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Hello all and welcome to this, the latest issue of the CAMRA Tayside Branch magazine. As always, well done if you have read every issue!

Despite my health issues of the past year, I was surprised but delighted to be re-elected as Branch Chair (I'm old school and still prefer to be referred to as Chairman) at our AGM on June 13th in Mennie's (Speedwell Bar). Thank You for your ongoing support.

A full list of our office bearers is included elsewhere in this publication so please feel free to contact any of us if you have any queries or suggestions.

This publication would not be possible without the support of the establishments, breweries and other organisations who take out advertising; therefore, I implore you in turn to support them at every opportunity and please try to score the beers you are drinking. This helps us with our annual Good Beer Guide selection exercise. Please see page 37 for details of recent changes to CAMRA's beer scoring system.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and if you are venturing to other areas of the country, why not take a few copies with you?

CHEERS THE NOO, Kenny Smith Branch Chair



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

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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 Winter 2026, then for more information, please contact us at:

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

Tayside Pub News

Dundee and District

The **Anchor** in Broughty Ferry, which had closed suddenly in late 2025, re-opened in late February under new management and following a refurbishment. It is now open all week selling a variety of drinks and food. Three hand pumps are provided, with Timothy Taylor landlord as a regular beer, other guests will vary, with Stewart Brewing expected to feature strongly in the line-up.

Perth, Perthshire & Kinross

In Perth, the **Twa Tams** is not currently serving real ales or real cider, advising that they were not selling enough for it to be viable. While this is unfortunate, it is understandable that in the current climate no pub can afford to be throwing away unsold stock. It seems that they are not averse to having real ale, and we can only hope that business picks up for them to the point where they can again justify putting ale on.

On a more positive note, **The Old Ship Inn**, our current Perth City and overall Tayside Pub of the Year, recently won the "Beer Pub of the Year" award at Greene King's Night of Excellence, their annual UK national awards event. A well-deserved recognition for a pub which always has a selection of ales available, and always in good condition.

Blair Atholl based brewers Wasted Degrees have announced that they will be opening a taproom in Perth in July, using the former Brewdog premises in the city's George Street. Whether cask-conditioned ale will be available is not clear at the moment, but this is a welcome and positive development from one of our local brewers and will certainly be one to watch with interest.



In Perthshire, the **Schiehallion** (left) in Aberfeldy is now selling real ale. Currently only one pump, with Harviestoun Bitter & Twisted as the regular beer, being replaced occasionally by guest ales, there is a desire to add a second pump at some point in the future.

It is also noted that the **Invergowrie Inn** comes under new ownership from July. The new owners have stated that, while there will not be massive changes at the venue, they do plan to expand the range of beers on offer. They are known to be keen advocates of real ale, proudly offering it at their two other premises, and so although it is far from

confirmed at his stage, we can certainly hope that this establishment might soon be added to our list of real ale pubs.

After a period without, real ale has been spotted in the **Bankfoot Inn** in Bankfoot. Atholl Gold from Wasted Degrees was the ale available. It remains to be seen whether real ale will be a regular feature but hopefully this will become the case.

Dougie Hoy

Tayside Real Ale Pubs

As at 1 July 2026, 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 where real ale not always available annotated O. W denotes real ale usually served at weekends. K denotes keykeg dispense.

Angus

Arbroath

Corn Exchange
Old Boatyard

Brechin

Brechin Arms

Carnoustie

Station Hotel
Stags Head

Forfar

Osnaburg

Glen Clova

Glen Clova Hotel

Kirriemuir

Airlie Arms Hotel

Memus

Drovers Inn

Dundee & District

Broughty Ferry

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

Dundee

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

Kinross-shire

Cleish

Up In Arms (W) (O)

Kinross

Loch Leven Brewery Tap
Muir's Inn

Milnathort

Village Inn

Scotlandwell

Well Country Inn

Wester Balgedie

Balgedie Toll Tavern

Perth City

Bunker
Capital Asset
Cherrybank Inn
Cullach (K)
Glover Arms
Old Ship Inn
Silvery Tay

Perthshire

Aberfeldy

Schiehallion

Alyth

Alyth Hotel

Ardler

Tavern (O)

Auchterarder

Auchterarder Golf Club

Bankfoot

Bankfoot Inn (O)

Blair Atholl

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

Blairgowrie

Ericht Ale House (C)
Fair o Blair
Stormont Arms

Bridge of Earn

Tipsy Coo

Comrie

Melville (S)

Crieff

Quaich Bar
Tower

Dunkeld

Perth Arms
Taybank Hotel (S)

Dunning

Kirkstyle Inn

Kirkmichael

Kirkmichael Hotel

Meigle

Kinloch Arms

Meikleour

Meikleour Arms Hotel

Moulin

Moulin Inn

Murthly

Uisge

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.



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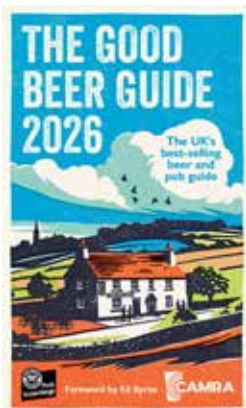
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Tayside CAMRA Branch Diary

**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.**

Tayside Brewery News



Abernyte Brewery - 2026 marks a major milestone for the Abernyte Brewery as they celebrate 10 years of commercial production. Happy Birthday! Way back in the spring of 2016, their very first brew, **Listening Post Pilsner**, was mashed in, destined for the thirsty players and fans at the Blairgowrie Rugby Club bar.

Since those early days, production volumes have remained steady. Founders Donnie and Ian have bypassed the temptation of needless expansion, choosing instead to focus on an unwavering commitment to quality and supporting the local hospitality industry. Today, the brewery continues to distribute its excellent range of kegs and bottles across the Carse of Gowrie, alongside a handful of discerning venues a bit further afield.

