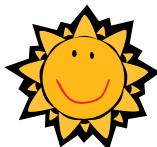


What's Yours Then?

Highlands & Western Isles CAMRA

Free Newsletter



Contains Full List of Highlands & Western Isles Real Ale Outlets



Champion-Beer-of-Scotland

Gold: Dark Munro

(Highland Brewing Company)

Silver: Maverick (Fyne Ales)

Bronze: Piper's Gold (Fyne Ales)

Black Cuillin

has been voted

Beer-of-the-Year

by local

Real Ale drinkers as

Isle of Skye Brewery

take full roll of honours!



Summer 2007

**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

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

- > Beer Reports from across the Globe!
- > Beers-of-the-Year - **Winners**
- > Focus on - Norman Sinclair
- > Socials & Outings - Reports
- > Updated Branch Diary
- > Your Letters and Pub Reports
- > Real Cider News
- > Pub & Brewery News
- > Updated Real Ale Pubs list

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

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

Autumn edition **deadline** is 1st September, with publication at the end of September.

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

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

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

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

3,000+ copies are distributed to Branch members, to Highlands & Islands brewers, to Good Beer Guide listed and Real Ale pubs; plus extra copies to advertisers.

***What's Yours Then** is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Highlands & Western Isles Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The views & opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA, nor its Branches.*

Congratulations to Rob Hill at the **Highland Brewing Company** on Orkney, and to Jonny and Tuggy Delap and the team at **Fyne Ales**.

Rob Hill's Dark Munro was voted Champion Beer of Scotland at the Scottish Traditional Beer Festival in June, and Fyne Ales took silver and bronze with Maverick and Piper's Gold.

CAMRA Champion Beer of Scotland

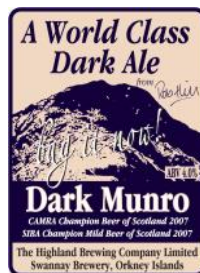
1st - Highland Brewery Dark Munro

2nd - Fyne Ales Maverick

3rd - Fyne Ales Piper's Gold

Dark Munro (4% ABV) is described as a traditional style Scottish dark ale. A very drinkable ale with loads of malt and a wonderful balance of flavours.

Maverick (4.2% ABV) is a robust ale, reddish mahogany in colour, and with warm roasted malt flavours. A full 'mouth' taste and fruity hop aromas generate a distinctive character.



Piper's Gold (3.8%), a light golden ale, is brewed as a refreshing easy drinking, session beer. Soft Highland water allows the full floral flavour of the hops to come through the beer.



Congratulations also to **Clachnaharry Inn**, chosen by judges as North Area Winner, and who will be pitted against the Harbour Bar in Kirkcaldy and Blue Peter Hotel in Kirkcolum in the final round of judging to find the Scottish and Northern Ireland CAMRA Pub-of-the-Year.

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

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



Premium Highland Ales

Available in Casks & Bottles

Permanent Cask Beers

Cairngorm Gold	4.5%
Wildcat	5.1%
Stag	4.1%
Nessie's	
Monster Mash	4.4%
Trade Winds	4.3 %
Black Gold	4.4%

Seasonal Cask Beers

Glen Ample	4.5%
Horizon	4.5%
Blessed Thistle	4.5%
Red Mountain Porter	4.5 %
Witches Cauldron	4.9%
Winter Flurry	3.8%
Highland IPA	5.0%
Mountain Dew	4.6%
Santa's	
Sledgehammer	6.3%



Black Gold
ABV 4.4 %

Award winning Scottish Stout with a rich dark colour, traditional smooth sweetness with underlying roast barley hints



Trade Winds
ABV 4.3 %

Award winning light golden beer with masses of hop, fruit and citrus flavours



Wildcat
ABV 5.1 %

Smooth deep amber coloured ale, with complex malt, fruit and hop flavours

Unit 12, Dalfaber Ind. Estate, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, PH22 1PY

Tel: 01479 812222 Fax: 01479 811465

info@cairngormbrewery.com

www.cairngormbrewery.com

Atlas Brewery & Great Glen Outing

A full minibus took us down the A82 on the first trip organised by new Social Secretary Allan Pearks. A dull, cloudy, showery day did not dampen our spirits. First stop was at the GBG listed Stronlossit Hotel in Roy Bridge, at the foot of the Nevis mountain range. A winter expansion at this popular hotel includes a new cellar. Arriving two minutes ahead of time (so far so good, Allan) we sampled Isle of Skye Hebridean Gold (average score 4) and Atlas Three Sisters (3); also on was Caley Deuchars, but not tasted. Onward to Fort William where we took a minor road toward the tourist route up Ben Nevis, surprising most on board as they did not know there was a pub on this road! Part of Achintee Farm was converted to a pub, with bunkhouse and B&B, seven years ago. The Ben Nevis Inn had a warm and friendly welcome with roaring stove, beer-hall style seating, musical instruments on display, regular entertainment advertised, food, views of the path up Ben Nevis and, of course, real ale. Beers on tap were Isle of Skye Blaven (4) and Orkney Red MacGregor (4). The barman, a MacGregor, just added to the atmosphere. What more could you ask for after, or before, a day out on the Ben Nevis range.

On to Fort William and a walk along the High Street to the Grog & Gruel. Always a cheerful welcome at this GBG listed hostelry where the beers are ever-changing. On tap today: An Teallach Brewhouse Special (3), Cairngorm Mountain Dew (ran out as we entered), Isle of Skye Red Cuillin (3), Houston's Texas (3) and Peters Well (4). Chairman Bill presented the Fort William & Lochaber POTY Certificate.

A short walk to the GBG Nevisport Bar where an open fire welcomed us. Atlas Nimbus (4), Orkney Red MacGregor (3), Isle of Skye Red Cuillin (3) and Isle of Skye Black Cuillin (given 2 by some as they tasted vinegar, but 4 by others as their beers were great).

Onward to the Atlas Brewery at Kinlochleven where Jane Morrison and Brewer Harry Hesky (a dentist who wanted a change) were there to greet us and answer any questions. A very welcome buffet washed down with excellent quality Three Sisters and Equinox. Harry gave us an informative tour of the Brewery. It has

been nearly a year since Norman Sinclair took Atlas out of administration, and after a lot of hard work this brewery has been brought back to it's very best. As with all the other places we visited we could have stayed longer but had to start our journey back to Inverness.

Next stop was the Four Season's Country Pub and Restaurant at the Inchree Centre in Onich. Isle of Skye Red Cuillin (3), and Atlas Equinox (3) were available. Another open fire to warm us and beautiful country views over Loch Linnhe and the Ardgour Hills. Just down the road by the Corran ferry we visited the GBG Corran Inn (formerly the Nether Lochaber Hotel). Under new ownership and undergoing refurbishment, but business as usual in the side bar. Beers were Isle of Skye Red Cuillin (2), and Chorrain Dubh (4), a house ale brewed by Isle of Skye. The bar soon became busy as we were joined by a local Shinty team on their way back (we think) from a match.

We were hoping to taste some Glenfinnan Brewery beers in this area but none were on handpump. Bottles of their new bottle conditioned 3.3% Glenfinnan Light Ale were on sale at both Four Seasons and Corran Inn, and some bottles were bought for tasting at home. Continuing homeward we visited the Invergarry Hotel, also under new ownership and having had considerable refurbishment. A warming fire and smiling, friendly, energetic staff made us welcome. Caledonian Deuchars (3) and Isle of Skye Red Cuillin (3) on tap. Quite a few enjoyed food from their excellent menu. The bar was unrecognisable from previous visits: a multi-room set up with dining and pool table areas around the central bar.

Our final stop of the day was in Fort Augustus where a very busy GBG Bothy Bar had Isle of Skye Young Pretender (4) and Caledonian Deuchars (no takers). Up the canal at the Lock Inn, who were busy with eaters, we sampled Deuchars (3). Both these bars are in a prime position beside the Caledonian canal.

We could have visited more pubs, had time allowed, and we try to vary the route each time. See page 20 for a full list of real ale outlets. Thanks to everyone at Atlas Brewery and the pubs for their hospitality; and Fraser Coaches of Munloch for a safe journey. EM.

The Orkney Brewery



Extraordinary Cask and Bottled beers with a unique Orcadian flourish
A true taste of Orkney



Call 01855 831111
www.sinclairbreweries.com

Skull Splitter & Dark Island win Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals at Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2007

ATLAS BREWERY

"Discover a world of real flavour"

Scotland's dynamic young brewery, producing a range of "contemporary classics", stylish beers with the modern palate.

Telephone 01855 831111
www.sinclairbreweries.com



International Beer Challenge 2006
Latitude Highland Pilsner wins
Gold Medal in Standard Lager Class




Sinclair Breweries Limited

Registered Office: Cawdor, Nairn, IV12 5XP Tel: 01667404555 Fax: 01667 404584




Branch Diary (Meetings start at 7.30 pm)

Tues 31 st July	Tasting Panel Meet	Number 27, Inverness
Tues 7 th August	Branch Meeting	National Hotel, Dingwall
Sat 11 th August	Real Ale Bar	Marymas Fair, Inverness
Tues 28 th August	Tasting Panel Meet	Hootananny, Inverness
Tues 4 th Sept	Committee Meeting	Whitebridge Hotel

Sat 15th Sept  Social/Outing to Isle of Skye Brewery
(Meet at Inverness Town House at 09:00)

Sat 22nd Sept, 1 pm Social/Branch Meeting Loch Ness Beer Festival
21st - 29th Sept * 6th Loch Ness Beer Festival Benleva Hotel
28th - 30th Sept * 4th Inverness Beer Festival Clachnaharry Inn
& Castle Tavern

Fri 28th Sept, 5 pm Social/Tasting Panel Meet Inverness Beer Festival
Tues 2nd Oct Committee Meeting Cawdor Tavern
5th & 6th October * Oktoberfest (Beer Festival) Black Isle Brewery

Sat 20th Oct  Social/Outing to Ullapool Beer Festival
(Meet at Inverness Town House at 10:00)

19th - 21st October * 3rd Ullapool Beer Festival Morefield Motel, Ullapool
19th - 27th October * Oktoberfest (Beer Festival) Clachaig Inn, Glencoe
1st - 3rd November 21st Aberdeen Beer Festival McClymont Halls, Aberdeen
Tues 6th Nov **Annual General Meeting** TBA

* Not all events listed are necessarily organised by CAMRA.

