

CAMRA
Highlands
and
Western
Isles
No 55
Winter 2017/
Spring 2018

What's Yours Then?



FREE



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From the Editor



Welcome to this combined Winter 2017/Spring 2018 edition of What's Yours Then? and, if you're a visitor to our beautiful region, 'ceud mile fàilte'.

a couple of weeks back at Garrison West in Fort William.

Of course, we'll regularly update readers on the region's newest beer-maker and will run a feature on the brewery and brewers in a coming edition but, in the meantime, best wishes for commercial success from all at WYT.

REVITALISATION

Once there was a simple mission, to stimulate independent brewers into providing an alternative choice to bland, mass-produced beers. Now the challenge facing drinkers is multi-headed; on the one hand PubCos are buying licensed premises more with an eye to converting to accommodation than maintaining their status as community focal points and watering holes.

Successive governments have succumbed to the anti-drink lobby and continue to punish real ale enthusiasts through some of the highest taxes in the world. On the horizon, the neo-prohibitionists would like nothing better than to consign beer purchases to the same fate as tobacco sales, hidden behind a screen and every bottle with a grey label bearing a skull and crossbones.

Please turn to the end piece to read Simon's plea to all members to participate in the revitalisation vote. CAMRA needs members' approval to change Articles of Association in order to meet challenges present and future. As I see it, the alternative is decline and irrelevance. Your vote, your choice.

Ad multas cerevisias

Tony Vernon
editor@highland.camra.org.uk

As Scotland emerges from the clutches of 'The Beast from the East', it's time to swap stories of dead batteries, 2 metre snow drifts and no bread for a week. Luckily panic buying in Uist didn't extend to the beers, wines and spirits aisles of the Co-Op Daliburgh, and a wide choice remained available to complement the appearance of Isle of Skye RAIB at my local boozer, the Borrodale Hotel. Me happy.

CAIRNGORM FLIES THE FLAG

Congratulations from all in CAMRA H&WI to Cairngorm Brewery, who brought home Silver Stout/Porter and a fabulous Bronze overall at the Champion Winter Beer of Britain in Norwich last month. These awards are far less about 'sharing the love' and more about recognising outstanding expressions of the brewer's art, so let there be no doubt about how well-deserved Cairngorm's accolade was. For a small region of less than a quarter of a million souls, I think it's fair to say we punch well above our weight in the national brewing stakes.

HATCHES, MATCHES & DISPATCHES

As Glenfinnan died, so Glen Spean Brewery was born from its ashes and is now supplying the Fort William region, Lochaber and further afield. Andy Rogers gives a brief report in Brewery News and was invited to the brewery's launch event

From the Chair



Firstly, apologies. Unfortunately, we did not have much news content to justify publishing the Winter edition and instead decided to roll up Winter's WYT? with this, the Spring edition.

Our Branch AGM, on Saturday 20th January at Castle Tavern, Inverness, was attended by eleven H&WI members. Joe Crawford, George Howie, Sarah Bellis and soon-to-be other half, all from Scotland & Northern Ireland Branches (SNIB), were also along. The AGM is a "procedural" requirement and was punctuated by regular "beer breaks" with drinks being brought up by the "dumb waiter" – very civilised – just like the meeting itself!

I stay on as Chair, and Andy Rogers takes on the Treasurers post, with Jason Goodwill as Membership Secretary. We retain our army of "Area Leaders":- Alan, Liz, Jim, Mike, Keith and Don, who apart from looking after their areas, will also chip in to help out as and when and are all "a part of the committee", but without portfolio.

Having emailed and spoken to WYT? editor Tony Vernon dozens of times, I had the pleasure of meeting up with him "in the flesh" in February, at the Chelmsford Winter Beer festival. After helping out the Sunday of 'set-up', we had a great night out together, with Doug Irons, my chairman counterpart at CME, and his wife Claire.

It is intended the branch will continue with the "Local Area Meetings" so as to be more inclusive to the H&WI membership, and more importantly – FUN. It is not intended that the occasion become "drinking clubs", far from it, it will be an opportunity to meet like-minded people and talk (argue?) about all things beer and CAMRA!

The first meetings this year were on Saturday 24th February. The get-togethers at MacGregors and Seaview Hotel were both attended by a total of four members each. Although there were other venues organised, there was apparently no interest. It is early days yet, so we will see how this develops over the next few months.

As Chair, I have to prepare a report every quarter for SNIB. From March, Members of the H&WI branch will also get a monthly "H&WI Branch Report" keeping them informed. It will be in the form of "minutes" to an agenda. If you are a H&WI member and did not receive a branch mailshot over the weekend of 3rd–4th March, or the Easter weekend, please contact me.

CAMRA (UK) have identified that some of the email addresses given by members when they signed up are no longer active because the provider has changed, gone bust or the address was incorrectly entered.

Of course, some do not have email, or a computer, or choose not to accept branch / CAMRA emails.

Still scratching my head as to how to include all who want to be included!