Their biggest seller remains **Ballo Blonde**, a crisp golden ale that has proven incredibly popular in hotels and restaurants across Dundee and Perthshire (it pairs absolutely beautifully with steak and chips).



To celebrate a decade of brewing, keep your eyes peeled for a special anniversary **Hopfenweizen**, landing this autumn. Cheers to ten years from Donnie and Ian!



Law Brewery - Danny Cullen (owner and brewer) was pleased to say that he is now concentrating on producing more Cask Ale and the response has been fantastic around pubs in Dundee. He believes there has certainly been a downturn in pubs being able to purchase kegged and canned beers around Tayside due to the tied pub agreements so the only option for many independent breweries is to produce Real Ale!

Danny has been developing new beers and showcasing several single hop varieties in, for example, **Tropical Nectar Gold** 4.0% ABV, **Artic(ulate) Citra Blond** 4.2% ABV, and **Whassabro** 4.8% ABV and also adapting previous beers such as **Cherry Red**

IPA 4.8% ABV and also adapting previous beers such as **Cherry Red Stout** 4.8% ABV, **Rude Boy Juice IPA** 4.8% ABV, **Modern 80/- Ale** 4.5% ABV and **Straight To Helles Lager** 5.0% ABV in cask format. He is still doing festivals and commissions for special occasions which is a welcome addition to the coffers due to the rise in energy, fuel and ingredient prices.



A recent highlight this summer was collaborating with a Scottish Biotech (ScotBio) Company in Livingston to help promote a newly developed organic blue dye (SupaBlu™) extracted from algae and added to beer for World Cup 2026! The dye was added to our football-themed Tartan Hells Lager cans and sold separately and in gift boxes throughout Tayside. Future plans are to further produce new beers for cask and develop higher strength beers (>6% ABV) for entry into craft beer bottle shops.



MòR Beers - Dominic Hughes (owner and brewer) informed Hooked on Ale that in 2025 brewed 25 different beers including monthly specials. Depending on where you're reading

this, you might have seen them all or had no idea Dominic brewed so many. For the first half of 2026 it's been such a struggle to keep casks in stock, there just hasn't been any time to release any new beers.

Starting with about 50 casks in 2018, more have been



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purchased every year to keep up with demand. In June another 120 were acquired with the aim to be able to get back to releasing monthly specials. The first of these specials being **Blue Gold 4.0% ABV Blue Berry Ale**, brewed in collaboration with the Scottish producer of spirulina SupaBlu for the World Cup. Blue Gold at heart is a mosaic SMaSH (single malt and single hop) beer with the blue coming from the SupaBlu. Blueberries aren't actually blue though they just complement the hop fruity notes! Spirulina is one of those superfoods packed with vitamins and antioxidants, but as this is a beer, Dominic can't promote any of that.

Hopefully with all these new casks and the additional storage capacity added recently, Dominic should be able to get back to brewing more specials alongside our core beers. Since the last magazine print the MòR branding has been refreshed so check out the advert on the back cover to familiarise yourself with the new look if you're somehow reading this in a pub that doesn't have any of MòRs casks.



Moulin Brewery - Finlay (brewery manager) reported that the past year has seen several significant improvements to the brewery. Most notably, a new plate heat exchanger has been installed, improving wort cooling efficiency and helping to deliver even greater consistency in the finished beer. Alongside this, continued investment in the brewhouse and production equipment has modernised the plant while preserving the traditional brewing methods that have been at the heart of Moulin Brewery for more than 30 years.



The core range remains as popular as ever. **Moulin Light** (3.7% ABV) continues to be a favourite with drinkers looking for a crisp, refreshing session ale, while **Braveheart** (4.0% ABV) offers a well-balanced golden ale with subtle malt sweetness and gentle hop

character. Dark beer lovers can still enjoy **Ale of Atholl** (4.5% ABV) and **Old Remedial** (5.2% ABV), both showcasing the rich malt flavours and traditional brewing style for which the brewery has become known.

One of the most exciting developments for 2026 is the return of **Drovers 1995 IPA**. Inspired by the brewery's heritage and celebrating its long-standing place in the Scottish brewing industry, the beer combines traditional brewing values with a more contemporary hop profile. The return of Drovers 1995 has already generated considerable interest among customers and is expected to become a welcome addition to the brewery's portfolio.

Wasted Degrees - Jack Low (Director) reported that from little more than a home-brew bucket in their parents' garage in 2016, he and his brother Conall, celebrate the brewery's tenth anniversary in August this year. Grown under its own steam and following consecutive years of self-funded double-digit growth, Wasted Degrees is now the largest brewery in Perth & Kinross as of March 2026 following the demise of Innis & Gunn / Inveralmond.

Producing upwards of 29,000 litres of beer every month and with 60 taps pouring its beer across Perthshire - an increase of 19 since January - Wasted Degrees has continued to invest in acquiring

more kegs and casks in 2026, with now nearly 1,000 in circulation. From a practical standpoint, last year's investment in a UK designed & manufactured automated keg washer has assisted much of this growth by enhancing keg washing efficiency by 233%... especially handy when 8,000 pints of Wasted Degrees beer are poured each day at the Heartland music festival!

The biggest news this year is the opening of the Wasted Degrees pub in Perth, on the site of the old Brewdog bar on George Street. Opening in July and operating 5 days a week (Wednesday to Sunday) it's being billed as 'pub, food and cans-to-go' and boasts up to 28 taps! Jack said "Like everything else we've done over the last 10 years, going big bang and chucking money at the pub isn't what's going to happen here, we'll build things up sustainably and develop the place over time. We'll initially run around 11 draught lines of our own beer, 1 draught cider line, 3 or 4 draught wines and 1 or 2 draught cocktail lines, with spare taps to be populated as time goes on."



