

DURHAM DRINKER!

News for Discerning Drinkers in the City and County of Durham



ISSUE 29

JULY/AUGUST

FREE

A FEW SHILLINGS MORE — DRYBOROUGH'S NEW ALE

The County of Durham received its first consignment of Dryborough's New 80/- cask ale recently, with the recipients being the Student Bar at Dunelm House, Durham.

A distinctive heavier beer, this new brew was previewed at the recent Newcastle Beer Festival, where it proved one of the most popular beers on offer, and we hope this popularity will continue if and when the beer becomes more widely available. While retaining the distinctive Dryborough's refreshing flavour, it has a more robust taste — a beer with more body. It is a welcome addition to Durham's list of real ales, particularly as it could become a partner to the already established 70/- Pentland Ale — premiered at the 1981 Durham Beer Festival. The 70/- has spread throughout the county over the last two years making headway into local working men's clubs and free trade and it would be pleasing to see Dryborough's outlets offering a choice of 70/- or 80/-

We hope to see more outlets soon, and watch the 80/- be the brew to establish Dryborough's more firmly in Durham as a leading supplier of cask conditioned ales.

COME IN, NO. 3! YOUR TIME IS UP

Due to difficulties with supply of real ale, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries have lifted the ties on cask beer in their pubs, which effectively means that Scottish and Newcastle pubs could be selling **any** kind of real ale. While we are sorry to lose (temporarily, we hope) the excellent cask beers which Scottish and Newcastle can bring us, we can also make the most of the opportunity to sample brews which are rare in our region. In pubs such as The Wheatsheaf at Bowburn and the Black Bull at Ferryhill the menu has read like a veritable beer festival, with the choice changing weekly and including famous names like Ruddles, Everards and Timothy Taylor. Perhaps our local real ale freehouses can take a tip here and bring in more "exotic" ales — imagine a choice like that at The Bird, Tantobie, in your local!

On the other side of the coin, if the publicans can supply us with London brewed beers, surely a huge brewing concern like S & N can bring its own beer less than half the distance from their real ale brewery in Edinburgh. We hope they can put these mysterious problems behind them as soon as possible, but in the meantime let us enjoy the choice!



The Victoria Inn, Hallgarth Street, Durham wins Pub of the Month, 6th April 1983
Jim Merrington (S & N.), Angela Thorp, Reg Fothergill (Area Manager S & N.), Michael Webster (Licensee) Doreen McLoughlin, Barry Newman.

CLUBLAND

The Branch were delighted to learn of the second "workingmens club" to start selling cask conditioned beer. Following on from West Cornforth Club we wish all the best to the Officers and Committee of the Croxdale and Hett Working Mens Club with their newly acquired Dryborough Pentland. Steward, Rod Staines, confirmed that it was "going down well" with the members.

'REAL ALE QUIZ'



Quiz evening at the Centurion, Langley Park, 2 May 1983, Harry Kennedy, Barry Newman, Major George Fitzgibbon-Hall (Licensee)
Winning Team- Paul & Judith Dobson and John & Kathy Stubbs.

Our thanks to George and May Fitzgibbon-Hall for a really excellent evening at the Centurion. The bar was absolutely packed full of teams of CAMRA members and teams of Centurion locals competing in a quiz. The quiz masters were Mike Dodd and Robin Murray who were both totally 'neutral'. A strongly contested high scoring encounter revealed a high standard of general knowledge. Narrow winners were a CAMRA team comprising Paul and Judith Dobson and John and Kathy Stubbs. A CAMRA team also won the booby prize - they were 'Miss L.C.', Mrs. A. F., Mr. S. R.' and Mrs. J. K.'. The Licensee Major George Fitzgibbon-Hall presented crystal ashtrays to the winners. He also laid on an excellent buffet and The Vaux Samson was in fine form. To round off the evening Barry Newman, Branch Chairman of County Durham Branch of CAMRA presented a Branch tie to Major Fitzgibbon-Hall by way of thanks.

THINK TANK

Thanks are expressed to the Membership/Campaigning Sub Committee of CAMRA County Durham Branch for the successful role they carried out.

