

What's Yours Then?

Highlands & Western Isles CAMRA
Free Newsletter



Contains Full List of Highlands & Western Isles Real Ale Outlets



**No Shortage
of Festivals for
Highland Real Ale Fans**

**Orkney Blast crowned
Champion Beer of Scotland**



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Summer 2010

Welcome... to the Summer edition of our quarterly newsletter. In this edition:

- > Updated Branch Diary
- > Tasting Panel Update
- > Socials & Outings - Reports
- > Festivals Update
- > Focus on - Colin Valentine
- > Your Letters and E-mails
- > Real Cider News
- > Pub & Brewery News
- > Updated Real Ale Pubs list

We welcome your letters, news, views and opinions. Let us know what is happening at your local, or tell us about pubs you have visited. Thanks to all who have taken trouble to send in pub and beer reports, or articles, but especially to regulars Bill, Eric, Gareth, and Steven, who keep us up-to-date with brews and what is happening in local pubs.

Please note that the editor reserves the right to edit contributions sent for publication. All marks and copyright are acknowledged.

Autumn edition **deadline** is 1st September, with publication ahead of Autumn festivals.

If you would like to place an advert, please contact one of the branch officers (page 6). Advertising rates are as follows:

Full Page Advert.....	£58.00
Half Page Advert.....	£33.50
Quarter Page Advert.....	£18.00

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

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

4,000+ copies are distributed to CAMRA Branch members, to Highlands & Islands 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 Highlands & Western Isles Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The views & opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA, nor its Branches.

The committee were saddened to learn that David Stobbart passed away recently. David was a keen real ale fan and supporter of the local CAMRA Branch. An accomplished guitar player and tutor, David played with a number of local bands at Highland & Islands venues. He was our membership secretary for a while until ill health and family commitments forced him to stand down from committee. A former Inverness College Head of School, David had retired recently to Berneray with wife Alison. David will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with Alison and family.



'Life's a Blast!'

Highland Brewery's Orkney Blast was named CAMRA's Champion Beer of Scotland for 2010 at the Scottish Real Ale Festival which took place in Edinburgh in June.

Orkney Blast, a 6% ABV strong bitter, is described in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide as 'having a mushroom and woody aroma that blossoms into a well-balanced smack of malt and hop in the taste.' The Orkney based Highland Brewery's success at the Festival was the culmination of months of CAMRA branch recommendations and tasting sessions in the quest to find the best beer in Scotland!

Runner up in this year's competition was the Black Isle Brewery's Hibernator (7% ABV) Strong Ale, while third place went to the Cairngorm Brewery's Black Gold.

A delighted Rob Hill, Highland Brewery owner, on hearing the results, said:

'Life's a blast! It's about as good as it gets. It's the third time we've won this award, and it's a great achievement. You don't often get a beer of this type winning such awards, therefore we are so happy to win. We've just expanded our brewing unit here - I'm chasing quality, and looking forward to winning more awards!' *Well done to all, and a great result for Highlands & Islands brewers and their teams. Ed.*

Trading Standards Office: Contact details for issues such as no price lists or consistent short measures - 0845 600 4 222

e-mail - consumer.advice@highland.gov.uk
www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/highland



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A crisp golden ale with a citrus finish . . .

"Sweet FA"



BREWERY AND SHOP

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Mon – Sat : 10am -4pm Sun : 12.30pm – 4pm

Just off the A83 at the top of Loch Fyne

Tours by appointment - www.fyneales.com

Nairn Beer Festival

Wherever possible we try to include a walk on our outings and the Nairn festival provided an ideal opportunity - not just for a walk, but also a chance to visit the Cawdor Tavern, HQ of Sinclair Breweries. Owner Norman Sinclair welcomed us and updated us with his news.

The Orkney Brewery expansion is under way, but brewing will stay at the present brewery until the new brewery is ready when brewing will move across and the old brewery will be turned into a visitor centre. Atlas Equinox is no longer available as Everards claim to have used the name first and insisted Atlas do not use it. On tap today was its replacement - Golden Amber (4), plus Wayfarer (4).

A Beer Festival was calling, so we headed down to the main road, across the bridge, turned left and followed the footpath along the river to Nairn. The weather was fine and sunny, fishermen were out and the odd deer wandered by as we took this pleasant five mile walk, most of the time within view of the river. The riverside path leads right down to the harbour but we veered left at the A96 bridge and the direct route to the Bandstand.

It is still hard to believe that until very recently Nairn was considered to be something of a real ale desert. Changed days and, following on from the success of last year, Owners Gordon and Morag were hosting their second festival at the Bandstand Bar. Gordon (pictured in the marquee) had pulled out all the stops and not only was a total of 50 cask ales on offer, but all on tap at the same time!

Yes, 50 Real Ales!! Every one in fine fettle thanks to a great effort and no lack of skill from Gordon. A marquee in the garden housed 40 casks in two rows of 20, one above the other. On entry to the marquee barman Jock greeted drinkers with 'welcome to heaven'! And real ale heaven it was too.

Another ten handpumps in the bar made for a great variety of beers, including a complete selection of Rob Hill's brews from the Highland Brewery on Orkney. There is now a wealth of real ale festivals in the Highlands, with regular events in Drumnadrochit, Ullapool, Glencoe, Fort William, and at several Inverness venues, but few publicans have either the space or the

custom to serve up fifty real ales at once.

How did it happen? Preparations for the event started after Christmas, with adverts being sent all over the country and beer lists being refined each week to ensure a good cross section of beer styles, strengths and geographical spread. The logistics of building the marquee and extra bar space, as well as ordering the ale, could not really begin until much closer to the big day. The hard work associated with offering the widest choice of ales was exacerbated by difficulties with the distributors, but Gordon did us proud and compiled a great selection. Willing regulars offered a lending hand; some standing ready to head off to local breweries and some to Aberdeen to collect specially shipped in casks from farther afield. Bandstand regulars Des and Brian gave up their time on the busiest



days to serve behind the bar. Did they make it home overnight we wonder?

Representatives from the Sinclair Breweries (Atlas and Orkney) mingled with the crowd on Saturday, and it was great to see Norman Sinclair taking time to chat to locals about his brews and the delights of real ale.

We were also very lucky to have a lesson in the art of beer making from Angus and Norrie from the Isle of Skye Brewery. They teased us with a few wee tasters; and absolutely lovely they were too! Rob Hill and son Lewis were also at the festival, on Saturday evening, and so real ale fans had every opportunity to meet brewers and brewery owners.

(Continued on page 8)



Good things brewing in the Highlands



2009 SPECIALS

Available
Apr/May



Available
May



Available
Jun/
Jul/Aug



Available
Sept

Available
Sept/Oct



PERMANENT BEERS



Black Gold
Supreme
Champion of
the Year 2009
as voted
by SIBA

tel: 01479 812 222

email: info@cairngormbrewery.com
www.cairngormbrewery.com

Why not visit our shop at the brewery in Aviemore, now open (Mon-Sat), or book a tour (available Mon-Fri) and see how we make our beer.

10% discount when you bring this ad along to the shop.

Branch Diary (Meetings start at 7.30 pm)

Sat 10 th July		Social/Outing - The Road to Lochaber - Meet at Town House
Tues 13 th July	Committee Meeting	Kinlochewe Hotel
Tue 27 th July	Tasting Evening	Loch Ness Inn, Lewiston
Sat 21 st August	Fyne Ales Open Day	Cairndow, Argyll
Tues 31 st August	Tasting Evening	Blackfriars, Inverness
Sat 11 th Sept		Social/Outing - Isle of Skye Brewery and Real Ale pubs - 09:00 meet at Town House
Tues 14 th Sept	Branch Meeting	Bandstand Bar, Braeval Hotel, Nairn
Fri 17 th - Sat 25 th Sept	* 9 th Loch Ness Beer Festival at Benleva Hotel	
Sat 18 th Sept	Hill Walk, Social (15:00) & Tasting at Loch Ness Beer Festival	
Fri 15 th - Sun 31 st Oct	* Octoberfest	Clachaig Inn, Glenceo



October is CAMRA's Cider & Perry Month. See page 10 for details of where Real Cider and Perry is sold locally

Tues 12 th Oct	Committee Meeting	The Anderson, Fortrose
Thurs 21 st - Sun 24 th Oct	* 6 th Ullapool Beer Festival at Morefield Motel	
Sat 23 rd Oct		Social/Outing - Far north-west Real Ale pubs and 6 th Ullapool Beer Festival
Tues 26 th Oct	Tasting Evening	TBA
Tues 9 th Nov	AGM	TBA
Tues 30 th Nov	Tasting Evening	Nairn
Tues 7 th Dec	Committee Meeting	Clachnaharry Inn
Tues 14 th Dec	Inverness Walkabout & Social (19:00 Rendez-vous at Blackfriars)	

* Not all events listed are necessarily organised by CAMRA.

This diary is as much about the local Real Ale scene as about Branch activities.

