

Issue 69

–  
Summer 2017

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FREE

# PINTS of VIEW



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

**The CAMRA Magazine for Edinburgh and South-East Scotland**

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## SCOTTISH REAL ALE FESTIVAL

JULY 6th – 8th

Edinburgh Corn Exchange

...see inside for more details

### In this issue...

- The Scottish Real Ale Festival Story
- How do pubs get in the Good Beer Guide?
- Member discount list
- Latest real ale pub news
- Latest local brewery news
- ... and more!

**Pints of View** is the magazine of the Edinburgh & South-East Scotland Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), an independent, voluntary organisation campaigning for real ale, community pubs and consumer rights.



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## Editorial

As you will see from our cover, the branch continues to grow, with membership now passing 1200, up from 1000 five years ago. However, the branch will only thrive if we have active members. This can take many forms: submitting beer scores, attending meetings, doing pub surveys, keeping WhatPub up-to-date, or even just being a nuisance in your local pub if the real ale availability isn't up to scratch!

And look out for the new-look CAMRA membership leaflets in a real ale pub near you (thanks to the Royal Dick at Summerhall for the use of their bar for the photo).

If it's summer it must be time for another Scottish Real Ale Festival! This year should see more than 180 real ales, ciders and perries on offer. CAMRA's National Chairman, Colin Valentine recounts the history of the festival on page 7.

Finally, it was with great sadness that the branch learned that Ken Finland passed away in March this year. Ken was a longstanding member of CAMRA and the branch committee, and was instrumental in your editor also getting involved in the committee. His friend Ron Elder has written a fuller appreciation on page 4.

*Scott*

### Advertising Rates

Our standard fees for advertisements are as follows;

- Full page: £270
- Half-page: £180
- Quarter-page: £108
- One-eighth page: £72
- Back cover: £POA

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All enquiries to [advertising@edinburghcamra.org.uk](mailto:advertising@edinburghcamra.org.uk).

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# CAMRA Calling

## Branch News

### Pubs of the Year

The 2017 Branch Pubs of the year are as follows:

**Edinburgh Pub of the Year:** the **Stockbridge Tap**, Raeburn Place.

Runner Up: the **Regent**, Montrose Terrace  
Third Place: **Thomson's Bar**, Morrison Street

**Borders Pub of the Year:** the **Bridge Inn**, Peebles.

Runner Up: **Rutherford's**, Kelso.  
Third Place: **Cobbles**, Kelso.

**Lothians Pub of the Year:** the **Volunteer Arms (Staggs)**, North High Street, Musselburgh.



Branch Chairman Pat Hanson presents the Stockbridge Tap with their PotY award

Runner Up: the **Grey Horse**, Main Street, Balerno.  
Third Place: **Levenhall Arms**, Ravensheugh Road, Musselburgh

The **overall Branch Pub of the Year** is the **Bridge Inn, Peebles**. Congratulations to all the pubs!

### Forthcoming Branch Events

#### Three-Pub Social

7:30pm, 14 June

Kay's Bar, Jamaica St, then St. Vincent Bar, St. Vincent St, then the Bailie, St. Stephen St.



## CAMRA Calling

(continued)

### Branch Social Meeting

2:30pm, 17 June

Ryrie's (upstairs), Haymarket Terr.

### Promo Crawl for the Scottish Real Ale Festival

7:30pm, 4 July

Caley Sample Room, then Diggers, (both Slateford Rd), then Golden Rule, Yeaman Pl.

### Branch Social Meeting

2:30pm, 15 July

Artisan Bar (upstairs), London Rd.

### Two-Pub Social

7:30pm, 9 August

Teuchter's, then Voyage of Buck, both William St.

### Branch Social Meeting

2:30pm, 12 August

Gordon Arms, West Linton

### CAMRA Tap Takeover

4pm, 27 August

Thomson's Bar, Morrison St.

## Ken Finland, 1940 – 2017

by Ron Elder

After a successful career in telecom engineering, Ken took the early bath and joined CAMRA in 1995. He quickly became an active member, and was soon elected to the local Branch Committee, on which he served for over 20 years. His attention to detail and procedure ensured that our branch campaigned effectively, and his love of language was shared with others, to which those of us who had their grammar and spelling corrected can testify!

Ken contributed much to our pub database, surveying pubs and liaising with pub landlords throughout our area. Perhaps his greatest love within CAMRA, was working as a volunteer at beer festivals, which he did from joining CAMRA, until ill health prevented him from working at last years Scottish Real Ale Festival.

Outside CAMRA, Ken was a keen bowler and a lifelong Hibs supporter, greatly enjoying his teams success in winning the Scottish Cup last year, for the first time in over 100 years.

Married for over 50 years, our thoughts go out to his wife Vi, son and daughter, granddaughters, and great grandson at this sad time.

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# Small Measures

by Callum Bracher

Legally, draught beer can be sold in the following quantities: Third, half, two-thirds of a pint and multiples of half a pint. So you could serve in 1½ pint glasses should you wish but not 1⅓, which seems perfectly sensible! Somewhere along the way the ⅔ pint measure, or colloquially 'a schooner', has become popular in some modern beer outlets for cask beers as well as the contemporary keg choices. The idea of a smaller measure, it seems, goes hand in hand with a strong flavoured and higher ABV beer.

There are numerous reasons you may wish to opt for less than a pint of beer. Perhaps the beverage in question is an unusual style or not your usual tippie. Maybe you are conscientiously keeping track of your intake of alcoholic units in order to remain within recommended guidelines (a pint of 4% beer is about 2.3 units). Or you may even be checking the calorie content and watching your waistline (a pint of beer is around 200 calories depending on strength and who you listen to). Incidentally a 175 ml glass (less than ⅓ pint) of 13% wine has similar unit and calorie stats to the aforementioned pint of beer.

## Is there an argument for going even smaller?

Smaller measures will allow you to try more different beers whilst maintaining a sensible alcohol consumption limit, consuming fewer calories, and outlaying less cash. So if these things appeal to you then the obvious solution is to pick the smallest measure available and rest in the knowledge that your third pint is probably lower in both alcoholic units and calories than the smallest available measure of wine. On the other hand, if you want to try that speciality 10% imperial stout and still stand up, why not opt for a third pint?

## Make mine a third

The list below details the pubs in our branch area which are known to serve third pint measures either as individual units or as a 'flight' or 'paddle' of 3 thirds. This list is by no means definitive so if you discover other establishments serving beer in thirds then please let us know.

