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National Pubwatch

Newsletter



25 years



RAISING STANDARDS IN LICENSED RETAIL

This edition comes to
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Innkeeping

MEMBERSHIP – SOME THOUGHTS

In order to clarify some misunderstandings that exist in some quarters, National Pubwatch is a voluntary body that supports all local Pubwatches – providing we know about them! We maintain a database of all Pubwatches, together with members of partner agencies, who wish to retain contact with us. This is not a formal membership and no fee is paid to us.

Most local Pubwatches are aware that, in order to retain their independent status and not become regarded as a 'public authority' subject to the Human Rights legislation, it is important that representatives from existing 'public authorities', such as the police and local authority, do neither run your Pubwatch, nor make decisions on your behalf. However, their ongoing support and advice are crucial.

There are a number of partnership initiatives, often embracing Pubwatches, that usually exist in towns and city centres, which often have only short-to-medium term funding for high profile initiatives. These may include Best Bar None, Safer Socialising Award and Business Improvement Districts. Please be aware of the time scale for such funding and ensure that if involved, you retain your independent status.

DISTRIBUTION OF OUR NEWSLETTER

Currently, we distribute over 19,500 copies of our quarterly newsletter by post. We have reduced the cost of such distribution considerably by reducing its weight through publishing it in a six-page A5 size. Further pages may be added in the future. Whilst we are aware that many licensees state that they do not have an Email facility in their premises, could it be that many have it but do not wish to share their Email address or lack the confidence and/or time to use it? The use of Email also offers National Pubwatch the opportunity to circulate timely updates on issues of interest and importance to you. Please contact us with your views.

If you are not the person to whom this was addressed or no longer wish to receive newsletters please let us know, one it saves money and two reduces unnecessary work. Our contact information is on page 2.

ID SCAN FOR COVENTRY CLUBBERS

PASSPORTS to party - that's what could be required for night-time revellers at city centre bars and clubs to prove they are old enough to get in. New scanning equipment is being piloted at five major venues in the city, and people are being urged to carry identification, from passports to driving licences and PASS-approved proof-of-age cards.

The Club Scan scheme allows door staff to copy information and pictures from the ID. As well as warning the door supervisor whether the details on a card indicate an underage drinker; the system also checks against a list of people banned from venues and helps spot fake ID. It can also produce a list of potential suspects and witnesses for police should an incident take place at a venue.

Club Scan is being tried out at many of the Skydome venues and, if successful, could be rolled out across the whole city centre. Trevor Pepper, operations manager for crime reduction with CV One and a National Pubwatch executive member, said: "The scanning equipment helps door staff check for underage drinkers and anyone who has been banned. 'It can also help eliminate the sharing of ID between people who may be underage by flagging up ID that has already been scanned'.

Editor's Note: There are many novelty and fake identity cards currently in existence by underage persons. The three accepted forms of proof of identity of customers to licensed premises are their passport, their driving licence and the PASS type card.

Whilst passports and driving licences have been known to be forged, the PASS card includes a hologram and has never been copied. Both the licensing industry and the Home Office support this scheme. You are aware that licensees must show 'due diligence' when serving customers. This is particularly relevant with the increase in 'test purchases'

The forms of identity mentioned above are also often requested for a variety of consumables where there are age restrictions on such purchases.



How to contact us

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A MODERN PUB – SECURED BY DESIGN

The operators of a new pub seized the opportunity to design-in measures to make the premises as safe as possible.

Cloverleaf Pubs Limited has worked closely with Cheshire Police from the outset to create a family friendly and safe environment at the Evenwood Farm Pub Restaurant. It is, in fact, the first company in this county to gain the coveted Secured By Design award scheme for Licensed Premises.

Gary Douglas, their director says “Our aim was to ensure the highest standards of design, materials and construction. We recognise that prevention is better than cure and Secured By Design was the gold standard that this was designed and then built to. The advice and support of Cheshire Police in all aspects of the project from inception to completion has been fantastic.

Phil Buckley, the Halton Crime Reduction Officer says “I told him about this national police designing out crime award scheme. Over 12 months we have worked closely to achieve all of the criteria as set out by the award”.

Mark Antrobus, the Force Architectural and CCTV Liaison Officer, says “This is an excellent example of how the licensing trade, the police and developers can work in partnership to deliver a safe and secure licensing venue. It was important that safety and security features were designed and installed into the project at the planning stages”.

Numerous crime reduction features have been incorporated including:-

- * The bar servery area is located centrally; therefore all areas can be easily observed and managed effectively.
- * The children’s indoor activity area can be observed via CCTV monitors within the main dining areas.
- * All patrons entering the premises will be recorded to the highest Home Office CCTV digital requirements.
- * Entrances are easily viewed from behind the bar servery, reception and carvery areas, including emergency exits.
- * The car park has effective illumination which compliments the day/night CCTV recording system.
- * Good quality anti-climb fencing around the rear of the site to enhance security of the building.
- * Personal attack alarms, intruder alarms and alarm door contacts throughout the building are linked to an alarm receiving centre and grade 1 police response.

For more information about the nationally recognised ‘Secured by Design’ scheme, visit: www.securedbydesign.com.

USE OF THEATRE WITH PUBWATCH

In 2006, the MOPA Theatre Company and Cambridgeshire Pubwatch hosted a Pubwatch Day in a theatre in Cambridge. Members throughout the county and their staff attended an informative day aimed at educating and addressing the issues affecting licensed premises and their employees.

