

BEER MATTERS

The magazine of the Campaign for Real Ale
(Sheffield & District branch)

Circulation 3500 monthly

FREE

Issue 391 October 2009

www.camra.org.uk/sheffield



It's show time!

1st to 3rd October

Cemetery Park

- around 100 different real ales
- over 30 Ciders and Perries
- Live music
- Hot & Cold food





An Abbeydale Brewery Pub

12 real ales – including 6 guests from microbreweries – some rare and unusual! 6 Abbeydales including seasonals

Good selection of Belgian bottles, real cider, draught lagers, Belgian fruit beers, real cider often available.

The week at the Rising Sun:

Monday Night is music night – Jazz, Blues, Classical. Check website.

Wednesday & Sunday Night: Quiz nights 9.30pm prompt start.

Rest of the week: Just a great pub!

Private functions catered – meetings, celebrations etc.

Call Rob, Julie or Sooz to discuss your requirements.

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and evenings

weekdays and Saturday

Sunday carvery 12–3.30pm

www.risingsunsheffield.co.uk

Getting there:

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bus routes from city

Buses every 10 mins



Unit B, Aizlewood Road
Sheffield S8 0YX
Telephone 0114 - 281 2712

www.abbeydalebrewery.co.uk

Specials for October



Demon Drink 4.2%
Pale beer with complex flavours predominantly caramel and tropical fruits with a well-balanced finish.

Buy the beer and read the pumpclip



Smoked Porter ABV 4.8%
Rich, dark smoked porter with spicy hop and subtle smoke flavours.

Our annual Steel City Beer Festival is here again, back in Cemetery Park bigger & better than before. Here is your guide to the event.

OPENING HOURS AND COSTS

Thursday 1st October 6pm-11pm

Entry £2 (free for CAMRA members)

Friday 2nd October 12pm-11pm

Entry before 5pm £2 (free for CAMRA members), after 5pm £3 (£2 for members)

Saturday 3rd October 12pm-11pm

Entry £3 (free for CAMRA members)

In addition you will need to buy a souvenir polycarbonate glass to drink out of for £2. If you do not want to keep it simply return it undamaged when you leave and get a refund. Please note no glass is allowed to be brought onto site - this is park policy.

We only accept tokens at our bars, not cash. This is to ensure our volunteer staff are able to serve you as quick as possible, it also improves security. Buy your tokens from the token desk in the festival. Alternatively get to the bar quicker by getting our £10 fast-track entry package which includes entry, glass, programme and £5 of tokens (£6 of tokens on Thursday and before 5pm Friday).

GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL

The entrance to Cemetery Park is on Montague Street, just off Cemetery Road near the Vine Inn. Buses 3,4 and 22 will drop you off here.

Alternatively it is a short walk up Pear Street from the Pomona on Ecclesall Road, where buses 65,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,88,214,240 and 272 operate.

ENTERTAINMENT



Thursday night

Live music - A Mystery guest band

Friday afternoon

Meet the Brewer - The Brew Company and Sheffield Brewery Company

Friday night

Live music - The Unforgiven

Saturday afternoon

Rico & Duncan's Charity pub quiz

Saturday night

Live music - Treebeard

FOOD

A choice of food stands this year, choose from a German style sausage BBQ, filled Oatcakes, Ploughmans lunches and more!





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TEL: 0114 2724978 email: info@gardenersrest.com

PEAK ALES

Peak Ales have enjoyed an excellent summer trading that has rewarded Rob Evans' decision to buy 100 additional casks to keep up with demand. The latest regular outlets include the Ladybower, Yorkshire Bridge near Bamford and Chequers at Froggatt. Two additional members of staff have also been taken on - Tom and Elouise ("Elly") - who are young but keen.

Rob's assistant brewer - Stuart is keen to get to grips with the Chesterfield Market Beer Festival "Battle of the Beers" and has already got a rough idea in mind for the style of beer to be brewed. When there will be time to fit in the brew is another matter!

Finally, the seasonal winter warmer ale Noggin Filler, is again to be brewed in good time for the run up to the Christmas celebrations.

