

# What's Yours Then?

Inverness & Highland Branch  
Free Newsletter

Highlands & Islands -  
A Genuine Real Ale Region



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

Summer 2005



**Welcome** to the Summer edition of our branch newsletter.

**In this edition -**

- > Focus on David and Wilma Orr
- > Website News - Rate Our Beer
- > Wester Ross & Lochalsh Trip Report
- > Your letters and pub reports
- > Real Cider News
- > Pub & Brewery News
- > Festival News
- > Updated Real Ale Pubs list

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 2005, with publication in time for the Autumn visitor.

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

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

We prefer to receive artwork as a PDF or JPEG file, or Word document. We can help in preparing your advert if you wish.

**2500+ copies** are distributed to Branch members, to Highland & Island brewers, to Good Beer Guide listed and Real Ale pubs; plus extra copies to advertisers.

*What's Yours Then is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Inverness & Highland Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA, nor its Branches.*

**Correction**

Robbie Walker, Managing Director of the very successful award-winning Cairngorm Brewery, would like to point out that Norman Swinton never 'owned' Aviemore Brewery, as mentioned in the Autumn edition of 'What's Yours Then'. Norman was merely the hard-working manager, not having put any money into the brewery. This may come as quite a surprise to early visitors.

**SAFeway/MORRISONS**

It has been widely reported in the press that Morrisons has been struggling in Scotland since taking over and rebranding Safeway. Apparently Morrisons has reduced the product lines it stocks from around 30,000 to 20,000, and it would appear that the stores in Scotland are suffering as a result of this. Local CAMRA members have complained to us that bottled beers from local brewers are no longer stocked by Morrisons. When we checked this out in June the Morrisons store in Milburn Road did not have any beers from Highlands & Islands brewers. At the same time the range of bottled beers on sale at the Tesco store at Inverness Retail Park included Arran Blonde, Black Isle Organic Red Kite, Isle of Skye Red Cuillin and Black Cuillin, and Orkney Dark Island.

We contacted the Morrisons locally but could not find anyone willing to give us a policy statement.

*(Continued on page 10)*

*Thanks to all who have taken trouble to send in pub and beer reports, or articles, but especially to regular writers Chairman Bill & Secretary Eric.*

**Trading Standards Office:** Contact details for problems such as consistent short measures, no price lists - 0845 600 4 222  
**e-mail** - [consumer.advice@highland.gov.uk](mailto:consumer.advice@highland.gov.uk)  
[www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/highland](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/highland)



# Premium Highland Ales

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## 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%
Red Mountain Porter	4.5 %
Witches Cauldron	4.9%
Santa's	
Sledgehammer	6.3%



**Black Gold**  
**ABV 4.4 %**

Award winning Scottish Stout with a rich dark colour, traditional smooth sweetness with underlying roast barley hints



**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](mailto:info@cairngormbrewery.com)

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

## **To Lochcarron and Plockton (and back)**

Not just our first trip of the year, but our first organised trip to Wester Ross. A dozen eager souls assembled at the Town House in Inverness and boarded the minibus, once again supplied by Charlie Fraser from Munloch. The weather was fine, but a bit cool and misty. First stop was at the Lochcarron Hotel where a friendly welcome steered us in the direction of the bar where our first drink was Isle of Skye Brewery's Cuillin Beast! A bit strong for a session beer but tasting very good with just a slight cloudiness. Also on tap was Red Cuillin which was very good. This hotel, now under new owners, is in a prime position on the Lochcarron front with seating affording excellent views over the loch. Just around the corner, the Rockvillia Hotel, slightly smaller and refurbished in pine, was also offering two real ales. The Red Cuillin was very good and the Arran Sunset was excellent. (We have since heard that this establishment has been sold and we hope the new owners keep up the good beer). So far so good - two outlets and very good beer in both.

Not far along the road is the Strathcarron Hotel. Recent reports had indicated that they were no longer selling real ale, so it was encouraging to see a sign advertising real ale on the road side



The GBG Listed Lochcarron Hotel

and a sign on the hotel advertising a friendly welcome and local real ales. Great! We were looking forward to seeing what they had to offer. Unfortunately no real ale was on because allegedly they cannot sell any at this time of year. They have real ale in a bottle because it keeps longer!! (Most bottled beers are not real ale, only the bottle-conditioned ones are). We left very disappointed. **See update on Page 31.**

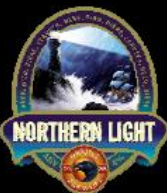
Onwards to the picturesque village of Plockton where both real ale outlets serve award winning food. The Plockton Hotel, on the waterfront, had Caledonian Deuchars IPA and Isle of Skye Hebridean Gold, both in excellent condition. Some of the party were just in time to sample the excellent seafood on offer here before the kitchens closed. Around the corner the Plockton Inn was busy with locals. The excellent pint of Tetley's Imperial was not to everyone's taste, probably because of the hoppy, sulphur background. They normally serve two beers here.

On the return journey along the A87 our first stop was at the recently refurbished bal-macara Hotel, another in a loch-side position, and now under new ownership. The Isle of Skye Red Cuillin was very poor, it was just drinkable, either coming to the end of the cask or having been on too long. There was a very friendly welcome at the Kintail Lodge Hotel, nicely tucked away behind a tree lined rock outcrop on the shores of and with views over Loch Duich. There is a bunk house here and it is popular with walkers. The Red Cuillin was excellent. Through Glen Shiel, and to the Cluanie Inn - no real ale, and only bottled beers. The Glenmoriston Arms Hotel in Invermoriston had real ale from the wood, but only a small amount left, so we decided to leave it for the other customers and we continued our journey.

Our last stop was at the Benleva Hotel in Drumnadrochit, our current Branch Pub-of-the-Year, where a good selection of beers was available. An Teallach Beinn Dearg Ale was a little disappointing - has the recipe changed we wondered? Isle of Skye Devanha XXX, Kelburn Red Smiddy, and Fyne Ales Pipers Gold were all in excellent condition.

Finally, it was back to Inverness after a splendid day out on the real ale trail..

