



FREE


SUSSEX DRINKER

ISSUE 19

SUMMER 1999

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE – SUSSEX BRANCHES

WHITBREAD THREAT

 Whitbread have bid to buy Allied-Domecq's pub estate in a move which could pose a major threat to guest beer availability.

The move would leave them with an estate of over 7,000 outlets, but they would have to sell their breweries if they wanted to keep the pubs and still comply with the Beer Orders; if Whitbread was a non-brewing chain, it would then be entitled to revoke the guest beer rights in all its houses. The Strangeways Brewery in Manchester, which brews Boddingtons, would also be threatened.

CAMRA's chairman Dave Goodwin said: "It's the biggest single threat to micros we've seen. The guest beer market is a vital lifeline for many of them. It's their only way into the pub market and many of them could go out of business if Whitbread refused to take guest beers."

He also expressed CAMRA's concern that a group with so many pubs

would seriously distort the beer market, with the ability to cherry-pick brands from high-discount suppliers.

CAMRA is seeking urgent meetings with the Office of Fair Trading to talk through the implications of the deal, and to see what can be done to save the guest beers.

SUSSEX DRINKER NEEDS YOU!

Due to ever-increasing work commitments, plus health problems, this is my last issue as editor of *Sussex Drinker* — my apologies for the rather short issue. If you would like to take over, please have a word with your branch contact, or come to the Sussex Liaison meeting (details on page 11).

USEFUL INFORMATION

Sussex CAMRA Online

<http://welcome.to/sussex-camra>

<http://welcome.to/sussex-drinker>

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Advertising

Currently changing hands. Please contact the editor, your local branch contact, or drinker.adverts@gronk.force9.co.uk

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Brighton & South Downs Branch

Pete Coppard
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North Sussex Branch

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South East Sussex Branch

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(01243) 828394 (h)

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Sussex Drinker has a circulation of 4,000 throughout the Sussex area; to advertise, please speak to your local branch contact. Basic rates, with discounts for repeat insertions, are:

Full page £70

Half page £45

Quarter page £30

Eighth page £20

If you require a specific position for the advert, please let us know (certain positions may not be available, or may cost extra).

PUB & BREWERY NEWS

KING & BARNES

Big changes at King & Barnes, with the news that about 20 staff, including the head brewer, have been let go; MD Bill King is to take over the brewing himself. The brewery will be using a wholesaler to supply wines and spirits to the tied estate, and also to supply beer to the free trade. More details next issue, hopefully.

HARVEYS

Harveys 1859 Porter has been declared Britain's Ultimate Pizza Beer in a competition run by the National Hop Association.

COURAGE

Courage have announced that the Bristol Brewery will close in 6 months time, with all 71 staff being made redundant or moved to other sites, and Courage Best, Directors and George's to be brewed at the John Smiths plant in Tadcaster. The company claimed that a "steep fall" in the sales of cask-conditioned ale over the past few years made brewing at both sites uneconomic.

Ian Woolverton, CAMRA's Press Officer, said "We are outraged at this decision. There has been a brewery on this site since 1702. Its closure will be a great loss to English brewing heritage." He added that, while Courage claimed real ale sales had slumped, "Many national breweries have starved their real ale

products of the investment that they need. The multi-million pound marketing budgets that can help to create a strong brand have been awarded to nitro-keg beers at the expense of traditional real ale. That is the real reason for the lack of demand in the real ale market."



QUADRANT SAVED

The *Quadrant* in Brighton has been given a Grade II listing, lifting the threat that it may be demolished as part of the area's proposed redevelopment. The licensees collected over 1,500 signatures on a petition to Brighton Council in just three weeks, with the decision being made in early April (two days before the last issue of *Sussex Drinker* came out, typically enough...)

OPENINGS

Worthing is due to get a *Yates's Wine Lodge* after the chain took the lease on the former Fludes Carpets store in Chapel Road. Police are objecting to plans for a *Wetherspoons* in Chapel Road, so things may well change...

CLOSURES

The *Black Dog & Duck* at Bury has closed again, after we reported its reopening in the last issue. (And when the music stops...)

ALL CHANGE...

Brighton's *Robin Hood* is up for sale, at a price of £375,000. The leaseholds for the *Grosvenor Arms*, the *Stable* and Portslade's *St George Inn* are also up for sale.

The *Angel*, Midhurst, has been taken over by *Offham Hotels*, who also own the *Spread Eagle* in the same town.

AWARDS & EVENTS

The *Stonemason's*, Petworth, the *Royal Oak*, Midhurst, and the *Hedgehog*, Copthorne, have all received 100% in a service standards survey carried out for owners *Eldridge Pope*, sharing £100 prize money between them.

Landlady *Claire Murray*, of the *Lewes Arms*, is to trek over 100km of the western end of the Himalayas to

raise money for people with disabilities. Speaking of the *Lewes Arms*, they held a yard of ale competition recently, with *Adam Frost* being declared the winner with a time of 50.4 seconds — rather better than the Editor could manage!