ABBEYDALE

Sales continue to keep pace with production capabilities so the brewery is still working flat out. New customers are still coming to the brewery. One new local customer worth checking out is the Barrel Inn at Lane End Chapeltown where Sam, who took over in June, keeps Moonshine on as regular beer, supplied via the SIBA direct delivery scheme.

The special for October is Demon Drink. At an ABV of 4.2% it is a beer made with complex malts with caramel and tropical fruit flavours and a well-balanced finish. The recipe was devised by Dan. The pump clip as always is designed by Ivan Bradley and

this one is an extreme example of his art. It is well worth a read while you're drinking a pint. He says it was inspired at least partly by the visit to his doorstep of a couple of Jehovah's Witnesses, interrupting his afternoon snooze after an all-nighter on some other piece of artwork. The beer will be on sale throughout October.

The latest Doctor Morton's Beerworks special is Clown Poison.



CROWN

The Smokin' Oktoberfest (5.7% ABV) which was brewed specially for The Hillsborough Hotel Oktoberfest is now available having been conditioning for the last 3 months.

Continuing the Jazz series Nat 'King' Cole 3.7% and Ornette Coleman 4.3% have been available at The Hillsborough Hotel and at beer festivals around the country.



Award winning craft brewery

We've released two great beers for the autumn and winter months.

Autumnus Spiced Porter 4.7% made with seasonal spices



St Petrus Stout 5% a smooth full bodied stout



Also available is a monthly special from our "Scoop Series"

Brewed in small batches these beers are one to look out for.

Brewery tours for groups available now. Call now to book your tour on 0114 270 9991 or visit our website for more details.

Web: www.thebrewcompany.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/The_Brew_Co

Find us on facebook – just search for The Brew Company

I was wondering what to write for this edition. Something about the brewery, or our new beers, or the changing seasons, or the Steel City Beer Festival. And then I thought about something close to my heart, the small craft brewer and our labour of love creating individual beers.

Not just the fact that all independent craft brewers strive to put quality, flavour and character above cost and that horrible word 'brands' but the fact that we are leading the revolution against the oligopolists. No I haven't swallowed a dictionary! Oligopolists are those who dominate a market or industry and as such the national and international brewers are that man (or woman).

Year upon year they fail to see that there is a large proportion of drinkers out there that don't want homogenous fizzy swill, produced in large soulless drinks factories. The kind of places that have matrix efficiency notice boards everywhere. We, my friends, are not being listened to. At least not by those large corporations.

You can be sure though that Sheffield's craft brewing industry does listen to what you want.

As a craft brewer it is in my interests to know what you like and where you like to drink it.

But more than that, much more, it is my passion to brew you something you will enjoy, savour, remember and be proud that we brew it here, in Sheffield, with thought and care and attention to your needs and wants.

CAMRA Chairman Andy Cullen worked at



The Brew Company for the day to brew a Steel City Beer Festival Special and is pictured above digging out the spent grains of malt from the mash tun afterwards.

It is called 'Raisin to Live' and the brew is a chocolate raisin Imperial Stout.

Brewer Pete Roberts explained "This beer is something special, made with 7 different malts and several kilos of raisins and Belgian dark chocolate. At 7% ABV it is complex and moreish, a real big beer".

If you fancy trying this dark and decadent beer, get yourself up to the beer festival and find the Brew Company's bar, where a member of the brewery team will be on hand to answer any questions about the beer.

Cheers!

Pete Roberts, The Brew Company.

THORNBRIDGE



Thornbridge officially opened their new Riverside Brewery in Bakwell last month, with owner Jim Harrison hosting an event with invited guests and the ribbon being cut by Garrett Oliver, head

brewer at New York's Brooklyn Brewery and renowned beer expert. The new brewery is much bigger and also features brand new state of the art kit, modern computerised processes and an in house lab.

STEEL CITY BREWING

A virtual brewery this one, due to start up this month. Dave Szejewski (who writes the T'Ale of two cities column) is the man behind it, and will be brewing the beer at the Brew Company.

SHEFFIELD BREWERY COMPANY

Celebrate Sheffield 2018 Back The Bid Day on October 16th!

Don't forget to register your support now on the England 2018 website www.england2018bid.com and back the bid to see World Cup games hosted in Sheffield. The organisers of Sheffield 2018 are urging everyone to text the word **Sheffield** to **62018**

and log onto the www.england2018bid.com or www.sheffield2018.co.uk sites to register support. This city needs to register 2 million votes of support – so “come on”.