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## 2005 Branch Diary (Meetings start at 7.30 pm)

5 <sup>th</sup> July	Committee Meeting	Inchbae Hotel, near Garve
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Branch Meeting	Chieftain Hotel, Inverness
<b>9<sup>th</sup> August (changed)</b>	Committee Meeting	Royal Hotel, Cromarty
13 <sup>th</sup> August	Marymas Real Ale Bar	Eden Court, Inverness
4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Isle of Skye Social/Outing - Branch Meeting at Isle of Skye Brewery	
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Committee Meeting	Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore
16 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	4 <sup>th</sup> Loch Ness Beer Festival	Benleva Hotel
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept from 13:00	Beer Festival Social	Benleva Hotel
* End of Sept	2 <sup>nd</sup> Clachnaharry Beer Festival	Clachnaharry Inn
* 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept from 15:00	Beer Festival Social	Clachnaharry Inn
* Clachnaharry Inn Festival will be part of the annual Highland Food & Drink Festival. Dates to be confirmed. Further info at <a href="http://www.highlandfeast.co.uk">www.highlandfeast.co.uk</a>		
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Committee Meeting	Snowgoose
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Aberdeen Beer Festival	
8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	Clachnaharry Inn
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Committee Meeting	Phoenix
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Inverness Walkabout & Social	(Meet at Blackfriars at 19:00)
February 2006	1 <sup>st</sup> Aviemore Feis	Old Bridge Inn

### Contact Details

See on-line diary at [www.highlandcamra.org.uk](http://www.highlandcamra.org.uk)



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[chair@highlandcamra.org.uk](mailto:chair@highlandcamra.org.uk) [news@highlandcamra.org.uk](mailto:news@highlandcamra.org.uk)

### ***Book early for our trip to the Isle of Skye on Sunday 4th September:***

Our annual trip to Skye is not to be missed, and regular trippers eagerly look forward to this super day out. The spectacular scenery along the route is worth the trip, regardless of the mood of the weather. It would be impossible to visit all the real ale hosteleries on Skye in one day and so we try to fit them all in over a three year period. In the past we have held branch meetings at the Sligachan Hotel, now home to the Cuillin Brewery, and at the Stein Inn, but this year we have been invited by owner Angus MacRuary to hold our meeting at the Isle of Skye Brewery. A warm welcome from Angus and his friendly team is always guaranteed, and we are very much looking forward to our brewery visit.

# Clachnaharry Inn *biting* You

Up to 10 Real Ales on at any one time, and with food served all day - famous for its lentil soup and stovies, this award winning pub will always make you welcome..



*Inverness  
& Highland  
Real Ale Town  
Pub of the Year  
2000, 2001,  
2002 and 2003*

**KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH**

## **The Clachnaharry Inn**

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### **Local Brewery Makes Honey of an Ale**

Black Isle Brewery of Munlochry has brewed a new ale that's bound to "bee" popular with real ale drinkers. The new seasonal brew is called Heather Honey Beer, and made its draught debut at The Anderson in Fortrose one Friday evening late in May.

Black Isle Brewery Managing Director, David Gladwin, said, "We wanted to make a beer that is relevant to the area. Heather honey is one of the Highlands' more distinctive products and behaves exceptionally well in the brewkettle. Heather Honey Beer will be a nice, light summer beer that will appeal to anybody."

Black Isle Brewery is noted for their use of local and organic ingredients, resulting in top-flight beers packaged in recycled materials. Heather Honey Beer will be widely available this summer in 330ml bottles. We hear that David is also planning to brew a 1.2% Ginger Ale, and more specialities during the summer, and that he has agreed a deal with Wetherspoons to take some of his brews.

The Anderson is a restaurant with rooms on the Black Isle, whose reputation for cask ales, cask cider and Belgian beers have earned it the title of "beer mecca" from CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. According to owner Jim Anderson, The Anderson's resident Basil Fawltly, "We embrace the unusual here - to say the least - and when David told us about this new beer, we simply had to be the first pub to pour it. Happily, he said yes."



## **Inverness & Highland Pub -of-the-Year 2005**

The team at Benleva Hotel are pictured receiving their award from Branch Secretary Eric Mills. Brothers Stephen and Allan Crossland (l & r), who jointly own the hotel with Jamie Beaton (centre), have scooped this prestigious award for the second time in only three years.



Benleva Hotel will be pitted first against the Redgarth (Aberdeenshire) and Erricht Ale House (Tayside), as part of the selection process to find the Scottish Pub-of-the-Year, and then against pubs selected from other Scottish regions. Branch POTY winners include: Steampacket (Ayr), Masonic Arms (Dumfries), Halfway House (Edinburgh), Four Mary's (Forth Valley), Bon Accord (Glasgow), Commercial (Fife), and the Coanes (Renfrewshire).

# **THE 4th LOCH NESS BEER FESTIVAL**

**Friday 16th - Saturday 24th  
September 2005**

**Benleva Hotel  
Drumnadrochit**

**Live  
Entertainment**

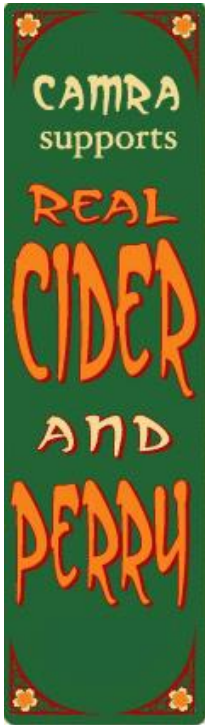
**Excellent  
Food**



**Over  
50 Ales**

**Cask  
Cider  
Too!**

**CAMRA Highlands & Islands  
Pub of the Year  
2003 & 2005**



We are delighted to be able to report that Thatcher's Original Cider is being served at the **Eagle - Inn on the Loch**, at Laggan Locks.

**The Anderson** at Fortrose is now selling Addlestone's Cloudy Cider on handpump, and the tap which once dispensed keg Strongbow will be replaced by one dedicated to guest Belgian strong ales. The "live" Belgian ales will include the renowned La Chouffe, Affligem Blonde, and St. Feuillen Blonde.

Staff and regulars at the Benleva Hotel were able to enjoy bottled cider and perry from **Broome Farm**, generously provided by some guests from Ross-on-Wye. All Broome Farm Cider and Perry is made from whole fruit juice – once pressed the juice is allowed to ferment with its own natural yeasts.

The farm cellar is open every day for tastings and sales straight from the wooden barrels, and there is also a selection of bottled cider and perry available, both single varieties and blends.

Benleva co-owner Stephen Crossland was suitably impressed and has promised to have real cider for the September festival (see page 24).

Check our new website for Highlands & Islands pubs selling cider.

Over 100 ciders and perries were judged at Reading Beer and Cider Festival to find the 6 award winners (gold, silver and bronze for each drink). The coveted first placings went to two Welsh producers, Ralph Owen's 3B's cider was judged to be the finest in the land, while Andrew Gronow and his uncle Bill George of Gwynt Y Ddraig were ecstatic to be told their perry was the best.

### Cider

National Gold	Ralph's 3B's Cider (New Radnor, Powys)
National Silver	Upton Sweet (Didcot, Oxfordshire)
National Bronze	Newton Court Medium (Herefordshire)

### Perry

National Gold	Gwynt Y Ddraig (Llantwit Fardre, Glamorgan)
National Silver	Minchew's (Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire)
National Bronze	Hecks Farmhouse (Street, Somerset)

*(Continued from page 2)*

The following comment was issued by the Public Relations Co-ordinator in Bradford:

*"Throughout the Morrisons and Safeway stores in Scotland, the bottled ale category offers a range that we believe reflects the current demands of the majority of our customers' tastes including ales from The Caledonian Brewery, The Isle of Arran Brewery and The Bellhaven Brewery."*

*The buying team continue to be committed to sourcing from both regional and national breweries and undertake regular range reviews monitoring demand and trends to enable us to offer the products our shoppers want to buy."*

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of Badenoch**



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## Good Beer Guide Listed Pubs - 2005

### **Inverness City**

Blackfriars  
Clachnaharry Inn  
Glen Mhor Hotel  
Snowgoose

### **Inverness District**

Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit  
The Anderson, Fortrose  
Plough Inn, Rosemarkie  
Invernairne Hotel, Nairn

### **Aviemore & Cairngorms**

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

### **Fort William & Lochaber**

Grog & Gruel, Fort William  
Nevisport Bar, Fort William  
\* Clachaig Inn, Glencoe  
Tailrace Inn, Kinlochleven  
Four Seasons, Onich  
Nether Lochaber Hotel, Onich  
Old Forge, Inverie

\* Strictly the Clachaig Inn is in Glasgow & West of Scotland branch area, but it is not very far from the "border" and is certainly worth a visit.

