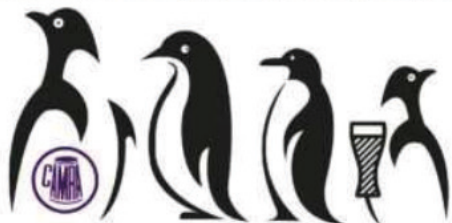


Hooked ON ALE



FREE Magazine from
The Tayside Branch of
CAMRA
Spring/Summer 2024



Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference
DUNDEE 2024

All the latest Real Ale News and features
from CAMRA Tayside Branch



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE



Craft Brewery & Inn, Pitlochry, Scotland

The Moulin Inn & Brewery,
11-13 Kirkmichael Road,
Moulin, Pitlochry,
Perthshire, PH16 5EH
Call us on 01796 472196



www.moulinhotel.co.uk



Hello and welcome to the latest issue of Tayside CAMRA

Branch magazine HOOKED ON ALE

This issue of Hooked on Ale coincides with CAMRA's Members Weekend, AGM and Conference returning to the Caird Hall Dundee for the weekend 26 – 28 April and in recognition of 50 Years of CAMRA in Scotland. To those of you reading this magazine and here for this event, a very warm welcome and to those of you that were here in 2019, welcome back to Dundee and Tayside. I hope you enjoy your visit to our beautiful area, and if possible and time permits, please try and visit some of the pubs outside Dundee. Several local members are volunteering at the AGM, so if you have any queries just ask.



The year started with the very sad news that my predecessor as chairman, Steve Robertson, had passed away after bravely fighting illness. A short obituary appears in this issue.

On a brighter note, congratulations to branch member Euan Stewart who back in January won four Gold Medals at the European Ice Swimming Championships in Romania.

Wherever possible when you are out and about, could I ask you to frequent establishments that advertise in our magazine; without their support we would not be able to produce Hooked on Ale. And finally, to all members of the branch who took the time to vote for our Pub of the Year categories, a big THANK YOU. Have a good time and drink responsibly.

CHEERS THE NOO, Kenny Smith Branch Chair

Hooked on Ale was printed by:

**Phoenix Print, Unit 16 Matthew Kerr Place, Arbroath
DD11 3AX
Phone: 01241 434 433**

In this issue of Hooked on Ale...

- 3 Hello and Welcome from the Tayside CAMRA Chair
- 5 Tayside Pub News
- 8 Tayside Pub List
- 10 Thirstday Group Adventures
- 14 Tayside Brewery News
- 19 The Ericht Ale House
- 22 Off the Beaten Track - Kirriemuir and Glen Clova
- 24 Tayside Heritage Pubs
- 27 Raise a Glass to Steve Robertson
- 29 The Fisherman's Tavern - Broughty Ferry
- 33 Meet the Brewer - Danny Cullen, Law Brewing Co

Disclaimer: The views contained within **Hooked on Ale** do not necessarily represent the views of CAMRA, the editor or the Tayside Branch.

Advertising: If you would like to advertise in the next issue of Hooked on Ale due to be published in October 2024, then for more information, please contact us at:

newsletter@tayside.camra.org.uk

Tayside CAMRA Branch Committee

Chair & Branch Contact: Kenny Smith

Vice Chair: Bill Hoy

Secretary: Jim McMahon

Membership: Richard Barnes

Treasurer: Martin Fox

Branch Magazine: Martin Fox

Pubs Officer: Richard Barnes (Interim)

Webmaster: Vacant

Social Media: Lauren Billingham

Cider: Jo Thomson

Young Members: Michelle Milne

Committee Members: Forbes Browne, Mike Jarron, Gregor Wallace

chair@tayside.camra.org.uk

vicechair@tayside.camra.co.uk

secretary@tayside.camra.org.uk

membership@tayside.camra.org.uk

treasurer@tayside.camra.org.uk

newsletter@tayside.camra.org.uk

whatpub@tayside.camra.org.uk

webmaster@tayside.camra.org.uk

socialmedia@tayside.camra.org.uk

cider@tayside.camra.org.uk

youngmembers@tayside.camra.org.uk

To find out more about Tayside CAMRA, visit either our website at tayside.camra.org.uk or Facebook page CAMRA Tayside



THE ROYAL ARCH AT BROUGHTY FERRY

ESTABLISHED IN 1869

Formerly The Railway Tavern, est. 1840

01382 779741 ROYALARCH.CO.UK

CASK MARQUE acclaimed NOW

CAMRA British Good Beer Guide ~

Listed for 20 years consecutively since 2002

Trains, taxis, EV charging and main bus routes all within 75m.

Wood burning stove. Dog friendly Bar. Pavement Café.

Complimentary alcohol-free drinks for designated drivers of groups.

Large plates, small plates, burgers, paninis, wraps and cheeseboards.

View food menu at royalarch.co.uk



Tayside Pub News

Since the last issue of Hooked on Ale, things seem to have settled down a bit after the upheaval of the last four years but unfortunately at a lower level. Things are clearly still tough in the pub trade but things could be starting to look up for the cask ale scene with increased demand if the update from Dominic Hughes at MòR is anything to go by.

Since the last issue of Hooked on Ale, the most significant closure is the **Crees Inn** in Abernethy. However, it was reported in the local media that the owner hoped to reopen in April.

By far the best news is that **Ericht Alehouse** Blairgowrie has reopened, manned by community volunteers and is doing well. Expect to find up to six real ales on. The Ericht is currently open from Tuesday to Saturday from 5pm, and now Sunday 2 to 7pm (See page 19 for article on the Ericht re-opening.)

In Dundee, 71 Brewing recently opened the **Maker bar/restaurant** in Perth Road, Dundee; reserved for their own beer, the single handpull has been suffering mechanical problems, which will hopefully be resolved before your read this. Meanwhile the **71 Tap**

& Bottle Shop at the brewery is currently closed; renovations are currently ongoing, including relocation upstairs. Hopefully this will be completed in time for CAMRA's Members' Weekend at the end of April, and will provide cask ale. The **Star and Garter** in Union Street Dundee is reportedly doing well with two real ales usually on, often from MòR. Both the Star and Garter and the **Pillars** have joined CAMRA's Real Ale Discount Scheme, available to all CAMRA members showing their membership card. Full details are on the Tayside CAMRA website.

The Old Ship in Perth held a fund-raiser in aid of the Perth Street Pastors, they raised a very impressive £830. Along with the collections from the collection can on the bar they raised over £1000 which will fund uniforms and training for 3 Street Pastors. Perth Street Pastors are out in the city centre of Perth most Fridays and Saturday night from 9pm – 1am. Street Pastors go out on the streets to listen, care, and offer help where they can. On a practical front they carry flip flops, space blankets, spikies, lollipops, bottles of water and first aid materials, and they gladly forward individuals on to other organisations that are able to provide relevant specialist help.

The **Osnaburg** in Forfar has a new licensee. With two handpulls, the aim is to have Fyne's Jarl as the 'house' ale and a guest ale available on the other handpull.