Please see on-line diary at <http://highlandcamra.webnode.com/events-calendar/>

Contact

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Details

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contact@highlandcamra.org.uk or secretary@highlandcamra.org.uk



Eric Mills - 01456 459343

Mike Whittall - 01463 831259

chair@highlandcamra.org.uk

news@highlandcamra.org.uk

BANDSTAND

BAR & RESTAURANT, NAIRN

CAMRA Highlands & Western Isles
PUB OF THE YEAR 2009



Inverness & District South
PUB OF THE YEAR 2009



Inverness & District South
PUB OF THE YEAR 2010
(joint winner)



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Scottish & English
from a wide selection of
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CAMRA Pub-of-the-Year Awards

Highland 2003 & 2005, Inverness 2006 & 2007 (tied)

Inverness & District North Pub-of-the-Year 2009

**9th Loch Ness Beer Festival
17th - 25th September 2010**

**En-Suite Accommodation
Excellent Food Every Evening
Lunches Every Day**

(Continued from page 4)

An addition this year was the decision by Gordon and Morag to use the festival to raise money for the local children's charity 'Cash for Kids'. Moray Firth Radio decided to support the festival too and broadcasted live from the festival on Saturday; which added to the feeling that this was a very special day for real ale in the Highlands. £867 was raised for this great cause. A big thank-you to suppliers who donated items for the charity stall and raffle, and to customers for their generosity.

Saturday was the main day for visitors and real ale enthusiasts from all over the country attended, and were spoiled by the choice of real ales, home made food and live music.

Susan Walker and pals played their fiddles, the Nairn Young Peoples Group "Inspire" entertained customers with their enthusiastic percussion playing, and Andy, Stuart and Roy, and "Lockstock" were two lively groups who entertained festival goers late into the night.

Local real ale publicans are very supportive of each other and Blackfriars (Singing Landlord) Del was enjoying a well-earned day off and

had made the trip to Nairn with some of his regulars, which made for good company.

39 of the 50 ales were from Scottish brewers, and in addition to Rob Hill's brews it was good to see favourites from Isle of Skye Brewery, An Teallach, Cairngorm and Inveralmond.

There was also a selection from breweries not usually seen in and around Inverness such as Brude from Deeside; Braveheart from Moulin; Spring Mist from Traditional Scottish Ales; Red Squirrel, AB and Fireside from Arran; Misty Law from Kelburn; Blackface and Pinnacle from Cuillin; and Brewdog Punk IPA.

The selection of ales from south of the border, from as far afield as the Camel Estuary in North Cornwall (Sharp's 6 Hop IPA), and from Bristol (Butcombe Bitter), London (Wells & Young's Special), Suffolk (Adnam's Stout), Yorkshire (Rudgate's Ruby Mild), and Cumbria (Jennings Cumberland Ale), certainly met Gordon's geographical spread criteria!

The well travelled Sharp's 6 Hop IPA was a lovely hoppy beer, but CAMRA's overall 2009 Champion Beer of Britain, Rudgate's Ruby

(Continued on page 12)



Blackfriars Highland Pub

Great Beer



Traditional Highland Food (New Menu)
*All meals are cooked to order using
freshly prepared local produce*

Real Ales and Real Cider On Tap

**Selection of bottled ales,
malt whiskies, and wines**

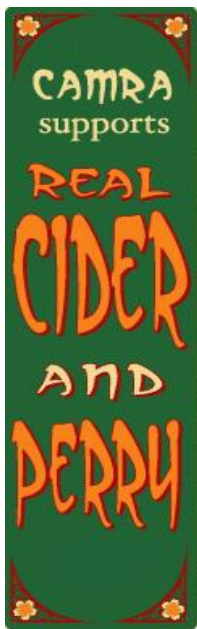
**Open all day, every day
Food served every day
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*Regular Live Entertainment
Featuring Local Bands*

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Traditional Cider Matters

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

The Anderson, Fortrose - Thatchers Heritage Cider

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

Stronlossit Inn, Roy Bridge - Thatchers Cheddar Valley Cider

Strathcarron Hotel - Thatchers Cider (rotated with cask ales)

Glen Hotel, Newtonmore - Westons Old Rosie or 1st Quality Cider

Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit - Westons 1st Quality Cider all year round, selection of real ciders for September festival

Scourie Hotel - Two Westons Ciders on handpump

King's Highway, Inverness - Westons Old Rosie & Organic Draught Vintage Cider; Thatchers Heritage & Dry Cider

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

Badachro Inn - Westons Cider is served here

Argyll Hotel, Ullapool - Westons ciders from the box

Altnacealgach Inn, nr Ledmore Junction - Mike & Kate are giving some thought to serving a real cider. Tel: 01854 666260

Blackfriars, Inverness - Westons Old Rosie Scrumpy and 1st Quality Ciders on handpump. Highlands & Western Isles **Cider-Pub-of-the-Year 2009**.

Kinlochewe Hotel, at the foot of Beinn Eighe, is serving Westons 1st Quality Draft Cider

Torridon Inn - Westons Ciders are served in the bar.

Clachaig Inn, Glencoe - An initial trial (at Mayfest 2010) but (with your support) continuing through the summer, Westons cider on hand pump. Having had difficulties getting hold of the Thatchers we've had over the last few years we've been looking for a change. (From Website)

Bandstand Bar, Nairn - Westons ciders on a recently installed handpump. If successful we understand that a second handpump will be installed for the Summer season (at least).

Grog & Gruel, Fort William - has been selling Thatchers Heritage cask cider since 1st April 2010. On tap for as long as sales make it viable - could be all year round but unfortunately sales usually drop dramatically during winter months.

Glen Affric Bar, Cannich - serving Westons Cider after requests from hill-walking customers.

No shortage of Real Cider and Perry at the 24th **Aberdeen & North East Beer Festival** in early June. Ciders: Seidr O Sir Maes Ebwy 6.3%, Watkins Whisky Cider 6.1%, Sarah's Medium Dry Cider 6%, Olivers Medium Sweet 6%, Green Valley Rum Tiddly Tum 7%, Dewchurch Stoke Red 6%, Venta Macallan 90 7.3%, Nash Medium 6%. Perries: Gwatkins Blakeney Red 6.1%, Real Cyder Co Swallowfield 7.5%, Original Cider Co Broadoak 7.5%.

A very fine selection. Broadoak Perry, from Somerset, won Gold for Perry in CAMRA's 2009 National Cider and Perry Championships, Blakeney Red taking bronze.


Also on tap were 101 beers, including the full range from Deeside who were the showcase brewery this year. A new brewery, Burnside from Laurencekirk, launched their first beers at the festival. The extra large cider order ran out on Friday night - more to be ordered next year please - and there were just seven beers on tap at the close on Saturday. Plans also for a larger beer order next year. The Scottish round of the Golden Beer Champion was judged: Gold - Inveralmond Ossian, Silver - Highland Orkney Best, Bronze - Kelburn Pivo Estivo.

Real Ales
Real Cider
50+ Malt whiskies



Isle of Skye beers on draught
– including our own
“Beinn Eighe” house ale
... dark and delicious

We don't do fast food here!

As members of  Slow Food® UK we take care and pride in preparing our food. We are fortunate enough to have some of the best local produce in the world and we believe in letting the flavours of our food speak for themselves. No “jus” or “coulis” here! ... just plain, honest, wholesome and fulfilling food.

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

Enjoy the country pub atmosphere – log fire, malt whiskies, real ales and affordable food (soup, toasties and desserts served all day) in this family-owned village centre hotel.

Close to the historic 1717 packhorse bridge over the River Dulnain, and nestling in the very heart of the Scottish Highlands, the Cairn Hotel is the perfect base for exploring the Cairngorms, the Malt Whisky Trail, Loch Ness, Strathspey and Badenoch; and including the Cairngorm and Black Isle breweries.

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

(Continued from page 8)

Mild, was voted "Favourite Ale of the Festival", which proves it is a damn good beer!

Plockton Brewery's 4.6% ABV Plockton Bay was on tap as the Mystery Ale. Unfortunately, no one was able to guess its origin, which is surprising, as it is an ale from our patch.

A great weekend for real ale fans and we are already looking forward to next year. Ideas for 2011? How about some portable heaters for the marquee? Only joking! Congratulations to Gordon and Morag and their hard-working team on another very well organized and well run beer festival. SM/EM/GNH.

Website Feedback:

Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten serving Cairngorm Tradewinds in lounge bar May 27th. Cheers, Andy.

New Drinking Den: Steak House/Osborns - Two handpumps. (Cairngorm) Nessie Monster & Sheepshagger both £3 per pint. Was £3.50. Also have 7 bottles.

For Sale:

The **Old Forge** at Inverie, Britain's remotest

pub, is on the market for £790,000. After eighteen years at the helm owners Jackie and Ian Robertson have decided to put the famous pub up for sale, but have promised to "keep selling beer until the day the right person comes along." Overlooking Loch Nevis in Inverness-shire, the Old Forge can only be reached by a 45-minute ferry crossing, water taxi, or a 20-mile hike along a mountain track.

Meanwhile in Inverness locals are concerned about the For Sale sign on **Blackfriars**, our Cider Pub of the Year. We understand that it is not the pub, as such, which is for sale, but the building complex of which Blackfriars is one part only. Singing Landlord Del and wife Jeanette have a number of years to run on their lease, and a buyer wishing to take over the pub would have to buy out the remainder of the lease. It has been rumoured that a local brewery have expressed an interest.

SIBA Scotland Beers of the Year:

Gold - Cairngorm Black Gold

Silver - Orkney Best.

Bronze - Orkney Blast

The Riverside Tavern

Regular Live Entertainment

(Please phone for Info)

Regular Bands include: Frayed Edges, Time Beings, The Revvz, Martin Stephenson, Andy Murray, Face The West, Sharp Exit, Scott MacDonald

We use fresh local produce including beef, fish, shellfish and game



Highlands & Islands Real Ales On Tap

Open 12-11pm every day Fri until 1pm - Sat until 12pm

Tel. 01349 866922

(formerly The Drouthy Duck), Conon Bridge

WANTED

Newsletter

Editor

Applicants are likely to be real ale enthusiasts. Must have desktop publishing skills, time to spare, and be able to meet publishing deadlines.