With planning permission granted, building warrant issued and premises license provisioned, construction of the new Wasted Degrees brewery site in Pitlochry is nearing commencement (now) expected to break ground in late-2026) after a long slog through red tape. A five-fold production output, with 70% to be sold through its own on-site bar, is envisioned over time.

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Other Brewery News

In this section we now include news from breweries from outside Tayside who support Hooked on Ale by advertising in our branch magazine and which helps pay our print costs.

Fyne Ales - Fyne Ales has been named Brewery Business of the Year at the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA) Business Awards 2026, alongside a UK-wide award for its taproom, marking a stand-out moment as the brewery enters its 25th anniversary year.



Presented annually by SIBA, the awards recognise excellence across the UK's independent brewing sector. For Fyne Ales, the recognition carries particular weight, reflecting strength across the entire business - from brewing and operations to hospitality and customer experience. Managing Director Jamie Delap said: "This is all about the people - we've got an incredible team here and I'm really proud of what they do every day. You've got to find really good people, let them do their thing and trust them, which we absolutely do at Fyne Ales."

The additional award for the brewery's taproom underlines the growing importance of high-quality on-site hospitality within independent brewing, and its role in creating a direct connection between brewers and drinkers. As Fyne Ales moves through its 25th year, these awards reinforce both its established reputation and its continued momentum as one of the UK's leading independent breweries.

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Jonathan Stewart – Real Ale Pioneer

In the 1970'S, at the time of "The Keg Revolution", there were perhaps half a dozen pubs in the Dundee area selling cask conditioned beer. Some of these were run by publicans dedicated to real ale who resolutely refused to replace it with keg beer, but there were none remotely interested in introducing it – except one: Jonathan Stewart (pictured extreme right), who had had a Scottish and Newcastle Breweries tenancy of the Ladywell Tavern in Victoria Road since May 1974.

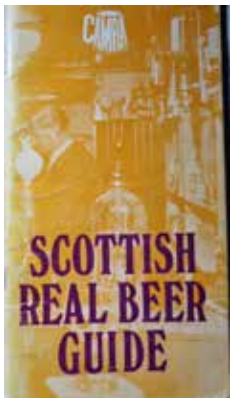


Several founder members of the newly formed CAMRA branch who lunched in the pub, notably Tony Wills and Stan Stamper, suggested to Jonathan that he might like to try a cask beer which they and friends would guarantee to drink. He agreed, and probably on their recommendation, ordered a cask from Belhaven.

This did not please S&N, as he was tied to their beers, but they were eventually persuaded to supply him with cask McEwan's 80/- Ale, despite their promotion of the "bright" (heavily filtered) form at that time.

The brewers cannot have regretted this, for word got round and regulars beyond the embryo CAMRA Branch started to seek out this 80/- beer, which was not that widely available. On Mondays, a group of clerics from St Paul's Episcopalian Cathedral (sometimes including the Bishop of Brechin) would drop in, it was also popular with the choir; and when the Scottish National Orchestra was in town, the brass section would head for the Ladywell! He was soon selling five 36 gallon casks a week. Jonathan himself quickly acquired a taste for real ale and realised that it was a quality product that sold well. (He says his favourites include Yorkshire bitters, especially Sam Smith's Old Brewery Bitter & Timothy Taylor's Landlord; and beers from Belhaven, Harviestoun and St Austell.)

He started off in life serving his apprenticeship as a hairdresser, but helping his brother Jeff in his pub, the Three Barrels in Strathmartine Road, led him to the licensed trade. He found he enjoyed working with people in the hospitality industry and remembers his close observation of his father at work – a pharmacist – helped him develop customer skills. Ultra-polite and friendly, he was always a popular landlord and noted for his disarming handling of troublesome customers!



He tells a story of when in 1977 the pub had no beer, due to a brewers' strike, he sent down to Carlisle where he had a contact with Theakston's, then owners of the former state brewery, and brought up a lorryload of their Best Bitter. A friend in the Celtic Club heard about this, and asked if Jon could supply him with some, which he did. Though not a great football fan nor a partisan supporter, he was given honorary membership of the club. This proved useful later when he was running the Shakespeare Bar in the Hilltown, not far from the Dens Road area, and a crowd of Celtic supporters, though good-humoured, were lustily singing sectarian songs and would not respond to polite requests to be quiet. His persuasive, friendly manner seemed doomed to fail for once, but when he called out

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that he was an honorary Celtic Club member, the fans stopped!

The Ladywell Tavern proved a popular howff and Jonathan's initiatives, first with real ale, included inviting the then Prime Minister, Edward Heath, in for a half of McEwan's 80/- after his addressing a nearby election meeting. Another first was obtaining a special licence to celebrate the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana with a champagne breakfast: the pub was packed, the crowd spilling onto the pavement and the police turned a blind eye – for a while at least.

The limitations of a tied house made Jonathan ambitious to acquire a freehold pub and with the help of a loan from the Belhaven Brewery, he bought the Shakespeare Bar in the Hilltown in 1983 and turned the rather basic bar around. He could now have more say in the cask beers he chose, but he successfully introduced Belhaven 80/- as the default heavy, selling three 36 gallon casks per week. The fact that Belhaven were sponsoring the successful Dundee United during this period pleased at least some of the regular customers! Needless to say, the local CAMRA Branch were delighted by the new outlet with a greater choice of beers, and awarded Jonathan the title of Publican of the Decade for his pioneering work in the Ladywell and Shakespeare. CAMRA founding member Tony Dean, from Edinburgh, was an architect for the firm building a huge new housing development nearby and made the "Shakey" his headquarters!

