

MerseyAle

CAMRA Liverpool & Districts Magazine

Autumn 2020

FREE



ROSCOE HEAD VICTORY!

Also inside:
Lockdown hero's
Is your beer under threat?

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MerseyAle

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Cover Photo by Dennis Jones

Welcome to the Autumn edition of MerseyAle

Mel James-Henry



Unfortunately, as I am finalising MerseyAle, we are on the eve of a local lock down across Merseyside. Back in March I did write 'The next MerseyAle will hopefully be a bumper printed edition', but sadly this is not the case. I'm sure most of us had hoped things would return to some sense of pre-Covid normality by now, but instead, some of the changes due to Covid have become the new normal. Both locally and nationally CAMRA continues to support pubs and breweries where possible. This has included renewing the ACV on the Roscoe Head (see page 13). We have also had some publicans go out of their way to support their regulars, including delivering directly to those who were shielding, highlighted in the Lockdown Heroes article

on p10. There are, of course, many pubs and breweries in the branch that have provided take out, and/or delivery services throughout the pandemic and continue to do so. This year we have been unable to host our awards evening, but fortunately we have managed to deliver our Pub of the Year and Pubs of Excellence certificates, (article on page 30). If you are able to, please call in and support then. Whatever you do, StaySafe and I hope it's not too long before we are enjoying some locale beers together in one of the many excellent pubs in Merseyside.

Mel James-Henry
MerseyAle Editor

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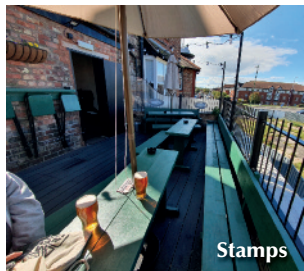
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Contributors: Steve Downing, Steven Mulholland, Tony Morgan, Matt Valentine

Covid 19 has naturally dominated business in pubs but there has been some good news along with the bad. To comply with government guidelines pubs must ensure customers register themselves upon entry, and to improve social distancing many have extended or gained new outdoor seated areas. (From Monday 14th September, venues such as pubs and restaurants will be legally required to request contact details of everyone visiting, hold it for 21 days and provide it to NHS Test and Trace. They face fines of £1,000 if they fail to comply*)

Stamps in Crosby has a new



Stamps

roof terrace while others such as **The Dispensary** and **The Pen Factory** offer an outside table service. My personal thanks to those micropubs like **Cask**, **The Little Taproom Aigburth**, **The Four Ashes** and **The Ship & Mitre** who, during lockdown, offered takeaway cask beers, and continue to

offer this service. Pubs have also changed their opening times, so best to check on their social media, as they can change by the week.

So, first the good news:

Most pubs have now reopened, with many that had stayed shut opening over the August bank holiday weekend, including **The Roscoe Head**, **The Grapes**, **The Fly in Loaf**, **The Pen Factory** and **Peter Kavanagh's**.

The Denbigh Castle on Hackins Hey, which opened in July, has proved a popular venue with sports screens on



both floors. Like many pubs it is advisable to book a table in advance for social distancing requirements. Cask beers are typically **Kirkstall** or **Five points**. Previously named **Walters** and **Jupiters**, the pub has now returned to its original name.

A new beer and coffee bar has opened nearby on Dale



Angus Interior

St, called the **Angus Tap and Grind**. It features four hand-pumps, and an array of craft beers with live music at weekends, beers such as **Oakham Citra** and **Bristol Beer Factory** are available.

St Lukes, 'The Bombed Out' Church, on Leece St / Berry St, host of beer festivals, is now operating as a



garden bar. They operate a table service which is accessed via a phone app, and as seating is all outdoors social distancing measures are



fully adhered to. The garden bar is expected to be operating into the winter months. Beers are from **Liverpool Brewing Company Ltd**, and there will be occasional beer and gin festivals.

The Roscoe Head has had its ACV renewed see article page 13, thanks to help from



councillor **Nick Small** and our team at **Liverpool CAMRA**, especially **Graham Murray**. Carol is hopeful she will get a market rent only (MRO) lease from Hawthorne Leisure. Pub companies which own 500+ tenanted pubs must offer the MRO option as part of the pubs code, but there was a dispute as to whether Hawthorne came under this rule as some of its over 500

pubs did not count for an obscure reason. The road outside the Roscoe Head has been closed to allow outside seating, thanks again to **Nick Small** of **Liverpool City Council**.

Pi Bar Mossley Hill, which closed earlier this year, is opening as a new bar in what used to be the extension half of the building, it will be called **Haul Bar**. It will also act as a bottle shop. More details when it does open.

Sanctuary bar Lime Street closes

Unfortunately, some bad



news is that, along with the Sanctuary which closed at outset of lockdown, another victim has been **Bread & Butter on Hope Street**, home to the **no 23** beer bar which had just started to return to offering craft beers. A notice on door says it has closed permanently although, it could get new tenants at some point in future. Some pubs nearby have yet to open such as **The Augustus John**, **The Caledonia**, and **The Belvedere**. It is rumoured that the Belvedere

has not opened because the pub does not easily lend itself to safe social distancing. On the 9th September the **Augustus John** reported that they were getting ready to reopen.

Liverpool Pigeon

As reported in the June Newsletter, **The Liverpool Pigeon micropub** in Crosby,



a previous winner of **Liverpool CAMRA Pub of the Year** award has stayed closed since **Jacky**, who along with husband **Pat** ran the bar, succumbed to cancer in June.

Steve Downing Whatpub Co-ordinator

*BBC News Website

Please check www.whatpub.com for the latest updates on pubs reopening and changes to opening hours. For changes to whatpub email whatpub@liverpoolcamra.org.uk



BREWERY NEWS

BREWERY NEWS Special Q&A with Dave Barker ROCK THE BOAT



Big Bog Brewery Bar is open every Friday, 4-10pm. Tables must be booked in advance mail@bigbog.co.uk confirming numbers, arrival time and how long you would like the table for. Cask and bottles/cans are also available for purchase-carry out



Liverpool Brewing Company

are continuing with their weekly subscription service, delivering 2.2litres (nearly 4 pints)

in a recyclable container, to your doorstep once a week for just £10. The beer changes weekly. Further details on website www.liverpoolbrewingco.com



Neptune taproom

has re-opened for Saturday drinking in. Due to covid restrictions the seating capacity is reduced to

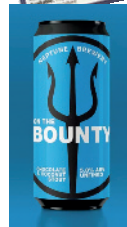


1M plus, to ensure safety of staff and customers when visiting. Table service has also been implemented. Bookings are able to be made for evening or afternoon sessions by emailing info@neptunebrewery.com All information is on their various social media sites. Take out from the taproom continues on Fridays 3-7pm for draught beers and cans.



On the Bounty - Chocolate & Coconut stout

made it into beer of the week by journalist Adrian Tierney-Jones in the Daily Star paper.

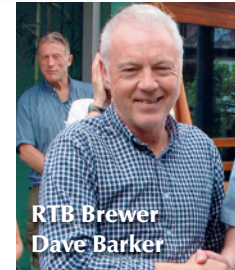


They now have an online shop where their various canned beers can be bought

www.neptunebrewery.com/store



Rock the Boat Brewery is producing a house beer (bitter) for Doctor Duncan's



RTB Brewer Dave Barker

Q. What's your favourite hop?

They are all good, depends which style of beer is to be brewed. The important thing for me is how they are used. There are the actual hop cones or pelleted or oils or cryo hop essences, each has a profound impact on the final product.

Q. What's your favourite beer?

Traditional English pale ale formerly known as a pint of bitter, now fast becoming a rare endangered species. Settle Mainline (or a Bootle Bull!)