### **Isle of Skye, Lochalsh & Hebrides**

Sligachan Hotel  
Stein Inn, Waternish  
Uig Hotel, Uig  
Plockton Hotel, Plockton  
Plockton Inn, Plockton

### **Wester Ross**

Applecross Inn, Applecross  
Old Inn, Gairloch  
Lochcarron Hotel, Lochcarron  
Ferry Boat Inn, Ullapool

### **Caithness & Sutherland**

Scourie Hotel, Scourie  
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

The Hootananny Bar in Inverness was reluctantly deleted from the 2005 Good Beer Guide, in January 2005, due to poor beer quality.

A full list of amendments & deletions can be found at [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk), on the GBG page.

**Join CAMRA Today - Membership Form on Page 32**



A list of Highlands and Islands real ale pubs may be found on line at [www.highlandcamra.org/pubs.htm](http://www.highlandcamra.org/pubs.htm). This list is updated as soon as any information reaches us about changes to the local real ale scene. We cannot indicate on-line which pubs are in the Good Beer Guide as this could obviously compromise sales of the guide. Pubs which are listed in the guide are encouraged to include a link on their web site and are able to use the GBG 2005 logo. When planning your trip, look out for the Good Beer Guide 2005 logo on Hotel and Pub websites.

**[www.highlandcamra.org.uk](http://www.highlandcamra.org.uk) - Let us know what you think**

## Real Ale Cuttings

Three top Highlands & Islands pubs have recently featured in national publications:

The Daily Telegraph has teamed up with Abbot Ale, organisers of the Perfect Pub Award, to find Britain's top "watering-hole". A "First Eleven" was selected, one for each TV region in England, Scotland, and Wales. The **Old Inn at Gairloch** was chosen to represent Scotland:

"When most people think of a drink made in Scotland they think of malt whisky.

The Old Inn proves that when they think of a drink made from malt they should really think of Scottish-brewed beer"

The article noted that the Old Inn serves several local beers: "from the brewery in Dundonnell and the Isle of Skye Brewery, which makes a wonderful diversity of ales". "The Old Inn is rightly renowned for its seafood dishes, including squat lobsters, langoustines, brown crab, and mussels"

*Quotes were taken from the May 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Daily Telegraph. Ed.*

The Spring/Summer 2005 edition of the British Waterways Waterfront magazine includes a "Pubs a' Plenty" article which



features six waterside pubs from up and down the country. The article includes the

**Clachnaharry Inn**, which it notes as "Great for: ales, home cooked food".

This is the first and oldest pub to greet you at Clachnaharry Sea Lock on the Caledonian Canal according to the cheery

landlord George. The 17th century pub specialises in lentil soup, and the Scottish dish 'stovies' which comprises meat and potato heavily seasoned with salt, pepper and onions, all washed down with one of ten real ales. Speaking of ales, the pub has its own 'Clachnaharry Village Ale' and own whiskey labels too - a gem on the Highland canals. British Waterway's canal administrator, Scott MacKay, said: "The pub is popular all year round, with very nice food and two small bars selling real ales, it makes for a cosy environment."

*Whiskey??*

A "Right Plaiice, Right Time" good seafood feature in the May 14<sup>th</sup> Guardian noted:

"It may be off the beaten track and require a lengthy drive across the highest mountain pass in the UK to get there, but the **Applecross Inn** on the west coast of Scotland is worth a visit for the jaw-droppingly beautiful views alone - over Applecross Bay and out to the Isle of Skye. It's a deceptively simple-looking white-washed pub but the outstanding cooking of aptly named owner, Judith Fish, and her head chef, Clare Mansfield, makes it really special".

*When we visited last year we enjoyed a Black Cuillin in superb condition, rated at 5 on the NBSS scale. And yes, the fresh seafood was very good. Ed.*

A "Campaign for Real Ale" advertising feature was recently published in the Highland News. Some good publicity for the local branch, and a number of real ale pubs placed adverts, but it is a pity that having twice telephoned our secretary for information about local matters the only