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

Please see the regularly updated on-line diary at www.highlandcamra.org.uk

Contact Gareth Hardman (Branch Contact) 18, Scorguie Gardens, Inverness,
Details IV 3 8 SS - 01463 238462 - contact@highlandcamra.org.uk
Eric Mills - 01309 675837 - secretary@highlandcamra.org.uk



Bill Tring - 01463 231448
chair@highlandcamra.org.uk

Mike Whittall - 01463 831259
news@highlandcamra.org.uk

'A Thought'

Now here's a thought that came to me in one of "those moments".

With all this talk of global warming and CO₂ contributing towards it, shouldn't we be pushing real ale as an alternative to fizzy keg as being a greener way of drinking! Cask ale produces its own CO₂ which, of course, is re-absorbed into the beer during its conditioning period. Keg beer is dead and so needs the addition of industrially produced CO₂ to give it some sort of pseudo-life. Cut back on keg and cut CO₂ emissions! Drink real ale and help save the planet!

Clachnaharry Inn *biting* You

Up to 10 Real Ales on at any one time, and with food served all day - famous for its lentil soup and stovies, this award winning pub will always make you welcome..



*Inverness
& Highland
Real Ale Town
Pub of the Year
2000, 2001, 2002,
2005, 2006 & 2007*

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH

The Clachnaharry Inn

at www.clachnaharryinn.co.uk

*Highlands & Western Isles
Pub-of-the-Year 2006 & 2007*

17-19 High Street
Clachnaharry
Inverness, IV3 8RB
Tel : 01463 239806
FAX: 01463 226986



Tasting Panel Update

CAMRA actively promotes **Stouts & Porters** in February and March and so with the help of George MacLean at Clachnaharry Inn, and Jim Anderson at The Anderson, we ran tutored tasting sessions featuring these dark beers.

At **Clachnaharry Inn** in February we looked at the different grains used to produce the colours and flavours of Stouts & Porter. Three main dark coloured malts are used to produce stouts and porters: Roasted Barley, Black Malt & Chocolate Malt. These malts are responsible for the coffee and chocolate flavours often associated with darker beers. Hot water was added to some sample grains to release the aromas and taste for us to sample. Discussion on the characteristics and merits of each malt followed, before moving on to the beers.

Springhead Brewery Leveller is classed as a strong bitter at 4.8% ABV, but this tasty beer had plenty of dark malts used in the brew. Malts and roast in the aroma were transferred to the taste giving a dry roast bitterness with some fruit, with most of the characteristics carrying on to the aftertaste and

giving plenty of value in this tasty ale which scored 8 out of 10. **Glencoe Organic Wild Oat Stout** (4.5%) exhibited roast and fruit in the nose but predominately chocolate and fruit flavours in the taste. Quite sweet and fruity, a little thin, more like an 'old ale' than a stout. Tasty nonetheless and scored an average 7. Neither stout nor porter, but **Inveralmond Lia Fail** (4.5%) was also tried: a fine example of a Scottish dark malty fruity ale, scoring 9.

In March at **The Anderson**, Jim entered fully into the spirit of the event, and provided **Houston Warlock Stout** and **Black Isle Organic Porter**, served on in-house-design beer mats to mark the occasion! A good turnout of seven tasting enthusiasts enjoyed a very sociable evening, and Jim even managed to find time to join in both the tasting and the deliberations that inevitably followed.

Organic Porter had a creamy mouth-feel with a chewy maltiness, was highly rated by all, and scored an average eight with just one 7 and one 9 on the cards. **Warlock Stout** was a typical dark bitter brew; very strong on roast and with a long bitter finish. Some

OPEN
ALL
YEAR

Benleeva Hotel

Tel:

01456

Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness

450080

www.lochnesshotel.com

CAMRA Highland Pub of the Year 2003 & 2005

Inverness District Pub of the Year 2006 & 2007 (tied)

6th Loch Ness Beer Festival
21st - 29th September 2007

En-Suite Accommodation
Excellent Food Every Evening
Lunches Every Day

Real Ale in the Real Highlands

Morefield Motel, North Road, Ullapool

**Comfortable
Lounge Bar**

**Mariners
Steak
Restaurant**

**Children
and
Families
Welcome**



**Home
to the
Annual
Ullapool
Beer
Festival
19th - 21st
October
2007**

Accommodation & Food Available

Telephone: 01854 612 161

Fax: 01854 612 171

E-mail: stay@morefieldmotel.co.uk

members scored it down on its harsh roast factor, marking it as having a burnt feel to it. Scores varied from 5 to 8.

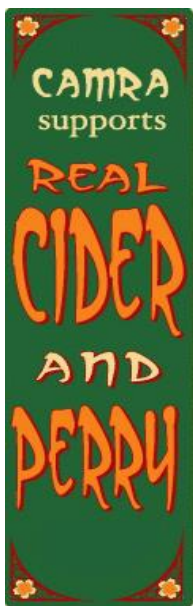
Some say that stouts and porters are best served with food, and some tasty sustenance was generously provided at both of these very fine hostelries. Our thanks to all for the ale selections, and for the generous hospitality.

In April we started at the **Phoenix** but found a poor example of **Caledonian Deuchars IPA**, served too warm and very flat. The usual malt flavours were present but lacking the fruity hop flavour. Rather than try the Caley 80/- we moved across to Blackfriars where we tried three of the selection of six Highland ales on offer: **An Teallach Beinn Dearg** (3.8%), a copper coloured ale with very little in the aroma, a touch of malt and fruit followed by almost a vegetable first taste which developed into a sweet fruit flavour; **Black Isle Red Kite** - a tawny coloured 80/- style ale, again quite light on the nose but a full malty sweet flavour with fruit and hops. A touch more sweetness and less bitterness than normal detracted from it's normal drinkability; **High-**

land Brewery Scapa Special (4.2%) - a gold/amber coloured pale ale with a lovely hop and citrus fruit in the aroma, followed by a beautifully balanced bitter/sweet fruitiness and maybe a hint of yeast in the taste, but not enough to lose it's "beer of the night" status.

In May we ran a tasting refresher at **Benleva Hotel**, a follow up to our first formal tasting course held twelve months earlier. The event was led by Chairman Bill, helped by Secretary Eric, both very experienced tasters. Being May, the emphasis was on Mild and two local brews were sampled, **Cairngorm Mild May** and **Highland Brewery Dark Munro**. Mild May (3.7%) was considered a taste of beers past, being a true light-bodied and quaffable mild: liquorice and light roast notes, with limited hop notes. Shame that this style is no longer as prominent as it once was - hence CAMRA promoting Milds each May. The Dark Munro was equally tasty but more full-bodied, and stronger on roast, thus having more of the characteristics of a stout.

Please see our website for full length reports from these tasting evenings. Ed.



Traditional Cider Matters

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

The Anderson, Fortrose - Thatchers Heritage Cider

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

Blackfriars, Inverness - Westons Old Rosie from the box

Stronlossit Inn, Roy Bridge - Thatchers Cheddar Valley Cider

Strathcarron Hotel - Thatchers Cider (rotated with cask ales)

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

Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit - Westons 1st Quality Cider

Scourie Hotel - Westons 1st Quality Cider

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

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

Old Bridge Inn, Aviemore, served Thatchers Heritage Cider at their March Beer festival. We understand that it was very popular.

Festival News

Please put a reminder in your diary for our very own **Marymas Fair Real Ale Bar**. This popular bar usually sells out by mid afternoon and so we have ordered even more beer than ever before. The Marymas Medieval Fair takes place at the Northern Meeting Park in Inverness. The date is **Saturday 11th August**.

Popped down to **Wetherspoons Festival** on Tues night. A little disappointing as only three featured beers on, plus Caley 80/-, Abbot, Red Kite, and the usual two ciders. I tried Titanic Steerage 3.5%, similar in taste to An Teallach brews such as Kildonan. Next up was Caley Top Banana 4.1%; not bad, reminded me of those yellow foam banana sweets; again not really my thing. Last up was Thwaites Double Century at 4.8%. Enjoyed this better: robust and well balanced with a bitter orange taste as they suggested in the tasting notes. Overall nothing really stood out and our Highlands & Islands beers are easily as good and probably better in my opinion. GNH, Inverness.

Gairloch *Tradfest*, a traditional music and real ale festival planned for June, was cancelled.

The Black Isle Brewery will again be running the bar at the Beladrum music festival, and

also ran a bar for the recent Rock Ness event.

George MacLean, at the Castle Tavern, joined in the festival spirit by serving a brew called **Rock Ness Monster Mash Ale**.

Black Isle Brewery are brewing a 4.5% ABV special limited brew, **Beat the Drum Ale**, for Runrig's Beat The Drum Loch Ness concert at Borlum Farm, Drumnadrochit, in August.

Customer Care

In the Spring edition of this newsletter our 'Focus On' featured Craig and Louise Whitwell of Badenoch Two fame. Louise noted that 'Cherry Bomb' is one of her favourite real ales. She was therefore surprised and delighted to find on a subsequent visit to her local, the Glen Hotel in Newtonmore, that landlord Chris Goodhill had managed to source a cask of the beer. That's the way to treat your customers! Thank you Chris for this thoughtful gesture.

In our Spring edition we reported that the former Little Chef restaurant on the A9 near Tomatin is to become a hotel and a food hall. We thought it may have been a pub before it became a Little Chef? We are told that the **Freeburn Inn** was a 19th century coaching inn which ceased to be a hotel in 1967.



Highland Office Equipment Ltd
Technology House, Harbour Road, Inverness, IV1 1UA
Tel: 01463 239764 Fax: 01463 242710

WHY BUY A BLACK PHOTOCOPIER

WHEN YOU CAN HAVE BLACK AND FULL COLOUR

FOR THE SAME PRICE!

INTRODUCING THE:



C250



- **25 A4 Colour Copies/ Prints And Scans Per Minute**
- **25 A4 Black Copies/ Prints And Scans Per Minute**
- **Built In Network Printing**
- **Built In Network Scanning (Pdf As Standard)**
- **Low Running Costs**
- **Unique Polymerised Toner**
- **Touch And Tilt Screen For Disability Access**
- **Built In User Help Mode**
- **Compact Design**

All this from as little as £50.00 per month

For further information please contact -

Alexander Main on 01463 239764
or sales@highlandofficeequipment.com

We do COLOUR better than anyone else

Visit our new website at www.highlandofficeequipment.com

Highlands & Western Isles

Beer-of-the-Year

Isle of Skye Brewery **Black Cuillin** has been voted by local real ale drinkers as their Beer-of-the-Year for 2007.

