

Edition 28
APRIL
2009

National Pubwatch Newsletter



This edition comes to you courtesy
of the British Beer & Pubs
Association



ST AUSTELL BREWERY HOSTS CORNWALL PUBWATCHES

Steve Baker Chair of the National Pubwatch addressed a seminar at St Austell Brewery on 19th February 2009. The seminar was attended by Pubwatch Chairs, local government licensing officers and police licensing officers from all parts of Cornwall. Special thanks are expressed to Mike Ward, Chief Inspector of Devon & Cornwall Police and John Dunn, Health, Safety & Security Manager, South West Ambulance Service for their attendance. John Dunn spoke about the South West Ambulance interest in looking to work with Pubwatch Schemes.

Steve gave the meeting an update on the national scheme, legal challenges and gave advice on how to avoid some of the pitfalls in running Pubwatch. He then answered questions from the floor.

Police Licensing Officer John Olver said "The seminar has helped clear up some of the grey issues around Pubwatch. I have received very positive feedback from attendees". Our thanks go to Steve and St Austell for hosting the event."

Attendees were treated to a pasty and a pint following the seminar in the ever popular Visitor Centre at the brewery. St Austell Brewery sponsor and support the following 10 Pubwatch schemes and meetings are arranged and attended on a regular basis – Lostwithiel, Fowey, St Blazey, Par, St Austell, Mevagissey, St Dennis, St Stephens & Nanpean, Roche, Bugle & Treverbyn, Wadebridge & Padstow and Roseland.



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.

BRIEF RESUME OF CONFERENCE 2009

Our sixth national conference held in February 2009 in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, was attended by over 200 people. We are very grateful to the Home Office for funding this event and to the British Institute of Innkeeping for conducting the bulk of the administration on this occasion.

Unfortunately, two of our original speakers, Alan Campbell MP, Under Secretary of State, Home Office and Commander Simon O'Brien, lead officer for alcohol issues for the Association of Chief Police Officers, were subsequently unable to attend due to more pressing engagements. We are pleased that they were able to find colleagues to replace them.

Delegates were updated on a range of alcohol-related initiatives by Ziggy MacDonald, head of the Home Office Alcohol Strategy Unit on behalf of Alan Campbell MP. An overview of policing alcohol-related crime was given by Chief Inspector Andrew Studd, on behalf of Commander Simon O'Brien. Andrew Nicholls, of Mitchells and Butlers Pub Company, then introduced the impact many of these issues are having on the pub trade.

We again utilized the expertise of actors with the MOPA Theatre Company, who performed three short plays following the format of three popular television programmes. Two of these - 'The Apprentice' and 'Would I Lie to You?' – were performed in between the guest speakers. As intended, these first two plays worked well in triggering discussions in the four Workshops that followed, of which delegates attended two. These Workshops addressed:

Setting up a Pubwatch - facilitated by Committee members from National Pubwatch

Physical Interventions - facilitated by the Institute of Conflict Management, Kent Police and Todd & Cue Solicitors

Legal Issues - facilitated by Committee members from National Pubwatch and Poppleston Allen Licensing Solicitors

Keeping Your Business in Business - facilitated by abv Training Ltd

The subsequent Panel Discussion included feedback from the Workshops and questions from delegates, assisted by the MOPA Theatre Company, who

Continued on Page 3

How to contact us

By E-mail at : admin@nationalpubwatch.org.uk

By Post at: 17 Chace Avenue, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 5LX

By Phone: Malcolm Eidmans (Hon. Sec.) 01707 650095
Paul Wotton (Newsletter Editor) 020 8360 0612

Please note the change of Email address and contact person above.

Continued from Page 2 performed four short scenarios based on 'What Happened Next?' (a session within 'A Question of Sport').

Delegates were also able to view the fourteen display stands present. Written evaluations, together with verbal feedback from delegates, were extremely encouraging and useful. Such comments are always taken into account when planning future conferences. Many delegates also identified tasks that they intend to address and even implement locally. A full report of this conference will be available on our website in the near future.

Editor's Note: Our previous Conferences have been held in London, High Wycombe, Chester, Coventry and near Weston-super-Mare. We endeavour to choose a location where there is a groundswell of support for Pubwatches. The late replacement of our intended speakers is always a possibility. However, this did not detract from the content delivered.