Simon Urry
chair@highland.camra.org.uk

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JUST A FEW OF THE MANY BREWERIES



Xmas Walkabout - the new training regime starts here

*Andy Rogers recounts his experience
of the branch Xmas walkabout in
Inverness*

Being a relatively recent attendee of CAMRA H&WI branch events, I'd planned a trip up to Inverness to support the Christmas walkabout. It was also an opportunity to visit a few of the city pubs that were new to my acquaintance. The trip involved a good cycle into town from home and then a two-hour Citylink bus trip into Inverness. The weather promised to be interesting but nothing too dramatic.

Saturday morning dawned with a clear sky but a good couple of inches of snow on the ground. The main roads were clear according to Traffic Scotland, so I jumped on the bike and weaved and wobbled my way across the Blar.

The only incident on the bus was a tree across the road at Invergarry, downed by the weight of snow. Fortunately help was at hand, with a snow plough arriving on the other side just as it looked as though my visit was about to be abruptly curtailed. Dropping his blade, the snow plough driver managed to push the tree into the ditch and off we went. Further up the Great Glen, I began to wonder what would happen if one of the giant roadside Douglas firs suffered the same fate...

Only 10 minutes late into the first meeting point, Hootenanny's. Simon, Mike, John, and the Badenoch Three were already into their first pint. I quickly realised that one of the latter

group was Manny Gorman from Kingussie. Last time I'd seen him was at the Fort William Mountain Film Festival, giving a fascinating talk on climbing all the Corbett's whilst sailing, cycling, or running between each one in 70 days. If this was how he trained, then maybe I could become a legendary runner yet!

A pint of Black Isle Red Kite (3.5) set the day off to a good start. A slide along the riverfront took us to the Waterfront where the single hand pump dispensed Caledonian Edinburgh Castle (3). The next venue, MacGregors, proved to be popular with the team, with two beers from Spey Valley on display. Sunshine on Keith (4) and Spey Stout (4) were both on very good form.

The ever-reliable Phoenix was next where a Happy Chappy (3) was sampled. Number 27 was yet another new venue for me and the Windswept beers proved to be worth waiting for. Both Wolf and the Christmas rye beer Rudolf scored 4 points for me.

Sadly, it was time to slither along to the bus station to see what adventures awaited me on the A82. Fortunately, the trip home on the bus was smooth with no issues. The homing instincts of my pedal bike proved to be up to the task and I eventually arrived home to a warm fire in the stove.

The craic had been good, it was great to meet a few new faces and I've now got some more tasty options for my next pint in Inverness. Now, where did I put those old running shoes....

andymarian@btconnect.com



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Clachaig Trip

Branch Chairman Simon Urry reflects on a trip to Clachaig, and other stops along the way

"You will be going to Clachaig tomorrow".....was at the top of the email I sent to Eric Mills, David Vincent and Andy Rogers on Friday afternoon, just after cancelling the minibus which would have taken up to 16 to the second weekend of the Clachaig Beer festival. With little interest, it would have been irresponsible to spend £300 of branch funds with a contribution of just over £50 from the four who asked to go on the trip – hence the decision to cancel and I would drive.

Saturday was fine and bright on the Black Isle when I collected David from Fortrose, a CAMRA member who had relocated from Basingstoke in January 2017. We share the same "local", The Anderson. Next stop, Drumnadrochit for Eric before pushing onto our first stop, The Stronlossit.

Arriving a few minutes after 11:00, three bacon butties were quickly brought out and with the arrangement agreed by Alan and Cami of £5 for buttie and pint (only a ½ for me!), we chose our beers and tucked in.

Eric confirmed that:- Orkney Corncrake was good and also on were Orkney Red MacGregor, Cairngorm Stag and Tradewinds. With an

Inveralmond Ossian waiting in the cellar.

Whilst at the bar, I checked my phone to find a message from Andy – he had been laid low by some dreaded lurgy and was going to have to absent himself. OK, the day was now fully "ours" and next stop – Clachaig.

Other than David, Eric and I have both been there several times and always forget that there is no direct route from reception (past the "No Campbells" sign) through to the Boots Bar, and we ended up going outside to get there.



I am always impressed with the "forest" of 15 hand pumps on the bar, offering a (genuine) spectrum of beers and a few ciders. Hardly the end of the World, but on closer inspection, one of the hand pumps did not have a pump clip, and a second which was going to be offering a Windswept beer had it clip reversed because it was not "quite ready"

David and Eric chose their first beers of the festival, and me a taster of Strathaven Ales seasonal "Firey Caudron" and we were soon joined by Gordon Keppie, the General Manager

who was keen to show us his very tidy, and particularly well organised cellar. After the tour Gordon very kindly stood us a couple of pints behind the bar.

Eric again kept notes of all that was on offer which included:- Wooha Blonde, Lerwick IPA, Orkney Norseman, Strathaven Fiery Cauldron, Loch Lomond Mocha Stout, Loch Lomond Lochtoberfest, Cairngorm Autumn Nuts, River Leven IPA, Williams Midnight Sun, Strathaven Old Mortality, Cairngorm Witches Brew. All well kept.

As the "driver" I had to be wary of what I was going to drink, I opted for a ½ of Clachaig house beer "Clachaig Mocha Stout" which is a "tweaked" version of Loch Lomond's award winning Silkie Stout, but without the oranges, which

was particularly tasty, and I would have gone back for "seconds" if I were not driving.