Hebridean Gold came second, and Red Cuillin third, as the Isle of Skye Brewery took full honours. Congratulations to all at the brewery.



Highlands & Western Isles CAMRA

2007 Beer-of-the-Year

1st - Isle of Skye Black Cuillin

2nd - Isle of Skye Hebridean Gold

3rd - Isle of Skye Red Cuillin

Black Cuillin - 4.5% ABV

The dark one, brewed with rolled roast oatmeal and honey. It takes its name from the world renowned mountains of the Isle of Skye, and is a unique strong flavoured dark ale.

Hebridean Gold - 4.3% ABV

A distinctively different ale, brewed with porridge oats. An ale of exceptional smoothness, with a deep and creamy head.

Red Cuillin - 4.2% ABV

Smooth, malty and slightly nutty; lightly fuggles hopped for aroma. Named after the famous hills of the Isle of Skye, Red Cuillin is a premium ale, which has won many awards.

Following on from the success of Cairngorm Brewery's Black Gold in 2006, (Black Cuillin took second), this result confirms that dark beers have lost none of their popularity, and continue to be enjoyed by real ale drinkers.

Thanks to all who voted for their favourite beers, and remember to note down the best local beers you find over the next 12 months.

*Come along and try a glass of **Black Cuillin** from the Real Ale bar we are running at the **Marymas Fair** in Inverness in August.*

Beer in Boston

At the beginning of June a strong Scottish contingent comprising Dixie Taylor (Skye Brewery Sales Consultant), Colin Valentine (CAMRA National Committee), George Howie (CAMRA Aberdeen) and myself headed out to Boston primarily to visit the New England Real Ale Exhibition (NERAX) held annually at Som-

erville on the outskirts of the city. We were also joined by CAMRA HQ's Ian Lowe.

Obviously we had to do our best to sample as many of the hostelries and beers to be found in this interesting and historical part of the States. Our main search was, of course, for cask-conditioned ale but, where not available, we took the chance of sampling filtered keg beers from many of the breweries which have been established around the east coast.

Our first stop was Rock Bottom, a brewpub chain just off the Chinatown area. We had been told that cask ale was stocked but did not initially see any. We settled for their *Improper Hopper*, a highly-hopped India Pale Ale of 6% with lots of Cascade hop flavour, almost sweet and characteristically floral. Although cloudy, this did not detract from the overall taste. Having supped this keg beer we then discovered 2 handpulls hidden behind a pillar – talk about showcasing cask ale! We found the cask version of Improper Hopper much softer, with a hint of lemon. It also slipped down much easier than the keg version (3).

As an introduction to New England beers we found this beer to be typical of much that we sampled. Hops abound in the majority of these beers – keg and cask. Cascade is widely used which gives these beers a very similar aroma. As someone who much prefers malt to hop, I found these beers to be overhopped which was the majority view of we visitors. Discussions with brewers and bar staff over this led us to hear of the "Hop-heads" in the States who, as fanatical about their beers as we are, are more than fanatical about hops. We found one beer in The Tap at Haverhill called *Leather Lips* which uses 132 lbs of hops in a 10-barrel brew. To put that in perspective, we at Isle of Skye Brewery use 15 lbs of hops in a 20-barrel brew of *Young Pretender*! Needless to say *Leather Lips* was well-named – you need leather lips to drink it.

Another characteristic of New England cask ale is its cloudiness. Cloudiness in itself is not necessarily bad – weiss beers, for example, show this as one of their characteristics. However, we found that many brewers were averse to the use of finings because, we were told, vegetarian and vegan drinkers would not

the glen hotel

NEWTONMORE

Monarch of the Glen Country

Fine Food

Lunchtime & evenings

Entertainment

on selected nights

Accommodation

stay the night and relax...

Four Hand Pumps

Plus selected bottled ales



**The Glen - an Oasis within
the 'Real Ale Desert'
of Badenoch**



10p per pint
discount for card carrying
CAMRA members

Tel: 01540 673203
www.theglenhotel.co.uk

touch them otherwise. Mention of non-fish-based finings was met with a blank.

We tried to put across that in this country, unless it is deliberate, customers do not want cloudy beer – they drink with their eyes firstly and a clean crisp clear pint of ale has you salivating in expectation.

We met the new brewer at the Tap and he told us that he was “tweaking” all the recipes but that he had been ordered not to touch the Leather Lips – again, those Hop-heads!

So as not to lengthen this piece too much I will list below a few of the other pubs we found that are worth a visit if in Boston. It is a compact city and easily accessed on foot, unlike many other cities in the States, and so most can be visited without the need to resort to much more than foot and the excellent metro system: The Black Rose, The Green Dragon, The Bell in Hand, The Union Oyster Bar, Jacob’s Wirth, Bukowski.

We sampled *Back Bay IPA* at the Boston Beer Works and found it to be totally undrinkable. This did not endear us to the Salem Beer Works at Salem (same company as the Boston Beers Works) but it turned out to be the jewel of them all. A friendly home-brewing barman and a knowledgeable brewer contributed to a memorable afternoon’s sampling. (Sadly, there is not much else in Salem.)

And so to NERAX. This showcase of real ale in the States has been running for 11 years now. Organised by CASC, an enthusiastic group dedicated to the preservation of real ale, it presents over 80 cask ales during a 4-day festival; about half from New England and half from the UK. About the size of the upstairs hall at the Aberdeen Beer Festival this is no GBBF but it is a friendly and intimate festival well-worth going to. Colin and George spent most of their time working at the festival and giving the benefit of their wide experience at festivals in the UK.

On Friday afternoon a trade session involving brewers and publicans was held. This was a great opportunity for us to meet those involved in the production and serving of cask ale and to learn of the difficulties they face in promoting cask ale in their area. Following a short address from two publicans and myself

there was a lively and interesting discussion ranging across all aspects of cask ale in the States and Scotland.

The beers? Not surprisingly we were very interested to see how the Scottish beers had travelled. Sadly *the Isle of Skye Red Cuillin* had popped its shive in transit so was off the menu. We kicked off with *Cairngorm Black Gold* on gravity. This proved to be as flavour-some as ever although to my taste it really needs a handpump to release those wonderful roast aromas (4). *Orkney Dragonhead Stout* was a bit disappointing, rather weak and thin compared to the normal condition we see it in this country (2). *Isle of Skye Cuillin Beast* had not quite settled but I was happy to see that it was still in very good form (4). *Inveralmond Ossian’s* was its usual well-balanced self and left a pleasant dry aftertaste (3). *Kelburn’s Carte Blanche*, as the reigning Champion Beer of Scotland, held its head up well (3/4).

Overall, Boston is as good an area as any in the States to seek out good pubs and beers. We hope that CASC’s campaigning will see real ale on the bar at more and more pubs, and certainly the brewers are keen to promote it. If they can improve upon their presentation and work hard at educating their drinking public then we may see the availability of cask increasing in coming years. Angus MacRuary.

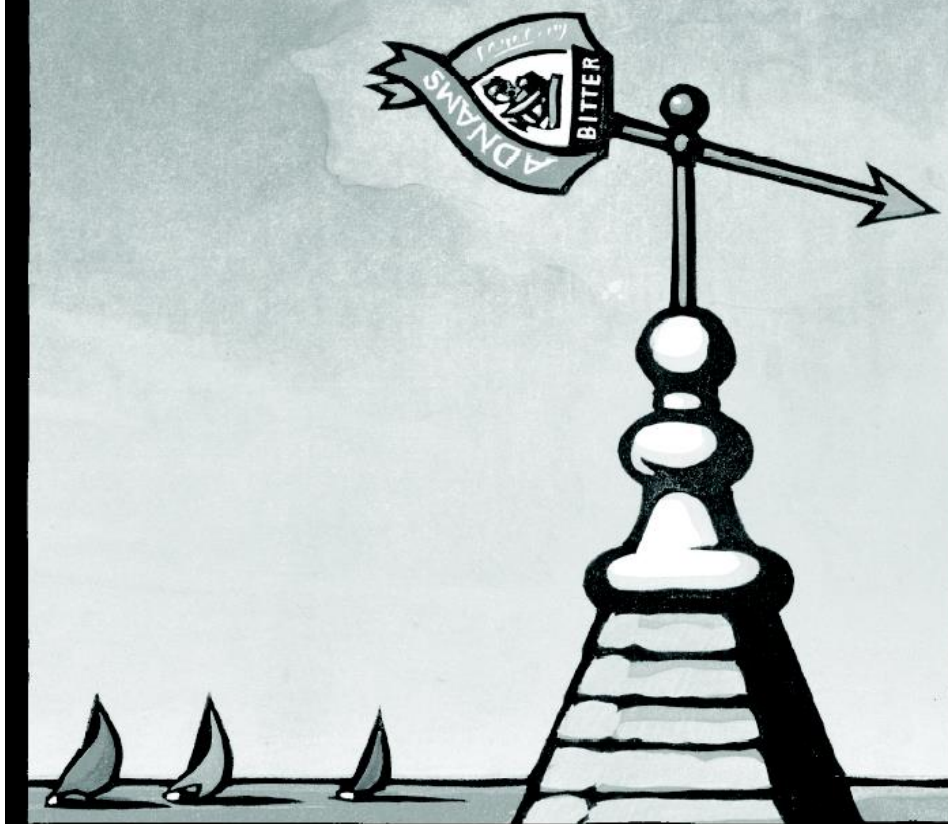
I just wanted to write and express my delight at the quality of your web site. I have been told by my better half I must go to Cromarty over the last weekend in September so that she and her three mates can go hill-walking.

There is no chance of me doing it. I didn’t really want to go as I expected Cromarty to be a beer desert. Thanks to the efforts of your branch I now know I couldn’t have timed it better with the Loch Ness and Inverness beer festivals on at the same time. I love Scottish beers, having got a taste for them at the GBBFs, in Dundee, and this Easter in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Now I know I can come to your neck of the woods and have a great time even if it means freezing my nuts off (it is Scotland after all). All I need now is for Caley to be at home that weekend and I won’t have to see a hill or mountain. Oh happy days!!

