



# St Helens & Districts CAMRA Newsletter

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## CAMRA News

### Champion Beer of Britain

The CBGB competition spans real ales across a number of categories, including Mild, Bitter, Best Bitter, Strong Bitter, Golden Ale and Specialty. This year's winners of the CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain competition are as follows:

#### 2018 Overall Winners

	Brewery	Beer	Region
<b>Supreme Champion</b>	Siren	Broken Dream Breakfast Stout	Central Southern
<b>Silver</b>	Green Jack	Ripper	East Anglia
<b>Bronze</b>	Mordue	Workie Ticket	North East England

**Broken Dream** is a 6.5% breakfast stout from Siren. It has been described as "a mixture of dark chocolate, coffee and soft, milk chocolate flavours with a whiff of smoke and a long, luxuriant dark chocolate finish". It is available in cask, keg and bottle. It was designated as a 'breakfast stout' on account of having a recipe containing breakfast ingredients such as oats and coffee.



**Ripper** is a Barley Wine inspired by Belgian tripel ales. Ripper has been described as "rich amber in colour, sweet and fruity and has a robust hop character and a warming finish". It won the Bronze 'Champion Beer of Britain' award in 2007.

**Workie Ticket** has been described as "a tasty, complex beer with malt and hops throughout and a long, satisfying bitter finish". It won the title 'Champion Beer of Britain' award in 1997.

## Milds

	<b>Brewery</b>	<b>Beer</b>	<b>Region</b>
<b>Gold</b>	Greene King	XX Mild	East Anglia
<b>Silver</b>	Rhymney Brewery	Dark	Wales
<b>Bronze</b>	East London Brewing Co.	Orchid	Greater London

## Bitters

	<b>Brewery</b>	<b>Beer</b>	<b>Region</b>
<b>Gold</b>	Orkney	Red MacGregor	Scotland & Northern Ireland
<b>Silver</b>	Mighty Oak	Captain Bob	East Anglia
<b>Joint Bronze</b>	Bank Top	Flat Cap	Greater Manchester
<b>Joint Bronze</b>	Acorn	Barnsley Bitter	Yorkshire

## Best Bitters

	<b>Brewery</b>	<b>Beer</b>	<b>Region</b>
<b>Gold</b>	Mordue	Workie Ticket	North East England
<b>Silver</b>	Bishop Nick	1555	East Anglia
<b>Joint Bronze</b>	St Austell	Tribute	South West England
<b>Joint Bronze</b>	Salopian	Darwin's Origin	West Midlands

## Golden Ales

	<b>Brewery</b>	<b>Beer</b>	<b>Region</b>
<b>Gold</b>	Salopian	Oracle	West Midlands
<b>Silver</b>	Salopian	Hop Twister	West Midlands
<b>Joint Bronze</b>	Abbeylea	Moonshine	Yorkshire
<b>Joint Bronze</b>	Windsor & Eton	Knight of the Garter	Central Southern

## Strong Bitters

	<b>Brewery</b>	<b>Beer</b>	<b>Region</b>
<b>Gold</b>	The Dark Star Brewing Co.	Revelation	Surrey & Sussex
<b>Silver</b>	Bays	Devon Dumpling	South West England
<b>Joint Bronze</b>	Kinver	Half Centurion	West Midlands

## Speciality

	<b>Brewery</b>	<b>Beer</b>	<b>Region</b>
<b>Gold</b>	Colchester	Brazilian Coffee & Vanilla Porter	East Anglia
<b>Silver</b>	Cromarty	Red Rocker	Scotland and Northern Ireland
<b>Joint Bronze</b>	Derventio	Cleopatra	East Midlands

## **Good Beer Guide 2019**

The publication of The Good Beer Guide 2019 is progressing well, thanks to the hard work of thousands of volunteers' over the past year, scoring beers, surveying pubs, and surveying breweries. These entries have been curated and checked by regional teams and subsequently brought together by staff in St Albans. A huge amount of effort goes into The Good Beer Guide national and regional publicity which benefits not just the book but CAMRA as a whole.

### Publication & Distribution Timeline

- Date from which GBG's will be available to Branches 5th September
- Publication date and main press release 13th September

The Good Beer Guide continues to be the leading beer and pub guidebook. CAMRA would like to thank everyone involved in compiling information for their hard work. Without it, there would be no Good Beer Guide.

