

NORTH SEA ALE

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The views ехpressed in this publication are those of the contributors. and do not necessarily represent those of CAMRA, or of the editor

CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN

A Warwickshire brewery, originally located in an old coffin shop, won the Campaign for Real Ale's prestigious Champion Beer of Britain award on the opening day of the Great British Beer Festival

at Olympia London, on 8 August

Goat's Milk by Church End scooped gold in the competition thanks to its blend of pale barley, crystal malt oats and aromatic hops.

Paul Hamblett, sales manager from Church End says: "Goat's Milk is our biggest selling beer - it's a nicely balanced beer with a hoppy edge.



Paul Hamblett



We originally brewed and named it for a festival taking place in the Goat pub, and the beer just caught on. It's the first time we've won the competition, and we expect it to put us on the map."

Church End Brewery

The award comes after almost a year of local tasting panels and

regional heats resulting in the best beers from across the UK being invited to compete at the Great British Beer Festival.

Bishop Nick from Essex took silver with Ridley's Rite, a pale ale with a floral aroma and satisfying bitterness, while Welsh brewery Tiny Rebel - former Champion Beer of Britain winner - won bronze with Cwtch, a red ale with a blend of six caramelly malts and three citrussy American hops.

Pub News

First the good news about additions to the Real Ale scene around the Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles area.

The Crown Bar in Huntly was purchased earlier in 2017 by Harry Halkett ,who has been away from the pub scene for several years. The Crown is now selling Windswept Blonde and Wolf and also a Keith beer all on key-keg dispense. However, since Windswept beers are unfined, they can be regarded as 'real' even if not in a conventional cask. The beers are served in the small lounge at the rear but will be brought through to the unspoilt, traditional public bar. Harry intends to renovate the lounge over the next few months or so but will be leaving the public bar untouched.

Also in Huntly, the Gordon Arms Hotel was recently sold and on the last visit to the Highlander Cafe Bar there was no beer in the single handpump and it is not known yet if the new management are to stock ale in the future. Any feedback would be appreciated via the WhatPub reporting facility.

In Issue 60 we reported that Edwards in Inverurie had stopped selling ale. Well they have now started selling ale again. Last reported visit had Stout Keith and Bradfield Farmers Ale on tap. The beer range will apparently vary so hopefully they will be inventive with their choice.

Unfortunately, the Black Bull, also Inverurie, is now down to one handpump. Craft beer (whatever that is supposed to be) is now available and according to management offers a wider choice for the customer.

On the outskirts of Peterhead on the A90 you will find the Harbour spring, a Rotisserie Pub Restaurant, part of the Marstons empire. A large foodie place, it sells up to 4 beers with usually Hobgoblin and other beers from the Marstons stable

Now the bad news about pubs which have stopped selling ale.

In Aberdeen itself there is no longer any ale in Slains Castle or the Noose & Monkey and the handpumps have been removed from both. The Illicit Still has had no ale on their 2 handpumps for some time now, so it can probably be assumed that they have ceased stocking it.

The Commercial Hotel in Dufftown has ceased selling Windswept on handpump following a recent refurbishment leaving only one outlet, the Stuart Arms, selling ale in a village previously boasting 3 outlets.

Other News

There are now several more bars opening selling only so-called craft beers. Whilst these bars are welcome as an alternative to traditional ale bars they do tend to be very expensive with beers served in 2/3 pints and often very strong beers. Fierce Beer are opening a new pub in the Shiprow at the back of the Castlegate Brew-Dog and the Craftsman at the corner of Market Street and Guild Street seems to

be doing well. It may well be that existing real ale bars will have to up their game to keep the regular trade that they need to maintain the quality of their beer

• We were informed via Punch Taverns that ale had been installed in the Brig Inn in Ellon Road, Bridge of Don. This has proved to be a work of fiction as several visits have proved fruitless. Also via Punch was the news that ale was to be sold in the White Cockade in Torry. Whilst 2 hand pumps were installed, no beer has yet been spotted there. Again, feedback would be useful.

CAMRA NAMES THE BEST FOUR PUBS IN BRITAIN

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has named the best four pubs in the country as part of its Pub of the Year 2017 competition, one of the most respected and well-known pub awards in the UK.

Among the finalists is the Weavers Real Ale House in Kidderminster, a relatively new one-room micropub. This micropub serves eight real ales and four ciders and perries on handpump and has six craft beers on tap. A short walk from the railway station, it's the perfect place for a pint and a chat on the way into town.

