

east london newsletter



No 14
March 1979

Youngers bring back famous beer

SCOTTISH & Newcastle Breweries' London real-ale experiment appears to have taken a new direction.

For the past year they have been supplying cask-conditioned Youngers XXPS

Scotch Bitter to a dozen or so London pubs, but when beer supplies got back to normal after the recent lorry drivers' strike two more traditional beers could be found in Youngers' London pubs - IPA and No 3 Scotch Ale.

Name change for big brewer

BASS Charrington, the giant brewing group formed in 1967 by the merger of Bass, Mitchells & Butlers and Charrington United Breweries, has had a name change - the group is now known simply as Bass Ltd. But the group's south-eastern subsidiary will still be known as Charrington & Co.

Since the merger Bass has been the country's largest brewer of real ale though they have not always been particularly enthusiastic about it. However, the country's second biggest brewer, Allied Breweries, is now catching up with Bass in the real-ale stakes, with handpumps reappearing in Ind Coope, Ansells, Walkers and Tetley pubs.

CELEBRATED DARK BEER
Youngers IPA and No 3, a celebrated dark beer, were the two cask beers to be found in London pubs until 1973. They were dispensed from electric pumps hidden behind the bar in order to encourage sales of keg Tartan, and in 1973 all cask-beer deliveries south of Birmingham were stopped; London pubs began selling a keg version of IPA and brewing of No 3 ceased altogether.

OVERPRICED

It seems likely that IPA and No 3 will replace the weaker and rather overpriced Scotch Bitter in the two pubs in the City selling real Youngers - the Ship in Hart Street, EC3, (near Fenchurch Street Station) and Ye Olde London in Ludgate Hill (near St Paul's).

More Directors for Hackney

HANDPUMPED Courage Directors Bitter has now gone on sale in the Royal Standard, 84 Victoria Park Road, Hackney.

The Royal Standard joins a very select band of Courage tied houses selling real ale in the East End - there are only three more, the Black Lion in Plaistow High Street, the Robin Hood in High Hill Ferry, Clapton, and the Old Ship in Sylvester Path, just off Mare Street in Hackney.

STRONG AND EXPENSIVE

Courage's policy in London is to serve only the strong and expensive Directors Bitter through traditional handpumps and to continue spoiling their Best Bitter - just as traditional a beer as Directors - by serving it by gas pressure.

This is in complete contrast to Courage's policy in the West Country, where pubs are encouraged to serve the full range of three cask beers traditionally. Evidently Courage consider that the ordinary West Country drinker is more discerning than his Cockney counterpart!



East London & City Branch

BRANCH SECRETARY & NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Basil Clarke, 89 The Avenue, London E4
01-222 4213 (work); 01-531 6933 (home)

FREE

New name for Watney brew

FINED Bitter, the cask-conditioned beer introduced by Watneys some three years ago, has been renamed Fined Stag Bitter, after the Stag Brewery at Victoria, demolished by Watneys in 1959.

ELECTRIC PUMPS

At present only a few pubs, such as the Griffin, 125 Clerkenwell Road, EC1, still dispense Fined through the original electric pumps, which, though they may not appear so to the casual observer, do in fact work on a more traditional principle than the County handpumps which have generally replaced them.

AIR PRESSURE

The County pumps look like traditional beer engines but actually work on the opposite principle, pushing the beer up by air pressure rather than suck it up through the effect of a vacuum, and it is widely considered that this impairs the beer.

LONDON BITTER

Watneys other cask beer, London Bitter, appears to be selling well. It is sold at the same price as its long-established rival, the processed Watneys Special, and is now being sold in more and more pubs.

London Bitter and Trumans Tap Bitter, another

Mild wins reprieve

THIS year began with a double boost for mild drinkers in London. Chiswick brewers Fullers have decided to continue brewing their celebrated dark mild, Hock, for at least another six months because of the reaction from publicans and drinkers when they announced its withdrawal last year. Hock is available at the Bricklayers Arms in Charlotte Road, Shoreditch.

UNCARING

Fullers' readiness to take notice of public opinion contrasts sharply with the uncaring attitude of one of the Big Six brewers, Courage, who abruptly stopped production of their London cask mild last year despite its

growing popularity.

BURTON MILD

The second boost for mild is the arrival of Everards Burton Mild in London. This tasty dark beer is now on sale in the Windmill in Tabernacle Street, EC2, and the Yorkshire Grey, at the Clerkenwell end of Theobalds Road, WC1.

City loses Belhaven

BAD news for lovers of the excellent Scottish-brewed Belhaven beers. The Wine Lodge in Fenchurch Street, which once sold three different Belhaven cask beers, now only sells them in keg form. But the Wine Lodge does still sell real ale - Youngs Ordinary and Special Bitters, Draught Bass and Wethereds Bitter and they are now available in both bars.

More Wethereds

ANOTHER City pub, the New Moon in Gracechurch Street, EC4, has recently installed real ale. It now sells handpumped Wethereds Bitter.

cask-conditioned beer, are also dispensed by the County system, but there are now a couple of local pubs selling Tap through traditional beer engines - the Talbot in London Wall, EC2, and the Ferry Boat Inn in Ferry Lane, N17, between Tottenham Hale and Blackhorse Road stations.

Bethnal Green pub goes Irish

THE ALBION in Bethnal Green Road is now a free house catering for the Irish trade. It has been renamed the Bahola House and sells handpumped Bass and Charringtons IPA.

DIARY

Tuesday 20 February - Branch Meeting at Lord Nelson, 230 Commercial Rd Stepney, E1, 8 pm.

Saturday 24 February - Beer Festival at City University, St John St, EC1.

Tuesday 27 February - City Social at Railway Tavern, Liverpool St, EC2, 5.30 pm

Tuesday 20 March - Branch Meeting at Colegrave Arms, Cann Hall Rd, Leytonstone 8 pm

PROTECT YOUR PINT

Join Now!

Application for membership

I/We wish to become a member(s) of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the campaign.

I enclose £4 (£6 Overseas) for full membership

We enclose £5 for husband and wife membership

or I/We enclose completed standing order authority

(Any additional amount will be welcomed as a donation).

Application for Associateship

I wish to become an Associate of CAMRA Ltd.

I agree to abide by the aims of the organisation and enclose my fee of £1

FULL NAME (Block capitals)

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals)

SIGNATURE..... DATE.....

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited. Applications should be sent to Membership, CAMRA, 64 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW.