

RACS

(The Real Ale Club of Sawbridgeworth)

We were founded in 1995 and are affiliated to the Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood (SPBW).

The purpose of **RACS** is to enjoy good beer, visit breweries and beer festivals and be companionable over a glass of decent ale.

It costs £5 a year to join (AGM in May). Meetings are monthly - usually the last Wednesday of the month.

We have a free - almost monthly! - magazine about the exploits of members and Club activities. Generally, it is distributed by e-mail for those who are computer literate, but we can always provide printed copies on request. In the past we have had trips to Ostend, Bruges, Brussels, Lille, and nearer home pub crawls round Cornwall, Great Yarmouth, Cambridge, Ramsgate and Whitstable.

We regularly attend beer festivals at Chelmsford, Ascot (which includes a full day's racing), Ridgewell, St. Albans and Ware. The favourite is always the CAMRA Chappel Beer Festival held in the sidings of Earl's Colne station in early September. Sup your choice from 600+ beers in a railway carriage (or cattle truck!) and wait for the hog roast to be ready. An outing not to be missed.

Come and enjoy the fun. We hope to meet you soon.



Nullam Ceuvisiam Finemulus

RACS

The Magazine of the

Real Ale Club of Sawbridgeworth

January/February 2012



Affiliated to SPBW

YOUR RACS COMMUNITEE 2011-2012



JAN MEAD
Chair
meadspanner@ntlworld.com



OSHIE
(Old Speckled Hen)
&
WAGGLEDANCE
Mascots



SPENCER RICHARDS
Vice-Chair



CAROLINE MACY
Secretary
cj43@harlowmill.co.uk



MARK TURNER
Webmaster
www.racs.org.uk



ANN DODKIN
Committee Member

NEEDED:
ONE NEW TREASURER



HANNAH MEAD
Trip Secretary



DEB EATON **JOHN TRIMMER**
Merchandising Officers



APPLICATION FORM for MEMBERSHIP of

The Real Ale Club of SAWBRIDGEWORTH to May 2012

If you wish to join or renew Membership of **RACS**, please fill in this form, in **BLOCK CAPITALS**, then send to **JAN MEAD, 23, Crofters, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 0DE** and **INCLUDE** a subscription of £5 per person per year.

NAME:.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

.....

COUNTY:..... **POST CODE:**.....

CONTACT NUMBER, please:

Telephone or mobile.....

or fax or e-mail.....

SIGNATURE:..... **Date**.....

RACS on the TRAIL **of WINTER BEER**

Exeter & East Devon CAMRA

(www.exetercamra.org.uk)

23rd Exeter Festival of Winter Ales

66 REAL ALES plus Ciders



Friday 20th and Saturday 21st January, 11am – 11pm

Exeter City Football Club, St James' Park, Exeter

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The Exeter beer festival was held on 20th and 21st January, and we were lucky enough to go — Mark, Jo and **Racfling** Sophie live in Exeter, which gave us the perfect excuse to visit them.

The festival was held at Exeter City football ground. This was the 23rd festival of winter ales. There were a selection of Old Ales, Strong Milds, Barley wines and Strong Old Ales.

There were around 66 winter brews to sample and although we had a good try on the Saturday afternoon we could not manage them all between the six of us - Mark, Jo, Deb, John, me and Harry. The festival was split into two bars, all beers were arranged alphabetically by brewery. As many of the beers were strong they were sold in 1/3rds and 1/2pints. They ranged from 4% up to 10%. We tasted: Town Mill Granny's Teeth 6%, (no prizes for guessing who had to try that one!), Otter Claus 5%, Northumberland Winter Gold, only 4.5%, Mighty Hop Xmas Cracker 4.5%, Lymstone Stone Cold 4.7%, Golcar Guthlacs Porter 5%, Exmoor Beast 6.6%, Exeter Fall's Over 5%, Exe Valley Winter Glow 6%, Cottage Norman's Conquest 7% Conwy Hoppy Xmas 4.3%, Coastal Faeries Old Ale 4.4%, Coach House Postlewaites 4.6%, Bowman Nutz 5%, Beer Engine Whistlemas 6.5%, Bays Jingle Ale 4%, Art Brew Born in a Barn 6%, Anglo Dutch Devil's Knell 4.8%, Allsaints Feast of Stephen 5% and Abbey Ales Twelfth Night 5%.

A good afternoon was had by all and did not deter us going to The Countess Wear Pub/Restaurant in the evening where they had Tribute and Otter ales on draught. Both venues are well worth a visit if you are in the area.