Also in the running for the second year in a row is the Stanford Arms in Lowestoft, East Anglia. A thriving traditional back-street pub, the Stanford Arms serves mainly local beers and ciders, and boasts live music at the weekends.

Finally two rival pubs from the North West have made the list this year - Wigan Central in Wigan and the Cricketers in St Helens, Merseyside. Wigan Central boasts a unique railway-themed interior and sources real ale from all over, with continental bottled beers displayed in a 'beer library'. The Cricketers in St Helens is a friendly local community pub saved from closure just four years ago that boasts 13 handpumps on the bar and runs beer festivals and jam nights throughout the year.

The four finalists will now have a chance to win the National Pub of the Year title for 2017, which will be announced in February 2018.

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

Brewery News

Windswept Brewino of Lossiemouth has received a loan of £ 35000 from Business Loans Scotland to create a visitor centre and brewery tap, allowing it to accommodate regular tours by the large number of visitors to the area as well as special events for the local community and tourists. Longer term the brewery has plans for a new brewery to increase production tenfold.

Wooha Brewing has received a £ 50000 loan from Business Loans Scotland to help its relocation from Nairn to Kinloss, and expansion on the new site. It is planned to quintruple output at the new location. It expects to export about 80% of its production at the new site.

Business Loans Scotland is a consortium of Scotland's 32 local authorities, providing gap funding loan finance of up to £100,000 to new and growing small and medium sized businesses across Scotland.



Orkney Brewery











Orkney Brewery 'Winter Ale Selection'

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The Co-op has commenced selling bottled beers from **Fierce Brewery** (Easy Shift, Day Shift, and Moose Mousse chocolate stout.) The Co-op also recently started selling Wild Rhino from **Burnside Brewery** in Laurencekirk.

Fierce Brewery have raised £121,093 in eight days through a crowdfunding campaign to open their first bar, with 20 taps, on the site of the former Henrys Bar (ex Quinns). More than 1200 people have become involved in the crowd funding which smashed their initially requested target of £60000.

Brewdog have submitted a planning application to convert the former Helping Hands shop in Ellon square into a bar and kitchen.

Visit Scotland have launched a virtual tool featuring details of eight local breweries; Brewtoon in Peterhead, Brewdog, Deeside Brewery, Fierce, Keith Brewery, Six Degrees north in Laurencekirk, Platform 22 in Torphins, and Spey Valley brewery. Let us hope that any Laurencekirk visitors will also visit the adjacent Burnside Brewery.

Monks at Whitwick in Leicestershire are to start Britain's first Trappist brewery at Mount St Bernard Abbey.



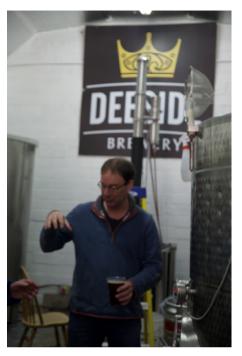
DEESIDE BREWERY VISIT

Deeside Brewery- still going places?

Whilst my last brewery visit left led me to an industrial estate on the edge of a country town this one left me in the much more rural setting of a farmyard just outside a country town. However any thoughts that this would be more sedate compared to the commercially orientated visit last time round evaporated with the angels' share when a group from an Avrshire branch of CAMRA also turned up for the visit whilst arranging a large carry out for their social club as well. The Deeside brewery is certainly much more compact and bijou than their more northerly neighbours but they also have aspirational objectives for the future. Once again the brewery was also proudly displaying it's collection of stills. Perhaps this is going to be a trend for the future, which as long as the brewing and distillation processes can complement each other, will leave me quite content, ultimately it may be the difference between survival and extinction so diversity may well be essential. However, their attempts to sell us an even bigger carry-out in the form of a barrel of malt whisky fresh off the still didn't find many enthusiastic takers. My definite interest was dented but not completely curbed when the price of such a carry-out was aired. However the vast difference between their price and my estimate of the standard industrial cost of a raw barrel indicated that the most likely opportunity for a reasonable return on this investment would involve maturing it for 25 years or more. At this time I would be pushing 90 years of age and if still around would barely have the time to drink a bottle let alone spend the proceeds. I wish Deeside all the best in their venture and will be only too happy to purchase a bottle of their 10 year old offering circa 2027 but just the one!