In Kinross, **Loch Leven Brewery** have brewed a lager to trial in the **Taproom**. Although intended to be racked into kegs and served alongside Cold Town craft beers, with some persuasion, it is hoped that a pin or two of real lager might appear! Meanwhile across the road in the **Backstage Bar**, two handpulls appeared last year, but had never been used, until one weekend of heavy rock music in the depths of Winter, when cellar cooling was believed to be less of an issue. Let's hope this was not just a one off.

Along with Kinross, Milnathort is served by the hourly Glenfarg Community Transport 55 bus service, now extended right into Perth. Scrutiny of the timetable reveals that on Wednesday and Fridays, on request, you can be dropped right at the **Village Inn**, soon after they open at 3pm.

Current real ale pubs that we know of are listed on page 8. Full details of these pubs can be found on our website **www.tayside.camra.org.uk**

Remember, if you have any news about your local, please email: **whatpub@tayside.camra.org.uk** And finally, we are reliant on you, whether CAMRA members or not, passing on information about pubs and breweries in the Tayside area. So even if not having a beer, if you are passing a pub and it is convenient, why not just pop your head around the door and see what is going on.

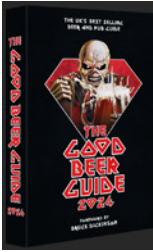
Contributions from Jim McMahon and Richard Barnes



13 Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie, PH10 6ND
01250 872469 blairale@mac.com

Tayside's Premier Real Ale Pub

Six beers on hand pump plus real cider



**Multiple Award Winner
Supporting Small Brewers
Proud to be independent**

Nothing Corporate Here!

Stop Press - Tayside Pub of the Year 2024

Just prior to Hooked on Ale going to print, our Tayside POTYs were announced. Congratulations to all our worthy winners.

Angus - Corn Exchange, Arbroath

Dundee - Speedwell Bar, Dundee

Kinross-shire - Loch Leven Brewery Tap, Kinross

Perth City - Old Ship Inn

Perthshire - Ericht Alehouse

Overall Tayside POTY - Speedwell Bar, Dundee

Tayside Real Ale Pubs

As at 1 April 2024, the following Pubs, Hotels and Clubs (in some cases members and guests only) are known to sell cask conditioned ale. Those known to serve real cider and perry are annotated C. Those known to serve real ale on a seasonal basis are annotated S. Those when real ale not always available annotated O. W denotes real ale usually served at weekends. K denotes keykeg dispense.

Angus

Arbroath

Corn Exchange
Lochlands (O)
Old Boatyard

Brechin

Brechin Arms
Caledonian Hotel

Carnoustie

Station Hotel

Forfar

Osnaburg

Glen Clova

Glen Clova Hotel

Hillside (by Montrose)

Hillside Hotel (O)

Kirriemuir

Airlie Arms Hotel

Letham

Commercial Inn (C)

Memus

Drovers Inn

Montrose

George Hotel (O)
Market Arms

Dundee & District

Broughty Ferry

Anchor
Fisherman's
Jolly's Hotel
Royal Arch
Ship Inn

Dundee

Bank Bar
Counting House
Frews (W) (O)
George Orwell
Maker
Market
Phoenix
Pillars
Speedwell (Mennies)
Star & Garter (O)

Kinross-shire

Cleish

Up In Arms (W) (O)

Kinross

Backstage Bar (O)
Kinross Golf Club
Loch Leven Brewery Tap
Muir's Inn

Milnathort

Village Inn

Scotlandwell

Well Inn

Wester Balgedie

Balgedie Toll Tavern

Perth City

Bunker
Capital Asset
Cherrybank Inn

Craft Beer Bottle Shop (O)
Cullach (K)
Glover Arms
Old Ship Inn
Silvery Tay
Twa Tams (C)

Perthshire

Aberfeldy

Schiehallion (S)

Ardler

Tavern (O)

Auchterarder

Auchterarder Golf Club

Blair Atholl

Atholl Arms Hotel
Wasted Degrees (K) (W) (S)

Blairgowrie

Blairgowrie Golf Club (S)
Ericht Ale House (C)
Fair o Blair
Stormont Arms

Comrie

Melville, Royal Hotel (S)

Crieff

Quaich Bar
Tower

Dunkeld

Perth Arms
Royal Dunkeld Hotel (S)
Taybank Hotel

Dunning

Kirkstyle Inn

Kirkmichael

Kirkmichael Hotel

Lawers

Ben Lawers Hotel

Meigle

Kinloch Arms

Meikleour

Meikleour Arms Hotel

Moulin

Moulin Inn

Pitcairngreen

Pitcairngreen Inn (C)

Pitlochry

Auld Smiddy

Old Mill Inn

Weem

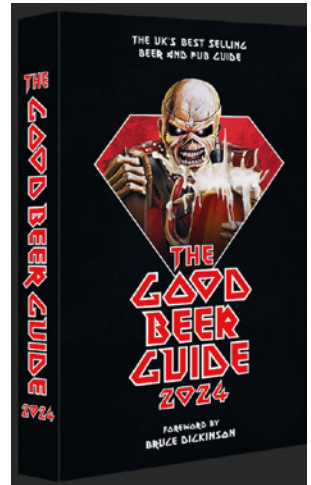
Ailean Chraggan

If your local pub, hotel or even club serves 'real ale' or 'real cider or perry' and is not included in this listing please let us know.

**Up to date information
can be viewed on
www.whatpub.com**



To find out which of the above pubs are listed in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2024, why not buy the guide or download the Good Beer Guide App. For more information, visit CAMRA's website

www.camra.org.uk



Set in the heart of the beautiful Angus Glens, the Glen Clova Hotel has 18 rooms and 12 self-catering properties with hot tubs. So whether you are hill-climbing or just relaxing with family and friends, we are the perfect spot. Locally sourced produce matches perfectly with a pint of real ale in our warm and inviting Climber's bar. And we're dog friendly too! * * * * *



www.clova.com
Tel: 01575 550350
Follow us  

Thirstday Group Travels During 2023

Many Hooked on Ale readers will be aware of the 'Thirstday Group'. We are a small group of CAMRA members who regularly meet on a Thursday afternoon in the Bank Bar (7/9 Union St. Dundee). As well as our regular Bank Bar get-togethers, we organise outings throughout the year to various parts of Tayside and beyond. As always, we extend an open invitation to local or visiting CAMRA members to join us on a Thursday or on one of our trips.

During 2023 we visited all the real ale pubs in Dundee and Broughty Ferry on numerous occasions. In Tayside we visited Arbroath (Corn Exchange), Ardler (Ardler Tavern though no real ale was on when we visited), Blairgowrie (Ericht Alehouse, Fair o' Blair and Stormont Arms), Cleish (Up in Arms - village hall pop up pub), Forfar (Osnaburg), Kinross (Kinross Golf Club, Loch Leven Brewery Tap and Muirs Inn), Kirriemuir (Airlie Arms), Meigle (Kinloch Arms), Milnathort (Village Inn), Montrose (Market Arms), Scotlandwell (Well Inn) and Wester Balgedie (Balgedie Toll).

