

Camra Calling

Spring 2010 – Summer 2010

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Member's Newsletter for the North Devon Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

STOP PRESS!

Pub of the Year 2010

This year there were 3 pubs in the running for Pub of the Year 2010. Three teams of judges visited each of the nominees at least twice at different times of the different days so that a more accurate view of the pub could be seen. The winner was announced at the AGM at Lacey's Ale and Cider House on 13th March as the Old Market Inn, Holsworthy. The presentation of the award will take place on Saturday 17th April at 1pm in the Old Market Inn. Please check the web site for more details.



Good Beer Guide 2011

The Branch Committee would like to thank all those members who gave their valuable time and effort (considering the awful weather conditions) in nominating, surveying and selecting our entries for the 2011 GBG.

Wasn't it an awful start to the year weather wise? Terry and I were, like a lot of people, snowed in for over a week. The weather had a huge impact on the surveying of our GBG 2011 entries but thanks to a huge effort by everyone they all got done.

This year there were 46 pubs nominated and visited by thirsty (that's **thirsty** not thirty – if only!) hardworking volunteers. At the meeting in the Town Arms Hotel on 13th February the 46 were whittled down to 27 with 3 reserves for the Good Beer Guide 2011. This year we used the new score sheets for the first time and along with the NBSS www.beerscoring.org.uk, they proved to be very helpful.

Witterings of the Wizard

Yet again I regret that I have been forced to spend several months 'on the wagon!' Fiona underwent the same hand surgery as last summer but on her left hand and this left me chauffeurless. The NHS showed a distinct lack of consideration in putting her out of action from 22nd December.

Enough of my problems – the Branch continues to carry on successfully. The Christmas social with Exeter and East Devon branch was a huge success enjoyed by all, with many thanks to Terry and Trish for the Beer Quiz. I have heard that this was great fun – unfortunately because of the change of date we were unable to stay to take part. Exeter and East Devon branch Winter Ales Festival was very enjoyable despite the snow. I persuaded two friends to drive us so I was able to enjoy the fine ales available. Unfortunately the weather and change of venue took its' toll on attendance but there was a great atmosphere and plenty of dark ales for me to enjoy and one of my friends also sampled all the ciders! Well done Exeter, I always look forward to this festival and would recommend it to you all.

A few of our Branch had a very enjoyable beer train trip and pub crawl in January. Sadly it was not well supported but thanks to Chris for his organisation.

I attended a meeting of branch Chairmen to resolve the bad feeling caused by the National Chairman's attitude towards the South West's motion re beer festival pricing at the AGM and what will be said to the Chairman when she attends a meeting with us in March.

I was very pleased with the good attendance at the February branch meeting and a great deal of time and effort was spent on selecting GBG entries. Thanks to everyone who helped with the surveys. It was not easy whittling 46 nominations down to 27 entries. I am proposing to provide seminars on how to do surveys for members wishing to undertake this task in the future and would be pleased to hear from anyone

who would like to attend. Judging for the POTY continues.

Looking forward there are several beer festivals coming up – a list is shown below and in the February meeting minutes. I do hope that I will meet up with many of you at these – my chauffeur permitting!

Morris (almost sober wizard)

mandf.elsworth@btinternet.com

National Pub of the Year

Once again the Kelham Island Tavern, Sheffield has won CAMRA's National Pub of the Year 2009. This is the first time a pub has won the award two years in a row which is a great achievement.

Brewery Tour/Socials

Our Social Secretary, Chris, organized a fantastic Tarka Line trip on 23rd January. We all met on the train from Barnstaple. Our first stop was in Exeter to have breakfast in the Imperial and a drink in the Great Western. We were met at Exeter station by Gregg from Exeter and East Devon Branch. We travelled on to Topsham where we first visited the Bridge Inn. We were met there by other members from Exeter and East Devon.

After a few lovely pints we were given a guided tour of Topsham by Peter and his wife, Jan. The tour took in 2 other pubs, the Globe and the Exeter. After several drinks it was time to say goodbye to our friends from Exeter and East Devon Branch and get back on the train to Exeter. We returned to the Imperial for dinner before boarding the train for home. We were all exhausted but we had thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. If you were not there you missed a great trip.

Chris has asked for suggestions for our next social. If you have any ideas please contact him at cmenterprises@talktalk.net or ring him on 01271 883969/07743080197.

Branch Polo & T-Shirts

The branch still has polo shirts that you can buy for £15.00 each. The shirt is maroon with our embroidered logo in gold and in all sizes. There are also light blue T-Shirts available for £7.50. If you would like one (or more) please contact me.

Website

If you are new to the branch it is possible to read back copies of the newsletter on the

web site if you have access to the internet. There are also copies of meeting minutes available. If you are not online please contact me if you require back copies of the newsletter or minutes.

Beer Festivals

Wednesday 17th/Sunday 21st March – The Grampus, Lee, EX34 8LR. (01271 862906)

Friday 19th/Sunday 21st March – Porlock Weir Beer Festival at the Bottom Ship, Porlock Weir, TA24 8PB. (01643 863288)

Saturday 20th March – Yeofest at the Yeoford Village Hall. (Jonathan - 01363 84501)

Saturday 27th March - Re-launch of Clearwater Brewery - 2pm – 9pm - Old Market Inn, Holsworthy, EX22 6AY.

Friday 2nd/Monday 5th April – The Waverley, Ilfracombe, EX34 9BJ. (01271 862681)

Friday 2nd/Monday 5th April – Clinton Arms, Frithelstock, EX38 8JH. (01805 623279)

Friday 2nd/Monday 5th April – All Wetherspoons – Apple and Pear Festival.

Wednesday 7th/Monday 26th April – All Wetherspoons – National Beer Festival.

Friday 30th April/Monday 3rd May – 10th Anniversary Beer Festival at the Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe, EX34 9BZ. (01271 324242)

Friday 14th/Sunday 16th May – Blue Ball Inn, Countisbury, Lynton, EX35 6NE. (01598 741263)

Meetings & Socials

Saturday 17th April 2010 – Pub of the Year Presentation/meeting – 1.00pm – Old Market Inn, Holsworthy, EX22 6AY.

Saturday 15th May 2010 – Runner-up Pub of the Year Presentation/meeting – 1.00pm - Taw River, Sticklepath, EX20 2NW

Any Future Events

If you know of any event or Beer Festivals taking place between June and August 2010 please inform Trish by phone or e-mail before 21st May and it will be included in the next branch newsletter and our web site.

The Branch has tried to ensure that the information contained in this newsletter is accurate at the time of creation. All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of individual Branch members and not necessarily those of the Branch or of CAMRA.