

DURHAM DRINKER

AUTUMN 2000



EXTRA

McEwans Goes Down The Pan (A Landlord's View)

Please note that Newcastle Breweries have decided in their infinite wisdom to reduce the ABV content of McEwans lager forthwith (4.1% to 3.6%). It is claimed that this decision is taken following "extensive consumer research, which has confirmed that the new liquid is preferred to the current brew by the majority of McEwans lager drinkers".

An interpretation of this could be that Newcastle Breweries is not making as much money brewing McEwans as it is from brewing Fosters. Consequently by lowering the alcohol content at a time when punters are generally going more for higher alcohol content lagers will further reduce the demand for McEwans to such an extent that it can reasonably be argued for its deletion from the brew list.

Who, me, cynical ??? Never!

(Isn't this a familiar story with the big brewer's cask beers?)

Anyway, there is always some good news. The price has been reduced by Newcastle Breweries to us by a massive £4.50 per barrel (36 gallons x 8 pints = 288 pints), a massive reduction of some 1½ pence per pint. Consequently we shall reduce the price by 1 penny per pint.

And the pain goes on.

It also seems appropriate at this time to let you know that the minimum wage increases from October 1st. Naturally we need to pass this cost on to our customers. Sorry!

Castle Eden To Expand Cask Range

Castle Eden Brewery plan to add some new brews to their cask portfolio.

The present range of Castle Eden Ale, Bitter, Nimmos 4X, Conciliation and Banner are to be joined by Nimmos 3X which was launched at the brewery on 19th September. A cask version of Trophy Special is to be made available for beer festivals and a further "guest" brew is planned alongside the seasonal Knight series. A lager is planned for October and a cask version of the award winning bottled Challenge Ale

(5.5%) is scheduled for the Christmas period. (This latter ale won the Tesco Autumn Beer Award).

Bottled Nimmos 4X is currently available in GNER buffet cars.

HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO THE PUB

I regard a visit to a pub as a pleasure and not a necessity. The whole experience should be a pleasurable one, a part of which is being able to enjoy a decent real ale.

But the beer is not the only part of the package. The attitude of staff and management go along way to making the customer feel welcome and valued. Sometimes this is overlooked in some establishments, which is a shame. After all a happy customer may come back or bring their friends on future occasions. They may even wish to have the odd social function as well. I certainly prefer a warm atmosphere to a chilly one especially inside the pub!

Some of the horror stories given to me recently by customers defy belief. As well as poor beer quality reports of poor service and downright rudeness abound. And as a paying customer one is entitled to some courtesy. At the end of the day I would not put up with poor service or bad

The Rose Tree

"A good place to be"

Situated on the edge of picturesque Shincliffe village, surrounded by river and woodland, yet only 1½ miles from the ancient city of Durham. The Rose Tree is a Cafe Pub / Restaurant offering traditional home cooked meals and a fine range of beers and lagers.

**Open All Day
Heated beer patio**

Current cask ales include:

Old Speckled Hen
Draught Bass and
Marston's Pedigree

Shincliffe Bridge, Durham DH1 2LY
Telephone 0191 386 8512

products from a shop etc, so I do not see why a pub should be any different.

A decent well-kept pint of real ale in the relaxing atmosphere of a cosy pub is great especially whether on one's own or with others. And there are some great places round here, which are a pleasure to visit.

Surroundings are another part of the pub experience. In the 80's when real ale started to revive in a big way the pub designers had this strange belief that real ale drinkers disliked comfort and liked only bare boards and wooden benches. Funnily enough although I find them inoffensive myself I wonder what others may think. After all we are normal human beings who like some element of comfort.

So if you really want to please and keep your

customers then keep your beer well, be courteous and don't take your customers for granted. (After all they are your profit). And make the surroundings reasonably pleasant. Then you'll be worth more than a single visit!

Stop Press

Richard Lazenby has succeeded in his bid for a pub licence for 'Cathedrals', the Micro Brewery Development in Court Lane Durham. He has confirmed that the pub is not aiming to be one of the drinking circuit pubs for youngsters. We await further developments with interest especially with it producing its own beers. We'll keep you informed.

GREY HORSE FESTIVAL A SUCCESS AGAIN

The Grey Horse, Consett held it's August Bank Holiday Beer Festival and it was a huge success once again. The festival, which ran from 26th to 28th proved very popular and the newly launched cask lager, The Works proved a big hit.

But for those of you have not been The Grey Horse normally provides a good range of their home produced beers and interesting guests. On some occasions demand for the pub's own beer is such that the guest ales may dominate. So which way you look at it you can't go wrong!

The main beers are **C2C** which at 5.0% is a well hopped, tasty premium bitter. **The Works** is the newest beer, which at 4.5% is a cask lager brewed with Hallertau Hersbrucker hops. **Devil's Dip** is a 9% dark ruby beer but very easy drinking for its gravity. **Target Ale** brewed with Challenger and Goldings hops weighs in at 4.0% and is a tasty bitter first brewed for the 150th anniversary of the pub, originally called The Target Inn. **Red Dust** is a tawny, ruby red ale, which at 4.2% has a fruity and sweet malty initial taste. This gives way to a distinct bittersweet finish.

A **Derwent Deep** is a strong full bodied ale with a distinct barley flavour and hint of liquorice. A full hoppy finish completes this 5.0% ale. **Steel Town** is a 3.8% session beer, which is well hopped with a bitter finish. **Mutton Clog** is a light golden refreshing 3.8% beer named after a hill on the outskirts of Consett

which was the scene of a fight between Derwentsides' legendary giants. **Swordmaker** at 4.5% is a malty, fruity complex beer. All in all, a full-bodied bitter.

Angel Ale is a golden premium 5.0% beer named after The Angel of The North. Fuggles and Goldings hops provide the finish. **3 Giants** is a dark 3.2% mild first brewed for the 1999 beer festival. **Paddy's Delight** is a 3.8% single hopped beer. Using Bramling Cross hops it is named after the pub dog. Finally **Conroy's Stout** is an occasional brew. At 4.1% it is normally brewed for St. Patrick's Day but is sometimes available at other times of the year.

Grey Horse, Consett

Durham CAMRA
Pub of the Year 2000



'Evening Chronicle
Best Beer Pub 2000'

Beer brewed on the premises at
DERWENTROSE BREWERY

Durham bus 765/766 to door.
Newcastle bus 46A to door.

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