

Chairman: Alan Hill, 103 Coleridge Road, Cambridge

Secretary: Bill Noblett, 27 Chesterton Towers, Cambridge

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CAMRA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RUN THIRD CAMBRIDGE BEER FESTIVAL IN JULY

A call has been made to CAMRA members to help run the Third Cambridge Beer Festival at the Corn Exchange between July 21 - 24.

Peter Pearce (left), chairman of the festival sub-committee, knows that many members will take a week of their annual holiday to work - unpaid - at the festival.

But he and personnel controller, Nigel Watson, are anxious that the festival should be better than ever this year. They are asking members to specify times they will be able to serve beer, wash up, and help in other directions.

Peter explained: 'The whole festival will be run on a campaigning basis, to illustrate our basic beliefs. We should attempt to reach, to inform, as many uncommitted beer drinkers as possible.'

Volunteers, and suggestions, would be welcome. 'We're trying to involve members who may feel they don't play very much of a part in the branch.'



He added: 'At least 20 different beers will be available, served by gravity, handpumps and electric pumps.'

'It can't be bigger - we can't get more people in there. It can only be better, in terms of service to the customer, and the beer being in quality condition at all times.'

GREENE KING ABBOT ALE NAMED THE BEST BEER IN THE LAND AT BREWERS' SHOW

Greene King Abbot Ale has won first prize in a class for strong draught beers at the International Brewing Exhibition at Earl's Court.

Abbot, which is widely available in Cambridge and the surrounding area, was also runner-up for the overall championship from 233 draught beer entries.

And Cambridge CAMRA chairman, Alan Hill, spoke in its favour on the BBC television programme, Look East, on Wednesday March 30.

He also sampled an 'unknown' beer, and rightly identified it as Tolly Cobbold.

So much for cynics who deny the 'real ale' argument!

ON DRAUGHT ... Next meeting, Barley Mow (Greene King), Histon, on Wednesday April 21 (8 p.m.) ... Congratulations to the North-west Essex branch on the outstanding success of 'Jazz at the Barn' (with six 'real ales') at Little Sampford ... Gough Brothers of Cambridge now sell pins of Fuller's London Pride ... Thank you, nearly 30 licensees who help to distribute 'Ale' ... Roger Pearce tipped to win branch darts knockout competition ... A real ale page appears weekly in 'Titbits' (8p) ... Abbot served from the cask at the Cross Keys (Greene King), Cambridge.

THE LAST PEOPLE to be given a say in decisions by the breweries are nearly always the drinkers. Have you, for instance, found the handpumps ripped out of a pub, only to be replaced by the flashing lights of pressurised pumps? How many times have you complained about the brewers, despite their claims that they are satisfying public demand? How many times have you been forced to drink something you didn't like, because that's what the brewers reckon you ought to be drinking?

The six major brewing combines in Britain are, in the main, the ones to blame for this sad state of affairs. Between them, they produce nearly three-quarters of all our beer and own more than two-thirds of our pubs. Collectively, they have tried to do away with traditional draught beer and have been trying to replace it with filtered, pasteurised and pressurised products like keg beer.

It was clear some years ago that something needed to be done to give the beer drinker a say in what kind of ale would be made available to him. And that's where CAMRA — the Campaign for Real Ale — came in.

CAMRA is a democratic organisation run mainly on a voluntary basis, with a small paid staff. Its aims are to bring about an improvement in the choice and quality of real draught beer, and to fight for an improvement in the character of Britain's pubs.

Since it was formed in 1971, CAMRA has fought against the odds, with no outside financial support, to preserve and promote real ale. With few resources to match the big brewers' millions of pounds, CAMRA has already persuaded dozens of pubs throughout the country to switch to the real thing instead of offering nothing but sterile beers which all taste boringly similar. In Kent alone, more than 30 pubs are now serving real draught beer again for the first time in years. At least one brewery has been persuaded against pressurising all its products, and others are now convinced that the future lies in giving their customers what they want — not what they're told to want.

Members of Parliament from both the major parties have joined CAMRA in its battle for legislation to give the beer drinker a fair deal. They have been calling for all beer — both draught and bottled — to be clearly labelled so that the customer will have an indication of the strength and content of what he's buying.

CAMRA keeps its members fully informed of news and developments in the brewing world through its own newspaper, *What's Brewing*, which is produced

Join the battle for better beer

entirely by CAMRA members and sent to every member each month. *What's Brewing* has proved many of the brewers' arguments to be false and has given the beer drinker vital facts which had previously been kept from him.

CAMRA also produces an annual *Good Beer Guide*, the first publication ever to assess pubs purely on the merit of their beer. It is a valuable asset to the beer drinker who finds himself in a strange town, not knowing where to find a good pint.

Every CAMRA member can take an active part in running the Campaign. There are CAMRA branches throughout the country and all members are encouraged to attend and to lend a hand. Branches organise the Campaign at a local level and some of them hold beer exhibitions and trips to breweries.

Membership of CAMRA costs only £2 a year. If you want to join, fill in one of the forms overleaf and send it with a cheque or postal order, payable to CAMRA, to

The Membership Secretary,
Campaign for Real Ale,
34 Alma Road,
St Albans, Herts.
AL1 3BW

I wish to become a member of CAMRA. I agree to abide by the ideals of the campaign and I enclose £2 (£3 for overseas Members) as my annual membership subscription. Any additional amount received will be welcomed as a donation.

NAME (block capitals).....

ADDRESS (block capitals).....

TELEPHONE NUMBER.....

SIGNATURE.....