*(Continued on page 34)*

# The Old Inn

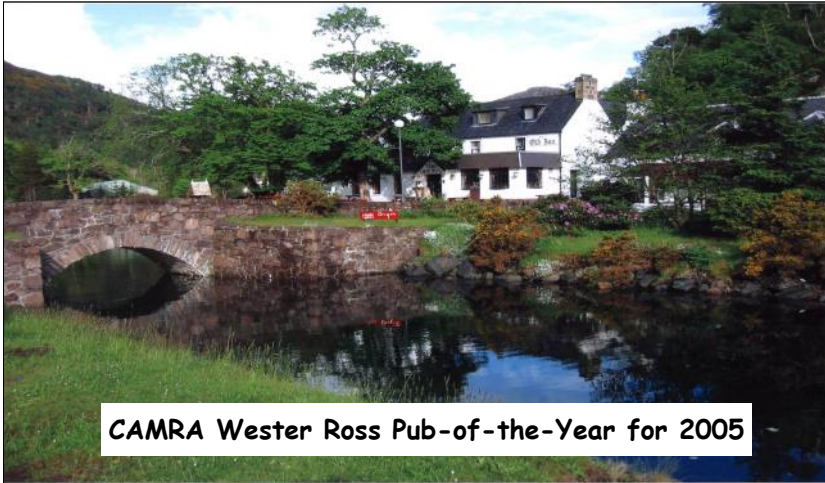
Gairloch, Ross-shire, IV21 2BD

Telephone: 01445 712006

Enquiries - Call Free - 0800 542 5444

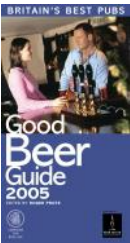
Scottish Tourist Board 3 Star Inn

## 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.net](http://www.theoldinn.net)

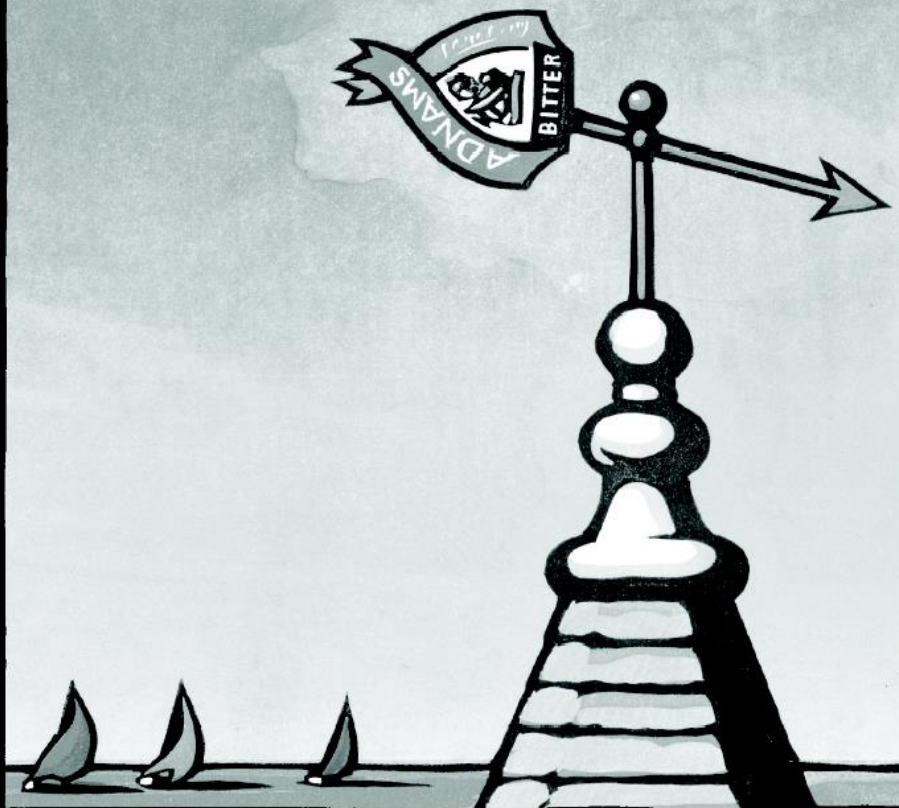
E-mail: [enquiries@theoldinn.net](mailto:enquiries@theoldinn.net)



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

ADNAMS. BEER FROM THE COAST.

# Adnams Broadside Always available at the Clachnaharry Inn





## Inns & Things

George MacLean, landlord of the award-winning Clachnaharry Inn, has taken over the former Drouthy Duck pub at Conon Bridge. **The Duck** has re-opened with four real ales on tap, including Conon GoldenEye house ale from the Cairngorm Brewery. There is also a large selection of bottled ales from around the world.



George, pictured above with his **2005 Inverness Pub-of-the-Year award**, hopes to create the same homely open fire atmosphere as customers are used to at the **Clachnaharry Inn**. The Duck will be open all day and good pub food, at reasonable prices, will be served with his winning formula of Real Ales.

Some of the regulars at the **Suie Hotel** in Kincaig are unhappy that their pub may not be considered for the CAMRA Good Beer Guide. Our chairman received an ear-bashing recently from one who could

not be appeased no matter how he tried to explain the CAMRA stance on the issue of top pressure. This excellent village local was recently considered for the guide until it was discovered that one of the beers is dispensed using top pressure. Not all CAMRA members are unhappy about pubs which use top pressure beer, and most support the listing of such pubs in this newsletter. It can be argued that pubs with a slow throughput of real ale are better off using top pressure than trying to sell a ten day old sour pint that might put someone off real ale for life. So sorry Suie regulars, we do sympathise but a listing in this (widely distributed) newsletter is the best we can do.

Real ale will soon be flowing again at the **Thistle Inn** in the Celt Street area of town now that Richard has solved the problem of his overheating cellar. The solid stone insulation in his traditional cellar meant that even the small amount of heat generated by his keg coolers made it impossible to serve real ale at the correct temperature. Richard is a keen real ale man and has repositioned the fans and pumps of his coolers externally. The newly refurbished Mayflower Lounge will support a restaurant and live Scottish music will accompany real ale.

One of Mitchell & Butler's Vintage Inns, the **Snow Goose**, is known mostly as a well managed, reasonably priced eating house, popular with many in and around Inverness. However it also supports a real ale bar and the Draught Bass and Deuchars IPA are kept at the highest quality by landlord Steve Throup. So even if you

*(Continued on page 31)*

# THE AN TEALLACH ALE COMPANY

An Tealla  
ABV 4.2 %



ers Pale Ale  
ABV 4.2 %

Beinn Dec  
ABV 3.8 %

ouse Special  
ABV 4.4 %

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## Focus on David & Wilma Orr

David and Wilma set up the An Teallach Brewery on Wilma's family croft at Camusnagaul, near Dundonnell, in March 2003. The brewery is in a picturesque setting on the banks of Little Loch Broom and in the shadow of the mighty An Teallach mountain. Their brews include Beinn Dearg (3.8%), An Teallach Ale (4.2%), Crofters Pale Ale (4.2%) and Brewhouse Special (4.4%). Tours by arrangement.

**Q.** Where are you originally from?

**Wilma:** I was born 200 yards from the Brewery in my Grannies house.

**David:** Peebles in the Borders.

**Q.** Do you have a brewing background?

**Wilma:** No, I was a keen wine maker, if someone had told me years ago that I would be brewing in our own brewery I

would have said they were nuts.

**David:** Keen home brewer, brewed for the first time with my father when I was 17, been at it ever since.

**Q.** Why brew in such a remote area?

**Wilma:** Because that is where we live.

**David:** We were looking for something to do for a living at home as we were both fed up with working away from home. I had just been to the United States, saw a micro-brewery, and thought what a splendid idea.



**Q.** What is the best part of your work?

**Wilma:** Seeing the finished article in pubs and hotels around the country and having people phone asking specifically for our product.

**David:** Tasting and sampling.



Tasting and sampling time?

**Q.** And the worst part of your work?

**Wilma:** As there is only two of us we seem to be always tied to the Brewery. If we go away for the day we have to be back at night, especially in summer.

**David:** Washing casks, no tasting or sampling and Punch Taverns.

**Q.** What are your favourite real ales/ styles/other brewery beers?

**Wilma:** Old Peculier.

**David:** Depends on mood. Most ales are excellent but I must agree with Wilma.

**Q.** What are your hobbies/interests?



**Wilma:** Walking, bird watching, vegetable gardening, looking after the animals on the croft; goats, sheep, hens and, this year, pigs. The good life or what?

**David:** Some of the above. Did I mention tasting and sampling?

**Q.** You have done some bottling, is this going to be regular, if so where can we get some?

**David:** We do small amounts of bottle-conditioned An Teallach Ale and Beinn Dearg Ale when we get time. It is one of these things you have to perfect before you go larger scale, we are getting there. It is only available locally, i.e. Dundonnell Stores and Dundonnell Hotel.

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

**Wilma:** We have just brought out our fifth beer, Kildonan, 4.4% abv which is very pale and hoppy. It seems to have gone down ever so well in the pubs that have tried it. We are still planning a stout type ale later on in the year.

**Q.** Plans for the future?

**David:** Just to keep on doing what we are doing, we sell everything we can brew. Expand? I don't know. We got into this for the quality of life, make a few pounds and enjoy what we do, one step at a time. I would like to get the bottling up and running, but we will get there. Oh, did I mention more tasting and sampling?