DIARY

| When | | Where | Why |
|--------------|-----|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Thu 28th Dec | 2pm | Brewdog Castlegate | Festive Social wander |
| Wed 10th Jan | 8pm | Bobbin | Branch meeting |
| Thu 8th Feb | 8pm | Prince of Wales | Branch Meeting |
| Sat 17th Feb | 20m | Ma Camerons snug | GBG /POTY Selection |
| Tue 20th Mar | 8pm | Dutch Mill | Branch Meeting |



Steve Crossland of Deeside Brewery



Members sampling Deeside Brewery Hospitality





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CAMRA is the biggest single-issue consumer group in the UK with over 185,000 members now, having grown by almost 5% in the last year.

In Scotland, membership has grown to c. 5,500, with just over 400 based in our local Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles branch. There is a large concentration of members round the Aberdeen city and suburbs area which has been hit recently by the decline in the oil industry, but we still have a substantial body of our local membership based in more distant, largely rural locations, which presents some logistical challenges.

Branch meetings are held in different locations each month and are advertised on the branch's web site (http://aberdeencamra.org.uk/) and in What's Brewing. We would like to encourage as many members as possible to attend these meetings and also the occasional socials, details of which are also on the web site.

Members can help the Campaign in a number of ways:

Posting beer scores on WhatPub? (https://whatpub.com/)

Distributing newsletters, membership forms etc

Carrying out pub surveys for CAMRA's Good Beer Guide

Voting in our annual Pub of the Year (PotY) competitions

Spread the word – we are keen for the Campaign to continue to grow and promote the cause of real ale and pubs. We are particularly keen to attract younger members and also increase the proportion of female members.

A PLEA FOR ADDRESSES

Do your membership details need updating?

Are you missing out on what CAMRA offers? Is your registered email address up to date? Have you changed your email address since you became a member but not advised us? When you joined CAMRA, did you even have an email address at that time?

Sometimes there can be a simple typo on your record

CAMRA both nationally and locally is keen to keep in regular touch with all its members, to update them with developments and items of potential interest, and the easiest (and most cost efficient) way of doing this is by email.

If you have an email address we would like to request that this is added to your personal details held on file. You can do this by logging on to the national site at http://www.camra.org.uk/ and then:

Click on "Edit your membership information"

Add your email address in the "Personal Details" tab

Go to the "Preferences" tab

Change the Optional Mail setting to "Yes"

Alternatively just send an email to our local Membership Secretary – lanRStewart@Outlook.com – and he will update the record for you.

As well as saving CAMRA money, it's much easier and less time-consuming for your local branch volunteer committee members, who would be able to keep you up to date with local developments, including pub news, socials, brewery visits etc., and for voting in the annual selection of local entries in the Good Beer Guide and Pub(s) of the Year.

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CHAMPION BOTTLED BEER

Nick Boley and Roger Ryman, Brewing Director from St Austell Brewery

Big Job from St Austell Brewery has been crowned the Champion Bottled Beer of Britain in CAMRA's prestigious annual award which recognises the best bottle-conditioned real ale in the country.



Big Job is a big beer. At 7.2% ABV it is powerfully hoppy with both citra and centennial hops, and is jammed full of Cornish barley. With a smooth, citrus fruit taste and a hoppy, lemon smell, it is anything but subtle.

Runners up include Fullers' Vintage Ale which took home silver, and Oakham's Green Devil IPA which won Bronze.

Roger Ryman, Head Brewer at St Austell said: "In a market where there are so many fantastic beers available including two of my own personal favourites - Fullers' Vintage Ale and Oakham's Green Devil IPA - it is a huge honour to take home the crown. This award is a huge testament to the hard work of our brewing and bottling teams which are very dedicated to producing fantastic beers."

The judging and announcement took place at the BBC Good Food Show at the Birmingham NEC, following a series of local member voting rounds and regional judging competitions throughout the year. Visitors to the BBC Good Food Show will now have the opportunity to sample the winning beer along with other finalists at a number of tutored beer tasting events run by famous beer writers as part of the Great British Beer Experience.

CAMRA's National Director responsible for the competition Nick Boley says: "Congratulations to St Austell for winning the Champion Bottled Beer of Britain award, one of the highest accolades in the beer world."

Christine Cryne, master beer trainer and judge adds: "The standard of competition was fantastically high. Big Job is a moreish, golden beer with honey caramelised citrus notes, refreshingly smooth with a warming finish with increasing spicy dry bitter notes and a soft fruity nose.