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### **Pubs serving third pints in the branch area:**

- **Dalriada**, 77 Promenade, Edinburgh
- **Foot Of The Walk**, 183 Constitution St., Edinburgh
- **Hampton Hotel**, 14 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh
- **Hanging Bat**, 133 Lothian Rd., Edinburgh
- **Haymarket**, 11-14 West Maitland St., Edinburgh
- **Holyrood 9A**, 9A Holyrood Road, Edinburgh
- **Indigo Yard**, Charlotte Lane, Edinburgh
- **Kenilworth**, 152 Rose Street, Edinburgh
- **Monty's**, 185 Morrison Street, Edinburgh
- **Potting Shed**, 32-34 Potter Row, Edinburgh
- **Raeburn Hotel**, 112 Raeburn Place, Edinburgh
- **Rose St. Brewery**, 55 Rose Street, Edinburgh
- **Royal Dick [Summerhall]**, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh
- **Royal McGregor**, 154 High Street, Edinburgh
- **Salisbury Arms**, 58 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh
- **Salvation of Leith**, 58 The Shore, Edinburgh
- **Scotch Hop Bar**, 114 Causewayside, Edinburgh
- **Scran & Scallie**, 1 Comely Bank Road, Edinburgh
- **Southern**, 22-26 South Clerk Street, Edinburgh
- **Spylaw Tavern**, 27 Spylaw Street, Edinburgh
- **Stockbridge Tap**, 2-4 Raeburn Place, Edinburgh
- **Teuchters Landing**, 1c Dock Place, Edinburgh
- **Victoria Park Hotel [Gosford Bar]**, 221 Ferry Road, Edinburgh
- **White Lady Hotel**, 92-98 St. John's Road, Edinburgh
- **Winstons**, 20 Kirk Loan, Edinburgh
- **Pine Marten**, Spott Road, Dunbar
- **Nether Abbey Hotel**, 20 Dirleton Avenue, North Berwick
- **Ship Inn**, 7-9 Quality St., North Berwick
- **Bridge Inn**, 27 Baird Road, Ratho
- **Hunters Hall**, 56 High Street, Galashiels
- **Bourtree**, 22 Bourtree Place, Hawick
- **Rutherfords**, 38 The Square, Kelso
- **Plough Inn**, Main Street, Leitholm
- **Andrew Usher & Co.**, 32b West Nicolson Street, Edinburgh
- **Beer Kitchen**, 81-83 Lothian Road, Edinburgh
- **Bennets Bar**, 8 Leven Street, Edinburgh
- **Bow Bar**, 80 West Bow, Edinburgh
- **Conan Doyle**, 71-73 York Place, Edinburgh

# 2017



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# The Scottish Real Ale Festival Story

by Colin Valentine

In April 1998, the CAMRA Members' Weekend took place in the Assembly Halls in George Street in the heart of the capital, with me at the helm as organiser. Whilst it was the third time the event had taken place in Scotland, it was the first time that the bar had consisted solely of Scottish beer as there simply weren't enough breweries in Scotland on previous occasions. On the back of this, I was asked to run a Scottish Bar at the Great British Beer Festival in London, the first time that had happened.

We then got to thinking that, with plenty of Scottish breweries on the go and Champion Beer of Scotland (CBOS) well-established as the premier Scottish real ale award, it was time that we held a beer festival to celebrate the wonderful beers that were brewed in Scotland. With the help of Ken Brooker of Harviestoun, a few of us started scouting venues and, to cut a long story short, we decided on the aforementioned Assembly Rooms.

The first Scottish Real Ale Festival (originally called the Scottish Traditional Beer Festival) duly took place in June 2003 with the then Scottish Director, Ken Davie, at the helm. Whilst it is fair to say the first event wasn't a great financial success, it was a success on many other levels. Notwithstanding the fact that the event hosted the CBOS award, we decided to have a beer of the festival competition. The inaugural winner was Cairngorm Trade Winds which, at that point, was only a seasonal beer. Winning beer of the festival persuaded the brewery to make it a permanent beer and the rest, as they say, is history. It went on to be a subsequent CBOS winner and frequent category

winner in the Champion Beer of Britain competition. If it isn't their top selling beer, then it must be very close to being so.

The event had its ups and downs over the next few years, a lot of it down to us feeling that we were there under sufferance and that the Assembly Rooms management didn't want a beer festival in their premises. We remained at the Assembly Rooms until 2010, with a move being forced on us due to the year-long £9.5 million refurbishment – we weren't surprised, or disappointed if truth be told, not to be invited back when it re-opened.

We had a year at Adam House in Chambers Street, possibly the only venue we could find in Edinburgh that posed more logistical problems than even the Assembly Rooms – due to having three floors, none of which was the ground floor. Whilst the event was a success, with queues stretching down to the



Cowgate on Friday evening, the logistical nightmare of getting all of the beer and the scaffolding required for the bars up all of those stairs was just too much. In 2012, we moved to our current home, the Edinburgh Corn Exchange (ECE) at Slateford.



The biggest advantage that the ECE has for the organisers is that everything is on the same level and the bars not only in the same room, but also linked together. Whilst we have had some complaints that the venue is not in the city centre, they invariably come from locals as those who have travelled a couple of hours on the train think nothing of another 20 minutes on the bus – or 5 minutes on the train from Haymarket to Slateford.

If you are a regular visitor to the festival, then we look forward to welcoming you back to sample the best real ales (and now cider and perry) that Scotland has to offer and, if you have never visited the festival, this year is the year to break your duck and see which of the 120 Scottish breweries are represented – you won't be disappointed in either the range or quality.

# City Ale Tales

## Pub News

### SOUTH EDINBURGH AND SOUTHSIDE

The **Salisbury Arms** received a stunning makeover in January. The £400k refurbishment involved renewal of the original Georgian windows, external and internal redecoration, toilet upgrading, replacement lighting and furniture, etc. The Salisbury continues to sell three real ales and is well worth an admiring visit.

The **Canny Man's** in Morningside played host to its first official CAMRA visit for many years as the first calling point of a Three-Pub Social. It's now dog-friendly in the bar area and has four real ales. A new pub-owned boutique hotel is being developed across the car park at 4 Canaan Lane.

The ancient **Pear Tree House** is undergoing a huge transformation and extension into the space previously occupied by the **Blind Poet** (a well-known live music and Fringe venue), which has now been demolished.

Down St Leonard's way the former **Montague** is now the **Montebar**. It usually has at least one Theakston real ale on sale. Round the corner there has been a change of tenant at **Jeanie Deans Tryste**, where Kenny West from the Scotch Hop on Causewayside has taken over. He now runs both pubs and will be keeping up the real ale at Jeanie Deans..

South of the Meadows the **Earl of Marchmont** was named as Most Dog-friendly Pub in Scotland by DogBuddy.com at the end of 2016. Across the road the **Argyle** now has a dedicated Cross Borders tap plus two other real ales.

Near the University the **Potting Shed** has a new owner, Matt Worthington, after a long-running saga over its potential sale. Business already seems to have picked up substantially, the cask ales (up to five) have been pouring well, and Matt wants to keep a good relationship going with CAMRA. The nearby **Southside Social** has been put up for sale by Star Pubs and Bars, but this will hopefully not affect the social enterprise pub's future (but it might do).

Also on Southside the former **Crags** is now the **Mockingbird** but this much more upmarket venture unfortunately sells no real ale. The same is true of **Drouthy Neebors**, which has taken out its handpumps. The **Royal Dick** at Summerhall continues to feature a couple of Barney's cask ales and has now reintroduced handpumps of the spindly metal variety.

**Cloisters** ran an enterprising Spring Beer Festival in April and May, bookended by tap takeovers from Five Points and Magic Rock.



Caley Picture House

### EDINBURGH CENTRAL

The **Amber Rose** passed its Cask Marque re-accreditation survey in March with a 40/40 maximum score.

The Spring Beer Festival at the **Guildford Arms** ran over 11 days and featured around 50 real ales, including some English rarities.

JD Wetherspoon's impressive **Caley Picture House** opened as scheduled in December on Lothian Rd and must be one of the best cinema conversions the company has ever undertaken. The pub, managed by Matt Knowles, features up to 15 real ales across two bars, one of which is in the gods!

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Just across the road, the former Clydesdale Bank branch on Festival Square is scheduled to be the site of the second **BrewDog** pub in Edinburgh, subject to planning and licensing consents. At the original **BrewDog** in Cowgate 5am Saint Live has followed Dead Pony Club Live as another 'Real Ale for Modernists' (as BrewDog describe it).

