

# What's Yours Then?

Inverness & Highland Branch  
Free Newsletter



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2004

We visit two breweries with big names to live up to..



Cairngorm



An Teallach

No longer  
a desert -  
Ever more  
Highland  
Hostelries  
are selling  
Real Ale!



Campaign for Real Ale

**Welcome** to the Summer edition of our branch newsletter. A bumper edition, and thanks are due to all correspondents, but especially to Chairman Bill Tring and Secretary Eric Mills for their contributions.

**In this edition -**

- > More and more real ale pubs - see list
- > Brewer Profile - Pam Jones
- > Good-bye and Hello at Blackfriars
- > GBBF Competition - FREE Tickets
- > Pub Surveys and Brewery Visits

Letters, views & opinions, articles, etc., are all welcome. Let us know what is happening at your local, or tell us about pubs you have visited.

The Autumn Newsletter **deadline** will be 1st September 2004, with publication by the end of September.

If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact one of the branch officers (see page 23).

If at all possible, please send your advertisement in Microsoft Publisher compatible electronic format. The need to scan in hard copy may lead to loss of quality in reproduction. We can help in preparing your advert if you wish.

- Full Page Advert.....£55.00
- Half Page Advert.....£32.00
- Quarter Page Advert.....£17.00

800+ copies will be distributed to branch members, to Highland & Island brewers, to Good Beer Guide listed and Real Ale pubs; plus extra copies to advertisers.



**Fine Brews, Great Pubs**

Early April and the long-awaited first trip of the year. The usual happy few, plus David Stobbart and Chairman Bill's wife Barbara, boarded the substitute transport - our regular minibus operator Peter Forbes having apparently been kidnapped by a surprise retirement party!

Driver Donald had been well-briefed, and we made our way to the **Heatherbrae** at Nethybridge where Jan had offered us a 'comfort' stop along with maps and advice on the various walks in the area.

Seven of us set off on the circular walk to Castle Roy, a 13<sup>th</sup>



Jan at Heatherbrae

century castle ruin and one of the oldest of its kind in Scotland. Sadly one of our group had damaged his foot while work-



ing on the Speyside railway and had to content himself with a Saturday broadsheet while the rest of the party enjoyed the delights of the Nethybridge

*(Continued on page 4)*



# Premium Highland Ales

Available in Casks & Bottles

## Permanent Cask Beers

Cairngorm Gold	4.5%
Wildcat	5.1%
Stag	4.1%
Nessie's Monster Mash	4.4%
Trade Winds	4.3 %
Sheepshaggers	4.5%

## Seasonal Cask Beers

Highland IPA	3.6%
White Lady	4.7%
<i>(Award winning Bavarian style Wheat Beer)</i>	
Black Gold	4.4%
60 Shilling	3.7%
Witches Cauldron	4.9%
Santa's Sledgehammer	6.3%



**Highland IPA**  
**ABV 3.6 %**

A pale ale session style beer



**Trade Winds**  
**ABV 4.3 %**

Award winning light golden beer with masses of hop, fruit and citrus flavours



**Wildcat**  
**ABV 5.1 %**

Smooth deep amber coloured ale, with complex malt, fruit and hop flavours

Unit 12, Dalfaber Ind. Estate, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, PH22 1PY

Tel: 01479 812222 Fax: 01479 811465

info@cairngormbrewery.com

www.cairngormbrewery.com

countryside.

The Chairman's map-reading, aided by little pink arrows on the way-markers, brought the party back to the comforts of the Heatherbrae in time to enjoy a wonderful spread of soup and sandwiches, provided by our hosts Jan and Maureen. The food was washed down with pints of Cairngorm's White Lady and the championship winning brew, Trade Winds. The group was very appreciative of the great country pub atmosphere that Jan and Maureen have created in this Speyside village. Every village should have one.

*Why are so many of them closing down?? Join CAMRA today and help to prevent these closures!!*

On to the **Cairngorm Brewery**, and more excellent examples of the brews being crafted by this brewery. Knowing what



Chairman Bill discussing the finer points of Cairngorm ales with Brewer Sean..

we had been drinking previously, Merlin and Sean provided the occasional brew Cairngorm IPA, and the prize winning Black Gold, for tasting. As you would expect, both were in top class condition and worthy of the growing reputation of this expanding brewery. Sean gave us an

update on brewery developments, while giving us a most interesting and informative tour of the brewing area. Thanks are due also for their parting gift of a four pack each of their excellent products.

Onward to the **Winking Owl** in Aviemore; once a mecca for real ale in this area but sadly now out of the guide for a number of years. Disappointingly, only two out of four handpumps were operating, offering Cairngorm Wild Cat and Trade Winds, but both were in acceptable condition.

The **Cairngorm Hotel** was the next to be visited where owner Peter Steinle is happy to provide Cairngorm Stag on the single handpump. It was in excellent form as usual and nobody moaned about the 'lack of choice'. At least it is always on, in this writers experience anyway. (Why do so many pubs find it so difficult to keep a single handpump running?)

At the **Old Bridge Inn** we had an opportunity to sample brews from south of the border. The Jennings Cumberland Ale was a bit on the 'pipey' side, but the Young's Bitter went down very well, as did the Caley 80/-. The many changes to this establishment - new bunkhouse and a refurbished restaurant - have not affected the cosy feel of the bar.

We finished the day at the **Glen Hotel** in Newtonmore, where we enjoyed the fine hospitality of hosts Chris and Kim. The four handpumps provided a good choice of Glen Bogle (their Isle of Skye House Ale), Adnams Broadside, and Atlas Latitude. All ales were in excellent condition. The newly refurbished bar is now more roomy but still has the atmosphere of a comfy

*(Continued on page 8)*





Fine cask  
keg and  
bottled ales



Contact - 01856 841 802 [Brewery] or 07831 213 603 [Rob Jenner, Sales Manager]

## Don't Bottle It Up

We are one of the smallest branches in the country, and at the same time we cover by far the largest geographical area. You can imagine how I felt recently when I met an ex-committee member in a local hostelry, and had to listen to him berating the committee because one of his 'pubs of the moment' does not appear in the *Good Beer Guide*.