Q. Favourite Food & Beer pairing?

Food and wine, ok! Beer I drink on it's own to hopefully savour the subtlety and complexity of flavours.

Q. Favourite beer destination?

Italy has 1000+ breweries producing interesting beer styles. Liverpool city centre for the crack with the scousers.

Q. Favourite pub in the UK?

Drunken Duck, Barnsgates sat under veranda with a pint of the house beer.

Q. What's the one item in the brewery you couldn't live without?

Gloves

Q. Favourite music to play during a brew day?

Northern Soul

Q. If you weren't in the brewing industry, what would you be doing?

Teaching mathematics

Q. Who is your biggest inspiration in brewing?

The traditional family brewers of the UK. They made distinctive beers particular to their region.

Q. What got you into brewing?

Landed first job with Scottish & Newcastle breweries, soon moved to Whitbread Blackburn. As well as drinking the beer I got interested in the production side, so started full mash home brewing.

Q. What's your favourite beer festival?

Bring back Father Graeme's in St Anthony's crypt.

Q. What's the last beer you brewed?

(Sittin' on) The Dock dark mild, it's still selling through covid.

Q. What's your favourite interest/hobby outside of brewing?

Northern Soul, a way of life. Cycling.

Q. Fuggles or Goldings?

Goldings

Q. What's next for the brewery?

Expand to larger premises, but covid has put that move on hold.

Dave Barker

Rock The Boat Brewery

Little Crosby Village

www.rocktheboatbrewery.co.uk



Merseyside CAMRA Tasting Panel

It was the Spring 2020 edition of Merseyale that brought you a brief introduction to the newly approved CAMRA Beer Styles but the arrival of 'Lockdown' saw not only a pause on all Tasting Panel activities but also the cancellation of all beer judging, the Great British Beer Festival and ultimately the Champion Beer of Britain competition for 2020.

What is a Tasting Panel?

CAMRA has operated tasting panels since 1989 and there are 67 Panels across the country. Taste-trained CAMRA members taste real ales and record their characteristics on tasting cards. What are their main responsibilities?

- Creating tasting notes for CAMRA's publications and the web site
 - Nominations for area competitions for Champion Beer of Britain (CBoB) and Champion Winter Beer of Britain awards (CWBoB)
 - The information also allows the beer style to be confirmed and investigations of any changes in beer character
- Further information about taste training and joining a Tasting Panel is available at <https://camra.org.uk/volunteers-area/branch-resources/awards-and-certificates/tasting-panels/>
The link also gives access to the 'Revised

Beer Styles Factsheet 2020' which provides details of the newly approved CAMRA Beer Style categories, of which there are now 12. At first it may seem a bit daunting but many of the styles have not changed. The area of biggest change takes account of the fact that beer styles are not static and the industry shift away from traditional styles like bitter, mild, stout and porter to Pales and IPA's and around flavour additions and changes to production techniques. So, in addition to the traditional categories we now see new categories.

IPA's - Pales, Blond and Golden Ales - Speciality Beers (differently produced) or (Flavoured)

Meanwhile in the Background!

Although the Tasting Panel has not been active there has been work going on in the background to support the Tasting Panels. The CAMRA technology team has run a conversion programme to convert as many beers from the old allocated style to the new style categories and Tasting Panel Chairs (TPC's) were set the task to check all the re-allocated styles and for those beers that could not be easily converted, manually select and allocate the new style. Work has also been on-

going on proofing beer descriptions and brewery information for the next Good Beer Guide 2021, due for release later in the year.

Looking to the Future

Even as it stands today CAMRA's policy remains in line with government guidance that there is a limit to the number of people that can meet together, so face-to-face taste training is still not an option for the foreseeable future but now that pubs and breweries have re-opened there is an opportunity for trained tasters to complete Tasting Cards on beers they encounter on their travels. A training programme has been developed on the New Styles and as soon as we can get up and running the intention is to roll out the new programme to Tasters and Brewery Liaison Officers across the region. There will also be an opportunity for potential new tasters to complete the training programme. Keep an eye out on the Liverpool CAMRA website for these opportunities.

In addition, anyone interested in furthering their knowledge and skills can access the latest initiatives from CAMRA.

- **Pubs, Pints and People** - a weekly podcast Pubs. Pints. People bringing you interesting stories each week about the world of beer, cider and pubs. The podcasts are available on Spotify and Apple <https://camra.org.uk/podcast/>

■ **Learn and Discover** – CAMRA has over the last year made significant efforts to improve the knowledge and experience of its members through its Learn and Discover programme. If you have been to some of the larger beer festivals in the last 12 months you will have encountered the Learning and Discovery Zone which aims to educate members on brewing, beer styles, cider and perry. In addition, the Learn and Discover Zone on the main CAMRA website at <https://camra.org.uk/learn-discover/> provides a wealth of information starting at beginner level through to connoisseur



■ **Tutored Tastings** - Over the last few months CAMRA has run a number of Online Tutored Tastings, the process being you order a set of beers in advance and then Online you are tutored through the beers by an expert. An example would be CAMRA's recent promotion of a virtual GBBF so keep your eye on social media and the CAMRA website <https://camra.org.uk/volunteers-area/training-for-volunteers/tutored-tastings/>

For anyone interested in further information on

Tasting Panels email:
chris.sandison@sky.com

Chris Sandison
Chair Merseyside & Lancashire Tasting Panel



Lockdown HEROES

Lockdown has been tough for everyone, for pubs and breweries who have seen their very livelihoods threatened and for their customers, some of whom have not been able to leave their homes for many months. Of course, in these times everyone who has kept providing a service, be it by continuing to deliver beer to pubs, or by ensuring customers can still enjoy their much-treasured pints, can be classed as heroes.

But, at the beginning of August we asked branch members to nominate their own 'Lockdown Heroes', either a licensee or a brewer who you felt had gone above and beyond the call of duty to help their community.

Below are the pub licensee's you felt were worthy of the title 'Lockdown Hero'. Thank you to all the nominators and congratulations to the worthy winners.

Sam Mercer, Volunteer Canteen, Waterloo, nominated by Ian Holden

The pub is often the hub of the community, and lock-



down led to a feeling of isolation for many people, to try and counteract this, Sam set up a group messaging system which allowed regular customers to keep in touch with each other. The pub's charity funds were diverted to providing face shields for the NHS and then for local shop workers and hairdressers. When the pub reopened it was initially for off sales, once the appropriate social distancing measures were in place, customers were welcomed back, once again. Sam ensured that all the necessary rules were adhered to in order to keep his customers safe and keep the beers flowing.

John Murphy, Maghull Cask, nominated by Damian Warburton

Maghull Cask was the first pub in the area to re-open and provide a takeout service. In recognition of the

fact that customers weren't getting the full pub experience John also dropped his prices. There was a clear beer ordering system, and social media was used to update customers on which beers were available. John even gave his regulars



a heads up on which beers were in stock to make sure they didn't miss out, for many of them, their Thursday beer pick up was the high light of their week during. The pub has now reopened and continues to be a safe and welcoming place for drinkers.



Fiona and Dominic Hornsby, and Ian Forster, The Denbigh Castle

nominated by Jennifer Mallon
Trying to keep one pub operating in these difficult times is a challenge, keeping one running whilst opening a new one seems an almost impossible task. But that is what Fiona and Dominic Hornsby, and Ian Foster have done during lockdown, opening the much-anticipated Denbigh Castle whilst also running the award winning **Bridewell**. The Denbigh Castle was due to open in



Dominic and Fiona Hornsby and Ian Foster

Lockdown HEROES



Patrick and Eric Mills CASK

the first week of March, then, of course, the country went into lockdown and the opening was delayed until July. During this time, the trio worked tirelessly to ensure their employees across both pubs kept their jobs and it is a credit to their dedication that the Denbigh Castle is now open in these difficult times for the industry.