Also in Lothian Rd, **Moriarty** is no longer selling real ale and the old Cask Marque plaques have been removed. Some well-known keg-only pubs closed and awaiting possible redevelopment/re-lease include the **Waverley, White Horse** and **Port O'Leith**.

The long-overdue revamp of St Andrew Square has included the opening of the massive split-level **Refinery Bar**. This is a new excursion outside London for the Drake and Morgan pub group. Dogs are welcome in the bar area and hot water bottles are supplied on chilly days! The single real ale is from Barney's but you might have to seek it out behind the cocktail paraphernalia.

**WEST**, the German-style Glasgow brewer and pub operator, is said to be



**No.8 Lister Square** is a smart new-build split-level bar in the heart of the Quatermile development with some of the best pub toilets in Edinburgh. One handpump was installed in April 2017 with a rotating guest ale selection. One of their first ales was Campervan's new Leith'al Juice, following a Meet the Brewer event.

**WEST END, WEST AND SOUTH WEST EDINBURGH**

The real ale (and real cider) oasis that was **Crofters** in Sighthill has been closed, pending conversion into a Chinese restaurant.

In keg pub news the **Horseshoe Inn**, reputedly Gorgie's oldest building, is facing demolition under plans submitted to the council.

In Colinton, the **Spylaw Tavern** and the **Colinton Inn** held another of their enterprising joint beer festivals at Easter time, with around 25 real ales on sale over the weekend.

Back in PoV 68 we reported the late news about James MacDougall (ex-**Kay's Bar**) taking over **Carters Tap**. In April the bar was renamed **Monty's** (not to be confused with the **Montebar** or **Montpeliers** in Bruntsfield, often known as 'Monty's'). Six real ales are always available and several excellent tap takeovers have been staged (eg Summer Wine, Cross Borders).

The **Murrayfield Bar** is now the **Murrayfield Bar and Kitchen** but has lost real ale and real cider following the removal of its handpumps. Cask ale has also been in short supply in the Bothy Bar at the nearby **Murrayfield Hotel**.

**NORTH EDINBURGH AND LEITH**

The **Barony Bar** on Broughton St has been sold to a Mr Karwacki according to *Scottish Licensed Trade News*. The relevant article also drew attention to the Barony's pub heritage features that are of great interest to CAMRA and which we hope will be retained and enhanced by the new owner.

The **Bakers Arms** has opened on a corner site at the bottom of Henderson St in Leith that had been previously occupied by Indian restaurants. Up to two cask ales are sold in the bar, which is split-level, open plan and welcoming. A new lounge at the back of the pub has also been brought into use. The bar is dog-friendly (with dog beds) and has full disabled access. Just up the road, on the other hand, **V Deep** is now completely closed.

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# City Ale Tales

(continued)

After some delay there's exciting news from the **Flying Dog** site on Henderson St, where Glen Dawkins, the Bristol brewer and pub operator, will be opening the **Steel Coulson** on 7th July, with six real ales. A microbrewery is expected to follow in 2018. The name revives an old Abbeyhill brewery name.

CAMRA said goodbye to Archie Carmichael, the long-standing manager of the **Stockbridge Tap** as he headed off to Lines Brewery in Wales. Neil Hunter has very ably stepped into his shoes. Also in Stockbridge, **Good Brothers Wine Bar** was named 'Best New Edinburgh Bar' by *The List* 2017 Eating and Drinking Guide; the **Raeburn Hotel** won the 'Best Dining Hotel' award at the Scottish Hotel Awards 2017; and the **Scran and Scallie** made 28<sup>th</sup> place in the *Morning Advertiser* 'Top 50 Gastropubs' list – the only Scottish entry! The **Raeburn Bar** in Dean St. has been closed but is expected to open in a new guise - watch this space.

As soon as we listed **Bar Brig** on Leith Walk as the only remaining real ale outlet in that part of the Walk in the last PoV it stopped selling cask ale! In other keg pub news the new over-landlord of the nearby **Leith Depot** has threatened to demolish the whole block by 2019 and **Boda Bar** has been put up for sale by the eponymous Swedish pub group.

Apparently the **Malt and Hops** has now had its planning application for a pontoon extension on the Water of Leith approved. Along the Shore, the **Leith Beer Co** closed for major refurbishment and is now the **Salvation of Leith** - part of the same group as Jeremiah's Taproom and the Empress of Broughton St. Two real ales are served from taps on the back wall.

## EDINBURGH EAST AND PORTOBELLO

The former **Jock's Lodge** was reincarnated by the 'Espy' group as the **Barrelhouse Bar and Grill** in partnership with Star Pubs and Bars. The internal and external décor has something of a Wild West theme at this 'blues fusion' bar, which has three handpumps serving Caledonian and guest beers, Cross Borders having featured recently. This is undoubtedly a welcome new pub asset for the area.

The previous **Three Monkeys** and **Portobello Palm Tree** is another 'Espy' group venture that is now the **Jaffle Joint**, continuing a well-known trend for new pub names to start with the letter 'J'. A jaffle is a kind of Australian toastie. The pub sells a couple of real ales.

In the next issue we hope to be able to report on a new beginning for the **Radical Road** at Willowbrae. This Caledonian Heritable-owned pub was due to reopen as we went to press, with real ale promised.

Craig Millar

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# FROM THE HALFWAY HOUSE TO THE DREADNOUGHT

by Jim Lawrie

*A photographic history of the new name on the Leith pub scene...*



In 1981 the 'Halfway House' pub windows were of plain glass but by 1983 coloured textured panes were installed. When the name changed to 'Bogarts' some gunned glass was introduced. By 1992 the coloured glass was replaced by clear textured panes and by 2007 the windows were made smaller.

Thankfully, sizeable clear windows have been reinstated by the new landlord to give a better appearance to what is now the 'Dreadnought'. Yorkshireman Toby has a brother who has the Brass Castle Brewery in Malton. Toby and his business partner Johnny Dallas have introduced four Angram handpumps that dispense cask-conditioned beers from around the country in great condition. There is also a delightful range of bottled Belgian beers.

© 2017 Jim Lawrie



# Pub Discounts

## Member information

Several pubs in the Branch area are kind enough to offer discounts to card-carrying CAMRA members.

**Note that any discounts given are at the discretion of the pub, and are subject to change at any time.**

The following pubs in the branch are believed to offer discounts to members at the time of writing:

- ★ **Auld Hoose**, St. Leonards St. (10% off food)
- ★ **Beehive Inn**, Grassmarket (10% off real ale)
- ★ **Bennets of Morningside**, Maxwell St. (50p off a pint, 25p off a half pint)
- ★ **Blacksmiths Forge, Dalkeith** (20% off food, excluding special club deals)
- ★ **Bridge Inn, Peebles** (10% off a pint of real ale)
- ★ **Corstorphine Inn**, Corstorphine High St. (10% off)
- ★ **Doctors**, Forrest Rd. (10% off)
- ★ **Ducks Inn, Aberlady** (Knops beers £2.95 per pint)
- ★ **Greenmantle**, W. Crosscauseway (selected ales £3.00 per pint)
- ★ **Grosvenor**, Shandwick Pl. (10% off)
- ★ **Halfway House**, Fleshmarket Close (20p off per pint)
- ★ **Hunter's Tryst**, Oxfangs Rd. (20p off per pint)
- ★ **Justinlees Inn, Eskbank**
- ★ **Laird & Dog Inn, Lasswade** (10% off food, except special deals)
- ★ **Mash Tun**, Easter Rd. (real ales £3.00 per pint)
- ★ **Milnes Bar**, Hanover St. (10% off)
- ★ **Monty's**, Morrison St (10p off pints of ale)

- ★ **Plough Inn, Leitholm** (10p off 1/3pt, 15p off 1/2pt and 30p off a pint of real ale)
- ★ **Rose Street Brewery**, Rose St. (20p off per pint)
- ★ **Safari Lounge**, Cadzow Pl. (10% off real ales)
- ★ **Spylaw Tavern**, Spylaw St. (30p off a pint, 15p off a half)
- ★ **Andrew Usher & Co.**, W. Nicolson St. (20% off cask ale & food)
- ★ **Victoria Park Hotel** (Gosford Bar), Ferry Rd. (10% off all drinks and food)

In addition, all **JD Wetherspoon** pubs accept the 50p discount vouchers issued to CAMRA members annually.