"We were particularly impressed with how well balanced it was - we were looking for a beer which showed the brewers art of complexity, and that just gave it the edge."

Champion Bottled Beer of Britain 2017 winners Gold - St Austell's Big Job Silver - Fuller's Vintage Ale Bronze - Oakham's Green Devil IPA Below is a list of outlets that sell real ale which are known to the Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles branch of CAMRA.

CAMRA is in no way recommending all of the pubs in this list. If you want a list of recommended pubs you will need to buy the Good Beer Guide. The pubs are placed in alphabetical order by location and then pub.

If you know of any pubs that sell real ale, in our area, which are not on this list, or any pubs on this list that no longer sell real ale please contact the editor. Your help is much appreciated

New Outlet Seasonal

| Aberdeen | Old Blackfriars | Tor Na Coille | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Aitchies Ale House | Prince Of Wales | Banff | | |
| Archibald Simpson's | Queen Vic | Market Arms | | |
| Atholl Hotel | St Machar Bar | Braemar | | |
| Blue Lamp | Stag | Moorfield House Hotel | | |
| Bobbin | Triple Kirks | Brodie | | |
| Brewdog | Under The Hammer | Old Mill | | |
| Brewdog (Union Street) | Aberchirder | Catterline | | |
| Cameron's (Ma's) | New Inn | Creel Inn | | |
| Carriages | Aboyne | Charleston of Aberlour | | |
| Dutch Mill | Boat Inn | Aberlour Hotel | | |
| Ferryhill House Hotel | Alford | Mash Tun | | |
| Globe | Forbes Arms | Craigellachie | | |
| Grays Inn | Haughton Arms | Craigellachie Hotel | | |
| Grammar F.P. club | Ballater | (Copper Dog) | | |
| Grill | Alexandra | Highlander Inn | | |
| Howff | Balmoral Bar | Cullen | | |
| Illicit Still | Glenaden | Three Kings | | |
| Justice Mill | Deeside Inn | Cults | | |
| Krakatoa | Balmedie | Cults Hotel | | |
| Mains of Scotstown | Cock and Bull | Daviot | | |
| Mariner Hotel | Banchory | Smiddy | | |
| McGinty's | Burnett Arms | Dufftown | | |
| McNastys | Douglas Arms Hotel | Stuart Arms | | |
| Northern Hotel | Ravenswood Club | Dunecht | | |
| Number 10 | (British Legion) | loffe | | |

Jaffs

Dyce Lairhillock Harbour Dyce Farm Newburgh Glenlivet Granite City Newburgh Inn Croft Inn Spider's Web Newtonhill Huntly **Newton Arms** Elgin Gordon Arms **Drouthy Cobbler** Oldmeldrum Crown Bar Muckle Cross Redgarth Inverbervie Sunninghill Hotel Pennan Queens Arms Ellon Pennan Inn Inverurie Dog Tap Peterhead Black Bull Station Hotel Crosskeys Edwards Tolbooth Harbour Spring Gordon Highlander Fettercairn Pitmedden Johnshaven Ramsay Arms The Craft Anchor Findhorn Portlethen Ship Crown & Anchor Mains of Balgharn Kingswells Kimberlev Inn **Portsoy** Four Mile House **Fochabers** Boyne Hotel Lossiemouth Gordon Arms Hotel Shore Inn Beach Bar **Grant Arms** Rothes Skerry Brae Hotel Seafield Arms **Forres** Luthermuir Carisbrooke Hotel Rothiemay Sauchieburn Hotel Knockomie Hotel Forbes Arms Macduff Mosset Tavern Stonehaven **Old Moray** Ramnee Hotel Belvedere Maryculter Marine Hotel Red Lion Maryculter House Fraserburgh Ship Inn Marykirk Elizabethan Strathdon Marykirk Hotel Saltoun Arms Colguhonie Hotel Methlick Garlogie

Garmouth
Garmouth Hotel

Gourdon

Muir Of Fowlis

Muggarthaugh
Commercial Arms

Tarves

Aberdeen Arms

Aberdeen Arms

Aberdeen Arms

Aberdeen Arms

Aberdeen Arms

Aberdeen Arms Hotel

Ythan View

Garlogie Inn

13

Tarland

Tomintoul
Glen Avon

Orkney Birsay **Hoy** Stromabank

Richmond

Barony

Kirkwall

Gordons (Balfour Manor)

