

What's Yours Then?

Inverness & Highland Branch
Free Newsletter



A thirsty crowd drink the Marymas Real Ale bar dry in record time!!

**September is Festival Month -
Do not miss Real Ale festivals at
Benleva Hotel in Drumnadrohit
and at Clachnaharry Inn**



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Autumn 2004

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our branch newsletter.

In this edition -

- > GBG 2005
- > Focus on Jim Anderson
- > Your letters and pub reports
- > Another Marymas success story
- > Dundonnell Beer Garden
- > Updated real ale pubs list
- > Wanted - Real Ale pubs in the far North West of the Highlands

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 Winter Newsletter **deadline** will be 1st December 2004, with publication before Christmas.

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

If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact one of the branch officers (see page 6).

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

2000+ copies are distributed to Branch members, to Highland & Island brewers, to Good Beer Guide listed and Real Ale pubs; plus extra copies to advertisers.

Good Beer Guide 2005

This year we have nominated a record 31 Highlands & Islands pubs for the guide, including seven new entries -

- Applecross Inn, Applecross
- Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore
- Snowgoose, Inverness
- Loch Carron Hotel, Lochcarron
- Plockton Inn, Plockton
- Scourie Inn, Scourie
- Uig Hotel, Isle of Skye

Three more make a welcome return -

- The Anderson, Fortrose
- Glen Mohr Hotel, Inverness
- Glen Hotel, Newtonmore

The Anderson was listed in the guide from 1987-90, as the Royal Hotel, and the Glen Mohr was a regular entry from 1986-94. The Glen's single entry was back in 1998.

Complete GBG 2005 list is on page 19.

The number of pubs we have been able to recommend has grown almost every year, but it is likely that this will be the last year that we will be able to include all pubs which we consider merit inclusion in the Good Beer Guide.

There has been a massive increase in the number of Highlands & Islands pubs selling real ale (See pages 20 & 21). Quantity does not necessarily mean quality of course, but judging by the reports we are receiving it seems very likely that next year we will exceed the quota for the Branch area. This means that the committee will have the unenviable task of deciding which pubs to put forward and which must be left out. The good news for local and visitor alike is that a

(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 %

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Fax: 01479 811465

info@cairngormbrewery.com

www.cairngormbrewery.com

decent pint of real ale is readily available almost anywhere in the Branch area.

Recommendations for inclusion in the guide are based upon reports of good quality real ale being regularly available.

Please keep sending in your pub reports.

Good Beer Guide 2005, published by CAMRA in September 2004, is available from all good bookshops and direct from CAMRA, RRP is £13.99.

CAMRA members' price is £10, either

directly from HQ or from your local branch. By purchasing locally you will be helping to raise funds for local branch activities.

As publicised in "What's Brewing", the CAMRA monthly newspaper, *GBG 2005* is available to members at the specially discounted price of £8.50 if purchased at a branch meeting in October or November. Our AGM on 9th November qualifies as a branch meeting, but please let us know beforehand if you want to buy a copy.



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Scotland Pub-of-the-Year Winners

West and N.Ireland: Geordies Byre, Ayr

Central: Port Royal, Port Bannatyne (Bute)

North Region: Ericht Ale House, Blairgowrie

Overall Winner: **Port Royal Hotel (Isle of Bute)**



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Join CAMRA Today - Membership Form on Page 27

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Inverness & Highlands Branch of CAMRA will be held on Tuesday 9th November 2004 in the Clachnaharry Inn, Inverness. All local branch members are welcome to attend. Please make every effort to come along and support your Branch. What do the committee do?

With your help we monitor real ale outlets in our area and recommend, for entry into the Good Beer Guide, pubs which consistently serve good quality real ale. We run a real ale bar at the Marymas Fair, selling ales from local brewers. We organise visits to local breweries. We try to arrange branch and committee meetings in pubs around our area so that members living outside Inverness can come along. We organise the annual Pubs-of-the-Year (POTY) vote, and then decide which pub goes forward to represent Inverness & Highland branch in the overall Scottish Pubs-of-the-Year. We publish a newsletter on a quarterly basis - letters & articles welcome.

If you would like to play a more active part in the local real ale scene (other than just drinking the ale!!) then please let us know. No problem if you do not wish to be involved with committee, but just keeping us up-to-date with pubs in your area would be great. An extra pair of hands at Marymas for an hour or two would also be a big help. Any contribution would be very welcome.



**Fine cask
keg and
bottled ales**



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

Clachnaharry Inn Real Ale Festival

Clachnaharry Inn will be staging a beer festival as part of **Highland Feast 2004**, North of Scotland's "vibrant and dynamic annual Food and Drink Festival".

It was always Landlord George MacLean's stated intention (as noted in an earlier edition of this newsletter) to hold a beer festival and, in addition to wishing George

every success with this new venture, we hope that it will become a regular feature of the local real ale calendar.

The four-day festival will feature some of the best real ales available - from the Highlands & Islands: Atlas, Isle of Skye, Cairngorm, Orkney, and An Teallach breweries; from other parts of Scotland such as Kelburn Brewery and Fyne Ales; and ales from south of the border.

Branch Diary (Meetings start at 7.30 pm)

17th - 25th Sept	3rd Loch Ness Beer Festival	Benleva Hotel
19th Sept from 13:00	Beer Festival Social	Benleva Hotel
30th Sept - 3rd Oct	1st Clachnaharry Inn Real Ale Festival	
1 st Oct from 15:00	Beer Festival Social	Clachnaharry Inn
5th Oct	Committee Meeting	Cawdor Tavern, Cawdor
4th - 6th Nov	Aberdeen Beer Festival	
9th Nov	Annual General Meeting	Clachnaharry Inn
7th Dec	Committee Meeting	Heathmount Hotel, Inverness
14th Dec	Annual Inverness Walkabout & Social (Meet at Glen Mhor Hotel at 19:00)	
4th Jan 2005	Committee Meeting	Blackfriars
1st Feb	Joint Branch & Committee Meeting	Clachnaharry Inn
1st Mar	Committee Meeting	Benleva Hotel, Drumadrochit
5th Apr	Committee Meeting	Invernairne Hotel, Nairn
12th Apr	Branch Meeting	The Anderson, Fortrose

Contact Details



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bill-tring@supanet.com

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mike.whittall@talk21.com

The Clachnaharry Innvites

you to its first ever

Real Ale Festival

Thursday 30th Sept - Sunday 3rd Oct

*Hosts of Highland & Scottish Ales
accompanied with Seafood Buffet,
Full Menu & Daily Special*

Open all day everyday

Award-winning Clachnaharry Inn celebrates Highland Feast with a four-day Real Ale Festival, offering some of the best real ales available from both the Highlands and Scotland. Real food is also on the menu at Clachnaharry, where 'Mein Host' George MacLean and his staff welcome enthusiasts and newcomers alike to the friendly world of real ale. CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) Winners 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003. Fosters Beer Garden finalist 2004.

