

Ale

Cambridge and District branch
of the
CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

Chairman: Alan Hill, 103 Coleridge Road, Cambridge
Secretary: Bill Noblett, 27 Chesterton Towers, Cambridge

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ROSE AND CROWN IN NEWMARKET ROAD REVERTS TO HANDPUMPS IN BOTH BARS

Handpumped Greene King bitter is now served in both bars at the Rose and Crown, Newmarket Road, Cambridge.

Tenant Tony Andrews reinstated beer engines in the saloon bar about six months ago 'as an experiment.'

Now he has put handpumps back into the bar, as well.

'It saves steps,' said Tony, 'because most people in there' - pointing to the bar - 'have been wanting the beer from here' (the lounge).

Only one customer in the lounge had complained that handpumped beer wasn't as 'bright' as carbonated top-pressure beer.

'There's nothing wrong with top-pressure beer,' Tony said, 'if you can clear a barrel in 12 hours.'

But his decision to bring back handpumps has brought him more customers, who prefer 'real' ale served the traditional way.

His wife, Pat, confirmed that it was easier and quicker to serve beer from handpumps. 'Definitely, yes,' she said.

CHRIS BRUTON RESIGNS AS TREASURER OF CAMBRIDGE BRANCH OF CAMRA

Chris Bruton has resigned as treasurer of the Cambridge and District branch of the Campaign for Real Ale.

Reason is that Chris, 31, who is also a national executive member of CAMRA, is moving house from Whittlesford to London.

He has been commuting daily for several months.

Chris is the complete answer to critics who say that CAMRA doesn't know what it is talking about - his doctorate includes research into fermentation technology!

The branch will be sorry to lose an official who, it seemed, no sooner volunteered to do a job than it was done.

'ALE' ARTIST STEPHEN HILL COMMISSIONED BY PLOUGH AND FLEECE

Four paintings by dedicated CAMRA member, Stephen Hill, now brighten the lounge of the Plough and Fleece (Greene King), Horningsea. Two more will be added.

They show a 'Real Beer' scroll, together with a pint of bitter (twice lifesize), barley and hops, above the fireplace; an oast-house; a malting-house, showing both exterior and interior; and the pub itself (exterior).

Stephen is the artist who draws the caricature figures for 'Ale'.

ON DRAUGHT ... Next meeting, Hat and Feathers (Tolly), Cambridge, which has recently reinstated handpumps, on Tuesday March 16 ... Branch invited to visit Greene King brewery, Bury St Edmunds, on Wednesday April 7 (coach will be available) ... The Maypole (Tolly), next to the multi-storey car-park, believed to be Cambridge's only pub with electric pumps.

Cambridge and District branch of the CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

Minutes of a branch meeting held at the White Swan, Bottisham, on Tuesday February 17 1976.

1 Minutes of the previous meeting were read.

2 Matters arising

Both Cambridge motions were to be debated at the Campaign for Real Ale's annual meeting (see 'Ale' 6), the second as part of a composite motion which the branch had been asked to propose.

In reply to a question about mild, the chairman said the committee would look into the question after the annual meeting had debated it. Linda Wardley said North-west Essex branch hoped 'to make May a mild month' to increase interest.

3 Correspondence

Orders for the 'Good Beer Guide 1976' were taken.

Alan Hill asked for suggestions for beers for the Salisbury Hotel.

4 Treasurer's report

The previous month had seen little movement. Treasurer Chris Bruton then proffered his resignation. The chairman proposed a vote of thanks, which was unanimously approved.

5 Cambridge Beer Festival 1976

Prices for the hire of the Corn Exchange were to go up, but treasurer Bruton, negotiator with the Festival Association committee, was hopeful the branch's offer would be accepted.

6 'Real Ale in Cambridgeshire'

Sheets for making additions to the old guide were at the printers, and would be ready by the weekend.

A meeting with other Cambridgeshire branches had been arranged to discuss a completely new guide.

7 'Ale'

The chairman congratulated the editor for his work on 'Ale', and called for volunteers to help with distribution.

8 Mrs Hill's Social Spot

There were still places vacant on the trip to Paine's brewery on Saturday February 21. Greene King had agreed to a visit on April 7 (approximate cost, £1.25 a head).

9 Darts tournament (see 'Ale' 8)

Results of both preliminary and first rounds to be given to Sue Hill by March 7. If possible, games should be played in real ale pubs not normally visited.

10 Dates of next meetings were announced

11 Any other business

A joint Cambridge-Leeds weekend social was to be held in late-April or early-May.

The chairman said nominations for the vacant position of treasurer would be welcome.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.