Clachaig is one of a growing number of places who are offering 1/3 pint "flights" so you can taste, compare and contrast a wider range of different beers. For my one from 13, I like to think I chose wisely, but Eric and David were able to try a wider selection.

The intention had been to stay at Clachaig until five, then head back with one "comfort / beer break" along the way. With a full "chauffeur" service we agreed to take the Kinlochleven "loop" and check out the Bothy Bar at MacDonald Hotel, just as you leave Kinlochleven on the Southern shore.



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I had not been here before, and was very impressed with the interior, and although a bit wet and overcast outside, it was warm and bright inside. The views from the window wall looking out along the length of Loch Leven were spectacular.

Prime seats by the inviting stove were taken up by a couple and their dog, but the place was busy with people mainly enjoying the snacks that were on offer, and the footie (no sound) on the TV on the wall. Had the day been fairer, I am sure we would have been able to sit out on the tables outside.

I partook of a freshly made coffee which hit the spot. Sadly, no beer scores from me. But Eric and David had Cairngorm Tradewinds which was OK,

also on was Cairngorm Wildcat.

We pressed onto Loch Leven Hotel which is at North Ballachulish, right next to the bridge. On reviewing my notes, the last time I was here, and indeed a branch outing, was June 2013, during which time it has changed hands.

Three handpumps offered Loch Leven IPA which was OK, also on was Deuchars. The pub was pretty busy, and included a chap with two Irish Wolfhounds which seemed to take up nearly half the bar, the dogs, not the man, and a couple who had completed the North Coast 500, and assured us that Ballachulish was NOT on the route, well it could be – if you were very lost!

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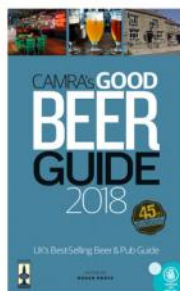
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Four Seasons, the latter was heaving because it was hosting a birthday party, we stopped off at "The Corran" which replaced the old hotel which was once there. Apparently, the foundations of the Hotel were failing, and it was "raised" as a precaution.

Corran Ferry Hotel was a regular stop in past years. The former "Temperance Hotel" had a corrugated "tin shed" at the rear which I remember fondly and was cosy enough for our previous visits.

The new restaurant has a bar facility and stocks bottled beers, including some bottled conditioned ones. It transpires that the General Manager there, Peter Grubb from Aberdeen was keen on real ale himself and if he could, he would have a handpump

installed.

I left him with a handful of the Autumn edition of What's Yours Then? and we continued back up the A82 to our next destination, Ben Nevis Inn.

You pass through Fort William and then join the road up to Achintee to the pub. As the road runs out, the footpath begins for the route up to Ben Nevis itself. We drove past the "forecasting stone" which has been a feature on the left-hand side as you enter the car park for many years.

I am always amazed as to how busy the place is at every single visit. Since it is the "watering hole" at the end of the ascent / decent of Ben Nevis, I would liken it to a lighthouse, guiding the weary walker off the hills for warmth, comfort – and a beer!

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The three handpumps were offering Cairngorm Trade Winds and Autumn Nuts. Cairngorm Autumn Nuts was good, also on was River Leven Blonde and Cairngorm Tradewinds. Since it was a considerable while since my last drink, I had a half of Autumn nuts, and very good it was too!

We had a quick stop in Spean Bridge at the Old Station Restaurant to drop off some WYT? and Ben and Vanessa were telling me all about the “new” West Coast Brewery which has recently started trial brews. I have passed a message back to the brewing partners James and Lucy via three routes to get in touch with us so we can include a “brewery news” item about them in the one of the coming editions.

The next stop off would have been in

Fort Augustus, but we were keen to push on and make it back to Drum / Lewiston. With a very wet road and dark, we were 6th in a lengthening convoy leaving Fort Augustus at between 40 and 50 mph.

The A82 is notoriously dangerous as drivers become frustrated, and take risks passing slower motorists with the inevitable, and avoidable outcome. It is a shame that the “lead” car did not just pull over, and let others pass them, however, with conditions as they were, it is unlikely anyone would be travelling that much faster.

After we passed Urquhart Castle, Eric commented that the Benleiva was going to be popular (and noisy?) with the local shinty team, and with a quick left turn after entering Lewiston, we pulled



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up outside the Loch Ness Inn. On getting out the car, two of the shinty team asked if this was their ride to the Benleiva. Good choice Simon!

We all had the Happy Chappy which, although a little hazy, was OK. We did have a small sample of Windswept's Werewolf, a variant of their Wolf, but infused with chillies. This will surely have its followers, but with burning mouths we all agreed it was not for us! The other untried offering was Morland Old Golden Hen.

On leaving the pub, Eric was OK to walk the few minutes home, and I dropped David off in Fortrose. So, other than the trip being a failure in terms of numbers, it was a massive success of re-acquainting ourselves of what some might consider as a "forgotten" area of the H&WI branch.

Based on dwindling numbers of participants in these outings which are expensive to put on we will have to rethink what we do in the future.