The *Crabtree*, in *Shoreham-by-Sea*, has raised £410 for breast cancer research with a musical weekend.

The *Heart and Hand*, in Brighton's North Laines, has sold its famous jukebox, which had been featured in many magazines and newspapers. Landlord *Bert Read* said "it was falling apart and getting too expensive to repair. Regular *Matt Trott* has bought the jukebox with the aim of restoring it — and Bert has already bought another one for the pub!

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CAMRA AGM 1999

It was about 8pm on Friday; I had just settled down amongst the other eager students to learn “proper” beer tasting when two people appear next to me and inform me that there are two emergency motions to be added to the list for debate. Could I get the details typed up and 800 copies made for the following morning? Needless to say, I didn’t get to find out how to taste a beer in the proper CAMRA way, though I still ended up carrying the beers up to the rest of them. Between beer deliveries, the emergency motions were typed and Hove Town Hall came to the rescue with the photocopier. Running a National AGM is an interesting challenge...

I got involved with the committee back in September 1998 though the rest of the committee was well established by then. The next eight months were busy for all of us: there was the handbook to design and get printed, adverts to chase, souvenir T-shirts and glasses required, registration details, hall hire and budgets to sort out — to name just a few activities. Christmas came and went, then Easter and finally the event was no longer something to sit in a pub on a Saturday afternoon and talk about; it was about to happen. The Wednesday and Thursday were reasonably relaxed: products arrived from HQ, the computers were set up, glasses arrived and so on.

Admittedly the T-shirts were sent to my home address rather than the hall and the beers from two of our Sussex brewers would not come into condition but these were little niggles. We had other beers and the T-shirts arrived on the Friday after a couple of hasty telephone calls.

Friday April 17, 1999 arrived and so did the conference delegates. People went off on trips to the King & Barnes brewery, signs were put up and the registration team maintained order amongst the visitors with calm professionalism. The Beerex opened and we all enjoyed a few quiet sips of beer as the numbers of visitors first grew then dropped as they all started to descend upon the pubs of Brighton and Hove.

Saturday, and the conference itself. Not being content with being “just” one of the organisers, I was also to be the Chief Teller. I had never performed such a task before and had never been to a conference so I was very nervous (well, terrified to be honest). What if I messed it up? I need not have worried though, for an excellent team of tellers was there, backing me up the whole time.

The evening saw more beer drunk though there appeared at times to be more staff than customers for the Beerex — the delegates having gone to the pub again. Finally Sunday, the

last day of the conference, arrived. The conference ran without hitch, people drank some more beer and then they went home.

At least, the delegates did. The staff merely had to take down all the signs and Beerex, clear up, pack up the computers and try to leave the town hall looking half-decent. We finished the whole lot in time — just.

The whole event went well: the vast majority of the delegates complimented our efforts and went home happy. We advised the members of Derby branch, who are running the event next year, that they were in for a lot of hard work but it would be worth it.

If I have given the impression here that it was a one-man effort then I have grossly deceived you — it was a success because it was a team effort. A small army of CAMRA members from all corners of Sussex and beyond gave up their time to work long hours, for no pay, to make the conference a great success.

That is the key to CAMRA though: ordinary people showing their support through membership and by volunteering their time and skills, to help keep real ale alive in this country. It really is a team effort of which all CAMRA members can be proud.

David Arno
Sussex Area Organiser

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SALE OF THE CENTURY!

The sixth Brighton & South Downs Ale Trail starts on May 29 and ends on September 30. Once again, forty pubs are taking part. This year's theme has a millennium feel to it — £19.99 SALE of the Century. Harveys are sponsoring the passport and Gales the cartoon map.

The Launch Night takes place on May 28 at the Royal Oak, Lewes. A vintage open top bus will leave the Evening Star in Brighton at 7:30pm. There will be a buffet and hopefully an extension.

There will be tours of outlying pubs on Saturday July 3 and Sunday August 15. Details have not been finalised at the time of going to press but are available

on (01273) 559880 or on the Sussex CAMRA website.

The prizes are like in previous years: a T-shirt for twenty pubs, a sweatshirt for thirty and a sweatshirt and either a T-shirt or inscribed glass for forty. All participants receive a cartoon map and an entry to a free prize draw for a Good Beer Guide; those completing forty pubs are entered into a free prize draw for a selection of prizes contributed by the Ale Trail brewers.

The four trail ale brewers this year are Cuckmere Haven, Dark Star, Kemp Town and Rectory.

Andy Rivett

NATIONAL MILD DAY

Saturday May 8 saw CAMRA branches all over the country organising events to celebrate National Mild Day. The day aimed to promote the drinking of mild ale and to introduce those who have not tried it, or those who have difficulty finding a pub that sells it, to what is a distinctive, flavoursome and tasty beer. Over 100 milds are now available and CAMRA is trying to encourage more breweries to brew and promote mild, and more pubs to sell it.

