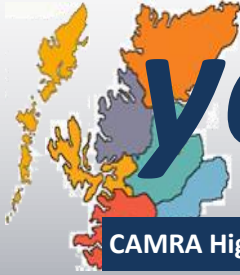


What's yours then?



CAMRA Highlands & Western Isles | FREE Magazine | Autumn / Winter 2016



*Inverness' newest Real Ale pub
The Black Isle Bar in Church Street*

Branch News

Meet your new Branch Committee

- Bus beer trip to Skye report
- Highlands visitor article
- CAMRA Tasting Course
- Highlands Real Ale Pubs list
- Breweries News
- Pubs News
- Pub beer festival report
- CAMRA ale festival reports



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

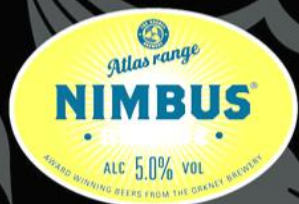
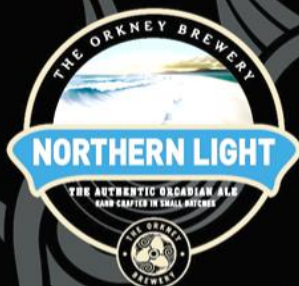
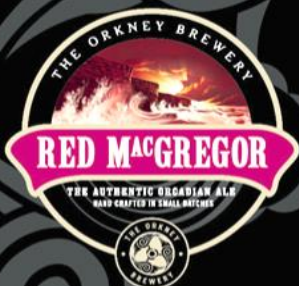
Campaigning for real ale, pubs and drinkers rights since 1971

SINCLAIR BREWERIES LTD

Incorporating Orkney and Atlas range of ales

Raising the bar

Scottish bottle and cask
ales of distinction



ATLAS RANGE

ORDER OUR RANGE OF CASK OR BOTTLED BEERS

t: 01667 404 555 f: 01667 404 584 e: info@sinclairbreweries.co.uk w: www.sinclairbreweries.co.uk

Head Office: Sinclair Breweries Ltd, Cawdor, Nairn, IV12 5XP

Since the last edition of our magazine a meeting was convened at The Phoenix Ale House in early November by Sarah Bellis, the new Regional Director for Scotland & Northern Ireland branches of CAMRA, to discuss the future for the Branch. Several options were considered but the outcome chosen was that using powers delegated to her by the National Executive of CAMRA Sarah has appointed an "interim committee" to run the branch until our AGM.

Our AGM has now been rescheduled for Saturday 21st January, also at The Phoenix Ale House in Inverness, starting at 14:00. The AGM will be chaired by Sarah and an agenda will be published early in January.

Questions or comments are welcome from branch members and if you are unable to attend please e-mail Sarah so that your views and opinions can be taken into account. It would also be helpful for Sarah to know if you are planning to attend so the Phoenix can be given an idea of numbers.

If you are considering taking up a committee position please contact Sarah so that she can provide Branch committee role descriptions and answer specific questions relating to any positions.

Contact e-mail address for Sarah - rd.scotlandni@camra.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM.

This is your branch, please make your voice heard!

If you would like to place an advert, please contact one of the branch officers (see Diary page).

Full Page Advert..... £95.00
Half Page Advert..... £55.00
Quarter Page Advert..... £30.00

There is a loyalty discount on placement of your fourth consecutive advert. Adverts are accepted on condition that inclusion does not necessarily imply an endorsement or approval of content.

Please be aware that the CAMRA logo is copyrighted and should not be used in pub adverts.

We welcome your letters, news, views and opinions. Let us know what is happening at your local, or tell us about pubs you have visited.

Thanks to all who have made the effort to send in pub and beer reports, or articles, keeping us up-to-date with brews and what is happening in local pubs.

Please note that the editor reserves the right to edit contributions sent for publication. All articles are copyright © Highlands & Western Isles CAMRA.

Trading Standards Office:

Contact details for issues such as no price lists or consistent short measures - 0845 600 4 222
e-mail - consumer.advice@highland.gov.uk
www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/highland

Spring edition **deadline** is Monday 6th March, for publication by Easter.

Pubs News

The Snowgoose, the extensive restaurant inn beside the A96 after the retail park, has completed a minor revamp and new signage proclaims its Vintage Inns ownership.



The Real Ale selection could now be more extensive as the bar now sports five handpumps rather than just three. Previously, the three handpumps always just had three golden ales on from their approved beers list. The five hand pulls will hopefully allow for more of a choice and cater for tourists who want to try a Scottish ale rather than the same ales they see in most parts of the UK - although one will be **Doombar**.



The **Encore Un Fois** on Tomnahurich Street has two handpulls on the bar. When your reporter was in reconnoitering the place - which is lovely throughout, really improving the choice of bar restaurants in Inverness, the two ales on were from **Orkney Brewery** and both were in excellent form. The whole place is very well kitted out including the toilets - you can see that the

large sum of money has been well spent. Reports from customers are all positive on all aspects of the place.



The Heathmount continues to add to and improve their building. The very high spec. outside area was finished early this year and a separate, glazed entry doorway has been taking shape at the front. The whole building has been repainted and new signage put up all round. The two ales they have on the bar vary continuously from a wide range of Scottish breweries.



The Corriegarth has also been improving, the dining room having been rebadged as "The Grain restaurant at the Corriegarth" according to the signage, and the outside area has also been upgraded. The four handpumps are busy as ever with a variety of ales from the Punch beer list as well as locales - often including **Happy Chappy**.

"**MacGregor's Bar**" at the end of Academy Street is sporting a banner saying that 110% of the needed funding has been achieved and they





BANDSTAND

BANDSTAND BAR NAIRN

CAMRA Badenoch & Strathspey Pub of the Year 2016

Family-run Highland pub-hotel on the beach

9 ALE PUMPS

LOG FIRE

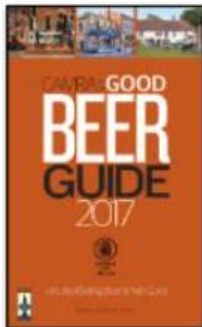
LIVE MUSIC

SEA VIEW

RESTAURANT

BAR MEALS

**10% B&B discount
CAMRA members**



Braeval Hotel, Crescent Road, Nairn IV124NB Tel:01667452341
www.braevalhotel.co.uk email: info@braevalhotel.co.uk
twitter.com@bandstandbar www.facebook.com/bandstandbar

are in the planning stage for the venue. It is unclear if plans include offering real ale.

The front page of the Inverness Courier was recently proclaiming developments in four new eating and drinking establishments in the town that will improve customers choice. One place is a Mediterranean style restaurant on Bridge Street with the other three being **MacGregor's**, the **Black Isle Bar**, and the planned "**Cairngorm Tavern**" at the bottom end of Academy Street.

In August the Inverness Courier reported that Cairngorm have applied (re-applied?) for planning permission to start work on the historic Al Welders building and turn it



in to the "**Cairngorm Tavern**" with offices above the flagship brewery bar. The report states that Deeno's is to close on the 4th of September (it has, with a "drink the place dry" type event on the last day) and work is hoped to start by the end of the year.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, work will have started.



The Old Bridge Inn at Aviemore reopened in time for the summer tourist season. It

was closed for weeks after being flooded out by Winter storms for the second time in six years. We hear that the opportunity was taken to revamp the premises - importantly including toilet drainage - during the repairs. They continue to offer up to four real ales, the majority from Cairngorm and good food as well as an eclectic mix of music entertainment.



Inshes Gate, the Brewer's Fayre "roadhouse" beside the A9 (not far from Raigmore hospital and Tesco Inshes) has been revamped. It has a pleasantly updated interior including new tables and seats and now offers two real ales (possibly on top pressure). The choice so far after two reports from members is **Sharp's Doombar** - which is the "national" real ale from this pub company and **Hobgoblin Gold**. I can report that the Gold was eminently pleasant (3.5) and the place offers very good value meals before 6pm. This is perhaps evidence of the need for these national chains to compete with the value that Wetherspoons offers. The place got very busy after 5.30 so plenty of people already know about how good it is.

We have heard that **The Kingsmills Hotel** (one of, if not even the top hotel in Inverness) has an operating handpump in their main bar. Being a hotel, it is probably on top pressure but it is good that they have raised the league and choice of their bar.

The Portree Hotel has been refurbished and we have heard that it is selling real ale.

PLOCKTON HOTEL

WEB : www.plocktonhotel.co.uk

PHONE : 01599544274

E-MAIL : info@plocktonhotel.co.uk

**ENJOY A REAL ALE IN ONE OF THE MOST STUNNING BEER
GARDENS IN THE WEST COAST**

NOW WITH FOUR HAND PULL PUMPS SERVING

REAL ALES FROM ONLY SCOTTISH BREWERIES

**WESTER ROSS
& GAIRLOCH
HWI CAMRA**

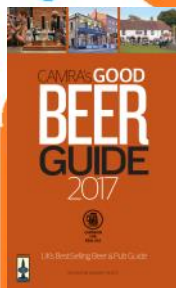
PUB OF THE YEAR

2015

Follow us



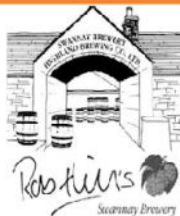
@plocktonhotel



**NEW!!!
OUTDOOR
TENT AND
BAR**



JUST A FEW OF THE MANY BREWERIES



The **Seaforth Bar & Restaurant** in Ullapool was sold last year to Belhaven/Greene King and the large, tourist busy place has now been “Greene Kinged”. The bar used to be dominated by at least three **An Teallach** ales but on our recent visit to Ullapool had just one “guest” handpump of **An Teallach**, the others all showing Belhaven or Greene King badges.

New Real Ale Bar in Inverness

The **Black Isle Bar** in Church Street, next door to The Kings Highway, quietly opened for business at end of July and offers something different for Inverness pub goers. Funds have obviously been spent on a thorough refurbishment of the building. The spacious bar area presents a “chic/shabby industrial” style with various styles of seating. In keeping with the Black Isle Brewery’s “Save the Planet” ethos, the bar top is made from a single, thick, continuous slice of a tree from the Allangrange Estate which was blown over and some of the furniture in the bar is made from upcycled floor boards from Inverness Cathedral.