Jan

A Message from the Chair

A Happy New Year to all **RACS** members and friends.

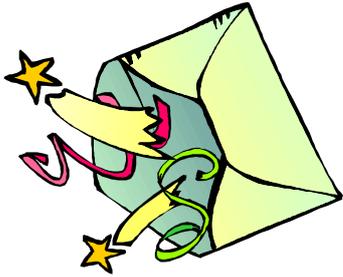
We had a up and down year up until December 2011 and I hope 2012 will bring **RACS** together to move forward. For those of you who do not know, we lost our treasurer, Nicholas, just before Christmas and he will be sadly missed by all and remembered in **RACS** circles for

helping to “cook the books”. Nicholas's wish was that any money collected should go to a charity of their choice and **RACS** members collected £62 at the January meeting and the money will be sent to **RACS'** Charity, which is Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

We had the discount for **RACS** members cancelled by The Gate and after much discussion with members and the committee and as a result of a on-line poll where members voiced their opinions, the result was that we should, perhaps, have some meetings in other pubs in Sawbridgeworth. So our next meeting on Wednesday 29th February will be in the George IV, Knight Street, at 8pm. We are hoping that members who we do not see on a regular basis will come and see us. I, as well as your committee, will be working hard to take the club forward once again. We are working on a few days out, such as the postponed pub crawl around Cambridge, and I have also got the details of this year's trip to Ascot that we did so successfully last autumn. The date is Saturday 6th October for a full race meeting and a beer Festival. Anyone interested please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. If anybody has any ideas for trips, please let me know. All trips are open to Non-members.

Let us look forward to a prosperous new year

Jan



The Tasting that Never Was!

I opened my birthday card this year to find a voucher for a beer tasting session in London. What a great present! The date was arranged and the venue was The Distillery at Farringdon, an upmarket pub directly opposite

Smithfield Market. We decided to make a day of it and left on the 10.30ish train to London, A lovely, cold, bright day and we arrived at Farringdon Station with plenty of time to spare. We started to explore the area and its pubs and found a great Samuel Smiths pub called the Rising Sun in a little back street - a great pint at £2.70 a pint. After a bit more exploring, we found other great pubs, The Red Cow, The Hops and The Pie and Mash, all serving real ale.

We went on to The Distillery, to be greeted by a young girl saying the session had been cancelled. We were very disappointed, but were given a complimentary drink — I had Kelpie, a beer made from seaweed, a dark ale and really tasty. The pub also had Theakston's on draught.

So now I am going to have to rebook and go tasting all over again! but our spirits were not dampened we went back home to the Rising Sun and had a couple more beers before heading home. It was a good afternoon and a great area for a pub crawl in the future.

Jan

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An offering from our Vice Chair **Spencer Richards:**

Been a while since I contributed

anything to this little periodical. So here is a little resume of my beer activities from last August, during my annual sojourn to the Edinburgh Fringe Arts Festival.

There are many wonderful pubs in the Old Reekie, and I know they have appeared in print here before. One downside to the festival is that these pubs become almost unbearably busy, so those on the edge, always worth a visit anyway, become even more so for a more civilised pint. So this write up has no mention of the Guildford Arms, wonderful though it is, during August it is almost unbearable. On the plus side, Brew Dog, one of my favourite UK brews has opened a pub in the city. As some of you know, I love American style, very hoppy beers, and Brew Dog do make exceptionally fine brews, albeit a little on the brain damage scale. So here is a list of what I had in their rather fine establishment, also providing fine wine for which my wife (I know, some of you will still find those words a wonder..!!), for which my wife, duly appreciated and allowed me to indulge.

Punk IPA – 5.4 %

Hello, My Name Is Ingrid – 8.2 %

Imperial Wheat – 10.2 %

List & Bedrog – 11.2 %

Imperial Russian Stout (Stone Brewery US) – 10.5 %

Zeitgeist – 4.9 %

And all those on draft..! Ok, the more intense beers they will only serve in 1/3 pint, little dainty girl glasses but still, a wonderful place and they are opening more bars so keep an eye out for them.

Another old favourite is the Cloisters Bar, out of the centre but a great pub, unfortunately the wine not so fine so I had to concentrate the taste experience.

Cairngorm Tradewinds – my beer of the festival, also found in the wonderful Oxford Bar, another great little bar.
Stewart Holy Grail

BHB Titan – my notes just say “not nice”, can’t remember why..!

Highland Scapa Special

Knops Californian Common, another great little beer.

Others worth mentioning at the festival were the

Underbelly’s own brew *Udder Ale*, not bad for a mass market brew and *Edinburgh Gold*, a great session brew.