The organisers of Sheffield2018 have organised a Back the Bid day on October 16th and The Sheffield Brewery Company will be doing its bit to fully support the event with a special “Back the Bid “ cask ale. Landlords wishing to order our beer should contact the brewery direct – please see our advert on the back page.

Peter Rawlinson, director, “we all know Sheffield is the home of football and the organisers of Sheffield 2018 are doing a fantastic job to promote this City in its application to host World Cup games. Football fans from all over Britain recognise Sheffield as a real ale capital and take advantage of trips to away matches to try the range of superb local real ales on offer here in the city region. The World Cup would represent an even bigger shop window for this growing local industry”.

The Sheffield Brewery Company “Pub Focus”

The team at The Sheffield Brewery Company would like to raise a toast to the Wig and Pen on Campo Lane as this month's featured pub. The Wig and Pen has supported the brewery from an early stage which began with the now very popular ale brewed for the pub which is “Paradise Pale”. As pictured, the brewery's new cellar service department set-up three new hand pull lines for the Wig and Pen and three of the brewery's finest cask ales are regularly available. Fran is kindly pulling a Paradise Pale which is a lovely refreshing ale. The

Kev and Steph welcome customers old and new to the

NEW BARRACK TAVERN

Real Ales!...regulars & guests including Castle Rock beers

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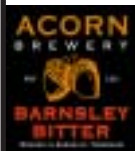
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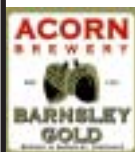
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YORKSHIRE PRIDE- ABV 3.7%
Very pale session bitter, well hopped with Northdown and Cascade hops.



BARNSELY BITTER -ABV 3.8%
Chestnut in colour, having a well rounded, rich flavour, it retains a lasting bitter finish.



BARNSELY GOLD - ABV 4.3%
Fresh citrus aroma and good bitterness levels. Fruit and hops carry throughout. Crisp, dry and well hopped.



OLD MOOR PORTER - ABV 4.4%
A full bodied Victorian style porter with hints of liquorice. The initial bitterness gives way to a smooth, mellow finish.



Also a range of changing seasonal beers is available.
For further information please contact the brewery via the options below;

by calling us on 01226 270734

or via email sales@acorn-brewery.co.uk

Acorn Brewery of Barnsley Ltd
Unit 3 Aldham Industrial Estate, Mitchell Road,
Wombwell, Barnsley, S73 8HA
www.acorn-brewery.co.uk

special pump clip was also designed to reflect Sheffield's heritage with steel as a special feature for the Wig and Pen.



The Wig and Pen also has a fantastic food range offering great bar food and a la carte restaurant menus. Every month there are different events and if you enjoy networking the "First of the Month" lunch time networking events are great for making business contacts. Visit their website for more details at www.wigandpen.co.uk

KELHAM ISLAND



Cadillac Ranch is Kelham Island's October musically themed special. It's a double hopped big Texan 5.5% IPA brewed using fresh Amarillo hops. Think big, think Texan, think Cadillacs.

PUB NEWS INN BRIEF

Kev, Steph and Rebecca are celebrating 5 years at the **New Barrack Tavern** with a birthday party on Thursday 22nd October and all are welcome! Also coming up at the pub is the visit of Darts legend Bob Anderson on 12th November, who will play the winners of the New Barrack Tavern darts knockout, which takes place during October.

The **Gardeners Rest** now has a website with information about the pub and also about Pat and Eddy's other interests. It can be found at www.gardenersrest.com.

The **Fleur de Lys** at Totley has reopened under new management.

Champs Bar on Ecclesall Road has received it's second refurbishment within a year. Some people felt that the colour scheme and the reduction in memorabilia did not enhance its atmosphere so original owner Dave Wickett was called back to change things around and it now has more televisions, far more memorabilia a new colour scheme as well as new furnishings.

One important factor that remains from the changes last summer is the impressive array of beer. Ten handpumps serve real ale while two more serve traditional cider. There is also a wide range of bottled beers.