The Committee Members were:-

David Allen-Guy from Seaham, Ken Brownless from Chester-le-Street, Paul and Judith Dobson from Bishop Auckland, Mike and Sue Garfield from Spennymoor, Harry Hardman from Brandon, Ray Hopper from Consett, John MacDonald from Lanchester, Clive and Julie Oxley, Edward and Karen Turner, Martyn Warden, Harry and Jean Kennedy, Dave and Ann Quigley all from Durham, Martin and Ruth Shipton from Ferryhill, Raymond and Pauline Todd from Horden, and Chris Johnson from Darlington.

The Sub Committee has its inaugural meeting at the Black Bull, Ferryhill on 10th August 1982.

It was drawn, as you can see, from a wide cross section of the Region and hopefully would present a variety of views and opinions as to how CAMRA activities could be improved and made more enjoyable.

With this in mind its aims and objectives were established. Subject to overall control by the main

County Durham Branch committee it would hopefully:-

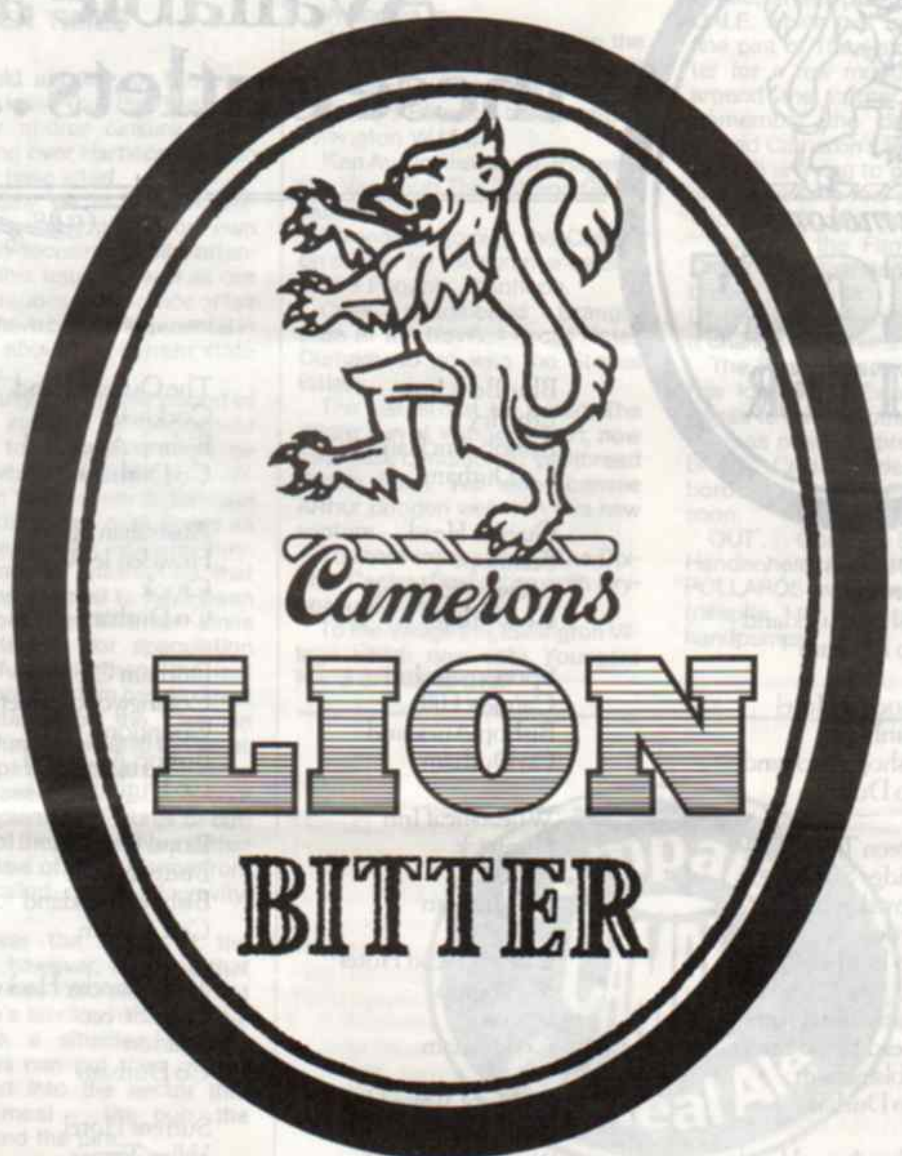
1. become a "think tank" of ideas for campaigning generally and encouraging/strengthening existing membership.
2. from a regional network for the purpose of campaigning and passing of information.
3. make its presence felt by greater participation in Branch events and social activities.