Short presentations were made by Magistrates, Police and Drug Enforcement Officers, followed by a question and answer session. Actors then introduced their 'real life' bar set complete with optics props and lecherous bar manager and presented their short self-written play 'Raising the Bar'. To the untrained eye, the play ran like an average night in a town centre bar, with underage drinking, drug dealing, violent drunks and over-zealous door staff. However, although the audience found the enforced errors at times entertaining, there was a serious message about better identifying problems relating to violence, criminality or disorder on licensed premises and increasing communications between licensees and police.

The main points addressed were:

- * Drug dealing – identifying and dealing with all types of drug dealers
- * Serving underage customers – who is responsible? What are the ramifications?
- * Identification – what are the acceptable types of ID?
- * Banned customers – who are they? Have they ID?
- * Calling time – in an authoritative manner
- * Drinking-up time – clearing the bar/pub
- * Serving drunks – bar staff responsibility
- * Door staff – handling difficult situations; door staff licensing; calling the police

The play was then rerun with the audience encouraged to stop the action when an error is made, and suggest how the situation might be handled more professionally. The audience enjoyed pointing out errors and suggesting alternatives to be acted out and commented upon by their peers. This allowed a great deal of discussion with differing opinions being offered, especially between those members from small local pubs, as opposed to the city centre clubs. All comments and opinions were welcomed and discussed with great ideas being rewarded with prizes.

Everyone involved commented on the success of the event, and the theatre-style presentations added to the informal, relaxing atmosphere. Further productions have been held in Tamworth and Colchester with a return to Cambridge planned for this summer.

For further information, contact Clair Thomas. Tel: 01582 842876

THE LICENSED TRADE CHARITY

The Licensed Trade Charity (LTC) provides support specifically for those working in the licensed drinks trade and is looking to team up with pubwatches across the country and attend their meetings.

Liz Gaffer, director of marketing and charity services said; “The aim is about making sure everyone involved in the trade knows how we can help people and what support and information we can give so that, if their friends, family, colleagues find themselves in times of difficulty.”

There are a number of ways in which the LTC provides support including:

- * A free helpline, providing guidance and information on issues such as housing, benefits entitlement, debt and a link to a free legal helpline.
- * Free ‘help’ information leaflets on debt and relationship breakdown, etc.
- * Support grants to help pay for unaffordable but urgently needed items that will make a difference to someone’s life.
- * Regular financial assistance with essential bills when on a limited income.
- * Bursaries and discounts for pupils attending either of the charity’s two schools.

If you would like someone to attend your pubwatch meeting, or would like further information sent to you, please call fundraising on 01344 884440. *Please also see www.licensedtradecharity.org.*

DOOR SUPERVISOR LICENCES – COMPLIANCE

If you use door supervisors on your licensed premises it is your responsibility to ensure they are appropriately licensed. Licences are valid for three years and those issued initially will now begin to expire.

There is no grace period: licences need to be renewed before they expire and it is a criminal offence to operate anywhere in England and Wales as a door supervisor without an SIA licence. If you allow unlicensed operatives to be deployed at your venue you may be in breach of your licence conditions and your public liability insurance policy conditions.

If you use contracted-in door supervisors make sure you are compliant by:

- * Discussing with your contractor what renewal strategy they have in place
- * Obtaining licence numbers of all personnel deployed at your venue
- * (you can check the validity of licences on the SIA website)

If you employ door supervisors directly (i.e. in-house) make sure you are compliant by:

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- * Ensuring relevant staff have commenced the renewal process in good time - 10 weeks before their current licence expires
- * Keeping a record of the expiry date of all your door supervisors' licences
- * Keeping a record of new licence numbers for your staff

If an individual is not in receipt of a valid licence do not allow this person to be deployed at your venue. Additionally, if you have a number of renewals you can now apply for these through a bulk application process from the SIA.

For further information contact www.the-sia.org.uk or 08702 430 100

M.A. RESPONSIBLE DRINKS RETAILING AWARDS

The Morning Advertiser, with sister title Off Licence News, announces the return of its Responsible Drinks Retailing (RDR) awards, now in its fourth year. The winners of the 2007 awards will be judged by an expert panel, who will be looking for examples of best practice and a consistent approach to promoting the responsible use of alcohol. The finalists will be invited to a special awards lunch in London on November 22, where the overall winners will be announced.

The awards provide a platform for promoting your business/organisation, reward your team and highlight your achievements. It gives recognition that you are trading lawfully and helping to protect the health and safety of the local community.

The Award categories are:

1. **Pub Company** and managed pubs – For the helping its licensees/outlet managers deal with drinks retailing.
2. **Tenant/Licensee** – For licensees who ensure they and their staff retail alcohol responsibly.
3. **Local Authority of the Year** – For measures taken in tackling anti-social behaviour.
3. **Pub Watch of the Year** – For effectiveness in promoting social responsibility through the implementation of local initiatives.
5. **RDR Police Champions of the Year** – For supporting and encouraging retailers to promote RDR standards in their premises.
6. **Best Initiative** – For other groups not included in the above.

Entrants are required to write no more than 1,000 words giving appropriate consideration to the criteria for each category. A maximum of 10 supporting items of documentation are allowed, including leaflets, photographs and press clippings.

*Full details and an entry form can be obtained by calling Jessica Canfor on 01293 867644, Email jessica.canfor@william-reed.co.uk or alternatively, visiting www.responsible drinksretailing.co.uk. **Pubwatches** - Please return your form by no later than 14 September 2007, if you wish to enter.*