A select range of food offerings is available



most of the time. The large, straight bar is clear with the bar back wall sporting over two dozen beer taps. These taps feature a wide range of international keg beers which are advertised and priced by 1/3, 1/2 and pints on two large monitor screens

(although beers more than 6% abv are only priced for 1/3 and 1/2 pints). Only three are advertised as cask - all Black Isle ales as you would expect.

| TAP | BEER/TYPE | BEER NAME | TYPE | ABV% | 1/3 | 1/2 | PINT |
|-----|-------------|--------------|--------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | black isle | blonde | lager/blonde | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 2 | black isle | riding horse | blonde | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 3 | black isle | scotch ale | scotch ale | 5.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 4 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 5 | black isle | liberator | scotch ale | 7.0% | £1.50 | £2.00 | £2.50 |
| 6 | black isle | platinum | blonde | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 7 | black isle | goldsway | ipa | 5.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 8 | black isle | goldfish | scotch ale | 5.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 9 | thunderidge | ohron | ipa | 5.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 10 | beaverlawn | gamma ray | ipa | 4.4% | £1.10 | £1.60 | £2.10 |
| 11 | huntingley | area | scotch ale | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 12 | teapot | bonnie | ipa | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 13 | alexander | keith | ipa | 5.5% | £1.50 | £2.00 | £2.50 |

| TAP | BEER/TYPE | BEER NAME | TYPE | ABV% | 1/3 | 1/2 | PINT |
|-----|------------|-------------|--------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 14 | de molen | blond sweet | scotch ale | 8.2% | £2.50 | £3.40 | £4.30 |
| 15 | ambinet | brunna | blonde | 5.0% | £2.20 | £3.00 | £3.80 |
| 16 | black isle | gold sway | ipa | 5.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 17 | black isle | platinum | blonde | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 18 | black isle | blonde | lager/blonde | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 19 | black isle | cider | apple cider | 5.0% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 20 | black isle | platinum | blonde | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 21 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 22 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 23 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 24 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 25 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 26 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 27 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 28 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 29 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| 30 | black isle | porter | citra porter | 4.5% | £1.00 | £1.50 | £2.00 |

The small cellar is about one and a half pints from the taps and the ales are pushed to the taps by gas assistance. This reporter enjoyed two of them and they were in very good form. Each beer is individually priced and the really strong, imported beers are, unsurprisingly, expensive. Despite being a brewery tap, Black Isle beers and ales are sold at full (quite high) price rather than at a discount. Having your own beers at a competitive price would be a great and easy way to bring in customers and keep the place busy, especially as the pub trade is generally on a downward trend.

Up the stairway, through the strong smell of fresh paint leads to the very well thought out beer garden/terrace. There is a nice open air feel to the area but also plenty of shelter from Inverness’s usual weather. As previously reported the venue offers B&B rooms and if they match the décor of the public areas (including the toilets) they must be very nice. Definitely worth a look and a drink or two.

There has been a ‘Pub to Let’ sign outside the **Clachnaharry Inn** since September but no change so far, and the experienced and long-serving team continue to serve a changing selection of high quality real ales.

An Era Coming to an End at Blackfriars

Del - aka the Singing Landlord - finally retires from the pub trade after helping Janette run this historic and iconic Inverness bar for over ten years with family members helping out, especially Sharon at weekends.



Having been introduced to serving Real Ale by our ex-branch secretary, Gareth, this has been the bar in Inverness where you could, from time to time, find a “perfect” pint.

The cellar of this building is deep and Gareth reckons it contains some “magic” as it seems to extend the shelf life of ales way beyond what we consider the norm.

Partly because of the recession, this building could have been bought cheaply from the bank that owned it and its “for sale” status enabled Del to pick and choose his ales from a wide variety of local breweries. For a while, we ale drinkers were blessed with a bar offering up to seven top ales from several of our excellent Highlands and Islands breweries.

This choice was reduced once Heineken (Star



Bars and Pubs) bought the portfolio of pubs the bank was selling but their distribution system was so hit and miss that Del soon mostly ignored their list and ordered directly from his preferred breweries.

Star Bars and Pubs have been looking for a new lessee for Blackfriars and by the time you are reading this, it will have become a bit clearer what the next few years holds for **Blackfriars** - and the Inverness rumour mill will have slowed - for the time being!

We wish Del and Janette (and Sharon) all our very best wishes for their futures.

In early September, Heineken started work to renew the cellar with nice new orderly valves and all new piping - something that Janette and Del asked to be done when they took on the place ten years ago!

The **Bandstand Bar** in Nairn celebrated the end of summer with a celebration of fine autumn ales. During the last weekend in September enthusiasts were able to sample over 50 ales, ciders and keg lagers including, for the first time, ales from Spey Valley and John O’Groats. An excellent selection of ales included brews from Harviestoun, Butcombe, Hopback, Wychwood, and Fyne Ales, plus classic beers from Orkney, Swannay, Cromarty and Cairngorm.

Live music and great food throughout added to the relaxed atmosphere. A small autumn festival perhaps when compared to their annual April event which Scottish Hospitality Awards recognised with a Finalist Award in “Festival of the Year 2016” (runner up to T in the Park). The nine day event in April attracted around 4,000 visitors from all over the UK and show-cased an extraordinary range of 200 ales, ciders and craft beers from over 50 breweries across the UK.

Numerous music events, food stalls and a hog roast, plus cheese, beer and whisky tastings added to the entertainment.

Gordon and Morag raise the bar ever higher each year and will have to work even harder in 2017 to match the events of this year.

We’re sure they up are to the challenge!

The Clachaig down in Glencoe recently held their annual 'Octoberfest', another very successful event we understand.

Email:

Hi there, I'm a Glasgow branch CAMRA member and have just come back from a week in the Western Isles.

I had hoped to visit a few pubs along the way, but where we were staying in the West of Lewis wasn't conducive to this.

We did visit "The Steam Inn" in Mallaig on the way there. They had one handpump on featuring Skye Gold. A bit on the cold side and slightly hazy, but tasted absolutely fine. Probably a 3 on Cyclops.

The only other place we visited was the Lochboisdale Hotel. No real ale available.

Not much information, but hopefully better than nothing at all!

Kind regards, Micky Ross. (July)

Official CAMRA Tasting Course



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

North of Scotland Tasting Chair, Eric Mills, led a course on the 4th June at the Benleva Hotel in Drumnadrochit.

Eight people (Arnold, Zoe, Cameron, David, Mike, Paul, Alan and Gordon) turned up for the tasting and started with a brand new 4% single hop (Rakau) beer from the now defunct Loch Ness Brewery. Then it was onto the basic tastes of sweet, sour, bitter and salt. What beer is and how brewing creates flavours was then discussed.

A sample of the different malts were passed around and the 4.4% sweet, malty, 80/- style Loch Ness Ale was tasted.

Hops were passed around and the 3.8% Hop Head from Darkstar was tasted next.

Then onto flavours in beer, which included



The Cairn Hotel

Main Road

Carrbridge

Inverness-shire

PH23 3AS

Tel: (01479) 841212

Fax: (01479) 841362

info@cairnhotel.co.uk

www.cairnhotel.co.uk

*20p real ale discount
for card carrying
CAMRA members*



Enjoy the country pub atmosphere - log fire, local real ales, large selection of malts and craft gins, plus good affordable food in this small, family owned, village centre hotel.

Close to the 1717 historic pack horse bridge over the River Dulnain, and nestling in the very heart of the Scottish Highlands, the Cairn Hotel is the perfect base for exploring the Cairngorms National Park, the Malt Whisky Trail, Loch Ness, Strathspey and Badenoch; and for visiting the nearby Cairngorm, Black Isle and Cromarty Breweries.

Walkers and cyclists are welcomed, and cyclists following Sustrans NCN Route 7, which goes past our front door, can take advantage of secure dry storage provided for bikes.

Ullapool's Premier Dining Experience

MOREFIELD MOTEL & MARINERS RESTAURANT

North Road, Ullapool, Ross-shire, IV26 2TQ

01854 612161

www.morefieldmotel.co.uk

Email: stay@morefieldmotel.co.uk

Proprietors: Mr & Mrs A.D. & B.J. Oulton

Accommodation bookings accepted online

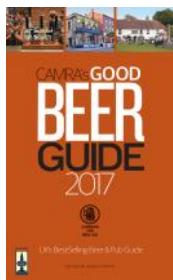


Listed in the Good Beer Guide for the 10th year.

A warm welcome & quality ales available from Tony & Bev

www.ullapoolbeerfestival.co.uk

Real Ale in the Real Highlands



Supporting Local breweries



Then it was onto beer styles and what gets the beers into the categories through strengths and ingredients. Then it was on to tasting cards which qualified CAMRA tasters can fill in. These are gathered together and are used for Good Beer Guide tasting notes and for entry to CAMRA competitions. Finally we had the golden 4.5% Jaguar from Kelburn Brewery. This beer came second to Tiny

the good, the bad and the ugly. Time for a blindfolded tasting and two beers this time; the excellently named Spey Valley Brewery Spey Stout, at 5.4%, and a 4.5% Lambic Faro (with it's sour/sweet fruity taste) to really get the taste buds going - Arnold, having just spent two weeks in Holland had no problems identifying this as a Lambic.

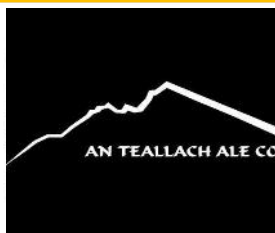
Rebel's Cwtch as the supreme CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain in 2015.

I would like to thank Steve Crossland for his hospitality and for getting a good range of beers which, as usual, were in excellent condition. Thanks also to Jay for serving us during the afternoon.

Real Ales

Real Cider

70+ Malt whiskies



GREAT FOOD TOO !

Like our beers we take time and care to bring you the best local produce cooked with pride ~ for you to enjoy

We are very proud of our
Real Ales & Cider
– so you can enjoy
them at their best



Kinlochewe Hotel

Kinlochewe, by Achnasheen

Wester Ross IV22 2PA



**Kinlochewe
HOTEL**

tel: 01445 760253
www.kinlochewehotel.co.uk

CBOS Heat results



Aberdeen judges: Claire Stevenson (Original FM), Andy Juroszek (Branch Pub of the Year, The Grill), Davy Shanks (STV), Paul Booth (Sponsor from CEVA), Ian Stewart (Branch Membership Secretary) and Andrew Chapman (Keith Brewery)

During the year at CAMRA beer festivals around Scotland, various categories of beer are judged for Champion Beer of Scotland (CBOS). During the past few months the following results have been won:

Bitter (Aberdeen)

1. Isle of Skye Young Pretender
2. Born in the Borders Game Bird
3. Orkney Raven

Strong Bitter (Paisley)

1. Cromarty Rogue Wave
2. Cairngorm Wildcat
3. Loch Ness HoppiNESS

Golden Ale (Paisley)

1. Fyne Ales Jarl
2. Alechemy Citra Burst
3. Cromarty Hit the Lip

Speciality (Larbert)

1. Cromarty Red Rocker
2. Harviestoun Schiehallion
3. Loch Ness Saaziness

Barley Wine/Strong Old Ale (Paisley)

1. Orkney Skull Splitter
2. Broughton Old Jock
3. Arran ID

Real Ale in a Bottle (Dark) (Glenrothes)

Tryst Double Chocolate Porter

Best Bitter (Edinburgh)

1. Swannay Scapa Special
2. Kelburn Misty Law
3. An Teallach An Teallach Ale

Porter (Edinburgh)

1. Sulwath Black Galloway
2. Inveralmond Rascal Porter
3. Cromarty Ghost Town
4. Fyne Ales Vital Spark
5. Ayr Rabbie's Porter
6. Wooha Porter

Real Ale in a Bottle (light) (Edinburgh)

1. Fyne Ales Superior IPA
2. Stewart Brewing Radical Road
3. Stewart Brewing Ka Pai
4. Tryst Raj IPA
5. Wooha Lager
6. Sulwath Solway Mist

The top winning beers will be put forward towards next year's Champion Beer of Britain.

