

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 400+ 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.

*** Rumour has it that another Real Ale Club has recently appeared in Sawbridgeworth. Remember **RACS** is THE original and long-established group. Don't be fooled — or accept second best!*



Nullam Ceuvisiam Timemus

RACS

**The Magazine of the
Real Ale Club of Sawbridgeworth**

January, February 2013

Affiliated to SPBW



YOUR RACS COMMITTEE 2012-2013



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Friday February 22nd 2013

Ten hardy **RACS** Members went by minibus to the Chelmsford Winter Beer Festival, arriving at about 6.45pm. This year although it was in a new place, which was bigger than the previous venue, The Triangle, the beer fest was very busy.

Over the time the event was running they had about 200 beers, but on the Friday evening they rapidly running out. However, the beers ranged from session beers to strong winter ales, with a surprising number of light beers on offer, as well. There were 50 ciders and perrys and a selection of Felstead wines. Podge's Belgium Beer Bar returned with a good variety of beers.

Over the evening we met a number of old friends and acquaintances and had a very good time. We drove home in snow showers, but were still warm inside from the beers!

JAN





HALLO EVERYONE...

We are seeing out the end days of winter and looking forward to the start of the spring season. This year we have started our springcleaning a bit earlier!

I have been doing a lot of maintenance work on the SPBW Forum—www.spbw.com/bb - mostly trying to

update our membership list. People who have more than one email were contacted to make sure we are using the correct email. Other members have been placed on our list; in fact, we now have some 60+ members who are new to the Forum: WELCOME!

To the new members, and existing members; please make sure that you logon and change your password as soon as possible and update your details. If you have any problems getting logged on to the Forum, just contact Admin who will advise: admin@spbw.com If anyone who is reading this mail does not want to be a member of the Forum then please let us know - we will be sorry to lose you though. On the other hand, if you would like to change your logon name then contact Admin who will be more than happy to oblige.

MARCH EVENTS:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The 2013 AGM of the SPBW's National Executive Committee will be held on Monday 11 March, in the upstairs room at Ye Olde Watling, 29 Watling Street, London EC4M 9BR. The meeting will start at 7pm sharp and all SPBW members are invited to attend; AGMs are usually fairly brief and light-hearted. A buffet will be provided. We look forward to seeing you all there - we even have members from as far afield as N. Ireland attending.

As ever we will welcome volunteers for an NEC post; please contact John Rooth if you are interested, but it really needs to be done now! Committee Posts: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Chairman, five Committee Members, appointment of Honorary Auditor.

Common & Aldbrickham branch are arranging the following events:

This is to confirm that the Peter Smith memorial crawl will take place on Saturday March 9th and will go to Canterbury. We would hope to travel via the high speed line from St Pancras.

50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS:

These are listed on the website - <http://spbw.com/2013.html>. If any of our members are thinking of organising some special event do let us know so that we can advertise it on the website and Forum.

Have you planned for the NATIONAL WEEKEND?

Organised for the 1st – 3rd November and based in Derby.

More details: <http://www.spbw.com/events.html>

Thanks from the SPBW Admin team - please visit on a regular basis and contribute your thoughts.

The Third 'International' Savoury Pie Competition at The Queen's Head, Allens Green

On Sunday 17 the February, at lunchtime, this prestigious competition was held at the Queen's Head, Allens Green.

This competition had several new entrants this year. It was great entertainment with about twelve entries of every shape and description, one labelled 'Life of Pi', oh dear!



The four judges were picked from non-entrants, all trying every anonymous pie, which took nearly an hour of tasting and deliberating. The winner was announced eventually, with all the rest of us getting very hungry for our chance to try! First place was Chris Gadman, with his now celebrated spiced gammon raised pastry pie. The jelly was delicious and the pastry crisp- a worthy winner! Joint second were Cliff Caswell, the landlord and Margaret Muir, the wife of the organiser. Cliff put extra beers on the DIY rack, as part of his third weekend of the month mini-beer festival. The sun shone and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. Plans are afoot for the first 'International' Bread and Pickle Festival in the summer, as well as the first 'International' Fruit Pie Competition in the autumn. Watch this space for further news!