~~REWARD~~

*Please contact
Gareth Hardman
(see page 6)*

Mild in May

CAMRA actively promotes Milds during the month of May, and encourages pubs to serve a mild along with their regular beers. Drinkers who are normally accustomed to bitters and lagers are being urged to give a mild a try.

Mild used to be a popular drink in Britain and most pubs would have a mild and a bitter on the bar - some pubs just had a mild.

In some areas of northern England a pint of mixed was a common order - a half a pint of mild and a half of pint of bitter in the same glass - nicknamed the Lancashire Cocktail!

Mild though suffered in the 1980s and 1990s as drinkers turned to more trendy alternatives, and mild earned an image of something only old men wearing cloth caps would drink. Sales plummeted, many breweries stopped making mild, and pubs stopped stocking the drink.

Happily during recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in mild ales, with many of the newer smaller breweries adding a mild to their range. Last Year Rudgate Ruby Mild from York was voted the best beer in Britain - CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain. Ruby Mild, which has an abv of 4.4%, is described

in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2009 as a 'nutty, rich ruby ale, stronger than usual for a mild.' Although Milds are once again regularly on tap, particularly in Northern England, local Highlands & Western Isles drinkers are not often given an opportunity to sample a Mild, and three weeks of May had passed without a Mild being spotted in the few local hosteleries I had managed to visit. A trip to Cumbria had been planned, and I headed south hoping to find a Mild amongst the wide range of brews regularly on offer in this real ale mecca.

Three pubs in Ravenglass, selling a selection of fine ales from local breweries, but no mild. Next to Eskdale Green, but the King George IV was closed! Finally to Boot, and three more real hosteleries to chose from.

Outside the Brook House Inn a blackboard advertised TWO milds - Rudgate Ruby Mild and Allgates Maori Dark Mild. Sadly the Ruby Mild had finished, so we missed the chance to sample the Champion Beer, but the Allgates Maori Dark Milds, brewed in Wigan using New Zealand hops, was in very fine fettle indeed.

So a mild at last, on the 27th May, with four days to spare! Time to find another, and so to the award-winning Manor Arms at Broughton-in-Furnace. The range of brews on offer is described as 'a mini beer festival, daily' and this is no exaggeration. A fine range of eight brews, with tasting notes and suggested tasting order on the blackboard above the bar, included Thwaites Nutty Black - at £2 per pint!

Nutty Black (formerly Dark Mild) is one of only four beers that have won CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain more than once.

Sales of their Dark Mild were struggling and the brand was in grave danger of disappearing, and so in 2007 Thwaites changed the name (but not the recipe) to Nutty Black. The new name struck a chord with drinkers and sales of the brew surged.

Nutty Black went down very well, and a few more pints of Maori Dark Mild back at the Brook House Inn finished our holiday off very nicely.



The Old Inn

Gairloch, Ross-shire, IV21 2BD

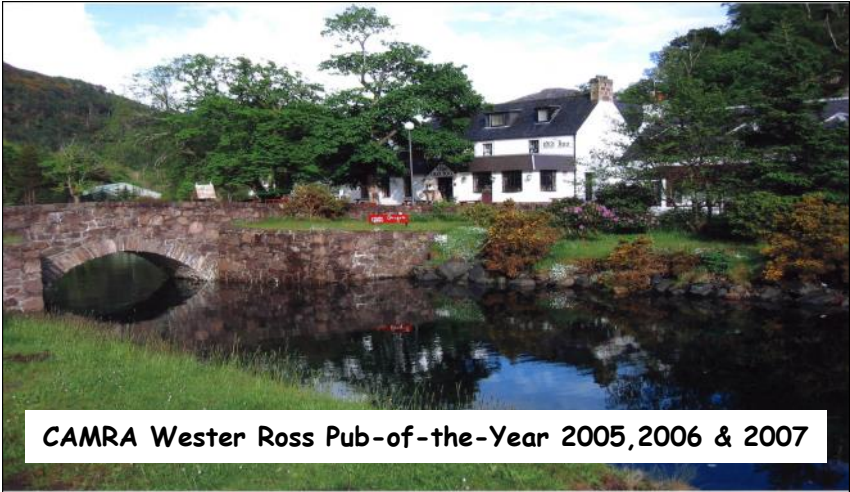
Telephone: 01445 712006 Enquiries - *Call Free* - 0800 542 5444

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AA Best Seafood Pub for Scotland 2005/06

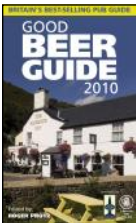
Abbot Ale Perfect Pub for Scotland 2005/06

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.



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

Tasting Panel Update

the Castle Tavern in Inverness, our Pub of the Year 2010, was our venue for March and three regular tasting panel members of were joined by seven other local members making for an enjoyable evening with plenty of discussion.

First beer tried was the tawny coloured 4.2% abv Three Sisters from Atlas in Kinlochleven. Described as a fruity 80/- ale it had malt and fruit in the aroma and was well balanced with malts, fruit and hops in the taste but was much more bitter than normal which held into the aftertaste along with the malt flavour. Not really in its normal style, scoring 6 (out of 10).

No other ales on tap from our locale, so we tried the regularly available Deuchars from Caledonian in Edinburgh. This 3.8% golden ale had plenty of hops and fruit in the aroma which were also very evident in the taste. It had its normal bitter/sweet balance but carried a more honeyed flavour than normal giving a smooth, slightly syrupy flavour instead of its usual sharper taste. Scores averaged at 7.

Next up was Texas from the Renfrewshire based Houston brewery. A 4.3% tawny coloured best bitter it was well balanced with malt, fruit and hops from the aroma through to the aftertaste. It was noted though that the bitterness increased into the aftertaste with any sweetness faded almost to nothing. Scores of 7 all round were given.

Lastly Arran Ale from the Arran brewery. This 3.8% bitter was golden although in the past it has been darker. As a Scottish ale it may take drinkers by surprise as it nearly all hop! The aroma is just hops which are also intensely evident in the taste along with some faint malt and fruit flavours. The hops which would have been added early into the brewing kettle produce a strong bitter taste which carries on well into the aftertaste. Some astringent sharpness did not score it down as it averaged 9, giving it our beer of the evening status.

April saw us cover Black Isle east, starting at Culbokie Inn. What followed was an evening of Cairngorm Trade Winds, the excellent speciality beer we have reviewed many times, and was found to be in it's usual fine form.

May took us to Black Isle west where we started at the Royal Hotel in Cromarty, or would

have started if there had been any ale! No ale for all the right reasons, however! The Hotel had recently changed hands and new owner Jenny had started stocking ales from the Black Isle Brewery. Already getting through up to three casks a week, a busy weekend meant that there was no ale left for us to sample on Tuesday evening.

A short journey to the Cromarty Arms where we found the ever popular Cairngorm Trade Winds. Served at perfect cellar temperature, the 4.3% ale was not quite as full on in the elderflower department. Very faint malt in the taste with the strong fruit and hops coming through giving a pleasant bittersweet flavour. There was some unwanted astringency which meant we all agreed on a 7.

Next stop was the Plough at Rosemarkie where we found yet more Trade Winds! Also on tap was Cairngorm Sheepshagger, but this 4.5% golden ale was not drinking at its best and had very little in the aroma. The usual fruit and hops in the taste were not as strong as normal, and the sweetish slightly syrupy background this beer can often have was also missing, although it was still predominately sweeter than bitter. The scores reflected this and again were all the same at 4.

Having no beer at our first stop meant time for an unscheduled stop at the Anderson in Fortrose. Three beers were on tap here: Phoenix Hopsack, O'Hanlon's Red Ale and Highland Orkney Blast. The latter is a full bodied 6% strong bitter, with balanced aroma of malts, hops and fruit, and plenty of fruit and hops in the taste along with some caramel. Slightly more sweet than bitter it scored 8's all round giving it the beer of the evening status.

Landlord Jim Anderson also treated us to some sneak previews of the next beers to go on with samples of Stewarts Copper Cascade and Williams Brothers Seven Giraffes, and very good they were too. Copper Cascade is a fruity eighty shilling style and Seven Giraffes an intriguing blend of malts and hops. The name, incidentally, comes from the seven types of malt used in the brew and the fact that according to the daughter of one of the Williams' brothers the number seven looks like a giraffe! *There's no answer to that! Ed*

the glen hotel

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Focus on Colin Valentine

In February this year Colin Valentine became the first Scotsman to be elected as CAMRA's National Chairman. After around 16 years of doing most CAMRA jobs in Scotland, including Scotland and Northern Ireland Director, 10 years ago he was voted on to the National Executive. He lives in Edinburgh with his wife Aileen.

Q. Where are you originally from?

A. Born in Motherwell in 1961. Went to school there and then moved to Edinburgh in 1983.

Q. How were you introduced to real ale?

A. In a pub somewhere between Wintey and Oxford on 27th July 1980. Was camping with a friend and there was a poster on the camp site notice board advertising beer from the wood in the local pub. Not knowing what on earth that meant, we went along to find out. Sadly, the name of the pub and beer is lost in the mists of time.

Q. When and why did you join CAMRA?

A. 1988. Despite the fact that I had lived in Edinburgh for five years, the only acquaintances I had were colleagues and school friends who then lived in Edinburgh. As a real drinker and working beside the then editor of the Edinburgh magazine Pints of View, it was the logical thing to do.