Clachnaharry Inn, High Street, Clachnaharry, Inverness
T: 01463 239806 E: clachinn@btopenworld.com





Landlady Barbara with Angus & Cairngorm Brewer Sean

Another Successful Marymas Fair

The Branch 'Real Ale Festival' turned out to be one of the best yet. It was blessed with almost unbroken sunshine for the whole day, and once more we ran out of beer well before closing time, at about 2.30, (a half hour earlier than last year). This was despite the fact that some of our notable customers were not there; the two Johns, the minstrels and the party from the Benleiva. So

should we go for five casks next year? The feeling is that our small beer stall and the gazebo seating area are becoming a focus for many visitors to the Marymas Fair. Barbara again supervised the bar on the day, with help this year provided by Angus from the Skye Brewery. The setting up of the bar we now have down to a two man job: Bill and Eric dedicating an hour on Thursday and Friday evenings, with odd-job-man Chairman Bill erecting the gazebo on Saturday morning, and then fetching and carrying for the rest of the day.

All four ales sold well, with the fruity light straw coloured 3.6% ABV Atlas Latitude running out about half an hour before the other three. The stronger golden orange 5% ABV Blaven from Isle of Skye Brewery, the hoppy 4% ABV Red Macgregor from the Orkney Brewery, and the full-bodied 4.4% ABV Black Gold Stout from Cairngorm Brewery combined to make up a nice balance of colour, strengths and flavours.

The popularity of the full-bodied Black Gold on such a warm day just goes to show that there are plenty of dedicated stout drinkers out there. What a shame that the once great Guinness stout and its fellow countryman Murphy's do not have more competition in the main market place. How about a campaign to persuade real ale landlords to serve a 'real' stout?

With each passing year the Marymas Real Ale bar becomes ever more successful and easier to organise, thanks to the various improvements we have made: the gazebo; dispensing in pints; not being restricted to porter; and increasing from two to four casks being some of the significant changes we have made.

On the glorious day we had this year it was very satisfying to see so many people standing at the bar and sitting in the gazebo enjoying the facility it provided. It makes it all so worth while. Next year's event is already looked forward with relish. Please enter the second Saturday in August 2005 into your diary now. We all look forward to seeing you all there again.

OPEN
ALL
YEAR

Benleeva Hotel

Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness

Tel :
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Highland Pub of the Year 2003

3rd Loch Ness Beer Festival

17th - 25th September 2004

En-suite Accommodation
Excellent Food Every Evening

3rd Loch Ness Beer Festival Beer List

- Isle of Skye -** Red Cuillin, Black Cuillin, Hebridean Gold, Young Pretender, Misty Isle, Skyclight, Hoodie Crow, Blaven (from the wood), Cuillin Beast (from the wood)
- Cairngorm -** Wildcat, Trade Winds, Nessie's Monster Mash, Highland IPA, Sheepshaggers, Stag, Black Gold, White Lady
- An Teallach -** An Teallach Ale, Crofter's Pale Ale, Beinn Dearg, Brewhouse Special
- Hebridean -** Celtic Black, Clansman, Islander
- Inveralmond -** Lia Fail, Ossian's Ale, Independence, Thrappledouser
- Tryst -** Brockville Ale, Carronade IPA
- Valhalla -** White Wife, Auld Rock
- Sulwath -** Crifel, Cuil Hill, Knockendock
- Islay -** Saligo Ale, Black Rock Ale
- Kelburn -** Red Smiddy
- Bridge of Allan -** Glencoe Stout, Caber Tosser, Stirling Brig

Now in its third year the Loch Ness Beer Festival is firmly established in the Highlands & Islands real ale calendar, and is helping to fill the void left by the demise of the Royal Hotel in Kingussie and their popular annual autumn real ale festival. Ed.

It's not all about Pubs, Beer Festivals, and Brewery Trips

The Branch has received many requests and queries over the years, via email or post, but one of the most unusual, surprising and pleasurable came earlier this year.

Richard Pedersen (a Dane who describes himself as a beer-lover who is lucky enough to currently reside in Belgium), would appear to be a citizen of the world as well as being a successful trained brewer, and he and his fiancée Kristen had, for reasons best known to themselves, decided to become a Mr and Mrs here in Inverness.

Knowing that there must be a CAMRA Branch in the area, Richard e-mailed HQ for assistance and they forwarded his e-mail on to us. Richard explained in his mail that their families were too far away to be involved in the wedding and so, not knowing a soul in Scotland or have anyone to bring over from Belgium, could we provide two witnesses? Chairman Bill and John Holloway were both more than happy to volunteer.

So the request for assistance was answered and a reply detailing time, place and format for the happy event duly arrived by return. All that was left now was to wait and wonder. Was this some illegal, arranged affair?

Was a child bride or an abduction involved? Would the couple be closely followed by protesting parents, relatives, or even police? The only thing now was to sit back, wait, think the best, be optimistic and look forward to the excitement of the event.

Of course there was nothing to worry about - Richard and Kristen turned out to be a delightful couple and citizens of the world who had just decided to come and live and work in Britain. Having decided to start off the new chapter in their lives by getting married, then why not have the ceremony in Inverness - the attractive capital of the spectacular Scottish Highlands.

The event itself took place simply, in the registry office on Bank Street and, after a wedding breakfast of coffee and fruit scones in Leakey's book shop, the bride and groom were on their way to a new life in the Norfolk area. After, of course, a short honeymoon in the Scottish Highlands.. And yes, they gave Bill and John a very nice selection of Belgium beers as a thank you. No need for that, it was a pleasure to help out. Thank-you again, Richard and Kristen, for brightening our lives with your unusual but special request.



The happy couple with their witnesses

Your business needs . . .



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Investor in People

Pub Reports -



High Summer in Inverness

"I was in Inverness last night, peak summer and no beer in the Waterfront, Thistle Bar, or Columba Hotel. Kings Highway (Weatherspoons) had 5 on, Arran Ale was very good. Best pint of the night was Black Gold in Blackfriars."