Patrick and Eric Mills, Cask, nominated by Ian Dickman

A former Liverpool CAMRA pub of the year, Cask sadly closed its doors in October

2019, and it wasn't until February that the pub reopened, only to be forced to closed again in March. When the pub re-opened again Patrick and Eric ran a takeaway service with a difference, delivering beer directly to Cask's most vulnerable customers. This was greatly appreciated by one customer in particular who was shielding and could not leave the house, beer was delivered directly to his doorstep, despite living less than 5 minutes away from the pub.

Article by
Sonia James-Henry
Liverpool CAMRA
Branch Chair





Further Threats to our Pubs – From Developers

There is now an additional concern from the increased threat to our pubs and clubs from pub owners and developers using the Coronavirus crisis as an opportunity to obtain permission for change of use or demolition of pubs.

CAMRA nationally wrote to planning officials at all Local Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales, imploring them to stick firmly to existing planning policies that protect pubs. Some pub owners and developers may well see the current crisis and its impact on pub businesses, as an opportunity to obtain permission for change of use which, in normal times, would likely be refused. Sadly, some, perhaps many, pub businesses will be casualties of the crisis and the short-term effects may well be dire. However, as normality returns, the demand for pub-going will surely be restored so we need pub buildings to be preserved for both existing and new businesses.

Prior to lock-down the decline in pub numbers had gone into reverse so developer arguments that pubs are in inexorable decline no longer hold water.

As well as the issues mentioned above, in July 2020, the Housing Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick announced new planning laws designed to get "Britain Building" again which will remove

the requirement to apply for full planning permission to demolish and rebuild unused buildings as homes and commercial and retail properties.

The new regulations do go on to say that pubs, libraries, village shops and other buildings essential to communities will not be covered by these flexibilities, recognising these form part of the fabric of areas. Only time will tell what developers will try to sneak through, so we must all remain vigilant.

Feel free to lobby your local Councillor reiterating the 'stand firm' message or to the elected Leader of the local Council and anyone else at your local Council who you think needs to hear this.

If you don't know who your local councillors are, you can use the search function <https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-councillors>. You can usually find out who the Leader of the Council is by visiting the 'Councillors' or 'How the Council Works' section of the council's website as follows:

Liverpool City Council:
<http://councillors.liverpool.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx>
Sefton Council:
<https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx>
Knowsley Council:
<http://councillors.knowsley.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx>

In the meantime if you hear of any potential planning submission being made likely to affect your local pub then please let us know by email: graham.murray@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Graham Murphy

Save the Roscoe Head Update August 2020

The Roscoe Head achieves further protection for another 5 years

It's nice to hear some good news for a change in these strange old times and it gives me great pleasure to announce that The Roscoe Head's application to continue as an "Asset of Community Value" (ACV) has been confirmed by Liverpool City Council as being "approved". As the current approval does not expire until 7 September 2020 the council will not be able to officially amend their Community Assets List but we look forward to seeing that change being made in due course.

This gives the Roscoe Head some additional planning



Carol Ross Licensee

protection as now the Planning Authority have to take note of the fact that an ACV is in place, if a planning application is submitted for a change of use or for demolition of the property. It also allows time for any community group to submit a bid to purchase the pub if it comes up for sale.

So a big thank you, from Liverpool & Districts CAMRA Branch, to everyone who contributed, the 65 supporters who signed up to be the "Save The Roscoe Head 2020 Group" and for Liverpool City Council for processing the application in time for it to give continuity to the existing ACV .

To keep up to date with progress and to track other "Save The Roscoe Head" initiatives then visit:-

<https://www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk/index.php/news/roscoe-head>

Graham Murray
Pubs Protection Officer.
Liverpool & Districts CAMRA Branch.
August 2020



Enjoying your beer? It could be under threat

The Government are set to raise the amount of tax paid by some small independent breweries in the UK, putting local beers at risk.

To protect small breweries and the beers they make, sign the petition here:



Petition by
ANSPACH & HOBDAJ
LONDON

THE SOCIETY OF
SIBA
INDEPENDENT
BREWERS



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For more information please visit
siba.co.uk/sbr and
camra.org.uk/sbr

Sorry
not in use



Beer drinkers of South Liverpool eagerly awaited the opening of the Tap, or, to give the pub it's official title 'The Little Tap Room on Aigburth Road', only for it to open in early March just before Boris closed all pub doors due to Covid. However, owners Aggi and Si (who is well known to drinkers from Sanctuary on Lime Street) were undeterred. Not wishing to disappoint regular drinkers who had enjoyed the Tap's brief opening the couple were quick to organise a home delivery service.

The Tap has an excellent selection of beers and spirits, sourced from both small and independent breweries. Cask and keg beers, draft cider and an excellent choice of bottled beers and spirits are all available.

The pub's location across from Sefton Park with excellent bus and merseyrail services nearby makes it easy to visit.



CASK		KEG	
WINTER PILS	PALE ALE	BLK & PIG	LAGER
SUNDAY SESSION	SMOKE ALE	BAND	LAGER
NEW WORLD IPA	IPA	CANWOOD	LAGER
CRAB	IPA	HOURS PARTY	LAGER
RAISIN	IPA	LAGER	LAGER
LAGER	LAGER	SIPSON DUKART	LAGER
LAGER	LAGER	LAGER	LAGER
LAGER	LAGER	LAGER	LAGER
LAGER	LAGER	LAGER	LAGER

At the time of writing opening times are Tuesday to Friday 4.00pm - 11.00pm and 2.00pm -

11.00pm on Saturday and Sunday. The pub is well worth a visit, there are excellent social distancing measures in place and Aggi and Si are wonderful hosts.

Mike Chandler



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Campaign
for
Real Ale



Cask Ale Week

Join us in celebrating Britain's National Drink.

Cask Ale week runs 24th September – 4th October. Though we are unable to host any events, you can join us on our social media channels. Please share photos of yourselves either in the pub or enjoying Cask Ale at home. If you are unable to get to the pub, most of the local breweries provide collection and/or a delivery service.

See article on P29

Learn more about the week on www.caskaleweek.co.uk



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SMALL BREWERS RELIEF



The brewing industry was kicked while it was down this July. Largely neglected by the government during the COVID-19 crisis and with massively reduced sales, devastating changes were announced which would impact smaller, independent brewers in how they would be taxed.

Right now, breweries producing up to 500,000 litres per year receive a 50% duty discount, encouraging reinvestment, growth and experimentation. This allows smaller breweries to compete with the big nationals and international macro breweries. Above 500,000 litres the discount tapers off. That might sound like a large volume, but we're only talking about breweries with maybe 10-20 staff across a brewery and perhaps a taproom.

During the COVID-19 crisis, many breweries were mothballed as beer sales plunged, strangled by lack of sales to pubs and bars. Consumers switched to supermarket cans and bottles as pubs and bottle shops were forced to close. Many breweries have not returned to full production capacity.

2020 has been a tough year for breweries, pubs and shops

The Small Brewers Duty Reform Coalition is an organisation of larger regional and family-owned breweries, often with tied pubs or



estates such as **Timothy Taylors** and **Marstons**.

Following consultation with this SBDRC, the government announced it would reduce that discount "cliff edge" to only 210,000 litres per year. This drastic amendment would mean that almost 200 independent breweries would be immediately affected, and literally thousands below that barrier will be discouraged from growth.

If this proposal goes ahead without parliamentary debate, I expect we'll see independent, local breweries stagnate or die off entirely. Larger breweries will buy out smaller ones in order to increase production while avoiding proportional duty, which will inevitably result in cost-cutting, reduced range and reduced quality. I can't see how already-squeezed independent cask producers wouldn't suffer under these conditions.

