



St Helens & Districts CAMRA Newsletter

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CAMRA News

CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain 2017

The winners of this year's Champion Beer of Britain award were announced on the opening day of the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia London. Goat's Milk, from the independent craft brewer, Churchend Brewery, has been crowned Supreme Champion. According to Nick Boley, a CAMRA national director, Goat's Milk is a stand out full flavoured bitter with a lovely balance of malts and hops. The list of winners is as follows:



- **Gold:** Church End's Goat's Milk, a bitter ale with a delicate blend of pale barley, crystal malt oats and aromatic hops.
- **Silver:** Bishop Nick's Ridley's Rite, a pale ale with a floral aroma and satisfying bitterness.
- **Bronze:** Tiny Rebel's Cwtch, a red ale with a blend of six caramel malts and three citrus American hops.

Deadline approaching for 2017 Pub Design Awards

Entries are now being sought for the 2017 National Pub Design Awards, which is run by CAMRA in association with Historic England, to find the most stunningly designed pubs in the UK. The awards recognise high standards of architecture in the refurbishment and conservation of existing pubs, and the construction of new ones. To enter the competition or to find out more information, simply visit <http://www.camra.org.uk/pub-design-awards-online-entry> and complete the form. Entries must be received before 23rd September 2017.

An important message about cost savings

CAMRA have issued a warning that there may be a potential shortfall in income this year. Proposals for savings include producing the October and December editions of What's Brewing in electronic format only, except for those members for whom there is no email address on record.

Branch News

Branch Pubs Officer

The position of Branch Pubs Officer has become vacant. We hope to have this position filled again as soon as possible, ideally at the Branch Committee meeting on October 11th 2017.

If you are a local CAMRA member why not put your name forward?

The role of Branch Pubs Officer involves:

- Coordinating Branch campaigns to promote pub going;
- Looking for opportunities within our area to celebrate the unique contribution that pubs play in the community;
- Helping to maintain an accurate Branch database of pubs (access to the internet/computer required);
- Encouraging Branch members to provide updates on pubs in the Branch area;
- Ensuring that pub campaigning is regularly raised at Branch meetings;
- Liaising with the Branch Publicity Officer to publicise relevant pub campaigns.

The role typically involves a commitment of around 2 hours a month, plus the time required to attend branch meetings. At key times, which could be a major local campaign, a higher level of commitment might be required.

St Helens & Districts CAMRA pub of the year awards

There will be an event to celebrate the excellence in our local pub scene on October 18th 2017. More details of this event will be published in the next newsletter and on our Facebook page.

CAMRA Regional Pub of the Year 2017

To coincide with the annual publication of the Good Beer Guide, CAMRA run a competition to identify the best 16 pubs in Britain. The winner of the 2017 Merseyside & Cheshire Regional Pub of the Year (POTY) was **The Cricketers Arms**.

There will be an official presentation of the award at The Cricketers Arms on September 30th at 3pm.



The CAMRA Merseyside Pub of the Year 2017 certificate being presented to Andy Evans by Doug Macadam, Merseyside Coordinator on July 22nd 2017.



Andy and Denise Evans, The Cricketers Arms publicans, were presented with certificate for St Helens Pub of the Year 2017 by members of the CAMRA branch committee on April 13th 2017.

Rainhill Rambles on Friday August 18th 2017 by Dave Turner

It was decided at one of our CAMRA meetings that in addition to planning social events based around town centre pubs we should also take a closer look at what is going on in the suburbs of St Helens. Having already had a ramble around Rainford in July 2017, we decided Rainhill should be next on the agenda and Friday August 18th was set as the date. The list of Rainhill hostleries we agreed to try and visit were as follows:

- Manor Farm, Mill Lane, Rainhill, L35 6NE
- Ship Inn, Warrington Road, Rainhill, L35 6PE
- Commercial Hotel, 12 Station Road, Rainhill, L35 0LP
- Victoria Hotel, Warrington Road, Rainhill, L35 0LR
- Skew Bridge Alehouse, 5 Dane Court, Rainhill, L35 4LU
- Coach & Horses, Ritherup Lane, L35 4NZ
- The Rocket, 474 Warrington Rd, L35 9JE

We agreed to meet at The Manor Farm, our first port of call, at about 7 o'clock. Boondoggle was my pint of choice and it went down well. The pub itself was quite full, due to a musical festival taking place that evening, and everyone present seemed to be having a good time.



Meeting up at the Manor

Having dispatched our first drink the next pub was The Ship. It was only a few minutes walk down the road and on arrival there was quite a good choice of real ale, although "coming soon" signs were posted was on a couple



Range of beers at The Ship

of empty handpumps. Ember Inns pale ale ticked the box and went down well. Other members of our group tried different brews, all deemed satisfactory. One nice surprise in The Ship was the fact that we bumped into Alan Healey and his wife Deb, formerly chair and secretary of our branch, so we had a little bit of catching up to do.

A good 20 minute walk into Rainhill saw us land at The Skew Bridge micro pub where there was a great choice of beer in excellent condition, as well as some nice cider and perry. Alan and Deb joined us again, and on behalf of the St. Helens and Districts branch, Gill Yates gave a presentation thanking them both for their commitment and significant contribution to the branch over the past few years.