Please let us know about any corrections or updates to this list, via the Contact Us page on our website: [www.edinburghcamra.org.uk](http://www.edinburghcamra.org.uk).

Many thanks to all the above pubs for supporting CAMRA and its members!

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# How do pubs get in the Good Beer Guide?

by Charlie Hughes

## How are the Edinburgh, Lothians, and Borders pubs of the year chosen?

## How is the regional pub of the year decided?

### Selecting pubs for the Good Beer Guide

You will have heard us exhorting CAMRA members to score the beers they drink and submit those scores to WhatPub. This is because the branch uses the scores submitted between March and November to assess the quality of beer in each pub, based on the average scores. An algorithm (no, me neither) is then used to weight these averages. What this does is to advantage pubs where scores are consistent (i.e. disadvantage pubs where a high average conceals some poor scores) and pubs with a reasonable number of scores submitted (i.e. disadvantage pubs where only a handful of scores have been made.) A “hit list” is then produced showing the pubs in rank order.

This hit list is tabled at a members only autumn branch meeting. The list contains considerably more pubs than we have space allocated in the guide. A lengthy discussion follows. This isn't about beer quality as the beers scores speak for that. It is mainly about whether any of the pubs should be taken off the list. Good reasons include change of ownership, new cellar manager, stopped selling real ale, pub up for sale, pub closed except for a couple of evenings. At the end of this a new list is produced with only twice the number of pubs we can get in listed.

Members are then asked to visit as many of these as they can over the summer. Sometimes it is very onerous being a conscientious CAMRA member.

Around February another members-only branch meeting makes the final selection. In advance of this volunteers survey all the

pubs on the list to collect up to date information. More hard work!

For this final selection meeting the list is produced in alphabetical not rank order. Again, there is a discussion about whether any should be excluded from the list. After this, members fill in a voting form. **Yes**, if you think the pub should be in, **abstain** if you aren't sure or have never darkened its door, **no** if you feel it shouldn't be in. There's a postal vote for members who can't make the meeting. The pubs with the most votes at this stage, get in the beer guide.

### Selecting the Edinburgh, Lothians, and Borders pubs of the year

At the final selection meeting for the Good Beer Guide, members also vote for their pubs of the year. Three votes each in each area. No discussion about this one, but then we all have views about what makes the best pub, and all these pubs tend to be well known and visited.

### Selecting the Regional pub of the year

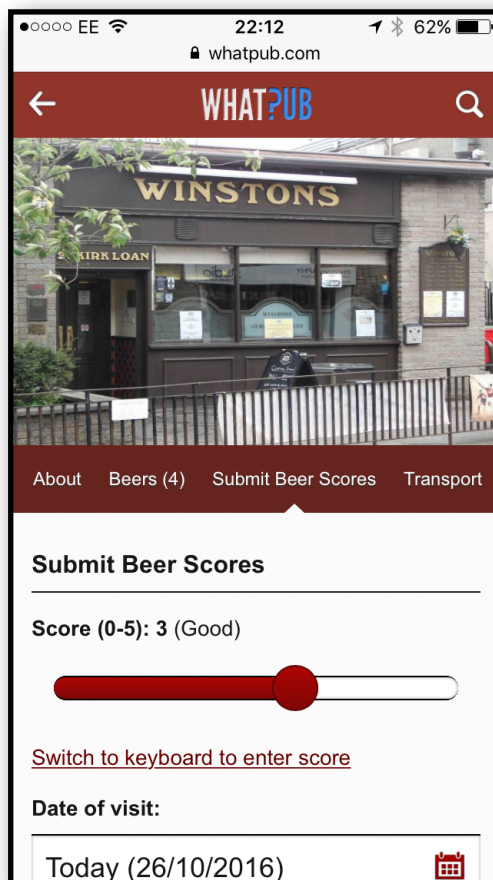
The regional pub of the year is selected from the three area winners. A panel of five volunteers visit all three and score them based on a lengthy score sheet produced by CAMRA. Good beer accounts for about a third of the score. The rest covers all sorts of things including décor and comfort, community involvement, disabled access, bad language, comfort, welcome, knowledgeable staff etc. The judges meet up to compile the scores and discuss what they thought. There is a lot to take in, and often one judge will spot something another has missed, either good or bad.

Most difficult part? Scoring based on the worst pint you drink. Getting through them all seemed like a short cut to oblivion and unreliable scoring. I did consider asking “landlord, a pint of your worst please” but thought better of it.

**So, there you have it.** There's no such thing as a perfect system but it does involve a lot of members, it does have an objective basis in the beer scores and a clear methodology. It isn't a small group of the usual suspects picking their favourite watering hole. It also accommodates both Edinburgh (lots of

good pubs, lots of CAMRA members) and the Lothians and the Borders (fewer of either).

Biggest improvements I can think of? Getting more CAMRA members to score beers and CAMRA members to visit more pubs. Not bad ideas really!



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# BEER AND LOTHIAN

## Pub News

### WEST LOTHIAN AND EDINBURGH OUTSKIRTS

The English brewer Marston's opened the new-build **Chain Runner** on Almondvale Way in Livingston (near the central bus station) in April. It's branded as a Milestone Carvery, sells four real ales from the Marston group and has a family-friendly menu. Sample paddles of three one-third pints are available. The new development also incorporates a 27-room lodge.

There's not such good news from the **Livingston Inn**, where the handpumps have been removed due to poor sales of real ale, even over the Christmas period.

The **Black Bull Inn** in Mid Calder was a finalist in the 'Independent Bar' category at the Scottish National Best Bar One awards. The Black Bull held a beer festival in mid-February, with 18 cask ales featured over the weekend.



In South Queensferry a new real ale outlet is the **Railbridge Bistro**, which is now selling a Ferry Brewery ale on its single handpump. All of the cask ale pubs in South Queensferry are on the south side of the road (High St/Newhalls Rd): **Hawes Inn** (which now has an indoor dog-friendly area); **Railbridge Bistro**; **Harry Ramsden's at the 3 Bridges**; **Anchor** and **Ferry Tap**. The pubs on the north side are keg-only, although the **Inchcolm Inn** has trialled Ferry beer drawn from a bag-in-box.

In further local news, the **Ferry Brewery Tap Room and Shop** is open from 10-5 and now has a CAMRA WhatPub listing.

South of the bypass Belhaven IPA has been on offer for some time at the **Swanston Brasserie**, which is part of the Swanston Golf Club, open to the public. It is now more obvious thanks to the installation of handpump in place of the "T-bar" small tap.



Owner Paul Ng has transformed part of the **Grey Horse** in Balerno into a completely re-styled gastropub. However, for real ale fans the traditional bar is still in place, selling up to five cask ales.

### EAST LOTHIAN

East Lothian may get its first micropub (which would then be the most northerly in the UK!). Proposals are with the Council for a pub conversion of a small unused building very close to Dunbar station.