Needless to say this was the first I had heard about the worthiness of this particular hostelry. Its merits had not been brought to the attention of myself, nor to other committee members as far as I am aware.

So just what exactly was he expecting? That the committee should be blessed with mind-reading or visionary skills?

Sadly the small number of active branch members cannot keep all the pubs in our area under regular surveillance: not even the ones in Inverness. We depend upon both local members and upon visitors from other parts of the country to let us know whenever they come across a real ale pub which is making a significant impact on the local real ale scene, be it positive or negative.

All too rarely do we receive an e-mail from a visitor to the area with a few comments on the local real scene; but when we do the committee is delighted. Branch contact info is published in both 'What's Brewing' and in this newsletter, so please use them.

Please don't keep it to yourself -

**TELL US ABOUT IT!!**

### **Application to join CAMRA** (Full/Joint British Isles/EU Membership)

Title: .....Surname: .....

Forename(s): .....

Date of Birth: .....

Partner (if joint membership): .....

Address: .....

.....

Postcode: ..... Date: .....

Telephone: .....

E-mail Address: .....

Signature: .....

Remittance (payable to CAMRA) enclosed for:

Single Membership                      £16.00

Joint Membership                        £19.00

Under 26 and Over 60s                £9.00

Send to: The Membership Secretary, CAMRA,  
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL 1 4 LW



Inverness & Highland Branch

## Discover the Magnificent 700 at the Great British Beer Festival

Held at London Olympia every year, the Great British Beer Festival is Britain's biggest beer festival and has much to offer you with a choice of over 700 real ales, ciders, perries. Why not catch up with friends or unwind after work with a good quality pint? There is also live entertainment and music, traditional pub games and a fine selection of food including many pub favourites. Drop in and enjoy all the fun at the Great British Beer Festival from 3rd-7th August.

The festival brings together the widest beer range from around the country with a handpicked selection of over 700 real ales, ciders and perries. Our enthusiastic bar staff are also happy to advise you on the wide-ranging international choice of beers and real lagers from all around the world at Bières sans frontières.

Cider drinkers will find a wide choice of real ciders on offer the Real Cider and Perry Bar and there is also a large range of

bottled real ales for you to enjoy at the Bottled Beer Bar. There are dozens of different bars at the festival and you will find many of your favourites as well as some of the newest beers available.

What's more, to truly appreciate the tastes on offer, you could attend one of our tutored beer tastings hosted by our international team of beer experts, this



year the tastings include Beer and Chocolate and Belgian Beers.

Not only is a trip to the Great British Beer Festival an enjoyable day out, if you book your tickets in advance you can save money. Book your ticket by 23rd July and receive a £1 discount on all single session tickets. If you are a CAMRA member you will also receive an additional discount.

CAMRA welcomes families to the festival and provides a Family Room with entertainers and games open until 9pm every night. Children must be supervised by a family member at all times and under 18s must remain within the Family Room.

You can also bring along your work colleagues as we provide a number of corporate hospitality options including tutored beer tastings and a Corporate Lounge. For further information, please visit the festival website [www.gbbf.org](http://www.gbbf.org) or telephone CAMRA on 01727 867201.

The Great British Beer Festival is open every day from Tuesday 3rd August to Saturday 7th August and full details of opening times, prices and live music can be found at [www.gbbf.org](http://www.gbbf.org) or on our Information Line 0900 525 2525 (calls to this number cost 60p per minute). Tickets can be booked online or by tele-

phoning 01727 867201; discounts are available for CAMRA members. Remember to leave your car at home as London Olympia is easily reached by public transport.

*To enter the GBBF Competition, please mail or e-mail your answers to Secretary Eric Mills (Contact info on page 23, along with the competition questions).*

(Continued from page 4)

pub. Even though it does a roaring trade in food, the pub atmosphere is still there: how can it not be with the cheery personality of Chris the genial landlord? He was generous enough to provide the hungry party with a very satisfying spread of pizza, chips and dips to finish off a fine day out.



This pub is yet another example of the 'win some lose some' theme. This area is still feeling the loss of Bernard Justice and all he did for real ale in the Highlands. Bernard built up the Royal Hotel at Kingussie (not to mention the National at Dingwall, and the Mains opposite the Glen) into one of the most popular and progressive real ale outlets in the Highlands, with the numerous handpumps, the Iris Rose brewery and the annual beer festival bringing thousands of visitors to the area from all over the country. Successive owners have made a right mess of it all since. Chris and Kim seem to be providing a very good substitute however, and who knows how the Glen will develop in future when you see what they have done in the very short time they have been in residence.

Chris's knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, real ale is second to none and I am sure we all wish him and Kim every success in

what is already becoming a real ale gem in the desert to the south of Aviemore. It was only left by then to pour ourselves into the Jacobite Cruises minibus and be transported by Donald safely back to our homes in and around Inverness. Thanks again to all our hosts for providing a most enjoyable trip to the brewery and pubs of the Badenoch and Strathspey area.

*I'll drink to that! Ed.*

### **Great Inverness Beer Festival 2004**

Well not exactly, but it is the best CAMRA run festival you will get within a hundred miles or more of the Highland capital. It is of course, the CAMRA beer stall at the Marymas Fare.

The Marymas Fare is organised by the Inverness Crossroads Care Scheme.

This year as ever, it will be held on the second Saturday of August, the 14<sup>th</sup>, in the Northern Meeting Park and, as usual, we will be the first stall on the right of the main entrance.