If only a fraction of CAMRA members signed this petition, it would receive full parliamentary debate. Brewers would have a chance to speak to their MPs and explain the loss of range, choice, and the jobs we risk. And we could protect vibrant, exciting and local brewers who make such a difference across the bar.

You can sign the petition online at www.tinyurl.com/brewersrelief

If you'd like to read more, google heritage brewer **Steve Dunkley of Beer Nouveau** or **Jonny Garrett of Good Beer Hunting**. Thanks to **Anspach & Hobday** for leading on the petition.

Joe Murphy, Head Brewer Flagship Beer.



On 21 July 2020, the Treasury announced some initial proposals from its review of Small Brewers' Relief (SBR), the system by which independent brewers producing up to 60,000 Hectolitres (hl) per year are assisted by paying less Excise Duty on beer. If a brewer produces no



more than 5,000 hl per year, they get a reduced duty rate of 50% of the standard rate. As a brewery's output increases, this relief decreases up to the 60,000hl limit, when the full excise rate is paid. A formal consultation on these proposals is to take place this Autumn but early proposals include lowering the threshold of the 50% rate from 5,000hl to 2100hl. This news caused a great deal of action and reaction from brewers of varying sizes, with calls for CAMRA to give its support to various positions in reaction to the announcement. One group not too happy was the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA). Their

Chief Executive, James Calder, said: **"There are around 150 breweries in the UK who, pre-Covid, sat between 2,100hl and 5,000hl of production volume, who will, under the proposals announced today, see the beer duty they pay go up". As a group, SIBA has called for some reform of the SBR system but "has consistently argued that no brewery should lose any relief as the result of any reform".**

SBR was introduced to help breweries develop and grow against competition from much larger regional, national, and international brewers. The SBR system is not perfect and has plenty of critics, even within SIBA, as once past the 5,000hl point smaller, tapered discounts are then offered to breweries up to a maximum output of 60,000hl. Some call the increase in duty past 5,000hl the "cliff-edge" and say it inhibits growth of breweries. Some say the change in SBR is due to lobbying from brewers themselves. Enter a group called the Small Brewers Duty Reform Coalition (SBDRC). This is a collection of medium sized breweries who want changes to SBR

(See the Beer Nouveau website for a list of these, and fuller discussions about the changes: **Visit websites 1 and 2 below.** In addition to being miffed about small brewers getting a better duty break, the SBDRC also blame SBR for what they perceive to be oversupply in the beer market, too many brewers chasing a shrinking market. Could that be read as “We are losing profits because no one likes our beer and they keep buying from those local brewers who provide choice”? SBDRC also think that the current system stifles growth and profitability for brewers as it discourages mergers between breweries. If breweries merge the combined output increases the duty the new company must pay, which is why they want that “cliff-edge” smoothed out. If brewers wish to merge then that’s the way business works, but what won’t be good for the beer business, or our choice of beer in pubs, is a new period of aggressive takeovers of small companies by larger ones with more spending power.

CAMRA have recognised that the proposed changes to SBR will result in small brewers losing relief, and are supporting calls for the existing 5,000hl limit to be

1 <https://beernouveau.co.uk/sbdrc-siba-the-financial-effects-of-changes-to-sbr/>
2 <https://beernouveau.co.uk/sbdrc-update/>

the starting point for consultation, and that the position most likely to achieve broad consensus across the majority of the industry is one where the 5,000hl threshold retained. CAMRA believe that the industry should try to unify around calls to amend the existing curve and the upper limit to support brewers of all sizes. Because of this position, CAMRA is supporting a petition launched by Jack Hobday, of Anspach and Hobday Brewery, which calls on the Government to reverse the lowering of the

**ANSPACH
& HOBDAY**
LONDON



relief threshold. In support of his petition, Hobday said: “This is a big threat to small breweries across the country. Our small brewers have created better competition, consumer choice, jobs, local investment and strengthened local communities. Please support us in reversing the proposed tax rises that could put hun-

dreds of small breweries out of business!”. CAMRA believes that the SBR scheme is vital to a thriving beer market, and to ensuring choice for consumers. You can find the petition on the UK Government website:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/334066>. As with all campaigns, it is worth contacting your MP with your concerns as the petition will be considered for debate in Parliament when it reaches 100,000 signatures. Find your MP here:

<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

SIBA

<https://www.siba.co.uk/>
 Small Brewers Duty Reform Coalition
<https://reformsbr.com/>



Tony Morgan
Liverpool & Districts
CAMRA Branch
 Public Affairs Officer
publicaffairs@liverpool-camra.org.uk

How to get back down to the pub - **Safely**



With many pubs facing a long road to recovery, CAMRA want people to get back down to their local, if they can, in order to protect pubs from permanent closure.

As pubs in England began to reopen from Saturday (4 July) CAMRA put together simple advice on how people can get back to the pub safely, responsibly, in line with Government guidance. The following advice takes effect as from Monday (14 September) excluding local lockdown areas.

The advice for pub goers in England includes:

Who you can go to the pub with:

- If you are sitting inside, members of your household and one other household (or support bubble)

What you should expect:

- In most circumstances, order and be served at your table
- To see signs telling you where to go and how to use the pub safely
- To give contact details - your name and a phone number to help the NHS Test and Trace programme.
- For the moment, no live entertainment or loud music
- If the weather takes a turn for the worse, you might not be allowed to shelter inside if there are no empty tables or if social distancing would be difficult.

You can help by:

- Listening to the staff and following instructions on signs
- Observe Social Distancing requirements
- Waiting patiently in queues
- Washing your hands regularly and for 20 seconds or using hand sanitising stations – especially when you arrive and leave, or use the toilets
- Ordering remotely where you can – whether through an app or website
- Staying in your allocated seating area as much as possible
- Using contactless payments where possible

- Avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group you are with, even if you see other people you know

A few do's and don'ts

- Do go back to the pub where you can – pubs need our custom to help them through this difficult time

- Do plan ahead and book in advance where possible

- Don't take your empties back to the bar – for the moment, this isn't helpful for staff

- Don't go to the pub if you, or someone in your household or support bubble has symptoms of COVID-19 – stay at home and follow NHS advice

You should note that in the hospitality sector, pubs, bars and restaurants will be required to refuse entry or service to customers who refuse to provide NHS Test and Trace data. They are also amazed at the number of customers whose name is Mikey Mouse.

For those who are unable to get back to the pub, and for those pubs that can't reopen safely, the Campaign also has its own beer ordering app 'Brew2You' which allows people to order drinks and food for take-away and collection from their local pubs and breweries.

As pubs across England begin to reopen, it is important that we give pubs our support in the weeks and months ahead so they can survive and thrive. Crucially, this must be done safely and responsibly. CAMRA guidance has been prepared to help people understand what to expect and how to enjoy a pint safely.

Government advice has changed many times and will no doubt change again and if you are unfortunate to live in an area where local restrictions have been imposed, different guidance and legislation will apply so look out for further announcements and view more information on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-west-of-england-local-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

For further guidance on keeping workers and customers safe during COVID-19 in restaurants, pubs and bars can be found on GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) Reopen Your Business Safely.

Graham Murray
Pubs Protection Officer.
Liverpool & Districts CAMRA Branch

LocAle Where to Find LocAle in Liverpool

(correct as of March 2020)

As venues recover following the coronavirus lockdown period they need your support more than ever. Due to reduction in footfall, pubs may not be able to stock the same range of beers as they did pre lockdown. We do prefer pubs to have a smaller selection of well kept beers rather than try and maintain a wide range of beers when turn over is slow. This might affect the availability of a locale.