The **Hillsborough Hotel** is hosting its 1st Annual 'Oktoberfest' based on the German Style Beer Festival. The festival is both a celebration of beer cask and bottled, lagers and food. The festival is running from Monday 28th September to Sunday 11th October. Open daily from 12 midday.

W
WENTWORTH
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To celebrate the launch of our new website Wentworth are pleased to announce a special 20% discount for readers of Beer Matters



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offer valid until October 31st 2009



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**Live jazz/blues/folk every
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October gigs:

Sunday 4th River Rats

Sunday 11th Tom Harrison (Jazz Trio)

Sunday 18th Una (Blues)

Sunday 25th Jazz

Irish music session every Monday

Drop in Blues drop in session first

Wednesday of the month

Opening times:

12-11pm Monday-Saturday

7-10:30pm Sunday

Sandra and Tony welcome you to the

WALKLEY COTTAGE INN

real ales Tetley's Bitter, Kelham Island Easy Rider, Bombardier Bitter, Adnams, Black Sheep Ale & guest beers

quality locally sourced food available lunchtimes & evenings

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gaffer's quiz every Thursday, **free** entry, **free** sandwiches, multiple prizes, open the box & more...

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ENJOY EXCELLENT BEER & FOOD IN OUR RELAXED AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE HERE AT THE DEVONSHIRE CAT!

The **Victoria Inn** at Dronfield is under the new management of Kerrie and Chris. They plan to continue running it as a proper local boozer, however as Chris is a DJ by trade he will be putting on various nights of entertainment including karaoke and live music.

Dulo, just off London Road, closed down last month. The people who were running it are believed to be taking on the premises formally known as the **Circle Bar** for their new venture.

The **Kelham Island Tavern** has once again been judged the winner of the Yorkshire Pub of the Year competition, which is the early rounds of the national Pub of the Year competition which the Kelham won last year. Well done to Trevor, Lewis and the team at the pub for maintaining the award winning standards, there will be an award presentation event at the pub on Saturday 24th October at 4pm, all are welcome.

The **Fat Cat** is holding a 'Bygone Beers' mini-festival on the weekend of the 24th September featuring beers that are favourites from years gone by.

Muse bar on West Street closed last month, it is to reopen under the same management as the Harley with a new name - '**The Wick At Both Ends**'. It is anticipated that real ale will continue to be available at this venue.

A new pub is to open at Sheffield railway station in December in the old mothballed refreshment rooms (located in the old Station Masters House between Sheaf Street and platform 1B). The pub company has obtained a grant from the Railway Heritage Trust to restore it to its former glory, with ornate tiles and plasterwork.

Real ale will feature - it is planned that the pub's regular beers will be from Thornbridge Brewery.

The **Talbot Arms** at Dronfield Woodhouse has once again closed down following the apparent departure of the landlord. At the time of going to press it is assumed that Enterprise Inns are seeking a new tenant to take the pub on and re-open it.

The **Anvil** at Stannington, which you will recall us reporting being in a 'best cellar' competition. The landlord won the regional competition and went through to the national finals, where the winner is revealed at a glittering awards ceremony in London. He came second, officially making him the second best cellarman in Britain!

A little bit of an update about the circumstances with the Stumble Inn at Carbrook - apparently the pub company sold the pub to the current owners with a covenant saying it must not be used as a pub.

BEER FESTIVALS

If you enjoyed Sheffield's Steel City Beer Festival, here are some more beer festivals organised by CAMRA volunteers that are easy to get to from Sheffield on the train. For train times and fares visit www.nationalrail.co.uk. For more information about the festivals visit the CAMRA website at www.camra.org.uk.

1-3 OCTOBER - Huddersfield
 7-10 OCTOBER - Bedford
 8-11 OCTOBER - Nottingham Robin Hood
 15-17 OCTOBER - Gainsborough
 26-31 OCTOBER - Norwich
 30-31 OCTOBER - Chesterfield Market

Annual Cider Run



The annual Woodthorpe Hall Cider Run takes place on Saturday 17th October.

Cidermaker Dick Shepley will greet us at Woodthorpe Hall in Holmesfield and let us have a go on the old fashioned apple press, part of the cider making process, before tasting some of last years produce.

You are welcome to bring your own apples to press, however no rotters please!