Personally, I would prefer that the "Area Leaders" organise local events, say up and down the High Street in Fort William, Inverness or Aviemore, or say a mini outing to Mallaig or Ballachulish from Fort William in a 6 / 7 seat taxi where the trip can be self-funded, or H&WI branch can contribute towards it.

If the start time is planned cleverly, there is no reason why those outside the area can't then get a bus / coach / train to the start point and join them.

chair@highland.camra.org.uk

Real Ale Pubs List

These Pubs, Inns and Hotels are known to sell (or to have recently sold) cask-conditioned ale. They are listed by geographical area and in an order that would allow a continuous pub crawl if you have safe transport. We make no claims as to the quality of the beer and you should note that some of the pubs listed may only stock real ale on a seasonal basis (S) or have only (bottles) available. Please let us know about the quality of real ales on offer, particularly if you think Good Beer Guide inclusion is merited. Please e-mail us or fill in What?ub scores (CAMRA members). (TP) = ale served using top pressure, i.e. not according to CAMRA guidelines for 'real ale'. Additional notes show last-known discounts for card-presenting CAMRA members.

INVERNESS

Black Isle Bar
Caledonian
Castle Tavern (30p)
Clachnaharry Inn
Corrigarth Hotel
Encore Une Fois
Gelleons
Glen Mhor Hotel (Nicos Bar)
Heathmount Hotel
Hootananny
Inches Gate
Innes Bar
Johnny Foxes
Kingsmills Hotel
Kings Highway (JDW, 50p)
Lauders
Loch Ness House
MacGregors
Mercure Hotel (Arts Bar) (TP)
Number 27
Palace Hotel
Phoenix Bar
R&B
Snowgoose
Three Witches
Gunsmiths Bar
Tomlinson's Beer Shop
Waterfront
WoodWinters
White House (bottles)

SPEYSIDE (N TO S)

Nairn

Gun Lodge
Inverness Airport (D'Lish)
Golf View Hotel & Spa (TP)
Braeval Hotel (Bandstand) (rooms 10%)
Cawdor Tavern (20%)

Strathspey

Haugh Hotel, Cromdale
~~-Grantown on Spey-~~
Ben Mhor Hotel (Jacobean Bar)
Craig Bar
Garth Hotel and Restaurant
Grant Arms Hotel
High St Merchants
Muckrach Lodge Hotel, Durnain Bridge
Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten
Cairn Hotel (Rowanlea Bar) Carrbridge (20p)

Aviemore

Ben Macdui
Cairngorm Brewery
Cairngorm Hotel
Dalfaber Country Club
La Taverna, restaurant
Macdonald's Highland Hotel (Laggan Whisky Bar)
Mackenzies Highland Inn
Old Bridge Inn
Ptarmagan (top of funicular) (bottles)
Roo's Leap

Skiing Doo (Doo Below)
Storehouse (bottom of funicular) (bottles)
Winking Owl (20p)
Hilton Coylumbidge Hotel (Woodshed Bar)
Topsy Laird
Silver Fjord Hotel
Duke of Gordon Hotel (Ghillies Rest Bar)
Scot House Hotel
Glen Hotel

BADENOCH

Glenmore Lodge (Lochain Bar)
Pine Marten Bar, Glenmore
Loch Inch Boathouse (Quarter Deck Bar), Kincaig
Suie Hotel, Kincaig
~~-Kingussie-~~

Topsy Laird
Silver Fjord Hotel
Duke of Gordon Hotel (Ghillies Rest Bar)
Glen Hotel, Newtonmore (20p)

EASTER ROSS

Black Isle

Royal Hotel, Cromarty
Cromarty Arms
Plough Inn, Rosemarkie
Crofters Bistro, Rosemarkie (bottles)

Anderson, Fortrose
Station Hotel, Avoch
Allangrange Arms,
Munlochy, (20p)

Tain to Inverness

Platform 1864 (TP)
Edderton Inn (hotel)
Castle Hotel,
Portmahomack
Mallard, Dingwall
Highland Hotel,
Strathpeffer
Richmond Hotel,
Strathpeffer (bottles)
Inchbae Lodge Hotel,
Garve

Aultguish Inn, Garve
Conon Bridge (hotel)
Bog Roy, Kirkhill

Strathconon

Slaters Arms, Cannich
Tomich Hotel
Struy Inn

Loch Ness (c/w from INV)

Dores Inn
Craigdarroch Inn (Am
Fuaran Bar), Foyers
Whitebridge Hotel
Stravaigers Lodge, Fort
Augustus
Bothy Bar, Fort Augustus
Caledonian Hotel (Corbie
Bar), Fort Augustus (S)
Lock Inn, Fort Augustus
Lovat Arms Hotel, Fort
Augustus
Glenmorrison Arms
Hotel, Invermorrison
Cobbs at Urquhart Castle,
Drumnadrochit
Loch Ness Inn (Brewery

Bar), Lewiston
Benleva Hotel,
Drumnadrochit

FORT WILLIAM Fort William (N)

Invergarry Hotel
Great Glen Water Park,
South Laggan
Eagle Barge, South Laggan
(S)