Q. What do you look for in a pub?

A. Many things, but the two most important things are the quality of the beer and the atmosphere. I do not like niche pubs that aim themselves at a particular demographic. I want to meet a cross section of people.

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

A. The first real ale I drank that I knew was real ale was Belhaven 80/- and I have always had a soft spot for it. However, I do like most kinds of beer and will happily try most styles. Dark Island has always been a particular favourite of mine.

Q. What hobbies/interests do you have?

A. My main interests, outside of beer, are football and hill walking. Having been born and brought up in Motherwell I am a proud supporter of Motherwell. Unfortunately, I do not get to as many games as I would wish, but I was at the stunning 6-6 match against Hibs in early May. I am a self confessed munro bagger and so have done 116 of them. My target is to get past the halfway point of 142 by the time I turn 50 in September 2011.

Q. How do you manage a full time job with your CAMRA duties?

A. I have a very understanding wife and no children.

Q. In 2002 you predicted in this Newsletter "it's only a matter of time before a Scottish beer wins the Champion Beer of Britain competition". A couple months later Deuchars IPA won. Have you another prediction for us?

A. Whilst I don't remember saying that, I am glad I did – perhaps its time another Scottish beer won (Bitter & Twisted won in 2003).



Q. How do you see the future of CAMRA?

A. The Campaign has moved on considerably since I joined in 1988 (over 110,000 members and still counting, which is a phenomenal achievement and proves that we are not irrelevant). I see us being listened to more and more in the corridors of power, be that London, Edinburgh or at a local level and also in the boardrooms of the pub companies. We will also continue to influence the debate on the future of the beer and pub industry.

Colin and Aileen Valentine are regular visitors to the Highlands & Islands and some years ago (2nd October 1999) they were present when our former Branch Chairman Bill Tring completed his own munro-bagging quest - firstly in joining a large party on the ascent of Meall Chuaich, and then in Blackfriars where a cask of Black Isle Brewery Yellowhammer - Bills' favourite beer at that time - had been set aside for hill-walkers to quench their thirst.

We wish Colin every success during his time as CAMRA's National Executive Chairman, and for his munro-bagging adventures.

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Real Ale in the Real Highlands



Scottish Highlands Cider Tour

was the title of an article posted on the Real Cider website (www.real-cider.co.uk) in May:



Last week I fulfilled a life time ambition to canoe across Scotland, from West to East coast along the Great Glen Way. As you can imagine, I was intrigued to see if I could find real cider in Scotland along the way!

First stop was in Glasgow, and the Bon Accord bar – no real cider here, but what a treat for ale fans – 10 real ales from around the UK, and a very limited edition batch of 120 bottles of Speyside whisky, minus one now.

Then after 60 miles of paddling, we arrived on shore at Urquhart Castle and walked to the nearest village of Drumadrochit where we discovered the delightful Benleva Hotel where we enjoyed Weston's 1st Quality Cider. This far north and it didn't taste bad at all!

Then it was a short hop back to civilisation to Inverness, where we were in for another treat. The Blackfriars pub has been nominated as Cider-Pub-of-the-Year 2009 in the Highlands and Western Isles. We enjoyed two Weston's ciders on draft – Old Rosie and 1st Quality.

If you are visiting Scotland soon, or if you are lucky enough to live there and are unsure where to find a real pint in a decent pub, then it's worth checking out this years pubs of the year in Scotland, you may be able to find some real treats and experience the Scottish hospitality like we did!

The Highland and Western Isles Pubs of the Year 2010 - selected by local members, are:

Inverness & District North: Benleva Hotel; Inverness & District South: Castle Tavern, Bandstand Bar (tied); South Skye & Lochalsh: Plockton Hotel, Plockton Inn (tied); North Skye & Hebrides: Stein Inn, Waternish; Fort William & Lochaber: Grog & Gruel; Aviemore & Cairngorms: Cairn Hotel; Wester Ross: Applecross Inn; Caithness & Sutherland: Scourie Hotel.

A fine endorsement for our top pubs and availability if cider locally! Ed.

A brand new **Ullapool Beer Festival** website has just gone live and Landlord Tony Oulton has invited businesses to set up reciprocal links from their own websites. This helps to build beneficial rankings on search engines.

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

Real Ale Pubs

These Inns and Hotels are known to sell (or to have recently sold) cask-conditioned ale. Please let us know about the quality of real ales on offer (see page 25), particularly if you think Good Beer Guide inclusion is merited.



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

We have taken the liberty of listing some pubs which fall within adjoining Branch Areas - Glasgow & West of Scotland (G&WS), Aberdeen & Northern Isles (A&NI) - but which are not very far from our "border" and merit a visit.

Inverness & District North

Clachnaharry Inn, Inverness
Palace Hotel, Inverness
Waterfront, Inverness
Old North Inn, Inchmore
Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit
Loch Ness Inn, Lewiston
Glenmoriston Arms Hotel, Invermoriston
Steading Bar & Restaurant, Kilmartin (TP)
Glen Affric Bar, Cannich
Munlochy Hotel (TP)
The Anderson, Fortrose
Plough Inn, Rosemarkie
Cromarty Arms (TP)
Royal Hotel, Cromarty (TP)
Culbokie Inn
Slaters Arms, Cannich (S)
Conon Bridge Hotel
Riverside Tavern, Conon Bridge
National Hotel, Dingwall
Richmond Hotel, Strathpeffer
Inchbae Lodge Hotel, Garve
Aultgush Inn
Star Inn, Tain (S)
Castle Hotel, Portmahomack
Edderton Inn, Edderton

Inverness & District South

Blackfriars, Inverness
The Caledonian, Inverness
Castle Tavern, Inverness
The Corner Grill, Inverness
Steak Academy Bar & Restaurant, Inverness
The Exchange, Inverness
Nico's Bar, Glen Mhor Hotel, Inverness
Heathmount Hotel, Inverness

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Good Beer Guide 2005-2007



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Hootananny, Inverness
 Johnny Foxes, Inverness (TP)
 Kings Highway, Inverness (*Wetherspoons*)
 Number 27, Inverness
 Phoenix Bar, Inverness
 Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Inverness (TP)
 Snowgoose, Inverness
 Tomatin Country Inn (S)
 Dores Inn
 Whitebridge Hotel, Loch Ness South
 Bothy, Fort Augustus
 Lock Inn, Fort Augustus
 Caledonian Hotel, Fort Augustus (S)
 Cawdor Tavern, Cawdor
 Bandstand Bar, Braeval Hotel, Nairn
 Claymore Hotel, Nairn
 Golf View Hotel, Nairn (TP)
 Invernairne Hotel, Nairn (S)
 Seaforth Club, Nairn (Members only) (TP)
 Old Mill Inn, Brodie (A&NI)

Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore
 Dalfaber Country Club, Aviemore
 Glenmore Lodge, Nr Aviemore
 Old Bridge Inn, Aviemore
 Winking Owl, Aviemore
 Suie Hotel, Kincairg
 Glen Hotel, Newtonmore
 Lodge Hotel, Newtonmore
 Kingussie Golf Club
 Silver Fjord Hotel, Kingussie
 Topsy Laird, Kingussie
 Ben Mhor Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey
 Craig Bar, Grantown-on-Spey
 Mash Tun, Charlestown of Aberlour (A&NI)
 Highlander Inn, Craigellachie (A&NI)
 Croft Inn, Glenlivet (A&NI)
 Glen Avon Hotel, Tomintoul (A&NI)

Aviemore & Cairngorms

Cairn Hotel, Carrbridge
 Muckrach Lodge Hotel, Dulnain Bridge
 Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten

Fort William & Lochaber

Alexandria Hotel, Fort William
 Grog & Gruel, Fort William
 Ben Nevis Bar, Fort William
 Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
 Ben Nevis Inn, Fort William
 Cobbs at Nevisport, Fort William

Stein Inn

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angus.teresa@steininn.co.uk

West End Hotel, Fort William
 Glen Nevis Restaurant & Bar
 Invergarry Hotel
 The Eagle, Laggan Locks
(An Inn on a boat on the water)
 Loch Oich Restaurant/Bar, South Laggan
 Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel, Loch Lochy
 Old Station Restaurant, Spean Bridge
 Spean Bridge Hotel (S)
 Stronlossit Hotel, Roy Bridge
 Tomdoun Sporting Lodge
 Moorings Hotel, Banavie
 Glenfinnan House Hotel
 Glenuig Inn, Lochailort
 Glenuig Village Hall
 Chlachain Inn, Mallaig
 Steam Inn, Mallaig
 West Highland Hotel, Mallaig
 Loch Shiel Hotel, Acharacle
 Old Forge, Inverie
 Corran Ferry Hotel, Onich
 Four Seasons, Onich
 Inn at Ardgour
 Ice Factor, Kinlochleven
 MacDonald Hotel, Kinlochleven
 Mamore Lodge, Kinlochleven (S)
 Laroch Bar, Ballachulish (G&WS)
 Clachaig Inn, Glencoe (G&WS)
 Kings House Hotel, Glencoe (G&WS)

Wester Ross

Applecross Inn
 Summer Isles Hotel, Achiltibuie (S)
 Am Fuaran Bar, Altandhu (S)
 Ledgowan Hotel, Achnasheen
 Aultbea Hotel
 Drumchork Hotel, Aultbea (S)
 Dundonnell Hotel
 Loch Maree Hotel
 Kinlochewe Hotel
 Loch Torridon Country House Hotel
 Torridon Inn (S)
 Badachro Inn
 Glendale House, South Erradale (S)
 Millcroft Hotel, Gairloch
 Myrtle Bank Hotel, Gairloch (S)
 Steading Cafe & Restaurant, Gairloch (S)
 Old Inn, Gairloch
 Lochcarron Hotel, Lochcarron
 Rockvilla Hotel, Lochcarron
 Strathcarron Hotel
 Tigh-an-Eilean Hotel, Shieldaig