# Rate our Beer

Inverness & Highland CAMRA would appreciate a little help in surveying the pubs in our Branch area. To help us decide which pubs in the Highlands & Islands are worth considering for the Good Beer Guide, we are using CAMRA's 6-point scale to record Beer Quality, month by month.

Please use the on-line Rate-our-Beer form on our website.

## What do the scores mean?



**0 Undrinkable.** No cask ale available or so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it.

**1 Poor.** Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.

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

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

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

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



We would welcome your regular input, to help ensure the very best local pubs make it into the 2007 Good Beer Guide (pubs for the 2006 Guide, to be published in October 2005, have already been short listed).

## A (Small) Selection from (on-line) Rate-our-Beer Reports

**Kings Highway** - Wetherspoons (Inverness) - 15<sup>th</sup> March - Lorimer's Special Pale Ale (3). "Beer festival on 9 - 22nd May, will report back!!!". SA, Inverness

**Melvich Hotel** - 24<sup>th</sup> April - Fast Reactor (4). "Great Welcome!" SJ, Edinburgh

**Glenmore Lodge** (Nr. Aviemore) - 1<sup>st</sup> May - Cairngorm Red Mountain Porter (4). Very pleasant staff and both child and dog friendly. Many drinkers are not aware that the bar is open to the public. J.B. Aberdeen

**Plough** (Rosemarkie) - 2<sup>nd</sup> May - An Teallach Brewhouse Special (4). "Mistake brew for An Teallach as they forgot to put in American hops, therefore made with only British hops. Apparently going down great guns according to landlord!" SA, Inverness

**Wetherspoons** (Inverness) - 13<sup>th</sup> May - Everard's Perfick (3), Wychwood Hobgoblin (1), Cairngorm White Lady (4). "Hobgoblin no way near as good as the bottled". SA.

**Wetherspoons** (Inverness) - 13<sup>th</sup> May - Hop Back Brewery Flint Knapper Ale (3), Robinson's Old Tom (4). "lots of trade coming in for the beer festival, at £1.30 a

pint very good. However the atmosphere is not very conducive, smoking, screaming kids, packed to the gunnels". SA, Inverness

**Kinlochewe Hotel** - 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Red Cuillin (2), Hebridean Gold (2). "On 23rd May a new delivery of beer was dispensed within hours of arrival and hadn't time to settle, but was fine on the following days. The proprietor was keen to serve real ale as many customers (mainly English) were asking for this in preference to other drinks. The food was excellent and there were vegetarian & vegan options." RR, Dumfries.

**Seaforth Hotel** (Ullapool) - 27<sup>th</sup> May - Isle of Skye Red Cuillin (3/4). "We were not convinced that this was Red Cuillin. Very light in colour. Do they change the clip when they change the cask we wondered? Fantastic seafood soup." GPS, High Peak.

**Argyle Hotel** (Ullapool) - 28<sup>th</sup> May - An Teallach Kildonan Ale (3), Red Cuillin (4). "A tad cold, but otherwise excellent. Lively bar, good food." GPS, High Peak.

**Loch Inn** (Gairloch) - 28<sup>th</sup> May - Red Cuillin (3). "3 real ales available when I visited, 2 from Skye plus one from An Teallach. The Red Cuillin was so good that the group that I was with, 6 in total, didn't drink anything else all night." RR, Dumfries

*Real Ale Publicans: Encourage your customers to tell us about your beer. Reports from CAMRA members are used when submitting pubs for the Good Beer Guide, but we welcome reports from all to help build a picture of the local real ale scene. Ed.*

DISCOVER  
Real Caledonian Flavour  
QUAL  EIGHTY



## Pub Reports -

A long Spring Bank Holiday weekend and much to be done in the garden.. All work and no play, etc., and so it was into the van and head for the far north-west. A first visit to Ullapool's FBI since Richard Smith left and, reassuringly, we found Wadsworths 6X in very good nick. Just time for a quick pint and then northwards again. We stopped at the Inchnadamph Hotel where we were amazed to find three handpumps on the bar! Only two were in service, both offering ales from the An Teallach Brewery. Not having seen it before we went for the Kildonan Ale, rather than the Crofters Pale, and very good it was too. Overnight camping is not allowed in the massive council car park nearby, but we could have parked at the hotel had we wanted to. We were heading for Scourie, and so we'll do that another day.

At the Scourie Hotel, recently voted Caithness & Sutherland Pub-of-the-Year, we washed down KLB (Kinlochbervie) haddock with Cairngorm Trade Winds - food and drink at its very best! What is more, all this is only minutes walk from a fantastic campsite which overlooks Scourie Bay. Trade Winds, haddock, and campsite are all well worth going out of your way for. We'll be back! Campervan Man.

Ref your Winter newsletter, I see that the Myrtle Bank Hotel in Gairloch is listed as having real ale: It doesn't! Or, it hasn't had any so far this year. I have been in twice in recent months (last time just a week ago), and although there is a handpump on the bar, there has never been anything attached to it. Usual stuff from the owner - no demand, difficult to keep, etc.

There may well be a period during the summer when it has some, but does this really qualify? Just thought I'd let you know, although this is possibly too late for mentioning in your next edition. DG. (Late March). ***Changed to "Seasonal" in our listing. Ed.***

Just to advise you that the Ben Mhor Hotel in Grantown-on-Spey is now serving real ale. When I visited last week they were offering Cairngorm Wildcat & Trade Winds, and said they were considering putting on a regular guest ale if demand allowed. Just thought I'd let you know in case you wanted to advise your local members of another real ale outlet. Regards, IR.

Like many others in Inverness, I'm sure, I have driven along Milburn Road many times without giving the Chieftain Hotel more than a casual glance. However as a dutiful CAMRA member I thought I should pay a visit, having been told that they now serve real ale. I found a gem of a real sports orientated local, sporting five pool tables and a large screen TV providing Sky Sports programmes as well as serving Orkney Dark Island in great condition. There is also a comfy lounge bar. WAT, Inverness

I have just spent three nights at the Inchnadamph Hotel - what a great place. They had three handpumps on the go, all serving ales from the An Teallach Brewery: An Teallach Ale, Crofters Pale Ale, and Kildonan Ale. I'm afraid they were down to one ale by the time we left. All three ales were in super condition, and our party of ten unanimously voted all three a score of 4 using CAMRA's NBSS. GPS, High Peak.



# THE HEBRIDEAN BREWING COMPANY.

*taste of the islands*

**clansman ale 3.9% ABO**

***Beer of Festival, Aberdeen, Garmian and Northern Isles Camra festival 2004***



Golden Hebridean bitter, brewed with Scottish malts.

Lightly bittered, a session ale with a light golden colour.

Good all day beer, plenty of hop and malt character, with lots of malt in the finish.

**islander strong premium ale 4.8% ABO**

**SIBA beer of Scotland, Bronze 2002, Silver 2003. Premium Ale**



Brewed with special coloured Scots malt, deep ruby in colour and predominantly malty with robust hopping to match. Complex like the Hebrides themselves.