Pub trips were also organised further afield to Aberdeen, Bo'ness, Bridge of Allan, Dunblane, Freuchie, Glasgow, Inverness, St Andrews and Stirling.

Real ale festivals were also on our agenda with Alloa, Fisherman's (RNLI), Kinbuck, Larbert and the Tappit Hen (Dunblane) amongst those attended. Unfortunately, we could not manage to get to the Bo'ness festival because no trains were running so instead we went to the Counting House (Dundee) for the Wetherspoon festival.



Joint socials were held with Fife members in St. Andrews and with Forth Valley, Aberdeen and Fife members (left) in Broughty Ferry.

Our final outing of the year was Forth Valley's Dark Trail for which a report follows below.

By Kenny Smith

Thirstday Group On The Dark Ale Trail – November 2023

On the train at Dundee with Kenny Smith (Branch Chair), we received a text from our regular 'Thirstday' group companion, Gregor Wallace, to say he was 'under the weather' and would be unable to join us on this occasion. At Perth we were joined by Bill Hoy and his wife, Julia, and then at Stirling we were met by Des, a friend from Livingston. Along to the excellent Stirling bus station which with a large indoor waiting area and toilets puts Dundee's bus station to shame!

The bus goes past the monument to William Wallace (so we think of our absent friend) and along the attractive Hillfoots road. At one point a local alights after some banter with the driver. His parting shot "Drive carefully!" Don't get that in Dundee!

Forth Valley CAMRA's Johnathon, the Dark Ale Trail organiser, is also on the bus but he was heading to the Mansfield Arms in Sauchie first and planned to 'do' Tillicoultry on the way back. We had decided to 'do' Tilli first as the top pub, the Woolpack, requires a fair uphill walk better done fresh and not full of ale. Heading up the long hill beside a rushing torrent (a former mill lade) Des suggested that they install an Archimedes screw to generate electricity!



We reached the Woolpack (left), a fine traditional inn, in some trepidation as we had been told it was under new ownership. On entering we discovered that there was only one hand pull on and the ale was not a dark one! On first pull it runs out anyway. Bad start! There was only one other customer, and the bar lady was full of apologies because she was not able to bring on the next cask. She said she would phone for the owner, and it would take about 15 mins for them to arrive. So through to the cosy 'lounge' getting thirstier.

Eventually the owner appeared, full of apologies, and within five minutes one ale is on and the pipes are then cleaned for a second. Well worth waiting for because both are superb dark stouts from SaltRock brewery; Shout 4.6% ABV and Clocktower 4.8% ABV. We are soon joined by four enthusiasts from Ayrshire CAMRA with Kenny recognising the Ayrshire SNIB representative.



From the Woolpack, back down to the hill (much quicker than we came up) and into a very busy pub, the Royal Arms (right). Timothy Taylor Landlord Dark 4.3% ABV was on. (Is this a relatively new beer? I hadn't come across it before and it was most enjoyable.)

Then on to the Volunteer Arms, rather unprepossessing on the outside but cosy and busy inside. Pints of Orkney Brewery Orca 4.2% ABV. We head off from the Volunteer Arms to get the next bus to Sauchie for the Mansfield Arms. The bus is shown 'as scheduled' but annoyingly there is no live time showing on Traveline Scotland. After cold 20min wait beyond the scheduled time we give up and get a bus back to Stirling.



The Bank Bar

7/9 Union Street, Dundee

Tel: 01382 205037

Tayside CAMRA Pub of The Year 2022

Real Ales (4 hand pulls)

Homemade Food Available

Free Live Music Fridays & Saturdays Open Mike Wednesdays & Sundays

On the way we recall that last time the bus sat in a queue at road work lights for several changes before one driver got out and told the first one in the queue to move forwards to activate the sensor or we'd be there all night. A quick visit to the Curly Coo for a pint of Orkney Dark Island followed by a fast walk back to the station to get the train back to Dundee.

Although we only managed part of the Dark Ale Trail, all the ales were in excellent condition, and we were made very welcome in all the pubs we visited. We express our appreciation to the Forth Valley CAMRA organiser.

The Dundee Thirsties

Tayside CAMRA Branch Diary

For details of branch meetings and social events, please visit the branch website:

www.tayside.camra.org.uk

All Tayside CAMRA members are welcome to attend meetings and social events but please always check the Tayside CAMRA branch website or the branch Facebook page prior to meetings and socials to confirm venue and start time.

CULLACH BREWING



**Craft Microbrewery & Taproom
based in Perth, Scotland.**

Cullach Brewing
50 Princes Street
Perth
PH2 8LJ



www.cullachbrewing.co.uk

Tayside Brewery News

71 Brewing - After a slight hiatus, cask ale from 71 Brewing has made a welcome return last autumn. Available all year round are Cloud Fall (Pale Ale 4.5% ABV) and Heavy Lifting (Scottish Heavy 3.9% ABV), the later described as a classic Scottish Heavy dark amber beer which lets the malt shine through. Expect notes of caramel, toffee, molasses and brown sugar.



Seasonal releases, Haze Halo (Hazy IPA 5% ABV), Blackness (Stout 4.5% ABV – a rich and velvety stout balancing roast malts and chocolate notes) and Jute City (IPA 5.5% ABV) will be available at multiple times throughout the year. Go On Amber (Amber Ale 4% ABV) available in March and Highline Haze (Session IPA 3.8% ABV) available in April.

As reported in Pub News, 71 Brewing recently opened the Makar bar / restaurant on Perth Rd, Dundee with cask ale available in addition to their craft keg beers.

Law Brewing - Danny Cullen (owner and brewer) informed Hooked on Ale that it had



been a slow start to the year though this was not surprising due to the economic climate. On a positive note there does seem to be an increase in outlets for cask beer in Dundee which may be partly influenced by the forthcoming CAMRA members AGM in April 2024. Unfortunately the number of venues taking kegged and packaged beer products has dramatically reduced in favour of the cheaper macro-produced beers meaning more pressure on selling packaged products online. We are keen to be involved in more collaborations/commissions with local businesses again this year

and several are planned with Aitken's Dundee 150th birthday, The Speedwell Bar, The James Hutton Institute, and a new graduate clothing range 'Pitis'. We have a list of new beers planned for 2024 including various 80/- to 90/- styles and barrel-aged stouts, and the use of new yeast strains and hop varieties for IPA styles and lower alcohol strength session beers, which will now be packaged into cask format instead of keg.

MòR Beers - Dominic Hughes (owner/brewer) informed Hooked on Ale that he was hopeful that bottling will resume by the summer. In the meantime, he continues to brew MòR's core and seasonal cask ales which are available as usual in pubs across Scotland, and occasionally to English micro-pubs looking for exciting new Scottish ales.

AIRLIE ARMS HOTEL

A FAMILY OWNED & FAMILY RUN HOTEL IN THE HEART OF KIRRIEMUIR



The Airlie Arms Hotel is a traditional, family run hotel in the heart of Kirriemuir offering comfortable accommodation. The hotel offers a range of freshly prepared food, including breakfast, bar lunches & suppers served daily from 10am until 8.30pm.