Burray

Albert Hotel

Torphins

Sands

Auld Motor Hoose

Learney

Evie

Ayre Hotel

Westhill

Mistra **Harray**

Helgis

Shepherds Rest Broadstraik

Merkister

Kirkwall Hotel Orknev Hotel

Whitehills

Holm

Reel

Seafield Arms

Commodore

Shore Inn

St Ola

Torvhaug

Ophir

Naua

Noust

_

Rousav

Taversoe

Stenness

Standing Stones

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Westray

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Shetland

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Captain Flints

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FINANCIAL CORNER

CAMRA MEMBERS INVESTMENT CLUB ("CMIC")

Total funds held in breweries etc. have risen again and now stand at over £20.6m., The Club organises brewery tours for the members every year, one of them overseas. The Club is open to all CAMRA members, each of whom is allowed to make monthly, quarterly or annual payments to the Club. Each member can invest a maximum of £2,000 p.a. (£166 per month). The minimum investment is just £5 per month. More details available at

http://www.cmic.uk.com/

Investments are currently held in the following drinks-related companies:

Adnams Hop Back Brewery

Anheuser-Busch InBev Hydes Anvil Brewery

The Beer Consortium Marstons

Black Eagle Brewery McMullens

Black Sheep Brewery Mitchells & Butler

Brain(SA) NewRiver Retail

Brasserie Cantillon Punch Taverns

C & C Group Restaurant Group

Caledonia Investments Shepherd Neame

Carlsberg Thwaites

E I Group Wadworth

Fuller Smith & Turner West Berkshire Brewery

Greene King Wetherspoon

Heavitree Brewery Whitbread

Heineken Young & Co

Holt, Joseph

THROUGH A FLAT GLASS- REFLECTIVELY

I suppose the alarm bells started ringing the day I walked into the St Machar bar and thought

"Where are the mirrors". My period of anxiety was assuaged upon the discovery that they had been relocated to the corridor at the end of the bar. Hardly pride of place but perhaps prudently placed in an area where they were less likely to be damaged.

There may be some who would debate the point but of Scotland's 4 major cities Aberdeen looks a definite 4th when it comes to our heritage of pub architecture and interior décor. We did, however sport 3 of the most impressive bars for brewery mirrors, the St Machar Bar, Pittodrie bar and Woodend Bar. It had been a decade, perhaps nearer two, since I had visited two of them so with some apprehension I decided to renew my patronage of the premises that didn't sell cask beer.

The Pitoddrie also provides a classic island bar, that escorted by a comprehensive range of Scottish Brewery mirrors makes it well worth a visit even if the beer choice is inversely inspirational. The bright red refurb made it difficult to spot the mirrors from the various photos available on social media but fortunately they all seem to be as they were. The Woodend bar on the other hand was expected to be a disappointment. The removal of the McEwans 90/- plaques from the original entrance many years ago had left me fearing the worst then and my visit finally confirmed the case.

Worthington White Shield was also no longer available (I wondered how good or otherwise 20 year old bottles of it would taste) The bar however offered a friendly welcome and at least had bottles of Bitter and Twisted which I felt was much more preferable to Guinness. Whilst ultimately the responsibility for the grand larceny that deprived the Woodend Bar of it's crowning glory must lie with a previous owner perhaps CAMRA members themselves bear an indirect role. Whilst



more regular visits to our rare classics may not have prevented the sad loss at least we could have managed to get a decent collection of photos before this classic bars's crown jewels were permanently shorn from the fixtures and fittings of what is now a warm and friendly, but not quite so gleaming, establishment

St Machar Bar

St Machar Mirrored Corridor





Pittodrie Mirrors

Pittodrie Bar



CRAFT BAR

Pitmedden can now celebrate having real ale available again with the November opening of The Craft bar.

The bar was officially opened on Tuesday 14th November at a preview night when the first hand-pulled pint was served by 'Pub Champion' Greg Mullholland, Chair of the British Pub Confederation and former MP for Leeds North West.

The bar will be selling 2 changing beers on handpump plus various Key cask and key-keg beers and ciders. Beers from Belhaven, Orkney and Spey Valley have already been featured.



Greg Mullholland pulls the first pint

It is being run by a local CAMRA member, Paul Johnston, and his son Alex, so one would expect the ale to be in tip top condition.





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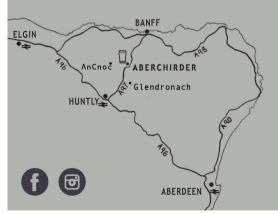
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