Beers available in the centre of Inverness on 21st July, tourist season -

- Heathmount** - An Teallach Crofters Ale (OK), Deuchars IPA and Peters Well.
- Number 27** - Atlas Wayfarer (VG) and An Teallach.
- Waterfront** - No ale, pumpclip turned around.
- Palace Hotel** - Most expensive at £2.65 a pint. Deuchars IPA (VG), but usually Isle of Skye Red Cuillin.
- Glen Mhor** - Red Cuillin (G) and London Pride.
- Thistle Bar** - No real ale, newly refurbished with four handpumps.
- Phoenix** - Yellowhammer (OK), 3 Sisters, Deuchars IPA.
- King's Highway** - After hearing of only one or two beers, and even none on two days, I was surprised; Arran Ale (VG), Courage Directors, Deuchars IPA, Old Speckled Hen, Caley 80/-.
- Columba Hotel** - Newly refurbished with a Black Isle handpump. Tonight no real ale on, ran out.
- Hootananny** - Red Kite (G), a group on and like a sauna in there.
- Blackfriars** - Black Gold (EX), Hoodie Crow, Old Spec Hen, Gales Summer Hog Bitter, McEwans 80/-, Wildcat, Trade Winds, Old Peculiar.

Name & Address supplied.

West Coast Revisited

Picked up your magazine in the Phoenix, Inverness after a trip to Inchnadamph. Not sure if you know about this one, but the Inchnadamph Hotel was serving An Teallach Beinn Dearg Ale (very tasty!) and Crofters Pale (didn't try that one there) on handpump. Well worth it after bagging Ben More!

Interesting to see some of the places I have used in the past listed as serving real ale. I remember a successful walking holiday in Glen Shiel, bagging the South Glen Shiel ridge and the 5 Sisters plus and finishing the day in the Kintail Lodge Hotel. As I recall it was the summer of '98 and there was a football tournament on but there was no real ale.

Kinlochewe looks good as a starting point for the Fisherfield Munros - again it was Keg back when I was last in the area.

Keep up the good work.

Buteobuteo - the Common Buzzard

And the start (or finish) of the trail to the Beinn Eighe mountain range is only a few hundred yards from the door of the Kinlochewe Hotel. Ed.

Inverness Wanderers

Hi, we had a beer crawl around Inverness, this is the result -

- Glen Mhor** - Lounge bar closed at 1 pm!! Fullers London Pride was on the bar but we were told they would not open the bar as we were not dining or hotel residents. We left disappointed.
- Waterfront** - Tried a half of Deuchers IPA from the fizz font and wished I hadn't; it was rancid, had a few sips then walked out in disgust.
- Palace** - Stuck my head in the door to find no real ale (again) so carried on walking.
- Columba Hotel** - At last success, Black Isle Red Kite was in wonderful condition, as a new outlet on the circuit I would give this a 4+ .
- Thistle Inn** - We looked forward to this one but on entering the bar we found empty handpumps. We were informed they were getting some in on Wednesday!!!! Oh well.
- King's Highway** - Wow! They have more than one real ale on!!!! Tried Morland Old Speckled Hen which was too cold and lacked in flavour - rating 2-3. Also on but not tried - Arran Ale, Courage Directers, Deuchers IPA, Caley 80/- .
- Blackfriars** - Gales Summer Hog - rating 4. Cairngorm Black Gold - 4. Isle of Skye Hoodie Crow - 3+. Also on but not tried - Red Cuillin, Cairngorm Wildcat. All beers tried were, as usual, in excellent condition. A good range of ales - by far best pub of the day.
- Phoenix** - Black Isle Yellowhammer - rated 3. Not bad condition, could have been better, first time I have seen this beer for a couple of years. Also on Caley 80/- Deuchers IPA
- Number 27** - Atlas Lattitude - a generous 3 - this beer was not at its best.

This concluded our wander for the day.

Craig & Louise, Newtonmore

Thanks for an honest report. Please keep us up-to-date. Ed.

Win Some, Lose Some

On a recent holiday in the Highlands I picked up a copy of your Summer Newsletter in the Invergarry hotel. Congratulations on an excellent publication and thank you for the list of pubs selling real beer which was really useful, given the relatively limited number in the GBG.

I wasn't greatly taken with the Invergarry - rather noisy and 'foody' for me - so we made immediately for The Eagle at Laggan Locks. What a find - a boat as a pub, Atlas beer and an eccentric landlord. On Skye I thought that the Stein Inn was idyllic and found another not on your list. This was in Carbost, near the Talisker distillery, and called, I think 'The Inn' - beautiful location and good (Skye) beer. On the other

hand, although the beer in the Sligachan hotel was fine, it was served only in a cavernous 'bar' devoted to food and with loud music. Not my idea of a good pub. Having read the report of your trip to Gairloch we called at the Old Inn. What a cracking pub! It fully deserved your glowing report. Unfortunately, the holiday ended on a slightly low note; I ordered a pint in the Inchbae Hotel near Garve only for the barman to discover that it had just run out - and there was no more in the cellar.

David Denver, Lancaster

Walkers, climbers, campers, families with young children, etc., who have experienced a stormy day on Skye in years gone by, will no doubt enjoy the open-all-day, food-served-all-day, facilities-for-children in the "cavernous bar" at Sligachan. Easy to forget that this type of hospitality was almost non-existent twenty years ago - never mind a decent pint of real ale.. Ed.

Subscription Request

I have just had a cycling holiday: starting at Fort William, south to Onich, then west following the coast roads (including the dead-end ones) to Mallaig, then around most of Skye. Enclosed is a list of pubs (*see notes below*) I visited/attempted to visit, and my scores for the beers. My next holiday in September is mainly to the Outer Hebrides, so my list for that trip will be rather short!

Before setting off I had obtained a list from the Isle of Skye Brewery via the Internet, and on arriving in Fort William and visiting the Nevisport Bar was pleasantly surprised to see your branch newsletter, with even more outlets listed. Keep up the good work.

I have enclosed £10. Could you possibly arrange for future newsletters to be posted to me until the money runs out, as I expect to spend the next 2/3 years continuing around the Highlands coast, plus the Orkney and Shetland Islands. I would therefore welcome up-to-date information.

Alan Fearnley, Halifax & Calderdale Branch.

There is not room for Alan's comprehensive list of 43 pubs, but encouraging to note that local ales regularly scored 4 (CAMRA beer scoring system), with Isle of Skye Brewery's Hebridean Gold (3 pubs in Broadford) and McNab's (Royal Hotel, Portree) scoring 5. Three pints only in Tobermory before the beer ran out and, on Skye, the Duntulm, Flodigarry, Skeabost, and Ardvassar hotels were "awaiting new supply"

Worth noting that Coruisk House at Elgol is a restaurant, but real ale is served with food; at Dunvegan Hotel real ale is served in the lounge, which closes early - stock up and take your drinks down to the basement bar (which overlooks Loch Dunvegan).

Clearly some pubs are still being caught out by the popularity of real ale, and in some the ale quickly ran out. Overall a very encouraging report which indicates that high quality, locally-brewed ale, is widely available on the Isle of Skye.

The Old Inn

Gairloch, Ross-shire, IV21 2BD

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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.