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 Argyll Hotel, Ullapool
 Ferry Boat Inn, Ullapool
 Morefield Motel, Ullapool
 Seaforth Bar & Restaurant, Ullapool

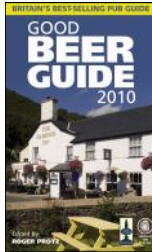
South Skye & Lochalsh

Cluanie Inn
 Kintail Lodge Hotel
 Jac-o-bite Restaurant, Kintail
 Clachan Bar, Dornie
 Loch Duich Hotel, Dornie
 Plockton Hotel, Plockton
 Plockton Inn, Plockton
 Saucy Mary's Lodge, Kyleakin (S)
 Duisdale Hotel (S)
 Isle Ornsay Hotel
 Ardasar Hotel
 Stables Restaurant, Armadale
 Claymore, Broadford
 Dunollie Hotel, Broadford
 Hebridean Hotel, Broadford
 Sconser Lodge Hotel
 Sligachan Hotel (S) *Closed October - March*
 Old Inn, Carbost
 Taigh Ailean Hotel, Portnalong



North Skye & Hebrides

Isle of Raasay Hotel
JJ's Bistro at Struan
Dunvegan Hotel
Old Schoolhouse Restaurant, Dunvegan (S)
Stein Inn, Waternish
Edinbane Hotel
The Lodge at Edinbane
Bakur Bar, Uig
Ferry Inn, Uig
Uig Hotel, Uig
Flodigarry Hotel
Greshornish Lodge
Bosville Hotel, Portree
Isles Inn, Portree
Royal Hotel, Portree
Tongadale Hotel, Portree
An Lanntair, Stornoway
Carlton Tavern, Stornoway
Harris Inn, Tarbert (S)
Lochmaddy Hotel, North Uist
Tigh Dearg Hotel, Lochmaddy, North Uist
Langass Lodge, North Uist (S)
Westford Inn, North Uist



Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula (S)
Borrodale Hotel, South Uist (S)

Caithness & Sutherland

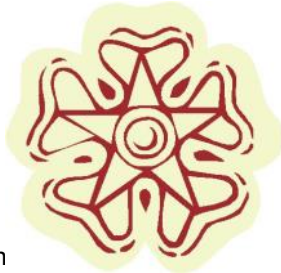
Inchnadamph Hotel
The Caberfeidh, Lochinver
Scourie Hotel, Scourie
Altnacealgach Inn, nr Ledmore Junction
Castle Hotel, Dornoch
Eagle Hotel, Dornoch
Dunroamin Hotel, Bonar Bridge
Invershin Hotel
Sutherland Arms Hotel, Golspie (S)
Sutherland Inn, Brora
Belgrave Hotel, Helmsdale
Bay Owl Restaurant, Dunbeath
Tongue Hotel
MacKay's Hotel, Wick
Alexander Bain, Wick (*Wetherspoons*)
Central Hotel, Thurso
Commercial Hotel, Thurso

34 of the pubs listed here are in the *Good Beer Guide* - We cannot tell you which, you will have to buy the guide for that, but there is a chance you may find clues somewhere in this newsletter.

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Highlands & Islands Brewers in 2010

Orkney Brewery - Brewing commenced in March 1988, at the old hoolhouse in Sandwick on Orkney Mainland.

of Skye Brewery - Based at Uig, next to the Western ßs ferry terminal, and has been brewing since December 95. Ales include Red & Black Cuillin, Hebridean Gold, ng Pretender and Blaven. Seasonal, House, and special it ales are regularly brewed.



alla Brewery - Most northerly brewery in the UK, started brewing 1 December 1997. Ales include White Wife and Auld Rock.

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 in late March 2000. Ales include Blonde, Dark, and Sunset.

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, and Black Gold.

Seasonal ales are regularly brewed.

Hebridean Brewing Company - Based at Stornoway in the Outer Hebrides. Brewing since January 2002. Beers include Islander Strong Ale, Berserker Export Pale Ale, and Clansman Ale (first ale ever brewed in Stornoway).

Atlas Brewery - Brewing moved to Orkney in Summer 2010. Please see Page 38.

An Teallach Brewery - Moved to the family's croft, near Dundonnell, in March 2003. Ales include An Teallach Ale, Beinn Dearg Ale, and Crofter's Pale Ale.

Islay Ales Co Ltd - Established in an old Tractor Shed in Bridgend, in March 2004. Ales include Finlaggan, Black Rock, and Dun Hogs Head; plus seasonal brews.

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

Highland Brewing Company - Located in the old Swannay cheese factory at Birsay, on Orkney Mainland. Ales include Scapa Special, Orkney Blast, Dark Munro.

Isle of Mull Brewery - Started in May 2005 with a 5 barrel plant in Tobermory. McCaig's Folly and Galleon Gold ales. Brewing has moved to Oban Bay.

Sinclair Breweries Ltd - Set up in 2006 by hotelier and restaurateur Norman Sinclair, who purchased the Orkney and Atlas Breweries. Ales regularly brewed include Three Sisters, Latitude, and Nimbus from Atlas; plus Raven Ale, Dark Island, Red MacGregor, and Skull Splitter from Orkney.



Glenfinnan Brewery - The first beer, A' Chiad Fhear, was brewed in their 4-barrel plant in October 2006 - a limited edition of 1,000 bottles plus one barrel.

Colonsay Brewery - First brews in March 2007. IPA, 80/- and Lager (no real ales).

Plockton Brewery - The first brew was produced on 1st April 2007. Craggs Ale and Starboard IPA may usually be found in Plockton, and at other local outlets.

Oban Bay Brewery - Brewing since mid 2009. 5 barrel brewery attached to Cuan Mor.

Old Inn (Gairloch) Brewery - 100 litre micro-brewery. First brews in February 2010.

Not all of the breweries listed are in our branch area: the Highland Brewing Co, Valhalla and Orkney are all in the Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles area; the Arran Brewery falls in the Ayrshire & Galloway area; while Fyne, Islay, Mull, Colonsay & Oban Bay Breweries are covered by Glasgow & West Scotland. Similarly for Highlands & Islands pubs listed in the GBG, pubs in Orkney and Shetland are submitted by the Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles Branch, and the Clachaig Inn somehow falls within the Glasgow & West Scotland branch area!

Bath & Bristol Adventure

Arrived at Bristol airport, got the bus to Bristol and then train to Bath. Found the Griffin Inn, my home for the night, fairly easily, and as soon as I pushed open the door I could tell the place had a good feel to it.

Lots of wood everywhere, friendly staff, and five handpulls. (Cheddar Ales) Potholer, Kingstone Gold, Butcombe Bitter, Bristol (Beer Factory) Red, and Bateman's GHA were the offerings. I started with the Kingstone Gold and very good it was. **4** for that. Next up was the Butcombe which I gave a **3**. Decent beer just not quite for me. Then the Bristol Red which was a good solid **4**.

Wandered along the road to the Hop Pole which is a Bath Ales pub. I was in search of the Barnstormer which I'd tried in Blackfriars in Inverness some time ago. I was not to be disappointed. There it was. And very good it was too. (A **4**, nearly a 5!). Fruity & Malty as the pump clip suggested.

I was now heading for the Old Green Tree but on the way I stumbled upon the Salamander, another Bath Ales pub. This one had the Dark Hare on. It would have been rude not to so I tried one. Fantastic. They're now selling that in their pubs instead of Guinness and quite right too! A worthy, and very rare, **5**. They recommended that I pop into the Raven and, as it was on the way, I did. A very good pint of Raven (a house brew from the Blindmans Brewery) Score **4**. Another nice friendly pub. Then I finally got to the Old Green Tree. No trees were in evidence. But there was beer. Another house ale from Blindmans Brewery – they get around a bit. Another **4**. Watch the stairs to the toilets in this place! Very steep. Could have been nasty if I'd had a few more ales. Onwards I pressed but the need for food now overtook me. Found the Westgate which was a bit "chainy" for my liking but had ale on so thought I'd give it a stab. Stumped for the Funky Monkey (ale not food!) which was fine (**3**) and had Calamari & Lamb Chump which impressed me greatly. Frankly much better than I expected.

I decided to now head back to the Griffin before I got past the walking stage. I tried the Potholer, which I scored a **3**. Just not my

favourite but perfectly palatable. Had a wee sample of the Batemans and opted to ignore it and have the Bristol Red for my last couple. When Verity thought my drawing of a fire engine was a cat I decided it must be time for bed. So up quickly the stairs I went before I disgraced myself.

Awoke with a slightly fuzzy head but the Full English soon sorted that. Really enjoyed my stay at the Griffin and I will definitely return – if I'm allowed back! A definite contender for the GBG I think. Went for a last wee wander around Bath before catching my train back to Bristol. Found the Star Inn which is a GBG pub and rightly so. This is an Abbey Ales pub – the only true Bath brewery apparently...Had the Bellringer (**4**), dropped off a few newsletters, and acquired a Pints West one in return.