**celtic black ale 3.9% ABO**

**Siba Beer of Scotland, Bronze 2004. Milds Category**

**Runner up North Hertfordshire Camra Beer of Festival 2004**

A dark porter style ale full of flavour, balancing a aromatic hop combined with a subtle bite and a pleasantly smooth caramel aftertaste.



**BERSERKER EXPORT PALE ALE 7.5% ABO**

Brewed using traditional methods and based on 19th century recipes. Then matured over a number of weeks to develop a smooth intricate flavour.

Brewed with a robust bitterness blended with a sweet smooth aftertaste and a hoppy aroma.

**New seaforth ale 4.2% ABO**

A classic blonde ale brewed with a variety of hops giving a complex fulsome bite balanced by pleasant refreshing citrus aftertaste.



**Brewed and bottled entirely in the Outer Hebrides**



Member of the Society of Independent Brewers

## Festival News

The **Ceol Beo Beltane Festival 2005**, a celebration of the passing of winter and the coming of summer, was observed at a number of venues in and around Inverness. Those lucky enough to squeeze into a packed **Clachnaharry Inn** lounge bar, home of the weekly Ceol Beo Sessions, enjoyed a lively evening of traditional music hosted by Blazin' Fiddles founder member Bruce MacGregor. A record turnout of musicians entertained regulars and guests. A wonderful selection of Scottish cheeses and oatcakes from The Gourmet's Lair was washed down with a specially brewed Beltane Bonfire Ale from the Cairngorm Brewery. The annual festival, held at the end of April, was organized by Ceol Beo Chairman, Andrew

### *The Old Bridge Inn - Aviemore*



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

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

### **the Aviemore Feis**

a festival of Real Ale and Music  
**February 2006**

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

Mackintosh, who kicked off the evening with a storytelling entitled "Beasties and Bogles". Andrew is one of the founder members of the Inverness & Highland Branch of CAMRA.

The **4th Loch Ness Beer Festival**, again hosted by the **Benleva Hotel**, will feature beers from an English brewery in addition to a massive selection of 50 real ales from Scottish independent breweries. Cask cider will also be on offer this year.

Entry is free and guests will be able to enjoy a quiz and several music nights. (Dates are 16th - 24th September)

Nigel Reid, at the **Old Bridge Inn**, is now planning a pretty major re-furbishment in latish November/early December, and which must obviously be finished in time for the Christmas/New Year festivities.

The first **Aviemore Feis** has therefore had to be postponed until end of January or early February, and so will get 2006 off to a very good start.

Put a reminder in your diary for our very own **Marymas Fair Real Ale Bar**. In the last two years this popular bar has sold out by early afternoon, and so we have ordered even more ale than ever before. The Marymas Fair takes place at the Northern Meeting Park in Inverness. The date is Saturday 13th August.

### **Champion Beer of Scotland Again**

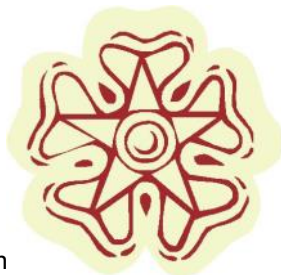
Staff at the Cairngorm Brewery are celebrating after winning Champion Beer of Scotland for a second consecutive year. Following on from the success of Trade Winds last year, Black Gold has won Gold for the Aviemore brewery, Trade Winds coming in second. Isle of Skye Brewery's Black Cuillin completes the honours list.



# Stronlossit Inn

at Roy Bridge

Freephone:  
0800 0155321



Open all day,  
food & drinks  
available all day,  
3 real ales on tap

Stronlossit is a real gem of tradition - a warm, welcome character. The Lounge Bar has an open fire and pulled cask beers, making it a popular rendezvous for Inn guests, outdoor enthusiasts and the local regulars alike. All amidst some of the wildest and most captivating scenery in the Scottish Highlands, in "Western Europe's last great wilderness", as Lochaber is known.

Authentic Scottish highland inn-style Hotel of class and an impressive range of malt whiskies,

'Real Ales, and a substantial Bar Meals Menu in "The Stronlossit Lounge.'  
"The hospitality of the house will compliment the experience"

Your hosts: Maurice and Sandra Valley

[www.stronlossit.co.uk](http://www.stronlossit.co.uk)

E-mail: [stay@stronlossit.co.uk](mailto:stay@stronlossit.co.uk)

## Great British Beer Festival, 2nd-6th August 2005

The festival is literally a beer drinker's paradise with something for everyone. The range of beers is huge with over 400 real ales from all over the country, with a selection from the smallest microbrewers in addition to some of Britain's best-known beers. As well as real ale, ranging from wheat beers to some tasty bitters, you can also sample cider, perry and beer from around the world including some fantastic real lagers from Europe and North America.



### Highlands & Islands brewers monopolise 2005 Champion Beer of Scotland:

- 1st - Cairngorm Black Gold
- 2nd - Cairngorm Trade Winds
- 3rd - Isle of Skye Black



## Highlands & Islands Brewers in 2005

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

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

*Not all of the breweries listed are in our branch area. Some are all in the Grampian & Isles area; Brewery Ayrshire & Sea; while Islay Ales Brewery are Glasgow & similarly for Highland & Islands pubs listed in the GBG, pubs in Orkney and Shetland are submitted by the Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles Branch.*



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

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

**Hebridean Brewing Company** - Based at Stornoway in the Outer Hebrides. Began brewing in January 2002, now producing five regular and some seasonal ales. Beers include Clansman Ale (first ale ever brewed in Stornoway), Islander Strong Ale & Berserker Export Pale Ale.

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

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

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

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

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

**Cuillin Brewery** - The brewery was born on September the 10th, 2004, in the old public bar of the Sligachan Hotel. Skye and Eagle Ales are brewed.

**Far North Brewery** - Melvich brewpub. Ales include Real Mackay & Fast Reactor.

**Highland Brewing Company** - Started brewing in late 2004 at Moorhouses (Lancs). Brewery is to be located in the old Swannay cheese factory at Birsay, on Orkney, hopefully by Summer of 2005.

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

**Oyster Brewery** - Located in Ellenabeich, on the Isle of Seil, near Oban. Set up late in 2004, first brews in the Spring of 2005. Ales include Easd' Ale, Red Pearl, and Oyster Gold.

\* The **Atlas** and **Orkney Breweries** merged in 2004 to form a new business, called **Highlands and Islands Breweries**, but are dedicated to developing the two brands at the existing breweries.