We then have the task of hand delivering a couple of tubs of cider to the Royal Oak pub in the neighbouring village of Millthorpe, which involves loading them onto a stretcher to carry as quickly as possible down the country tracks and paths. Once at the Royal Oak, we drink some more cider and have lunch.

The meeting point is Holmesfield Church car park at 11:30, to get there from Sheffield catch the 293 bus (departing Flat Street at 10:27) and alight outside the Hearty Oak pub in Dronfield Woodhouse, where you can either walk the last mile up to Holmesfield or catch the number 14 bus. We return on the 89 bus at 18:28. All the buses are operated by TM Travel, a day ticket is £2.90.

Branch Christmas Dinner

We will be once again hosting our annual branch Christmas dinner, this year it will be on Saturday 5th December at the Nags Head in Loxley. On the bar is a selection of reasonably priced beers from Bradfield Brewery. If you would like to attend, please get your menu choices and deposit to Richard Ryan. The cost of this four course dinner is £17.95. The menu is below:

STARTERS

- **Soup of the day**, served with crusty bread
- Home cured **Gravalax of Salmon** with a honey & mustard vinaigrette.
- Home made **Yorkshire Pudding** served with onion gravy
- **Ham Hock Terrine** & homemade Piccalilli served with crusty bread

MAIN COURSES

- Traditional roast **Turkey** served with all the trimmings
- **Rump Steak**, horseradish sauce, mashed potatoes, vegetables and Diane sauce
- **Grilled Cod** with a parsley and herb crust served with new potatoes, vegetables and Hollandaise sauce
- **Roasted Mediterranean vegetables** served on a bed of Tagliatelle with garlic bread

DESSERTS

- Homemade **Christmas Pudding** with rum sauce
- **Chocolate Sponge** and custard
- Warm homemade **Parkin** with butterscotch sauce and vanilla ice cream
- **Blackcurrant Sorbet**
- Selection of Yorkshire **Cheese & biscuits**

TO FINISH

- **Coffee & Mince Pies**

Good Beer Guide 2010

The new edition of the Good Beer Guide is now out, featuring the best real ale pubs in Britain and a listing of all the breweries. The cover price is £15.99, however members can get it for £10 at branch meetings and socials.

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Real Ale now available!



Greene King IPA

Abbot Ale

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GREAT VALUE FOOD
Served 11am to 8pm daily
selected meals 2 for £7

ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday - Quiz night

Friday - Disco

Saturday - Karaoke

We also have pool tables and Sky Sports & ESPN

DISTRICT PUB OF THE YEAR



On a hot Saturday afternoon in August, members of both Sheffield & District and Chesterfield branches of CAMRA along with regular customers of the Coach & Horses attended a party at the pub to celebrate our branch members voting the pub the District Pub of the Year winner. An outside bar with beer from Thornbridge Brewery featured and they also chucked some nice sausages on the barbeque for us. Photographed above is branch Chairman Andrew Cullen presenting a certificate to landlady Catherine Meuller in the beer garden.

SEPTEMBER PUB OF THE MONTH



Pictured is branch Chairman Andrew Cullen presenting the certificate to the management at the Rawson Spring



For over sixteen years, CAMRA member L. Stuart Burrows has plied the landlord trade at the Mount Pleasant on Derbyshire Lane. Lost in time, this is a genuine community two-room pub with a great mix of local clientele enjoying a traditional pub atmosphere. Time has stood still here.

Thanks to Punch's Finest Cask initiative Stuart now provides a rolling menu of ales from all around the country including Castle Rock, Kelham Island, Beartown, Moorhouses, Hop Back, Springhead, Hydes, Meantime, Wyre Piddle, Brains, Leeds Brewery, Highwood, Harviestoun, Sharp's Double Maxim, Morrissey Fox, Wickwar, Wells and Youngs, Smiles, and O'Hanlons – to name but some. Stuart also provides a range of many single malt whiskeys.

Stuart runs a quiz every Thursday, and unlike most it's not downloaded from the internet or sent through the post; he writes his own. Never was there a landlord who knew more useless information than the one at the Mount Pleasant. It's probably the best quiz in town.

Bus 20A operates along Derbyshire Lane.