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E-mail: enquiries@theoldinn.net



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

Real Ale Trails I - Why stop at Fort William?

Some pals of mine walked the West Highland Way last year. I joined them on the last leg and helped them to celebrate a successful and enjoyable trek. Before we headed homeward, I asked the question - "Why stop (walking) at Fort William?"

A seed had been sown. 12 months later I re-joined the group in Fort William for the first day of their trek to Ullapool.

We walked as far as the waterfall at Clunes (see picture), where Rik & Glen (camper van support team) were waiting to transport us back to Fort William for a second evening sampling the fine ales found at the Grog & Gruel and Nevisport Bar. I dropped the group back at Clunes the following day, but not before I made them promise to report back on any real ale they might find on their route -



"So we hit real ale on 7 of our 9 stops on the Fort William to Ullapool trek this year! Quite a turn up. It can't have been that bad; we managed 20 mpg over the 130 mile trip! Here's the report you asked for, my personal opinion you understand -

Outside of the flesh-pots at Fort William and Ullapool (you can report on those yourself), the Factors Inn at Torlundy was a surprise, didn't even know it was there. The bar was very comfy and the staff very welcoming on such a wet day to us, the muddy boot brigade. The Atlas 3 Sisters ale was excellent (rated 4). Shame the Tomdoun didn't listen to (ex-real ale publican) Rik in the afternoon and tap the new barrel ready for our arrival. We only managed 3 pints of Orkney Northern Lights (rated 6 on a scale of 0 to 5, possibly because some of us ran out of water on a hot day; but it was excellent!) before they ran out. I got the impression it was new to them and they were still learning the ropes.

The only pub that didn't have real ale was the Cluanie Inn and the bottled Black Cuillin only partly made up for it. The Kintail Lodge was apparently let down by the Skye Brewery substituting Young Pretender for their regular Red Cuillin (out of stock at the brewery!). The beer was a little temperamental, giving the odd cloudy pint which spoiled what was otherwise a good pint (rated 3 when clear) in an excellent hotel - best food and service on the whole trip. Very fortunately we were residents at the Strathcarron Hotel, as staffing difficulties meant there were no meals for passers-by. The beer was not my favourite, Houston Peter's Well (rated 2), but it was fine. The main disappointment was the Ben Damp Lodge; it had real ale but couldn't get it from the cellar to customers because it had no gas (leaky gas lines not fixed by brewery despite visit from brewery to do this and them claiming it was sorted when they left). The Kinlochewe Hotel was a good surprise - great landlord,

excellent Red Cuillin, as good as any I've had (group rating was 4), and good food. The Auntie Alice (An Teallach) at Dundonnell Hotel was in good nick (rated 3) for all 20 pints that we walkers had, and in total we must have had between 26 and 30 pints between us, you, Rik and Glen, before they ran out!

Finally, I have some preliminary stats for you: We walked a total of 129 miles in 8½ days, averaging 15.1 miles each day; the longest day was just under 10 hours and 6 days were over 9 hours. We also walked all the mountains on the itinerary: 12 Munros and 1 Corbett, despite all that the weather threw at us.

Now for the important bit, overall we managed 20.0 miles per gallon (beer). Not as good as the West Highland Way (15.3 mpg) but the quality of the beer was far better (no Deuchars IPA for a start!)." *Highlands & Islands ales reach the parts.. Ed.*

Real Ale Trails II - Ullapool to Cape Wrath

Naturally enough these intrepid walkers have no intention of stopping at Ullapool either, and will (hopefully) complete the third and final leg of their journey at the end of May 2005 -

"Dear Ed, it occurred to me that you might find yourself in the far north-west sometime this summer, looking for somewhere to imbibe. In case you do, the hosteleries of interest for next year's trek are:

Inchnadamph Hotel: a bit off the walking route, but on the main road and we could use it for 3 nights if good.

Kylesku Hotel: just off route and good alternative to Inchnadamph for 2 nights.

Lochinver Hotel: off-route alternative to Inchnadamph for just 1 night.

Scourie Hotel (listed in your newsletter as having real ale): Not first choice for any night but could be used, if pushed, for 1 or possibly 2 nights.

Rhiconnich and Kinlochbervie Hotels: we could use either of these for 2 nights if good, or 1 night each.

Cape Wrath and Smoo Hotels: End of Glasgow to Cape Wrath trek!! Real ale??

Alternatively, you may just hear something about these places at one of your CAMRA meetings, in a CAMRA newsletter or be able to ask brewery contacts about status (Skye, Orkney and Atlas, for example!), etc." Dave Butcher, Derbyshire

At the last count 8 walkers have signed up for the last (and easiest) leg of the walk to Cape Wrath, and will be supported by 2 camper vans and crews. Their daily needs are simple -

Bed & Breakfast accommodation (not bunkhouse) for eight,

Evening meals for a party of up to 12,

Overnight parking or campsite for two large motorhomes,

Good quality real ale for all: 50 - 60 pints per night..

Not much to ask - Let us know if you can help out and we'll let them know. Ed.

Focus on Jim Anderson

Jim Anderson, and his wife Anne, moved to the Black Isle from Philadelphia, USA to take over The Royal Hotel in Fortrose at the beginning of 2003. Jim spent 32 years working his way through all the aspects of restaurants and bars in the States, while writing extensively on food and drink for magazines, newspapers and Websites, as well as radio and TV. His ground-breaking magazine, 'Beer Philadelphia,' began in 1995 and grew into Beer-Philadelphia.com and America's first weekly radio beer programme, 'Beer Philadelphia Radio'. He also developed America's first system for delivering cask conditioned beer by gravity at Bridgid's Restaurant in Philadelphia. If that was not enough he even had time to organise a few Beer Festivals, such as the Real Ale

Rendezvous and the infamous Split thy Skull barley wine gathering. Now, in his new home, he has changed his establishment's name to The Anderson and re-introduced two Real Ale handpumps. To compliment Anne's excellent food is Scotland's largest selection of Belgium beers and a very good selection of malts.

Q: *How were you introduced to Real Ale?*

A: *In the '80s, I travelled a lot using beer to create my itinerary. You know, a trip to Czechoslovakia to taste Pilsner Urquell at the source, to Munich for some Doppelbock and so on. A trip in 1984 to Burton to taste draught Bass led to my first "real" pint. It was the day I landed in London, a pint of Museum Ale at a Samuel Smith's pub at the top of Portobello Road. From that moment on, it was a labour of love to try to popularize real ale*



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

Proprietor: Jim Anderson of Beer Philadelphia

the
ANDERSON
www.theanderson.co.uk

Union Street
Fortrose, Ross-Shire
01381 620 236

in my corner of the States.

Q: Why make the move from Philadelphia to Fortrose?