ASSAULTS ON LICENSING STAFF

Have you recently suffered an assault while carrying out your duties in a pub or club? We would like to hear from you about your experiences and how the police and CPS dealt with the offence. We think that such attacks on bar staff should be seen as an aggravating feature of the offence and the offenders prosecuted if there is sufficient evidence.

Why do we want to hear from you? National Pubwatch recently discussed the issue of assaults on pub and club staff at our national conference. We are particularly concerned about the number of staff who are attacked whilst they are enforcing legislation in relation to the running of a pub or club e.g. no smoking, under age sales or sales to drunks. We would particularly like to hear from you if you are willing to discuss your experiences with other people or allow us to use your assault as a case study in order to publicise the issue.

Please send details, including telephone number or other contact details to admin@nationalpubwatch.org.uk

DERBY CITY PUBWATCH

David Lalor of Derby City Pubwatch reports that they have joined forces with the off-trade in their 'Challenge 25' campaign so that all of Derby applies the same practice over purchasing alcohol.

They have prepared their own poster and the campaign was officially launched at the end of March.

Editor's Note: Please also see the article in this edition from BBPA regarding their view of 'Challenge 25'.

CHALLENGE 25 – IS IT RIGHT FOR PUBS?

A Challenge 25 scheme – where if a person looks under the age of 25 they will be asked for proof of age – has recently been launched by the supermarkets. There has been some comment that pubs should look to adopt this scheme in place of the current Challenge 21 initiative.

The British Beer & Pub Association believes Challenge 21 is the best and most appropriate scheme for pubs. The evidence for this is wide ranging – research has demonstrated that 90% of 18-24 years olds are aware of Challenge 21, indicating the success of the scheme amongst its key target group. Pubs turn away over one million customers each month who, when challenged, are unable to provide acceptable proof of age - clearly indicating the trade is making a huge effort to enforce the law and prevent underage sales through Challenge 21. The BBPA and its members have now circulated nearly half a million Challenge 21 posters to British pubs.

The pub sector has trialled Challenge 25 and Challenge 30, with result being to actually reduce the amount of age checking that goes on, as staff feel unsure as to who they should and should not ask for proof of age. It should also be noted that a person asked for proof of age under Challenge 25 could well be seven years over the legal age – potentially causing confusion and confrontation with customers aware of the Challenge 21 scheme.

As mentioned above, the drive for Challenge 25 mainly comes from the off-trade and supermarkets. Pubs and supermarkets are very different trading environments and as such, a scheme that is right for one is not always right for the other. The BBPA and its members will continue to support and operate the Challenge 21 scheme as this is the most practical and works best for pubs. The Challenge 21 poster is free to download from the BBPA website: www.beerandpub.com

GOVERNMENT PROPOSE MANDATORY CODE FOR PUBS

The Policing and Crime Bill is currently passing through Parliament. The Bill gives powers to introduce a mandatory code for those retailing alcohol. The content of the code has not yet been finalised, but has been speculated to include bans on certain drinks promotions and forcing retailers to offer smaller wine and spirits measures (amongst other proposals).

The Government itself admits that a code could cost the industry many millions of pounds. The draft code is expected to be published next month for public consultation, and the BBPA would urge all interested parties to respond.

LIAISON WITH THE HOME OFFICE

National Pubwatch have been working hard to develop a close liaison with the Home Office. This has already led to the following:

- * Funding for, and a contribution within, our recent national conference held in Harrogate
- * Following the publication of the recent draft Codes of Practice within the Policing and Crime Bill, persuading them to remove the compulsory requirement that licensed premises must join a Pubwatch
- * Influencing the Home Office Select Committee to include a recommendation that 'the Government encourage greater participation in voluntary Pubwatch schemes to facilitate participation between licensees and the police' within their publication 'Policing within the 21st Century' (Recommendation 21)
- * Our chair accepting an invitation to become a standing member of the Regional Government Offices Alcohol Lead Members Group
- * Working with the Home Office and other partners on their upgrade of the Alcohol Guidance digital resource
- * An invitation to work with the Home Office to develop the practical application of Drinking Banning Orders (Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006)

THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER AND CCTV

Recently, the Information Commissioner made this press statement relating to the use of CCTV in licensed premises:

"Hardwiring surveillance into the UK's pubs raises serious privacy concerns. We recognise that CCTV plays an important role in the prevention and detection of crime, and can help to reduce crime in areas of high population density, such as city boroughs. However we are concerned at the prospect of landlords being forced into installing CCTV in pubs as a matter of routine in order to meet the terms of a licence.