OPENING HOURS

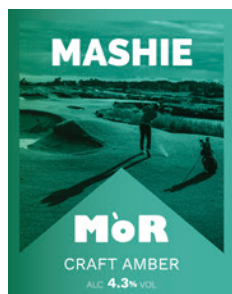
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
10AM - LATE



FOOD SERVED

FROM 10AM - 8:30PM
EVERYDAY

KIRRIEMUIR, DD8 4HB | 01575 218080 | AIRLIEARMS@OUTLOOK.COM



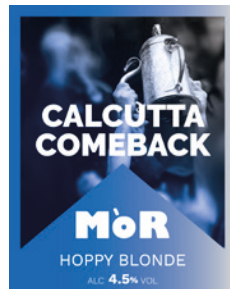
Unfiltered - Cask Conditioned - Scottish Real Ale
morbeers.co.uk • Brewed in Kellas, Tayside.

Dominic reported that the appetite for cask ale has never been stronger amongst his customers, and since the last issue of Hooked on Ale he has almost doubled his cask firkin 9gal and pin 4.5gal fleet to meet continued demand. This has been complemented with the recent purchasing of a newer LEZ compliant and larger delivery van to get all those casks out to pubs.

Alongside familiar MòR cask ales, he has continued to launch new beers and bring back seasonal favourites. Calcutta Comeback, a 4.5% Hoppy Blonde, Six Nations special, sold out before the tournament even started! Not just focused on hoppy beers though, and Bothy Blether 6.5% Wee Heavy, which

has previously just been a Winter release, is hopefully going to have a more regular appearance in the MòR line-up if he can free up some tank space.

The normal tank turn-around time for a cask ale might be a week, but for Bothy Blether the beer undergoes a longer cooler fermentation, which along with an additional month's maturation, serves to condition the beer and develop the rich malty flavours.



Unfiltered - Cask Conditioned - Scottish Real Ale
morbeers.co.uk • Brewed in Kellas, Tayside.



Dominic would like it if MòR's Scottish heritage styles were to make regular appearances, but ultimately this is down to you the drinker, which direction his beers go, whether it's malty, hop forward or even yeast focused!



Wasted Degrees - Wasted Degrees reported another strong year in 2023, with production output exceeding 175% of 2022! The renewables-powered brewery in Highland Perthshire has developed markets across the UK, and successfully ventured into Western Europe. Following consecutive years of double-digit growth, Perthshire's Wasted Degrees Brewing is fast becoming one of the largest independent craft brewers in the region, and it's doing so by sticking to its principles of socially & environmentally responsible growth.

In October 2023, the team completed the installation of an additional 4,000 litres of production capacity in Blair Atholl, meaning they can now brew and package 25,000 litres of beer every month. More exciting beers are planned in the months ahead, including a West Coast IPA brewed with Perthshire-grown hops! The brewery continues to seek new customers (cask and keg) across Perthshire, and offer cellar installs to those locations without draught infrastructure.



The most significant news to come from Wasted Degrees is their planned £500,000 investment in a new home for the brewery in Perthshire. Scheduled to open in late-2025, the new home for Wasted Degrees will be found in Pitlochry, just minutes from the town centre. With

a brew hall larger than their entire Blair Atholl site, a dedicated cold store, as well as a large taproom operating throughout the week, Tayside and visiting beer fans will have an exciting new venue to enjoy in the not too distant future.

Hooked on Ale welcomes updates from all Tayside breweries producing cask or bottled conditioned real ale. For future issues, please contact:-

newsletter@tayside.camra.org.uk

Discounts for CAMRA Members

The following Tayside pubs currently offer discounts on real ale for CAMRA members.

Perth- Glover Arms 20p per pint

Dundee - Speedwell (Mennies) 10%; Pillars 30p per pint; Star & Garter 10%

Broughty Ferry - Royal Arch 10%; Fisherman's 10%

Please show your CAMRA membership card and note that Landlords reserve the right to remove these discounts at anytime. And rememberwhen you join or renew your CAMRA membership, you receive £30 (60 x 50p) in Real Ale and Cider vouchers redeemable at over 1,550 pubs nationwide, including J D Wetherspoon, Stonegate, Brains, Castle Rock and Amber Taverns managed pubs.

Wetherspoon pubs in Tayside include **Counting House (Dundee), Jolly's Hotel (Broughty Ferry), Corn Exchange (Arbroath), Capital Asset (Perth) and Fair O'Blair (Blairgowrie).**



WHERE CRAFT MEETS TRADITION. FAMILY OWNED & BREWED IN SCOTLAND'S HEART FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

WWW.WILLIAMSBOUSBREW.COM

Old Jock – Forty Years Old and Still Going Strong



As breweries constantly develop and introduce new beers to keep up with current trends, it's refreshing to see beers that have been around for some time going from strength to strength.

40 years ago, Broughton Ales 'Old Jock' first appeared in pubs and bars across Scotland and this 6.7% ABV Scottish Strong Ale is still winning awards having won the Society of Independent Brewers Scotland's overall best cask ale award and a gold award in the strong ale category in September 2023. It then went on to win CAMRA's Champion Strong Ale award in December 2023.

Old Jock is hand-crafted using the same brewing process as when first introduced.

Open fermentation vessels give the beer it's unique flavour. It is available in 500ml bottles and in casks.

THE SHIP INN



& WATERFRONT RESTAURANT

BROUGHTY FERRY

www.theshipinn-broughtyferry.co.uk

Situated on the waterfront with
wonderful river views.

We now serve hand pulled cask
conditioned ales - 3 ales always available.

Bar food served every day and restaurant
open 7 days. (*booking advisable*)

Featured in the
Camra Good Beer Guide
2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018
| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023



The Ship Inn

121 Fisher Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee

t: 01382 779 176

The Ericht Ale House

In June 2023, customers were shocked to find that the Ericht Ale House, a regular winner of CAMRA's Best Real Ale Pub in Tayside, had closed suddenly due to the health of its landlord, Kenny Fraser. Although Kenny's health has since continued to improve, it became clear that he would not be running the pub himself any time soon. The regulars found the loss of their favourite watering hole too awful to contemplate and so a scheme to re-open it began to be formulated. However, this was no minor task – there were significant licensing, financing and staffing issues to overcome to name but a few in addition to the small matter of getting Kenny's approval for the plans for his pub.



The immediate issue of licensing was overcome by the, at least temporary, transfer of the premises licence to Zoe Gulson – which was achieved just in time before the licence would have been considered to have lapsed. If it had lapsed, a brand new premises licence would have had to be applied for which could have been a long, drawn-out process. Zoe then took the convoluted, but necessary, steps to gain her own personal licence and a management licence – both also necessary for the Ale House to open again legally.

The next was the thorny issue of financing. Setting up the infrastructure took a considerable time to overcome but raising capital for the new “community enterprise” proved to be much less of a problem than had been anticipated. The customers were invited to “invest” in the worst investment opportunity ever known - where there was no chance whatsoever of making a penny, and a high chance of lose some, if not all, of your investment. Despite this enough capital was raised to cover the costs of the interim arrangements to allow the premises to continue trading and to stocking the cellar.