## **UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

*THE FAMOUS*

# ***PUB AT THE PIER***

**Uig, Isle of Skye**

**Up to 10 Cask Conditioned Ales,  
A Fine selection of Malt Whiskies,  
Quality food at affordable prices in our  
60 seat family friendly Restaurant  
Live Music**

*good food*

*good Beer*

*good craic*

***slainte***

## **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. Please let us know about the quality of real ales on tap, particularly if you think inclusion in the Good Beer Guide is merited. 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 **(S)** basis:

### **Inverness City**

Caley Inn **(S)**  
Chieftain Hotel  
Heathmount Hotel  
Hootananny  
Inshes Gate - **(TP)**  
Kings Highway (Wetherspoons)  
McNab's Bar, Columba Hotel  
Number 27 - GBG 2004  
Palace Hotel - GBG 2004  
Phoenix Bar - GBG 2004  
Thistle Inn

### **Inverness District**

Cawdor Tavern, Cawdor  
Caledonian Hotel, Nairn  
Tomatin Inn, Tomatin **(S)**  
Old North Inn, Inchmore  
Culbokie Inn  
Cromarty Arms  
Royal Hotel, Cromarty **(S)**  
The Duck, Conon Bridge  
National Hotel, Dingwall  
Richmond Hotel, Strathpeffer  
Inchbae Hotel, Garve  
Slater's Arms, Cannich  
Clansman Hotel  
Cobbs, Drumnadrochit  
Loch Ness Lodge, Drumnadrochit  
Lock Inn, Fort Augustus **(S)**  
Bothy Bar, Fort Augustus  
Glenmoriston Arms **(S)**

### **Skye, Lochalsh, & Hebrides**

Isle of Raasay Hotel  
Ardvasar Hotel  
Broadford Hotel

Claymore, Broadford  
Dunollie Hotel, Broadford  
Hebridean Hotel, Broadford  
Old Inn, Carbost  
Taigh Ailean Hotel, Portnalong  
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  
King Haakon Bar, Kyleakin  
Bosville Hotel, Portree  
Isles Inn, Portree  
Royal Hotel, Portree  
Sconser Lodge Hotel  
Skeabost Hotel  
Ferry Inn, Uig  
Pub on the Pier, Uig  
Kintail Lodge Hotel  
Clachan Bar, Dornie  
Loch Duich Hotel, Dornie  
Balmacara Hotel  
Cuchulainn's, Kyle of Lochalsh  
Tingle Creek Hotel, Erbusaig  
(by Kyle of Lochalsh)  
Langass Lodge, North Uist  
Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula  
Isle of Benbecula House Hotel  
Borrodale Hotel, South Uist  
Royal British Legion, Stornoway  
Whalers Rest, Stornoway  
Shawbost Inn, Isle of Lewis  
Isle of Harris Inn, Tarbert

### **Fort William & Lochaber**

Invergarry Hotel - GBG 2004  
The Eagle, Laggan Locks  
(An Inn on a boat on the water)  
Roy Bridge Hotel  
Spean Bridge Hotel  
Inn at Ardgour  
\* Laroch Bar, Ballachulish - 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, Tortlundy  
 (Closed Sun/Mon. No Smoking)

Summer Isles Hotel, Achilitibuie **(S)**  
**Caithness & Sutherland**  
 Inchnadamph Hotel  
 Castle Hotel, Dornoch  
 Invershin Hotel  
 Sutherland Hotel, Golspie  
 Melvich Hotel  
 Commercial Hotel, Thurso  
 Mackays Hotel, Wick  
 Alexander Bain, Wick (Wetherspoons)  
 \* Not in Inverness & Highland Branch area

Please check [www.highlandcamra.org.uk](http://www.highlandcamra.org.uk) for latest real ale pubs list

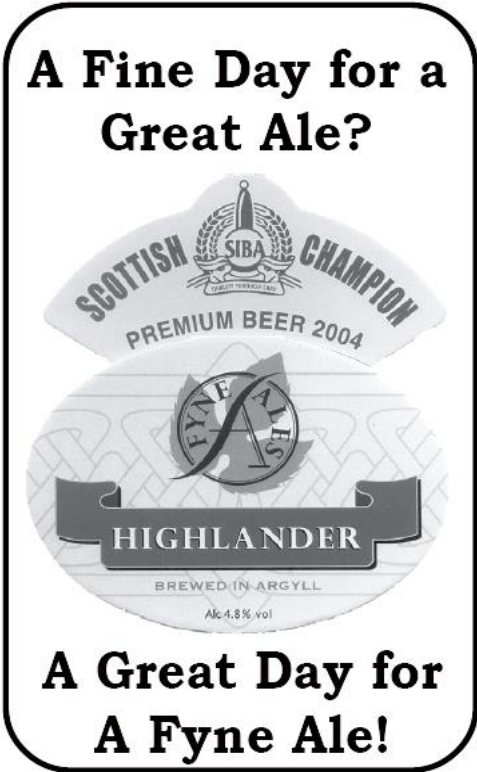
**Aviemore & the Cairngorms**

Dalfaber Country Club, Aviemore  
 Glenmore Lodge, Nr Aviemore  
 Winking Owl, Aviemore  
 \* Mash Tun, Charlestown of Aberlour  
 \* Highlander Inn, Craigellachie  
 Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten  
 Ben Mhor Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey  
 Strathspey Hotel, Grntn-n-Spey **(S)**  
 \* Croff Inn, Glenlivet  
 Suie Hotel, Kinraig - **(TP)**  
 Silver Fjord Hotel, Kingussie  
 Typsy Laird, Kingussie **(S)**  
 Lodge Hotel, Newtonmore  
 \* Glenavon Hotel, Tomintoul

**Wester Ross**

Ledgowan Hotel, Achnasheen  
 Drumchork Hotel, Aultbea  
 Dundonnell Hotel  
 Kinlochewe Hotel  
 Loch Torridon Hotel  
 Badachro Inn  
 Loch Inn, Gairloch  
 Myrtle Bank Hotel, Gairloch **(S)**  
 Steading Café Restaurant, Gairloch  
 Rockvilla Hotel, Lochcarron  
 Strathcarron Hotel  
 Tigh-an-Eilean Hotel, Shieldag  
 Argyll Hotel, Ullapool  
 Caley Inn Bar, Ullapool  
 Morefield Hotel, Ullapool  
 Seaforth Hotel, Ullapool

- TP** - Dispensed using top pressure (not approved by CAMRA for GBG).
- S** - Seasonal or not, it is always a good idea to phone ahead to avoid disappointment if you plan to make a detour for a pint.



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FREEFONE : 0800 083 1923**

**Telephone : 01463 731059**

**11 Craigrory, North Kessock, Inverness. IV1 3XH**

(Continued from page 17)

are not eating out, why not go simply to enjoy these classic real ales..

We have been told that the **Tailrace Inn** serves two real ales all year round.

The **Old Bohemian** in Helmsdale has been taken over by Stuart Blair who plans to open a real ale and traditional music pub.

Both **Strathcarron Hotel** and **Rock Villa Hotel** are now under new ownership and sell Isle of Skye Brewery beers.

The popular Ferryboat Inn in Ullapool is now part of the **Punch Taverns** empire who, allegedly, will not allow Terry Flower to sell Scottish independent brews, even from the local An Teallach Brewery at Dundonnell. It is rumoured that another Ullapool real ale pub, the Argyle Hotel, may also be sold to Punch.

It would appear that Punch Taverns has initiated a policy of expansion into the Highlands, a hitherto ignored territory. On Skye both Portree Hotel and Isles Inn are now owned by Punch, with the result that the Isles, which stocks cask, is not authorised to take local beer. (Portree Hotel has never stocked cask).