Since that inaugural meeting the Sub-committee members have staffed the Membership/Publicity stall at the 1982 Durham Beer Festival, personally visited new CAMRA members and members who hadn't attended any functions for some time, and actively introduced completely new members. The Sub-committee advised of the need to plan Branch Social/Meetings 3 months in advance so that publicity and better planning may enhance attendances - this has now become practice. The sub-committee were responsible for sending personal invitations to every member of the County Durham Branch of CAMRA to the Christmas Party at the Marquis of Granby on 13th December, 1982.

The "Think tank" came up with the following ideas for consider-

ation by the main committee:-

1. Campaign to create more involvement of existing members:-
Make our social evenings more attractive and varied - don't just sit in a pub and drink.
Organise evenings involving e.g. a quiz, darts and dominoes, folk music, guest speakers from e.g. Breweries.
Organise, e.g. a Ceilidh.
Plan more brewery trips.
Organise Summer outings e.g. Rambles or Cycle rides. Vary the evenings for events and include some weekend events to give everybody a fair chance of attending.
Organise trips to e.g. Isle of Man, Edinburgh. Trips if possible should be by coach/minibus etc., to eliminate the need to drive. Cater for the increasing number of lady members and husband and wife joint memberships.
2. Campaign to actively extend membership, with ideas such as:
 1. Organise our socials, meetings etc., so that we could invite other



Traditional Handpulled Ale

*CAMERONS & CAMRA
- Pulling Together!*



Cameron's

**LION
BITTER**

Available at these outlets ...

Trotters Arms
Ramshaw
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham

Phoenix Hotel
Stanhope
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham

Green Tree Hotel
Bridge Street
Howden le Wear
Crook
Co Durham

Black Lion Hotel
Mead Hope Street
Wolsingham
Co Durham

Eden Arms Hotel
Staindrop Road
West Auckland
Co Durham

Park Hotel
Newmarket Street
Consett
Co Durham

Blue Bells Inn
Etherley
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham

Queens Head
Stanhope
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham

Sportsmans Inn
Canney Hill
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham

Wheatsheaf Inn
Hunwick
Crook
Co Durham

Queens Head Hotel
Willington
Crook
Co Durham

Prince of Wales Hotel
Front Street
West Auckland
Co Durham

Mason Arms Hotel
Middlestone Moor
Spennymoor

The Victoria Bridge
Framwellgatemoor
Durham

The Queens Head
Cockfield
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham

Australian Hotel
Howden le Wear
Crook
Co Durham

Durham Ox
Collingwood Street
Coundon
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham

Royal Oak Inn
Butterknowle
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham

The Timothy Hackworth
Main Street
Shildon
Co Durham

Surtees Hotel
Valley Terrace
Howden le Wear
Crook
Co Durham

Queens Head Hotel
27 Front Street
Framwellgatemoor
Co Durham

CAMERON' - A RETURN TO HAPPIER TIMES

It would appear, for the time being at least, that the threats of takeover and/or closure which have hung over Hartlepool's Lion Brewery have lifted.

Obviously we in CAMRA welcome this, and hope that our own efforts in focusing public attention on this issue, as well as our remonstrations to the office of fair trading, have been instrumental in bringing about this current state of affairs.

Hopefully, during this period of relative stability a permanent solution to the problem will be found, which will enable J. W. Cameron to continue to function and produce fine cask beers as they have done for over a century.

It is indeed unfortunate that Camerons seemed to have been singled out from Ellerman Lines other interests for speculation over its future. Perhaps the fact that the brewing firm has no direct representation on the Ellerman board is fundamental to the issue, or perhaps it is the old problem - so often seen when national concerns implement closures or cut-backs - of the Northerners suffering because of the distance from the so called centre of gravity, London.