Staffing would be, at least initially, simply on a unpaid, volunteer basis and Zoe organised a number of training sessions that resulted in a small, but significant pool of people to willing and able to act as bar staff. Volunteers also set about cleaning, painting and making various improvements to the pub, including renovating tabletops and adding extra shelving behind the bar. There seems to be general agreement that the environment in the pub is now much improved - whilst retaining the essence of the Ale House that the locals hold dear – even Kenny seems pleased with the results!

It should be said that the breweries were remarkably sympathetic and supportive in assisting the Ale House to re-open – and particular thanks need to be given to the Loch

Computer Problems?

We can help...



Domestic and Business IT Solutions.



- *PC Repairs*
- *Laptop Repairs*
- *PC & Laptop Upgrades*
- *Custom Built PC's*
- *Broadband Configuration*
- *Wireless Networking*
- *Home Visits & Installations*
- *Virus Removal*

AMD 
Smarter Choice




Microsoft
REGISTERED
Partner

CICON Systems

337 Brook Street

Broughty Ferry

DD5 2DS

Tel : 01382 521437 Email : support@cicon.co.uk



eset
Authorized
Partner

Lomond Brewery in this regard. It was a surprise to us all that the bulk of the beer which had been sitting since the Ale House's cellar was still in good condition – most notably a barrel of “Lost in Mosaic” which had even been “cranned” and so had been breathing throughout the time of its closure. This barrel proved to be a absolutely stonking condition!

The Ale House finally re-opened to invited guests on Thursday 2 November before opening to the general public the following day. Since then it has been open 5pm till late, Tuesday to Saturday. Along with the regulars, many well kent faces that had been absent for some while reappeared, along with a good number of new faces, all helping to boost the turnover – to the extent that the pub has been able to host six hand pumps as standard. It has, of course, maintained the high standards of cellarmanship for which Kenny has always been noted and managed to provide “special” unusual beers, along with the tried and trusted ones, from local (and local-ish) breweries.



Although there is some concern about what impact the seasonal lull in the licensing trade in the early months of the New Year will have, so far, it appears that the Ale House will be able to continue trading to the joy and considerable relief of those, like me, who are so, so grateful at regaining our favourite watering-hole.

By Rae Taylor



Editor - With the reopening of the Ericht Ale House, Tayside CAMRA felt it was an absolute imperative to give this great pub our support and for this reason Blairgowrie was chosen as the location for our Christmas social. Initial port of call was the Fair 'O' Blair (Wetherspoon) where we received a warm welcome and sampled some excellent beers. From there, a few members checked out the Stormont Arms (returning with favourable comments) whilst the rest of us moved on to the Ericht. It was wonderful to see the

Ericht thriving once again and long may this be the case. Tayside CAMRA continues to wish Kenny Fraser a speedy recovery and look forward to hopefully seeing him back at the helm in the near future though in the meantime, all the best to those giving up their time and energy to keep the Ericht open and thriving.

Off the Beaten Track - Kirriemuir and Glen Clova

Across Tayside we have some breath-taking landscapes offering excellent opportunities for walking or cycling (both road and off-road mountain or gravel biking). One outstanding area in close proximity to Dundee are the Angus glens on the southern extremities of the Cairngorm National Park.

Kirriemuir, locally referred to as just 'Kirrie', approximately 20 miles north of Dundee and easily reached by public transport, is considered to be the gateway to the glens. Isla, Prosen and Clova are the three main glens in this part of Angus. Kirrie has many attractions including the birthplace of J M Barrie (Peter Pan author), a camera obscura and also a statue commemorating Bon Scott, one of the founding members of the Australian band AC/DC, who was born in Forfar but spent the early years of his life in Kirriemuir.



Kirrie is also home to the Airlie Arms (left), a real ale hostelry popular with locals and visitors alike. After many years closed and in a sad condition, this large, B-listed, 18th century establishment was substantially renovated and re-opened in 2015 by the local Ewart family, with real ale making a welcome appearance. Centrally located, this traditional hotel offering accommodation, makes an ideal base for visitors exploring the area. A large open plan bar and lounge area with food served all day and with two real ales

on tap, usually from Scottish breweries including the local MòR Brewing from Kellas, just outside Dundee.

Kirrie is an ideal starting point for a 33 mile gently undulating circular cycle ride taking in two other excellent real ale pubs, the Glen Clova Hotel and the Drovers at Memus. Heading north from Kirrie following the signs for Glen Clova, the route passes through Dykehead before heading up the west side of Clova from which there are stunning views eastwards across the glen to the corries above Loch Brandy and Loch Wharral (right). The accepted convention is to drive or cycle clockwise round the glen but be wary of oncoming traffic travelling anti-clockwise on the



narrow and twisting road especially as there are some blind corners and crests.

The Glen Clova Hotel (right) is reached after approximately 15 miles. This hostelry, in a spectacular setting, sits below Loch Brandy a stiff uphill walk from just behind the hotel. The hotel boasts a variety of accommodation for all budgets from rooms in the main building and the adjoining steading, to luxury lodges and cottages. The hotel has a main restaurant and a comfortable cosy bar with climbing memorabilia. One real ale is usually available and occasionally two at busier times.



For those feeling in need of extra miles, a single-track road takes you 3 miles up the glen to Glen Doll visitor centre and car park. Several long distance and challenging footpaths over to Braemar and Ballater on Royal Deeside as well as shorter circular routes are available from Glen Doll.



From the Glen Clova hotel head south back down the glen to Dykehead, and then eastwards through Cortachy and on to Memus (13 miles). The Drovers Inn (left) is

located just on the southern edge of Memus. This attractive rural pub has a comfortable bar (right), restaurant and for warmer months, a large outdoor garden area with plenty of seating. There are two hand pulls with MòR or Orkney beers often on tap. The return to Kirriemuir (5 miles) is signposted from Memus.

Whilst not encouraging 'cycling under the influence', we hope to promote an alternative way of getting to and supporting some of our more rural real ale outlets.

By Martin Fox



FARM-FRESH BEERS IN THE HEART OF STUNNING ARGYLL

CAIRNDOW, ARGYLL

BREWERY TOURS.
TASTING ROOM.
BEER SHOP.
OPEN 7 DAYS, 10AM-6PM

WWW.FYNEALES.COM

Tayside Heritage Pubs

Hopefully if you're reading this, you know that CAMRA stands for Campaign for Real Ale. However, there is a part of CAMRA which doesn't necessarily involve real ale and that is the work done by the Pub Heritage Group.

Very few of our pub interiors are the same now, or nearly so, as when built. More often than not, you enter a pub with an unspoilt 'period' facade only to find the interior trashed or compromised. CAMRA is wholly committed to protecting our dwindling stock of truly historic pub interiors. The Pub Heritage Group is made up of CAMRA members passionate about protecting and promoting these interiors. Some Group members are recognised architectural and pub historians.

CAMRA recently introduced a new grading system that is simpler and easier to use. There is now a single National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors and within it there are three grades.