No tasting notes, as mine usually consist of nice, blimey that’s good or not nice..!!

I need here to just make a small personal tribute to

*Nick Macy, our treasurer and friend in **RACS** and beyond for many years. He was a funny, intelligent, occasionally argumentative, colourful, eccentric, Liberal, English gentleman. I will miss him and his banter at all our gatherings, formal and otherwise. I have many good memories, his silly asides and trolleys full of Campari, his knees in winter. Compared to his family though, this is nothing. But I hope that we continue to see them at all we do, that our little band of beerheads can provide a little company and fellowship, and that we celebrate his memory in our own way, cheers Nick...*

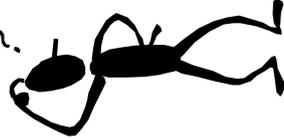


Common and Aldbrickham SPBW Branch are commemorating the 5th anniversary of Peter’ Smith’s untimely passing with a pub crawl along the Northern Line on Saturday 3 March. Please meet at the Euston Tap, located in one of the gatehouses outside Euston Station which are all that is left of the original buildings by 12 noon. From there we will proceed to the nearby Bree Louise, then by underground to Kentish Town, visiting the Southampton Arms and Junction Tavern, before plunging south towards London Bridge, possibly stopping off at Charing Cross for a pint at the Harp, with visits south of the river to the Market Porter, Royal Oak and possibly et cetera.



Have you been missing the **RACS Quiz Nights?** Well, sharpen up your wits on these **10 questions, the answers are below...**

1. Which wireless technology is named after a Viking king of Denmark?
2. What are Harlequin, bryony, orange, 7-spot, 11-spot and 22-spot?
3. There were 640 in Italy, 231 in Germany, 100 in France, 91 in Turkey and 1,003 in Spain. What are they?
4. What are Edinburgh castle, London leopard, Sheffield rose and Birmingham anchor?
5. Magnetite, hematite and goethite are ores of which metal?
6. What are helium, neon, argon, krypton, xenon and radon?
7. What connects Walford in EastEnders and the Olympic Park, Stratford, London?
? Olympic Park, Stratford, London?
8. Which skyscraper was built in the plain of Shinar?
9. What are Sandwich, Arctic, roseate, common, little, black?
10. What did Jean-Paul Sartre and Boris Pasternak both decline to accept?



ANSWERS to the QUIZ

1. BLUETOOTH - Harald Bluetooth 2. LADYBIRDS 3. DON GIOVANNINI'S COVERS in Mozart's opera 4. SASSA VY OFFICE MARKS 5. IRON 6. NOBLE GASES 7. THEY HAVE an E20 POSTCODE 8. THE TOWER OF BABEL 9. TERNS 10. THE NOBEL LITERATURE PRIZE



DIARY of EVENTS 2012

Sunday February 26th
Annual Beer & a curry in the East End
 12.00pm Eleanor Arms, 460 Old Ford Road, Bow—an excellent Shepherd Neame house, closest pub to the Olympic Stadium
 1.30pm The Camel 277 Globe Road E2 0JP – an excellent freehouse

3.00pm Mason & Taylor - new pub well worth a debut visit
 51 Bethnal Green Road E1 6LA
 4.30pm an old favourite - Pride of Spitalfields, 3 Heneage St off Brick lane E1 5LJ
 Then a Brick Lane Curry between 6-7.00pm

SPBW 39th AGM Monday 12th March 7.00pm at Royal Oak, Tabard Street, London SE1 – buffet provided.

AGENDA

1. Introduction and apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Chairman's Annual Report.
5. Questions on Item 4.
6. Treasurer's Report. –approval of 2011 accounts.
7. Questions on Item 6.
8. Amendments to Constitution.
9. Election of Temporary Chairman.
10. Election of Officers:
 (a) Chairman/ (b) Secretary/ (c) Treasurer/ (d) Vice-Chairman
11. Election of Four Committee Members.
12. Appointment of Honorary Auditor.
13. Branch Subscriptions
14. SPBW products available
15. Any Other Business.
16. Close of Meeting.

If anyone would like to be on the committee for a specific position or as a without portfolio member please let me the Secretary John Rooth john.rooth@gfk.com know.

Tony Littler Trophy Wednesday April 18th
 at the Calthorpe Arms, 252, Grays Inn Rd, London, WC1X 8JR
 from 7.30pm – excellent Young's pub (free buffet for participants) – a branch competition, but individuals are welcome and will be placed in teams. Can you wrest the trophy from Wantz branch?