Old Station Restaurant,
Spean Bridge
Roy Bridge Hotel (Roy Bar)
Stronlossit Hotel, Roy
Bridge

Glenspean Lodge Hotel,
Roy Bridge (S)
Corrour Station House
Restaurant, Corrour
Estate (restaurant,
bottles)

Moor of Ranoch Hotel,
Rannoch Station
(hotel,bottles)

In Fort William

Moorings Hotel (Neptune
Bar/Mariners Lounge),
Banavie, nr Ft William

Ben Nevis Inn
Glen Nevis Restaurant
Cobbs @ Nevisport
Crofter Bar & Restaurant
Garrison West

Grog & Gruel
Ben Nevis Bar
Great Glen (JDW 50p)
West End Hotel

Fort William (S)

Four Seasons, Onich (10p)
Onich Hotel
Loch Leven Hotel,
Ballachulish (N)

Branch

Tasting Social Fri
16th March
Phoenix, Inverness
5.30pm start

Forres Foot-Tapper
Mosset Tavern
Forres 5th-8th Apr

CAMRA AGM and
Members Weekend
Fri 20th-Sun 22nd
April Coventry

Bandstand Beer &
Music Festival,
Braeval Hotel Nairn
3rd-7th May and
Tasting Social Fri 4th
May (Star Wars
Day!) starting
midday plus Area
Meeting Sat 5th
May, 1pm start

Scottish and
Northern Ireland
Branches Meeting
Sat 12th May
Green Room, Perth

Plockton Hotel Beer

Diary

Festival Fri 25th-Sun
27th May and Area
Meeting Sat 26th
May 1pm start

Tasting Social Fri
17th Aug Corrie-
garth, Inverness
5.30pm start

Scottish and
Northern Ireland
Branches Meeting
Sat 25th Aug
Kingdom of Fife

Tasting Social Fri
28th Sept Black Isle
Bar Inverness
5.30pm start

Tasting Social Fri
19th Oct Castle
Tavern, Inverness
5.30pm start

Scottish and
Northern Ireland
Branches Meeting
Sat 17th Nov
Ayrshire &
Wigtownshire

Ballachulish Hotel,
Ballachulish (S)
Laroch Bar, Ballachulish
(S)

Glencoe Inn (Gathering)
Clachaig Inn, Glencoe
Kings House Hotel,
Glencoe

Ice Factor (Bothan Bar),
Kinlochleven
MacDonald Hotel (Bothy
Bar), Kinlochleven

Fort William (W)

Glenfinnan House Hotel
Lochailort Inn (bottles)
Glenueig Inn
Glenueig Village Hall
Loch Shiel Hotel,
Acharacle
Salen Hotel
Ariundle Centre, Strontian
Lochaline Hotel (bottles)
Arisaig Hotel (Crofters
Rest)

Chlachain Inn, Mallaig
Steam Inn, Mallaig
Tea Garden Café,
Mallaig (S)
West Highland Hotel,
Mallaig (S)

Old Forge, Inverie

WESTER ROSS

Cluanie to Kyle of Lochalsh

Cluanie Inn
Glenelg Inn
Kintail Lodge Hotel (Kintail
Bar), Glenshiel Bridge
Jac-o-bite Restaurant,
Glenshiel Bridge
Dornie Hotel
Clachan Bar, Dornie

Plockton to Gairloch

Plockton Inn
Plockton Hotel
Strathcarron Hotel
Lochcarron Hotel
Applecross Inn
The Potting Shed,
Applecross (bottles)
Tigh an Eilean Hotel,
Shieldaig
Torridon Inn, Annat, by
Torridon
Kinlochewe Hotel (Beinn
Eighe Bar)
Ledgowan Lodge Hotel,
Achnasheen
Loch Maree Hotel,
Talladale
Badachro Inn, (TP)
Glendale House, South
Erradale (bottles)

In Gairloch

Old Inn
Steading Restaurant
(bottles)
Myrtle Bank Hotel
Millcroft Hotel (Fish Box
Bar & Stags Head Lounge)

Gairloch to Ullapool

Poolewe Hotel
Aultbae Hotel (Jam Jar Bar)
Drumchork Hotel, Aultbae
(S)

In Ullapool

An Teallach Shop
Arch Inn
Argyll Hotel (20p)
Ceilidh Place
Ferry Boat Inn (20p)
Morefield Motel

Seaforth Bar & Restaurant

Ullapool North

Summer Isles Hotel,
Achiltibuie

Am Fuaran Bar, Achiltibuie
(bottles)

CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND

West Coast

Altnacealgach Inn,
Ledmore Junction

Inchnadamph Hotel,
Assynt (S)

Caberfeidh, Lochinver

Kylesku Hotel (S)

Scourie Hotel

Kinlochbervie Hotel

North Coast

Sango Sands Oasis,
Durness (S)

Smoo Cave Hotel, Durness
(S)

Ben Loyal Hotel, Tongue
(S)

Tongue Hotel (S)

Central Hotel (Top Joes),
Thurso

Commercial Hotel (Comm
Bar), Thurso

Holburn Hotel (Bar 16),
Thurso

Weigh Inn (Ashes Bar),
Thurso

Ulbster Arms Hotel
(Anglers Nook), Halkirk
(S)