CAMRA Champions

The Champion Beer of Britain was judged and announced at the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia in August.

The overall champion was Bingham's Vanilla Stout.



Sadly only one Scottish ale featured at the **Champion Beer of Britain** awards this year:

From the once great Scottish brewing town of Alloa, Williams Bros - Williams **Black** won the Gold award for the **Mild** category.

A worthy winner for a brewery that turns out so many excellent ales.





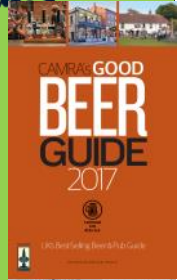
CAWDOR TAVERN

Cawdor Nairn IV12 5XP

Located just outside Inverness in the picturesque conservation village of Cawdor, serving modern Scottish food with flair. Log fires.

Quality, home-cooked food in warm & welcoming surroundings.

Lunch 12 - 2.00pm Dinner 5.30 - 9.00pm
Sat/Sun food served all day



Up to 4 ales on!



Follow A96 from Inverness to Nairn, take B9090 to Cawdor village

t: 01667 404 777 e: enquiries@cawdortavern.co.uk www: cawdortavern.co.uk

Complete systems from as little as **£7.95 per week***

**subject to status*

Demonstrations available!

We'll come to you

01463 711 263

support@eposnorth.co.uk
www.eposnorth.co.uk

EPOS NORTH

EPOS systems, with a personal touch



HebCelt 2016

The Hebridean Celtic Music Festival was held in Stornoway in mid-July. A record attendance this year meant that all accommodation was full and early booking was essential. Headline acts were Hayseed Dixie, Red Hot Chillie Pipers, Julie Fowlis, King Creosote, Breabach and Runrig. There were also lots of other very good acts around the main arena and also the local area. On the Acoustic stage were some excellent acts like Amythyst Kiah, James Mackenzie, Something Someone, Alan Frew and Sam Garrett.

With Loch Ness brewery beers not available, Steve Crossland and I thought the show must go on and agreed to run the real ale bar in the Acoustic tent.



Rachel, Eric and Marie behind the real ale bar

We gathered casks from Cairngorm and Deeside plus Loch Ness Cider and with the help of sisters Rachael and Marie were very busy from the start. Julie's Cocktail bar was also in the tent and we had a beer garden, this year with seats based on the famous Lewis Chessmen.



Our first night ritual was a meal in the excellent Digby Chick, which had bottles of Cairngorm beers. Yes, it was wet at times but that did not stop the enjoyment of this great event. We had plenty of friends come back from previous years to drink the

real ales and made plenty more during the event. There were stalls to keep the family entertained like the circus, bouncy castle, face painting and crafts. Food was also in good supply with local stalls selling fish and chips, burgers, pizzas cooked while you wait, cakes, ice cream and excellent seafood from the Seafood Shack. There was also a Carlsberg tent for those that like their drinks.

On the Sunday we did get our vehicle out - just, with the help of boards to stop us sinking too much, in plenty of time to catch the ferry home. While in Stornoway I visited the Hebridean Brewery which is near the ferry terminal and Tesco. Andy Ribbens was continuing the long process of turning part of the building into a visitor centre and bar. The bar is nearly finished and the last couple of glass viewing areas of the brewery are nearly in place, so it should be open soon.



Hebridean Brewery new brewing house

A brew was done on the previous day and loads of bottles were being boxed and stacked ready for delivery from the previous brew. The majority of their beer goes into bottles and sold mainly on the Islands and you can buy some on the ferry. The rest goes into casks and they do not do any kegs.

When this project is finished and open Andy is planning to set up a small 300 litre brew plant for trial brewing and guests to brew.

The **Carlton Bar** has two hand pumps but only one in use, a very good Isle of Skye Young Pretender (3) was on when we visited. The **Crown Hotel** has two bars and the same two beers were on in both; Deuchars (2), Green King IPA (2) and Isle of Skye Gold (3) came on later in the weekend.

The big drink of the moment is Harris Gin (which had a demonstration in our acoustic tent) and is prominent in the bars. We did not find any other place selling real ale but did find some empty handpumps that had been unused for some time. Cheers, Eric Mills.

Branch Breweries News

As part of CAMRA's support for real ale and real ale breweries, volunteers from among the branch membership can take on Brewery Liaison Officer (BLO) duties. BLOs liaise with "their" breweries, keeping in touch, offering encouragement and, if appropriate, advising. BLOs are asked to send news to CAMRA every three months, via on-line reports..

In Highlands & Western Isles branch, we now have 13 or 14 breweries and more breweries are starting up in our branch area and so for page space and our ability to gather news, we must prioritise breweries in our branch area. Other CAMRA branch magazines publish news written by the breweries themselves. This is **free publicity** to the very customer base that you want to appeal to.

Some of our breweries don't even have a CAMRA member on their staff but we would be happy to take any news you care to pass on to us - find contact info on the diary page.

Cromarty Brewing Co:

Still working flat out to meet demand for their various ales. This is despite squeezing in



more fermenter/conditioning tanks. Craig continues to experiment and do collaboration brews. Two recent beers in bottle were **Black Hop Down** 7.2% black IPA and an 8.8% **Man Overboard** double IPA.

Liquid Mountain:

Still in the planning and funding stage. As of late April plans to have the brewery in Beaulieu have definitely been shelved .

They recently advertised the bottling line they bought from Cromarty last year so nothing happening brewery wise this year it would appear..

Lots of communication and networking with other, local breweries via Twitter.



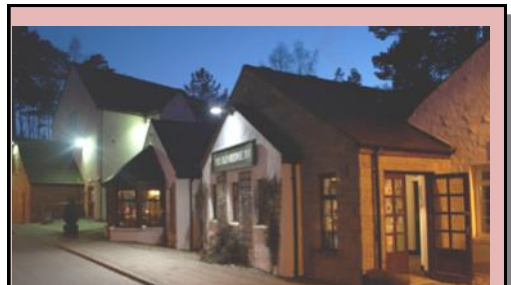
lack Isle Brewing Company;

Along with the opening of their Brewery tap in Inverness (see Pub



News), recent additions to the brewery team are starting to show their mettle with bottles of new and possibly experimental brews appearing. This is helping the brewery cement its reputation as a premier, organic, craft brewery. One new beer, back in April, was the gluten-free "**Greenfinch**".

Mike Gladwin co-wrote an interesting piece in



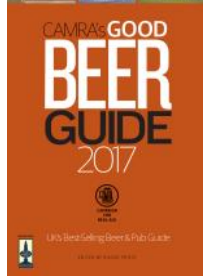
the Old Bridge Inn ~ Aviemore

Roaring log fire, cheerful atmosphere, excellent food and fine selection of wines, cask ales and malt whiskies. The varied



menus, featuring the very best of Highland produce from river, sea and land, are carefully designed to tempt every palate.

23 Dalfaber Road,
Aviemore, PH 22 1 PU
Tel: (01479) 811137
www.oldbridgeinn.co.uk



Edinburgh's "Ferment" craft beer paper on the ethos of the brewery and it's continuing efforts to be totally organic. The piece also talked about another four large conditioning tanks being added to the Brewhouse as well as preparations for the brewery tap in Church Street. The brewery will have hosted their annual "Jocktoberfest" by the time you are reading this. A weekend of beer and music which gets bigger each year.

Cairngorm Brewery;

The brewery has been very busy recently. In July they bottled over 100,000 bottles of beer. In the last week-end of August, the huge, annual "Thunder in the Glen" - Harley Davidson motorbike rally took place. This year the brewery did a special version of their continental golden ale to which they gave a Harley-Davidson name: "Hogswill".



Buzz is now being bottled due to popular demand (poster shown).



Cuillin Brewery;



Steve Bailey writes: June's beer of the month was **Sparrow Hawk**, July's is **Glamaig**, and there will be others for August and September. We have now three of our mainstream beers in Bottle (**Originale**, **Blackface**, **Pinnacle**), and **Eagle Ale** will be in bottle for the mid July.

Following that, Cuillin have bottled all four of their ales and have professionally redesigned their labels. When you have all four bottles together in the correct order, they present a simple graphic of the Cuillin ridge skyline - very smart.

Hebridean Brewing Company Ltd;



Looking at their Facebook page, the visitor centre has been done and was informally used for the first time in May. (See the Hebcelt article for more info.)

An Teallach Ale Co;

Keeping quiet as far as CAMRA is concerned but their keg lager "Scotia" is doing very well and at a recent branch meeting at the busy Morefield Motel, Ullapool, we were able to taste it and it is a lovely pint!



Plenty of lager hop aroma and flavours are balanced by a sweetish malt. Well worth looking out for in the North West and down South where they "export" to.

Isle of Skye Brewing Co;

Young Pretender has won Champion Bitter of Scotland at a judging at the Aberdeen Beer Festival. Casks are going out to Punch Taverns and Carlsberg. Bottles of **Yer Ben** are in ASDA, bottles of **Skye Red**, **Skye Gold** and **Yer Ben** are in Waitrose and Aldi are also stocking Isle of Skye bottled beers. Head Brewer Pam MacRuary left the brewery at the beginning of July. The company and brewery are now being managed from an office in the Glasgow area.





Glenfinnan Brewery;

Another of our small and very remote Highland breweries . Apart from travelling to Glenfinnan,

the most accessible place to try their ales is the Grog & Gruel in Fort William. No BLO - Is there a member who would like to volunteer?



River Leven Ales;

No news to report but hopefully Harry is happily brewing and delivering.



Wooha Brewing Company (Nairn);

From Alan Milton, Sales Manager, in late June:

The brewery won some prestigious awards in New York (see article on page 11). On Tuesday next week I'm heading out to Barcelona to do a couple of Tap Take Overs - one in Sabadella and one in Barcelona. Then on the 1-3 July we are taking a stand at the Fira de Cervesas del Poble Nou in Barcelona - a large International Beer Festival, see link - <http://www.lafiradelpoblenou.com>

We commenced a listing in 16 ASDA stores throughout Scotland in April 2016.