After the success of last year we will again be offering four real ales. This is quite risky really as, if we have a poor turnout due to poor weather, we could make a big loss. Thank goodness this has not happened yet, and I can only remember one year when we did not sell all the



# Benleva Hotel

Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness

[www.lochnesshotel.com](http://www.lochnesshotel.com)

**CAMRA Highland Pub of the Year 2003**

**Tel : (01456) 450080**

En-suite Accommodation

Excellent Food

Open All Year

At the Benleva Hotel we pride ourselves on offering the finest possible selection of Highland ales, served in perfect condition, along with excellent food, freshly prepared every day. Just a short walk from the shores of Loch Ness the Benleva will offer you a genuinely warm welcome whether you come for a short break, an evening meal, or just a fine pint.

## *3rd Loch Ness Beer Festival*

Over 30 Scottish Ales available during the week

Live Music, Quiz Night

17th - 25th September 2004

beer. Of course that includes the years when we only had two casks to sell. The choice for this year has not been finalised yet, but there will be the usual diverse selection in both strength and colour. We hope to keep the price at £2.00 per pint. (quite cheap for Inverness - very cheap compared to some pubs)

We will again have the seating arrangement under the gazebo where you can rest your weary feet while enjoying a pint of real ale in the best possible condition, while other members of the family avail themselves of the other joys of the Inverness Marymas Fare. It is also a good chance for you to catch up on the news

**Join CAMRA Today - Membership Form on Page 6**

**The Remotest Pint in Britain?**

At long last an opportunity to visit the Old Forge, advertised as 'the remotest pub in Britain'. My pal Sandy needed a hand to polish off a few Munros in this wilderness area, and I jumped at the chance. It takes some effort to get to the Old Forge, having to catch a not very frequent ferry, and after a long but spectacular forty



mile drive west from Fort William.

Despite being in the Good Beer Guide for a number of years, I still felt apprehensive. Could the beer really be kept well; would I be getting the all too familiar 'Oh we are just waiting for the next delivery' or 'it's just gone off' as is often the case in pubs a little off the beaten track.

I should not have felt so cynical. The pub turned out to be everything you would expect of a GBG entry, including friendly landlord, Ian Robertson, and a wonderful atmosphere. There were always two real

ales on; one from Skye and one from south of the border, and when one ran out another replaced it straight away. It would most certainly be worth the trip to the pub alone, even if there was not the

added attraction of spectacular scenery and some of the remotest mountains in Scotland just outside the front door.

I visited it in the early evening of each of the four days we were there and it was never less than busy; not

crowded but doing a very healthy business - promising to be even busier later on when the music started. You certainly did not get the feel of remoteness inside this pub. I reckon there are a few pubs in Inverness with less trade on a Friday pay-night.

Yes, the Old Forge at Inverie is well worth the effort it



takes you to get there. Thank you to Ian and please keep up the good work. You have a little gem and long may it stay so.

Your business needs . . .



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Investor in People

## All Change at Blackfriars

As reported in the Spring Newsletter, Zander MacDiarmid gave up the lease for the Blackfriars on 14th April. At almost the last minute, friends and regulars arranged a behind-closed-doors surprise party for Zander and his wife Danielle.

During the celebrations, a happy Zander was presented with the Inverness Town



Pub-of-the-Year award for 2004.

Zander is pictured above receiving the coveted award from Chairman Bill, along with committee members Eric Mills & John Holloway, plus Steve & Becky from Benleva Hotel in Drumnadrochit.

Mark and Lucy, the new tenants, had been invited to the party and were introduced as they joined in the celebrations. We all wish them every success now that they have taken on the lease of this popular Inverness real ale pub. They have a tough act to follow after Dougie and Zander, the two previous landlords, lifted the pub's profile from just another town centre pub to one of the most respected and popular real ale outlets in Inverness.

Mark Bracken and his partner Lucy Slater do not lack in experience with real ale.

Lucy has been an assistant manager in a

Fullers pub in London and Mark has worked in both Youngs and Greenall pubs.

There has been little noticeable change in the way the pub is run during the two months they have been in charge, and their intention is to keep things pretty much the same, including the food and the musical evenings. They also aim to

keep all nine of the handpumps busy at weekends, with at least six dispensing during the week. As for the choice of beer, Mark says: "We intend to obtain most of our independent beers from the Cairngorm and Isle of Skye Breweries, but we are happy to listen to requests from our customers for their favourite ales from these or other breweries".

The days when Inverness was a real ale desert are now long gone, and we all hope that Mark and Lucy (pictured below) can maintain the high standards that have



been set in this particular outlet.

We are all keeping our fingers crossed, as we did when Zander took over the reins from Dougie Fraser, but we are sure that



## West Coast Trails

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June, and time for another brewery trip, our first on a Sunday. Rendez-vous as usual at Inverness Town House, and the group of fourteen climbed into the waiting transport - this time provided and driven by Charlie Fraser of Munloch. A short drive only across country to our first stop. The Inchbea Lodge Hotel, just past Garve on the

A835, is a former Victorian Hunting Lodge on the banks of the Black Water river. The public rooms are snug and cosy, with comfortable beamed alcove seating areas, a coffee bar, dining room and a small bar area. There was one hand-pump, serving Isle of Skye Black

Cuillin, and which was very good. They rotate Skye beers and are getting well known in the area for real ale. Skye bottled beer packs are very popular with visitors. We could easily have stayed for longer, but we had a schedule to meet.

An Teallach Brewery owner Davie Orr was waiting to greet us at the impressive Dundonnell Hotel, which sits on the edge of Little Loch Broom in the shadow of the mighty An Teallach. New owners have refurbished the hotel and introduced real ale, which is becoming very popular. The cask of An Teallach was set up under the



A warm welcome from An Teallach Brewery's Davie Orr

bar but, unfortunately for us, someone had disturbed it and it had gone cloudy. This was a great pity as we had received a report, only a week earlier, that An Teallach ale was being served, and that it was in first class condition. We settled instead for some soup and a roll before accompanying Davie to the brewery, which is only a short distance away and is set in a wonderful loch-side location.