Castletown Hotel (bottles)

Northern Sands Hotel,
Dunnet

Seaview Hotel, John
O'Groats

Storehouse, John O'Groats

(bottles)

East Coast

Alexander Bain, Wick (JDW
50p)

Mackays Hotel (Cocktail
Bar), Wick

Bay Owl Restaurant,
Dunbeath

Bannockburn Inn,
Helmsdale (TP)

Belgrave Arms Hotel,
Helmsdale

Sutherland Inn, Brora

Golspie Inn (Sutherland
Hotel)

Trentham Hotel, Poles nr
Dornoch

Burghfield House Hotel,
Dornoch (hotel, bottles)

Eagle Hotel, Dornoch

Dornoch Castle Hotel

Dunroamin Hotel, Bonar
Bridge

Invershin Hotel

Achness Hotel, Rosehall
(SW of Lairg)

Crask Inn, N of Lairg

SKYE

Sligachan Hotel (Seumas'
Bar), Sligachan (S)

Old Inn, Carbost

Taigh Ailean Hotel
(Munros Bar), Portnalong
(20p / B&B deal)

Old School Restaurant
Dunvegan (S)

Stein Inn Waternish

Edinbane Inn

Lodge at Edinbane

Uig Hotel

Bakur Bar, Uig

Ferry Inn, Uig

Bosville Hotel (Merchant

Bar), Portree

Isles Inn, Portree (10%
food discount)

Royal Hotel (MacNab's
Inn), Portree

Sconser Lodge Hotel

Broadford Hotel (Gabbro
Bar)

Claymore Restaurant,
Broadford

Hebridean Hotel,
Broadford

Saucy Marys Lodge,
Kyleakin (S)

Isle Ornsay Hotel (Praban
Bar), Sleat

Ardvasar Hotel (Hideout
Bar)

Kinlock Castle, Isle of
Rhum (bottles)

EILEAN SIAR / WESTERN ISLES

Crown Inn (Harbour Bar),
Stornoway, Lewis

Edge O' the World,
Stornoway

Stornoway Sea Angling
Club

Hotel Hebrides (Mote Bar),
Tarbet, Harris (S)

Isle of Harris Inn, Tarbet,
Harris(S)

Hamersay House,
Lochmaddy, N Uist

Lochmaddy Hotel, N Uist

Langass Lodge, Loch
Elport, N Uist (S)

Westford Inn, Claddach
Kirkibost, N Uist

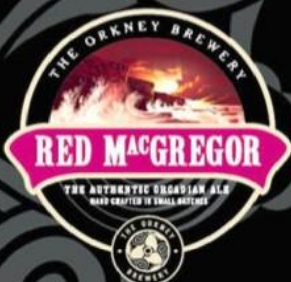
Borrodale Hotel,
Daliburgh, S Uist (bottles)

Polochar Inn,
Lochboisdale, S Uist (S)

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EASTER ROSS & LOCH NESS

The Allangrange Arms is now down to one Cromarty handpump.

With the closing of the chippie in Fortrose the Anderson is now offering take-away fish & chips, a pint whilst waiting?

INVERNESS

There was much activity at the end of Academy Street in October when MacGregors opened its doors. Initially offering a "very generous" discount for CAMRA members, it features Spey Valley and Cromarty and Swannay real ales.

A new bar opened up just before Xmas, Revolution on Church Street. More of a cocktail bar, it does not have real ales, but it is a pub, and CAMRA's remit includes supporting and promoting pub going.

At the beginning of February, a new build, Three Witches opened close to the ASDA store on the now fully opened bypass. A Marstons Pub, it has 4 handpumps and caters for eating in.

Although it has been there for more than a year, WoodWinters is a new off licence right next to Kings Highway. Although it specialises in Wine & Whisky, it also has a few shelves of "interesting" bottled beers.

FORT WILLIAM

Simon writes: During the trip down to Clachaig, we managed to drop off some copies of WYT? at Glenspean Lodge which has a single Isle of Skye handpump, and is just a few more miles down the road from Stronlossit. The Roy Bridge area is now getting busy with

Real Ale outlets.

It missed the Autumn edition, but Garrison West opened in Fort William, just off the High Street, and has two handpumps serving beers from William Bros, River Leven, Stewart, Orkney and several other breweries. They also have a very good range of RAIB. (see also Brewery news)

Andy Rogers writes: a visit to the Glen Nevis Restaurant to deliver the autumn version of WYT proved to be an interesting trip. Catching up with James Dennis, he showed your local area rep the wide range of beers currently on offer from the 3 hand pumps : Orkney Puffin Ale, Stewart Kilted Kiwi and Fyne Vital Spark.



James has served around 25 different real ales this summer from six or seven Scottish breweries. Particularly noteworthy were (almost) exclusive cask versions of River Leven Pilsner and Dark, from Harry's brewery in Kinlochleven.

James was about to drop back to two hand pumps to maintain quality to the end of his season in mid-November. Although the restaurant is not open all year round, it will be back serving quality real ales from mid-March 2018. He is hoping to be able to put beer updates on the restaurant Facebook page, time permitting.