Bristol gave me quite a hard time to find a pub showing the Cheltenham Festival. Eventually found the Bristol Ram which had dark screens, and 2 customers, but turned it on when I asked. St Austell Tribute was on, and lovely, but at £3.35 a pint more than a tad steep. Definitely a good **4** though. Eventually I found the Portwall Inn which was not only showing the racing, but was far and away the busiest pub I'd seen all afternoon. Coincidence?

I was just in time for the World Hurdle and as, in my opinion, Ruby Walsh was about to win it on board Big Buck's I felt it only appropriate that I had the Ruby from Yeovil Ales. Very good it was (**4**) and, of course, he cruised to victory. Then I had to meet the boys for a night out and, unfortunately, they aren't quite as obsessed with their ales as I am.

I did manage to persuade them to dine at the Bath Ales place (Graze?) which was just round the corner from our luxury accommodation (aka the Youth Hostel). The meal was superb, as was the beer. I think it was their Pale Ale I had (**4**). Things were a bit hazy for the next couple of days so no further records were kept but all in all a great trip.

Now if only the Cheltenham Festival had a marquee full of local ales to drink instead of Guinness.....

Stephen Crossland

Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness.

the Old Bridge Inn - Aviemore



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Wetherspoons Spring Ale Festival

The JDW spring festival took place between the 7th and 25th of April this year and again featured 50 ales in the festival programme.

Four of the brews had been made at English breweries by international brewers, and there were two from Highlands and Western Isles breweries: Atlas Wayfarer and a special festival brew from Cairngorm, Culloden 1746.

With the three thirds for the price of a pint option running again I was determined to try as many as I could and with that in mind I popped into Kings Highway, our Inverness JDW pub, every other day (when possible) to cover as many as I could.

Having said that by the end of the festival I had only managed to try half the ales featured in the programme. I know the Kings Highway may not have ordered all 50 for the festival or, of course, I may have missed them as it is quite common for an ale to be on and gone in a day, but I was disappointed to miss the local brews and some of the dark ales advertised.

There was a good range of styles and

strengths which ranged between 3.4% to a hefty 6.0% brew from the Netherlands.

Rather than bore you with a summary of each ale I have tried I will pick my personal favourites, plus some of the more unusual ones. I did manage to time it right for all four of the brews from the international brewers: Zulu Blonde was a 4.5% golden ale brewed at Marston's by Richard Chennells from the Zulu-land Brewery in South Africa.

It had some fruit and dry malt flavours, together with a little bitterness, but was quite an average brew with nothing really to shout about (Score out of 10, a 5).

Honkers Ale, from the Goose Island Brewery in Chicago and brewed at Shepherd Neame by Greg Hall, was much better. The 4.2% best bitter had a good hoppy, malty, bitter taste accompanied by a pleasant orange fruit flavour - with the bitterness holding well into the aftertaste (8).

The most unusual brew was the 5% Coconut Porter from the Maui Brewery in Hawaii. Brewer Garret Marrero had travelled to Bank's Brewery in the West Midlands to brew this one. It had a huge dark chocolate aroma, which featured strongly in the taste, along with roast coffee flavours. I was pleasantly surprised that it did not go overboard on the coconut which remained in the background. The strong roast and chocolate aftertaste lingered on for ages after drinking. Although classed as a porter/speciality I scored it as a speciality as it had the coconut in (8).

Last of the internationals was Abbaye Blonde, a 5.5% Belgium brew from Val-Dieu Brewery. Virginie Harze had travelled to Leicestershire, to brew at Evarards Brewery. It was a classic Belgium beer with the perfumed fruit flavours together with that distinctive Belgium yeast flavour in the background (8).

Onto the English brewers and Sharp's Gentle Jane. This was a 4.8% exclusive festival beer and had been brewed with Belgium yeast which gave a distinctive taste along with some spicy fruit flavours. (8).

It was good to find another dark brew in St Peter's Old Style Porter. This 5.1% beer was a blend of old ale and a younger, lighter beer; which is how a true porter should be made.

The Kings Highway

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We have 10 hand pulls on which you will always find:

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As I write this piece I have in my cellar;

Summerskills Guzzale (all £1.79)

TSA's Sporrán Warmer

Newmans Wolvesale

White Horse' Wayland Smithy

Skinner's Figgy's Brew

Jennings Sneck Lifter

Bateman's Hooker

Oakham's Bishop's Farewell

(we have a range of 50 ales from all over the UK to
chose from so please ask for your favourite)

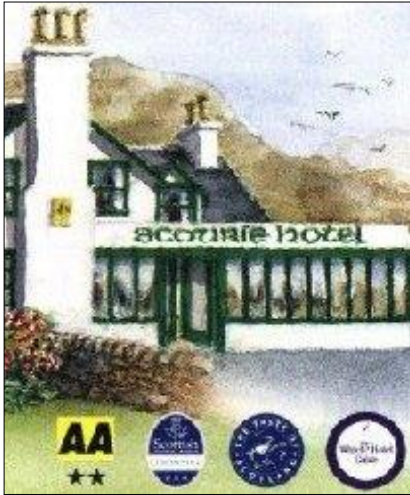
**As well as beers from our 'regulars'
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and the Isle of Skye Brewery.**

And new to the pumps, Weston's Old Rosie cider.

All ales served in an ale pot unless otherwise requested.

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Cask Ales and Real Cider are served

An ideal base for game fishing, hill-walking, bird watching (Handa Island is nearby), or exploring the famed empty quarter of Western Sutherland, a lunar landscape of lochs and mountains.

Overlooking Scourie Bay and with views to the distant tops of Ben Stack, Arkle, and Foinaven.



To connoisseurs of game fishing there is simply nothing to compare to the 25,000 acres of Loch, River and Hill Loch fishing held for the guests of Scourie Hotel. The Hotel has 36 fishing beats held exclusively for guests, plus 3 beats on Loch Stack and Loch More for sea trout and salmon. Additional salmon fishing is taken on local salmon rivers.

It was brown/red in colour and was full of smooth fruity flavours, and with no roasted malt flavours it did taste like an old ale (7). Worthy of a mention is Elgood's Hawkwind. This new brew was another specially brewed for the festival and it was a good example of a classic best bitter. The 4.5% brew had an initial sweetness, followed by a balanced malt and hop flavour, and then a strong hoppy bitter finish (8).

My personal festival favourite was the Greene King Suffolk Springer. Normally only available in bottles it had been specially brewed in cask for the festival. This 5.5% strong bitter had a rich fruity plum aroma and a good full bodied flavour of fruit cake and caramel. A good lingering bitter/sweet aftertaste (9).

Another good festival from Wetherspoons and I have to say that all the beers were served in very good condition. In fact, the consistently good beer condition now to be found at Kings Highway must make it a serious contender for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide.

GNH, Inverness.

Inns & Things

CAMRA's **May is Mild Month** was taken very seriously at the Benleva Hotel where Dark Munro, Otter Mild, Ruby Mild and Black Dog Mild went down very well with both locals and visitors. Landlord Steve Crossland had hoped to offer the seasonal brew from Cairngorm but it did not appear this year for some reason.

James Berry has asked us to add the **Torricon Inn** to our 'Pubs Just For You' website pages:

LocAle: An Teallach and Skye are regulars.

Disabled Access: Ramp at entrance. There is a disabled toilet. No steps anywhere.

Near a Campsite: About a 10-15min stroll to Torricon campground.

En Route - No better place to start for Ben Damph, Ben Alligin, Liathach, Ben Eighe.

Dogs are Welcome: A dog basket for guest dogs as well as dog bikkies behind the bar.

Food Served All Day Everyday: Breakfast from 8am - 12pm and full menu 12pm - 9pm.

Near Water: The Restaurant overlooks Loch Torricon.

Seems a reasonable request! Ed.



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Scottish Safari

An unexpected week's holiday in March sent me northwards. National Express deposit me at Inverness Bus Station at about 11.30 and after collecting bus and train timetables I look for a beer. The **Hootenanny** is the closest so I repair thither. It is known for its live music and its Black Isle beers including Red Kite (2). I do not see how they can justify £3.10 a pint for beer from just across the bridge so I move on to the **Phoenix** which for many years was the only outlet for real ale in town. Today however they are not selling ale, real or otherwise, as there is no-one behind the bar so I cross the road to **Blackfriars** for a Caledonian Over the Bar (3) and a pie. Over lunch I decide to take a trip on the Kyle line which is one of THE scenic rail journeys. I alight two stops short at Plockton as there are two GBG pubs here. Be warned - the station is a good 15 mins walk from the village (probably they wanted it near the railway lines!) which reduces drinking time. Both **Plockton Hotel** and **Plockton Inn** are quiet at this time of day but the bar staff are friendly and efficient and the beer (Plockton Bay in both) is very good (4).

Back in Inverness I check in to my hotel and make my way to the **King's Highway** for a meal. As I order my Cairngorm Sheepshagger (3) the chairman of the local CAMRA branch notices my tie and invites me to join them for the evening. This gives an interesting insight into the operation of a numerically small Branch with a large area. Like us, most of the active membership lives in or near the city. We find it difficult to involve people from Market Harborough - they have members living 100 miles away! Newsletter distribution is a major headache, as is news gathering, and I am asked to report on my week's findings - hence this article.