Moving on, Jon bought the pub McGonagal's, opposite Duncan of Jordanstone Art College, in 1987. He encouraged the creation of the William McGonagall Appreciation Society, celebrating Dundee's famous anti-poet, who had lived nearby. Surprisingly to some, this was an added attraction to the pub. He enjoyed the students' custom and generally got on well with them, but some who were

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living in the flats above did cause a problem. Their reluctance to hump sacks of rubbish to the bins, throwing them out of the window into the yard instead, began to cause vermin problems. Jonathan duly called in Rentokil, but not wishing to alarm the dining customers, asked the workman not to wear the usual protective clothing while passing through the pub. The firm's representative rose to the occasion by wearing plain clothes and addressing Jon thus:

"Good morning, Mr Stewart, what's on the menu today? Moussaka or Ratatouille?"

In April 1992 he purchased one of Dundee's thriving real ale pubs: the Fisherman's Tavern, Broughty Ferry. Changes had been made by various owners since the days of the legendary Dick Brodie, and after purchasing adjacent properties, he eventually turned it into the Fisherman's Tavern Hotel. Previously, the quality of some beers had varied, probably due to the fact there had been 10 hand pumps on the bar. This was reduced to six and under Jonathan and an enthusiastic staff, the general quality soared. The CAMRA Branch voted it Pub of the Year 1993/94, and it went on to win joint champion POTY for Britain (best urban pub): the only Scottish hostelry to do so to date.

Using the newly acquired outside space to the rear, he inaugurated the Ron Bonar Memorial Beer Festival in collaboration with members of the RNLI from the nearby Lifeboat Station. Ron was the local chairman, who died in the run-up to the first festival which has remained an annual fixture.

Between 2000-2003 Jonathan owned four pubs: The Fisherman's; the Campbeltown, a popular back street bar in Hawkhill, bought in 1998 and managed by his wife Alison; the outstanding Edwardian heritage pub the Speedwell – better known as Mennie's, from 1995 and from 2000, the Royal Arch, Broughty Ferry. All of these sold real ale at various times, and the Stewart family tradition was and is maintained by his son Jonathan Iain, who runs Mennie's to the accustomed high standard. Anniversary celebrations were in order for Mennie's (Centenary in 2003) and the Royal Arch (Sesquicentenary -150 years – in 2019). The Speedwell Inns partnership was set up in 2006, formed with Jonathan Iain, his daughter Jenny and Alison.

After selling the Fisherman's Tavern Hotel, Jonathan concentrated on the Royal Arch, with memorabilia, TV sport and, of course, real beer in the bar and meals in the Bistro lounge. The pub was redecorated in the 1990's by the previous owner and retains its stylish exterior in cream and maroon. He remained in charge here until his retirement, keeping an interest in Jonathan Iain's progress at Mennie's, until he finally stepped down in 2025.

Apart from his support for CAMRA, Jonathan (right) has a distinguished record in the licensed trade. He raised an index-linked £1 million for charity during his career; was elected president of the Dundee Licensed Trade Association; worked with the Dundee Rotary Club and introduced them to the idea of a Real Ale Festival, to which he gave support and advice. In 2016, he and his brother were both given Lifetime Achievement Awards in the DRAM Scottish Bar and Pub Awards.



We wish him a long and happy retirement.

By Forbes Browne



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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)**.

Can You Support Your Local CAMRA Branch?

Although Tayside CAMRA Branch has approximately 260 members, only a small number could be described as active. This small number of dedicated volunteers give up their time to attend meetings, run branch business and actively promote real ale, cider & perry. One thing in common is a shared love of real (cask conditioned) ale, real cider and perry.....and socialising and chat.

As you'll read in some of the articles in this magazine, members also enjoy seeking out and trying craft beer especially on overseas travel where cask conditioned ale is not always readily available.

If you have an interest in real ale or real cider and perry, why not come along to one of our meetings or if you happen to be at a loose end on a Thursday afternoon, why not pop into the Bank Bar (Dundee) where our branch chair, Kenny Smith, can often be found with other members of the "Thirstday Club", you would be made very welcome.

It would be great to see some new faces attend meetings and our social events, for example, beer festival visits. If you can assist a little by volunteering to deliver Hooked on Ale, keep us updated about pub news in your local area or even just ensure you 'beer score' everytime you visit a real ale pub, all this would be a great help to Tayside Branch.

We look forward to welcoming you to a branch meeting!

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The Continuing Story of Inveralmond Brewery

Fergus Clark founded his brewery on the Inveralmond Industrial Estate in Perth in 1996. Ossian Ale was brewed from the start, soon followed by Lia Fail, Independence and Thrappledouser. Brewing took place in a small rented unit fitted out with grist case, mash tun and direct gas-fired copper on a 10 bulk barrel scale, with fermentation in 5 barrel vessels, several of which were soon stretched to a full 10 barrel capacity.

Joining the Inveralmond Brewery team in 2002, I was impressed by the attention to cleanliness; the brewhouse floors had no drainage, so any spillages had to be vacuumed or mopped up. Worts were fermented using a historic liquid ale yeast strain, which was subcultured each week, year after year. Cask ales were packaged into the brewery's own pins, firkins and occasionally kilderkins, and also as real ale in 30 litre adapted kegs, all traditionally fined with isinglass. Casks were always cold stored within the brewery until ready for delivery.

Expansion into the factory unit next door enabled double brewing; a mill was purchased to crush whole malt. Deliveries were expanded across the Central Belt, as well as the Aberdeen area, Dundee and Angus. Belhaven took a good number of Inveralmond casks for their own pubs, and eventually orders came in from Wetherspoons too.