The North Sussex CAMRA National Mild Day event this year was once again hosted by Steve Williams at the Malt Shovel in Horsham. Steve had 5 milds to choose from: Harveys XX Mild, Gales Festival Mild, Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild, Hydes Anvil Light Mild and Batemans Dark Mild. He also arranged for the Head Brewer of Gales, Derek Lowe, to give a short talk all about the brewing of mild beer.

Derek joined Gales as Head Brewer in 1981 when the brewery was producing both a light and a dark mild. Within 3 years, due to a fall in demand, the light mild disappeared as did the dark mild in the early 90s. However, in 1989, the Surrey & Hampshire Borders branch asked Gales to brew a special mild for their beer festival and Gales Festival Mild was born. Rather than following the trend of brewing a weaker mild beer it was decided to brew it at the same strength as HSB and it was an enormous

success. It was supposed to be a one-off brew, but the demand was so high that it became a regular brew. It has won around 25 different awards at CAMRA beer festivals, but the brewery's proudest moment was when it won the bronze medal at the Glasgow Great British Winter Beer Festival and was voted the "*people's pint*". Now it is exported to the USA as cask ale and in bottle -conditioned form. [Some lucky people who attended the event received a free bottle that can only be purchased in the USA.]

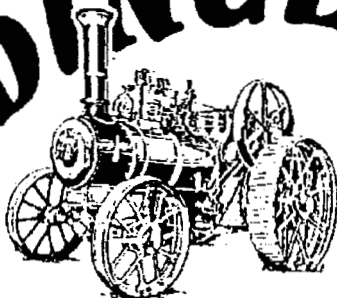
The event was another great success and it not only helped to promote mild ale but also to raise money for charity. North Sussex CAMRA donated a cask of real ale and a raffle took place to win as a first prize 36 free pints, and second prize 8 free pints. The proceeds from the raffle and the sale of the remainder of the beer raised around £180.00 for the Marie Curie Cancer Appeal.

We are delighted that the event was a success and would like to thank Steve for once again supporting CAMRA, his staff for putting up with us, and Derek for sparing the time to come and give us a really interesting talk, despite having a sore throat. We hope that everybody who came enjoyed themselves and those who didn't — well, there's always next year...

Carol Lambert

Information:
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Due to technical difficulties, *Beer Festivals Near You* will not appear this issue.



BRANCH DIARIES



ARUN & ADUR Jerry Marchant (01903) 263883(h)

Wed, Jun 2 Formal Swan, Worthing
Sat, Jun 5 Social Glastonwick beer festival (12pm)
Tue, Jun 8 Presentation Cricketers, Duncton (transport available; see contact)
Sat, Jun 12 Bus Crawl Start Chichester bus station, 10:20am
Sat, Jun 19 Crawl Start Berwick station, 10:25am
Mon, Jun 28 Formal Fletcher Arms, Angmering
All start 8pm unless noted. More from contact or *What's Brewing*.

BRIGHTON & SOUTH DOWNS Pete Coppard (01273) 683322(h)

Thu, Jun 3 Formal Eclipse, Hove
Fri, Jun 11 Presentation White Horse, Ditchling
Fri, Jun 18 Social Sir Charles Napier, Brighton
Fri, Jun 25 Presentation Stanley Arms, Portslade
Thu, Jul 1 Formal Prince Arthur, Brighton
Sat, Jul 3 First Ale Trail bus trip, details from Andy on (01273) 559880(h)
All start 8:15pm. More from contact or *What's Brewing*.

NORTH SUSSEX Carol Lambert (0181) 660 5558(w) (01293) 887419(h)

Tue, Jun 1 Social Hare & Hounds, Cowfold
Sat, Jun 26 Crawl Start Cricketers, Wisborough Green
Mon, Jul 5 Formal Dog & Bacon, Horsham
Tue, Jul 20 Social Swan, Crawley
All start 8:30pm. More from contact or *What's Brewing*.

SOUTH EAST SUSSEX Mercy Morris (01323) 645663(h) mercy.m@dial.pipex.com

Tue, Jun 8 Social Black Horse, Telham
Sat, Jun 19 Crawl with Arun & Adur, see above
Tue, Jun 22 Crawl start Royal Oak, Ardingly then on to Hailsham
All start 8pm. More from contact or *What's Brewing*.

WESTERN SUSSEX Max Malkin (01243) 828394(h)

Tue, Jun 1 Social Fox & Hounds, Funtington
Tue, Jun 8 Social with Arun & Adur, see above
Tue, Jun 15 Formal Maypole, Yapton (8:30pm)
Tue, Jun 22 Social Selsey Arms, West Dean
Tue, Jun 29 Crawl Start Bersted Tavern, North Bersted
All start 9pm unless noted. More from contact or *What's Brewing*.

ALL BRANCHES

Sat, Jul 24 **Sussex Liaison meeting, Ship, East Grinstead** (start 12pm)

Send articles/comments to:



The Editor
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Visit our website at <http://welcome.to/sussex-camra>
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APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by the Rules.

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Signature Date

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For Life/Overseas rates please contact CAMRA HQ (0845 60 30 20 8)

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA) to: The Membership
Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW

(Sussex Drinker)