On the outskirts of Dunbar the **West Barns Inn**, which had been closed for some time, reopened as **No5. Duke St.** After a few weeks a cask ale line and handpump were installed, but sales never took off and the handpump is now sadly unused (readers may recall a similar story from another local Hawthorn Leisure pub, the **Tower Inn** in Tranent). Visitors to the area can, however, easily reach the excellent **Masons Arms** in Belhaven, which usually has an 80/- style (or darker) ale on handpump.

Shortly after the last PoV went to press the **Nether Abbey Hotel** in North Berwick staged an impressive beer festival, mainly housed in a large marquee. One of the highlights was a selection of six Theakston ales in wooden casks.



### MIDLOTHIAN

The **Sun Inn** at Lothianbridge opened a refurbished bar area at the end of 2016; work continues on a new extension at the rear of the pub. Two real ales often include at least one from Stewart Brewing.

The **Laird & Dog** in Lasswade continues to sell three real ales. They are usually from Scottish breweries, often one from Clockwork and another from Stewart's.

CAMRA members meeting at **Stobsmill Inn** in Gorebridge recently were shocked to hear confirmation that the pub was up for sale. It not only sells the sole real ale in Gorebridge, it's the only pub left! Remarkably, March 2017 saw the 40th anniversary of ownership of the pub by the Yuill family. Hopefully when sold, it will remain the excellent pub it is, and continue to sell real ale.

After the Stobsmill meeting CAMRA members went on to enjoy visits to the **Dean Tavern** in Newtongrange and the **Blacksmiths Forge** in Dalkeith.

Along the road the only other real ale pub in Dalkeith, the **Buccleuch**, is now owned by Independent Dining (the new name for Unchained Restaurants, which also owns the **Goblin Ha'** in Gifford).

**Craig Leith**

## MUSSELBURGH BREWING HERITAGE ON SHOW

by Allan McLean

An exhibition revealing the great story of brewing beer in Musselburgh and Fisherrow was held at the Musselburgh Museum on the High Street.

The "Raise Your Glass!" exhibition, which ran until June 3rd, was associated with talks to help promote the event.

This follows two significant Scottish beer heritage exhibitions in Edinburgh that were supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and a further exhibition in Alloa.

John Martin of the not-for-profit community interest company Brewing Heritage Scotland and the related but separate Scottish Brewing Archive Association arranged the exhibition with others, including the Musselburgh-based historian Jim Lawrie.

Artefacts and documents helped to explain the history of brewing in Musselburgh and Fisherrow between 1697 and 1971 and set it in the context of Scottish brewing in other parts of what is now East Lothian and elsewhere, notably the important brewing centres of Edinburgh, Alloa and Glasgow.

The Knops brewery at the Archerfield Estate in East Lothian provided beer for the brewing exhibition launch, namely "Musselburgh Broke" which has a great story that explains its origin.

In fact, many of their beers has a great heritage which you can learn more about in the Knops Beer Co. website: [www.knopsbeer.co.uk](http://www.knopsbeer.co.uk).

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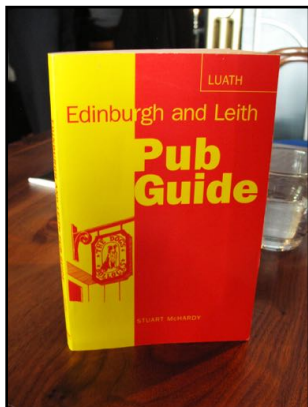
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# TWO THOUSAND AND FIVE DUGS

by Pat Hanson



The Edinburgh and Leith Pub Guide (ELPG), by Stuart McHardy, was first published by Luath Press in 2000. It covered over 200 pubs, each of which was graded by the author on a scale from 'one dug' to 'five dug' (the best), based on a number of factors including personal preference.

Only 12 pubs achieved a 'five dug' award in ELPG; of these, four are well-known current Good Beer

Guide entries and hence were cruelly subtracted from the recent exploration. Another, the **Sheep Heid Inn**, was a little far out for a one-day crawl (and also had some incomplete details in ELPG).

This article therefore describes a crawl investigating the current attractions of the remaining seven pubs, starting with the **Starbank Inn** and taking full advantage of its 11am opening time. There were seven real ales on eight handpumps on this visit (10 in 2000), with Stewart's new Radical Road Reverse (4.6% abv) in particularly good form. Little has changed at the Starbank since our first visit in the 80s, with superb views across the Forth matched only by those at the **Old Chain Pier** just down the road. The tiled fireplace from an original colony-style cottage (out of which the pub developed) is still in place.

It was then time to head off to my first ever visit to the famous **Port O'Leith** pub, aided by a real ale pit stop at the elegant **Nobles** a few doors away. The timing of this visit to the 'Porty' was fortuitous, because it turned out that it was shutting down a few days later for Punch Taverns to refurbish and, they hope, find a new lessee.

There was no real ale (one in 2000), just a standard range of kegs and bottles, so a Peroni would have to do. The Port O'Leith is (was?) a raucous locals' bar with the biggest Martini sign ever seen and a juke box boasting 'every chart hit since 1952'.



The Starbank Inn



The Voyage of Buck

Heading off to Stockbridge on the 36 bus, we arrived at **Hectors** (next to the **Stockbridge Tap**), which was **Maison Hector** in 2000. Here there was a choice of only two ales on six handpumps (but none in 2000) – Sharp's Doom Bar and Harviestoun Bitter and Twisted, with no dark beers in cask, keg, can or bottled form other than Guinness. After a recent refurbishment it's more open plan than before, but there are still some cosy nooks and crannies (even though the random comfy sofas have disappeared).

Hector's must be the only pub in Edinburgh with a cactus on each table (perhaps they are replaced by candles in the evening). The upside-down standard lamps near the front entrance are terrific, by the way.

After a brief stop in the Tap for dark beer it was time to visit the West End – in fact from one former **Bert's Bar** to another, i.e the present **Voyage of Buck**. This bar had three ales on five handpumps (eight in 2000) – two Sharp's beers and Tiny Rebel Fubar, which was rather warm. McHardy described Bert's in 2000 as 'clearly aimed at the beer freak' but the current owners Big Red Teapot are now more likely aiming at cocktail drinkers. Still, the Voyage of Buck's back story is entertaining and the place was undeniably busy.

**HP Mathers** had three real ales on six handpumps (six real ales in 2000) with *again* two Sharp's beers, this time joined by Deuchars IPA. There was a big, boisterous, 90% male crowd in and the Deuchars was flowing well and was pretty good. Craft beers are being increasingly promoted at Mathers, including the can-conditioned Cross Borders ales. Not much else would have changed since 2000 in this traditional high-ceilinged drinking shop.

**Bennets** at Tollcross now offers seven real ales on a mixture of handpumps and Aitken founts (only two in 2000) and still has a special, changeless interior with many magnificent features. The Campbell's Gunner and Orkney Dark Island were both in very good condition. This is one of those pubs that really ought to be a regular in the Good Beer Guide, in my view, so that visitors to Edinburgh can be encouraged to check out its great features.