The An Teallach Brewery is a husband and wife business, Wilma does the brewing (along with Pam Jones on Skye, that makes Wilma one of only two female head brewers in Scotland), and Davie takes care of deliveries. The brewery has been set up in the family croft at Camusnagaul. They started, three years ago, by having their beers brewed at The Atlas Brewery until such time as they had built their own brewery in their garden. There are three regular brews, An Teallach Ale (4.2%), Beinn Dearg (3.8%), and Crofters Pale Ale (4.2%). Davie and Wilma have no plans

for any major expansion as they are happy with the business as it is. They are brewing to capacity at this time of year and delivering as far as Edinburgh. In the quieter winter months they bottle condition some of their brews for the local market.



Brewer Wilma with regular traveller John Barron

*(Continued on page 14)*



Davie gave us a few samples of his brews along with an interesting and jovial talk through the brewing process. It was very good to see two enthusiastic people enjoying their work and showing us around. An Teallach is now an award-winning brewery following being voted Beer-of-the-Festival at Walsall recently.

Ever onward, and after thanking Davie and Wilma for their hospitality we headed further west, to the Old Inn at Gairloch. Owner Alastair Pearson was on hand to welcome us in person, and he was keen to show us around follow-



Landlord Alistair Pearson receives the Country Pub-of-the-Year Award from Chairman Bill

ing the recent refurbishment. The Old Inn is a traditional coaching inn, set in a stunning riverside location at the foot of the Flowerdale Glen, close to Gairloch harbour. In the bar there was an excellent range of real ales on tap - Atlas Latitude, An Teallach Ale, Isle of Skye Red Cuillin and Black Cuillin, Orkney Dark Island, Cairngorm Stag, Caledonian Deuchars IPA and Black Sheep Bitter - and all were in very good condition. We held a Branch meeting here, hoping that some of the large contingent of local CAMRA members would attend, but only Alastair did. After the meeting it was time to sample the wonderful food on offer and quite a few took the opportunity to sample the local seafood dishes in which the Old Inn specialises.

Bill Tring, the Branch Chairman, then presented Alastair with the Country Pub-of-the-Year Certificate and wished him good luck in the Scottish Pub of the Year competition. (*See below*).

More thanks and another reluctant departure (almost on time), but it did at

least mean that we were able to make a midway stop at the Kinlochewe Hotel.

This large hotel, with adjoining bunkhouse, has a small bar with two large drinking rooms and separate dining room. Isle of Skye beers are sold in rotation and a very good Black Cuillin was on tap. Unlike

many one handpump establishments, the next beer was settling and all but ready to go on. The landlord remarked that Real Ale is getting very popular now and that Isle of Skye Hebridean Gold is a favourite with the locals. Our driver enjoyed a very good meal as we supped a last pint. A very contented bunch of travellers boarded the bus for the final leg of the journey homeward. A very good day, and enjoyed by all.

The Old Inn at Gairloch will be pitted against the Redgarth Hotel, Old Meldrum (Aberdeen, Grampian & the Northern Isles winner), and the Ericht Ale House, Blairgowrie (Tayside) in the North area section. The Scotland & NI Pub-of-the-Year will be selected from the regional winners .



# The Old Inn

Gairloch, Ross-shire, IV21 2BD

Telephone: 01445 712006

Enquiries - Call Free - 0800 542 5444

Scottish Tourist Board 3 Star Inn

**AA Pub of the Year for Scotland & Northern Ireland 2003**



**Real Ale, Real Food, Real Fires, Real Welcome**  
**Accommodation - All rooms en-suite - Families welcome**

Nestling at the foot of the Flowerdale Glen, with the river flowing under its charming old stone footbridge, The Old Inn is a traditional coaching inn located in a picturesque setting with spectacular views across Gairloch Harbour to Skye and the Outer Isles.



**Up to eight Real Ales**  
**Beer Garden**  
**Food served all day**

**Website: [www.theoldinn.co.uk](http://www.theoldinn.co.uk)**  
**E-mail: [nomadscot@lineone.net](mailto:nomadscot@lineone.net)**



**Inverness & Highland CAMRA Country Pub-of-the-Year for 2004**

**Pam Jones** is not only the head brewer at the Isle of Skye brewery, but also one of only two female head brewers in Scotland. We asked her a few questions.

*Q: What made you move to Skye?*

*A: My mother and father had bought a house on Skye, here in Uig, and said they would like me to move here with my daughter Samantha.*

*Q: How long have you lived on Skye?*

*A: I have been here for 10 years now. My older brother John now also works here, running a recycling wood business.*

*Q: How did you become a brewer?*

*A: I started from scratch in the brew house, graduating from washing casks to cleaning tanks, and then to transferring from the fermenting vessels to the conditioning vessels. Next it was delivering and getting to know our customers, and then to filtering for our bottling. I was and still am responsible for the cleanliness in the brewery. All the time I was working I was watching all the procedures and then started to help out with the brewing. I started brewing 5 years ago.*

*Q: Where are you originally from?*

*A: I came from Bolton. A fully trained chef and confectioner.*

*Q: What was your first brew?*

*A: A ten barrel brew of Red Cuillin, an award winner.*

*Q: Describe a typical brewing day.*

*A: lot of planning and cleaning takes place before any brew. The grain is mixed the night before to save time. Once I am satisfied that the mash tun and copper are ready I will start. The water must be*



The Conditioning Room

*at the correct temperature to give the mash an overall reading of 65C. It takes 25 minutes to mash.*