Whatever the cause of the problem, however, we hope that we will see morale amongst Cameron's landlord lifted, and a return to a situation wherein Camerons can put their money and effort into the sector that matters most - the pub, the people, and the pint.

DURHAM'S FIRST FONTS

Durham County's first Scottish tall Font, serving Dryborough's Pentland, went into action earlier this year at the Horsley Arms in Weardale. Horsley Hall, as it was originally named, is on the old road between Stanhope and Eastgate, south of the river, about two miles from Stanhope. The hall is a splendid old building, set in about 30 acres of land, which at one time reached such a state of dereliction that sheep and cattle used to bed down both upstairs and downstairs! Since taking

WELCOME

Welcome to:
Jackie and Linda Davidson the new tenants of the Whitbread pub The Flass Inn at Ushaw Moor.

Tetley's Bitter on handpump at Willington W.M.C.

Ken Austin, the new manager of the Vaux pub The Pot and Glass, Durham.

Strongarm, joining the Cameron's Bitter for the summer season at the Phoenix, Stanhope.

Cask conditioned Draught Bass at the Nevilles Cross Hotel, Durham, to go with the Stones Bitter.

The latest real ale outlet, The White Tun at Witton Gilbert, now sells cask conditioned Whitbread Castle Eden. We wish licensee Arthur Bridgen well with this new venture.

To more tall fonts - at the Dolphin Centre, Darlington, with Dryborough's Pentland.

To the Village Inn, Easington Village which now sells Youngers No. 3 on handpump.

And welcome to the KINGS ARMS, in MIDDLETON IN TEESDALE, which has been selling a fine pint of Theakston's Best Bitter for a few months now. Just around the corner, the Talbot (remember the days when it served Cameron's Bitter from the wood?) is trying to get a Scottish and Newcastle real ale, hopefully Youngers Scotch Bitter.

Over ... the Farrers Arms in Crook has changed from Whitbread Castle Eden to Dryborough's Pentland following a change in ownership.

The Rookhope Inn, Rookhope, has lost its McEwans 70/- but hopes to have another real ale as soon as possible, probably Whitbread Castle Eden or Dryborough's Pentland on sale very soon.

OUT ... Goes the BIRD at High Handenhold near Pelton, and the POLLARDS in Bishop Auckland (despite retaining its handpumps).



over, landlord Tony Burroughs has carried out an immense amount of improvement with quite staggering effect. The rooms are huge with ornate and imposing ceilings, beautiful decoration and pleasant views. There is a games room, a beer garden, a good selection of bar meals and, of course, good real ale. Tony is hoping to have another font fitted if the real stuff sells well enough, possibly with Dryborough's 80/- making an appearance in the future.

Part of the land is to be made into a caravan and camp site

which should boost trade for the pub and hopefully ensure a good future for the real ale. If you're up in Weardale, make time to visit the Horsley Arms and you're bound to be quite impressed - it is quite reminiscent of the Mitre in Benwell when that was first made into a pub 4 years ago - if the real ale stalwarts can remember that far back!

There is a good possibility that the hike and pint (or stroll and gallon) will visit there this summer so keep in touch with Durham Drinker and your branch contacts for further details.

THORNLEY'S FIRST CASKS!

Thursday, 28th April 1983 was a red letter day for Thornley and for the County Durham Branch of CAMRA because on that day Matthew Brown John Peel Cask Conditioned Bitter was launched at the Queens Head, Thornley. We wish John Chapman, the owner, all the very best. The Queens Head is a really friendly, happy, pub and the beer is excellent. John has certainly served his apprenticeship - as well as looking after the Tan Hill (The highest pub in the British Isles) he also handled many types of real ale at the Rokeby, Scotswood Road, Newcastle.

It is intended to hold a Folk Evening at the Queens Head on Thursday, 30th June, 1983. John, the locals and CAMRA would be delighted to see you on that night for an evening of folk singing and good cheer.