Regards, AH. Rugby CAMRA Branch Chairman.

ADNAMS. BEER FROM THE COAST.

Adnams Broadside Always available at the Clachnaharry Inn



Focus on Norman Sinclair

Norman Sinclair, along with his wife, Christine, own the award winning Cawdor Tavern and the Classroom Bistro Bar in Nairn. As if this were not enough work they bought both the Orkney and Atlas breweries a year ago, taking the breweries out of administration.

Q. Where are you originally from?

A. I am originally from Orkney. My parents moved to Fort William when I was quite young.

Q. How/when were you introduced to real ale?

A. I was introduced to the technicalities of real ale through the catering industry from a customer service side, selling it to guests. Before that as a student at catering college in Aberdeen I sampled quite a few.

Q. Your favourite real ales/beer styles?

A. My favourites are quite varied really. I enjoy the full range from the dark, like our iconic Dark Island from Orkney, through to the innovative pilsner style like the Atlas Brewery's award winning Latitude.

Q. Briefly describe your typical working week.

A. The answer to a typical working week is that there isn't one! The restaurants and bars are seven days but obviously weekends are more demanding, so the Monday to Friday of the breweries lets me keep hands-on at both Cawdor and the Classroom. My wife works with me and makes sure I do get a break to spend time with our three year old son, Arran!

Q. What is the best part of your work?

A. Walking into a pub somewhere away from the locality and seeing folk enjoy Atlas and Orkney beers.

Q. What is the worst part of your work?

A. Trying to cope with increased prices being thrown at you from every angle. Haulage, raw materials, running costs... ..the list is seemingly endless.

Q. Why buy the Atlas and Orkney breweries?

A. My interest in the brewing industry stems from my catering background and with Orkney Brewery the connection runs even deeper, as my family are all Orcadians. The building which houses the brewery is the former Quoyloo Academy where my father actually went to school. Orcadians are fiercely passionate about all the good things that come from these Northern Isles, and so the opportunity of actually being part of these world known brands was irresistible. However, the connection with the other

brewery in the company is just as strong. My family moved to Fort William when I was young so I was brought up in the area and studied in Lochaber and worked closely with the officials from the aluminium industry in my family's business. So with Atlas Brewery I was

very familiar with the area, the people, and the business community; plus the brewery is housed in a handsome Victorian building which was part of the former aluminium smelting plant in Kinlochleven.

Q. How do you relax, any hobbies/interests?

A. I have two Irish Setters which need a lot of walking, and Cawdor is such a beautiful area. I enjoy a walk with them and also entertaining Arran - or should I say letting him entertain me!

Q. What are your future plans for the Tavern, Classroom and the Sinclair Breweries?

A. Future plans for the breweries are to continue to promote the bottled ranges; we have a new product coming out called Dark Island Reserve which is our iconic Dark Island beer matured in whisky casks – a 75cl bottle at 10% ABV which is quite special. The product hasn't even been launched yet and it has won an award for the presentation. Also to concentrate on our core brands with support of our newly recruited Business Development Manager – Colin McPherson.



The Old Inn

Gairloch, Ross-shire, IV21 2BD

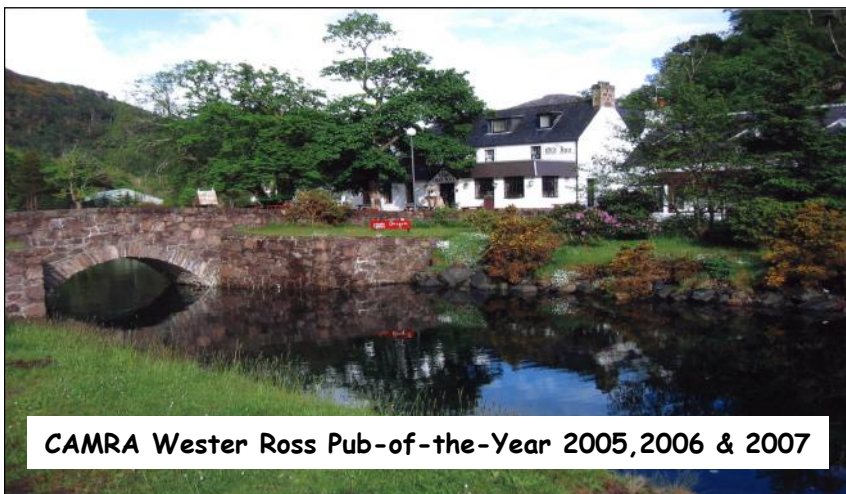
Telephone: 01445 712006 Enquiries - Call Free - 0800 542 5444

Scottish Tourist Board 3 Star Inn

AA Best Seafood Pub for Scotland 2005/06

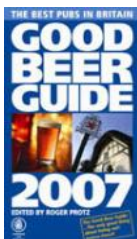
Abbot Ale Perfect Pub for Scotland 2005/06

AA Pub of the Year for Scotland & Northern Ireland 2003



**Real Ale, Real Food, Real Fires, Real Welcome
Accommodation - All rooms en-suite - Families welcome**

Nestling at the foot of the Flowerdale Glen, with the river flowing under its charming old stone footbridge, The Old Inn is a traditional coaching inn located in a picturesque setting with spectacular views across Gairloch Harbour to Skye and the Outer Isles.



Up to eight Real Ales

Beer Garden

Food served all day

Website: www.theoldinn.net

E-mail: enquiries@theoldinn.net



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

THE AN TEALLACH ALE COMPANY

An Teallach
ABV 4.2 %

ers Pale Ale
ABV 4.2 %



Beinn Dec
ABV 3.8 %

ouse Special
ABV 4.4 %

Dundonnell, Camusnagaul, Little Loch Broom, Nr Ullapool, IV 23 2 QT
Tel/FAX: 01854 633 306 E-Mail: anteallachale@dundonnell.freeserve.co.uk

Colin has vast experience of the drinks industry and is so enthusiastic about our beers, and we are delighted to have him on board. There are also plans to enlarge the Orkney Brewery, adding a visitor centre, sampling room and shop. As for Cawdor Tavern and the Classroom, one of the great challenges we are all facing is developing the business in the cold reality of the smoking ban. The dining side of things hasn't been troubled as much as the bar trade. So that and selling more real ale – from Sinclair Breweries of course!

Great to see the Atlas and Orkney breweries back up to speed. Ed.

Lochaber Trip - Bootleg Version

Dear Ed, I much enjoyed the trip to Lochaber. I expect you have an official scribe, but I thought you might be interested in my notes:

Dull, damp & cool, ideal for a brewery trip - no need to feel guilty about not catching up with all those gardening jobs! Smart minibus, and very smooth. Chairman Bill arrived at Town House at last minute, nearly left without him; collect some familiar faces in Drumnadrochit.

Stronlossit Hotel – Been re-furbished since my last visit, a super bar now. A real coal fire in the hearth – did they light it early just for us? Deuchars IPA, Hebridean Gold, Three Sisters. Heb Gold very tasty, score 3 going on 4 (CAMRA NBSS); rarely see this great beer in Inverness unfortunately. Quick photo call for Grampian CAMRA guest.

Ben Nevis Inn – At foot of Ben Nevis "tourist trail", definite wow factor! A large Real Ale & Real Food sign to greet people coming off the mountain – wonderful. Wow factor inside too – typical walker's/climber's bar with wooden seating, wood-burning stove, real ales: Blaven (4) and Red MacGregor. Inviting menu: Parsnip & Tarragon Soup with Crusty Bread, Venison Pate with Rowanberry Jelly & Oatcakes, Cullen Skink, Mallaig Battered Haddock, and lots more. Bus driver thought the bar would make a great "lock-in". Could not disagree!

Grog & Gruel – Unusually quiet for Saturday. Choice of beers would have been good elsewhere, so should not complain, but this bar usually offers more. Brewhouse Special and Red Cuillin both scored 3, but no time to try

the Mountain Dew. Two Houston brews also.

Nevisport Bar – A super bar, definitely one of the best open fires in the Highlands. Just missed Black Cuillin, a pity, but Nimbus is a favourite too and easily worth a 4 today. Reds Cuillin and MacGregor were also on tap.

Atlas Brewery – Big changes since my last visit, they now have a small bar and shop counter at front of brewery. Massive plates of tasty sandwiches were much appreciated and quickly disappeared. Pints of Equinox and Three Sisters were pulled as quickly as the party could drink them. Both in the sort of form you would expect at a brewery tap! A very informative and interesting tour by head brewer Harry.

Four Seasons – More seriously drinkable Equinox, and another open fire. Red Cuillin enjoyed as well. A very friendly welcome. Not open all day, but they were keen for us to visit and had got in touch. I think we called at or near to opening time, but they would have opened early if necessary. A family concern, and very hospitable.

Corran Inn – I always enjoy my visits to this cosy little bar. New owners have added a second handpump. The house beer from Isle of Skye was very good, obviously a big dash of Black Cuillin in the blend. Red Cuillin also on, but no time to try. Glenfinnan Brewery bottled beer on offer, first I have seen.

Invergarry Hotel – New owners here also, and they have refurbished the bar/restaurant. Excellent haddock, chips and salad, washed down with good Red Cuillin. Caley Deuchars also on tap. £3 per pint is a little steep.

Bothy Bar & Lock Inn – Flying visits for swift halves at these busy canal-side bars. Young Pretender (4) at the Bothy, another fine beer from Uig rarely seen in Inverness, and Caley Deuchars (3) at the Lock Inn.

All in all a very good day out. The variety and quality of ale on offer was surprisingly good, and very much improved when compared to a few years ago. The A82 is no longer the "dry road" it once was. My beer of the day would have to be the Equinox. ICT, Inverness.

Happily for travellers there are far fewer "dry roads" in the Highlands these days. Ed.