*Once all the grain goes in you start cleaning the next set of pipework, copper and fermenting vessel. Once the mash is ready you transfer it into the copper, sparging the grain so that the remaining water is used. Once in the copper the heaters go on. Then hops are added. Once this process is finished the liquid goes*

*through a heat exchanger which takes about 45 minutes taking the temperature down to 19C. Then on into the fermenting vessel where you calculate the Original Gravity and adjust it to the right OG by adding sparge from the hops.*

*We add a few litres of the wort to the yeast to get this activated so we can add this at the end. Once ready we paddle/circulate the beer.*

*Q: What are your favourite beers/beer type/other brewery beers?*



CT1	666	Red	5.9.02
CT2	669	Red	02.10.02
CT3	666	Cuillin Beast	08.09.02
CT4	670	Black	11.09.02
CT5	662	YP	26.08.02

*A: My favourite of our beers is The Cuillin Beast at 7% ABV. I came up with this recipe due to us*

*reaching gyle 666. I wanted a strong beer (a beast). This has since won the beer of the festival at The Benleiva Hotel in Drumnadrochit, and at CAMRA events in Southampton, plus Beer-of-the-Festival for the last two years at Aberdeen. We export this in bottles to, amongst other places, The United States of America and Denmark. I also like the Inveralmond and Timothy Taylor beers.*



Brewer Pam with brewery owner Angus MacRuary in the brewery tap room

*Q: Which part of your job do you like most of all?*

*A: Producing quality beers and having long term customers who have taken the beer from day one and who I regard as not just customers, but friends. Having people visit us and sharing with us what they think of our beers. Knowing there is such a demand and that we all can produce the beers at their best. It is not*

*just me; I have a really great team in the brew house who I can rely on.*

*Q: Do you like living on Skye?*

*A: Yes I do, the lifestyle, the wildlife, everything apart from the midges.*

*Q: Are you working on any new brews?*

*A: Yes, I am working on a further brew for the summer, a light refreshing 3.8% beer. Also a brew for Christmas 2005 to celebrate our tenth anniversary.*



Pam at the Mash Tun

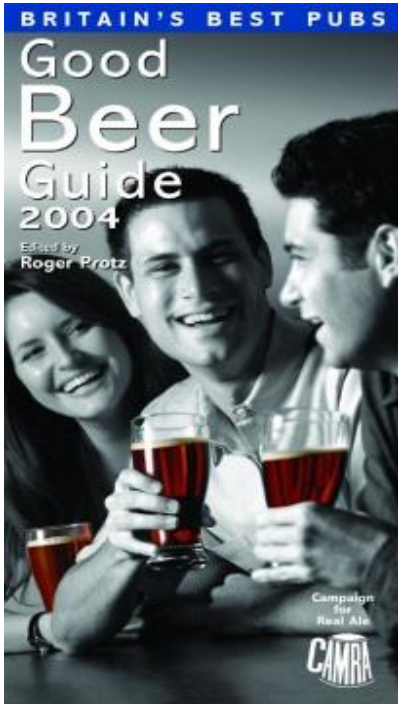
Why not join us for our annual trip to the Isle of Skye Brewery? A warm welcome is always guaranteed at the Brewery, and this is your chance to find out first hand about all the changes that have taken place in the brewery this year.

*Full details on page 22.*

## Expansion Latest

Isle of Skye Brewery has just finished the latest phase and are back into full production. There is a new mash tun, a 22 barrel copper copper, 2 insulated cooling tanks, a 20 barrel fermenting tank, a new tank cleaning system, an improved cask washer, and an oil-fired condensing boiler. Fermenting capacity has gone up from 40 to 60 barrels and conditioning from 60 to 100 barrels at a time.





## The Good Beer Guide

The best place to find good pubs and good beer. The Good Beer Guide is more than just a pub guide. Britain's longest-running and best-selling guide contains Britain's best pubs for real ale. But for beer lovers it also gives up-to-date information on the country's beers and breweries. It is compiled by 70,000 dedicated volunteers in the Campaign for Real Ale. There are no fees for listings, and every pub is checked many times a year.

The unique **Breweries** section lists all breweries - micro, regional and national - that produce cask beer, with tasting notes compiled by CAMRA-trained tasting teams. There's also information about beers suitable for vegetarians and vegans, as well as the growing number of organic beers. The Guide lists new breweries, closed breweries, mergers and takeovers, and keeps track of the new, powerful pub groups.

## Highlands & Islands Brewers in 2004

**Orkney Brewery** - Brewing commenced in March 1988 at the old schoolhouse in Sandwick. Ales include Dark Island and Red MacGregor.

**Isle of Skye Brewery** - Based at Uig by the Western Isles ferry terminal. Brewing since December 1995. Ales include Red & Black Cuillin and Blaven. Seasonal, House, and special event ales are brewed.

**Valhalla Brewery** - The most northerly brewery in the UK started brewing on the island of Unst in December 1997. Ales include White Wife.

**Black Isle Brewery** - Started brewing in December 1998 in converted farm buildings. Ales include Red Kite and Yellowhammer. Organic ales are a speciality.

**Isle of Arran Brewery** - Located close to Brodick Castle. Opened late March 2000. Ales include Blond and Dark.

**Fyne Ales Brewery** - Based at the head of Loch Fyne, brewing started on St Andrew's Day 2001. Ales include Piper's Gold and Maverick.

**NKB** - Not Currently Brewing.

**Cairngorm Brewery Company** - Set up in late 2001 to market the beers of the Tomintoul and Aviemore breweries, which they own. Ales include Wildcat, Stag, Highland IPA. Seasonal ales are brewed.

**Hebridean Brewing Company** - Based in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. First beer was produced at end-January 2002.