Enjoying a beer at the Skew Bridge

After a stunning pint of North Riding American pale ale we decided we needed to continue our ale trail, and with The Victoria Hotel being just over the road, everyone made a beeline for the next bar on the trail. Unfortunately, there wasn't a great choice of beer at the Victoria. A pint of Deuchars IPA was the order of the day and it was in decent condition. The pub itself was quite busy and a good atmosphere made up for the lack of beer choice.

Brewery	Name	Style	ABV
Rat Brewery (Huddersfield)	Rat 'n' Hat	Golden Hazy Bitter	3.9%
North Riding (Scarborough)	Zkvanot	Slate Top US Pale Ale	4.3%
Wildy Fox (Pie Land)	Blonde Vixen	Blonde Ale	3.8%
Wimbledon (London)	SW 19	Refreshing Summer Ale	4.0%
Derventio (Barley Abbey)	Minerva	Complex Amber Ale	3.8%
Outstanding (Bury)	Stout	Strong & Rich	5.5%

Beer menu at the Skew Bridge

The Commercial Hotel, or the Comic as it is locally known, has bags of character. The pub still retains etched windows dating back to the now defunct brewery 'Joseph Jones & Co Ltd.' featuring an illustration of a tree. There was a choice of four or five hand pulls. Gill had a talk with the manager and he seemed happy with the way things were going at the pub. Old Golden Hen seemed a popular choice but time once again caught up with us.

Some of the beers at the Commercial



With time running out it became apparent the Coach and Horses and The Rocket were not going to be reached and that a quick one at the Skew Bridge was going to be it for the evening.

So, all in all, a great evening was had by those present, and I am happy to report that the Real Ale scene in Rainhill is thriving. We will have to make arrangements at a later date for the Coach and Horses and The Rocket to be visited, but personally it won't be a chore, it will be a great experience to return to Rainhill.

Pub & Brewery News

Call for news

We'd like to use this section to publicise anything of interest that is going on in our local pubs and breweries. If you are a customer or publican please get in contact, let us know what's going on, and we'll publish it here.

Forthcoming Events

September CAMRA social - Friday September 1st 2017 at the Connoisseur Brewery

We are holding our September social on Friday September 1st. If you want to join us please make your way to the Connoisseur Brewery (121-125 Church St, St. Helens, WA9 1JS) any time from 7:30pm. **All welcome.**

As posted last month, Connoisseur Ales is opening its doors to the public to celebrate its 3rd birthday on:

- Friday September 1st between 4pm and 10pm
- Saturday September 2nd between 12 noon and 10pm.

Twelve Connoisseur Ales beers will be available including a selection of new beers (Gorse Flower Gold, Transylvania Pale, Kaffir Lime Sour, Liquorice Stout and an 18-month lagered Tropical Maibock) plus a mini cider festival featuring 20 real ciders and perries. CAMRA discount will apply to all beers and ciders for the birthday weekend.

Ossett Brewery Tour and Rat Craft Beer Festival on Saturday September 9th 2017

Andy Evans at The Cricketers Arms has organized a return trip to Ossett Brewery, by popular demand, on September 9th. All the places on the coach have now been taken.



Articles

If anyone would like to write a short article or news story for the newsletter please send it us via email sthelenscamra@hotmail.co.uk.

NEXT Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday September 13th 2017 at The Old Mill, 8 Mill St, Prescot, L34 6HA at 8pm.

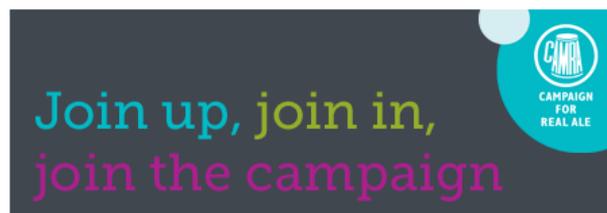
There is a Committee meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. All CAMRA members are welcome to attend these meetings. Committee meetings are always held at local pubs that serve real ale. All are welcome to attend our Committee meetings, but only Committee members can vote.

NEXT Branch Meeting

The next Branch meeting will be held on Wednesday September 27th 2017 at The Brasserie Chalon, 12 Barrow St, WA10 1RX at 8pm.

There is a Branch meeting on the 4th Wednesday of every month to discuss current issues and have a general catch up with local brewery, pub, and beer festival news. Most meetings are quite informal and fairly short (on average between an hour and an hour and a half). All are welcome to attend our Branch meetings, members and non-members of CAMRA alike, but if it comes to a vote only CAMRA members can vote at Branch meetings. Our CAMRA Branch meetings are always held at local pubs that serve real ale.

NOTE: If you are a St. Helens CAMRA member and you are attending your first meeting we will buy you a pint as a welcome to the branch!!!



CAMRA is more than just promoting great beer.

- It's very sociable - you'll meet others who share your interest in all things beer (or cider/perry!)
- CAMRA offers a range of training for volunteers - including Emergency First Aid, Food Hygiene, Stewarding and Health & Safety
- You'll gain skills to enhance your CV
- CAMRA volunteers are a wonderful mix of people, of all ages, from all walks of life

If you are interested in joining CAMRA all the relevant details can be found at <http://www.camra.org.uk>

If you are planning a night out in St Helens, Rainhill, Rainford or Prescot download one of our Real Ale Pubs Maps. They are freely available on our website <https://sthelenscamra.org.uk/real-ale-in-st-helens/pub-walks>