"a beer drinker's
mecca"

Good Beer Guide 2005-2007



real ale
80 Belgians

real cider
200 malts

**Inverness District
Pub of the Year
2007 (tied vote)**

the
ANDERSON
restaurant • bar • accommodation

Fortrose, by Inverness
tel. 01381 620 236
www.theanderson.co.uk

Real Ale Pubs

These Inns and Hotels are known to sell (or to have recently sold) cask-conditioned ale. Please let us know about the quality of real ales on offer (see page 25), particularly if you think inclusion in the Good Beer Guide is merited. We make no claims as to the quality of the beer, and you should note that some pubs may only stock real ale on a seasonal **(S)** basis:

Inverness City

Blackfriars
Caley Inn (S)
Castle Tavern
(Formerly the Harlequin Bar & Restaurant)
Clachnaharry Inn
Nico's Bar, Glen Mhor Hotel
Heathmount Hotel
Hootananny
Johnny Foxes (TP)
Kings Highway *(Wetherspoons)*
Masonic Club
Number 27
Palace Hotel
Phoenix Bar
Snowgoose

Inverness District

Benleva Hotel, Drumnadrochit
Loch Ness Lodge, Drumnadrochit (S)
Clansman Hotel
Slaters Arms, Cannich (S)
Bothy Bar, Fort Augustus
Caledonian Hotel, Fort Augustus (S)
Lock Inn, Fort Augustus
Dores Inn
Whitebridge Hotel, Loch Ness South
Glenmoriston Arms, Invermoriston
North Kessock Hotel
Culbokie Inn
Royal Hotel, Cromarty (S)
Cromarty Arms (TP)
The Anderson, Fortrose
Plough Inn, Rosemarkie
Crofters Café Bar, Rosemarkie (TP)
Munlochry Hotel (TP)
Old North Inn, Inchmore
National Hotel, Dingwall
Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer
Richmond Hotel, Strathpeffer
Inchbae Lodge Hotel. Garve

Castle Hotel, Portmahomack
Edderton Inn, Edderton
Star Inn, Tain
George Inn, Ardersier
Cawdor Tavern, Cawdor
Classroom Bistro Bar, Nairn
Invernairne Hotel, Nairn (TP)(S)
Tomatin Country Inn, Tomatin (S)

(TP - Dispensed using Top Pressure)

Wester Ross

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

Fort William & Lochaber

Grog & Gruel, Fort William
Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
Ben Nevis Inn, Fort William
Nevisport Bar, Fort William
Invergarry Hotel
The Eagle, Laggan Locks
(An Inn on a boat on the water)
Loch Oich Restaurant/Bar, South Laggan
Old Station Restaurant, Spean Bridge
Spean Bridge Hotel (S)
Stronlossit Hotel, Roy Bridge
Tomdoun Sporting Lodge
Glenfinnan House Hotel

Steam Inn, Mallaig
 Old Forge, Inverie
 Ben View Hotel, Strontian
 Strontian Inn (S)
 Four Seasons, Onich
 Corran Inn, Onich
(Formerly the Nether Lochaber Hotel)
 Inn at Ardgour
 Ice Factor, Kinlochleven
 Mamore Lodge, Kinlochleven (S)
 Tailrace Inn, Kinlochleven

* Strictly the following three pubs are in Glasgow & West of Scotland branch area, but are not very far from the "border" and are worth a visit.

Laroch Bar, Ballachulish
 Clachaig Inn, Glencoe
 Kings House Hotel, Glencoe

Aviemore & Cairngorms

Cairn Hotel, Carrbridge
 Heatherbrae Hotel, Nethy Bridge
 Ben Mhor Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey
 Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten
 Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore
 Dalfaber Country Club, Aviemore (TP)
 Glenmore Lodge, Nr Aviemore
 Old Bridge Inn, Aviemore
 Suie Hotel, Kinraig
 Glen Hotel, Newtonmore
 Lodge Hotel, Newtonmore
 Kingussie Golf Club
 Silver Fjord Hotel, Kingussie
 Typsy Laird, Kingussie

* Strictly the following four pubs are in the Aberdeen, Grampian, & North Isles branch area, but are barely outside the Cairngorms and are worth a visit.

Mash Tun, Charlestown of Aberlour
 Highlander Inn, Craigellachie
 Croft Inn, Glenlivet
 Glen Avon Hotel, Tomintoul

Caithness & Sutherland

Inchnadamph Hotel
 The Caberfeidh, Lochinver
 Scourie Hotel, Scourie
 Burghfield House Hotel, Dornoch
 Castle Hotel, Dornoch
 Dunroamin Hotel, Bonar Bridge
 Invershin Hotel
 Sutherland Arms Hotel, Golspie (S)
 Sutherland Inn, Brora

A Fine Day for a Great Ale?



A Great Day for A Fyne Ale!

Tongue Hotel
 Melvich Hotel (S)
 MacKay's Hotel, Wick
 Alexander Bain, Wick (*Wetherspoons*)
 Central Hotel, Thurso
 Commercial Hotel, Thurso (S)

Skye, Lochalsh & Hebrides

Isle of Raasay Hotel
 King Haakon Bar, Kyleakin
 Duisdale Hotel
 Isle Ornsay Hotel
 Ardsavar Hotel
 Broadford Hotel
 Claymore, Broadford
 Dunollie Hotel, Broadford
 Hebridean Hotel, Broadford
 Old Inn, Carbost
 Sconser Lodge Hotel
 Sligachan Hotel (S)
 Taigh Ailean Hotel, Portnalong
 Dunvegan Hotel

Stein Inn, Waternish
 Edinbane Hotel
 The Lodge at Edinbane
 Ferry Inn, Uig
 Uig Hotel, Uig
 Pub at the Pier, Uig
 Duntulm Castle Hotel
 Greshornish Lodge
 Bosville Hotel, Portree
 Isles Inn, Portree
 Royal Hotel, Portree
 Cluanie Inn
 Glenelg Inn
 Kintail Lodge Hotel
 Clachan Bar, Dornie
 Loch Duich Hotel, Dornie
 Balmacara Hotel
 Kyle Hotel, Kyle of Lochalsh
 Tingle Creek Hotel, Erbusaig
(by Kyle of Lochalsh)
 Plockton Hotel, Plockton
 Plockton Inn, Plockton
 Tigh Dearg Hotel, Lochmaddy, North Uist
 Carinish Inn, North Uist (S)

Langass Lodge, North Uist (S)
 Westford Inn, North Uist
 Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula (S)
 Isle of Benbecula House Hotel (S)
 Borrodale Hotel, South Uist (S)
 Orasay Inn, South Uist (S)
 Polachar Inn, South Uist (S)
 Shawbost Inn, Isle of Lewis
 Clachan Bar, Stornoway
 Cladh Inn, Stornoway
 Royal British Legion, Stornoway
 Whalers Rest, Stornoway
 Harris Inn, Tarbert (S)

* In total 33 of the pubs listed are in the Good Beer Guide (GBG). We cannot indicate entries, you will have to buy the guide for that, but you may find some clues elsewhere in this newsletter.

Publicans should note that if you are listed in the guide you may use this artwork in adverts and on your website.



Stronlossit Inn

at Roy Bridge

Freephone:
 0800 0155 321



Open all day,
 food & drinks
 available all day,
 3 real ales on tap

Stronlossit is a real gem of tradition - a warm, welcoming character. The Lounge Bar has an impressive range of malt whiskies, an open fire and pulled cask beers, making it a popular rendezvous for Inn guests, outdoor enthusiasts and the local regulars alike. All amidst some of the wildest and most captivating scenery in the Scottish Highlands, in "Western Europe's last great wilderness", as Lochaber is known.

'Real Ales, and a substantial Bar Meals Menu in "The Stronlossit Lounge.'

"The hospitality of the house will compliment the experience"

Your hosts: Maurice and Sandra Valley

www.stronlossit.co.uk

E-mail: stay@stronlossit.co.uk

BS3621 REAL LOCKS for REAL SECURITY



Locksmiths for the Highlands **24 Hour 7 Day Service**

Lock Opening & Fitting (BS 3621)
Locks Changed and Key Cutting
UPVC and Aluminium Door Locks
Garage and Shuttered Doors
Window and Patio Door Locks
Multi-Point Door Locks
Wireless Alarm Systems
Access systems



**COMPLETE MOBILE WORKSHOP WITH KEY CUTTING EQUIPMENT
AND A LARGE QUANTITY OF LOCKS. WE REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF
SECURE PROPERTIES AND INTEND TO GET IT RIGHT FIRST TIME EVERY TIME.**

24 Hour 7 Day Service
FREEFONE : 0800 083 1923
Telephone : 01463 731059

11 Craigrory, North Kessock, Inverness. IV1 3XH



Highlands & Islands Brewers in 2007

* **Orkney Brewery** - Brewing commenced in March 1988 at the old schoolhouse in Sandwick. Ales include Red MacGregor, Dark Island, and Skullsplitter.

Isle of Skye Brewery - Based at Uig, next to the Western Isles ferry terminal, and has been brewing since December 1995. Ales include Red & Black Cuillin, Hebridean Gold, Young Pretender and Blaven. Seasonal, House, and special event ales are regularly brewed.



Valhalla Brewery - The most northerly brewery in the UK, started brewing on the island of Unst in December 1997. Ales include White Wife and Auld Rock.

Black Isle Brewery - Started brewing in December 1998 in converted farm buildings. Ales include Red Kite and Yellowhammer. Organic ales are a speciality.

Far North Brewery - Melvich brewpub. Ales include Real Mackay & Fast Reactor.

Isle of Arran Brewery - Located close to Brodick Castle. Opened late March 2000. Ales include Blonde, Dark, and Sunset.



Fyne Ales Brewery - Based in Argyll, at the head of Loch Fyne, brewing started on St Andrew's Day 2001. Ales include Piper's Gold and Maverick.



Cairngorm Brewery Company - Set up in late 2001 to market the beers of the Tomintoul & Aviemore breweries, which they own. Ales include Trade Winds, Wildcat, Stag, Highland IPA, and Black Gold. Seasonal ales are regularly brewed.

Hebridean Brewing Company - Based in Stornoway, main town in the Outer Hebrides. Began brewing in January 2002, now producing five regular ales. Beers include Islander Strong Ale, Berserker Export Pale Ale, and Clansman Ale (first ale ever brewed in Stornoway),



* **Atlas Brewery** - Brewing in one of the old Aluminium Smelter buildings at Kinlochleven since February 2002. Ales include Latitude, Wayfarer, and Nimbus.

An Teallach Brewery - Brewing moved from Lochaber to the family's croft at Camusnagaul, near Dundonnell, during March 2003. Regular ales include An Teallach Ale, Crofter's Pale Ale, and Beinn Dearg.



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

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

Highland Brewing Company - Started brewing in late 2004 at Moorhouses (Lancs). Brewery is now located in the old Swannay cheese factory at Birsay, on Orkney.