## **Definition of "Barrel-aged beers"**

CAMRA recognises that storing beers in wooden casks for a period of up to two years has considerable historical precedent, can have a positive effect on the characteristics of some beers, and that skilful brewers may choose to use this technique when conditioning a beer or preparing it for sale. CAMRA believes that:

- In order to give the consumer the most accurate information the term 'Barrel-Aged' should be confined to those beers that have been stored in a wooden cask for a minimum of six months.
- Where the name of the wood is stated in the claim then the container must be primarily constructed of this type of wood.
- In cases where the beer has been in contact with wood for less than six months the use of the term 'aged' is inappropriate.

Where the effect is imitated by the introduction of wood chips or some similar means and the storage period six months or more these beers may reasonably be described as 'Wood-Aged'.

## **Pub & Brewery news**

### **Pub news**

St Helens CAMRA covers a large area that extends from the top end of Rainford (the Junction) across to Haydock, Clock Face, Sutton, Parr, Thatto Heath, Eccleston, Windle, Sutton Heath, Moss Bank, Rainhill, and on through to Prescot and Whiston. If anyone has any real ale or pub news from any of these areas or thinks that we could have a meeting or walk about between a few pubs please get in touch.

If any St Helens CAMRA area pubs would like to get beer or event information out via the Twittersphere just include the [@StHelensCAMRA](https://twitter.com/StHelensCAMRA) name in the Tweet to draw our attention to it & we'll be happy to retweet it to our followers.

### **Brewery news**

#### Conch Brewing

This new nano brewery opened in July 2018. They are currently producing bottles of imperial stout. Contact them via @BrewingConch.



Connoisseur Ales ([www.connoisseurales.com](http://www.connoisseurales.com))

The brewery opens its doors to the public on the first Saturday of each month from 2-10pm, and every Thursday 5-8pm. There is an on-site bar with up to eight beers on draught as well as real ciders.

Connoisseur's 2 newest beers, Gremlin & B.S.T., were available for sale at the Great British Beer Festival.

Melwood ([www.melwoodbeer.co.uk](http://www.melwoodbeer.co.uk))

The brewery has opened a Shakespeare themed micro pub called the 'The Bard' at 57 High Street, Prescot.

George Wright Brewing Company ([www.georgewrightbrewing.co.uk](http://www.georgewrightbrewing.co.uk))

Please note the recent announcement: "Following the takeover at George Wright Brewing co. we would like to welcome customers old and new. We are sticking with our traditional popular favourites, such as Cheeky Pheasant and Blonde Moment amongst other great cask beers. We are also moving into crafty, edgy keg lagers full of exciting hops. More focus on getting our bottled beer into bars/shops and hopefully installing a canning line in the near future".

*If anyone would like to include any Pub & Brewery news in the newsletter please send it us via email [pubsofficer@sthelenscamra.org.uk](mailto:pubsofficer@sthelenscamra.org.uk).*

## Branch News

### Cider Pub of Year presentation

A certificate for the Regional Cider Pub of the year will be presented to The Cricketers Arms on September 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm at The Cricketers.

### Pub of Year presentation



The Cricketers Arms won the prestigious CAMRA Pub of the Year title for 2018

Gill Yates presented this Award to Andy, on behalf of all the staff at the Cricks, on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Beer Garden Survey

We are doing a survey of all the pubs in our area (St Helens, Prescot, Whiston) that sell real ale and also have a beer garden. If you can provide any information in this regard can you please send it us via email [newsletter@sthelenscamra.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@sthelenscamra.org.uk).

### Beer tasting Training

Training for CAMRA members on 'How to taste beer' will be held at the Ship & Mitre pub in Liverpool on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Contact us for more information.

## Forthcoming Events

### CAMRA socials

We are thinking about organising a pub walk in Lancaster in the near future. Please let us know if you are interested in coming along.

## Articles

*If anyone would like to write a short article or news story for the newsletter please send it us via email [newsletter@sthelenscamra.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@sthelenscamra.org.uk).*

## NEXT Committee Meeting

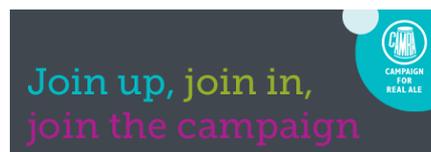
The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup> at The Commercial Hotel (12 Station Road, Rainhill, L35 0LP) at 8pm.

Committee meetings usually take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. All CAMRA members are welcome to attend these meetings. Committee meetings are always held at local pubs that serve real ale.

## NEXT Branch Meeting

The next Branch meeting will take place on August 26<sup>th</sup> at The Phoenix (Canal Street, St Helens, WA10 3LL) at 8pm. The September Branch meeting will take place on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 8pm (venue to be agreed).

Branch meetings usually take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The purpose of the meeting is 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).



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>