A: Those of us who are on the downhill slope of the Hill of Life might understand the urge to do something a little different while one still can. Anne & I wanted to have our own restaurant with rooms once our son was out of nappies. We decided to look outside of Philadelphia, and found that once we made an intellectual break from the city, we were free to live anywhere we wanted to. We looked at various places in North America, in southern Belgium and in the Highlands. Once we'd decided on the Highlands, I took a trip to see some buildings with one of our partners, Tom Peters, of Monk's Cafe. Between viewings of two hotels, our present building caught our eyes as we were driving by. It wasn't even on our list, and ended up being the place we settled on!

Q: What are the differences between the real ale scene in America and Scotland?

A: To my surprise, the scene here in the Highlands is nearly identical to that in the States, which is to say that there's very little interest in real ale except among beer enthusiasts and visiting Englishmen. The result is that, as a publican, I run fewer handpumps in order to maintain freshness, and spend a disproportionate amount of time maintaining casks, educating customers and publicising the charms of real ale. As a consumer, I drink a lot of bottles of Beck's. That's because the majority of places here which are licensed for children don't offer real ale in any form. The scene here is clearly different from that in England -

I have English visitors who come into The Anderson assuming that there's draught real ale. It's great! It's because of them I can increase my real ale variety during the busy months and still stick to my policy of keeping no cask on more than five days. Oddly, we've managed to introduce hundreds of people to real ale through our Belgian selection, although the connexion between bottle-conditioned ale and draught real ale is a bit abstract for the typical punter.



Q: Very briefly, describe your typical working day.

A: We change our menu every day, so much of the day's work surrounds food preparation and buying. I start at about 7:30 with cooking breakfast for our overnight guests. Then I take the boy to school. A frenzy of cooking, ordering, deflecting phone calls and chipping away

at a mountain of redundant paperwork, pick up the boy from school, playtime and get ready to serve dinner, ending with closing the bars and the requisite paperwork, take the dog out and to bed by 1am. When things are going smoothly, that is!

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: Helping our guests discover something new about their taste, whether it's someone's first flame-grilled soft-shell crab, a delicious port-wood-finished single-malt or - the ultimate - finding the perfect ale for the person who thinks Tennent's Lager represents all beer.

Q: What do you like least about your job?

A: That VAT makes dining and drinking out such an expensive proposition.

Q: What are your favourite real ales/ beer styles?

A: I'm a sucker for a well-aged barley wine or Belgian strong ale. A 10-year-old bottle of Rochefort 10° or J.W. Lees Harvest Ale is hard to deny. Sadly, my taste in cask ale runs along the same lines, so I really take notice when I come across a session-strength ale with strong ale character. I've been drinking a lot of Cairngorm and Atlas ales lately.

Q: After the successful Belgium beer tasting session back in April, do you have any more planned?

A: Planned, but not yet scheduled. Look for the next one after the summer madness dies down, maybe in October, with a dinner sometime this winter hosted by a

guest brewer from one of our favourite Belgian breweries. Keep an eye on our Website for details -

www.theanderson.co.uk

Q: How do you relax, do you have any hobbies?

A: I'm American -- work and family are my hobbies!



Q: What are your plans for the future of The Anderson?

A: We plan to bring the single-malt collection up to 200 - we're at 151, now, I think - and to finish, finally, upgrading the guest rooms. Seeing some of Anne's recipes pop up in other restaurants keeps her pushing the envelope of Highland cuisine, to do more strange and wonderful things with the amazing ingredients we're finding here. What we're creating is an oasis in the Highlands, a destination for those interested in enjoying the finest things in life in a peaceful village setting. We surround ourselves with the things we like and invite like-minded visitors to share our new-found lifestyle and hedonistic tendencies!



THE HEBRIDEAN BREWING COMPANY

Taste of the Islands

18a Bells Road
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
HS1 2RA
Tel: 01851 700123
Fax: 01851 700234
www.hebridean-brewery.co.uk

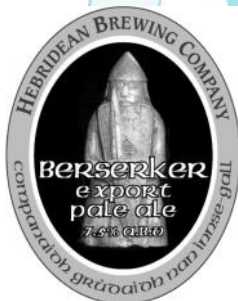


CLANSMAN Ale

3.9% ABV



Islander
strong premium ale
4.8% abv



Celtic Black Ale

3.9% ABV



Berserker
Export Ale 7.9%

Hebridean Brewing Company Quality Guarantee

At the Hebridean Brewing Company we have a belief that quality is fundamental to our products. We create traditional craft brewed ales full of flavour using only the best ingredients and Hebridean water.

Although brewing on island and the extra transport costs associated with this keep our beers at a premium, you the customer are assured that everything from milling to bottling is carried out in the islands.

We believe that the unique taste of the islands owes much to the Hebridean water and the care we take in making our fine ales. We therefore refuse to brew our beers under licence on the mainland to cut costs and increase supply, whilst keeping the credence given to Island brewed beers.

So next time you try a pint of Hebridean beer, you can be assured it was made with only the best malt, hops, yeast, Hebridean water and a love of making quality ales.

WE WON'T PUT OUR BADGE ON ANYTHING ELSE.

ANDREW MURDO RIBBENS
HEBRIDEAN BREWING COMPANY

Over the Bridge to Skye

The (extremely as it turned out) misty Isle of Skye was our destination for the last trip of the year. After paying the extortionate bridge toll our first stop was in Broadford to pick up two local members to make our total 10. Then onto the Sligachan Hotel, set in the spectacular Cuillin hills, where a selection of Houston beers - Auld Humdinger, Big Tosser, Peter's Well and Cuillin Conqueror - were all in very good condition. The new Cuillin Brewery is being set up in part of the hotel, and they plan to start a couple of trial brews in October, with a 3.8-ish ABV light coloured beer and a 4.2-ish ABV 80/- style ale. They hope to be fully up to speed and brewing for the Hotel after their winter break. We look forward to visiting the brewery next year. North to the Uig Hotel, with its views over Uig Bay and the Isle of Skye Brewery, (Why was there was smoke rising from the rear of the brewery, was it on fire? We were soon to find out). The Uig Hotel now has a good local core of real ale drinkers and are able to offer two beers, or the day Red Cuillin and Blaven were both very good. Well worth a visit.

Down the hill to the Isle of Skye Brewery where Angus



The view from the Uig Hotel



Andy pulls pints of Leann Failte' ale



MacRuary and the staff were waiting to meet us. In keeping with Skye brewery tradition, a blend of ales, 'Leann Failte', was on offer in the brewery lounge, and we had to guess the mix. No one correctly guessed the 50/50 Skylight/Blaven blend, but John Aird was nearest and was given a gift pack of Skye beers to take home. Angus then gave us a guided tour of the recently expanded brewing plant. Pride of place was the copper Copper (pictured), which is nearly covered in stainless steel and with only the top copper dome shape visible. There is more refurbishment to come in upgrading the bottling and gaining more storage. We then saw where the smoke was coming from - it was John Jones cooking on a Bar-B-Q. A wonderful feast of smoked salmon, pork ribs, venison burgers, kebabs, and salad had been prepared for us, washed down with Red Cuillin.