Glen Mhor;

No sign of anything happening so far but it is possible that Nico's Bar may be in the process of being demolished as you read this. Jon and Victoria Erasmus have people working on preparations for demolition and then building the brewery and café.

A visualisation of the proposed micro brewery on the Inverness riverside may be found on the BBC website reporting on the project.

They are planning to create 12 jobs and had hoped building would have started by now.

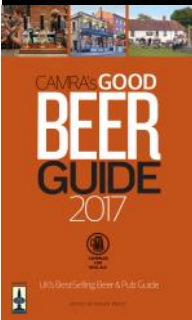
The Glen Mhor hosted a small beer festival, their third, in July. It ran for a week starting on the 15th - it was advertised on a website called "Skiddle".

BEYOND REAL ALE

- 000 GUINNESS TAPS
- 001 BEER GEEK OWNER
- 004 HANDPUMPS
- 035 MIKCELLERS
- 110 BELGIANS
- 260 MALTS



"Best Beer Bar in Scotland"
RateBeer.com



the **ANDERSON**
restaurant • whisky bar • accommodation

Fortrose, by Inverness
tel. 01381 620 236
www.theanderson.co.uk

Loch Ness Brewery:

Many of you will have read about the collapse of the Loch Ness Brewery but less common knowledge, perhaps, is the news that two long established Highland businesses have formed a partnership to revive this well known craft beer brand.

Loch Ness Beers disappeared from the shops earlier this year after the Drumnadrochit based parent company went bust.

Cairngorm Brewery has recently acquired the Loch Ness trademarks and 20 recipes from the failed micro-brewery's administrators Johnston Carmichael, and It has formed a partnership with hotel, cafe and craft bakery group Cobbs.

Under the arrangement, Cobbs will stock Loch Ness products at its outlets across Scotland.

The Loch Ness Beer brand had been developing in recent years, counting supermarket giant Asda among its high-profile contracts. Quotes shown under 'New Lease of Life' on the BBC News (Scotland) website -

Aviemore-based Cairngorm Brewery, which previously bottled beer for the collapsed Loch Ness Brewing Company, said it felt that the brand was too important to lose.

Managing director Sam Faircliff said: "The Loch Ness brand is so well known globally that it will be a great opportunity for the export market as well as here at home."

Rory Cameron, managing director of Cobbs Bakery, said: "We are delighted to join forces with Cairngorm Brewery and we look forward to bringing Loch Ness Brewery products to our 17 Cobbs outlets across Scotland and further afield in due course."

Gordon MacLure, restructuring partner at Johnston Carmichael, said: "It's pleasing to see a well-known brand like Loch Ness being given a new lease of life under the ownership of Cairngorm and Cobbs."

"The management teams of both businesses have the experience and infrastructure to take Loch Ness into a very bright future and we are very pleased to have played our part in helping preserve the existence of the iconic brand."

Plockton Brewery:

Nothing new reported but hopefully Andy is happily brewing.

Old Inn Brewhouse:

The 100 litre, micro brewery housed behind the **Old Inn at Gairloch**. ales can be sampled in the bar when they brew.

John O'Groats Brewery:

They are now up to four ales with the launch in June of "**Duncansbay**", a "beautiful, amber ale with a perfect blend of malty, caramel flavours".



There are rumours of a new brewery in the **Strathconon** area but nothing seems to be visible on the Interweb and we haven't heard anything of substance.

There are also rumours that the planned brewery in the **Knoydart** area, reportedly based in an old church building, is starting up but again, we haven't heard anything from a local member or from the brewery people themselves.

Scottish Beer Awards 2016

A new annual business event celebrating achievements in Scottish brewing presented fifteen awards covering taste and business performance. (Bottled beers only).

Judges on the independent expert panel included GBG editor Roger Protz.

Black Isle received silver awards for **Gold Finch** and **Porter**, and Orkney Brewery won bronze awards for their flagship **Dark Island** and **Dark Island Reserve**.

Isle of Skye (Product Development Team of the Year) and Black Isle (Scottish Brewery of the Year) were finalist in Business categories.

Full details may be found on the website including videos showcasing the Scottish Brewery of the Year finalists -

<http://www.scottishbeerawards.co.uk/>

Scottish Real Ale Festival 2016

The Corn Exchange near Slateford Station in Edinburgh was again the venue for this event held from 7th to 9th July. There were around 140 beers available at the start of this festival from around Scotland plus 24 real Ciders and Perrys, some from Scotland.



Bill and Jess running the cider bar



A technical fault meant that the smaller bar C was not ready until an hour after the start and this added another 30 beers to the selection. Some beers were not ready to be served at the start and came on as soon as they were, giving a total of around 180 different beers. So, plenty to have a taste of.

Among the new brews this year was the launch of Ferry Brewery's first ever beer **Ferry Fair**; Beath Brewing **Born Slippy Lager** and Funkytown **Fruity IPA**; Campervan's **Mutiny on the Bounty**; Keith Breweries **Pale Keith & Stout Keith**; Natural Selection **Volcan Wolf**.

A very good selection included beers from Alechemy, Stewart Brewing, Black Isle, Born in the Borders, Cairngorm, Cromarty, Fallen, Lawman, Lerwick, Loch Lomond, Orkney, Spey Valley, Strathaven, Swannay, Traquair House and Wooha.

Scottish Ciders were from Cairn O' Mohr, Clyde Cider, Thistly Cross and Waulkmill.

To go with the drinks, the BankHouse catering served a small but very good selection of food to suit all tastes.

Entertainment was on each day and was provided by the duo Macpolvo on Thursday, Andrew Gordon on Friday with The Caledonian Brewery Pipe band and Rab Howat Band on Saturday. There was a games corner where, if you were skillful enough or maybe lucky, you could win brewery related prizes. Other



stands were Membership, CAMRA shop, glass engraver, the very tasty chocolates from Oddfellows Chocolate Company and The Rookery Mead.

Volunteer numbers were good but a few more would have been useful.

Congratulations to the excellent Raj IPA, from The Tryst Brewery, which won Champion Beer of Scotland at a judging at the event. Raj IPA was the first cask to finish quickly followed by Mutiny on the Bounty.

At the close of the festival there was still around 70 beers available.

Planning has already started for next year and so make a note in your diary to be at the Corn Exchange, Edinburgh for 6th to 9th July.



Glen hotel

www.theglenhotel.co.uk

NEWTONMORE

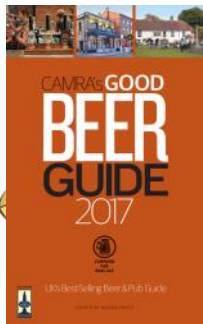
Fine Food
Lunchtime & evenings

Entertainment
on selected nights



Accommodation
stay the night and relax...

Four Hand Pumps
Plus selected bottled ales



The Glen - an Oasis within the
'Real Ale Desert of Badenoch



20p per pint
discount for card carrying
CAMRA members

Tel: 01540 673203

www.theglenhotel.co.uk

the Stronlossit Inn

at Roy Bridge

Tel: 01397 712253

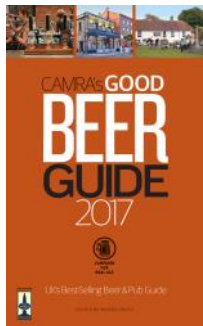
4 Real Ales on Tap



Open all day,
food & drinks
available all day



Substantial Bar Meals Menu available all day
Range of Malt Whiskies and Fine Wines,
an Open Fire and a Warm Welcome
A popular Rendezvous for Inn Guests, Outdoor
Enthusiasts and Local Regulars alike



www.stronlossit.co.uk

E-mail: stay@stronlossit.co.uk

Real Ale Pubs List

These Pubs, Inns and Hotels are known to sell (or to have recently sold) cask-conditioned ale.

They are listed in geographical area and area lists are in an order that would allow a continuous pub crawl if you have safe transport.

Please let us know about the quality of real ales on offer, particularly if you think Good Beer Guide inclusion is merited.

We make no claims as to the quality of the beer and you should note that some of the pubs listed may only stock real ale on a seasonal basis (S).

(TP) - ale served using top pressure so not fully real ale.

Additional note in *italics* gives discounts for card carrying CAMRA members .

Inverness

Blackfriars
Black Isle Bar
Caledonian
Castle Tavern
Clachnaharry Inn
Corriearth Hotel
Fairways Loch Ness Golf Course
Gellions
Glen Mhor Hotel (Nico's Bar)
Heathmount Hotel
Hootananny
Inshes Gate
Innes Bar
Johnny Foxes
Kings Highway *JDW 50p — which has a CAMRA info board near the main entrance*
Kingsmills Hotel (S)
Lauders
Mercure Hotel (Arts Bar) (TP)
Number 27
Palace Hotel (S)
Phoenix Ale House
Room
Snowgoose
Tomlinson's Beer Shop
Waterfront

Strathspey (route from N to S) Speyside

Gun Lodge — Ardersier
Inverness Airport (D'Lish)
Golf View Hotel & Spa (TP) - Nairn
Braeval Hotel (Bandstand) - Nairn
10% off rooms
Cawdor Tavern *20%/pint*
Haugh Hotel — Cromdale
Craig Bar — Grantown on Spey
Garth Hotel and Restaurant — Grantown on Spey
Grant Arms Hotel — Grantown on Spey
Seafield Lodge Hotel (Lodge Bar) -

Grantown on Spey
Muckrach Lodge Hotel — Dulnain
Bridge
Boat Hotel — Boat of Garten
Cairn Hotel (Rowanlea Bar) -
Carrbridge 20p/pint
Carrbridge Hotel ?

Aviemore

Macdhui's
Cairngorm Brewery
Cairngorm Hotel
Dalfaber Country Club
Mackenzies Highland Inn
Old Bridge Inn
Roo's Leap
Skiing Doo (Doo Below)
Winking Owl 20p/pint
Hilton Coylumbridge Hotel
(Woodshed Bar)
Pine Marten Bar — Glenmore

Badenoch

Glenmore Lodge (Lochain Bar)
Loch Inch Boathouse (Quarter Deck
Bar) - Kincaig
Suie Hotel — Kincaig
Kingussie Golf Club
Topsy Laird — Kingussie ???
Scot House Hotel—Kingussie
Duke of Gordon Hotel (Ghillies Rest
Bar) - Kingussie
Glen Hotel - Newtonmore *20p/pint*

Easter Ross

Black Isle

Royal Hotel — Cromarty
Cromarty Arms
Plough Inn — Rosemarkie *20p/ pint*
Anderson — Fortrose *B&B deal*
Station Hotel — Avoch
Allangrange Arms - Munloch *20p/ pint*

Inverness to Dingwall

Bog Roy — Inchmore
Conon Bridge Hotel
Edderton Inn (Hotel)

Inchbae Lodge Hotel — Garve
Aultguish Inn — Garve,

Strathconon

Slaters Arms — Cannich
Struy Inn

Loch Ness (c/w from Inverness)

Dores Inn
Craigdarroch Inn - Foyers
Whitebridge Hotel
Stravaigers Lodge — Fort Augustus
Bothy Bar — Fort Augustus
Caledonian Hotel (S) - Fort Augustus
Lock Inn — Fort Augustus
Lovat Arms Hotel (TP) — Fort Augustus
Glenmorrison Arms Hotel—
Invermorrison
Loch Ness Inn - Lewiston
Benleva Hotel — Drumnadrochit
Loch Ness Lodge (S) —Drum.