Oyster Brewery - Located in Ellenabeich, on the Isle of Seil, near Oban. Set up in 2004, first brews in early 2005. Ales include Easda' Ale, Red Pearl, and Oyster Gold.

Isle of Mull Brewery - Started in 2005 with a 5 barrel plant in Tobermory. McCaig's

Folly and Galleon Gold ales.

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

Colonsay Brewery - First brews in March 2007. IPA, 80/- and Lager (all bottled)

Plockton Brewery - First brew, on 1st April 2007, Craggs Ale, is available in Plockton.

* The **Atlas** and **Orkney** Breweries were taken out of administration in June 2006 by **Sinclair Breweries Ltd**, a company formed by local hotelier & restaurateur Norman Sinclair, and his wife Christine.

Not all of the breweries listed are in our branch area - all in the Grampian & Isles area; Brewery Ayrshire & Sea; while Islay Ales, Breweries Glasgow & ... are all in the Aberdeen, Northern Arran & Islay area; Oyster Island. Similarly for Highlands & Islands pubs listed in the GBG, pubs in Orkney and Shetland are submitted by the Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles Branch.



Rate our Beer

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

What do the scores mean?

- 0 - Undrinkable.** No cask ale available or so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it.
- 1 - Poor.** Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
- 2 - Average.** Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
- 3 - Good.** Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.
- 4 - Very Good.** Excellent beer in excellent condition.
- 5 - Excellent.** Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.



Your regular input will help ensure that pubs consistently serving good quality real ale make it into the next Good Beer Guide.

Alternatively you can now submit your scores online at www.beerscoring.org.uk, or our own website, or send us an e-mail.

You can get NBSS cards from your local CAMRA branch or download from the members area of the national website.

CAMRA National Beer Scoring Scheme

Surveyor _____
Mem.No. _____ Date of survey _____ / _____ / _____
Pub _____
Location _____
GBG County/Area _____ Score 0-5 _____
Beer _____ (optional)

Sample



The Castle Tavern

Taigh-òsda à chaisteil

Open all day, food served all day, a great range of Real Ales
At the top of Castle Street, Inverness, overlooking the River Ness
at the start/finish of the Great Glen Way Tel: 01463 718178

A Visitor from South of the Border Reports:

I have submitted a number of tasting notes for my visit to Inverness (see below); thanks for your earlier e-mail, it was very useful in pointing me in the right direction.

A few comments: Clachnaharry Inn and the Castle Tavern were very good, but I was a bit disappointed with Blackfriars, perhaps I called in at the wrong times, but beer quality was not that great and it was very quiet. maybe Fridays and Saturdays are better, but would imagine it could struggle to keep 7 in good nick through the week with the patronage I observed. Spoons is spoons, still range and price were good - at the cost of any atmosphere. I would expect the place to be heaving given the generally high prices (to me in the North West) elsewhere.

Kyle bar may simply have run out, but again few people in so maybe it only goes on when "season" picks up. I did not ascertain whether it had run out or they did not do it anymore.

Sligachan was great, only seen the Cuillins free of cloud once before, so that was something special. Again not very busy, out of season perhaps (and same for bars in Fort Augustus). Just had time to sample the three beers and have a wander round the foothills of Sgurr Nan Gillian. I did not have time to sample Broadford or Kyleakin - another time perhaps. I would really need to be staying over there rather than using public transport and having to get back to Inverness on the 16.48 train.

For info, Atlas Excelsior is on at the GBG listed Ferry Tavern (Penketh, Warrington), 15 mins walk from me. Very good it was too. I did not encounter any Atlas beers on my travels.

Thanks again for your info. I hope to visit again soon, Bob.

PS. Liverpool is pretty accessible now via Ryanair from Inverness; I paid 1p each way plus taxes, etc. for my visit up to Inverness. Some good pubs down this part of the world!

April 26 - **Castle Tavern**, Inverness - Isle of Skye Flora McDonald Ale (3), Kelburn Goldihops

(4), Greene King Abbot Ale (3). Abbot ordered by mistake-obviously the English accent lost something in the translation. None the less very nice place.

April 26 – **Nico's Bar**, Glen Mhor Hotel, Inverness - Caledonian Deuchars IPA (3). Another nice place, £2.80 a bit steep for Deuchars, at least down here anyway. I was the only customer in either the bar or eating area. Deuchars a bit warm, probably lack of sales but quality ok.

April 26 – **Blackfriars**, Inverness - Black Isle Red Kite (2), Hebridean Islander Strong Ale (2), Highland Brewery Company Scapa Special (2). A disappointment, only three customers in, beers outnumbering punters and bar staff combined. Red Kite was just ok the other were not very good. Too many pumps and not enough sales perhaps - or just the wrong time of the week I was told, eventually I was the only customer, that Friday was payday so that was why pubs in area were v quiet - see later

April 27 - **Lock Inn**, Fort Augustus - Caledonian Deuchars IPA (3). Fort Augustus quieter than when I have visited in the past (usually via the canal) and much better for it. Again £2.80 for a pint, but it is out in the country.

April 27 - **Bothy Bar**, Fort Augustus - Isle of Skye Red Cuillin (4), Caledonian Deuchars IPA (3). Nice place, good food selection - excellent fish and chips. Visited several times in past and has always been good.

April 27 - **Clachnaharry Inn**, Clachnaharry (Inverness) – Orkney Dark Island (4), Isle of Skye Red Cuillin (3). Smashing place. Views over the Beaully Firth are spectacular. Good beer range.

April 27 - **Castle Tavern**, Inverness - Cairngorm Trade Winds (4), Isle of Skye Flora McDonald Ale (3). Good again - the Trade Winds was particularly fine.

April 28 - **Sligachan Hotel**, Sligachan, Isle of Skye - Cuillin Brewery Skye Ale (3), Cuillin Brewery Black Face (3), Cuillin Brewery Pinnacle (4). Britain's most spectacular brewery / pub setting. I cannot think of anything better - even the Clachaig.

(Continued on page 28)

- logo design • letterheads • business cards • compliment slips • brochures •
- invoices • leaflets • postcards • menus • raffle tickets • invitations •
- greetings cards • rubber stamps • wedding stationery • . . . and so much more

graphic design + print studio

logolounge



address : **the design house** seafield rd inverness telephone : 01463 **250305**

Weather conditions were great also. Three Cuillin Brewery beers complimented by two from Houston - Peters Well and Texas.

April 28 - **Kyle Hotel**, Kyle of Lochalsh - No real ale on (0). A single handpump but nothing on it. Settled for a bottle of Isle of Skye Black Cuillin instead. I was only customer.

April 29 - **Clachnaharry Inn**, Clachnaharry (Inverness) - Inveralmond Thrappledouser (3), Isle of Skye Red Cuillin (3). Good food available - Sunday roast was excellent.

April 29 - **Kings Highway**, Inverness - Caley Top Banana (2), Black Isle Red Kite (2). Best value by far - £1.39 for the Caley and £1.65 I think for the Red Kite. Caley - please leave bananas out of your beer. Typical spoons, no atmosphere. Not a lot in on Sunday afternoon.

April 29 - **Blackfriars**, Inverness - An Teal-lach Beinn Dearg Ale - I think! (3). Beer a bit hazy, but otherwise ok. Bit Busier - 5 people in watching Celtic vs Hearts Sunday afternoon.

April 29 - **No 27**, Inverness - Black Isle Yellowhammer (4). An excellent pint, in good condition. Deuchars also on but not sampled.

April 29 - **Castle Tavern**, Inverness - Kelburn Red Smiddy (2). Bit cloudy - as beer was not on Friday then possible it had only just come on - perhaps not quite ready.

The Badenoch Three Go West!!

We headed west in the middle of May and our first stop was at the Glenfinnan House Hotel where we tried the Standard Ale (4) from the new Glenfinnan Brewery. We walked around to the brewery and were made very welcome, even though we just turned up and knocked on the brewer's front door!! We were given Gold Ale (rated 4), which is a hopper and lighter version of Standard Ale.

The following day we went for Sunday lunch at the Stein Inn, at Watnish on the Isle of Skye. We tried Caledonian Deuchers IPA (5), yes 5!! The best beer we have tasted this year!! Harvieston Schiehallion was also on, rated 4. In Portree we sampled Isle of Skye Brewery Hazy Days (3+) at the Bosville Hotel. On Monday we went to Broadford where the Dunollie Hotel had no real ale on, but at the Broadford Hotel we found Isle of Skye Blaven (3+). Onwards to the Sligachan Hotel where four Cuillin Brewery beers were available,

The Old Bridge Inn ~ Aviemore



Roaring log fire, cheerful atmosphere, excellent food and fine selection of wines, cask ales and malt whiskies.

The varied menus, featuring the very best of Highland produce from river, sea and land, are carefully designed to tempt every palate



23 Dalfaber Road,
Aviemore, PH 22 1 PU
Tel: (01479) 811137
www.oldbridgeinn.co.uk

Black Face, Otter, Pinnacle, and Skye Ale; all beers rated 2+. At MacNabs in Portree we had Isle of Skye Blaven (3+), and the Isles Inn had Isle Of Skye Summer Blonde - only 3 as it was served too cold.

We drove to Uig on Wednesday, but unfortunately we missed Pam & Angus (Isle of Skye Brewery) who were out delivering, so we raided the brewery shop and walked across to the Pub on the Pier where we had Isle of Skye Hazy Days (4) and Red Cuillin (4); the other three pumps were empty. The Ferry Inn is closed during the day, so on to the Uig Hotel for some lunch and Isle of Skye Summer Blonde (4). The other pump in this pleasant bar overlooking Uig bay was empty. Back in Portree and to the Bosville Hotel for Isle of Skye Ditcher (3+) and Cuillin Pinnacle (3+).

After a trip to the Talisker Distillery we went across the road to the Old Inn at Carbost and had Cuillin Pinnacle (3+); but no time to try the Cuillin Eagle Ale.





THE HEBRIDEAN BREWING COMPANY.

taste of the islands

clansman ale 3.9% ABO

Beer of Festival, Aberdeen, Grampian and Northern Isles Camra festival 2004

Golden Hebridean bitter, brewed with Scottish malts.

Lightly bittered, a session ale with a light golden colour.

