minutes. And do not let us forget Karen, our only lady contestant who could only just lift the yard of ale, but never-the-less drank it in about 2 minutes flat.

The "I don't know why we bothered" award must go to Wadworth's 6X, this was our only problem beer-despite gallant efforts by cellar men Dave Cox and Clive Parcell, the damn stuff never did settle!

Once again the strong beers were the most popular. Fullers E.S.B. as always selling out fast, closely followed by those of the 'micro breweries', proving once again that our customers welcome the opportunity to sample the delights of a wide variety of tastes, types and textures of beers.

To all those folks who kept their glasses with 1978 G.B.B.F. motifs on them, we hope to be able to offer you the 1979 versions next year! And finally, we must thank our fellow members in branches throughout the country for all their help in assisting us to stage the festival. Cheers folks, we hope to see you all again next year.

STAMFORD AND PETERBOROUGH COACH TRIP (16th June)

After a scenic journey along the A1, we arrived at the Stamford Brewery Museum where we were given a slide show of the history of the brewery and an account of how it was turned into a Museum. We then toured the museum which contained many interesting old relics from the brewery's past. Some of us did show concern over the possible use of one article which was later discovered to be a cork squeezer. The pace of the tour quickened as the time neared six (being the time the bar opened). In the bar we were served with a splendid ploughman's tea and ample pints of Sam Smith's to wash it down with. Reluctantly the party rejoined the coach at about seven and during the journey to Peterborough raffle tickets were sold.

We arrived at the Peter Pan in Peterborough only to find members of Peterborough branch, who were on a pedal crawl around Peterborough, already downing pints of Home Ale. After hijacking the Area Organiser (bike and all) we drove off to the Blue Bell, this being a large house with three bars selling Elgood's Mild & Bitter. We finally said farewell to Peterborough branch and boarded the coach where the raffle was drawn. By the time we reached the Dragon Fly, our last pub, everyone was well'oiled'. After visiting the local chip shop we drank Tolly until closing time.

The journey back was uneventful apart from one member of the party losing an essential piece of clothing (the Chairman has refused to comment).

The coach trip actually made a small profit which is definitely unusual for this branch. A good time was had by all and our thanks must go to all at the Stamford Brewery Museum for making us welcome, also to Sarah for arranging the trip. So, when's the next one? (W.E.)

WATNEY'S RED

Red which was launched in 1971 (the same year as CAMRA) has now been discontinued. Red has been a small seller for many years being replaced by Keg Ben Truman. If you are desperate for a pint of Red it is still available in odd areas on the Continent.

Published by the St.Neots & District Branch of CAMRA.