**Atlas Brewery** - Brewing in one of the old Aluminium Smelter buildings at Kinlochleven since February 2002. Ales include Latitude and Wayfarer.

**An Teallach Brewery** - A beer was brewed for this company at the Atlas Brewery from May 2002. Moved to Dundonnell during March 2003.

**Islay Ales Co Ltd** - Started brewing in March 2004. "Finlaggan" and "Blackrock". Little information currently available.

Not all of the breweries listed are in our branch are  
are in the  
Grampian &  
Isles ar-  
Brewery  
Ayrshire  
while Fyne  
by Glasgow  
Similarly  
Orkney and Shetland are submitted by  
Aberdeen, Grampian & NI Branch.



### Good Beer Guide Listed Pubs - 2004

#### **Inverness**

- Blackfriars
- Clachnaharry Inn
- Hootananny
- Number 27
- Palace Hotel
- Phoenix Bar

#### **Around Inverness**

- Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit
- Invernairne Hotel, Nairn

#### **Black Isle & Dingwall**

- Plough Inn, Rosemarkie

#### **Speyside**

- Old Bridge Inn, Aviemore
- Cairn Hotel, Carrbridge
- Heatherbrae Hotel, Nethy Bridge

#### **Isle of Skye**

- Sligachan Hotel
- Stein Inn

#### **Western Highlands**

- Old Inn, Gairloch
- Plockton Hotel, Plockton
- Ferry Boat Inn, Ullapool

#### **The Road to Lochaber**

- Invergarry Hotel

#### **Lochaber**

- Laroch Bar & Bistro, Ballachulish
- Grog & Gruel, Fort William
- Nevisport Bar, Fort William
- Clachaig Inn, Glencoe
- Tailrace Inn, Kinlochleven
- Four Seasons, Onich
- Nether Lochaber Hotel, Onich

#### **Knoydart**

- Old Forge, Inverie

#### **North**

- Central Hotel, Thurso

#### **Orkney Islands**

- Bothy Bar, Kirkwall
- Stromness Hotel, Stromness

#### **Shetland Islands**

- Baltasound Hotel
- Spiggie Hotel, Scousburgh
- Inn on the Hill, Whiteness

The Royal Hotel at Kingussie was deleted in Autumn 2003 when, following a change of ownership, the hotel bars were closed for a period of time. Amendments & deletions can be found at [www.camra.org](http://www.camra.org) on the GBG page.

## **Real Ale Pubs**

In addition to GBG-listed pubs, it has been reported that the following Inns and Hotels are selling real ale (some in the tourist season only) -

### **Inverness**

Columba Hotel - **Opening Soon**

Glen Mhor Hotel

Heathmount Hotel

Inshes Gate - **(TP)**

Kings Highway

(Weatherspoons)

Snowgoose

Thistle Inn - **NEW**

### **Around Inverness**

Cawdor Tavern, Cawdor

Bogroy Inn, Inchmore

Clansman Hotel

### **Black Isle & Dingwall**

National Hotel, Dingwall

Richmond Hotel, Strathpeffer

The Anderson, Fortrose

## **Speyside**

Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore

Dalfaber Country Club, Aviemore

Glenmore Lodge, Nr Aviemore - **NEW**

Winking Owl, Aviemore

Mash Tun, Charlestown of Aberlour

Highlander Inn, Craigellachie

Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten

Glen Mhor, Granton on Spey

Suie Hotel, Kincaig - **(TP)**

Glen Hotel, Newtonmore

Mains Hotel, Newtonmore

Tomatin Inn, Tomatin

Grouse Inn, Tomintoul

Glen Avon Hotel, Tomintoul

### **The Road to Lochaber**

Glenmorriston Arms

Cobb's, Drumnadrochit - **NEW**

The Lock Inn, Fort Augustus

The Bothy, Fort Augustus

The Eagle, Laggan Locks - **NEW**

**NO REAL ALE - See page 26**



- **Independent Scottish Ales**  
*no cask on longer than 5 days!*
- **Scotland's Largest Selection of Belgian Beer**
- **110 Single Malts**
- **Truly Multicultural Menu**
- **9 Bedrooms**

*Proprietor: Jim Anderson of Beer Philadelphia*

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Fortrose, Ross-Shire  
01381 620 236

## Lochaber

Inn at Ardgour  
Arisaig Inn - **NEW**  
Tradewinds, Corpach - **NEW**  
Alexandra Hotel, Fort William - **NEW**  
Ben Nevis Inn, Fort William  
Capercaillie, Fort William - **NEW**  
Milton Hotel, Fort William - **NEW**  
Tradewinds Bistro, Fort William - **NEW**  
Kings House Hotel, Glencoe  
Glenfinnan House Hotel - **NEW**  
Mamore Lodge, Kinlochleven - **NEW**  
Antler Bar, Kinlochleven - **NEW**  
Stronlossit Hotel, Roy Bridge  
Tomdoun Sporting Lodge - **NEW**  
Factor's Inn, Torlundy

## The Road to Skye

Kintail Lodge Hotel  
Clachan Bar, Dornie - **NEW**  
Loch Duich Hotel, Dornie  
Balmacara Hotel  
Cuchulainn's, Kyle of Lochalsh

## Isles of Skye & Raasay

Ardvasar Hotel  
Claymore, Broadford  
Dunollie Hotel, Broadford  
Hebridean Hotel, Broadford - **NEW**  
Coruisk House, Elgol  
Duntulm Hotel  
Dunvegan Hotel  
Edinbane Hotel  
Lodge Hotel, Edinbane - **NEW**  
Flodigarry Hotel  
Greshornish Lodge - **NEW**  
Isleornsay Hotel  
Isle of Raasay Hotel - **NEW**  
King Haakon Bar, Kyleakin - **NEW**  
Taigh Ailean Hotel, Portnalong  
Bosville Hotel, Portree - **NEW**  
Isles Inn, Portree  
Royal Hotel, Portree  
Isle of Raasay Hotel  
Sconser Lodge Hotel  
Skeabost Hotel  
Toravaig House Hotel  
Ferry Inn, Uig