This is a worrying trend for Highlands & Islands breweries as free houses are now moving to ties and restricting the choice of ales in the North. It would be a great shame if the work put in over the years by Orkney, Skye, Cairngorm, etc. to build up the cask ale market in the area comes to nought, and these big pub chains take over and only stock the usual suspects..



## News of Brews

The **Hebridean Brewing Company** is brewing to keep up with demand. They have many new outlets and are investigating further brewery plant expansion for both the cask and bottling production.

A West Highlands & Islands Ale Trail is planned, featuring customers throughout the region. It will be in pamphlet form, down-loadable from their web site.

Staff at the brewery are delighted with the feedback gathered to date for their new 4.2% abv **Seaforth Ale**.

"A classic blonde ale brewed with several varieties of hops giving a complex fulsome bite balanced by pleasant refreshing citrus aftertaste".



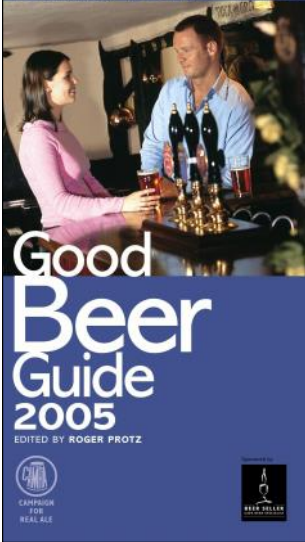
The **Oyster Brewery, Bar & Restaurant** is a new micro brewery situated on the beautiful Isle of Seil. To reach it you cross the "Bridge-over-the-Atlantic", south of Oban, and drive west to the tiny village of Ellenabeich. Their beers are served in the bar which is open all year.

Cairngorm Brewery's **Black Gold**, that wonderfully dry chocolaty stout, recently won the gold award in the Old Ales, Porters & Stouts section of the SIBA National Beer competition.



The **Highland Brewing Company** has just been set up by Rob Hill, who was head brewer at Orkney Brewery until last year. Although his home is in Orkney, he is at present brewing at Moorhouses in Lancashire until he gets his Brewery up and running in Orkney. Some of his brews are already on sale in Orkney.

BRITAIN'S BEST PUBS



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.

CAMRA Members can purchase the GBG 2005 from their branch committee for £10:00. This is a saving of £3.99, and gives the local branch a small profit which is used to promote branch activities in support of local pubs and breweries.



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

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

Forename(s): .....

Date of Birth: .....

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

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.....

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E-mail Address: .....

Signature: .....

Remittance (payable to CAMRA) enclosed for:

- Single Membership       £18.00 per year
- Joint Membership       £21.00 per year
- Under 26 and Over 60s   £10.00 per year

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



Inverness & Highland Branch





**Pub-of-the-Year Award Winners**  
receive their awards from Chairman Bill

**Angus & Teresa at the Stein Inn**



**Patrick & Judy at Scourie Hotel**



**Neil Dennison at the Grog & Gruel**



**Chris & Kim at the Glen Hotel**



**< Alistair and team  
at the Old Inn**

Alistair Pearson, owner of the **Old Inn**, is expanding his empire. He has purchased the Craig Mhor which towers over the Old Inn by the harbour in Gairloch. The pub will be renamed the **Gairloch Highland Lodge** and Alistair plans to install at least one handpump. Alistair is

also hoping to start up a two barrel brewery with the help of David Orr from the An Teallach Brewery.

We wish Alistair, pictured above with his Wester Ross Pub-of-the-Year award, every success.



*(Continued from page 14)*

quote was from Ken Davie, CAMRA Scottish Director. Most of the article was given over to information about how real ale is brewed and to CAMRA. A picture of drinkers at the Great British Beer Festival took pride of place.

*Hopefully this newsletter provides more info about the local real ale scene.. Ed.*

The Hebridean Brewing Company has recently purchased the **Pub at the Pier**, at Uig, which is literally on the doorstep of the Isle of Skye Brewery. The Press & Journal, clearly intent on a bit of mischief-making, published a report which suggested a rivalry between brewery owners Angus MacRuary (Isle of Skye) and Andy Ribbens (Hebridean) over the purchase. We have been told that much of the report was less than accurate, and that these two successful Island brewers enjoy a good working relationship.

*Please us know if you find articles about Highlands & Islands pubs or brewers. Ed.*

### **Good Real Ale in the Capital?**

JD Wetherspoons outlets held their Biggest Beer Festival in the Country over two weeks during May. I went to The King's Highway and there were seven pump clips showing, of which only two were available; hardly a biggest festival! As for the five advertised, but not on, is this against advertising standards? Their keg lagers were also running out. The two beers on were both golden 3.8% seasonal beers, one from Harviestoun, the other from the Caledonian brewery. After a long wait, due to lack of staff, I tried Harviestoun Spring Fever. A very nice

hoppy beer, though a bit on the cold side.

The very good Black Isle beers can only usually be found in a couple of Inverness outlets, and I went looking for some. Number 27 has them occasionally but tonight the pub was closed for staff training and refurbishment. McNab's Bar, in the Columba Hotel, had one hand pump but with no clip on. I asked if the real ale was available and the barmaid said she did not know. She started pouring it and said 'yes it was'. I had to ask which beer it was and I was told 'Red Kite'. After a lot of frothing and wastage she gave me a pint of semi-cloudy beer with a hint of vinegar. This is the third time I have tried McNab's, and the last.

On to Hootananny where Red Kite was advertised. It was tawny, lighter than it usually is, also the aroma and taste was of honey and heather and sweeter than I have tasted in the past. The beer was very good, but do they have different Black Isle beers on sale without changing the Red Kite pump clip?

Earlier I had been into Blackfriars but came straight out as I was hit by a wall of smoke. I went back later and had a very good Hook Norton 'Old Hooky'.

There were three other beers on tap but only one locally produced ale, Isle of Skye Blaven. Over the road to the Phoenix, a friendly welcome and three Scottish beers were available. I tried the Atlas Three Sisters which was in very good form. Last stop was the Palace Hotel where I had an excellent Isle of Skye Red Cuillin. It was nice to relax, and watch the river flow past. I will try more Inverness real ale outlets another day..



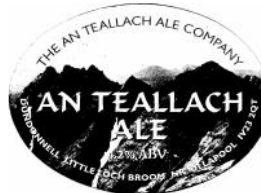
The and restaurant  
**GLEN** Hotel

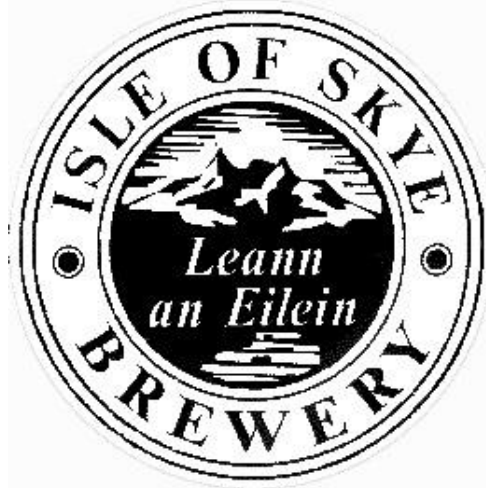


**H O E**



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