Blended from Ossian and Thrappledouser, a house beer was supplied to loyal pub customers under their own brand names, and various seasonal brews became popular. Sunburst Pilsener was developed, fermented with Czech lager yeast personally collected by Head Brewer, Ken Duncan returning from his regular visits.

Continued growth resulted in a vacated site along the road being acquired, enabling a brand new brewery to be designed and constructed exactly as required. The brewing plant was on a 30 barrel scale, heated by steam, with automated spent grain discharge superseding the manual dig-outs. A keg racker was installed along with filtration equipment, while fermenting and conditioning vessels gradually grew in number and size. Beer continued to be despatched in bulk for contract bottling and canning but now enabling full size road tankers to be filled. At the other end of the scale, 5 litre mini-casks were filled on site, supplied direct to customers through the brewery shop, along with bottles and merchandise. The new brewery site continued to expand, taking over two adjacent existing buildings vacated by the local council; one of these was developed into a large, refrigerated cask store, and later a laboratory. New ranges of seasonal beers were launched; most notable being Rascal London Porter, whose best customer was the Green Room's real ale bar "Around the World in 80 Beers", where Rascal was delivered every week until the last cask. This Perth hostelry was duly awarded our Pub of the Year.

Inveralmond Brewery was sold to Innis & Gunn in 2016. This larger company was famous for its barrel aged beers, brewed at higher strengths, mainly for bottling, and the Perth brewery expanded capacity considerably to cope with this new requirement. Innis & Gunn lager and other keg beers were occasionally brewed in Perth but continued to be mainly contract brewed by Tennents in Glasgow. Most of the regular Inveralmond cask beers continued to be produced with little effect from the takeover, although deliveries were soon outsourced. The cask store doubled up as a warehouse for long-term maturing premium Innis & Gunn beers in whisky casks, although one short-lived real ale called Inveralmond Daracha was oak aged.

Retiring in 2019, it is difficult for me to be sure of any changes which might have subsequently



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The Wellbank Village Hall is located around six miles from Dundee. We held our first Festival of Brewing in February this year, and it was a great success. We hosted: MòR Beers Brewery, Law Brewing, Redcastle Brewery, One for the Road, Highland Moonshine, Carnoustie Distillery and Cairn o'Mor. We are delighted to not only welcome these brewers back, but also our fantastic musicians as well, who provided entertainment throughout the day. Everyone will be offering a great selection for you to enjoy as well as food available for purchasing on the day.

As a CAMRA Member you will be offered a discount on your ticket using the code: CAM26 at the point of booking. Our shuttle bus will be running between 2pm & 4pm every 30 minutes and again from 7pm until 9.30pm. Pick up point is in Balunie Drive, Douglas - providing bus links across Dundee.

For those of you who do not wish to travel we can also offer you parking and a place to camp on site for the evening. Please enquire at the time of booking about camping for more information and costs.

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occurred but brewing and cask racking of the surviving Inveralmond beers continued to be exclusive to Perth. In mid-2025, Thrappledouser made a welcome return as a seasonal beer, while a new Inveralmond IPA appeared apparently in response to Belhaven's efforts to match the flavour of Deuchars IPA after the closure of Slateford Brewery.

Shock news was announced earlier this year that Innis & Gunn had gone into administration, with its brands already acquired by C&C Drinks, owner of Tennents. The Perth Brewery was to close immediately, with production of I&G beers transferred to Tennents – little change in fact – and nothing to do with Tennents' recent stake in I&G – they have been brewing the lager and mainstream beers for many years and will continue to do so. But what about the Inveralmond beers? After contacting the administrators directly, I was informed that Lia Fail and Thrappledouser had also been acquired by C&C, along with Ossian, and the future first looked bleak for these cask ales.

How delighted I was then to discover that Ossian (both Cask and Smooth Keg) have very recently been brewed at Drygate Brewery in Glasgow (also owned by C&C). Lead Brewer at Drygate, known as Digger to us all, developed his brewing skills at Inveralmond, winning prizes from Innis & Gunn, before leaving to relocate to Glasgow. Digger has been allowed to recreate the original Ossian recipe, with full Cascade aroma hop contribution. I have seen an image of the first Ossian cask racked at Drygate, with a label still carrying the Inveralmond name. All we need now is some insight into Tennents' mysterious "routes to market". The best thing we can all do is beg our pub licensees to shout for cask Ossian! At least we know that both the Inveralmond and Ossian names live on.

Stop Press: The latest chat is that local cider maker Lost Orchards are showing an interest in acquiring the closed Inveralmond Brewery site in Perth, which is presumably still full of valuable stainless steel vessels. If I can ever gain access again, my first mission will be to check if the Inveralmond time capsule is still in place, beside the FV upper inspection gantry.

By Richard Barnes

Champion Beer of Britain 2026



Independence by Bristol Beer Factory has been crowned CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain 2026 at the Cambridge Beer Festival. The finalists from the twelve different beer style categories were whittled down to Gold, Silver and Bronze winners by an expert judging panel. **Wildcat** from Cairngorm Brewery took Silver and **Alfie's Revenge** from Driftwood Spars took Bronze.