City Centre

Augustus John,
Peach Street, L3 5TX

Baltic Fleet, 33 Wapping, L1 8DQ

Belvedere, 8 Sugnall Street,
L7 7EB

Blackburne Pub & Eatery,
24 Catharine Street, L8 7NL

Black Lodge Brewery Tap Room, Kings Dock Street, L1 8JU

Bridewell, 1 Campbell Square,
L1 5FB

Bundobust Restaurant,
17-19 Bold Street, L1 4DN

Caledonia, 22 Caledonia Street,
L7 7DX

Carnival Brewery Tap, Unit 3
King Edward Rise Industrial Estate,
Gibraltar Row, L3 7HJ

Central, 31 Ranelagh Street,
L1 1JP

Courtyard Bar & Kitchen,
89 Roe Street, L1 1EP

Crown, 43 Lime Street, L1 1JQ

Dickens and King (previously
Hard Times & Misery), 2b
Maryland Street, L1 9DE

Dr Duncan's, St Johns Lane,
L1 1HF

Dispensary, 87 Renshaw Street,
L1 2SP

Fall Well, Roe Street, L1 1LS

Flute, 35 Hardman Street, L1 9AS

Gibberish Brewpub, 15 Caryl
Street, L8 5AA

Grapes, 60 Roscoe Street, L1
9DW

Head of Steam, 85-89 Hanover
Street, L1 3DZ

Lime Kiln, Fleet Street, L1 4NR

Lion Tavern, Moorfields, L2 2BP

Love Lane Bar & Kitchen
(previously H1780 Tap & Still), 62-
64 Bridgewater Street, L1 0AY

Mackenzie's Whisky Bar, 32
Rodney Street, L1 2TQ

North Western, 7 Lime Street,
L1 1RJ

Philharmonic Dining Rooms,
36 Hope Street, L1 9BX

Pumphouse, The Colonnades,
Albert Dock, L3 4AN

Richard John Blackler, 1-2,
Charlotte Row, L1 1HU

Ship & Mitre, 133 Dale Street,
L2 2JH

Sphinx, 160 Mount Pleasant,
University, L3 5TR

Vernon Arms, 69 Dale Street,
L2 2HJ

Victoria Cross, 1-3 Sir Thomas
Street, L1 6BW

Welkin, 7 Whitechapel, L1 6DS

Ye Hole in Ye Wall, 4 Hackins
Hey, L2 2AW

Outside City Centre

Barkers Brewery, Archway Road,
Huyton, L36 9UJ

Barbacoa, 47-51 Mersey View,
L22 6QA

Big Bog Brewery Tap,
74 Venture Point West, Evans Road,
Speke, L24 9PB

Butchers, Booker Avenue,
L18 4QZ

Childwall Fiveways, 79 Queens
Drive, L15 6XS

Cobden, 89 Quarrary Street,
Woolton, L25 6HA

Corner Post, 25 Bridge Road,
Crosby, L23 6SA

Edinburgh, 119 College Road,
L23 3AS

Four Ashes, 23 Crosby Road,
North, Waterloo, L22 0LD

Frank Hornby, 38 Eastway,
Maghull, L31 6BR

Handyman Supermarket,
46 Smithdown Road, L15 3JL

Liver, 137 South Road, Waterloo,
L22 0LT

Liverpool Pigeon, 14 Endbutt
Lane, Crosby, L23 0TR



Masonic, 35 Gladstone Road,
Garston, L19 1RR

Navigator, 694 Queens Drive,
Old Swan, L13 5UH

Neptune Brewery Tap Room,
Unit 1 Sefton Lane, Maghull,
L31 8BX

Old Bank, 301 Aigburth Road,
Aigburth, L17 0BJ

Punchbowl, Lunt Road, Sefton
Village, L29 7WA

Queen's Picturehouse,
47 South Road, Waterloo, L22 5PE

Que Pasa Cantina, 94 Lark Lane,
L17 8UX

Raven, 72-74 Walton Vale,
Walton, L9 2BU

Royal Hotel, Marine Terrace,
L22 5PR

Stamps Bar, 5 Crown Buildings
Crosby, L23 5SR

Thomas Frost, 77-187 Walton
Road, Kirkdale, L4 4AJ

Volunteer Canteen,
45 East Street,
Waterloo, L22 8QR

Waterpudlian,

(previously Stamps Too), 99 South
Road, Waterloo, L22 0LR

Willow Bank Tavern,
329 Smithdown Road, Wavertree,
L15 3JA

TOTAL 61

**New additions are highlighted
in RED**

CAMRA LocAle is an initiative that promotes pubs stocking locally brewed real ale. The scheme builds on a growing consumer demand for quality local produce and an increased awareness of 'green' issues.

A MESSAGE TO PUBS:

If you think your pub should be included in this list, please email:
locale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk
getting details.

You can find all these pubs on www.whatpub.com or scan the QR Code.

A Locale beer is a REAL ALE BREWED WITHIN 30 miles of the pub by road. NB: Other terms and conditions apply

Free point of Sale (POS) materials are available including window stickers, leaflets and pump clip toppers. Email locale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk



Getting around Merseyside

Below are some useful contact details for transport operators in Merseyside.

Merseytravel: For Journey Planner and Timetables
Tel: 0151 330 1000

www.merseytravel.gov.uk

Merseyrail: Operators of trains across Merseyside
Tel: 0151 555 1111
www.merseyrail.org

Whatpub: Lists which buses or trains stop near the pub
www.whatpub.com

'Please check timetable for changes due to Covid-19 and follow government guidance regarding face coverings'.





Liverpool Pubs CAMRA Discount



Discounts available on production of a valid CAMRA Card

- **Ale House**, 674/676 Prescot Rd, Old Swan: 20p off a pint (pints only).
- **The Baltic Fleet**, 33a Wapping, City Centre: 20p off a pint, 10p off a half.
- **Bear & Staff**, 24-26 Gateacre Brow, Gateacre: 10% (closed for refurbishment).
- **Black Bull**, Gateacre Brow, Gateacre: 20p off a pint (pints only) except Mon & Thur when all cask is £2.79/pint.*
- **Cambridge**, Mulberry St, University Campus, City Centre: £2.30 a pint Sat and Sun.
- **Central & Commercial**, 31 Ranelagh St, City Centre: 20p off a pint (pints only).
- **Courtyard Bar & Kitchen**, 89 Roe St, City Centre: 10% (pints only).
- **The Crown**, 43 Lime St, City Centre: 20p off a pint, 10p off a half.
- **Endbutt**, 63-65 Endbutt Lane, Crosby: 10%.
- **Fletcher's Sports Bar**, Allerton Road, Allerton Manor Golf Club: 10%.
- **Hare & Hounds**, 53 Liverpool Rd North, Maghull: 20p off a pint (pints only) except Mon & Thur when all cask is £2.79/pint.*
- **Head of Steam**, 85-89 Hanover St, City Centre: 20p off a pint.
- **Jolly Miller**, 176 Mill Lane, West Derby: 10%.
- **The Liver**, 137 South Rd, Waterloo: 20%.
- **Love Lane Brewery, Bar and Kitchen**, 62-64 Bridgewater Street, Baltic Triangle: 25% Mon - Thur 5pm - 7pm.
- **Ma Egerton's**, 9 Pudsey Street, City Centre: 10%.
- **Netherton Hotel**, Church Road, Litherland: 10%.
- **Pen Factory**, 13 Hope St, City Centre: 10%.
- **Pumphouse**,

The Colonnades, Royal Albert Dock: 25p off a pint (pints only).

• **The Punchbowl**, Lunt Rd, Sefton Village: 20p off a pint, 10p off a half.

• **Richmond Tavern**, Church Rd, Wavertree: 20p off a pint (pints only) except Mon & Thurs. when all cask is £2.79/pint.*

• **Royal Standard**, Deysbrook Lane, West Derby: 10%.