Three Star pubs are ones that have stayed wholly or largely intact, in terms of layout and fittings, for the last 50 years; or retain rooms or features that are truly rare or exceptional or display a combination of the two. Three Star pubs should be well worth going out of the way to make a special visit to.

Two Star pubs have interiors where the intactness, rarity and exceptional features are somewhat lower than for Three Star. A detour to check out a Two Star pub is time well spent.

One Star pubs have either readily identifiable historic layouts or retain rooms or features of special interest, but more significant changes are allowable than for the first two categories.



There are twelve guides covering the UK available to buy or read on-line at www.pubheritage.camra.org.uk/pub-guides. Locally Tayside has thirteen pubs listed in Scotland's Real Heritage Pub Guide of which three (all Dundee) are categorised as Three Star. One of which is the Speedwell Tavern, one of our favourite real ale pubs and the 2023 Tayside Pub of the Year. Less visited are Frews (left) and the Clep bar (below) within walking distance of each other near Dundee's two football grounds, Dens Park and Tannadice. Like the Speedwell, you'll find

that the landlords are really proud of their pubs.

In addition, listings are kept of OCR Pubs. (Outstanding Conversions and Restorations) of which there are 2 in Tayside. You can find them on www.ocrpubs.camra.org.uk/pubs



How You Can Help the Pub Heritage Group

The Pub Heritage Group keeps gradings under continual review and changes will be made from time to time. Generally, this is because there have been alterations to an interior that impact on the pub's historic importance. In other cases, members will reassess current gradings, especially where a pub has not been surveyed for a long time or where a wider range of member views is felt to be beneficial.

The Group is always keen to hear from visitors to the listed pubs, in particular where there have been changes that they might not be aware of. The Group continue to discover previously unreported interiors deserving inclusion and are always eager to hear from anyone who feels a particular pub is worth considering. Please email info@pubheritage.camra.org.uk which is also the address for any updates or comments you might wish to share with them.

I can only but admire the work that has gone into these guides.

By Jim McMahon

ST.ANDREWS BREWING CO.



The taste of excellence
from St. Andrews

#tasteofexcellence

STANDREWSBREWINGCOMPANY.COM



Raising a Glass to Steve Robertson our previous Tayside CAMRA Chair

Sadly, Steve passed away at the beginning of the year. His time as branch Chair was short but he was a dedicated CAMRA member for many years. Steve was always passionate about beer and its quality.

Steve worked on the railway in various capacities for 33 years. A CAMRA member (though some of his friends thought he was into photography) from about 2016, Steve became Chair of Tayside branch in 2019. He enjoyed chairing

branch meetings and was always happy to hang around afterward to sample more ales. Meetings were always completed with as little fuss as possible and then the social side was enjoyed.

One of Steve's favourite pubs was the now closed Green Room in Perth. It had a 'Round the World' competition in which you got points for the different beers you had. There was a league table and Steve reached sixth place which he was chuffed with. One of his favourite ales was Williams Bros Joker IPA.

Steve was always convivial company with a great sense of humour.

To Helen, Meghan and Nairn, all at Tayside CAMRA send our sincere condolences.

Branch Secretary Jim McMahon reminisced.....'I remember being at the Green Room for a pint when there was a CAMRA meeting just starting. I duly joined in for my first meeting to be immediately put at ease by Steve especially when he reminded me about the 20% discount available to CAMRA members and introduced me to the delights of Untappd. Not long after then he took on the role of Chair to assist the branch in its hour of need. Since then, my involvement with CAMRA increased and I shared many a pint with Steve.'

Trading Standards Offices: For issues such as consistent short measures or no price lists, contact:

Angus - 03452 777 778

Dundee - 01382 434 000

Perthshire - 01738 476 476

wetherspoon

REAL ALES

AT WETHERSPOON

Wetherspoon supports brewers of all sizes, across the UK and Ireland, so that our customers can enjoy a diverse range of real ales.

The Counting House

67-71 Reform Street, Dundee
DD1 1SP

Jolly's Hotel

43A Gray Street, Broughty Ferry
Dundee, DD5 2BJ

The Corn Exchange

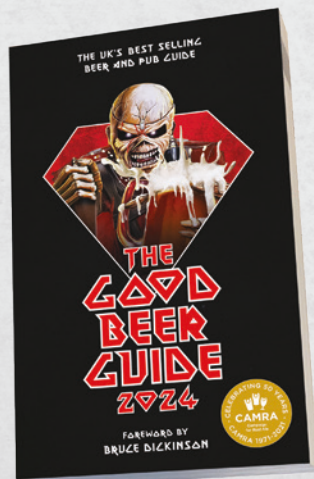
Market Place, Arbroath
DD11 1HR

The Capital Asset

26 Tay Street, Perth
PH1 5LQ

The Fair O'Blair

25-29 Allan Street, Blairgowrie
PH10 6AB



for the facts
drinkaware.co.uk

jdwetherspoon.com

Subject to local licensing restrictions and availability at participating free houses. Illustration is for guidance only. J D Wetherspoon plc reserves the right to withdraw/change offers (without notice), at any time. See main menus and customer information screen for allergen information, symbol explanations and additional details of our terms and conditions.

The Fisherman's Tavern - Broughty Ferry



This popular Broughty Ferry hostelry has a long pedigree of serving quality real ale, having been, with one exception, included in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide since Scotland's first appearance in 1975, and voted CAMRA's joint national Pub Of The Year in 1994. It is approaching its 200th anniversary, as it was first opened in 1827 by a local fisherman who named it the "Buckie Tavern" after the "buckies" or whelks he harvested. It is believed to be on the site of an inn where the

landlord's daughter saved the life of a fleeing Jacobite, after the defeat at Culloden, by ferrying him across to Fife and this is commemorated by a plaque on the front wall.

In 1856, the owners changed the name to the "Fisherman's Tavern" and as such it had a variety of owners, including the local brewers Ballingall's, until in 1942 it was acquired by Robert Brodie, who was succeeded by his son, Richard, (Dick). He was in charge when I first visited the pub in 1969, when it was very much smaller. Then it consisted of a public bar, a jug and bottle and a cosy snug, all with low ceilings – the only thing that hasn't changed! There was also a narrow alley to the right of the pub running through to David Street at the rear, where I often left my bike!

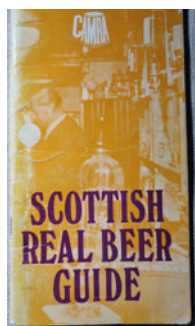
On that first visit, I was slightly taken aback, firstly to find handpumps on the bar and Ushers' clips on them (the beer was one of the least popular keg beers of the time) and secondly, that the beer tasted much better than I expected. I later surmised that it must have been Lorimer & Clark's 70/- Ale, brewed by the Edinburgh Caledonian Brewery, owned by Ushers and mainly exported to the north east of England, but available in a few local outlets.