Chris Morton

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£27

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

I enclose a cheque for

Signed Date

Applications will be processed within 15 days

0729



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

Please fill in the form and send to Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 239 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW



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Telephone 0114 2362955

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RESTAURANT

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**ALL MAIN
MEALS
TWO FOR
£10**

**(book now to avoid
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Lunchtime Mon-Sat 12pm-2pm
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Open 12 midday until late daily
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Live Sport on the screen in the tap room

Poker night every Monday

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LIVE BANDS

**Second and fourth Saturday
of every month**

**26th September
Steve French Band**

**17th October
The Hummingbirds**

**31st October
Junkyard Dog**

**14th November
Mahogany Newt**

**NEW AT THE CASTLE
SUNDAY NIGHT
SOLO ARTIST**

**ADRIAN PARIS
Sunday 25th October**

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THE LORD NELSON (A.K.A. FANNY'S)

In a non residential location, the Lord Nelson can boast 4 or 5 pool teams, 2 ladies and 2 gents darts teams, a busy darts dominoes and crib night, a fishing club and golf society. Regulars come from far and wide to patronise this back street community pub, which is open every day from 12 noon to 11pm.

The Lord Nelson is a small pub with seating off to the left and right as you enter. The bar is off to the left with the pool table to the right at the far end. There is also a function room upstairs.

Testimony then to the success that Darren Mountain has brought to the Lord Nelson which he has been running for the last seventeen years. I was told that after some research the License of the pub was granted in 1859 making this probably the pubs 150-year anniversary. Of course many know the Lord Nelson as Fanny's reportedly after an ex licensee Fanny Braithwaite, although

fascinatingly Lord Nelson's Wife was called Fanny, which is correct?

The Lord Nelson was a Hardy & Hansons pub for a long time, but about three years ago Greene King bought and then closed the Nottinghamshire brewer. Since then Darren has stocked usually Greene King IPA, Abbot Ale, Old Speckled Hen and the occasional seasonal beer. That is until recently when he has been allowed a guest beer, which at the time of writing was Bateman's XXXB. Fanny's is the nearest pub to Bramall Lane that sells cask ale and is special to many Sheffield United supporters, where after the match you can enjoy a pint and watch the post match analysis on the large TV screens showing Sky Coverage, and a warm welcome is given to Blades and visiting supporters alike.

So then congratulations to Darren Mountain and his warm and friendly staff for running a cracking pub and maintaining cask ale in something of a beer desert. Please look in the diary section of this magazine for the award presentation date and come along and celebrate a worthy winner of the Pub of the Month award.

Paul Goddard

VOTE FOR THE NEXT PUB OF THE MONTH

The pubs listed below have been nominated as pub of the month candidates. If you are a CAMRA member why not try them, see what you think and vote yes or no.

Nags Head (Loxley)

Plough Inn (Low Bradfield)

Wharnccliffe Arms (Chapelton)

New Barrack Tavern (Hillsborough)

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sheffield pub of the year 2004,2005,2006,2007,2008, 2009
yorkshire pub of the year 2004, 2007 and 2008
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After a summer break from travelling enforced by the sky-high (no pun intended) prices during the school holidays, by the end of August I had severe withdrawal symptoms. Thus, the bank holiday week was spent on a mini inter-rail trip, starting in the Balkans and working up to the Baltic, taking in Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland.

I started on the Saturday, flying with Wizzair from Luton to Zagreb, booked 6 months ago for £30 one way. Here, I visited **Pivovara Zlatno** at Savska Cesta 56 (tram 4 from the centre). This used to be the Medvedgrad brewpub, however Medvedgrad has moved to a new venue on the outskirts. Zlatno was brewing on my first visit, though it would appear that the plant is just for show now, the beers are brewed elsewhere (possibly Medvedgrad...). 3 beers were on offer: **Svijetlo** (light), **Ban Crno** (black), and **Trenk Tamno** (dark), all very drinkable, particularly the Ban. Back in town, it would be rude not to sample **Zagrebacka Tomislav** (7.3%) once more. Despite being owned by a multinational – InBred (InBev surely - ed) to be precise - this is one of my favourite European beers. Deep ruby, almost black, in colour, dark brown head, aroma of roasted barley, coffee, full roasty flavour, coffee, chocolate, dry and slightly bitter aftertaste...