• **Sefton Arms**, 1 Mill Lane, West Derby: 10%.

• **Victoria Cross**, 1-3 Sir Thomas St, City Centre: 20p off a pint (pints only) except Sat.

• **Willow Bank Tavern**, 329 Smithdown Rd, Wavertree: 10% except Tues after 6pm.

Discount available all day, every day unless stated otherwise

Allerton: Tues ONLY £1.95/pint.

• **Love Lane Brewery, Bar and Kitchen**, 62-64 Bridgewater Street, Baltic Triangle: Mon-Thurs 5pm - 7pm 25%.

• **Richmond Tavern**, Church Rd, Wavertree: Mon & Thurs. ONLY £2.79/pint.

• **White Star**, Rainford Gardens, City Centre: Mon-Thurs selected beer £2.50.

• **Willow Bank Tavern**, 329 Smithdown Rd, Wavertree: Tues ONLY from 6pm £2.25/pint.

This list is correct as of August 2020

Discount Days (available to anyone)

- **Black Bull, Gateacre Brow**, Gateacre: Mon & Thurs. ONLY £2.79/pint.
- **Flute, 35 Hardman Street, City Centre**: Tues ONLY £2.10/pint.
- **The George**, 1 Moor Lane, Crosby Village: Tues ONLY £1.95/pint.
- **Hare & Hounds**, 53 Liverpool Rd North, Maghull: Mon & Thurs. ONLY £2.79/pint.
- **The John Brodie**, Unit 1 Allerton Road,

Discounts available on production of New CAMRA Voucher

CAMRA are replacing the current JD Wetherspoon Voucher scheme with a new 'CAMRA Voucher Scheme'. The new vouchers will be valid in JD Wetherspoon, Stonegate, Brains, Castle Rock and Amber Taverns managed pubs. Stonegate Pubs are replacing their current discount with the new voucher scheme.

JD Wetherspoon have confirmed that CAMRA vouchers with validity dates during 1 April-30 June 2020 will be valid until the end of November.

The New CAMRA Voucher Scheme entitles members to a discount of 50p off a pint of Real Ale, Cider or Perry. See www.camra.org.uk/vouchers for full terms and conditions.

Pubs accepting New CAMRA Voucher Scheme

- Albert**, 66-68 Lark Lane, Aigburth. (Stonegate)
- Barkers Brewery**, Archway Road, Huyton. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Captain Alexander**, 15 James Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Childwall Fiveways**, 179 Queens Drive, Childwall. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Crafty Chandler**, 48-50 Bold Street, City Centre. (Stonegate)
- Fall Well**, Roe Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Flute**, 35 Hardman Street, City Centre. (Stonegate)
- Frank Hornby**, 38 Eastway, Maghull. (JD Wetherspoon)
- George**, 1 Moor Lane, Crosby Village. (Stonegate)
- John Brodie**, Unit 1 Allerton Road, Allerton. (Stonegate)
- Lime Kiln**, Fleet Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)

- Navigator**, 694 Queens Drive, Old Swan. (JD Wetherspoon)
- North Western**, 7 Lime Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Old Bank**, 34 South Road, Waterloo. (Stonegate)
- Queens Picture House**, 47-49 South Road, Waterloo. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Raven**, 72-74 Walton Vale, Walton. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Richard John Blackler**, Units 1 & 2 Charlotte Row, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Thomas Frost**, 177-187 Walton Road, Kirkdale. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Welkin**, 7 Whitechapel, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Wild Rose**, 2a & 1b Triad Centre, Bootle. (JD Wetherspoon)
- William Gladstone**, 18-20 North John Street, City Centre. (Stonegate)

Any new discount offers since the last issue are highlighted in RED.

All discounts are at the discretion of the pub or Club and can be as little or as large as the pub feels suits their business needs and maybe withdrawn at any time.

Please remember discounts should never be expected.

Message to licensees / real ale drinkers

This list is not exhaustive, so if we have left anyone off, OR if the discount no longer applies, please let me know by emailing:

graham.murray@liverpoolcamra.org.uk with details.

If you are a licensee/pub owner and are interested in joining the scheme then please email: contact@liverpoolcamra.org.uk.

This list is correct as of August 2020 and will be fully reviewed when further pubs have opened up. Some pubs have suspended either CAMRA or their own discount scheme as they recover from the lockdown. Please continue to support these pubs and remember discounts should never be expected'

Further details can be found on our Website Pub Discount page

<https://www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk/index.php/pubs-clubs/pub-discount>

Don't Forget to Score Your Beer – Good Beer Guide



This years “Good Beer Guide” (GBG) will be published shortly but our work is far from finished as we will be stating the process, all over again, to find next years best pubs, to be included in the National CAMRA flagship publication.

You will all be aware by now that pubs are selected to appear in the GBG is largely via beer scores submitted by CAMRA members from all over the country. You may be wondering why your favourite pub may not be in this years GBG. This may well be because you, and other CAMRA members, have

not been entering scores rating the quality of beer in that pub.

So how do I score the quality of the beer?

This is not about your personal favourite beer receiving the highest scores! You may try a beer that isn't to your normal taste but what you need to consider is:

- the quality of that beer
- how well has the pub kept it
- how well it is served to you

You then need to score it according to the general guide below which is a simple 0 to 5 point system, with half points being used if your opinion of the beer falls between two categories.

Score 0 No cask ale available

Why are you in this pub?

Score 1 Poor

Beer is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.

Score 2 Average

Competently kept, drink-

able pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.

Score 3 Good

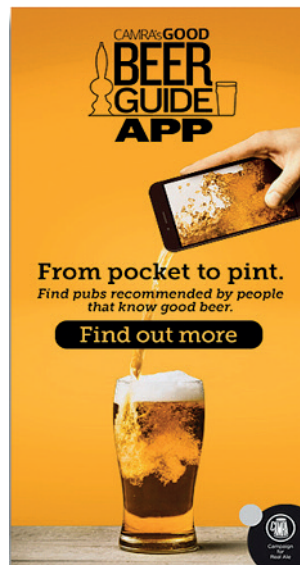
Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out that beer again.

Score 4 Very Good

Excellent beer in excellent condition. You stay put!

Score 5 Perfect

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



How do I submit my scores?

Login to CAMRA's online pub guide www.whatpub.com To do this you need your membership number and your CAMRA password. Here you will find a list of over 35,800 real ale pubs from all over the UK. These are not all Good Beer Guide pubs but merely all the pubs, that CAMRA are aware of, that serve real ale.

Once logged in to WhatPub you need to:

1 Search for your pub by name. Be careful here as there are many pubs in the country which share the same name. My advice is to search by the pub name and the town or postcode. The WhatPub smart phone web page also gives you the option to search for real ale pubs nearby, very useful if you are in an unfamiliar town.

2 Once you have found your pub a 'Submit Beer Scores' box will appear on the right hand side of the screen (or on the tab bar underneath the pub photo if you are using a smart phone).

3 Simply fill in the date and your score then as you begin typing the brewery name should automatically appear underneath were you are typing. You do not have to enter the name of the beer you are drinking but if you wish to do so once you have entered the brewery name you should be able to click on the arrow in the beer box and a drop down list of that brewery's beers should appear. In some cases the beer you are drinking may be new or a one off by the brewery so may not appear on the list, if this is the case you can simply type in the beer name. Select the correct one click 'submit score' and your score will be entered into the database.

It is as simple as that. An added bonus is that it will keep a record of your scores so you can look back to see what beers you have had and how you rated them if you want.

So "izzy whizzy let's get busy" and submit your scores. They will make a difference. Graham Murray August 2020.