It had taken a bit of detective work to establish that the last stop on the crawl, the former **Bar Iguana**, was now **Paradise Palms** (on Lothian St). This entertaining and garishly decorated pub has one real ale (a house beer by Belhaven, variously 'Palms Bitter' or 'Tropical bitter') but had none in 2000 when Bar Iguana. There's a unique atmosphere here, with many bordello-style trappings, but it's still friendly and well-run. The house beer is very reasonably priced, especially as it comes with a wedge of pineapple! Incidentally, the food menu is 100% vegetarian and vegan (by Lucky Pig). Paradise Palms also has Edinburgh's

# Letters to the Editor

Write to: [poveditor@edinburghcamra.org.uk](mailto:poveditor@edinburghcamra.org.uk)

Sir,

In your interview with the new CAMRA Regional Director (PoV Winter 2016) she comes out against minimum alcohol pricing as, amongst other things, 'it would impact severely on our pubs'.

How does she think this would happen? If she, or your readers, can suggest any pub that sells any type of alcohol - let alone real ale - at below the proposed minimum price of 50p a unit, I would love to hear about it. In fact I might well visit it!

Surely minimum pricing is intended to rein in home consumption of cheap, strong drinks; the existence of which is one reason often cited as to why some neighbourhood pubs are struggling. I would have thought if anything that removing this temptation might make people MORE likely to go for a decent pint in their local pub.

Chris Clipson  
Leith



biggest pub collection of cuddly toys hanging from the ceiling. Cocktails are a big thing here, with the Buckfast Daiquiri being a popular choice.

So, summing up, Stuart McHardy's 'five dug' pubs have seen some changes, including variations in names and style, but still represent the basis for a decent and eclectic pub crawl. The total number of real ales on sale in the seven pubs (including duplicates – Doom Bar, we're looking at you!) was 23 in 2017 and 27 in 2000.

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# INN the BORDERS

## Pub News

Seonaid and James are doing well at the **Gordon Arms** in West Linton (selling up to four real ales) and raised £1100 for local charities at a race night in February. There will be a CAMRA Branch Social Meeting at the pub on 12<sup>th</sup> August. It's accessible by Stagecoach bus 101/102, with the **Allan Ramsay Hotel** at Carlops and the **Flotterstone Inn** (Midlothian) on the same route.

If you're in or near Galashiels don't forget to call in at the **Clovenfords Hotel**, a few miles away, for its real ales. The Clovenfords also won twice in the Scottish Hotel Awards (Borders area) – 'Best Hotel Bar' and 'Best Bar Dining Hotel' after a fairly major refurbishment during 2016, which obviously went well. The local X62 bus service is now run by Borders Buses, which is under the same ownership as Perryman's.

In Innerleithen, **Masonic Lodge St Ronan's No 856** is no longer selling real ale as low demand made it uneconomic. There are good cask ale choices in town, however, from **St**

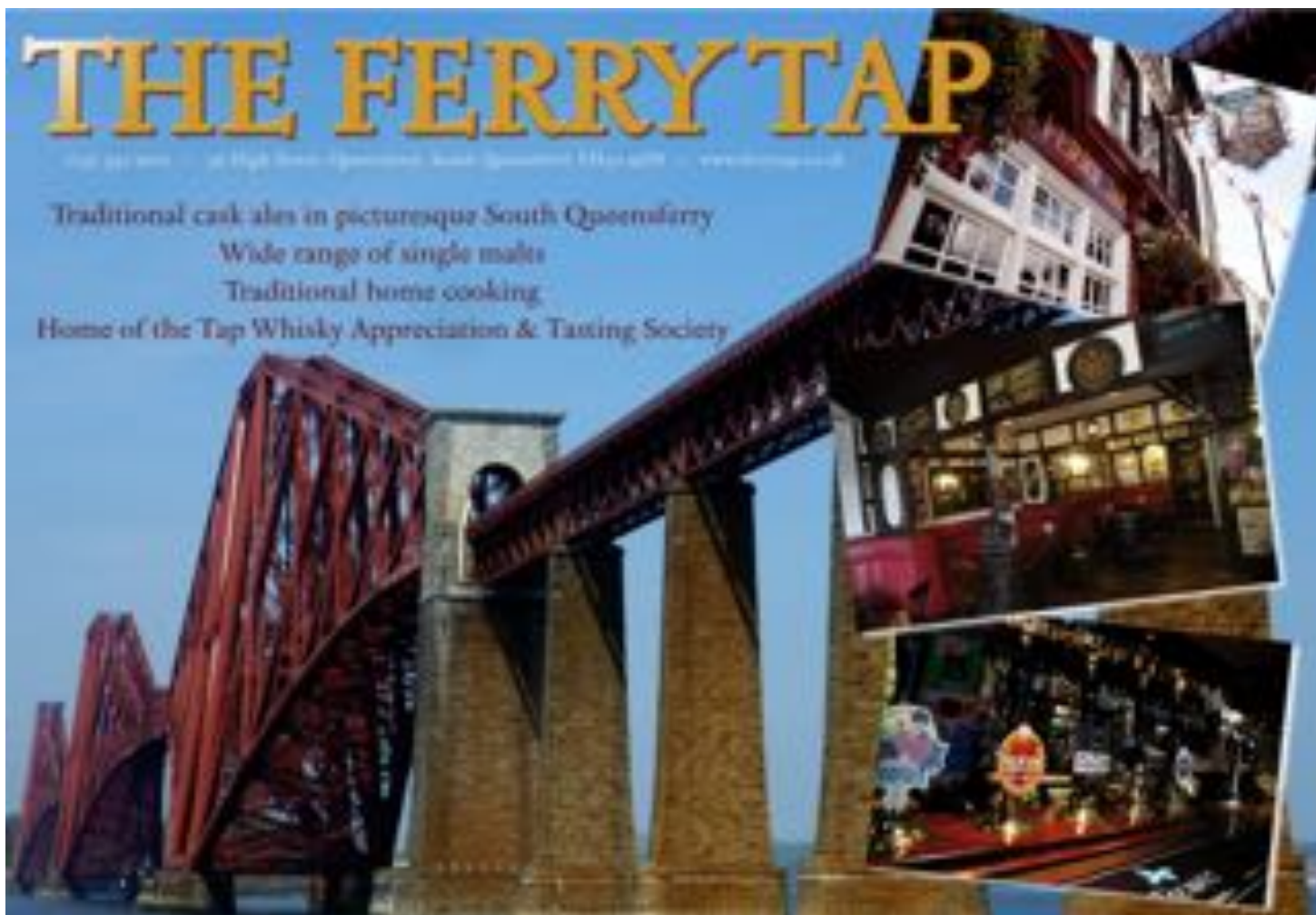


Clovenfords Hotel

**Ronan's Hotel** and the **Traquair Arms**, which is still the only regular outlet for cask Traquair ales.

In the eastern Borders, the **Allanton Inn** will be holding another Beer Festival in mid-June (Sat 17<sup>th</sup> and Sun 18<sup>th</sup> but also possibly the Friday evening – check the CAMRA Branch website for details). Carry-outs will be available if you are unable to take advantage of the rather sparse Travelsure 260 bus service (or even if you do get the bus!).

There are changes expected at the **White Swan** in Kelso and the **Fishermans Arms**, Birgham, which had been run by a common operator but are both closed at the time of writing.



The **Plough Inn** at Leitholm held its 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday celebration weekend with extra real ales flowing on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

The **Templehall Hotel** in Morebattle was taken over by new owners Craig and Michelle Anderson in autumn 2016 after brief earlier discussions about a possible community buyout. Real ale is served in Cubby's Bar.

Cask ale pubs which did well in the Borders Best Bar None awards (March 2017) included the following Gold award winners: **Kings Arms**, Melrose; **Horse and Hound**, Bonchester Bridge; **Rutherford's**, **Cobbles** and **Queens Head**, Kelso; **Hunters Hall**, Galashiels and **Bourtree**, Hawick.