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Independence 4.6% ABV is a Premium Pale Ale. An initial aroma of citrus and pine leads to refreshing flavours of crisp citrus and tropical fruit over a biscuit malt backbone before a clean bittersweet aftertaste.*

Wildcat 5.1% ABV is a Premium Bitter. A full-bodied warming strong bitter. Malt predominates but there is an underlying hop character through to the well-balanced aftertaste. Drinks dangerously less than its 5.1%.*

Alfie's Revenge 6.5% ABV is a Strong Ale. Very smooth and rich strong red ale with deep malt aroma. Nutty and earthy malt flavour with sweetness and a kaleidoscope of dried and stone fruit flavours. Gentle bitterness with spicy and red berry notes. Long malty, fruity finish, slightly dry.*

First taking place in 1978, the **Champion Beer of Britain** is one of the most coveted and well-respected cask beer competitions in the world. With the winner receiving UK-wide and international acclaim. Judging for the competition takes two years to complete, starting with individual nominations from CAMRA members and tasting panels, then regional rounds. Each round of judging, including the final, uses a strict blind tasting policy, contributing to the award's respected reputation of independence.

* CAMRA Tasting Notes

More to Italy than Pasta and Pizza

Being retired and fortunate enough to travel abroad regularly provides a great opportunity to seek out bars and pubs serving good craft beers and occasionally coming across those in unexpected places serving cask ale from hand pulls.

For the past three years, my wife and I have enjoyed twice yearly cycling holidays in northern Italy usually starting from or finishing in Verona. (Our self-guided tours are organised through Verona based Itinera Bike and Travel which we highly recommend.)



This May, we undertook a tour from Verona to Bologna. No trip to Verona is complete without a visit to the Santa Maria Craft Beer bar, popular with locals and tourists alike (especially UK visitors). Friendly and welcoming, a great range of artisan beers are available on tap including a selection from the Maso Alto brewery located some 70 miles north of Verona near Trento and which just happens to own the Santa Maria bar. In addition to the taps, there are two hand pulls which are often used to serve darker beers. Adnams Blackshore stout was on and was in fine condition.

On this trip, our first day's cycle ride was a loop from Verona northwest into the Valpolicella wine region where we enjoyed a wine tasting accompanied by local cold cuts and cheeses at Crosarola winery (well worth a visit). After a couple of nights in Verona, we started our journey south to Bologna. A 42 mile scenic cycle route saw us arrive in Mantova, a popular tourist destination approximately 25 miles south of Lake Garda. Here, after a bit of sightseeing, we found the Teatro Delle Bierre, an excellent craft beer bar in Mantova's historic centre. In addition to the expected craft beer taps, to my surprise there were two hand pulls serving ales from Great Newsome Brewery (from near Hull); Flanker (an English Pale Ale) and Frothingham Best (a Best Bitter).

In the fridge was a good selection of Thistly Cross ciders from East Lothian! Another great find and well worth visiting if you are in the area.

Three more days cycling saw us arrive in Bologna. Certainly, very busy with tourists and despite searching the main tourist area, we couldn't find anywhere suitable just to have a drinkperhaps a bit more research required next time! However, all wasn't lost and we did discover a small bar, Fermento, next to our hotel which did have a small selection of craft beers. Great scenery, delicious food and very good beers, this part of Italy has a lot to offer.



By Martin Fox

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Tayside Pub of The Year 2026

Tayside Pub of the Year (POTY) presentations were made during March and April this year. At the beginning of the year, all Tayside branch members were invited to vote for their favourite pub in each of the branch areas. The main prerequisite is that members can only vote for pubs they have visited during the previous 12 months.



Perth City and Overall Tayside POTY Old Ship Inn

Tina McLaren receiving the Perth City and overall Tayside award from Bill Hoy (right) accompanied by Julia Hoy and Mike Jarron.

Angus POTY Corn Exchange (Arbroath)

Manager Richard Airey (right) receiving the Angus award from Martin Fox



Dundee POTY Bank Bar

Susan Russell receiving the award from Kenny Smith Branch Chair (far right) accompanied by Mike Jarron, Julia Hoy and Gregor Wallace





Kinross-shire Loch Leven Brewery Tap

Gordon Thomson receiving the Kinross-shire award from Bill Hoy

Perthshire Ericht Alehouse (Blairgowrie)

Zoe Gulson receiving the award from Kenny Smith

Congratulations not only to all our winners but also a huge thank you to all the 'real ale' outlets in Tayside continuing to serve our favourite tipple.



Lincoln CAMRA Real Ale Festival May 2026

Lincoln CAMRA Beer Festival usually takes place from Thursday lunch time to Saturday evening of the Spring Bank Holiday weekend (late May). This year's festival, the 44th Lincoln Beer Festival, returned to its new location, Southside, for the second year running having been held previously at Lincoln's Drill Hall for many years. Southside is a music, culture and heritage venue located in the Grade II listed former St Katherine's church and with space a plenty indoors and outdoors, it is a great venue for a beer festival.

This year's festival included over 70 cask ales, 10 Keykeg & craft beers, 18 ciders and perries and, a selection of bottled world beers. In fact, something for everyone unless you only drink prosecco! At beer festivals I tend to go for the darker beers; milds, porters and stouts of which there was a very good selection though sadly, unlike a couple of years ago, no beer from wooden casks.



From Scotland, Fierce (Sunwave), Loch Lomond (Silkie Stout) and Orkney (Dark Island) made the beer

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list. My personal favourites were Thunder Rat 5.5% ABV (Ossett & Amity), Black Berry Porter 4.3% ABV (Mauldons), Chocolate Stout 5% ABV (Rudgate) and a keykeg beer, Naughty & Nice Chocolate Orange Stout 4.5% ABV (Vocation). The latter was so moreish that I went back to it for my final beer.



Not that I'm an avid collector of glasses but I'm rarely disappointed with the Lincoln festival glasses which tend to feature striking and iconic Lincolnshire images, e.g. the Vulcan and Lancaster bombers, the first tank, the Lincoln Imp, etc.

No trip to Lincoln is complete without a visit to one of my favourite pubs, the Strugglers (below right) located in the shadow of Lincoln Castle. With ten hand pulls and an ever changing selection of guest ales, this pub is well worth seeking out.