Help us power



Submit updates using the feedback form

www.whatpub.com

NEW TITLE

The Family Brewers of Britain by Roger protz

Available to pre-order today

Member price £19.99 (RRP £25.00)



Britain's family brewers are stalwarts of beer making. Some date back as far as the 17th and 18th centuries and have survived the turbulence of world wars, bomb damage, recessions, floods, and the hostility of politicians and the temperance movement. This book, by leading beer writer Roger Protz, traces the fascinating and sometimes fractious histories of the families still running these breweries.

visit
Shop.camra.org.uk



this title is supported by the



Campaign
for
Real Ale

Pulling Together



Pubs and clubs in Merseyside have made it through lockdown and most have reopened, but research has found that 42% of pub-goers are visiting the pub less than they did before. So many pubs and clubs have supported their communities through lockdown, by running shops for essentials, delivering meals to vulnerable members of the community, moving the pub online to help fight loneliness and social isolation, or simply making sure that their regulars can still pick up fresh ale and cider. Now they need our support more than ever.

Pubs and clubs can be such an important part of our community and the past months have been an unprecedented challenge. We want to make sure that they can survive, and thrive, for years to come. If you can go back to your local please do so.

Remember that if a pub is under threat as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, CAMRA has a number of resources to help you save it. You can find them at camra.org.uk/saveyourlocal. If you're not ready to go back to the pub, you can find takeaway and delivery services on WhatPub. This will help support pubs that aren't open yet, so please think about using them. You can also help by letting us know about changes to services or opening times down your local so that we can keep WhatPub up to date.

We have details on our website of pubs and breweries that are providing takeaway and delivery services. www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk/index.php/pulling-together To find pubs, ciders and breweries offering takeaway or delivery services, you can also visit the website brew2you.co.uk to find fresh local beer, cider and perry to order for takeaway or delivery. Brew2You is also available as a smartphone app – check it out in the App Store or on Google Play. Locally it lists **Big Bog, Liverpool Brewing Company, Brimstage and Spitting Feathers**.

You can find more information on lockdown initiatives and the Pulling Together campaign on camra.org.uk/pullingtogether



Liverpool CAMRA Pub of the Year 2020



As noted in the previous edition, the 2020 incarnation of the **Liverpool and Districts Pub Of The Year** competition was deservedly won by the **Lion Tavern** on Moorfields. At the time the announcement was made, nobody truly appreciated what would unfold over the ensuing months. As a result, we had to postpone the presentation of the award to Dave and the staff of the Lion, in line with national CAMRA advice.

This being the case, we have decided to run a feature on the Lion, and the other Pubs of Excellence, and give you a bit of background into the workings of the competition.

WINNER

Lion Tavern (Moorfields)

The Lion is named after one of the early locomotives that worked the Liverpool to Manchester Railway, and the pub, fittingly, stands opposite the former Exchange Station (only the ornate façade of



Lion Tavern

Dave Hardman Licensee

which remains, alas). The Lion features an intricate interior, which befits its' Grade II listed status, and its' recognition by CAMRA as having a nationally important historic interior. Already a perennial favourite, the Lion was recently taken over by Dave Hardman, and has gone from strength to strength under his tenure. A very well-deserved winner of our 2020 Pub Of The Year award.

PUBS OF EXCELLENCE

(in alphabetical order)

Bridewell

(Campbell Square)

Taken over by well-respected and well-known Liverpool li-

cencees Fiona and Dominic Hornsby in June 2019, this pub is a Grade II listed building that dates from the mid-19th century, when it was a police 'bridewell', or jail, hence the name. The former cells are used as separate



seating areas and provide an unusual focus for the downstairs bar. There is an outdoor

patio area inside the wall at the front. The pub is situated close to the Liverpool One shopping area, the Albert Dock and the riverfront. Their presence on the shortlist shows that the new owners certainly know what they are doing as far as good beer is concerned.

Dispensary (Renshaw Street)

This previous multiple winner of the Pub Of The Year, formerly known as The



Grapes, came under new management in September 2019. The previous landlord was well known in the area, and had a justifiable reputation for the quality of the cellar. Luckily, the new owners seem to have realised the importance of well-kept beer to their customers. The pub has an attractive bar area with Victorian features, and a raised wood panelled area to the rear, and usually gets very busy when football is being shown on tv.

Four Ashes (Crosby Road North, Waterloo)

The sole non-city centre pub on the shortlist, the Four



Ashes is a relatively new micropub (opened in 2017), but one which has consistently been getting rave reviews since it opened, and which deservedly made this year's shortlist. It is situated around the corner from the bustling South Road cluster of bars and restaurants, and on the same block as the local community cinema. As such, it is easy to reach from central Liverpool (and, indeed, Southport) for those wishing to pay a visit. As a relatively new pub, it has a modern interior, and being the only suburban pub shortlisted is high praise indeed.

Roscoe Head (Roscoe Street)

One of the Magnificent Five pubs that have been in every edition of CAMRA's Good

Beer Guide which, in itself, says a lot. This is a cosy pub, sited opposite the well-known local landmark, the Bombed Out Church (St Luke's)- the epitome of cosy is that, according to one member of staff, they somehow managed to cram 39 people into the tiny snug next to the bar while the rest of the pub was being refurbished (Lord alone knows how!). Run by members of the same family for over thirty years, it is named after William Roscoe, a leading campaigner against the slave trade. Since its sale by Punch Taverns to New River Retail



in 2015 there has been concern over the future of this pub and there is an active Save The Roscoe Head campaign- which, alas, has had to be revived recently due to new uncertainty over the pubs' future. We can only hope that long-term security can be achieved.

Matt Valentine
Pub Of The Year
Co-ordinator

It's #CiderMonth!



Enjoy cider and perry with
CAMRA in October

Learn more at www.camra.org.uk/cider



Campaign
for
Real Ale

CIDER news



To raise awareness of cider and perry production, CAMRA runs two awareness months each year for cider and perry. These are in October and May, during which time our local branches organise cider and perry events across the country.

Unlike real ale production, which can happen at any time of the year, real cider and perry can only be made when the fruit is ripe and is tied to a natural cycle of the apple and pear trees found in orchards around the country.

May was chosen because it is when the orchards bloom and begin producing fruit which will then be harvested. It is also when cider and perry production in the previous year reaches maturity and can start being enjoyed.

October is also a very active time for cider makers when production is in full flow and most cider producers are harvesting the fruit.

In Liverpool we normally use the opportunity in May to present our Cider Pub of the Year award, and hold a tasting event. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we have been unable to hold an event this year or carry out any judging.

Fortunately, as pubs reopen we are seeing cider return to the bar. Our website has a list of pubs that we know have served cider in the past, and hopefully continue to do so.

www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk/index.php/cider-outlets
One thing as a branch we don't have is a cider officer. Though this is not regarded as an essential branch role, I am sure those who enjoy cider and perry, agrees that its is still

an important position. If you have a passion for this drink please consider standing for election at our forthcoming AGM. (Details on page 39). The role would involve keeping the list of cider pubs up to date, organising events, producing the occasional article for Merseyale, managing the cider pub of the year competition, and more importantly, having fun. If you would like further information, contact our Branch chair Sonia. chair@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

I'll leave the final word to our regional cider coordinator.

Mel James-Henry MerseyAle Editor



Linda Harris



My passion is Cider and Perry Campaigning and the area. I am from Merseyside and Cheshire, it goes without saying, Fabulous Pubs, Fabulous people, Sportsmanship goes without saying, and our

amazing Sense of humour, to stay strong even at times like this what we are experiencing at this moment.

As our pubs start to reopen and we do what we do best as part of the campaign I have been Cider Tasting and offering support and advice to the pubs that are open. **Do not hesitate to contact me** Ciderandperry@gmail.com

Wassail
Linda Harris
Regional Cider Coordinator

CAMRA Campaigning



One regular comment we often hear on Social Media is, ‘what is CAMRA doing?’. Below is a summary of some the campaigning we are currently involved with. However, campaigning is only successful with the support of our members. Please get involved where you can.