Fort William

Fort William (North)

Invergarry Hotel
Great Glen Water Park — South
Laggan
Eagle Barge (S) - South Laggan
Old Station Restaurant — Spean
Bridge
Stronlossit Hotel — Roy Bridge
Corrou Station House Restaurant
(restaurant) — Corrou Estate

Fort William (Town)

Moorings Hotel - Banavie
Ben Nevis Bar
Ben Nevis Inn — Achintee
Cobbs @ Nevisport
Crofter Bar & Restaurant
Glen Nevis Restaurant (S)
Grog & Gruel
Great Glen *JDW 50p*

Real Ale Pubs List

West End Hotel

Fort William (South)

Four Seasons - Onich *10p/pint*

Onich Hotel

Loch Leven Hotel - Ballachulish

Glencoe Inn

Clachaig Inn - Glencoe

Kings House Hotel - Glencoe

Ice Factor - Kinlochleven

MacDonald Hotel - Kinlochleven

Fort William (West)

Glenfinnan House Hotel

Glenug Inn

Glenug Village Hall

Loch Shiel Hotel - Acharacle

Salen Hotel

Ariundle Centre — Strontian

Arisaig Hotel (Crofters Rest)

Chlachain Inn — Mallaig

Steam Inn — Mallaig

West Highland Hotel (S) - Mallaig

Old Forge — Inverie

Wester Ross & Gairloch

Cluanie to Kyle of Lochalsh

Cluanie Inn

Glengel Inn

Kintail Lodge Hotel (Kintail Bar) -

Glenshiel Bridge

Jac-o-bite Restaurant, Glenshiel

Dornie Hotel

Clachan Bar — Dornie

Plocton to Gairloch

Plocton Inn

Plocton Hotel

Strathcarron Hotel

Lochcarron Hotel

Applecross Inn (TP)

Tigh an Eilean Hotel — Shieldaig

Torridon Inn (TP) — Annat

Kinlochewe Hotel

Ledgowan Lodge Hotel —

Achnasheen

Loch Maree Hotel — Talladale

Badachro Inn (TP)

Gairloch

Old Inn

Myrtle Bank Hotel

Millcroft Hotel

Gairloch to Ullapool

Poolewe Hotel

Aultbae Hotel (Jam Jar Bar)

Drumchork Hotel (S) - Aultbae

Dundonnell Hotel (Broombeg

Bar)

Ullapool

Arch Inn

Argyll Hotel *20p/pint, B&B deal*

Ceilidh Place (TP)

Ferry Boat Inn *20p/pint, B&B*

deal

Morefield Motel

Seaforth Bar & Restaurant

Ullapool North

Summer Isles Hotel —

Achiltibuie

Caithness and Sutherland

West Coast

Altnacealgach Inn — Ledmore

Junction

Inchnadamph Hotel (S) - Assynt

Caberfeidh — Lochinver

Kylesku Hotel (S)

Scourie Hotel

North Coast

Sango Sands Oasis (S) - Durness

Smoo Cave Hotel (S) - Durness

Ben Loyal Hotel (S) - Tongue

Tongue Hotel (S)

Weigh Inn (Ashes Bar) - Thurso

Commercial Hotel - Thurso

Central Hotel (Top Joes) - Thurso

Holburn Hotel (Bar 16) - Thurso

Ulster Arms Hotel (S) - Halkirk

Northern Sands Hotel — Dunnet

Seaview Hotel — John O'Groats

East Coast

Alexander Bain — Wick *JDW 50p*

Mackays Hotel - Wick

Bay Owl Restaurant — Dunbeath

Bannockburn Inn (TP) - Helms-

dale

Belgrave Arms Hotel — Helms-

dale Sutherland Inn — Brora

Golspie Inn

Trentham Hotel — Poles, nr Dor-

noch

Eagle Hotel — Dornoch

Dornoch Castle Hotel

Dunroamin Hotel — Bonar

Bridge

Invershin Hotel

Achness Hotel — Rosehall (SW

of Lairg)

Crask Inn — N of Lairg

Skye

Sligachan Hotel (Seumas' Bar) (S)

Old Inn — Carbost

Taigh Ailean Hotel (Munros Bar)

- Portnalong *20p/pint & B&B*

deal

Old School Restaurant (S) - Dun-

vegan

Stein Inn — Waternish

Edinbane Inn

Lodge at Edinbane

Uig Hotel

Bakur Bar — Uig

Ferry Inn — Uig

Bosville Hotel - Portree

Isles Inn — Portree

Portree Hotel

Royal Hotel (MacNab's Inn) -

Portree

Sconser Lodge Hotel

Broadford Hotel (Gabbro Bar)

Dunollie Hotel - Broadford

Claymore Restaurant — Broad-

ford

Hebridean Hotel - Broadford

Saucy Marys Lodge (S) - Kyleakin

Isle Ornsay Hotel - Sleat

Ardvasar Hotel (Hideout Bar)

Western Isles N to S

An Lanntair Arts Centre - Stor-

noway, Lewis (S)

Carlton, Stornoway, Lewis

Crown Inn (Harbour Bar) - Stor-

noway

Hotel Hebrides (Mote Bar) (S) -

Tarbet, Harris

Isle of Harris Inn (S) - Tarbet,

Harris

Hamersay House — Lochmaddy,

N Uist

Lochmaddy Hotel - N Uist

Langass Lodge (S) - Loch Elport,

N Uist

Westford Inn, Claddach, Kirki-

bost, N Uist

Borrodale Hotel (S) - Daliburgh, S

Uist

Polochar Inn — Lochboisdale, S

Uist (S)



CAMRA's GOOD
BEER
GUIDE
2017



UK's Best Selling Beer & Pub Guide



the Winking Owl



The legendary "Winky" is now managed by Cairngorm Brewery, following extensive refurbishment. A cosy, warm atmosphere, serving outstanding food and an impressive range of award winning keg & craft ales brewed right here in Aviemore.

Opening Times

Monday to Wednesday – 11.00am until 12.00 midnight
Thursday to Saturday – 11.00am until 1.00am
Sunday – 12.30pm until 12.00 midnight

Food served all day

Monday to Saturday
12.00 midday until 9.30pm

Sundays
12.30pm – 9.30pm

Grampian Road • Aviemore • PH22 1RH
T: 01479 812368 E: info@thewinkingowl.co
www.thewinkingowl.co

Winking Owl is the site of the Aviemore Inn where Robbie Burns was served breakfast in 1787!

Real Ale at Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival

The annual Belladrum festival was a sell out 18,000 this year with Madness and Darkness the headline acts, and plenty of other top quality entertainment around this ever expanding family event.

There was real ale at Belladrum again this year. The Black Isle Brewery had their usual bar next to the Grassroots Stage, which they sponsor and which is close to the main Garden Stage. Although most of their beers were keg they did have two excellent real ales. Now established, over in the walled garden there was the Burke and Hair Real Ale Bar with its



Burke & Hair Real Ale bar and theatre

Theatre Stage. This is getting very popular with some excellent acts throughout the day and evening catering for all tastes with DJ's, live music, mime, acrobats, dance, readings, etc. Although not run by the CAMRA Branch this year, there were still some excellent real ales available.

Cairngorm Brewery did a lot of the logistics and loaning of equipment, so they had more of the beers including their Champion Beer of Scotland 2015 - **Black Gold**.

There were beers from Deeside, Spey Valley and Loch Lomond's Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) Champion Beer of Britain **Southern Summit**.

We also had the 5% Loch Ness Gold cider which sold extremely well.

Special thanks must go to the volunteers who made this such an enjoyable event; Gareth, Anne, John, Lauren, George, Angus, Amber, Liam, Kirsty, Karen, Eric, and Steve. Also a big



Belladrum Volunteers - Amber, Karen and Lauren

thanks to Isle of Skye Brewery who ran the Gin Bar adjoining us, 'Mr Fixit' Craig, and bar builder Gordon and his team.

Dates for next year are 3rd to 5th August.

New Endeavours

Angus MacRuary, ex-owner of the Isle of Skye Brewery has branched out into chocolate. He now runs The Isle of Skye Chocolate Company and as well as mainline chocolates, has started to experiment with beer and whisky in the ganache filled truffles.

Angus says "Some of the flavours that I had thought would have worked have been a failure but more experiments are in progress using other beers and whiskies.

At the moment I have produced three good beer ones. Unfortunately, two of them are not likely to be repeated due to the Loch Ness Brewery situation as they are Nessiah and Prince of Darkness. I fully expected PoD to give a good flavour and was right there.

Nessiah surprised me, as the hoppiness has come to the fore and is excellent. The best one we have done so far is using Isle of Skye Cuillin Beast. Poit Dubh and Ardmore 10 year old whiskies have also been a success."

We wish Angus well in his new venture. Ed.



Newly
Refurbished
Bedrooms
now open



ALLANGRANGE ARMS

Serving real ales, fine wines and freshly cooked gourmet pub food

54 Millbank Road, Munloch, IV8 8NL
01463 819862 Find us on AllangrangeArms
www.AllangrangeArms.com



BEER
WORTH
BELIEVING IN

CROMARTY BREWING CO.
BEER WORTH BELIEVING IN

- AKA IPA** (6.7%)
- ATLANTIC DRIFT** (3.5%)
- RED ROCKER** (5%)
- HAPPY CHAPPY** (4.3%)
- GHOST TOWN** (5.8%)
- ROGUE WAVE** (5.7%)
- HIT THE LIP** (3.8%)
- BREWED AWAKENING** (4.7%)

WEB: cromartybrewing.co.uk

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/CromartyBrewing

TWITTER: @cromartybrewing

The King's Highway

72-74 Church Street, Inverness.
01463 251 800
F King's Highway-Wetherspoon



A recently refurbished, 27 room JD Wetherspoon, hotel.