Next country on the agenda was Slovenia. I started in the far west at the **Kazina** brewpub in Jesenice, where the only beer available was **Svetlo**, an unfiltered, slightly hazy lager.

From here, an hour on a train brought me to the capital, Ljubljana, where across the road from the station is the **Kratochvil** brewpub, an old favourite of mine. Unfortunately, since joining the euro Slovenia has rapidly



become more expensive, especially since Gordon Brown destroyed the pound (ooh, little bit of politics there...), and so the beers now come in at nearly £2 for ½l, and the pizzas have doubled in price since 4 years ago, but I still enjoyed the two beers on offer, **Svetlo** and **Temno**, both unfiltered and both 4.2%.

Next stop, Maribor, on the Austrian border, for the **Zvezda** brewpub at Trg Zmaje 8, for another variant of **Svetlo** and **Temno**. Last Slovenian port of call was Celje, where I visited **Pivovarna Diavolo** at Mariborska Cesta 118 (about a mile to the north of the centre), another brewpub offering **Svetlo** and **Temno** - they brew occasional specials, but not on this occasion.

Hungary is a country with many charms, sadly for the most part beer isn't one of them! There are a couple of brewpubs, but not in the area I passed through, so made do with a bottle of **Dreher Bak** (7.1%), a pretty decent dark porter, and miles better than any of the other macro beers in the country.

And so to Slovakia, which although lacking in brewpubs, does have some interesting beers to offer. On this occasion I found nothing new, so just stuck to bottles of dark beer from **Saris**, **Corgon**, **Topvar** and **Zlaty**

Bazant.

Finally, I ended up in Poland - this was purely because I'd booked a flight home from Poland at short notice after my original flight home from Bratislava was moved from a convenient 6pm slot to a rather inconvenient 9am one - fortuitous as it happens, as the original flight was with Skyeurope, who went bust while I was away!

I started in Warszawa, where I visited Bierhalle, at Jana Pawla II 82 (translates as John Paul II, after the late pope). Here, the regular offerings of **Ciemne** (dark) and **Pils** were supplemented by a seasonal offering, **Pszeniczne** (wheat). I followed this with a trip to **BrowArmia**, in the old town. Here I tried **Karmazynowe**, **Pils**, **Pszeniczne**, and the seasonal offering **Stout**, the latter every bit as thick, chewy and roasty as a stout should be.

My last day was in Katowice, where my only beer visit was to Spiz, part of a small chain of brewpubs, and actually more of a brewnightclub! A bizarre operation, where upon entry one purchases a 'chargecard', as no cash is accepted at bar. In the daytime, it seems like any other brewpub, though the industrial nature of Katowice means that the opening hours are perplexing, but at night it becomes a busy nightclub. The one time I went at night the music was all 80s pop/dance, I still haven't figured out if it was a retro night or if that really is the local taste! Anyway, enough of that, the important bit: piwo. I decided to get **Mocne** (15°, approx 6%) out the way first, as I am no fan of the style, I find it too sweet and thin due to the use of refined sugar in the brewing process. I followed this with **Jasne** (pale), a better-

than-average example of the type, with a slight hop finish. **Pszeniczne** next, a good example of the type, a proper Bavaria style banana yeast tang. I then move to **Miodowe** (Honey Beer) – a nicely balance example, not too sweet but with a decent honey aftertaste. I finished with **Ciemne**, a very roasty, slightly smoky, dark beer with slight hints of chocolate and coffee.

Back in the holy city (Sheffield), business as usual. Loads of new beers in the usual suspects, plenty of pale hoppy beers from Little Ale Cart – you know, the usual story! I tried a total of 132 new beers in August, all of which were in either Sheffield or Huddersfield. Over 40 of these were in the Harlequin, taking their annual total to 368 – thus they have met the '1 a day' target for the year with 4 months to spare! Revised target is 500 new beers in the year...

Pub Of The Month: Partly for the quality of the beer, and partly for the slightly surreal setting, my Pub of the Month is Spiz in Katowice. All the beers are good examples of their respective type, and there's something perversely gratifying about going into an Eastern European nightclub and finding a brewery! The staff are friendly, even in the face of my devastation of their language, the beers are good, the atmosphere is interesting – what more does one need?