Campaigning as pubs and clubs reopen

We have been running the **Pulling Together** campaign since the start of the Covid-19 period and this will be continuing as pubs



and clubs continue to re-open and re-establish themselves in their communities. We expect to continue this for the foreseeable future,

as it will be a long time before there is a return to ‘normal’ trading conditions. (see article page 29)

Likely change of use threat to pubs and letter to send to Local Planning Authorities

In mid-May Paul Ainsworth, CAMRA’s National Planning Policy Advisor, wrote to all branches highlighting the increased threat to pubs from pub owners and developers using the Coronavirus crisis as an opportu-

nity to obtain permission for change of use or demolition of pubs. CAMRA nationally also wrote to planning officials at all Local Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales, imploring them to stick firmly to existing planning policies that protect pubs. See article p12 on how you can get involved.

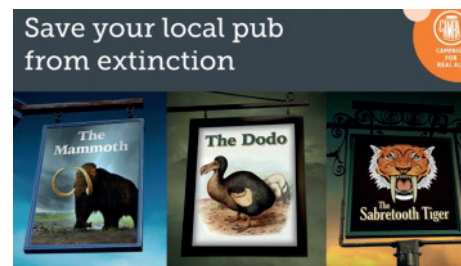
Locally Liverpool CAMRA have managed to get the ACV (Asset of Community Value) renewed on the Roscoe Head and are ensuring other ACVs on pubs are renewed before they expire.



Campaigning on COVID-related pub company and rent issues

As soon as pubs were ordered to close to help combat the spread of COVID-19 (except for delivery and takeaway), CAMRA called on pub companies to cancel rent for tenants. In the pub industry, rent is typically charged to tenants based on the turnover of their pubs – so our position is that pubs that had no turnover should not have been paying any rent.

In mid-April we launched the ‘**Save Pubs – Cancel Rent**’ e-lobby, targeted at the CEOs of the five regulated pub companies that had not at the time cancelled rent for their



tenants (**Ei Group, Greene King, Marstons, Punch Taverns and Star Pubs and Bars**). 19,000 people took part in the lobby. In July we launched the **Cheers to Choice** petition – aimed at trying to get pub owning



companies to offer tied tenants more choice in what they can stock on reopening. This is to help make their offer to consumers as attractive as possible and give pubs that are reopening the best chance possible at surviving and thriving into the future. And throughout the period, CAMRA representatives have made many media appearances highlighting these issues and helped draw attention to similar campaigning by other organisations or individuals, including Members of Parliament.

Encouraging people to submit updates/feedback to WhatPub entries – resources for branches

Keeping WhatPub up to date is a huge task



for the branch pub officers and they cannot know about changes to every pub in the branch area. You are the local experts,

which is why the pub details and descriptions that appear on whatpub.com come from CAMRA branches. All CAMRA members can put information into WhatPub and this is what makes CAMRA's pub guide so different (and we would say better) from other online pub guides.

CAMRA members are key in finding out all the important things we need to know about pubs, including opening times, location and real ales served as well as other information that goes beyond what is used in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide such as photos.

The aim is to get every pub in the **Liverpool & Districts Branch** area listed and regularly updated on whatpub.com with all entries complete with up to date information such as descriptions and photos.

You can help by inputting beer quality scores into WhatPub (these help us pick Pub of the Year and entries for the Good Beer Guide), and by making a note of any changes to beer ranges, opening hours or new facilities in the pubs.

<https://whatpub.com/>

Conclusion

Over an unprecedented and extremely challenging period for the UK’s pubs, CAMRA volunteers all over the country have played a huge role in promoting the voice of pub consumers and encouraging a successful (eventual) return to normality for the industry. Your efforts to date and in the future are hugely appreciated.

**Taken from CAMRA memo issued by Ben Wilkinson
Chair, Pub and Club Campaigns Committee**

MerseyAle CLUB CORNER

Not a great deal to report as clubs were also closed at the same time as pubs. With most sport also suspended due to Covid, these community hubs have been greatly affected, losing lots of revenue due to lack of supporters, but also because they have not had income from the use of function rooms. Things are slowly getting back to normal and some clubs have reopened.

The Northern Club, Moor Park, Crosby.



The Northern is open every evening. Current hours are Monday to Thursday: 5.00pm to 10.00pm. Friday and Saturday: 5.00pm to 11.00pm. Sunday 5.00pm to 10.00pm. The bar is also open when there is a home cricket game. Northern cricket teams have been participating in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition, which this year is sponsored by **Love Lane Brewery**.

Remember that CAMRA members are admitted to the club on Thursday evenings, and on Saturday if there is a home game by any of the Northern teams. Currently the only regular cask beer is **Hawkshead Bitter**.

Waterloo Rugby Club, Blundellsands.

Currently the club is only open on weekends, but that may change if the club rugby season restarts and revenue starts to come in. Current hours are Friday: 6:00pm to 9:30pm. Saturday: 3:00pm to 10:00pm. Sunday: 11:15pm to 6:00pm. Social distancing measures are



in place and seating will be available in the function room in addition to the lounge. If the weather is good there is also plenty of seating outside. Beers on recently have included some from **Rock the Boat, and St Austell Trelawny**. If you know of a club which

has reopened and is selling real ale, please let us know.

This will:

- Help us to compile a more accurate list of real ale outlets.
- Increase the effectiveness of the WhatPub database.
- Help visitors to the area discover good real ale.
- Give us a wider choice of clubs from which to pick future local Clubs of the Year and make the COTY competition more interesting.

Contact Tony Morgan by email on publicaffairs@liverpoolcamra.org.uk



WANTED

Local News Reporters

Although Liverpool CAMRA branch does cover a wide area of Merseyside, we are aware that some areas don't get the news coverage they deserve.

This includes the areas of Aigburth, Allerton, Garston, Gateacre, Huyton, Maghull, Woolton and Wavertree.

We would love more articles on pubs in these areas, these can vary from snippets for pub news to full page pieces.

If any of our readers are interested please email merseyale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk



Over 21K Sci Fi Fans from 140 countries have signed the petition to get the show renewed. Please add your signature to the petition and help us:-



Save Project Blue Book Webpage : 1.lead.me/bbHQNP



Scan me



[project_blue_book_uk](https://www.instagram.com/project_blue_book_uk)



Save Project Blue Book UK



Join up, join in, join the campaign

From as little as
£26.50*
a year. That's less than a pint a month!

Includes
£30
Real Ale
Cider & Perry
Vouchers

Discover why we joined.
camra.org.uk/10reasons

Join us, and together we can protect the traditions of great British pubs and everything that goes with them.

Become part of the CAMRA community today - enjoy discounted entry to beer festivals and exclusive member offers. Learn about brewing and beer and join like-minded people supporting our campaigns to save pubs, clubs, your pint and more.

Join the campaign today at
www.camra.org.uk/joinup

*Price for paying by Direct Debit and correct at April 2019. Concessionary rates available. Please visit camra.org.uk/membership-rates



Branch Diary



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Liam Riley
Chris Sandison

Apologies if we have left anyone out.

Liverpool CAMRA Coach Trips

ALL TRIPS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICTS CAMRA AGM 2020



A date for your diary, this year's AGM will be held on 18th November at 8pm. Unfortunately, we will be unable to meet in person, so the meeting will take place virtually, on zoom. Further details will be issued to all members, announced on social media and posted on our website nearer the time.

Trading Standards Departments

The Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline responds to calls from Merseyside Residents on behalf of all local authority Trading Standards departments. **Tel: 0345 404 0506 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk**
Further details of all trading standards departments www.tradingstandards.uk

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