2016 Good Beer Guide entrant with 10 hand pulls serving Caledonian Deuchars IPA as our house ale at £1.95 and Green King's Abbot at £2.29. We have a network of 50 brewers from across the UK, rotating quarterly plus regular beers from Strathaven, TSA, Houston, Cairngorm, An Teallach & Orkney.

Food served daily from 7am-11pm (8am Saturday & Sunday) and free wi-fi throughout the bar & hotel. Free pint of any ale with any burger, steak or hotdog every day.



Best rates at
www.jdwetherspoonhotels.co.uk

OVER THE SEA TO SKYE

Having finally retired, I decided 2016 was the year to start to visit pubs on some of the UK's islands. The first planned trip, to the Isle of Man in early May, didn't happen as I had to go into hospital for a serious heart operation. However I ensured that part of my personal recovery programme involved travelling progressively further and then adding night stops; these trips inevitably visited some pubs too! By late July, I felt I would be in a fit enough state to for some long distance travel in the month ahead and was casting around for what to do when I came across a copy of "What's Yours Then" in Manchester (yes they do get that far afield!). In the magazine, I noticed a forthcoming trip to the Isle of Skye.

So, after an exchange of e-mails, the plans were set - a near 800 miles round trip by train from Stockport to Inverness to join the CAMRA trip for my first visit to the island. It was a cool, foggy August Saturday morning when I met other members near the Town House awaiting our transport. Having loaded into the hired people carrier, we then set off in the opposite direction to Skye, but this was just to go to the BP petrol station for coffee to sustain us for the long journey west!

My local CAMRA branch, Stockport and South Manchester, has about the same number of cask outlets (around 200) as the Highlands and Islands CAMRA Branch. However that is where the similarity ends. Stockport's pubs are contained in an area of about 100 square miles and virtually all are accessible by the frequent public transport. The Highlands and Islands Branch patrols over 13,000 square miles - an area bigger than the size of Belgium - with little public transport. To add to this, the Outer Hebridean islands are only accessible by ferry, which means it's a difficult task to keep track of pub and brewery changes in the area. So if you notice any changes to the availability of cask beer or pub openings and closures, please let the local CAMRA branch know - the contacts are shown in the magazine.

The trip to Skye had several objectives - to revisit some of the pubs there and assess beer quality, to deliver some Good Beer Guide information packs for those pubs selected for the

2017 Guide and distribute copies of the local CAMRA magazine. Most importantly however, the idea was to have a great social day out with good beer and so it proved.

From Inverness to our first stop at Sligachan was just over 100 miles on normal A roads, passing through some spectacular scenery. The sun broke through the clouds as we were passing along the northern shore of Loch Ness and it stayed like that all the way through the towering mountains of Glen Shiel, round the shores of Lochs Duich and Alsh and past the imposing Eilean Donan Castle. Blink and you miss Kyle of Localsh where the railway ends and you used to have to get a ferry across to Skye. Now the Skye Bridge speeds you across onto the Island, but it was still 25 miles to our first pub, with our journey passing along the coast and then skirting the breathtaking Cuillin Mountains.

So after a thirst-building 150 minutes or so, we were at our first pub, The Sligachan Hotel and Seamus' Bar. The bar is in something that approximates to an Alpine chalet and serves over 400 different types of whisky; this will rise to 500 after a refurbishment over the winter. But what about the beer? Well, the place is home to the Cuillin Brewery which can be seen through windows in an adjacent building. The 5 barrel plant started operation here in 2004, having originally come from the Physician and Firkin in Edinburgh. On the bar today were Cuillin OriginAle 4.1%, Pinnacle 4.7% and It Takes Two 2.4% whilst Orkney Red MacGregor 4% was the guest. I tried the low gravity beer which didn't have much of a taste to it unlike some other low gravity beers I have tried.

The Inverness to Portree bus (917) passes by here three times a day.

Off the beaten track for five miles now to the Old Inn, Carbost, close to the famous Talisker Distillery. The Inn sits by the shores of Loch Harport and has a number of small rooms, but today most customers were taking advantage of the glorious weather, sitting outside overlooking the Loch. Food features heavily with gigantic portions of Fish and Chips being served. There are three hand pumps, serving on our visit Cuillin OriginAle 4.1%, Atlas Latitude 3.6% and a pump clip that I recognised; it

(Continued on page 30)

We would be delighted to share our amazing food and drink with you at...

The Applecross Inn

Scotland Pub of the Year 2012!

CAMRA Wester Ross, Highlands and Islands Pub of the Year



Food served all Day / **The Freshest Seafood** /
Amazing Shoreside Location / 7 Sea view Rooms

Shore Street, Applecross, Strathcarron, Wester Ross / For up-to-date specials and offers, visit our Twitter and Facebook
t. 01520 744262 e. applecrossinn@btconnect.com www.applecross.uk.com

Why not also visit our renowned sister hotel...

RELAX INTO THE SIMPLE PLEASURES OF LIFE AT THE LOCH NESS INN...

EATING / DRINKING / SLEEPING

SERVING LOCALLY BREWED ALES FROM THE LOCH NESS BREWERY!

Great food, modern rooms and quaint bar on the banks of Loch Ness, between Drumnadrochit and Urquhart Castle, We look forward to giving you a warm welcome...

Dining in the Lewiston restaurant is more than just food; it's an experience. You can enjoy your food and drink all day inside or out. House speciality's include our famous Applecross Bay Prawns and locally sourced ingredients, a seasonal specials board, with something for everyone.

Scottish Hotel Awards

Gold Medal for "Real & Local Food"
Rising Star Inn of the year 2011

Michelin Pub Food Guide 2012/13

the
lochness inn



Lewiston, Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire IV63 6UW info@staylochness.co.uk +44 (0)1456 450991

For up-to-date specials and offers, follow us on Twitter and Facebook or visit www.staylochness.co.uk

(Continued from page 28)

was a beer produced by Hydes in Manchester under the brand name Beer Studio and was called Tiger Bullion at 4.5%! I asked how it got there and was told it was on Carlsberg's list, so they were trying some. I'm sure I'll find that in Manchester, so I had the Latitude which I rated as good.

Next it was back round the Loch and then north again for 25 miles to the Stein Inn at Waterness on the North West corner of the Island.



All of us (less Ed, the photographer), enjoying our drink and the sun outside The Stein Inn

Set above Loch Bay, this typical low set cottage type building is the oldest pub on the Island and was the Branch's Pub of the Year in 2015. The long standing landlord prides himself in keeping a good pint of Deuchars IPA and so it proved. Other beers available were Northern Light (4.0%) and Summer Breeze (3.2%).

Already busy with tourists, an extended stop was made here to give the driver a rest and for us sample more beer and admire spectacular views from the lawn opposite the pub. Visibility was excellent across the calm sparkling seas to the islands of North Uist, Harris and Lewis and with a gentle breeze blowing and sun shining down, what an ideal place to be. Meanwhile England was being battered by lashing rain and high winds!

Our man with local knowledge then discovered that our next stop may now open all day at weekends and so it proved. The Edinbane Inn in Edinbane has relatively new owners who are progressively refurbishing the place and the toilets were spectacular. Yes, but never mind

all that - two Isle of Skye cask beers were offered; Red 4.2% and Blaven 5.0%, both in good condition. Accommodation, food and good music in the evenings are also available.

It was a short walk - yes walk - to the next place, the Lodge. By contrast, this is a coaching inn dating from the 16th Century. It's been owned for some time by a chap from Lancashire and he pulled through a good few skooches from the one handpump before pulling our 1st order. The clip on the pump had seen better days and I forgot to ask whether this was an exclusive house beer or a re-badge - that will have to remain a mystery.

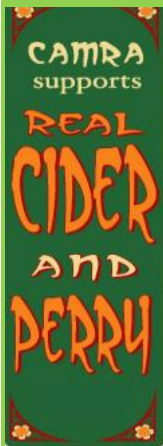
Continuing northwards, it's 10 miles as the crow flies from Edinbane to Uig. But it's double that as a minibus goes, as you have to go round another big loch, wonderfully named Snizort Beag. Uig lies at the end of the A87 and is the terminus for ferries to the islands of Uist and Harris. To be found near the pier is the Bakur Bar, a typical single storey traditional bar and somewhere to while away the time waiting for a ferry as many were doing. Isle of Skye Red 4.2% and IPA 5% on handpull, and in decent condition, whilst the oatmeal and honey Skye Black (4.5%) had recently run out. This is definitely a local ale as the brewery is literally across the road!

It's 130 miles or three hours back to Inverness from here and with time pressing, we left just before a ferry docked. There was no time to investigate the other two cask outlets in Uig about a mile out of town up the hill. Passing close to Portree, where cask beer can usually be found in some hotels, especially in summer, we completed our circuit of the northern part of the island back at Sligachan. Once more we negotiated the Cuillin mountains and passed through Broadford, where again some of the hotels offer cask beer. At Kyle, we made a toilet stop and most took the opportunity to visit the local chippy. Here we encountered our only rain of the day which started when we got there and stopped as we left!

There was one more visit planned, the isolated Cluanie Inn on the main road some 25 miles east of Kyle. That's all that is there; however the pub does food, accommodation and also has a handy petrol station. With the wind having died down, the rain having stopped and the

(Continued on page 32)

Traditional Cider Matters



Real Cider and/or Real Perry is sold (or has recently been sold) in the following inns & hotels. (Please note that some may be seasonal outlets). Please let us know if you find additional outlets selling real cider or perry.

The Anderson, Fortrose - Thatchers Heritage Cider

Eagle - Inn on the Loch, Laggan Locks - Thatchers Original Cider

Stronlossit Inn, Roy Bridge - Thatchers Cheddar Valley Cider

Strathcarron Hotel - Thatchers Cider (rotated with cask ales)

Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit - Thatcher's Heritage Cider all year round, plus bottled ciders, selection of real ciders for festivals

Scourie Hotel - Two Westons Ciders on handpump

King's Highway, Inverness - Real Cider is on draft during their 2 beer festivals each year

Alexander Bain, Wick - Westons Old Rosie & Organic Draught Vintage Cider; Thatchers Heritage & Dry Cider

Badachro Inn - Westons Cider is served here

Argyll Hotel, Ullapool - several ciders are usually always available - more during festivals

Torridon Inn - Westons Ciders are served in the bar

Kinlochewe Hotel, at the foot of Beinn Eighe, is serving Westons Family Reserve Draft Cider

Clachaig Inn, Glencoe - Westons cider on hand pump.

Bandstand Bar, Nairn - Westons ciders on handpump plus wider selections at their festivals.

Grog & Gruel, Fort William - Thatchers Heritage cask cider. On tap for as long as sales make it viable - could be all year round but unfortunately sales usually drop dramatically during winter months.