Next day I head for Thurso on Scottish Citylink service X99. I know I have made this journey before but I remember little about it and sit back to enjoy the coastal and mountain scenery. First port of call is the **Central Hotel**. On a previous visit one of the party described the building as being of 'considerable architectural merit'. Another member said the same about

the barmaid, incurring the serious displeasure of his wife! The beer is Orkney Best (4). Just round the corner is the **Commercial Hotel** selling Caledonian Deuchars (3.5). One of these must qualify as the most northerly mainland real ale outlet. There seems little reason to remain in Thurso so I catch a train to Wick. At the bottom of the station approach is **Mac-kay's Hotel**. This features in the list of real ale outlets published in the newsletter but none is in evidence today. After several more blanks I fall back on the old rule - "In a strange town you can do a lot worse than Wetherspoons" and I take refuge in the **Alexander Bain**. Here I sample 'Ruddles' Best (2) and Jennings Snecklifter (3). No Scottish brews - I know inhabitants of Caithness consider themselves Vikings rather than Scots but I doubt if the management of these breweries lay claim to Scandinavian ancestry (although some would argue that they maintain the traditions of rape and pillage in their treatment of pubs and breweries!). Back to Inverness for Isle of Skye Skyflight (3) in the **Phoenix** and Deuchars (3.5) in **Blackfriars**.

Thursday morning sees Citylink whisk me alongside the Caledonian Canal to Fort William then on to Oban. Here I face a decision: go on to Glasgow immediately or wait until 1815. I choose the latter as I am thirsty and Oban can't be that much of a beer desert, can it?

Can it? Aulay's Bar advertises 'Traditional Ale' but doesn't sell it and the same applies to the Clarendon Hotel. The Cuan Mor describes itself as 'Restaurant, Bar and Brewery' but has two pumpclips turned round. Words don't fail me but you wouldn't print them! The Harbour Bar has no real ale, the Oban Inn is closed and boarded up, the Balmoral Hotel has no real ale and the Rowan Tree Hotel a handpump with the clip turned round. At last I find the **Tartan Tavern** with Shepherd Neame Spitfire and Theakston Hogshead (both 3.5).

To fill the afternoon I book on a tour of the Oban Distillery. The £7 fee includes the tour, a sample, a souvenir glass and a £3 discount on a bottle of the product, although as a bottle costs £32 I give that particular offer a miss!

An interesting tour, then I eat in the Waterfront Bar (still no real ale) before the coach to

Highlands & Western Isles Pub-of-the-Year



The Castle Tavern

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Glasgow. I arrive in time for an Atlas Latitude and Arran ab (both 4) in the **Bon Accord**, which has been Glasgow's flagship real ale pub for as long as I have been a CAMRA member, i.e. a *very* long time.

English concessionary passes are not valid in Scotland but Senior Railcard discounts apply and the various Explorer tickets are good value (I used a 3 day Citylink Explorer for £35). This was only the second time I have been north of Glasgow in winter but I really enjoyed it. Night falls early and some of the visitor attractions are closed but buses, trains and pubs are less crowded and one is not eaten alive by midges. I am already looking forward to my next visit.

[Memo to Tim Martin: Oban needs you - quickly!]. Bill Woolley.

The **Corran Ferry Hotel**, sited in an enviable location by the Corran Ferry slipway, overlooking Loch Linnhe and the Corran Narrows, is unsurprisingly referred to as the gateway to Mull, Morvern and Ardnamurachan.

The former Nether Lochaber Hotel, one of the

oldest in the Highlands with a history dating from 1743, had been closed for nearly a year when Richard and Lesley saw an opportunity not to be missed.

Major improvements needed to meet levels of hygiene and service expected by 21st century customers will be a work in progress for some time but, in the short term, the re-design and modernisation of the kitchen, restaurant, and reception areas, plus installation of modern fire precautions, have been the priority.

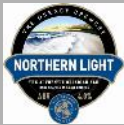
The popular bar, now named "The Mackintosh Bar" after long-term former hotel and ferry owners, is unchanged and Richard and Lesley have cordially extended invitations to tourists and locals alike to support them, and they will listen to suggestions to be included for the future of the bar and what it can offer.

Real ales on tap are sourced mainly from the local Atlas Brewery, but it is the intention to regularly offer brews from further afield.

Richard and Lesley see that the marriage of Scottish real ale and good Scottish food as a formula not to be missed. *Sounds good. Ed.*



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Loch Ness Circular

A new and shorter route for an outing, and a later start than is our norm, meant a busier than usual start for staff at our 11 o'clock Castle Tavern rendez-vous. Half an hour only to sample the six brews on offer, but we coped somehow: Trade Winds (average NBSS group score 4), Latitude (3), Kildonan (4), Wildcat (4), Black Sheep Best Bitter (3.5) and An Teallach Ale (3). Sandy, our regular driver from Fraser's Coaches, picked us up at 11:30 and a full minibus headed for Loch Ness.



The sun was trying hard, but the weather was mostly cool and overcast as we pulled in at the Dores Inn. We quickly finished the Scapa Special (3) which was promptly replaced by Ossian (4.5). A very good St Magnus Ale (4.5) and Killellan (4) were also on tap. The sun did

come out and we enjoyed the outside viewing/drinking area (see picture) in an excellent position on the shore of Loch Ness. They have gone from two handpumps to four in the two years under the present management and are famed for their food – booking is essential.

Time to continue our journey and a scenic climb up to Loch Ruthven and along to the Whitebridge Hotel. Some had lunch from their limited but good lunchtime menu, a game of pool and Tradewinds (4) and Red Cuillin (4).

Onward and down to Fort Augustus where the Lock Inn had it's usual house ale on tap, Gill Chuilmein (possibly Green King IPA) but it was expensive at £1.90 a half. Hebridean Gold (4) and Deuchars at the Bothy, although a bit too cold for some people. The Lovat Arms Hotel had Tradewinds (2) and Wildcat (3) at £3.95 a pint. The find of the day was the Caledonian Hotel, where a very enthusiastic owner, Chris, had Cairngorm Gold (3) and Stag (3). He is trying to push real ale and has one or two local brews on at all times (at very competitive prices), and he even gave us a cellar tour.



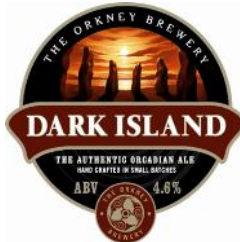
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Back on the bus and the next stop was at the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel in Invermoriston, which has had real ale on and off over the years and we are glad to say back again but the old Bothy Bar has been demolished.

We enjoyed a good pint of Red Cuillin (3.5), some enjoying the sunshine on the terrace.

An Australian couple, who were quenching their thirst after a warm day on the Great Glen Way, did not believe that we were members of the biggest UK consumer group, and that we were sampling the quality of real ales in some of our local outlets – they even accused us of being on a pub crawl!

Along Loch Ness to Lewiston and to the Loch Ness Inn where Trade Winds (3) and Red Cuillin (3) were on tap - also enjoyed in the sunshine. Next a very short ride (some walked) over to Drumnadrochit, to the Benleva Hotel, where Red Macgregor (4), Black Gold (4), Blaven (4), and Fyne Ales's Avalanche (4) made for a very good selection.

Isle of Skye Brewery first brought out a beer called Avalanche but changed it's name to Blaven and were happy for Fyne to use the name. Pizza slices and bowls of chips were gratefully devoured at the last stop for 'Drum' residents. The rest of the party boarded the minibus one more time and were dropped back in Inverness just before seven o'clock.

Thanks to driver Sandy for a safe journey, and to all the publicans for welcoming a minibus full of real ale fans, and to Allan and Steve for the food and hospitality at Benleva Hotel.

E-mAles

Hi, We really enjoy your newsletter What's Yours Then? Got to mention the **Craig Bar** in Grantown On Spey, which doesn't seem to feature anywhere in WYT? Any particular reason for this? We've been in the Craig Bar on numerous occasions over the last year and they always have at least 3 real ales, all from Cairngorm Brewery. No hand pump dispense, but from a polypin from Cairngorm Brewery. They serve good food too & are dog friendly.

Best regards, Maggie & Stuart, Inverurie.

Thanks for the update, now added to our newsletter and on-line real ale pubs lists. Ed.

Hi, Can you please add The Steak Academy

Bar & Restaurant, 8-10 Queensgate, Inverness to you list of Real Ale pubs. We have two cask ales on Tap and many more in bottles.

We are open from 12pm till 11pm Monday to Saturday and 12pm till 9pm on the Sunday. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch. Lorraine.

Marymas Medieval Fair

An overcast morning with a cold breeze and a hint of rain threatened as we set up the beer tent at the Marymas Fair. A glorious Saturday in 2009 had led to a very successful fair on its first change of date from August to June. We were not to be let down and by mid-afternoon the sun was out and so were the crowds.

Our selection of ales this year - Isle of Skye Red Cuillin, Atlas Latitude, Fyne Highlander and our joint Branch Beer of the Year winners (Cairngorm) Trade Winds and Black Gold - made for a good choice of strengths, style and colour to meet all tastes.

After much debate (Highlands & Western Isles CAMRA) committee had decided to offer a real cider for the first time and the Weston's First Quality Cider proved to be popular, the 20 litre box selling out very quickly.

Marymas Medieval Fair is the largest annual fund-raising event for Inverness Crossroads and is supported by over 500 volunteers with additional assistance in many forms from local businesses, and attracts over 3,500 visitors.

Entertainment this year included a medieval encampment, brass band, rock/folk group Trybe, fire eaters, horse and cart rides, Punch & Judy, and much, much more. There were also many stalls including crafts, food, books and raffles. It was great to see many of the regular local real ale drinkers, but also to find some trying real ale for the first time.

Our Beer of Marymas - selected on the basis that the first cask to run dry must be the most popular - was Fyne Ales Highlander.