Beer Of The Month: I hang my head in shame, I am giving my ultimate accolade to a multinational... **Tomislav** continues to impress, and despite being the total opposite of what I think of as a summer beer, even in 40° (or 100° in English!) heat I just couldn't resist a couple of pints of the nearly-black stuff. I passed a personal landmark in Croatia on the Sunday, and could think of no more fitting beer to mark the occasion than Tomislav (named, incidentally, after the king who founded the Croat nation over a millennium ago...)

Na zdravi

Dave Unpronounceable

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ALCOHOL BY VOLUME	5.2	BITTERNESS	78.5

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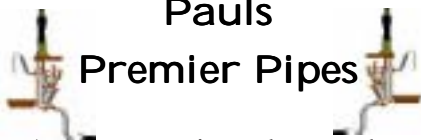
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WHAT'S ON?

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WEDNESDAY

BINGO 1PM CASH PRIZES

THURSDAY

POKER NIGHT 8PM

SUNDAY

FREE POOL FROM 7PM

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CASK ALES

Copper Dragon Golden Pippin

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AND

Guess the guest on the 1st of every
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LARGE BEER GARDEN

SKY SPORTS & ESPN

Thursday 1st to Saturday 3rd October - Steel City Beer & Cider Festival

We stick a couple of tents up in Cemetery Park and fill them with ale, cider, food, music and good times. See page 3 for more details. Site construction begins the previous Saturday and take down is on the Sunday and Monday - volunteers still required!

Tuesday 6th October 8pm - Branch meeting

A formal meeting for members to share pub, club and brewery news, vote for the Pub of the Month award winners, hear reports from the committee and get involved. We will also have copies of the new 2010 Good Beer Guide available to buy at the special members price of £10. The venue this month is the White Lion on Chesterfield Road, Heeley. Buses 20,20A,43,53 and 253 stop outside.

Tuesday 13th October 8pm - Pub of the month award presentation party

Members have voted the Lord Nelson on Arundel Street in the City Centre as the October pub of the month winner. Come down the pub to see the branch chairman present the certificate and join the pub's celebrations.

Saturday 17th October 11:30am - Woodthorpe Hall Cider Run

We visit the only cider maker in our branch area to celebrate national Cider Month. We will get to see the old fashioned apple press in action, taste some rather strong cider then it's a dash to hand deliver two tubs of cider to the Royal Oak pub in the next village - Millthorpe - as soon as possible. At the Royal Oak we have lunch and a bit more to drink. See page 15 for more details.

Tuesday 20th October 8:30pm - Beer Festival wrap up meeting

The Steel City Beer & Cider Festival is over for another year, if you worked or visited the festival and have feedback about what worked and what didn't please come down and have your say and help us make next years even better. The meeting is at the New Barrack Tavern on Penistone Road, buses 53 and 78 stop outside.

Saturday 24th October 4pm - Yorkshire Pub of the Year

The Kelham Island Tavern has been judged once again as the best real ale pub in Yorkshire. Come down and see CAMRA's Yorkshire Regional Director present the certificate and join in the pub's celebrations.

Tuesday 27th October 8pm - Beer Matters distribution social

Copies of the November issue of Beer Matters will be available at the Kelham Island Tavern to collect and deliver to your local pubs, why not join us for a pint whilst calling in? The committee will be here until 9pm, their monthly meeting is then in the Fat Cat.

Friday 30th October 8pm - Walkabout in Walkley & Crookes

Let us show you where to drink decent beer in this part of town, whether you fancy going somewhere different to your usual haunt or perhaps just moved into the area. Meet at the Walkley Cottage on Bole Hill Road, buses 94, 95 and 123 stop right outside.

MORE INFORMATION ON BRANCH EVENTS

Contact Richard Ryan our Social Secretary on 07956 114926

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Articles, letters and suggestions for Beer Matters are most welcome, please email them to the address above. Please note that for legal reasons a full name and postal address should be provided with contributions.

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Sheffield Brewery launched its first beers in January 2007, since then we have gone from strength to strength producing real ales with names which reflect Sheffield and its environs, its great history and traditions. We supply to local free houses and pubcos which can take advantage of the SIBA direct delivery scheme. Our brewery tap the Gardeners Rest (opposite Stones brewery, Neepsend) will always have at least four of our beers available.

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