Thanks for this article to Jan Mead and Chris Sears

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Great Kiwi Beer Festival

Jenny Mollard writes:

February 22nd was the 2nd anniversary of the Christchurch earthquake (the big one, that is), and this shows just how resilient Kiwis are! It's taken a while for folk here to get things organised, but this looks as if it was a great weekend.

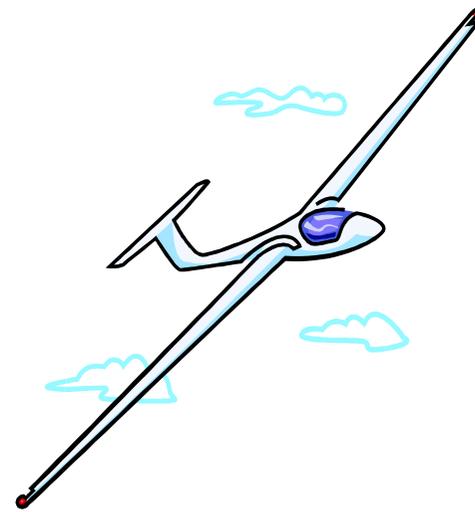
Thousands were expected to gather in Hagley Park to celebrate one of Kiwi's favourite alcoholic drinks - beer. The Great Kiwi Beer Festival, which was in its second year running, expected to see over a 100 local, national and international brews on offer. Sunshine and a high of 22°C was forecast for Saturday's event. Earlier in the week, more than 8000 tickets had been sold to the event. Last year 11,000 tickets meant it was a sell-out event. Due to demand organisers increased the site's capacity, doubling the number of toilets, to allow for up to 12,000 festival goers to attend this year. More than 40 breweries, from craft brewers through to some of the country's biggest beer producers were at the event. But beer was not the only thing on offer. There were 30 gourmet food exhibitors, many cooking demonstrations and beer and food matching, as well as live music.

Festival director Callam Mitchell said 30,000 litres of beer had been delivered in preparation for the event.



Jenny also writes:

Trev had entered the South Island Regional Gliding contest, which started with a practice day on Saturday - cancelled, of course, because of the rain. The first day of the contest Trev landed out close to Twizel- the weather wasn't as good as predicted. The weather



improved a lot for the rest of the contest days. Saturday was the last day of the contest. It was a sunny hot day, but the contest director called the day off. I think he was nervous there may have been land-outs and the prize-giving dinner delayed!! But everyone wanted to fly the last day, and Trev went for a flight for his biannual review and passed that. We went to the prize-giving that night, held at the Countrytime Hotel- a big

hotel nearly right on the airfield. The dinner was yummy and the big surprise was that Trev was awarded the Mt Cook Air Services Ltd Cup for the Best Individual Performance of a South Island Pilot. He was totally rapt!! It's a big silver trophy with a metal model glider on the top. He won it for the day 3 flight when he won the day in his class, in very difficult conditions. For the contest overall, he came third in his class - a great result.

*Perhaps in the next issue of **RACSO** we shall manage to get a picture of Trevor with his trophy!*

For those of you who were with us a couple of years ago when we went to Great Yarmouth, you may remember the pub we visited after the brewery trip — good beer and nice garden... Well, John who ran that pub has moved.

Time for **RACS** to go back to Norfolk for a day out and sample his beers?



DATES for YOUR DIARY

50th SPBW Anniversary Celebration, in conjunction with BMAD's at Burnt Mill, on FRIDAY MAY 3rd.—
 “Meet two local Brewers”, beer and buffet

RACS AGM

Wednesday May 30th at 8.00pm in
 The Old Bell, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth

**APPLICATION FORM for MEMBERSHIP of
 The Real Ale Club of SAWBRIDGEWORTH
 to May 2013**

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.....

.....

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.....

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

CONTACT NUMBER, please:

Telephone or mobile.....

or fax or e-mail.....

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