The only other Scottish pub known to use handpulls at that time, the Grey Horse in Balerno, had an unusual system whereby the cellar was at a higher level than the bar and pulling one released a tap which dispensed the beer by gravity. I noticed recently that in the 1975 Good Beer Guide, both the Grey Horse and the Fisherman's are shown as using gravity dispense – "G" – but this was not true of the latter, as it had an English-style stillage system with the casks on their side, supported at three points (sometimes known as the gauntry/gantry). As far as I know, this was unique in Scotland at that time, for in most outlets selling real ale, casks were kept on their end – usually with the air pressure and fount dispense system.

On my next visit, the pump clips had changed to McEwan's, with the distinctive cavalier logo, but it was not immediately apparent that one dispensed 70/- Ale (heavy) and the other 60/- (light)! This continued until Dick's retiral in 1977. He deserves particular

mention as he, along with his loyal barman, Dod, flew the flag for cask-conditioned beer before CAMRA became influential, resisting the blandishments of the brewers to change to “bright” or even keg beer. He appeared, working behind the bar, on the cover of the second Scottish Real Beer Guide (below left), published in 1976.

Two brothers, Graeme and Michael Lorimer, then purchased the pub. They introduced Belhaven and Maclay’s beers – much to the delight of local CAMRA members! - and began the first of what was to become a series of alterations and expansion by creating a lounge area beyond the public bar. Later they sold the Fisherman’s to a group of local businessmen, who employed Robert Paterson as manager and increased the range of beers, with regular guests. The dispense system changed (upright barrels) sometime in this period.



In April 1992, Jonathan Stewart, snr, who had pioneered real ale in Dundee in the Ladywell Tavern, became the latest owner and proceeded to develop the pub into the Fisherman’s Tavern Hotel, the name changing in 2005, after purchasing neighbouring property. Provision of meals became more important, and the quality of the beer improved, (there were now seven hand pumps) probably due to the enthusiasm of owner and staff for cask beer. I have a particular memory of one gap-year student who became fascinated with the skills of cellarmanship and serving a good pint. It was at this time – 1993/94 – that the pub was nominated as Tayside’s Pub of the Year and went on to become joint national winner for the whole of Britain.

Jonathan, meanwhile started what became a local tradition – the Fisherman’s Ron Bonar Beer Festival – in the garden area to the rear, acquired with the terraced house next door. RNLI volunteers from the nearby Lifeboat Station, including the Station Chair, Ron Bonar, who died in 2000, had always drunk in the pub and it became the beneficiary of this event.

However, in the early noughties, brewers Greene King, having established a foothold in Scotland by purchasing the Belhaven Brewery, set about buying up successful (particularly real ale) pubs around the country, and many pub owners, including Jonathan, were made “offers they could not refuse”, or so the story went.

The new owners bought more property in the terrace, extended the hotel and completely revamped the interior. All the 12 en suite bedrooms were refurbished in 2018. There are usually six beers on sale including a couple of Greene King or Belhaven products, as well as guests from all over Scotland and the rest of Britain. Food is still important, there are popular quiz nights on Mondays and hugely successful folk nights on Thursdays.

“The Fish” has come a long way over the last fifty years, its character has changed, but it is still extremely popular and the beer is still good!

By Forbes Browne

The OLD SHIP Inn

Skinnergate, Perth



Tina and the Crew

*Invite you to enjoy their selection of
Real ales and famous Gin collection
A wide selection of Wines, Beers and
Spirits always available*



*Our "Above Board" lounge is
available to hire
for Private Parties and Weddings
Telephone 07431 025279*

Voted by CAMRA Best pub in Perth City for real ale 2023

The Twa Tams

the pub for fun, food

and music...



**ALES, BEERS,
CIDERS,
LAGERS,
SPIRITS,
WINES, MUSIC,
FOOD & FUN
TIMES**

**79-81 SCOTT ST PERTH PH28JR
WWW.THETWATAMSPERTH.COM**

Meet the Brewer - Danny Cullen Law Brewing Co

Law Brewing Co was born in 2015 after Danny Cullen (below right) took voluntary redundancy from a 25 year research career in science. Today it is still a one-man operation and beer-lover Dr Cullen refers to himself as the “Mod scientist”, so named for his love of the 60s subculture and his background in Microbiology. “I wanted to take my home-brewing skills to the next level and coupled with the lack of a brewery in Dundee, it seemed a logical step to become a ‘Soul Trader’ and help supply the growing appetite for craft beers”.

Law Brewing Co (est. 2016) is named after Dundee’s most distinctive landmark of 572 feet high; the ‘volcano-esque’ slopes of the Law. The brewery originally started with two 30L Grainfather All-In-One Brew Systems, moved up to a 100L kit and now consists of a 4 BBL kit and located in the West End of Dundee, perhaps more underground than commercial in nature! The mission is to present a ‘Modernist’ perspective on the craft beer scene by encapsulating an ethos for style and individuality. The aim is to create unique, exciting and importantly drinkable beers with bold flavours focusing on quality and not profit margins.



Every beer brewed has a story, often a soundtrack, and is carefully balanced bringing through all the ingredient flavours and this is projected onto each visually appealing label design. The music genres include mod, northern soul, ska, rocksteady, reggae, 2-Tone ska, together with some punk and post-punk sounds. For example, the core range covers the Mod/Northern soul range as shown for the Mod IPA, whilst the Coronation Lager was a playful twist on the famous Sex

Pistols track.

Danny has already produced over 50 different beer styles including, IPA's, Pale Ales, Golden, Red, Heavy, Stouts, Saisons, Sours, and Lager beers and many more are planned. All the beers are produced on a small scale unpasteurised, unfiltered, and ‘unfined’ and therefore suitable for vegetarians and vegans. The beers are packaged into cans/bottles and casks/kegs and labelled in-house. Scottish malt is purchased from an East Lothian



farm, and Danny grows several hop varieties in Dundee to reduce the carbon footprint of the brewery. He has produced a truly Scottish beer made with home-grown 'DD2' hops (Brewers Gold, Bramblings Cross, Nugget, Cascade, Galena, First Gold) and Scottish Barley, Wheat and Oats as a Pale Ale and a DúnDé Saison style.

Danny has launched a range of Dundee-inspired craft beers such as the iconic Dundee Cake Ale, Orange Marmalade & Ginger Ale as a homage to the city's jam heritage, and a Scott's 80/- Discovery Ale in collaboration with the Discovery Point exhibition. He would like to increase the sales distribution area outside Tayside but he has a strong affinity with this region and various commissions have resulted in good PR stories such as a limited edition of 100 bottles of 'Splice the Mainbrace'

Rum Oaked & Tay Conditioned 90/- Scotch Ale from kegs submerged in the dock of the HMS Unicorn - the World's first underwater conditioned beer made to celebrate 200 years since the Unicorn's assembly in 1822. He has also carried out various case studentship projects with Abertay University investigating the use of wine yeasts in beer production and the effect of prolonged maturation on the flavour of lager; unique beers will be produced in the future as a result of the findings!