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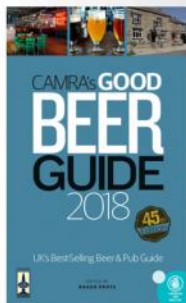
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Put Glen Nevis onto your bucket list for next year – along with a great real ale range at the Restaurant, the Ben Nevis Inn at Achintee is a short walk away and Fort William awaits to add to your delight. Who says that Fort William and its immediate environs can't eventually rival the likes of Norwich for the number of differing real ales on offer during a single day!

CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND

Keith Morrell reports: The Bay Owl, Dunbeath and Ben Loyal in Tongue are still on the property market, both still serving real ale on a seasonal basis.

Northern Sands Hotel now serves real ale all year round, with a varying choice of ales.

The Seaview Hotel in John O'Groats now exclusively sells JoG Brewery ales (alongside a fine whisky and gin selection).

SKYE

Simon reports: during a recent conversation with Sharon at Isles Inn in Portree, she has offered CAMRA members a 10% discount on food.

WESTER ROSS

An Teallach now have a shop in Ullapool, just up the Brae from Seaforth. Well worth a visit if you are off to the Western Isles, or just passing through. Other than bottled beers, there is also a selection of gifts, and you can not go wrong with a Harris Tweed cushion!

EILEAN SIAR / WESTERN ISLES

Although it has been there for a long time, the Stornoway Sea Angling Club seem to have relaxed the signing in of members, and non members can now enjoy a pint! They also ran a beer

festival during last year's HebrideanFest.

Across the road from the Sea Angling Club, The Edge o' the World Ale House celebrated its first birthday on 2nd March with a party for staff and customers.

This new bar in Stornoway has become something of a social hub with regular music sessions including Stornoway Folk Club, quiz nights and chess club. There is a selection of instruments available for customers to play. To add to his other brews, Andy Ribbens produced a quaffable 10% ABV winter warmer, "Dawn Patrol", for the festive period.

The Crown continues to serve real ale from the Punch Taverns list with some excellent offerings recently from Robinsons, Marstons, Moorhouses, Black Sheep and Theakstons.



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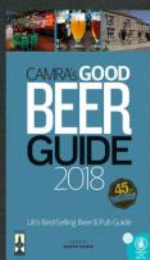
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Cairngorm Black Gold is Champion Stout of Scotland



CAMRA Highlands & Western Isles Chairman Simon Urry recently presented Champion Stout of Scotland to Cairngorm for their Black Gold, which went on to win silver in the Stouts category and an outstanding overall bronze at Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2018 in Norwich. Pictured are Head Brewer Liam Anderson and the brewcrew

Brewery News



At the Champion Winter Beer of Britain event held in Norwich 20th-24th February, Cairngorm scooped Silver in the Porters Category and overall Bronze with Black Gold.

Siren Craft's Broken Dream Breakfast Stout won Gold. The other categories were Barley Wine, Strong Old Ale; Old Ales Strong Milds and Porters.

The Overall winners were Gold – Green Jack Ripper; Silver - Siren Craft – Broken Dream Breakfast Stout and Bronze -



Cairngorm Black Gold. Congratulations to Cairngorm for doing so well!



GLEN SPEAN
BREWING CO

Whilst delivering the autumn edition of WYT, your Lochaber correspondent Andy Rogers met up with Iain Peter Macdonald at Tirindrish Steadings, the site of the new Glen Spean Brewery.



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Fortuitous timing indeed as the first trial casks were awaiting sampling in the crisp sunshine!



Never one to miss out on such an opportunity, the new Blonde and IPA brews were duly tested and given a big thumbs-up. Andy was also given a quick tour of the brewery, which looks very much at home in the original steadings.

Iain Peter, James Leggett and Lucy Hicks are the brains behind the business, with assistance on the brewing side from John Fish, one of the original principals from the now-closed Glenfinnan Brewery. As previously reported in WYT, the brewing kit comes from Glenfinnan but has been extensively refurbished by Oban Ales.

After some further minor tweaking, the first brews for sale were available at the start of March, two half-brews of 300 litres each of the Pale Blonde and Highbridge IPA. Both were around 4% ABV.

For the future, firkins and the odd pin will be delivered to pubs around the Spean Bridge and Fort William area - watch out for these on your travels!



Keith Morrell reports: Cask brews being produced as regulars:- Swelkie, 4% golden; Duncansby, 4.5% amber; Liddel Eddy, 3.8% blonde. Bottled Golden

Groat (tweaked Swelkie).



In line for future:- Cask oatmeal stout (name not yet finalised), 4.8%?. Bottled Amber Groat (tweaked Duncansby).



Mike Godfrey writes: following on from the success of the 10th

Anniversary brews (Cask and RAIB), Andy at Plockton is experimenting with some new recipes for 2018 - watch this space!



One or more of the three 'Cows' - Red,

Golden & Black - can now be found permanently on draft at the Applecross Inn and Plockton Hotel, in addition to the Lochcarron and Strathcarron Hotels. A few barrels have strayed to beer festivals in Nairn and Ullapool and even as far as the Dog & Bell in Deptford, London where it went down very well!