Angus, Pam (head brewer), Norrie (deputy head brewer) and Andy (technical advisor) were on hand to answer our questions. The time passed quickly and all too soon we had to leave this marvellous hospitality behind. A quick visit to the brewery shop and then it was back on board the bus.



Next stop was the Stein Inn, which is in a beautiful setting on the shores of Loch Bay. Owner Angus MacGhie was there to welcome us but, as chef for the evening, he had to quickly return to his stove. The main bar has two cosy beamed rooms that run into each

The view (above) of the Stein Inn as you approach. The misty weather on the day we visited did not allow the usual super views (right) across the sea loch, nor the reflections in the water pictured below.

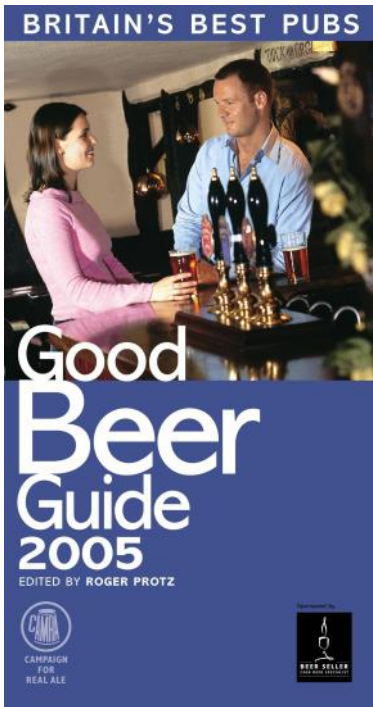


other and caters for all the family. Beers on tap were Cairngorm Monster Mash, Orkney Northern Lights, and Isle of Skye Thunderstorm (a trial brew), and all were very good. Most of the group then gathered for a Branch meeting, where it was very informative to have local members present who could give a first hand update on the Isle of Skye real ale

scene. It is always sad to leave such a beautiful spot, especially when the beer is so good, but from Stein Inn to Inverness is a long minibus journey home.

We made one last stop in Kyle of Lochalsh. Pizza for some and, at Cuchulainn's, a very good pint of Isle of Skye Red Cuillin finished the day very nicely.

We all enjoyed the day and thanks are due to all our hosts, both for their hospitality and warm welcome, and we hope to see you all again. Thanks also to driver Gordon, of Fraser's Coaches (Munloch), for a safe and comfortable journey.



Good Beer Guide 2005

32nd Edition of Britain's long running, best-selling guide to good beer and good pubs offers discriminating drinkers:

- * The best pubs in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and Isle of Man that serve cask-conditioned real ale in tip top condition. All beers listed by strength and style.
- * Pen portraits of the pubs: history, architecture and anecdotes. Plus information on food, entertainment, accommodation, and facilities for families. E-mail and website addresses where given.
- * Our unique Breweries section - something only CAMRA can provide - that lists all the producers and their beers, with tasting notes, information of beers suitable for vegetarians, and the growing number of organic and bottle-conditioned beers. There is also an up-to-date information on breweries, mergers and takeovers along with details 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 - Closed—See "News of Brews"

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 - Brewing moved to the family croft at Camusnagaul, near Dundonnell, during March 2003. Ales include An Teallach and Beinn Dearg.

Islay Ales Co Ltd - Established in an old Tractor Shed in Bridgend, in March 2004. Ales include Finlaggan and Blackrock.

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.



and Orkney Aberdeen, northern the Arran IIs in the lowland area; is covered by Glasgow. Similarly GBG, pubs in Orkney and Shetland are submitted by Aberdeen, Grampian & NI Branch.

Good Beer Guide Listed Pubs - 2005

Inverness

- Blackfriars
- Clachnaharry Inn
- Glen Mhor Hotel
- Hootananny
- Snowgoose

Around Inverness

- Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit
- Invernairne Hotel, Nairn

Black Isle & Dingwall

- The Anderson, Fortrose
- Plough Inn, Rosemarkie

Speyside

- Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore
- Old Bridge Inn, Aviemore
- Cairn Hotel, Carrbridge
- Heatherbrae Hotel, Nethy Bridge
- Glen Hotel, Newtonmore

Western Highlands

- Applecross Inn, Applecross
- Old Inn, Gairloch
- Loch Carron Hotel, Lochcarron
- Plockton Hotel, Plockton
- Plockton Inn, Plockton
- Scourie Inn, Scourie
- Ferry Boat Inn, Ullapool

Isle of Skye

- Sligachan Hotel
- Stein Inn, Waternish
- Uig Hotel, Uig

Lochaber

- 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
- Ferry Inn, Stromness
- Stromness Hotel, Stromness

Shetland Islands

- Baltasound Hotel, Island of Unst
- Spiggie Hotel, Scousburgh
- Inn on the Hill, Whiteness

Amendments & deletions can be found at www.camra.org.uk on the GBG page.

Real Ale Pubs

In addition to Good Beer Guide entries, the following list of Inns and Hotels are known to sell (or to have recently sold) cask-conditioned beer. We make no claims as to the quality of the beer, and would point out that some of the more remote pubs may only stock real ale on a seasonal basis:

Inverness

Columba Hotel
Heathmount Hotel
Inshes Gate - **(TP)**
Kings Highway
(Weatherspoons)
Number 27 - GBG 2004
Palace Hotel - GBG 2004
Phoenix Bar - GBG 2004
Thistle Inn

Around Inverness

Cawdor Tavern, Cawdor
Bogroy Inn, Inchmore
Clansman Hotel

Black Isle & Dingwall

Richmond Hotel, Strathpeffer

Speyside

Dalfaber Country Club, Aviemore
Glenmore Lodge, Nr Aviemore
Winking Owl, Aviemore
Mash Tun, Charlestown of Aberlour
Highlander Inn, Craigellachie
Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten
Glen Mhor, Granton on Spey
Strathspey Hotel, Granton on Spey
Suie Hotel, Kincaig - **(TP)**
Laird's Bothy, Kingussie
Tomatin Inn, Tomatin
Glen Avon Hotel, Tomintoul

The Road to Lochaber

Glenmorrison Arms
Cobb's, Drumnadrochit
The Lock Inn, Fort Augustus
The Bothy, Fort Augustus
Invergarry Hotel - GBG 2004
The Eagle, Laggan Locks
(An Inn on a boat on the water)