Another pub which has become a firm favourite is the Tiny Tavern. Situated on the High Street and only a 15 minute walk to South Side, two Grade II listed, 17th century cottages have been made into a small pub, hence the name. Quite unique in that you ring the doorbell to be let in one cottage and then walk through the 'cellar' to the bar area in the other cottage which has the exit door. There is also a large beer garden at the rear. At the time of my visit, the Tiny Tavern was also running a beer festival with 20 real ales available plus a selection of real ciders.

Perhaps I'm biased because Lincoln is my birthplace and where I grew up but the beer festival, the Strugglers and the Tiny Tavern are certainly worth a visit if you happen to be in the area. A warm and friendly welcome is guaranteed.



By Martin Fox

Tiny Tavern Festival Cider and Beer Lists and Beer Flight



A Day in Utrecht

Utrecht is worth more than a day trip, so I've visited several times. Although best known for its cathedral tower, university, and canals, as well as a major railway junction – within possibly the most horrific shopping mall in the Netherlands - there is a lot more to the place than those minor details. For example, its breweries and bars. Lots of bars. However, this is a record of just one afternoon on a day out from Leiden, my home from home in the Netherlands.

On the way, we stopped off in Woerden, a couple of stations before Utrecht because there is a brewery there. Unfortunately, the brewery's beers are hard to find, so we had to make do with a walk around an indoor car park, which has been built on top of Roman remains – discovered when the site was being cleared for the car park – before heading to **Drinkerij 'T Bierhuys** which is well worth the visit, as it has several draft beers, and about 200 in bottles.



Moving on to Utrecht, we exited the station just as the rain was changing from a shower to a downpour, which proved a limiting factor to the excursion, as we only managed two bars, one new to Utrecht, both new to me.



The **Drie Dorstige Herten**, "The Three Thirsty Deer" at Lange Nieuwstraat 47 is an authentic small café, the size of a living-room, that offers a wide selection of local and seasonal beers from small craft breweries, as well as Dutch wines, single malt whiskies, and jenever. In addition to the impressive beer selection, the bar also offers a variety of local cheeses and sausages as snacks. It's a bit off the main tourist routes, but worth seeking out.

The local Vandestreek brewery, with its tasting room at Ontariodreef 43, is in an industrial area a bit out of town, but it also has a new modern-style bar-restaurant on Oudegracht 50, not far from **Stadkasteel Oudaen** (which we didn't visit on this occasion, but is very interesting, if only to stand and gawp while drinking one (or more) of their own-brewed beers). At the time of visiting (a Friday

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evening) vandestreek Oudegracht was busy but not crowded. This was just as well, since we had walked about 15-20 minutes along the Oudegracht in very heavy rain, and on slippery cobbles, to get there.



The range of beers changes often, so it's a good idea to have a 3 or 5 flight of beers, before deciding what to drink (food is also available in mixed sharing plates).

Although walking around was not a practical option on the day, there are several other bars – and at least one more brewery tasting-room in Utrecht – that I can recommend:

Stadskatell Oudaen (see above)

Kafé België at Oudegracht 196 – a long way from number 50! But not far from De Drie Dorstige Herten (see above). 24 taps and about 200 bottled beers and can get very busy.

Café De Rat at Lange Smeestraat 57 and not far from Utrecht Centraal station. A personal favourite; a small street-corner “brown café” with lots of beers and a friendly, but geriatric cat (not a rat).

Café Ledig Erf at Tolsteegbrug 3. Very popular with students and tourists on sunny days, because of its large terrace.

De Kromme Haring at Europalaan – a bit out of town, but worth the effort. Walkable from Ledig Erf, this brewpub opened in 2016 and seems to have extended since I was last there; now with a terrace.

For more information about the bars mentioned in this article, enter the bar name in your ‘search engine’ and search on-line. Some have websites in English and others in Dutch only.

By Ken Donald



A Tale of Two Historic London Pubs....

The Harp, Covent Garden and Ye Olde Mitre, Holborn

During a visit to the big smoke, London, in the campervan, I had settled on visiting a couple of historic pubs continuing the capital's great living traditions. Amid the constant churn of redevelopment, rising prices and changing drinking habits, there are still a handful of pubs that feel gloriously untouched by fashion. Two such establishments, The Harp and Ye Olde Mitre, continue to offer not only excellent beer, but also a sense of continuity with the city's past.

The Harp — Small Pub, Big Reputation

Following a morning of shopping, we meandered to Chandos Place, just off Trafalgar Square, The Harp is easy to miss unless you know exactly where to look, but Google Maps got us there. Once discovered, it quickly becomes obvious why this compact pub enjoys such a reputation among real ale enthusiasts.



Tucked away amongst the never ending offices the exterior remains pleasingly traditional, with hanging baskets and old-style signage setting the tone before you even step inside. The interior is narrow and intimate, with dark wood panelling, mirrors, and tightly packed standing space creating the unmistakable atmosphere of a proper central London drinkers' pub.

The Harp has long championed independent breweries and rotating cask ales, and the standard remains exceptionally high. During our visit, the pumps featured a varied line-up including several well-kept bitters and pale ales in excellent condition. My choice on the day was Internet King - a lovely Hazy Pale by Pentrich, and Marquee - a stout by Lakedown.

Lots of office workers seemed to be enjoying post-work downtime and despite the rumours, conversations flowed easily with mobile phones confined to silence as the beer itself became the main attraction of the day. The Harp has earned numerous accolades over the years, including National Pub of the Year, and it is not difficult to see why.