Correction: Cuillin Brewery phone numbers given in GBG18 are correct but their email and corresponding www should be info@cuillinbrewery.com.

What's Yours Then? Contributions

We are always looking for pub and brewery news and "travelogue" contributions with pictures for WYT? and you do not have to be a CAMRA member or live in the H&WI branch area to contribute. The Highlands has in excess of 2 million visitors every year, and if you are one of those visitors and have picked up a copy of the magazine, please share your experiences with others, good or bad. Contact our editor Tony Vernon at editor@highland.camra.org.uk. If we do publish your item we will contact you to arrange a "vanity" copy of the magazine to be sent to you free of charge!

By Post

As much as we would like to mail out copies all over the UK free of charge to anyone who has picked up copies in the past, this has proved to be a wee bit costly, particularly at 56p (from April 2017) per edition. However, we are more than happy to send four copies to you for the charge of £2.50 per year which covers the cost of four 2nd class stamps. (currently 56p * 4 = £2.24). We will buy the appropriate number of stamps and print up the same number of addressed envelopes but NOT sticking the stamps on until that edition is published. When we use the last stamp, we will add a note in with the mailing. If for any reason we discontinue the "offer", we will place any unused stamps in one of the addressed envelopes and mail them to you at OUR expense. Please contact info@highland.camra.org.uk for more details. Alternatively, you can read the current and back copies as far back as Winter 2003 free of charge, <https://www.highland.camra.org.uk> and click on the 'branch magazine' link.

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Letter to the Editor

Ken Macrae and wife Beatrice have moved back to the Highlands after 10 years away, and live in Strathconon just over 10 miles from Marybank. They were inspired to join CAMRA in January.

"Following the heads-up in our last issue that Strathpeffer now has a real-ale outlet, I was keen to add this to my local pit-stops. However, having been rather spoilt in NW England by year-round ale provision, I was courteously reminded upon my return North of the impact of seasonality on the Highland hospitality trade by the excellent staff at The Highland Hotel (February). Thankfully they reiterated their earlier commitment to Cairngorm Stag as a permanent cask ale from March to November. It's in the diary!

"I had a similar discussion with well-known local publican Sean Kennedy of The Mallard in Dingwall, where he is aware his pub is currently the only real ale offering in the town. Situated by the Rail Station the Mallard offers a great setting with traffic-noise-free outside seating for the summer. After experimenting with various ales on one and two taps (including Robert Burns Brown Ale in January), Sean has settled on a special "house ale" from Greene King aptly named "Mallard" which is a medium-bodied ale akin to 80/-. As the tourist season and nearby caravan site come into full swing, he may be able to offer a second pump, but choice still exists with Old Speckled Hen available on keg.

"Incidentally, because it is part of the Railway station, its opening times - 10 am to 1am every day - differ from most licensed premises because of "Grandfather Rights"

"Sean was until recently also interim landlord at Inverness' renowned Clachnaharry Inn, CAMRA's Area Pub of the Year winner in 2017 which passed to new management in January. Thankfully we were impressed with the early commitment to continuing great ale, with Fyne Ales' Jarl, an American Blonde Ale style beer brewed on permanent tap, together with Greene King Abbot Ale, Cairngorm Trade Winds and Pentland IPA.

"The quality remains outstanding guys, keep up the good work!"

We are always looking for contributions for WYT?, you do not have to be a CAMRA member, live in the H&WI branch area or be any particular age. Drop a line to editor@highland.camra.org.uk.

The CAMRA (UK) AGM and Conference or “Members weekend” will be held in Coventry from 20 to 22 April at the University of Warwick.

As some might already know, Colin Valentine, the Chair of the CAMRA National Executive (NE) since 2010 will be stepping down from the National Executive and the current Vice Chair, Jackie Parker, will take his place. Colin has been active within CAMRA for more than 30 years and joined the NE in 2000 after six years as Regional director for Scotland & Northern Ireland.

Of the twelve places on the NE, two are standing down after serving three years, and are standing for re-election. Potentially three seats are available on the NE. Those who have access to Discourse will see that apparently ten people have put themselves forward as candidates, some of them being “newbies”, eg are rank and file members with no previous experience at a Regional or National level.

The other matter which will be tabled are Special Resolutions (SRs) which are associated with putting into place the results of the Revitalisation project. SRs are necessary to modify CAMRA’s Articles of Association, and the NE are recommending that members support them. There may be ten SRs which need to be passed to modify CAMRA’s Articles of Association, basically the “rules” which legally define what CAMRA does to Companies House, amongst them will be the formal inclusion of Cider & Perry.

The revitalisation project has generated a



great deal of heated debate as to maintaining the “status quo”, or broadening CAMRA’s remit. I am not going to show any preference for either, but welcome ALL CAMRA members to take part in this very important vote.

<https://revitalisationdecision.camra.org.uk/about/proposed-changes/>

At the time of printing WYT?, details of the hopeful NE candidates, SRs and motions were not available, but will be launched on all media, including the CAMRA website and What’s Brewing? in March.

Finally, the 2019 CAMRA AGM will be in – Dundee!

Simon Urry
chair@highland.camra.org.uk

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