Barry Newman, Harry Kennedy, John Chapman (Owner), Lily Chapman, John Wilkinson (Matthew Brown representative).

CAMRA PERSONNEL 1983/84

Chairman

Barry Newman.
Ferryhill 52818 (Home)
Easington 270501 (Work)

Secretary

Sue Garfield
Spennymoor 819517 (Home)
Durham 64900 (Work)

Treasurer

Mike Garfield
Spennymoor 819517 (Home)

Publicity Officer

John Dobson
Durham 69347 (Home)
Durham 61361 (Work)

Durham Drinker

Paul Dobson
Bishop Auckland 605571
(Home)

Pubs Officers

Harry Kennedy (Durham,
Easington, Chester-le-Street)
Durham 61379 (Home)
Durham 61361 (Work)

Dave Heslop (Derwentside,
Weardale)
Dipton 570350 (Home)
Consett 34228 (Work)

Ron Woods (Sedgefield, Tees-
dale)
Ferryhill 52424 (Home)
Bishop Auckland 772541
(Work)

Membership and Campaigning

Ray Hopper, The Railway, 121
Durham Road, Consett.

PUB OF THE MONTH JUNE 1983

The Garden House, Durham were very worthy winners of the June Pub of the Month award presented by County Durham Branch of CAMRA on 1st June, 1983.

Licensee George Allon, his wife Edith, son David and his wife Janet, are obviously an excellent team. The Vaux Samson cask conditioned beer is always in excellent form. The presentation of the trophy was performed by John Dobison (Press and Publicity Officer for County Durham Branch of CAMRA), Roger Carr

(North East Organiser for CAMRA) and Michael Webster (licensee of the Victoria Inn, Durham - the previous Pub of the Month). A new form of framed certificate was also presented to the Garden House to keep to mark the event - a feature of the certificate is a centrepiece hand drawing of the Garden House. The drawing was done by Lynne Charlton.

The evening concluded with some lovely refreshments provided by the Garden House - a most enjoyable evening.

THIS SPACE
COULD BE ADVERTISING

FOR YOU

IN THE DURHAM DRINKER

pub-users to join us, e.g. in competitions, quiz evenings.

- Operate from selected pubs for a weekend with leaflets, advertising material and "other incentives" to explain our purpose and to recruit new members.
- Design and display our own Branch Posters and publicity material for permanent display in as many pubs and public places as possible.
- Include in Durham Drinker and/or separately competitions or crosswords to stimulate communication with us.
- Design and distribute our own Branch Beer-mats incorporating a questionnaire.

The membership and campaigning sub-committee will continue its activities in the future under the guidance of Ray Hopper, following Harry Kennedy's move to the post of Pubs Officer for Durham and Easington.

DIARY DATES

Tues. July 5th. Membership Committee meeting, Jovial Monk, Newton Hall.

Sun. July 10th. Lunchtime social, the Chelmsford, Ebchester - Vaux Samson and Beer Garden!

Wed. July 13th. Pool, Darts and Castle Eden at the Three Horse Shoes, Gilesgate. All indoor sportsmen/women please attend.

Thurs. - Sat. July 14th - 16th. 5th Sunderland Beer Festival, Wearmouth Hall, Sunderland Polytechnic, Chester Road. 40 real ales, ciders, food, live entertainment and bookstall. Thurs 6 - 10, Fri & Sat 12 - 3 and 6 - 10. Adm. 40 - 50p. Helpers required. Contact George Tones, Sunderland 227392 or Colin Ayers, South Shields 550553 (h); North Shields 582821 (w).

Sat. July 23rd. Annual "Stroll and Gallon". Start at 11.00 in Stanhope for refreshments, then wander up weardale (nothing too strenuous!).

Sun. August 21st. Darts, Dominoes and Pool at the Henknowle Manner, Bishop Auckland.

MORE PENTLAND - WHAT A BUTE!

The Bute Arms in Dipton has recently joined County Durham's list of real ale outlets with the instalment of Dryborough's Pentland. The beer is served by hand-pump and sells well - which is no surprise, as it is kept in excellent condition.

The Bute Arms is well worth a visit - a "canny little pub" with open fires, friendly landlord, staff and customers, and has regular live entertainment.