Ye Olde Mitre — Hidden History in Holborn

From the bustle of Covent Garden, the walk east towards Holborn leads to one of London's most delightfully concealed pubs. Hidden down a narrow alley off Hatton Garden, Ye Olde Mitre rewards persistence. Heading down the narrow alley reminds you of something from Harry Potter. Stepping through its doorway feels like entering another century. Dating back in some form to the 16th century, history abounds in several plaques and leaflets once belonging to the Bishops of Ely rather than the City of London itself.

The building's age is immediately apparent from the low beams, uneven floors and maze-like interior. Every corner seems to hold a story. Tiny, interconnected rooms create an atmosphere that

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encourages quiet conversation and exploration. The walls are crowded with memorabilia, historical references and framed curiosities.

The beer offering during our visit was traditional and well chosen, with several classic ales served in fine condition. I sampled Bowie, a golden ale by Thornbridge and a nice pale ale called Wig Sir? By Fixed Wheel.

What makes Ye Olde Mitre especially memorable is the sense that it has survived almost accidentally and hidden away in a modern city increasingly dominated by glass towers and chain venues.

Why Historic Pubs Matter

Visits to pubs such as The Harp and Ye Olde Mitre reinforce the importance of CAMRA's continuing work to protect both real ale and pub heritage. Historic pubs are not museums frozen in time; they are living social spaces that connect generations.

Both pubs succeed because they understand what drinkers truly value: character, conversation, atmosphere and well-kept beer. Fortunately, judging by the crowds gathered around the bar at both venues, plenty of drinkers still appreciate what makes them special.

Long may that continue!

By Alan Murray



Pubs, Pints, People.



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Beer Scoring.....What is beer scoring? Why and how

Beer scoring is open to CAMRA members and is a way to let CAMRA and quite importantly, the local CAMRA branch know which pubs or clubs are consistently serving good quality cask ale.

Beer scoring is scoring a beer according to its quality rather than your personal favourite beer. Does it have a good appearance and is it palatable? Is it good enough for you to want another or would you rather try something else? Is it so bad that you return it to the bar for something else? Or leave to try another bar? We have all been there!

With the branch Good Beer Guide Co-ordinator collating the data, beer scoring is the major tool which helps the branch determine which pubs from the area nominated for CAMRA's annual Good Beer Guide.

To post scores you must first be a member of CAMRA. Log onto CAMRA's website, and in the search option, type in the name of the premises you want to score and click on the Score Beers link. This will open to let you put in the date of your visit; the score you give the beer and select which beer it was. You can then select to save and score again if you have more beers from those premises and when you have completed for those premises you then click score and close. Then, if you need to score for more than one place, go to the next one and repeat the same process.

The Score tab gives you the options of what score you want to give under CAMRA's new revised scoring system which was introduced from 1 June 2026. This gives five options from Excellent to

How's your cask beer?

Rating	Description	Your reaction
Excellent	Exceptional and clear (if intended to be) with fantastic aromas, flavours and ideal carbonation.	Superb! You tell your friends and compliment the cellar manager.
Very good	Satisfying and well-kept with a great appearance, good carbonation and enticing aromas and flavours.	You consider having another and may cancel plans to move to another pub.
Good	Nice appearance, good carbonation, aromas and flavour.	Pleasant but not memorable. You're happy to have another but might consider something else.
Acceptable	Unremarkable and ordinary, with no noteworthy characteristics.	You're unlikely to have another unless it is all there is and there isn't another pub to go to.
Poor	Noticeably imperfect.	Drinkable with resentment, but you politely ask for a replacement.
Undrinkable	Unpleasant to drink, likely with a disgusting taste, incorrect appearance and off/foul aroma.	You politely ask for it to be replaced and consider asking the publican to take it off.

Undrinkable and these are translated as number scores for the branch use.

So, start scoring, it helps us to identify the best pubs and is extremely important for rural areas where many pubs sell excellent beer, but are visited less frequently and get considerably fewer scores than town centre pubs. And, if you are not already a CAMRA member, please consider joining to help Pubs, Pints and People.

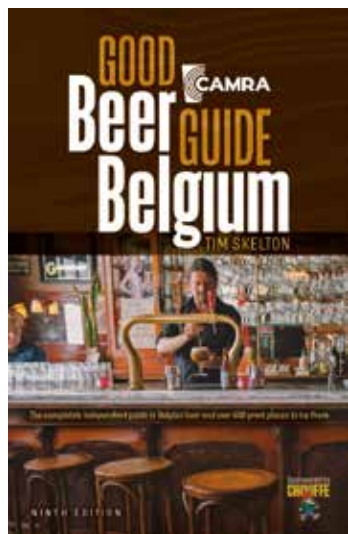


The QR code on the left takes you directly to the search function on CAMRA's website.

Please help Tayside CAMRA by beer scoring throughout the year. Thank you!!

New CAMRA Books

Good Beer Guide: Belgium (9th edition, 2026)



CAMRA's Good Beer Guide Belgium is the essential guide to one of the world's great beer destinations. Completely independent, it features over 1,500+ Belgian beers, the 400 brewers and Lambic blenders who make them, and more than 600 of the very best places to enjoy them, from cosy cafés to specialist beer bars, and from brewery taps to world-renowned beer festivals.

The author, Tim Skelton, born in the UK, has been travelling the world since 1980, spending more than five years on the road and visiting over 80 countries across six continents.

He grew up in Brighton, England, and has been based in Eindhoven in the Netherlands since 1989. He is the author of three other books: two about Dutch beer and a travel guide to Luxembourg. He has also contributed to other beer and travel guides, and has written features for dozens of magazines and websites.

The Good Beer Guide: Belgium is priced at £17.99 and can be purchased direct from CAMRA by visiting the CAMRA shop at merchandise.camra.org.uk

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