



WIGAN BOOZE NEWS No 33

February/March 2008

Media Review/Newsletter Name Survey

In the last edition of Booze News I reported that as a result of the resignation of our newsletter editor the branch was to hold a meeting to review our communications policy extending beyond just the newsletter to include this bulletin, our website, dealings with the press etc.

The evening of the meeting on the 6th February was raw and it was with some qualms of facing a poor turn out that we set off to Wigan. Our concerns were however very much misplaced and a warm and welcoming sight met us when we arrived at the Swan & Railway (and I am not just talking about the beer selection which was certainly a marked improvement on the limited Marstons range available there when we last called in). We were pleasantly surprised to see a good turnout of interested members with helpful ideas and plans and certainly not just ones which involved the usual handful of people doing the work.

We now have a new newsletter editor (Ray Penk) with our webmaster (Roy Pearson) in charge of the technical publishing aspects. Various other people have been appointed to the media committee with specific areas of responsibility from proof reading to drafting regular features plus additional assistance to Roy on maintaining the website. **As always though we are keen to encourage contributions and comments from all our members which may be included in the newsletter or website or both. If you have an article which you would like to submit for inclusion to a future edition of the newsletter or perhaps have comments on what you would like to see or something which you feel should not have been included then please email our new editorial contact address : editor@wigancamra.org.uk**

One thing we were unable to reach a consensus on at the media meeting was whether the newsletter should continue under its current title of 'Swiggin in Wiggin' or whether we should adopt a new title in recognition of the new look & format. It was decided therefore to run a survey over the duration of the beer festival on whether we should keep the name or go for something new and for suggestions on what we should be called. The meeting also agreed that members like the email booze bulletin and that it should continue and that the branch would have joint press officers these being the media officer (Ray Penk) and the branch chair (Ken Worthington).

Festival time is here again !

We are now just days away from Wigan's 21st Beer Festival, which is again at the Robin Park Sports Centre. This year we have increased our range of cask beers to 62 (with 2 barrels of most beers) and also have live entertainment every evening.

As it is our 'Coming of Age' we are offering free admission to 21 year olds on proof of age. Come and celebrate with us – we will all have a whale of a time !

Admission is just £1 for CAMRA members or free before 6pm on the Friday session. We are also trialling an express admission service for CAMRA members for the first half hour at the start of each session with a separate entrance to non members and an admission pack costing £10 of admission charge, refundable glass hire, and tokens (£8 worth Friday before 6pm, £7 worth at all other times).

Besides new features we are keeping the best of the old ones such as our Bratwurst stand which has been ever constant at all our festivals.

There is a free shuttle bus running from the Anvil throughout Friday and Saturday.

Interested ? Full details of times, beer & cider range, prices, entertainment and the shuttle bus times see our website www.camrawigan.org.uk

Brewery News

Allgates Three new brews for March, all with a film theme, are - Hop Gun 3.9 ABV Light/Golden, Pump Fiction 4.3 ABV Dark/Copper, Carry on Drinking 4.4 ABV Pale/Straw colour. They have also solved their previous brewing problems with Hung Drawn & Portered and produced some recently.

Mayflower brewing re-commenced last Friday with Douglas Valley Ale available at Wigan beer festival.

Prospect Patsy's brew for the Wigan beer festival is Blinding Light. All beers (including Blinding Light) are available in 500 ml bottles and are 'bottled conditioned'. The bottled Blinding Light will not be ready before the festival and go on sale afterwards.

Local Pubs/clubs Info

The Red Lion, Ladies Lane Hindley have now extended their range of beer with Copperdragon Golden Pippin or Black Sheep Bitter as regulars with another varying beer

The Old Pear Tree Wigan has recently been closed for a facelift and has now increased the range of cask bitters to 4 from the Marston selection.

The Pit Pony in Ashton is now reporting a significant increase in cask beer sales since it opened just before Christmas and is now doing meals from 12noon – 2pm & 5pm – 8pm Monday to Friday, and from Noon to 7pm on Saturday & Sundays . We also have a correction to our previous report as the quiz is on Thursday nights.

The Dog & Partridge in Standish has now re-opened.

The re-opening of the **Royal Oak in Standishgate** has been further deferred and is now not expected to be before Easter at the earliest

The **Bulls Head** at Goose Green is expected to close this weekend after a brief spell of opening just at weekends.

The Anderton, Ince is trying to put together an email list of customers interested in receiving weekly updates from the pub providing details of the beers available, offers and events etc. Email address for anyone wishing to join the mailing list: andertonarms@yahoo.co.uk. The pub has regular live music every weekend when 4 cask beers are usually available (they have 3 during the week) including the house bitter (usually Classic) at £1.30 per pint

Don't forget if you have any new information about Wigan & district pubs (or real ale clubs) then please let us know – either in person at a branch meeting (details as shown below) or by return email to me, address is shown at the end of this bulletin.

Forthcoming Branch Events

10th April - branch meeting , **8pm The White Lion**, Upholland. All Welcome

13th May - **branch AGM, Boulevard** Wigan 7:30 start. Nominations for all officerships and committee and motion to the branch to reach chair by 30th April. All members welcome.

30th May – mild crawl. Details to follow.

For further details contact our Social Secretary Ian Prior- ianprior52@hotmail.com or tel 01942 748753 or contact Ken Worthington Branch Chair on ken.worthington@virgin.net or tel 01942 728204.

Forthcoming Local(ish) Events

March

5th – 9th **March Beer Weekend** - The Black Horse, 72 Redearth St, Darwen, BB3 2AF. About 15 ales. Check www.theblackun.co.uk for further details.

14th – 17th **St Patrick's Day Beer Festival** - The New Oxford, 11 Bexley Square, Trinity Way, Salford, M3 6DB - Over 35 ales Check www.thenewoxford.co.uk for further details

20th – 23rd **7th Bitter Suite Beer Festival** - Bitter Suite, 53 Fylde Road, Preston, PR1 2XQ. About 25 ales. Phone 01772 827007 for further details.

21st – 30th **5th Lakeland Beer Festival** - Watermill Inn & Brewery, Ings Village, Windermere, LA8 9PY. Over 30 ales. Check www.lakelandpub.co.uk for further details

April

4th – 5th **22nd Oldham Beer Festival** (Adjacent to Oldham Bus Stn + 10 min walk from Oldham Mumps Rail Stn). 75 Real Ales, Traditional Cider, Perries, Foreign Bottled Beers, Fruit Wines. Further info avail from branch website. **website:** www.robcamra

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Are you thinking of changing your internet provider or email address? Don't forget to let us know your new details so that we can continue to send you branch and national information.

Disclaimer;

The views in this bulletin are not necessarily those of CAMRA nationally nor may they be the views of Wigan CAMRA Branch. The majority content is supplied by individuals and is correct at the time of publication. No responsibility is taken if you go somewhere recommended and the beer or service is ~~erap~~ rubbish or if the information supplied is wrong.