There is good news from the small village of Lilliesleaf, where the **Plough Inn** has started selling a Tempest real ale on handpump.

Just a few miles south of our CAMRA Branch boundary the pub scene in Berwick-on-Tweed continues to impress. The **Brown Bear** has now reopened on Hide Hill and sells six real ales, often including at least one from Cross Borders – not bad for a pub said by its former pubco owners to be 'non-viable'. They also do a good line in pies and mash.

The nearest Borders real ale pubs to Berwick are the **Hemelvaart Bier Café** in Ayton (just recently featured in a big spread in the eminent NE England beer magazine 'Cheers!'); the **First and Last** at Burnmouth (who have ejected keg John Smith's in favour of 'small batch' craft keg beers and also have two real ales); and the **Cross Inn Pub and Kitchen** at Paxton, which usually features some Firebrick ales.



It may not have been reported here previously that the **Tibbie Shiels Inn** by St Mary's Loch is no longer open as a pub after earlier incidents where drinkers were, at best, tolerated! It's understood that real ale events may still be held during solstices.

Finally, the curse of PoV struck again with the glowing report in the last issue of real ale newly available at the

**Contented Sole** in Eyemouth. It was promptly taken off sale for the winter season with a return scheduled for this summer.

**T B Shiels**

 An advertisement for Andrew Usher & Co. The top half shows a busy pub interior with many patrons seated at tables. A large circular logo for Andrew Usher & Co. is visible on the left. The bottom half of the ad contains the following text:
 

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Britain's biggest beer festival will be returning to London this summer from the 8th-12th August at London Olympia. Do you have your tickets yet?

CAMRA is giving away two free tickets to readers who enter by the 21st July 2017 at [www.gbbf.org.uk/competitions](http://www.gbbf.org.uk/competitions).

A paradise for beer lovers, CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival is an event not to be missed, with beers to suit all tastes and preferences. To celebrate our 40th year, we will be expanding our drinks offering of real ales and other craft beer, cider and perry to include fruit ciders and fine English wine.

This year we are also offering a selection of food, including some long attending favourites and we will have a whole host of entertainment such as rock, pop and alternative bands which appear alongside auctions, traditional pub games and Saturday's Big Pub Quiz for you to enjoy.

If you are looking for some light entertainment, our tutored tastings will allow you to not only sample a selection of beers but also learn how to best taste and appreciate beer.

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We look forward to seeing you there!

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# NEWS OF THE BREWS

## Brewery Update

### Alechemy Brewing

The Livingston-based brewery announced late in 2016 that they had signed a share deal with Glasgow's Catalyst Drinks which it hopes will take Alechemy 'to the next level'.

The six-figure deal has helped the brewery move to larger premises in Kirkton Campus, Livingston. Three new 10,000 litre fermenters were delivered in March. Canning and kegging lines are also being installed.



Alechemy's new brewery

Alechemy have opened their first bar, in Glasgow's Merchant City, and also have collaborations planned that will see new beers produced in Scotland, Finland and Hungary. The core Alechemy range is still doing well, with Bad Day at the Office winning a 2017 SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers) Gold award. In April Alechemy announced a major deal with Waitrose which will see Bring out the Imp (a 10% abv imperial stout) on sale at 70 supermarkets throughout the UK.

### Ale House Rock Brewery

Mark and Marnie announced in December that the brewery would be closed due to the pressures of their other work commitments. However, much of the brewing kit is staying in Peebles (see Campbell's below).

### Andrew Usher & Co.

This former brewpub has now removed all of its brewing equipment. However, it's intended to start brewing again later in 2017, perhaps with smaller kit.

### Barney's Beer

Andrew 'Barney' Barnett poured the last ever pint of Good Ordinary Pale Ale at the **Royal Dick** in March. The beer has been replaced by Vital Juices (3.8% abv), which has been featured at the

**Guildford Arms, Holyrood 9A, Bakers Arms** and various other pubs. The previous distribution deal via Inveralmond/Innis and Gunn has been terminated.

### Bellfield Brewery

This gluten-free brewery recently brewed some cask beer at the request of their MP, for the Strangers Bar at the House of Commons. Only 10 casks were produced, half being sold locally.

Bellfield have no definite plans to produce cask ale on a regular basis but may review this in the future, now that they have proved that it can be done to their strict gluten-free specification.

### Black Metal Brewery

Black Metal launched a new 7% abv wheat beer, Louhi, at the end of 2016. Gates of Valhalla won 'Beer of the Festival' at Troon and a presentation was made to Black Metal by the Ayrshire CAMRA Branch in April. It's understood that Black Metal have now moved into a separate unit next door to Top Out, where they used to brew.

### Born in the Borders Brewery

Former brewer Tom Graham has returned to the Borders after a short spell with Cromarty Brewing and has taken back control of BITB brewery operations, with plans to extend the core range and to feature several seasonal beers.

The popular Gold dust is brewed regularly, with other favourites such as Heavy Nettle, Elderflower, Rebel Yell and Summer Cloud returning; also a revamped Bookworm and other new brews later in 2017.

The Born in the Borders centre at Lanton Mill not only hosts the brewery but also the new Lilliard Gin Distillery and even the new sport of grass sledging!

### Broughton Ales

There are plans to develop and expand the site at Broughton. The local MP is looking to put forward one of Broughton's ales as a guest beer in the House of Commons' Strangers Bar.

### Caledonian Brewery

Caledonian is now contract brewing cask John Smith's. Caley beers are also appearing under another new name – Maltsmiths. Two 4.6% canned and bottled beers were introduced in March as 'craft beers for the non-craft drinker'.

They are most unlikely to appear in cask or bottle-conditioned formats. Under its own badge Caledonian brewed Charmed Circle (a 4.4% abv golden ale) again for Wetherspoon's Spring Beer Festival.

### Campbell's Brewery

Campbell's in Peebles sprang into life in the wake of the Ale House Rock closure and started brewing Gunner, a 4.5% abv ale closely resembling AHR's White Riot, in March 2017. This beer made early appearances at the **Guildford Arms** and the **Navaar House Hotel** in



# NEWS OF THE BREWS

(continued)

Penicuik and by early April had been taken by about 40 pubs (25 in Edinburgh). In discussion with Director Murray Campbell at the **Bridge Inn** in Peebles (another outlet) he confirmed that the brewery would move to a new unit across the Tweed. There were also plans to follow up the Gunner with a session IPA and perhaps a darker beer after that. Mark from Ale House Rock is now a brewing consultant to Campbell's.

## Campervan Brewery

Paul Gibson of Campervan opened a new 10-barrel brewing facility between Leith Walk and Bonnington Rd in Edinburgh in March. The launch of the brewery means that he is now well ahead of schedule on his business plan, according to press reports, with extra staff also joining the company.

The new facility will increase Campervan's capacity 20-fold. The company's full range of beers, including Blonde Voyage and Mutiny on the Bounty, are being produced and there are also plans for new beers and for an export drive, e.g. to Scandinavia and Asia.



## Cross Borders Brewing Company

Helped by excellent branding and promotion, Jonny and Gary of Cross Borders have made massive progress since launching their first two beers in summer 2016. The core range has expanded to include Heavy, Porter and Braw as well as the original Pale and IPA. This range is also available in unfiltered, unfiltered and unpasteurised 'can-conditioned' form.

Cross Borders also plans to introduce a series of seasonal beers inspired by wild foraged local ingredients. The first, Spring, a hefeweizen-type beer with wild flowering currants, was launched at **Monty's** (formerly **Carters Tap**) in April. Future plans at the Eskbank site include a brewery tap and brewery tours once the logistics have been sorted out.