Pub on the Pier, Uig  
Uig Hotel, Uig

## Western Isles

Langass Lodge, North Uist  
Royal British Legion, Stornoway  
The Whalers Rest, Stornoway  
Isle of Harris Inn, Tarbet

## Western Highlands

Applecross Inn  
Altguish Inn  
Ben Damph Lodge, Torridon - **NEW**  
Drumchork Hotel, Aultbea  
Dundonnell Hotel - **NEW**  
Kinlochewe Hotel - **NEW**  
Badachro Inn  
Inchbae Hotel, Garve  
Lochcarron Hotel  
Rock Villa Hotel, Lochcarron  
Plockton Inn  
Strathcarron Hotel  
Tigh-an-Eilean Hotel, Shieldag  
Argyll Hotel, Ullapool  
Caley Inn Bar, Ullapool - **NEW**  
Morefield Hotel, Ullapool - **NEW**  
Seaforth Hotel, Ullapool - **NEW**

## East Coast (Dingwall - Helmsdale)

Castle Hotel, Dornoch - **NEW**  
Invershin Hotel - **NEW**

## North

Melvich Hotel  
Scourie Inn  
Mackays Hotel, Wick  
Alexander Bain, Wick  
(Weatherspoons)



If you visit, please let us know about the quality of real ales on tap, particularly if you think inclusion in the next edition of the Good Beer Guide is merited.

**NEW** - Addition since last Newsletter  
**TP** - Dispensed using top pressure (not approved by CAMRA for GBG).

*TP - Better than no real ale at all??  
We'll let you decide for yourself. Ed.*



# Inverness & Highland Campaign for Real Ale

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Bus Trip to the Isle of Skye Brewery



Followed by a Branch Meeting  
at the **Stein Inn, Waternish**



Pub surveys along the way as time allows..

Leaving Inverness Town House at 09:30 am,  
and returning mid-evening

For further details, or to book your  
seat on the coach, please contact -

Bill Tring on 01463 231448

Eric Mills on 01456 450143

e-mail: [bill-tring@supanet.com](mailto:bill-tring@supanet.com) or  
[ericdenise@millse24.freemove.co.uk](mailto:ericdenise@millse24.freemove.co.uk)



## Branch Diary (Meetings start at 7.30 pm)

6th July	Committee Meeting	Glen Hotel, Newtonmore
3rd Aug	Committee Meeting	Glenmorrison Arms, Invermorrison
14th Aug	Real Ale Bar	Marymas Fair, Inverness
4th Sept		Isle of Skye Brewery and Branch Meeting at the Stein Inn
7th Sept	Committee Meeting	Cairn Hotel, Carrbridge
17th - 25th Sept	3rd Loch Ness Beer Festival	Benleva Hotel
19th Sept	Beer Festival Social	Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit
5th Oct	Committee Meeting	Cawdor Tavern, Cawdor
4th - 6th Nov	Aberdeen Beer Festival	
9th Nov	Annual General Meeting	To Be Advised
7th Dec	Committee Meeting	To Be Advised
14th Dec	Annual Inverness Walkabout & Social	

## Contact Details



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## **The Great British Beer Festival Competition (Saturday Tickets to be Won)**

1. Which member of the Royal family is involved in a campaign to save rural pubs and make them more viable?
2. Approximately how many members does CAMRA have: 22,000, 42,000 or 72,000?
3. Which cockney duo that hit the charts in the 1970s and 80s will be playing at the Great British Beer Festival this year?
4. How much does it cost to join CAMRA as a single member: £16, £32 or £40?
5. How many pints of beer in one gallon?
6. Which famous British brewery is based at Southwold in Suffolk: Tetleys, Fullers or Adnams?
7. What was the average price of draught bitter in 1994 according to the British Beer and Pub Association: £0.99, £1.42, £1.87?
8. According to CAMRA's research approximately how many pubs are closing down in Britain every month: 5, 10, 20?

**One FREE Saturday ticket to each of the first 10 correct entries received.**



## News of Brews

Following pressure from customers, the **Isle of Skye Brewery** has recently produced two new, limited edition, bottled beers -

**St Michael's Steeple Ale (4.6%)** has been produced mainly for St Michael's and All Angels Church in Inverness as a fund-raiser (available from canon Len Black, and from the brewery shop).

**Glen-Bogle (4.1%)** is a special for the Glen in Newtonmore (available from the Glen and from the brewery shop).

Both beers are/were the cask versions. Until now the brewery has steered clear of bottling blends but, as these have turned out well, more may follow.

A new seasonal passenger ferry service started recently between Gairloch and Portree. 6° West, the ferry operators, note on their web site that "beverages with a strong local accent are available on board". The beverages include a bottled Isle of Skye Brewery ale - **6° West!** (6° West is the line of longitude crossed four times daily by the ferry).

### **Atlas/Orkney Latest**

The new Highlands and Islands Breweries company has nearly sorted out all the legal paperwork in the joining of Atlas and Orkney breweries. It is stressed that the Orkney beers will still be brewed on the island, with Atlas beers being brewed at Kinlochleven, keeping their distinctive brands and tastes. Manning levels will also not be affected although one additional person is being employed at the moment.

The main difference is on the distribution side, with a new depot being built at Dalkeith, combining with the existing distribution through the Orkney and Atlas van routes, which are supplemented by the Beer Seller and Ardo Ales, etc. The Atlas van now has a twice weekly delivery to Edinburgh and Inverness.

Orkney already have their beers bottled by Belhaven and Atlas are still looking at bottling theirs.

**Local breweries** featured prominently in the SIBA National Beer Competitions.

**Black Isle Brewery** took two second prizes in the Belgian Style Wheat Beer category for their Hibernator and Wheat brews. **Cairngorm Brewery's** White Lady won first prize in the Bavarian Style Wheat Beer. Black Isle also won a third prize for their Yellowhammer Organic Beer. **Atlas** featured in the Strong Ale category, Nimbus taking second place. Results in full at [www.siba.co.uk](http://www.siba.co.uk).

**SIBA**, Society of Independent Brewers, aims "To campaign on behalf of craft brewers to ensure that they have the best possible opportunity to bring their goods to the market."

**Heather Ale** has outgrown its current base, a picturesque 18th-century watermill at Strathaven, Lanarkshire, and has bought the Forth Brewery in Alloa for a six-figure sum. At the same time the name has changed to Williams Brothers.

*Why the interesting new name? Ed.*

### **New Island Brewery**

As reported in the May edition of What's

*(Continued on page 26)*

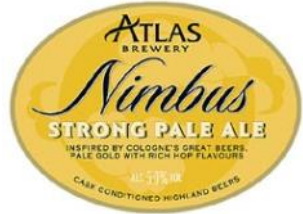
# ATLAS BREWERY



**Latitude Cask Pilsner**  
(3.6% abv)



**Three Sisters Scottish Ale**  
(4.2% abv)

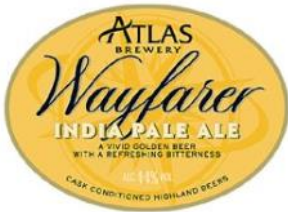


**Nimbus Strong Pale Ale**  
(5.0% abv)



### Seasonal Range:

- Spring - Equinox Pale Gold Ale 4.5% abv
- Summer - Wayfarer India Pale Ale 4.4% abv
- Autumn - Tempest Wheat Beer 4.9% abv
- Winter - Blizzard Winter Beer 4.7% abv



**Wayfarer India Pale Ale**  
(4.4% abv)



**Tempest Wheat Beer**  
(4.9% abv)



**Blizzard Winter Beer**  
(4.7% abv)



**Atlas Brewery Limited**  
Kinlochleven, Scotland  
telephone: 01855 831111  
email: [info@atlasbrewery.com](mailto:info@atlasbrewery.com)  
[www.atlasbrewery.com](http://www.atlasbrewery.com)



*(Continued from page 24)*

Brewing, a new brewery has opened on Islay. While Islay is not in our Branch area, pubs on Orkney, Shetland, etc. are classified under "Highlands & Islands" in the Good Beer Guide. Newsletter readers may be a little confused by this and so we include news items and information relating to all Scottish Island brewers.

### Inns & Things

There is **No Smoking** in the Factors Inn at Torlundy. Is this the only no smoking pub in the Highlands & Islands? How many pubs have even one room set aside for non-smokers?

*Let us know and we'll publish a list. Ed.*

### **Stornoway News**

The Whalers Rest is rumoured to be under offer from Punch Taverns. This is the only potential GBG pub in town. The RBL (Legion) is, of course, a club.

The Whalers sells Islander, the RBL sells Celtic Black. No other pub has draught, but some sell bottled Hebridean beers.

### **Isle of Skye Brewery and Heather Ales in Secret Merger?**

The Cluanie Inn menu includes "Steak and Skye Ale Pie". When asked which Isle of Skye beer was used in the making of the pie, the waiter proudly displayed a bottle of Fraoch Heather Ale!

For the benefit of readers unfamiliar with Highlands & Islands breweries, Fraoch is brewed by Heather Ale Ltd (now Williams Brothers), who are based in Lanarkshire.

It would seem that they haven't got a

clue at Cluanie.. *Ouch! Ed.*

### **Belgian Beer Tasting**

A good turnout of enthusiasts enjoyed a Belgian Beer tasting at The Anderson in



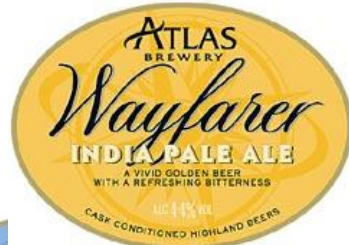
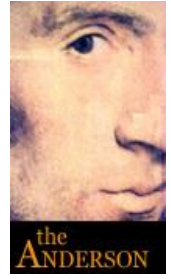
Fortrose. Host Jim Anderson (pictured) entertained his guests with humorous descriptions & anecdotes as they sampled the beers on offer: Celis White, Chapeau Banana, Liefmans Kriekbier, Monk's Cafe Flemish Sour Ale, Delitium Tremens, and Chimay Grande Reserve.

A wealth of different flavours to tickle the taste buds, but for this correspondent, Liefmans Kriekbier - a fruity, cherry, sweetish, brown beer - was the favourite. An excellent finger buffet was enjoyed by all and the next tasting will be eagerly awaited.

Thanks to Benleva for hosting the June **SNIB** meet. The ales on offer - Piper's Gold, Trade Winds, Wayfarer, Blaven and Cuillin Beast - were much appreciated.

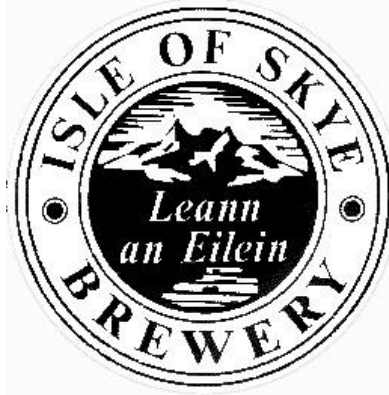
**No Real Ale** - Following recent reports, the Waterfront in Inverness, and Cluanie Inn have been taken out of our list of

*NB The views and opinions expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, nor of the Campaign for Real Ale.*



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