Good all day beer, plenty of hop and malt character, with lots of malt in the finish.



islander strong premium ale 4.8% ABO

SIBA beer of Scotland, Bronze 2002, Silver 2003. Premium Ale

Brewed with special coloured Scots malt, deep ruby in colour and predominantly malty with robust hopping to match.

Complex like the Hebrides themselves.

celtic black ale 3.9% ABO

Siba Beer of Scotland, Bronze 2004. Milds Category

Runner up North Hertfordshire Camra Beer of Festival 2004

A dark porter style ale full of flavour, balancing a aromatic hop combined with a subtle bite and a pleasantly smooth caramel aftertaste.



**BERSERKER
EXPORT PALE ALE 3.5% ABO**

Brewed using traditional methods and based on 19th century recipes. Then matured over a number of weeks to develop a smooth intricate flavour.

Brewed with a robust bitterness blended with a sweet smooth aftertaste and a hoppy aroma.

Champion Winter Beer of Scotland 2006

New seaforth ale 4.2% ABO

A classic blonde ale brewed with a variety of hops giving a complex fulsome bite balanced by pleasant refreshing citrus aftertaste.

Brewed and bottled entirely in the Outer Hebrides



Hebridean Brewery Company

Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles

tel: 01851-700123 fax: 01851-700234 email: sales@hebridean-brewery.co.uk

www.hebridean-brewery.co.uk



Member of the Society of Independent Brewers



Ben Mhor Hotel • Granttown on Spey • Scotland

Situated in the centre of town this recently refurbished Edwardian hotel is the perfect base to enjoy all there is to see and do in this glorious area

All kinds of activities and a wealth of attractions can be found close at hand

Join us for Real Ales & Bar Meals in the Jacobean Lounge, or choose delicious Highland Fare from the A La Carte Menu in Beth's Restaurant

Regular live music nights & impromptu sessions

Games room with Pool, Darts & Games Machines

A warm and friendly welcome from the owners and staff awaits all who visit this fine family-run hotel



Ben Mhor Hotel, 53-57 High Street,
Granttown on Spey, PH26 3EG

Email: admin@benmhorhotel.com

Tel: 01479 872056 Fax: 01479 873537

Website: www.benmhorhotel.com



On a return trip to the Stein Inn on Friday we tried their house beer, Isle of Skye Reeling Deck (4), and Cuillin Pinnacle (4). On our way home we went via the Plockton Hotel for the new Plockton Brewery's Crags Ale (4), a very pleasant English style hoppy bitter.

We had a very enjoyable week and not one of the pubs visited objected to us taking baby Ben (in his pram) into the bar.

I am writing to you from the Thistle Hotel in Inverness, with a few observations about a couple of your pubs in GBG 2007.

300 of us have taken a steam buff's trip from Paddington to Thurso. I've been more interested in the great Highland beers brewed in your area. I walked to the Clachnaharry Inn – marvellous pub, great beer. Pity you don't mention the hourly bus that passes it!

We visited Thurso 'en masse' and we decided that the great beers in the Central Hotel were better than any we had previously tasted, one for the future? They also served full pints as a matter of course. By the way, we drank them out of real ale on Thursday night! We had

Everards Stout, Highlander Fyne Ale, and Cairngorm Highland IPA. A good basic pub with good food.

I hope this is of some use to you. CG, SW London (Battersea Beer festival Organiser)

PS Love your newsletter. I've left some of our 'London Drinker' around, and I'll make sure that your excellent journal is delivered in some London pubs. The list of outlets for real ale was brilliant.

CG also noted that staff in one of our GBG listed pubs appear to be intentionally serving short pints. Committee is following this up directly with the licensee. Ed.

Last week I visited Skye as part of my family research project and enjoyed a wonderful week of Highland hospitality and good beer. I particularly enjoyed the Isle of Skye Brewery Ales, especially the Black Cuillin. I found your excellent CAMRA Newsletter for Spring 2007 in the (Eagle) boat pub at the southern end of the Caledonian Canal, where we stopped for refreshments. The landlord and landlady were most accommodating *(Continued on page 36)*



Welcome to the Corran Inn

Sitting on the shores of Loch Linnhe, beside the Corran ferry, the Corran Inn is just 10 minutes from Fort William and Ben Nevis and 10 minutes from Glencoe. With 5 comfortable rooms, a traditional bar and relaxing coal fires, the Inn provides the ideal base to explore this beautiful part of the Scottish Highlands. Whether you're walking, climbing, touring by car or just sitting with your feet up watching the world float by on the loch, The Corran Inn will give you a friendly welcome and make you feel at home.

Special Deals Regularly Available ~ Please Check our Website

We believe in giving our guests what they want! So, we serve full cooked breakfasts from 7am every day. In fact, we serve good food all day, every day until 9:30 in the evening. We also stock an excellent range of real ales and have almost 50 single malt whiskies to help you relax after your meal!

For Hill walkers and climbers, if you let us know in advance, we'll serve cooked breakfasts as early as you like (We've done it at 4am for climbers heading for Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis) and will serve you an evening meal up until 11pm. We'll look after your kit as well! We have a drying and laundry room available to get your gear dry for the next day.

If you're an internet junky, we have wireless broadband available free of charge throughout the inn, including all the bedrooms, so bring your laptop!



We're open all day, every day, from 7am until late, serving breakfast, snacks, meals and coffees.

The Corran Inn

Onich
Fort William
PH33 6SE

www.corraninn.co.uk

You can phone us on 01855 821 235

You can email us at info@corraninn.co.uk



Real Ale in New Zealand

During the planning stage for a recent trip to New Zealand I was determined to investigate the availability of real ale. After surfing the Internet and CAMRA sources I could only find three locations in the whole of New Zealand where cask conditioned ale was available. One in Christchurch, one in Auckland and one in a remote area that we would not be visiting.

Christchurch was our first stop on arrival, and after a short acclimatisation period we set out to find the Twisted Hop, a real ale brewpub. The building is an old warehouse conversion which was within the industrial area of the city. The interior design is modern and at the same time making a feature of the original building materials.

Cask conditioned ales available on my visit were 3.7% Golding Bitter; 5% Challenger and 5.9% Twisted Ankle. I tried the Golding Bitter which is a typical English session beer and I would give it a (NBSS) score of 3 out of 5.

The Twisted Hop, which is also well known for its food, was established by two Englishmen in 2004. On the night we were there a jazz band was playing to a packed house.

As Auckland was our final destination before leaving New Zealand I had to wait four weeks for my next pint of real ale. In the intervening period I had to put up with beer from New Zealand's numerous craft breweries, none of which were cask conditioned.

Auckland's brewpub is called Galbraiths Ale House. In spite of having exceptionally good weather for most of the time in New Zealand we happened to arrive at the pub on an extremely cool, wet and windy early evening and getting from the car park to the front door was quite an ordeal. More like a Scottish summer evening! The pub was converted from an old redundant public library, probably built in the early 20th Century, approximately ten years ago. It has been very well done and is very British, very much like a traditional Edinburgh city pub and was quite a contrast from the Christchurch brewpub. There were four real ales available - 4% Bob Hudson Bitter; 4.5% Bellringer Best Bitter; 5% Grafton Porter and 5.3% Bitter & Twisted. I tried the Bellringer Best Bitter and the Bitter & Twisted,

both of which were very drinkable and worth scores of 3.5 out of 5.

AP, Fortrose.

..and in Australia

It's great to go on holiday and enjoy a range of new experiences, even if some one would wish never to occur. One recent trip falls into the not so favourable where I had to go 5 weeks and 3 days without having a glass of real beer. We were on a cycling trip from Adelaide to Brisbane and the occasional glass of (a British style) beer would have helped rejuvenate the tired muscles along the route. Australian beer I would place in the lager category, which is not to my palate.

It was not until the last day, while walking about in Brisbane, did I come across a saviour from heaven called the Brewhouse; a super bar, worthy of a visit, where they have built a micro brewing facility within the large open drinking and eating area. One sign indicating a brew being made instantly drew my attention: it was called Scottish Ale! On speaking to head brewer David Arenes he told me that this was the first time he had brewed this ale.

Recently the head brewer had left and as it is the tradition that brewers take their recipes with them when they leave, he needed to make some new brews. Unfortunately the Scottish Ale was not ready for tasting. David also indicated that although they do make a brew of 2.8% ABV, the Australians do prefer the higher percentage brews.

We did manage to sample a few of the beers: Sunshine Wheat, 5.0%, the world's only 100% wheat beer (no barley). Served with a twist of lemon and very refreshing; Midnight Extra Stout, 6.8%, interesting in that one glass is equivalent to 3.36 wheetbix (a local high-fibre breakfast cereal). A rich and robust ale with a gratifying bitter ending, and well balanced with the sweetness of the malt.

Storm Real Ale, 5.1%, rich in Vitamin B with a great balance of bitterness and sweetness. After 3 pints things did become a bit cloudy, not the actual ale but its affect on the person.

Sunset Amber and Bulldog Cloudy Ale will need to await a further visit to recall how they tasted. HW, Inverness.

THE LIGHTING SPECIALISTS

www.trilight.co.uk



TRILIGHT

REFURBISHING YOUR. . . Hotel, Inn, Bar, Pub or Club?

Do you require advice on lighting plans?

*Then, give our lighting designer a call. We offer a **FREE** comprehensive design plan to suit your needs. . . and your pocket!*

Competitive prices on:

*LED's; Low Voltage; Task;
Emergency; Fluorescent;
SAD light therapy lamps
and much more!*

**Ask us for a
2007 Price List**

Come along and visit our lighting showroom at :

THE DESIGN HOUSE SEAFIELD RD INVERNESS

0845 1306202 or 01463 222877

Branches also at : Aberdeen, Falkirk & Glasgow



Morning Coffee and
Afternoon Teas

Cairngorm Brewery
Cask Ale s

Beer Garden
Overlooking
Rosemarkie Bay



Crofters Cafe Bar & Restaurant

11 Marine Terrace, Rosemarkie

Tel: 01381 620844

Fully licensed with separate bar, 11 – 11. Meals served lunchtime and evenings.



Inns & Things

Welcome to Simon and Jennifer Allen, new owners of the **Caberfeidh** in Lochinver since February. The Caberfeidh has a fully licensed public bar, and a separate restaurant, and now serves a regularly changing real ale.

Welcome also to Sean and Gillian Craig who purchased the **Ben Mhor** in late April, moving into Grantown on Spey from the Stirling area.

Sean has assured us that they will continue to offer Cairngorm real ales. "Their ales prove very popular, especially with visitors to the area. The two ales offered, Trade Winds and Wildcat, offer uniquely different tastes and are maintained to the highest standard to ensure a perfect pint at all times."

We have heard that Judith Fish, owner of the award-winning Applecross Inn, has recently purchased the **Lewiston Arms**. This is a very welcome development, and hopefully we may see this grand old pub, which has lain empty for many years, returned to its former glory.

Duntulm Castle Hotel, at the northern tip of Skye, now has four handpumps. Clearly there

must be a hotbed of real ale drinkers in this remote part of Skye.

Kings Highway, the JD Wetherspoon outlet in Inverness, has third of a pint glasses.

The **Typsy Laird** in Kingussie is now owned by Punch Taverns. Currently they are still serving real ale from the local Cairngorm Brewery. We hope this continues.

The **Castle Hotel** in Portmahomack has been serving real ale since Easter, one handpump with a rotating selection of Isle of Skye beers.

News of Brews

Spring 2007 has seen the launch of two new Highlands & Islands breweries:

The **Colonsay Brewery** opened in March and, as far as we are aware, is only selling bottled beers; 80/-, Lager and IPA. Limited Information only, so far, and we are not sure if the beers are bottle-conditioned.

The **Plockton Brewery** started producing cask-conditioned ale on 1st April. Craggs Ale may be sampled in the Plockton Inn & Hotel.

Summer Blonde, a 4% ABV session ale made with Cascade and Golding hops, is a

new seasonal brew from Isle of Skye Brewery. Two new brews from Black Isle Brewery: **Ruby Ale**, 6.4% ABV, is deep ruby in colour and bottle-conditioned; **Chocolate Ale**, 6.2% ABV, is made with rye malt and cocoa.

Isle of Skye Brewery will be bringing out a new range of pump clips and logos shortly. We hear that the Blaven label will change from yellow to blue - hopefully the beer itself will retain its golden colour!

The **Cairngorm Brewery** is expanding and capacity is up to 20 barrels, with the option of doing 10 barrel brews. Ian, the new assistant brewer, is working under instruction from Sean, and there are two additional staff also. Cairngorm Brewery's **Trade Winds** won the Beer of the festival at Paisley recently.

An Teallach Brewery have recently changed their malt supplier with the result that their beers now taste even better!

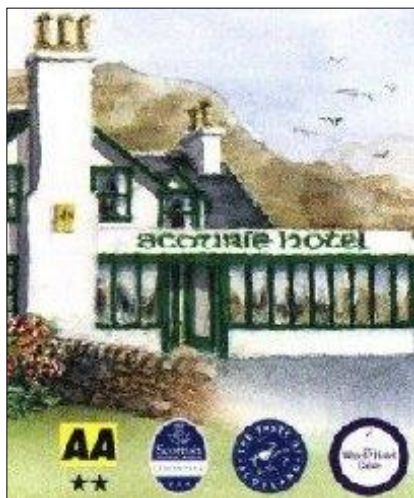
Dan Kane Award

On a sunny Easter Saturday Angus MacRuary, owner of the **Isle of Skye Brewery**, was presented with the Dan Kane Award for his



Cornelius containers. Robin Lacy, presenting the award, said 'the technical committee was impressed with the entry and the containers had ticked all the competition boxes. The late Dan Kane, himself a Scot, would have been extremely proud of the first Scottish winner.'

Pictured: Eric Mills (Brewery Liaison Officer), Angus MacRuary, Ken Davie (CAMRA Scotland and Northern Ireland Director), Robin Lacy (CAMRA Technical Advisory Group Chairman), Colin Valentine (CAMRA Vice Chairman).



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

Scourie Hotel

Scourie, Sutherland, IV27 4SX

Tel: 01971 502396

FAX: 01971 502423

patrick@scourie-hotel.co.uk

www.scourie-hotel.co.uk

Cask Ales and Real Cider are served

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

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





the finest steaks in town!

The Steakhouse is already a well-established favourite with local diners. A wide choice and grills available for dinner.

Open every night: 5.30pm - 9.30pm

The Steakhouse Restaurant,
Dalfaber Golf & Country Club, Aviemore



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

(Continued from page 30)

and set the standard for future stops as we explored the beautiful countryside and the surprisingly open and congestion free roads. I must admit that living in congested TRING was one of the reasons I have written to you. In your Newsletter I noticed that the Stein Inn was one of your pubs of the year and looked forward to sampling its atmosphere and beers. As we drove into the area at mid-day the sun was shining for the first time in two days and the landscape, as it opened up as we neared the village, was breath taking. The pub must be in one of the most stunning locations in Britain. However the reception and service I experienced was very disappointing. True the draught 'Trade Winds' was top quality, but the atmosphere was totally spoilt by the Radio 5 futile debate blaring out. I just hope that this was a one off, but the Stein Inn would not get my vote if I was a secret judge visiting the contending pubs. Keep up the good work and I look forward to further visits and samplings.

Yours sincerely, MA, Tring.

On-Line Beer Report

May 20 - **Sligachan Hotel**, Sligachan, Isle of Skye - Cuillin Brewery Black Face 4

May 20 - **Merchants Bar**, Bosville Hotel, Portree, Isle of Skye - Isle of Skye Hazy Daze 4

May 21 - **Stein Inn**, Waternish, Isle of Skye - Orkney Red MacGregor 5, Deuchars IPA 5

May 21 - **Plockton Hotel**, Plockton - Isle of Skye Hebridean Gold 4

May 22 - **Ardvasar Hotel**, Sleat, Isle of Skye - Isle of Skye Red Cuillin 4

May 22 - **Isles Inn**, Portree, Isle of Skye - Isle of Skye Summer Blonde 3

May 22 - **Gabbro Bar**, Broadford Hotel, Isle of Skye - Isle of Skye Red Cuillin 3

May 23 - **Dunvegan Hotel**, Dunvegan, Isle of Skye - NONE, NO REAL ALE ON HAND PUMP!

May 24 - **Uig Hotel**, Uig, Isle of Skye - Isle of Skye Blaven 4

May 25 - **Duntulm Castle Hotel**, Duntulm, Isle of Skye - Isle of Skye Black Cuillin 4, Isle of Skye Red Cuillin 4, IoS Hebridean Gold 4

J&PC, Milton Keynes & North Bucks.



Blackfriars Highland Pub

Great Beer



Traditional Highland Food (New Menu)

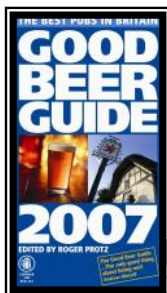
*All meals are cooked to order using
freshly prepared local produce*

Real Ales and Real Cider On Tap

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

Open all day, every day

**Food served every day
from 11am until 9pm**



*Regular Live Entertainment
Featuring Local Bands*

**93-95 Academy Street
Inverness IV1 1 LU
Tel 01463 233881**

Application to join CAMRA (Full/Joint British Isles/EU Membership)

Title: Surname:

Forename(s):

Date of Birth:

Partner (*if joint membership*):

Address:

Postcode: Date:

Telephone:

E-mail Address:

Signature:

Remittance (payable to CAMRA) enclosed for:

Single Membership £22.00 per year

Joint Membership £27.00 per year

Under 26 & Over 60s £13.00 per year

* £2 discount on all memberships if paid by Direct Debit

Send to: The Membership Secretary, CAMRA,
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL 1 4 LW



Highlands & Western Isles Branch

Trips to breweries and real ale hostleries are open to all. Cost to members is typically £5, and £10 to non-members.

> Contact Socials Secretary Allan Pearks (01381 620864) or Gareth to book your seat!

Our annual trip to the **Isle of Skye Brewery** (£7 & £12), with stops at real ale pubs along the way, is on Saturday 15th September.

Please book your seat early as trips to the Isle of Skye and to the Ullapool beer festival in October are very likely to be over subscribed. A £5 deposit will guarantee your seat.

It seems our fame (or notoriety perhaps) is spreading: at recent meetings we have been joined by CAMRA members from the Erewash Valley (East Midlands) and from New England!

All are welcome at Branch meetings and at our very informal tasting sessions. Please see page six for dates and venues, or check our on-line diary at www.highlandcamra.org.uk.

It has been several months since we changed the name of the Branch from Inverness & Highland to Highlands & Western Isles, and we are now able to offer a revised design for our Branch logo.

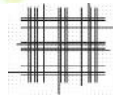


Embroidered leisure clothing (sweat shorts, polo shirts, T-shirts, etc.) can be ordered through the Branch, in a variety of colours designed to appeal to all.

Full details will be added to our website soon, but in the meantime please contact Chairman Bill (01463 231448) for further information. We hope to have samples at Marymas.

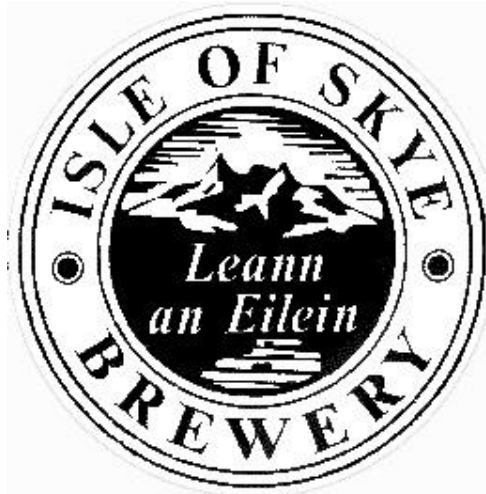
We hope you have enjoyed reading our Summer newsletter. Unless you intend to keep it for some reason, please **DO NOT** throw it away. Why not pass it on to a friend, or just leave it in a pub somewhere for others to read. Newsletters are often found many miles from source! Autumn edition will be out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





Thanks to our advertisers
for making publication of
this newsletter possible.





**Quality award-winning cask
and bottled beers**

**RED CUILLIN BLACK CUILLIN
YOUNG PRETENDER
BLAVEN HEBRIDEAN GOLD
CUILLIN BEAST MISTY ISLE
SKYE OYSTER STOUT
House and Special Event Ales**

**Souvenirs and gifts from
Buth an Leanna (The Brewery Shop)
The Pier Uig Isle of Skye
01470-542477
and from**

www.skyebrewery.co.uk