(Continued from page 30)

sun having come out, we thought we would sit out to enjoy our last beer in the outdoor area. However, we soon discovered that the famous Scottish Highland midges were out in force and beat a hasty retreat inside; no wonder the area was deserted! On offer at the bar were Orkney Red MacGregor and Northern Light in decent condition. The multi-room pub was quite busy for it's location with most people dining.

It was still 50 miles to Inverness, with a brief stop to let one of our passengers off at Drumadrochit on the shores of Loch Ness.

No sign of Nessie again on this visit; she was probably remaining submerged to avoid the midges! Inverness was reached at about 9.15pm in time for people to get buses home. It was a most enjoyable day out and thanks to the local CAMRA branch for the organisation and particularly Mike for the driving.

There are usually three trips a year starting in Inverness and anyone can go; you don't have to be a CAMRA member. So why not try one - you will probably get to pubs you have never been to before, drink some great beer and have a fine time with the friendly locals. In case you can't make one of the trips, why not organise your own tour using www.whatpub.com - but remember to have a designated driver?

These places deserve our support for offering cask beer; remember if we don't use them we will lose them.

Cheers! Chris Walkden.

New Owners for the Whitebridge Hotel

After quietly being on the market for the last few years, new owners took over in June. A young couple, Gail from Whitebridge and her husband Andrew Tilbrook, who is a real ale fan, had been spending family holidays in the area for years and took the bold step of buying the traditional, highland lodge hotel they enjoyed visiting.

The bar continues to offer three good real ales in summer, dropping to one or maybe two in the quieter months.

We wish them good luck.

WooHa wins in New York

Nairn-based WooHa Brewing Company has won a sweep of Awards at the recent New York International Competition.

The brewery, established in 2015, received a Bronze award for its WooHa Porter and a Silver award for its WooHa IPA, topped off with being crowned 'Scotland Brewery of the Year' by the judges who were all trade buyers from retail stores, hotel chains and distributors from across the USA.

Now in its fifth year the competition had 400+ beer entries from twelve countries.

WooHa entered beers the New 'Taste



their while at York and Trade Show' in March this year and was delighted -but surprised - with their success as WooHa Director Heather McDonald commented:

"New York is such a hub for craft beers from around the world we didn't expect to do as well as we did in the first year.

The feedback was great and it has given us confidence that our beers will fit in well in the American market."

Although just over a year old the WooHa Brewing Company has strong ambitions to export to the USA market and has already secured an American importer, expecting to deliver its first container of beer in the autumn of this year.

TOMLINSONS



CASTLE STREET BEER SHOP



Over ³⁵⁰~~300~~ of the Best Bottled Beers
from Scotland and around the World.
Real Ale and Cider To Take Home
in 4 Pint Growlers.

We deliver throughout the North of Scotland.

See website for details or contact the shop.

79 Castle Street, Inverness, IV2 3EA.

Tel 01463 719858



View the whole range with tasting notes at:



www.tomlinsonsbeershop.co.uk

End of the Line

When asked by my wife how I would like to spend my 70th birthday, my request took her by surprise - quite simply to travel the Highland line.

Now over the years I have travelled Inverness to Kyle and Wick/Thurso, along with Glasgow to Oban. So, this was if you like, the final nail in the coffin so to speak of northern scenic rail journeys. To do the journey in one day from my home in Largs would have been possible but decided to stay overnight in Fort William. Travel writers wax lyrical about the journey from Fort William, there is much beauty en route. For instance, from Dumbarton the train travels along the River Clyde north shore before the Gare Loch and Lochs Long and Lomond come into view (and yes it was a clear day).

Some seven hours after leaving home, arrived in Mallaig and was glad of a walkabout, if only to stretch my legs. Of course walking is thirsty work, so sought out the Chlachin and Steam Inns - not chancing the West Highland hotel as possibly too early in the season. Sadly the Chlachin was closed, therefore retired to the Steam where over a lively Young pretender I got chatting to the landlord (Timothy Taylor!!).

Why the bottles of Ayr brewing? - simply because the landlord comes from Ayr and so wants a taste of home. I also learnt that the John Smith's Smooth is likely to be replaced by another handpump. Soon it was time for hauf and a hauf for the (rail) road and back to Fort William.

After checking into my hotel and freshening up, it was time to sample the real ale in "the Fort".

My first port of call Cobbs, with the relatively local brews being Dark Island and Lightness on offer. I decided on trying the Lightness which sadly was not to my taste. By then in need of something to eat decided on going to the Great Glen, and hopefully enjoy one or two of the festival ales. This was day six of the festival and only one, and that was Irish, of the festival ales was on offer. After ordering my meal I asked whether there would be any festival ales on next day - the answer was no, but then that is Wetherspoons stock answer - coming soon!!

Fed but not watered, I decided to venture into the Ben Nevis bar - a biro written sign indicated Black Cat Reserve. The bar maid did not know the brewer (Moorhouse) and said it had only gone on that morning - so glad to only sample a half.

Enough was enough for the night so adjourned to

my bed. I decided to retrace my steps on the morrow and enjoyed a couple of pints of Dark Island in Cobbs. Then it was onto the Grog and Gruel which reminded me of a much frequented ale house in Darlington. After the previous night's Lightness it was time to try some Hoppiness, which sadly again was not to my taste. What I did find refreshing were the two flavoured ciders on offer.

Tempus fugit, and soon it was time to be making tracks to the railway station, but not before a hauf of Glenfarclas at 60%. Haste ye back for the scene and *uisge-beatha*, but fail on the ale.

Cheers! Phil Chinery.

Loch Ness Beer Festival

Loch Ness Beer Festival

In September, the Highlands' longest running beer festival at The Benleva Hotel in Drumadrochit was again a success. The pub was decorated out with table cloths, sparkly lights and new curtains. During the week they had music from Tweed, Penny Dogs and Box of Bananas plus an 80's night.

On Monday was a poker tournament won by Wizard; Tuesday and Wednesday was the pool tournament won by Dave; Thursday was the quiz won by 'Willies on the loose'. The guest quizmaster was ex employee Willie Scot, (pictured) now living back



home in Dunblane. Festival glasses were available together with a very good festival menu. Cider and Perry drinkers were catered for with a selection, including some with Rhubarb or Raspberry in them. The beers were a selection from Scottish breweries; Swannay, Spey Valley, Isle of Skye, An Teallach, Cromarty, Lerwick, Fyne, Cairngorm, Windswept and Orkney. My favourites were Swannay **Dark Munro**, Lerwick **Azure**, Spey Valley **Spey Stout** and Cromarty **Rogue Wave**.

Stein Inn

THE OLDEST INN ON SKYE



Highland & Western Isles area winner since 2007

Highland & Western Isles branch POTY 2015

Magical places do exist ... just journey down a narrow winding road that leads to the sea and nestled in a charming hamlet is the very place of your dream: the Stein Inn.



An eighteenth-century inn on the sea shore that will have you yearning to visit again and again to experience the warm Scottish welcome, fine food, superb accommodation, traditional highland bar offering real ales and over 125 malt whiskies.

Angus & Teresa McGhie,
Stein Inn, Waternish,
Isle of Skye, IV55 8GA

Tel: +44 (0)1470-592362
angus.teresa@steininn.co.uk

The finest and freshest seafood and local produce is readily available transformed at the Stein Inn into mouth-watering, home-cooked dishes.



The Castle Tavern

Taigh-òsda à chaisteil

Open all day, food served all day, a great range of Real Ales
At the top of Castle Street, Inverness, overlooking the River Ness
at the start/finish of the Great Glen Way Tel: 01463 718178

A Campaign of Two Halves



Fair deal on beer tax

Save Britain's Pubs!

Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription.

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to the: Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

Your Details

Title _____ Surname _____ Single Membership £24 £26
 Forename(s) _____ (UK & EU)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____ Joint Membership £29.50 £31.50
 Address _____ (Partner at the same address)

Postcode _____
 For Young Member and other concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

Email address _____ I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title _____ Surname _____ I enclose a cheque for _____
 Forename(s) _____ Signed _____ Date _____

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____ Applications will be processed within 21 days

Email address (if different from main member) _____ 01/15

Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers

Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs

Join CAMRA today - www.camra.org.uk/joinus

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:
 Campaign for Real Ale Ltd,
 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Payee Bank or Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder

Bank or Building Society Account Number Branch Sort Code

Reference

Service User Number 9 2 6 1 2 9

FOR CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE LTD OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number

Name Postcode

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Campaign for Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards contained by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that the instructions may remain with Campaign for Real Ale Limited and it will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

(Signature) Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account. This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payee.

The Direct Debit Guarantee



* The Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debit.

** There are no charges to the account, date or frequency of your Direct Debit. The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or an alternative agreed. If you require that Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to reduce a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.

** A service made in the presence of your Direct Debit by the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.

** If you receive a refund you are not entitled to you must pay it back when The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to.

** You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.



WHAT?PUB



whatpub.com
 Featuring over 35,000 real ale pubs

Thousands of pubs at your fingertips!



Over 96% of Britain's real ale pubs featured

Information updated by thousands of CAMRA volunteers

Created by CAMRA who produce the UK's best beer & pub guide

Duke Of Gordon Hotel

Newtonmore Rd, Kingussie, PH21 1HE
Cairngorm National Park



Originally a 19th Century Coaching Inn the Duke of Gordon Hotel has been offering a warm Highland Welcome with food & lodging to weary travellers for over 170 years. With good food and real ales why not pay us a visit?

- Fine Home Cooked Meals cooked to order using fresh Scottish produce.
- Food served 12 noon to 8.30pm daily
- 2 Cairngorm Ale Hand Pumps
- Selected Bottled Ales
- Large Selection of Malt Whisky
- Fine Wines
- Accommodation – all rooms ensuite
- Live Entertainment most evenings



Tel: (01540) 661302
Email reception@dukeofgordonhotel.co.uk
Web: www.dukeofgordonhotel.co.uk

Aberdeen & Grampian Real Ale Festival

After many years of wanting to go, I finally made it to our most accessible CAMRA Ale Festival for us in the Highlands. I went on the Friday afternoon and along with my wise and helpful guide (Retired Chairman Eric), I managed to try several ales.



Norman and Neil happy at the front desk

The festival had opened the previous afternoon with a "trade" session and judging of a category of CBOS. It was pleasantly quiet in the cavernous, concrete hallway under the Dick Donald Stand at Pittodrie. The bar was one long (about 100 yards) bar with casks in two tiers of scaffolding behind the bar. Around 100 ales were available with the volunteer staff pouring direct from the requested



cask into your festival glass. Pricing varied according to the ale but you paid with tokens which you bought at the front desk - easy and clean!