Discerning drinkers have recently been heard to comment that the beer in question, Pentland, is a tastier ale than it was when first launched - it seems to have gained a little body and bite over the months. So if you have steered clear of Pentland because of your first impressions, give it another try, you will be pleasantly surprised.

CAMRA PUT TO THE TEST

Friday, 27th May 1983 saw members of Durham County Branch of CAMRA arriving at The Fleece Inn, Edmondsley, having been invited by the owners, Jim and Maureen Stoker, to compete against the locals of the Pool, Darts and Dominoes. Although some sneaky practicing had been undertaken by CAMRA members it was with some considerable fear that we awaited our competition and it was with great relief that we were in the darts in fact 'paired' with a local for the competition. The evening was a great success mainly due to the efforts of Jim and Maureen and the very friendly welcome given to us by the locals. The cask conditioned Dryborough's Pentland was in great form and Maureen provided some lovely refreshments. - our thanks to everybody.

For the record The Fleece beat CAMRA 6 - 4 at Pool, Judith Dobson of CAMRA was second in the Dominoes, and Paul Dobson and Ray Hopper were first and second respectively in the Darts with their Fleece partners Ray and Ian.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to become a member(s) of the CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE LTD!

I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the CAMPAIGN.

I enclose £7 (£10 overseas) for FULL MEMBERSHIP.

We enclose £7 for HUSBAND AND WIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Full Name

(block capitals)

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS

Signature Date

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign For Real Ale Ltd. Applications should be sent to Membership 34 ALMA RD. ST. ALBANS, HERTS, AL1 3BW.

FULL MEMBERSHIP OF CAMRA

- * A member's handbook.
- * 12 copies of "What's brewing" - the Campaign's entertaining and highly regarded monthly newspaper.
- * Generous discounts on a wide range of CAMRA products and publications (including the best selling GOOD BEER GUIDE).
- * An invitation to join in all CAMRA activities such as brewery trips, branch meetings, socials, conferences and beer exhibitions.

If You Care About Quality
If You Care About Choice
If You Care About The Future Of
Real Ale

then

JOIN  NOW

AND FIGHT
TO PROTECT
YOUR PINT!

Durham Beer Festival



Campaign For Real Ale

WHEN IS IT OPEN

The festival is open to the general public at the following times:

THURSDAY	7.00-10.15 pm	Admission 50p
FRIDAY	11.00- 3.00 pm	Admission FREE
	6.00-10.15 pm	Admission 50p
SATURDAY	11.00- 3.00 pm	Admission 50p
	6.00-10.15 p.m.	Admission 50p

SEASON TICKETS £1.50

Commemorative glasses will be available for sale or hire at a cost of 60p.

**DUNELM HOUSE,
NEW ELVET,
DURHAM**

**September 1st,
2nd, 3rd.**

FREE ADMISSION
FRIDAY
LUNCHTIME.

OTHER
SESSIONS 50p

**Festival opens 7.00
Thursday**

Commemorative
glasses for sale or
hire at a cost
of 60p.



MEMBER



ADVANCE SEASON TICKETS SAVE TIME AND MONEY

The best way to enjoy the festival is to purchase a season ticket in advance. They only cost £1.50 and guarantee you admission without further charge of queuing to all 5 sessions of the festival. They are limited in number and will be sold on a first come first served basis. To order your tickets, send a cheque/P.O. payable to 'CAMRA; Durham Branch' to Barry Newman, Wayside, Mainsforth, Ferryhill, Co. Durham.

BROCHURE ADVERTISING

Anyone interested in making use of our competitive rates for advertising in the Festival Brochure please contact Barry Newman, Wayside, Mainsforth, Co. Durham (Tel: Ferryhill 52818).

HELP!

If you are able to help at this years beer festival in any way, please fill in the form below indicating the sessions for which you are available, and return it to: CAMRA Secretary, 59 Durham Road, Spennymoor.

Thursday	Friday 11 - 3	Saturday 11 - 3
7.00 - 10.15	6.00 - 10.15	6.00 - 10.15

Name

Address

Thank You!