## Edinbrew

The Livingston-based Edinbrew has introduced three new beers: The Good Stuff, a bright gold IPA; Luxury IPA; and a Stout. Bottled beers have appeared in the latest Aldi Scottish Beer Festival and there are also plans to go into keg beer production.

## Elixir Brew Co.

Barrel-aged versions of Zig-a-zig-ah (a 7.4% abv collaboration with Lawman Brew Co.) were launched at **Cloisters** in February, these variants being renamed Zig-a-zig-BA.

## Eyeball Brewing

James Dempsey's beers did not even feature in *PoV 68*, but Eyeball has already built up a good following for its Yellowball and Blackball lagers (4.9% abv). These were initially produced in keg and bottled formats: then in February Yellowball was launched on cask at the **Dalriada**.

In March Blackball also appeared in cask, initially at the **Jolly Judge, Teuchters, Teuchters Landing, Andrew Usher and Co** and the **Dagda Bar**. The cask beers are generally likely to be unfiltered and hence suitable for vegans.

Eyeball is based at an industrial unit at Cockenzie, East Lothian, but so far has been "cuckoo brewing" at an unnamed site in Yorkshire. If the business plan falls into place, according to James, brewing will move to Cockenzie later in 2017.

## Ferry Brewery

Like Cross Borders, Ferry has made a significant impact in the first 10 months of its life, producing a range of ales with distinctive styles and branding from its South Queensferry brewhouse. The brewery also has a tap room, where the beers can be sampled on handpump and carry-outs purchased. It's open from 10 to 5 daily.

One of Mark Moran's most interesting new ales is Thomas Miller 1785, a smooth, smoky porter with a sweet liquorice finish which was launched in December.



Mark Moran of Ferry Brewery at Teviot Row House

**Freewheelin' Brewery Co.**

Richard is now well settled at his new premises in the grounds of Peebles Hydro and his beers are now available at the Hydro's bars and gift shop as well as other local outlets in the Lothians and Borders. A 'Meet the Brewer' event was held at the **Allan Ramsay Hotel** in Carlops in February as part of a Burns-themed evening. Freewheelin' Stout and Winter Ale were sent to the Bradford Beer Festival and were well received.

Freewheelin' beers are now bottled by Sulwath at Castle Douglas. A special range of bottled beers was produced to celebrate the Six Nations rugby. XX IPA (4.2% abv) has now been added to the cask range to replace XX Bitter.

**Hurly Burly Brewery**

This tiny brewery in Inveresk producing only bottle-conditioned beers continues to do well. They are based in the brewers' kitchen, where everything including the bottling is done. The regular range is Last Sheep Sheared, a black IPA; Hare of the Dog, an IPA; Gnat's Hop, a pale ale; and Giddy Goat, a saison.

Regular stockists include Beercraft, Kelso; Haddington Wines; Lockett Bros, North Berwick; Beerhive and Cranachan & Crowdie, Edinburgh; and Beer Zoo, Portobello. Hurly Burly is



also aiming to sell the bottles in pubs and would welcome contacts!

**Kentwood Brewing**

Kentwood adopted a new logo and branding late in 2016. A new brewster (*a female brewer*) was appointed in March. The **Gothenburg** in Prestonpans, home to the brewery, continues to be the main outlet for the beers.

**Knops Beer Company**

Knops hit the headlines again when Black Cork won Bronze in the 'Cask Premium Strong Beers' category at the SIBA awards late in 2016. March 2017 saw the fourth anniversary of the first brew of California Common, which is still going strong together with the rest of the core range. Knops is brewing a new German-style naturally carbonated 5.2% abv lager for the keg market, called Cold Fury.

The brewery has appointed a new lead salesperson, Tom Wellwood, who brings plenty of experience to the post.

**Pilot Beer**

Pilot continue to brew to capacity; the demand for their keg beers, especially Blond, is such that they are brewing little cask ale now. Pilot hopes to expand the brewery once the opportunity arises.



## NEWS OF THE BREWS

(continued)

The big news recently has been the 'Seasons' collaboration with Cromarty, Fallen and Tempest, focusing on using the best of seasonal ingredients to make new and exciting beers; we look forward to the results over the next year.

Pilot was involved in the craft beer festival at the Biscuit Factory, Bonnington, at the end of May. They continue to brew one-off beers in addition to the core range.

### Stewart Brewing

Cauld Reekie (6.2% abv) was the 2<sup>nd</sup> top-scoring cask ale in the **Bow Bar's** Dark Beer Challenge (Dec/Jan), with the new Pennymob (4.2% abv) further down the list.

Stewart's **Dockside Tap** opened in the former Growler Beers premises in Leith and includes growler fills and a tasting room.

Jack Back won a Gold award at the SIBA finals in the 'Kegged Standard Bitter and Pale' category and is also widely available on cask.

New beers have included Cross the Line (4.1% abv), brewed specially for the Six Nations rugby. Pekko Pale was a new beer for March, single hopped with Pekko. In April Radical Road Reverse made its maiden appearance – a tasty 4.6% abv triple hopped pale ale.

The third annual Stewart's beer festival was held in May, attended by about 850 people and featuring over 40 beers from Stewart and collaborators, live music and street food, with many of the beers being on cask.

### Stow Brewery

Stow's Smokebox Porter has been sold in cask format during 2017, being first spotted at the **Royal Oak** in Edinburgh. Stow is also hoping to get its beers distributed to a number of Borders pubs. The next beer to go in cask is likely to be a Red Ale. Keg IPA has been on sale in **Harry's Bar, Lebowskis** and a number of other Edinburgh outlets.

Stow have announced that they now have partial grant funding towards their planned brewery/bar/bistro in Stow, but have not yet applied for planning permission.

### Tempest Brewing Co.

Tempest published a full and frank overview of its 2016 and 2017 performance and plans in January. Cask ale production was forecast to drop somewhat in 2017. There are plans to introduce Long White Cloud and Pale Armadillo in canned format, as well as migrating the Berliner series to cans, including some new versions.

Springfest was again held at the brewery at the end of April, providing an opportunity to try the new experimental double IPA, Alligator Man, and a new dry-hopped India pale lager, Nelson Sauvín. Barrel-aged Mexicake has been another popular new speciality beer.

### Top Out

Top Out said farewell to co-founder Moo in February. Moo left to pursue another career outside brewing. New co-owner Andi now joins Michael; the team has big plans for 2017 and beyond, including new beers.

Top Out won four awards at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Berlin International Beer Competition, including Gold for Cone IPA and Smoked Porter and overall 'Scotland Brewery of the Year'!

### Traquair House Brewery

Traquair recently launched its new Spring Ale. At 4.2% abv it's a lot lighter than most of their beers. Catherine Maxwell Stuart said 'we are trialling this new ale for the spring and so far the response has been brilliant'. It's not clear whether Spring Ale will appear in cask or bottle-conditioned form at some point.

Frank Smith, who has worked at the brewery for twenty five years has now taken on the role of head brewer.

### Winton Brewery

It's been known for some time that the Winton Estate at Pencaitland (East Lothian) have aspirations to run a microbrewery. They have taken the first steps with Peelywally and Barry Swally, bottled beers brewed at Top Out and branded as 'Winton Brewery'.

**Erratum:** in PoV 68, we erroneously reported that a Ferry Brewery beer launch event had been held at the Stockbridge Tap. This was in fact a Cross Borders event. Apologies for the confusion!

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# BEAUTIFUL BEERS FROM THE HOME OF SCOTTISH BREWING