Lochaber

Inn at Ardgour
Arisaig Hotel
Laroch Bar, Ballachullish - GBG 2004
Tradewinds, Corpach
Alexandra Hotel, Fort William
Ben Nevis Inn, Fort William
Capercaillie, Fort William
Milton Hotel, Fort William
Tradewinds Bistro, Fort William
Kings House Hotel, Glencoe
Glenfinnan House Hotel
Mamore Lodge, Kinlochleven
Antler Bar, Kinlochleven
Stronlossit Hotel, Roy Bridge
Tomdoun Sporting Lodge
Factor's Inn, Torlundy
(Closed Sun/Mon, No Smoking)

The Road to Skye

Kintail Lodge Hotel
Clachan Bar, Dornie
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
Old Inn, Carbost - **NEW**
Coruisk House, Elgol
(Restaurant - Real ale served with food only)
Duntulm Hotel
Dunvegan Hotel
Edinbane Hotel
Lodge Hotel, Edinbane
Flodigarry Hotel
Greshornish Lodge
Isleornsay Hotel
Isle of Raasay Hotel
King Haakon Bar, Kyleakin
Taigh Ailean Hotel, Portnalong
Bosville Hotel, Portree
Isles Inn, Portree
Royal Hotel, Portree
Isle of Raasay Hotel
Sconser Lodge Hotel

Skeabost Hotel
Ferry Inn, Uig
Pub on the Pier, Uig

Argyll Hotel, Ullapool
Caley Inn Bar, Ullapool
Morefield Hotel, Ullapool
Seaforth Hotel, Ullapool

Western Isles

Langass Lodge, North Uist
Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula - **NEW**
Isle of Benbecula House Hotel - **NEW**
Borrodale Hotel, South Uist - **NEW**
Royal British Legion, Stornoway
The Whalers Rest, Stornoway
Shawbost Inn, Isle of Lewis - **NEW**
Isle of Harris Inn, Tarbet

East Coast (Dingwall - Helmsdale)

Castle Hotel, Dornoch
Invershin Hotel

North

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

Western Highlands

Ledgowan Hotel, Achnasheen - **NEW**
Ben Damp Lodge, Torridon
Drumchork Hotel, Aultbea
Dundonnell Hotel
Kinlochewe Hotel
Badachro Inn
Inchbae Hotel, Garve
Rock Villa Hotel, Lochcarron
Strathcarron Hotel
Tigh-an-Eilean Hotel, Shieldag

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.*



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,



Inverness & Highland Branch



Ale on Water

'The Eagle - Inn on the Water' is a converted Dutch barge moored at Laggan Locks on the Great Glen Way. The 1929 barge is 98 feet long, weighs 260 tonnes, and it survived a force five gale during the 10-week sea crossing from Holland. The Eagle is primarily a restaurant but has a small real ale bar. A move is planned, at the start of October, to a mooring near Neptune's Staircase for the quieter Winter period.



The **Eala Bhan** (White Swan) is a 20 metre, 50 ton, traditional wooden herring drifter, built 40 years ago. Recently refurbished, with five guest cabins, it offers day trips through Loch Ness and the Caledonian Canal, or longer voyages around the Highlands.

On certain trips they arrange for Isle of Skye Brewery real ale to be delivered to their moorings.

More Success for Trade Winds

Cairngorm Brewery is delighted with the latest accolade achieved by their speciality ale. First it won the 'punters' Choice at the 2003 Scottish Beer Festival, followed by Beer of the Festival at a CAMRA festival in Shropshire, then at this years Scottish festival it was voted Champion Beer of Scotland. Now to cap it all it has won the

gold award in the speciality class at the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia. It seems that there is only one place to go next - Champion Beer of Britain??

Do not miss this delicious bitter-sweet beer if it appears in a pub near you.

Congratulations to Sean and Ewan and all the staff at the Brewery on the success of this wonderful product.

*Not bad for a one-off seasonal brew?
Now part of their regular portfolio! Ed.*



Cairngorm's award-winning brewing team, Sean and Ewan, inspect the mash.

the glen hotel

NEWTONMORE

Monarch of the Glen Country

Fine Food

Lunchtime & evenings

Entertainment

on selected nights

Accommodation

stay the night and relax...

Four Hand Pumps

Plus selected bottled ales



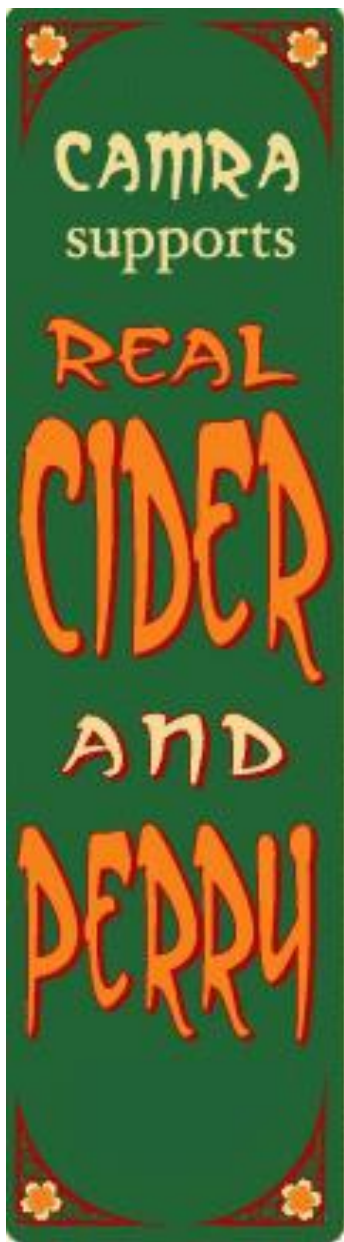
**The Glen - an Oasis within
the 'Real Ale Desert'
of Badenoch**



Tel: 01540 673203
www.theglenhotel.co.uk

October - Cider Month

CAMRA celebrates Cider throughout October and will highlight the range of Ciders that suit different foods. Activities will be publicised on the CAMRA web site.



What do we mean by *Real Cider*?

Real cider is the product of fermenting fresh apple juice. The amount of apple juice which goes into the final product must be between 85 and 100% and should be clearly stated on the container it is sold in or dispensed from. No artificial sweeteners, flavourings or colourings are permitted.

(For Real Perry substitute pear juice)

Personal Tasting Notes..

Dundonnell Hotel Beer Garden

During a recent visit to the An Teallach Brewery I was lucky enough to become involved in a significant event at the nearby Dundonnell Hotel; the hotel that is virtually the brewery tap. New owners Rob and Trish Stevens were opening their new landscaped 'beer garden', a delightful area hewn out of the hillside adjacent to the Hotel. Winding paths lead to various seating areas where the guests are able to enjoy spectacular views of Little Loch Broom and the surrounding hills.

Rob and Trish, with the help of their son Gareth and daughter Jane, have made other significant changes to the hotel since taking over last year and it is now a very welcoming experience for the hill walker/climber as well as for the real ale enthusiast: with local An Teallach beer,



Owners Rob & Trish (right) in the garden with Chairman Bill and Davie & Wilma Orr

reasonably priced food served by friendly staff, and even a shower facility for the tired hill walker - and of course the new beer garden. And yes, they have even thought to include a number of discrete pieces of equipment to ensure that the guest can enjoy this spectacular location unhindered by the local midge menace.

THE AN TEALLACH ALE COMPANY

An Teallach
ABV 4.2 %



ers Pale Ale
ABV 4.2 %

Beinn Dec
ABV 3.8 %

use Special
ABV 4.4 %

Dundonnell, Camusnagaul, Little Loch Broom, Nr Ullapool, IV 23 2 QT
Tel/FAX: 01854 633 306 E-Mail: anteallachale@dundonnell.freesserve.co.uk

News of Brews

The **Newtonmore and Kingussie Brewery** is no more. As reported in an earlier edition of this newsletter, the Royal Hotel in Kingussie was sold a year ago and has since closed. The brewery was moved into storage at the Mains Hotel in Newtonmore, to await the directors word on it's future. The Mains Hotel was sold on 8th August and has also closed. The brewery has been moved into storage in the Midlands (England), and might start brewing again, but not up here in Scotland.

Meanwhile Lee Cartwright is in the process of setting up a new 5 barrel brewery in Caithness. He has registered with SIBA and is now working out a business plan. He is looking for suitable premises for his **John O'Groats Brewery**. Sales will be mainly to the bottled beer market and a few local outlets. He has discussed plans with Dave Gladwin at Black Isle and will be seeking advice from the Melvich Hotel also. If all goes well he hopes to be up and running next year.

A new brewery is also being set up at the Sligachan Hotel on the Isle of Skye.

Two new ales from the Isle of Skye Brewery were recently spotted at the Clachnaharry Inn, **Skyelight Ale** (3.8% ABV) and, from the wood, a stronger, darker **Thunderstorm** (4.9% ABV).

Islay Ales brewed their first beer on 22nd March this year and it went on sale at Easter. Islay Ales brew two beers: Finlaggan Ale at 3.7%, a hoppy fruity session beer, and Black Rock at 4.2%, a more

full-bodied, sweeter, softer beer.

A third beer has recently been brewed, called Saligo Ale. It is a 4.4% summer ale using pale, lager and wheat malts with Golding and Bramling Cross hops.

The **Hebridean Brewing Company** have enjoyed a hectic summer but continue to do all their brewing and bottling, etc. in Stornoway. Expansion plans will allow them to continue doing so as the business grows, and customers are guaranteed that when it says Hebridean Ales on the label, all will have been milled, brewed and bottled or casked in the Outer Hebrides. The brewery have looked into the cost of bottling and brewing under license, but feel that unless they shipped their own Hebridean water with the other ingredients it would just not be the same beer. Hebridean bottled ales are proving to be very popular in Scandinavia.

Elsewhere in Scotland -

New breweries are the City of Stirling Brewery, the Tryst Brewery at Larbert. Trossachs Craft Brewery at the Lade Inn (near Callender), Stewart Brewing Ltd (Edinburgh), Fowler's micro brewery at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg (some interesting historical background on the website - www.prestoungrange.org), and McCowans Brewhouse in Edinburgh, (started brewing again this Spring),

Scottish Traditional Beer Festival - Champion Beers of Scotland

Gold: Cairngorm's Tradewinds

Silver: Isle of Skye's Black Cuillin

Bronze: Harviestoun's Bitter & Twisted

The "people's favourite" vote went to

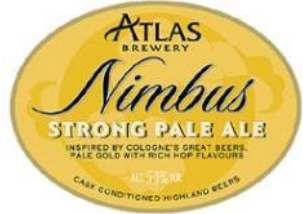
ATLAS BREWERY



**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
www.atlasbrewery.com



THE PLACE TO BE ... starting On The First Thursday in November



for even more details see

groups.yahoo.com/group/camra_aberdeen

or

www.beer.ology.org.uk and www.camra.org.uk

**18th
Great Grampian
Beer Festival**
is sponsored by
Valhalla Brewery
www.valhallabrewery.co.uk



**Thursday 4th November, 4pm - 12pm
Friday 5th November, 4pm - 1am
Saturday 6th November, noon - 11pm**



**McClymont Halls
43a Holburn Street
Aberdeen**

(opposite junction with Union Grove)



Over 70 Real Ales - milds, stouts, porter, bitters, best bitters, old ales, speciality beers and barley wines and a smaller selection of cider, perry and bottled beers
Entry £3 including commemorative Festival Glass & programme (subject to availability)
Free re-entry on production of current Festival Glass

Right to admission is reserved and subject to hall fire limits

Wagtail Porter from Black Isle Brewery. Inveralmond Brwery's Ossian and Lia Fail ales won gold and bronze awards at The Helsinki Beer Festival in April.

We hear that **Fyne Ales** are planning regular deliveries to Inverness & district.

Inns & Things

The **Isles Hotel** in Portree has been taken over by Punch Taverns, and are no longer allowed to sell local real ales!

Hopefully the same fate will not be befall Ullapool's award-winning **Ferry Boat Inn** who are now owned by Belhaven Inns.

Sitting in a popular Inverness hostelry recently, enjoying a pint of Red Cuillin, I watched as a customer walked in, took a

couple of minutes to study the wide range of ales on handpump, and eventually chose Caley 80/- ahead of a very good selection of local real ales! No accounting for taste! How I wish that I had suggested he try a locally brewed ale.

No Real Ale - Taken off our list of pubs selling real ale following reports of no real ale available -

Altguish Inn
Toravaig House Hotel, Isle of Skye
Grouse Inn, Tomintoul
Mains Hotel, Newtonmore - **CLOSED**
National Hotel, Dingwall

New owners at the Aultguish Inn have (sadly) removed the handpumps. This is a pity. We called there in May, en route to



The *and restaurant*
GLEN Hotel

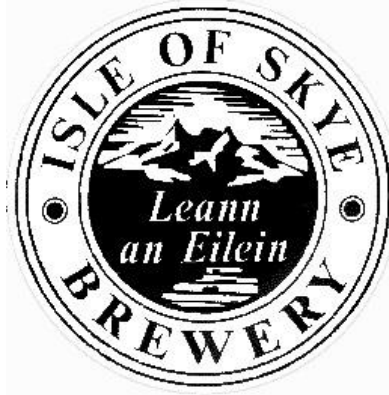


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