Sustainable and recycling practices are at the forefront of the business by distributing spent grain to local farms for animal feed, developing products downstream such as bread, crackers, pizza dough from the dried and milled waste grain, and brewing a 'Liquid Bread Ale' using surplus bread/rolls in collaboration with the famous Clarke's Bakery in Dundee - his 'Beer With Conscience' range. Danny aims to focus on innovation and community through collaborating with local businesses and clubs, Universities, and charities, to growing hops and using local ingredients including heritage barley varieties and novel yeast strains. He is passionate about promoting the overall community of craft beer by sharing ideas and knowledge, after all brewing and making new friends should be fun!



'I think more creativity and community led projects and future collaborations will help overcome some of the forthcoming challenges ahead for breweries. At this point in time, I just want to make a living out of producing quality beer that myself and other people actually want to drink!'

SPEEDWELL BAR (MA MENNIE'S) AT WEST END (PERTH ROAD) DUNDEE

TAYSIDE CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR 2017

CASK MARQUE ACCREDITED

CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE 2023

LISTED IN CAMRA'S NATIONAL INVENTORY OF HERITAGE PUBS

WWW.SPEEDWELLBAR.CO.UK

PHONE: 01382 667783



T H E S P E E D W E L L B A R
C E N T E N A R Y 1 9 0 3 - 2 0 0 3

A Limited Edition print of 750 of which this is 152

Printed

©Stephen French 2003



What is your brewing background Danny?

I had only previously brewed using a few homebrew kits but my scientific background in Microbiology allows me to understand all the processes in brewing, particularly the importance of the yeast strains.

What motivated you to start brewing and what were the biggest challenges?

I had become disillusioned with my science career and looked for a new challenge. I always had a healthy passion for beers of the world during my travels and wanted to become part of the global craft beer revolution, and coupled with the lack of a local brewery in Dundee it seemed a logical step to become self-employed and help supply the growing appetite for craft beers. The biggest challenges: I've never been self-employed nor worked in hospitality so I had to make new contacts and friends in this industry which took some time. Plenty of meetings followed involving advisors, various registrations, searches for premises, and beer label design scrutiny. I also attended many courses run by Business Gateway, Scottish Enterprise, and the local Council (E-Zone) to gather information and knowledge on setting up a business, and even received a Start-Up grant from the council (thank you!).

I hear that there is a strong connection between music, local culture and your beer?

www.tayside.camra.org.uk

Is that fair and if so can you explain a little about that?

Due to my passion around the Mod subculture I wanted to incorporate this into the Law Brewing brand as the first Modernist Brewery in the World. Mod's aesthetic has influenced art, film and fashion, every aspect of British culture so I wanted to incorporate this scenes' love of fashion/style and music genres into a range of craft beers. Just like the early Modernists customising their clothes by combining and reinventing different fashions the craft beer producers are pushing boundaries to create a wide range of new and exciting modern beers!



The city of Dundee is reinventing itself as a destination for art and design, scientific research, video games, quality Scottish cuisine, and a vibrant music/DJ scene so it seemed appropriate to have a 'Modernist' brand and a Dundee-inspired name (Dundee 'Law' landmark) and focus on community led projects with local businesses, clubs, Universities, and charities to show my appreciation for the local help and support.



INSPIRING ISLANDS



INSPIRED BREWING

Inspired beer of extraordinary quality, brewed by hand on Orkney, with skill, resourcefulness and endeavour.



Are they the same challenges today as they were when you started?

There are different challenges now after becoming established which are more substantial in reducing growth and universally affecting all businesses in the UK because of Brexit, Covid Pandemic, and the conflicts in Ukraine and now the Middle East. This has resulted in substantial increases in the ingredients costs, electricity, water, and diesel charges and led to a cost of living crises and a downturn on disposable income for buying beer.

How many ales do you brew and do you have staple brews that sell best or are in highest demand?

I probably have around 12 core range brews which I try to produce every year but there is a demand for new beer styles every month from consumers so this encourages brewers to be innovative but is also more difficult for the small producers due to costs and time.

Where are the best places to sample your beers or buy them in bottles or cans?

My beers can be commonly found around Dundee (e.g. Dukes Corner, Speedwell Bar, Dundee Rep, George Orwell Pub, Clarkes Bar, The Cheesery, Aitkins, Frasers), Fife (e.g., Balgove Larder, Luvians, St. Andrews Brewing Co Pub), and various shops around Scotland less frequently.

Who are your regular customers?

It's difficult to put an age range but the beer seems to appeal to many age groups and genders but they do return which is a good sign!

How much beer are you brewing a month on average?

This varies depending on the month but an average of around 200L.

What are your future plans?

At the moment...to survive these challenging times!

By Euan Stewart (LAW BLO) and Danny Cullen

A photograph of the interior of The Caledonian pub and restaurant. The scene is dimly lit with warm, yellow light from pendant lamps. In the foreground, a round wooden table is set with chairs. In the background, a bar area with stools and a large window is visible. A large, round, black-framed clock is mounted on the wall in the upper left. The text 'the caledonian' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font at the top.

the caledonian

Brechin's foremost real ale pub and restaurant

43-47 South Esk Street, Brechin, Angus DD9 6DZ. Tel. 01356 624345
Email: caledonianbrechin@gmail.com - www.caledonianbrechin.com

Guest beers from Scotland and beyond

In CAMRA's Good Beer Guide since 2005

Aspall cyder and St Mungo lager on draught

Belgian beers on draught and bottled

Large selection of malt whiskies

TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for our food and service

Live folk music last Friday of every month

Good Pint??.....Bad Pint?? Good Beer Guide Pub Selection

Early each year CAMRA branches across the country begin selecting the pubs which will appear in the following year's edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide (GBG). The beer scores submitted on WhatPub by CAMRA members from all over the country are an important aid in helping local branches with their deliberations.

In Tayside, our GBG quota is only 30 entries. We must whittle down our selection from all the real ale pubs and hotels in our area, many of which are worthy of GBG selection. It's important to note that just because a pub is not listed in the GBG that doesn't mean it isn't worth a visit.

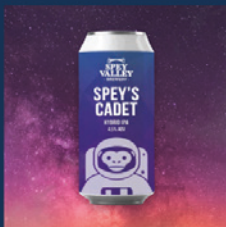
Beer scoring on WhatPub is easy, just log in as a CAMRA member and get your opinions known with scores from 0 being No Real Ale to 5 the perfect pint! It's very useful for your local branch as the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is fully integrated with WhatPub and the branch can review the results from the NBSS and see which pubs are doing well or indeed badly.

In the region of 150,000 CAMRA members have access to WhatPub and that's what makes it so much different, and we think better than any other online guide!

SCOT BEERS



WWW.SCOTBEERS.COM



Happy 50th birthday **CAMRA Scotland!**

15% off Scot Beers online for all CAMRA members with the code

CAMRAIS50

www.scotbeers.com

Campaigning *for you*

Real ale is just the start...

We support everything from **pubs** and *drinkers' rights*, to licensee and *breweries*, the list is endless, united in ***the story*** we all love, our **great tradition.**

So why not join us?

Save on beer when you visit the pub with our vouchers and discount schemes. Plus save on entry to 100s of beer festivals too, just a few perks of our CAMRA membership.

Make our story part of yours.
Join at camra.org.uk/join



Campaign
for
Real Ale

Real stories, real people, *real ale*