My first taste was **Windswept's** new **1806** "a classic Scottish stout" at 5% which I had tried at the Bandstand ale fest. It was ok but disappointing considering how great Windswept ales usually are. (3). Then, on the advice of my wise guide, **Burnside Raspberry Heffe** 5% hefeweizen. And it was lovely! Very fruity as you might expect from the



Cooling King Jim

name and cloudy, of course, but well balanced with malt and hops (4).

Couldn't resist **Rudgate York Chocolate Stout** 5%. Two favourites in one! Stout and Chocolate and yes, it lived up to it's name (4.5). Next **High Weald Charcoal Burner** 4.3% stout although my guide did advise that I might be disappointed. He was right. Very burnt flavour which I suppose is fair enough given it's name but it was also a bit "watery" (2.5). Next up was an ale from our newest, Highland, brewery - **John O' Groats Swelkie** 4%. It was a nice, golden ale with good aromas but it "died in the glass" once I was halfway through it (3). This happened to quite a few of my ales at last years GBBF - a place where you might expect the ales to be in top condition.

A step up to **Grafton Silhouette Vanilla** 4% - a pale coloured ale with vanilla, of course, so a speciality ale. It was a lovely, sweet, fruity golden ale (4). My excellent guide had to leave me to go and do some festival work but he had time to warn me about my next choice - **Great Heck Black Jesus**. A 6.5% black IPA - from North Yorkshire so should be good - "brewed with biblical quantities of American hops" and by God, they are correct! On my first taste, I did actually blaspheme! Amazing, tons of hops in the taste. (3.5) After that, my tastebuds and my brain were getting well past it but I judged



(Continued on page 41)



THE FERRY BOAT INN

ULLAPOOL



NIGEL & FRANNER
OF THE ARGYLL HOTEL
WELCOME YOU FOR WELL-KEPT
REAL ALES, FRIENDLY PUB
ATMOSPHERE, WEEKLY LIVE MUSIC.
CASK MARQUE ACCREDITED



BLUE KAZOO
Seafood Café

SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
SPECIALISING IN FRESH
LOCAL SEAFOOD
OPEN ALL DAY



THE FERRY BOAT INN SHORE STREET ULLAPOOL IV26 2UJ
01854 612422 STAY@FBIULLAPOOL.COM
WWW.FBIULLAPOOL.COM

Branch Diary

All these events are open to CAMRA members and non-members, including committee meetings. * Not all events are necessarily organised by CAMRA. This diary is as much about the local real ale scene as it is about CAMRA branch activities.

December

Tuesday 13th at 7pm - **Annual Inverness Xmas Walkabout**

Meet at the Phoenix Ale House - Finish at the Corriegarth.

January 2017

Saturday 21st at 2pm

Branch AGM

Phoenix Ale House

April/May 2017

Thurs 27th April to Mon 1st May

* **Beer & Music Festival**

Bandstand Bar, Nairn

Your local CAMRA branch

Protect your pleasure! Become actively involved with your local branch.

We need your help! Not a massive time commitment, just an hour or two a month will help our small committee in supporting the local publicans and brewers who together provide us with such a wonderful range of real ales to enjoy.

Branch schedules are sometimes changed - Please check the branch website to confirm the dates, times and places of meetings and socials

www.highland.camra.org.uk

..... **Needs YOU!**

Contact Details

(Secretary & Branch Contact) - secretary@highland.camra.org.uk

(Branch Chairman) - chair@highland.camra.org.uk

(Editor) - news@highland.camra.org.uk

After five years editor Gordon Streets is moving on. Gordon brought colour and a new look to our long established newsletter and we now need an enthusiastic new editor to continue his good work - and perhaps bring a new slant or direction?

A big thank-you and well done to Gordon and all the very best for your next project!

A Message from our New Regional Director- Sarah Bellis

I've recently moved to Fife from Manchester and been involved with CAMRA since 2009. I joined CAMRA after my partner agreed to volunteer at a local beer festival and asked if I could also help. I was behind the bar within minutes and trying my first ever Real Ale and have never looked back since that night. When I joined I knew nothing about real ale, beer festivals or even CAMRA. Even after seven years I am still learning!



The most important part of the CAMRA organisation is its membership. As members we all provide the bedrock on which the whole campaigning structure depends - without you, the organisation would fall.

Every member plays their part from "just" visiting pubs and drinking real ale. Some enter beer scores and take part in branch activities. It is open to all members to become active and contribute some time and effort to their local committee.

At the end of the day although there is a serious side to campaigning, there obviously has to be a certain amount of commitment, but CAMRA promotes itself to be a "fun" and social group of like minded people who just happen to like beer!

Each of the 200+ CAMRA branches in the UK is different. From a city branch of say 30 square miles to The Highlands & Western Isles covering more than 13,000 square miles they all present their own unique challenges, but they have one thing in common, they all rely on you, the membership.

You can contact Sarah via email on RD.ScotlandNI@CAMRA.org.uk

(Continued from page 38)

I could manage a few more.

After chatting with an old school mate (who I haven't seen for almost 40 years!!), it was back to my preferred dark ales so, **Leyden Oyster Stout**, a 5% porter/stout from Bury. Slightly disappointing with a thin taste but slightly salty as you might expect from having oysters in the mash although it's published description is more like a normal stout with "liquorice, chocolate, nuts" etc. I was also noticing a slight astringency which is very unusual for me, so as I say above, maybe my faculties were befuddled. (3).

The hall was getting busier now that work time was finishing but on to **Pennine Kinder Scout**, 3.9%, a fruity, dark ale - more like a red brown ale than the advertised porter - lovely. (4) Lastly, **MoR Ticia** (geddit?) 4.5% from MoR Brewing Limited in Dundee. A nice ale to finish on but maybe a bit tart (feeling pretty merry now so). (3).

Another wander round then I made my way back to my better half and our hotel for the night. A grand day out and a CAMRA festival that I hope to be a volunteer worker at once I am fully retired.



In its 30th year, the festival charity fundraising this year was the Aberdeen Lions Club and they were collecting for two charities, Befriend a Child and Instant Neighbour. The Lions Club were very active and even helped to staff the event.

Numbers attending were down this year, which was a shame, as a lot of work goes into this event by unpaid volunteers and some excellent beers were available, most not seen in Aberdeen.

Beer of the festival, as voted for by the drinkers was **Rudgate York Chocolate Stout** with **Cromarty Whiteout** second.

Drink in a Real Ale Pub? - Rate the Beer!

Highlands & Western Isles CAMRA needs your help in surveying the pubs in our massive Branch area. To tell us which pubs are worth considering for the Good Beer Guide, use CAMRA's 6-point NBSS (National Beer Scoring Scheme) to record Beer Quality. The info you give us helps us judge which outlets could go in to The Good Beer Guide, which outlets merit an award of area POTY and Branch POTY and which of our local beers merits the award of BOTY. It's easy! (if you are not sure about your score for a beer - half scores are fine - i.e. 1½ for an OK beer but you wouldn't have another pint)

What do the scores mean?

0 - No cask ale available.

½ - **Undrinkable**. Beer so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it.

1 - **Poor**. Beer that is between barely drinkable and drinkable with considerable resentment.

2 - **Average**. Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.

3 - **Good**. Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.

4 - **Very Good**. Excellent beer in excellent condition.

5 - **Excellent**. Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

Simply email us which bar, the beer(s) and your scores plus any real ale and real cider news to our Branch Contacts (see Diary page).

CAMRA members can use the website: **whatpub.com**

Log in to it using your normal CAMRA login details, search for the pub and then click on "Submit Beer Scores" - fill in the boxes on the form, scrolling down and then click "Submit Beer Score". You can do this for any pub in the country. If you have been on a CAMRA beer tasting course and are then registered as an accredited beer taster, you will be offered to fill in a CAMRA tasting card online too. Thanks!

What's yours then? is a newsletter magazine produced by the Highlands & Western Isles Branch of the **CAM**paign for **Real Ale**.

*We hope you have enjoyed reading our magazine. Unless you intend to keep it, please **DO NOT** throw it away. Why not pass it on to a friend, or just leave it in a pub somewhere for others to read? Our magazines are often found many miles from source!*

The views & opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA, nor its Branches.



Thanks to our advertisers for making publication of this magazine possible and our wonderfully helpful local breweries and branch members that help distribute it.



HOME OF "BLACK GOLD"

GOOD THINGS BREWING IN THE HIGHLANDS



AWARD WINNING BEERS

PERMANENT BEERS



Cairngorm Brewery, based in Aviemore in the Cairngorms National Park has a range of permanent and seasonal cask beers to suit all tastes.

Six of our beers are available in 500ml bottles, all year round and we have a limited edition range of an additional seven bottled beers during the year.

SHOP OPENING TIMES

Mon to Sat - 10.00am to 5.30pm
Sun - 12.30pm to 4pm (Apr to Oct inc)

TOURS AND TASTING

Mon to Fri - 11.30am & 2.30pm prompt
Group bookings are available at weekends.
Booking Essential! £5.00 per person.

Telephone: 01479 813303

SPECIAL ALES FOR 2016

(March to December)



e: shop@cairngormbrewery.com t: 01479 812 222

www.cairngormbrewery.com



KEEP IT REAL

OF SKYE

SKYE BLACK
A DARK BLEND BREWED WITH HOLLER BOTTLE ORIGINAL, 5% HONEY
ALC 4.5% VOL.

SKYE GOLD
A SMOOTH GOLDEN CRAFT ALE FROM FINE PEABUCKLE OATS
ALC 4.3% VOL.

SKYE RED
A CREAMY RED WITH BERRY AID CRAFT ALE
ALC 4.2% VOL.

SKYE YOUNG PRETENDER
THE EDGY AND HOPPY OF SKYE MET HARDEN-COLOURED WITH A REFRESHING TAIL, TASTING
ALC 4% VOL.

SKYE BLAVEN
A FULL-BODIED DEEP BROWN CRAFT ALE
ALC 5% VOL.

SKYE

SKYE CUILLIN BEAST
SKYE'S STRONGEST ALE, ITS FRESHNESS, SWEETNESS AND BERRY CARAMEL BEVE BE STRONG
ALC 7% VOL.

SKYE TINY ANGELS
MADE HEAVILY WITH LAGER MUST BUT WITH SKYE PALE ALE, HONEY AND CARAMEL TONS, HEAVILY HOPPED WITH A SWEET SICKENING FINISH
ALC 4% VOL.

SKYE I.P.A.
A LIGHT GOLDEN IPA WITH AN INTEREST COBACH ACE CEREALS, JALAP AND HONEY
ALC 4.5% VOL.

ISLE OF SKYE BREWING CO.

WWW.SKYEALE.COM/SHOP

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ISLEOFSCYEBREWING

@ISLEOFSCYEBREW

CONTACT: SALES@SKYEALE.COM