Red Cuillin, Latitude, Trade Winds and Black Gold meant a good choice until closing time, but only just!

Thanks to all who helped on the bar, and with collecting and washing glasses, and to all the customers who made for a successful day.

See you all again in June 2011. Cheers!

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News of Brews

SINCLAIR BREWERIES LTD STATEMENTS

1. FUTURE OF ATLAS BREWERY, KINLOCHLEVEN

Issued: Sunday 6 June 2010

Sinclair Breweries Ltd – owners of the Orkney Brewery and Kinlochleven's Atlas Brewery – announced today (Sunday, 6 June) that production of all the firm's award winning beers is to be consolidated at the Orkney Brewery, currently undergoing a major expansion.

Norman Sinclair, managing director of Sinclair Breweries Ltd, said: "My family has been in business in Lochaber for over 40 years, so the decision to end production at the Atlas Brewery has been an exceptionally difficult one to take. The company is streamlining the operation to one single unit at the new state of the art brewing facility in Orkney."

Atlas Brewery employs four members of staff and Sinclair Breweries Ltd hopes to be able to retain some of the team by re-locating them to Orkney, when production moves there this summer.

Mr Sinclair added: "Given the excellent reputation the Atlas range has acquired, it's crucial that we continue to produce these hugely popular award winning beers. There's really no viable future for the building at Kinlochleven, so moving production to our modernised and expanded Orkney site enables us to carry on the Atlas name. It is with a heavy heart that we leave Lochaber, but I'd like to reassure all our loyal customers that the future of the Atlas range is assured, brewed under the Orkney banner."

2. LANDMARK ADDITION TO NEW BREWERY

Issued: Wednesday, 9 June, 2010

A distinctive copper-clad "pagoda" is to be installed on the roof of the Orkney Brewery this week as the initial phase of a major £1.2 million redevelopment of the Sandwick site nears completion.

The hand-crafted pagoda, made in the traditional way to provide ventilation to the building's malting floor, is thought to be the first fitted to a brewery in Scotland for several decades.

Work on the expansion and modernisation of the Orkney Brewery – being carried out by local contractors Casey Construction Ltd – is continuing on schedule, with the first phase due to be completed this August.

Norman Sinclair, managing director of Sinclair Breweries Ltd, said: "The pagoda is a very distinctive, attractive and functional addition to the new Orkney Brewery building and we're delighted to see it installed. The craftsmanship that has gone into the pagoda, and indeed the entire redevelopment, reflects the quality of all our beers and the care we put into their production. The new building and pagoda turns an already wonderful location into a real Orkney landmark."

Paddy Casey, director of Casey Construction Ltd, said: "The pagoda is the signature mark of the building and a real testament to the skills of our craftsmen, who built it from scratch in our joinery shop in Kirkwall. It's great to see it finally in place on the brewery roof, making all their hard work worthwhile."

Weather permitting, the pagoda was due to be lifted into place on Thursday, 10th June.

Old Inn Micro-brewery

The Old Inn at Gairloch announced, under the heading '**Look What's Brewing**' in their Spring newsletter: The Old Inn now has its own brewhouse!

Apparently work started on assembling a brand new, custom-designed 100 litre microbrewery late in 2009, and it was installed and commissioned in February of this year. Their first brews have been so successful that they have already had to increase capacity by 50%!

Long established as a 'real ale pub', as regular visitors to the Old Inn will know, the bar stocks a wide range of Scottish and English ales. Far from replacing these ales, it is the intention that their own brews will broaden the offering even further.

As well as giving guests 'something different', the Old Inn team believes that brewing their own beers will very much complement the way they approach the food side of their business: from filleting their own freshly landed

(Continued on page 41)

the loch ness inn

it's what's under the surface...



The Loch Ness Inn is now open!

The Loch Ness Inn, conveniently located between Drumnadrochit and Urquhart Castle in the village of Lewiston, is set in the heart of the local community where you will meet hikers, tourists and locals in friendly comfortable surroundings.

We look forward to welcoming you whether it's for a long weekend, a meal in The Lewiston Restaurant, a pint in The Brewery Bar, or just a coffee.

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Rate our Beer

Highlands & Western Isles CAMRA would welcome your help in surveying the pubs in our massive Branch area. To help us decide which pubs in the Highlands & Western Isles are worth considering for the Good Beer Guide, we are using CAMRA's 6-point NBSS (National Beer Scoring Scheme) to record Beer Quality.

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.



Your regular input will help ensure that pubs consistently serving good quality real ale make it into the next Good Beer Guide. Please send pub reports (good beer, poor beer, no beer) plus any real ale and real cider news to our Branch Contact (Please see page 6).

NATIONAL
Cask Ale
WEEK
29th MARCH - 5th APRIL 2010

To celebrate National Cask Ale Week Blackfriars Highland Pub in Inverness held a Plockton Brewery weekend. (For those of you with good memories, the Scottish Television series Hamish Macbeth was filmed in Plockton). This small micro brewery has only recently been upgraded to a two and a half barrels brew plant, from it's humble beginnings as a one barrel brewery.

The three regular brews, Craggs, Starboard! and Plockton Bay were featured together over the weekend - a first for both the brewery and the pub.

Not only does owner/brewer Andy Will brew great beer, he also plays fiddle in a traditional Scottish trio called The Ale is Dear (This is not a reflection on the price Andy charges for his beer!!). The trio played the Friday evening session at the pub to a very appreciative audience with Andy accompanied by Dave Hardy on guitar and John Phillips on bodhran and harmonica. Another first during the week was the launch of a house ale brewed by the Ullapool based An Teallach, a nicely balanced 4.1% ABV brew with plenty of hop character. Blackfriars regulars often see landlord Del Graham providing the Friday night musical entertainment, and so there was only really one title for the new house beer. Why not pop in and enjoy a pint of "Singing Landlord" and take a look at the amusing pump clip.

Carrying on the themed brewery idea the Benleva Hotel in Drumnadrochit decided to feature beers from the two breweries polling most votes at their September beer festival. Regulars were treated to a selection of beers from Rob Hill's Highland brewery on Orkney and Fyne ales who are based at the head of Loch Fyne in Argyll. Well done and thanks to two of our top ale pubs for making a feature of the CAMRA National Cask Ale Week.

A news item on the Plockton Brewery website reads: 2nd Apr 2010 - A proud day indeed. For the first time ever 3 different Plockton Brewery beers on at the same time in a pub (Blackfriars in Inverness). Thanks, Del!



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Call 01479 811 244 or email
dalhousie@macdonald-hotels.co.uk

(Continued from page 38)

fish, to baking their own bread and making their own burgers – and they even have their own smoke-house!

Theming the proposed range of brews on place names in and around the Gairloch area, the first beer to go into production is called The Erradale – a 4.2% abv IPA style bitter.

Brewer Michael Longley is already developing a lighter summer ale, which will be called The Flowerdale and a 'winter warmer' to be called The Slattadale. For next year the Old Inn is planning to run brewing weekends, giving guests the opportunity to get 'hands-on' with the various brewing processes.

In our Spring edition we looked back at the growth of new breweries in the first decade of the new century, and we wish the Old Inn team every success with this exciting new

venture as we start the second! Ed.

Black Isle Brewery brewed a festival special for Edinburgh's Stockbridge Tap, and it won beer of the festival. **Molly's Vanilla Porter** was described in the festival tasting notes as 'Specially crafted for the Stockbridge Tap. A rich, medium dry ruby black beer brewed from the finest roasted malts. In this special edition for the Stockbridge Tap we have complemented the chocolate flavours with vanilla. Molly, our brewery house cow, feeds on the spent grain from the mash and particularly enjoys Porter days. We hope you enjoy it as much as her!' *Clearly they did! Ed!*

A treat for visitors to Aberdeen and Edinburgh festivals - **Orkney Dark Island Reserve** (10%), normally only available in 75cl bottles, on draught. This beer is made by maturing Dark Island in Orkney whisky casks for three

We hope you have enjoyed reading our Summer newsletter. Unless you intend to keep it for some reason, please **DO NOT** throw it away. Why not pass it on to a friend, or just leave it in a pub somewhere for others to read. Newsletters are often found many miles from source! The next edition will be out in September. *Cheers! Ed.*



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Single Membership (UK & EU)	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>	£22 <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Membership (Partner at the same address)	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>	£27 <input type="checkbox"/>

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

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

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

I enclose a cheque for

Signed Date

Applications will be processed within 21 days

0709



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

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



Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Reference Number

Originators Identification Number

9 2 6 1 2 9

FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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

Membership Number

Name

Postcode

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

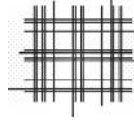
- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change CAMRA will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

detached and retained this section

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.



The and restaurant
GLEN Hotel

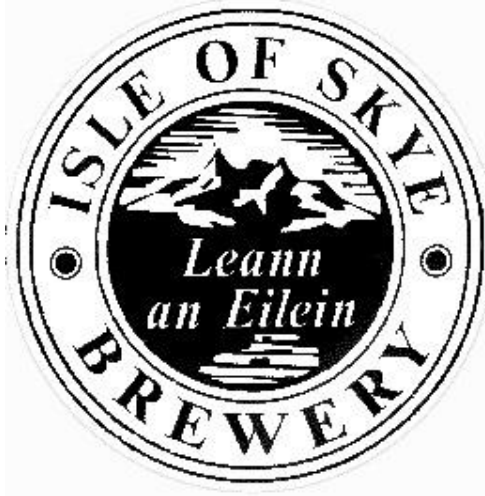


H O E



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