"The Policing and Crime Bill currently going through Parliament will give the Secretary of State and licensing authorities the power to impose mandatory conditions for licensing. We are concerned that this new power may be used to mandate the installation of CCTV in licensed premises where there has been no history of trouble and where the installation of CCTV is not justified. To date we have not been approached by Government to discuss the provisions of this Bill. We will therefore be raising the framing of this section with the Government.

"The use of CCTV must be reasonable and proportionate if we are to maintain public trust and confidence in its deployment. Installing surveillance in a particular pub to combat specific problems of rowdiness and bad behaviour may be lawful, but hardwiring in blanket measures across entire areas

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5 and including pubs where there has been no history of criminal activity is likely to breach data protection requirements.



Bill Stone, one of our Founder Members, on our display stand at our recent National Conference in Harrogate.



Jeremy Allen speaking within the Legal Issues Workshop at this same National Conference.

NATIONAL PUBWATCH COMMITTEE CHANGES

Please note that in April 2009, Malcolm Eidmans, our Secretary for many years, is stepping down from this post. However, he will remain a valuable Committee member.

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6 His stepping down will lead to a number of changes on how we operate and who to contact, depending on the nature of each enquiry.

Please check the News page on our web site over the coming few weeks where these changes will be listed.

Malcolm undertook the role of Secretary on the formation of National Pubwatch in 1997, being one of its founder members. His knowledge and expertise are second to none. He has clearly enjoyed this involvement and feels we have achieved much over the past twelve years. His continued involvement as a member of our Committee will greatly assist fellow members in continuing to move this organisation forward.

KEG WATCH LTD

The loss of kegs, casks and dispense gas cylinders (containers) is a continuing problem for brewers, container owners and dispense gas suppliers. This problem has been exaggerated by the high demand for aluminium and stainless steel. These are seen as an easy target for theft and destruction for their high scrap value. Over the years brewers have launched a number of initiatives that have had the effect of reducing losses, however, many millions of pounds are still lost every year. An accreditation for scrap yards that are authorised to destroy kegs and casks is now in place and records of such premises are kept by Keg Watch and the British Beer and Pub Association and a list of these can be found on their websites. All disposals have to be arranged and authorised by the container owner. No other person has the authority to dispose of or authorise the disposal of kegs, casks or dispense gas cylinders.

Keg Watch Limited is an organisation working in a 'not for profit environment' within the Brewing Industry and has over 450 members from micro to international brewers, cider makers, container owners and dispense gas suppliers. Its aim is to continuously improve the recovery of containers via liaison with the licensed trade, beer wholesalers and pub companies.

Pub owners, landlords and wholesalers who are having trouble getting their kegs, casks and dispense gas cylinders collected should contact Keg Watch as soon as possible on 0808 100 1945 or www.kegwatch.co.uk The service is free of charge and even the phone call is free when made from a UK landline.

Keg Watch are not interested in who the users are trading with. They just want to recover the containers in an effort to stem the losses.

Editor's Note: The Keg Watch poster can also be found on the National Pubwatch web site www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk where it can be downloaded.

**EACH YEAR THE BREWING
INDUSTRY LOSES MILLIONS OF
POUNDS THROUGH THEFT AND
MISAPPROPRIATION OF KEGS
AND CASKS!**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY
INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
US ON OUR 24 HOUR
CONFIDENTIAL FREEPHONE
NUMBER, OR CONTACT US VIA
OUR WEBSITE.**



**KEG WATCH MAY PAY
REWARDS FOR THE
INFORMATION LEADING TO
THE ARREST AND
CONVICTION OF THOSE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
THEFT OR UNAUTHORISED
DESTRUCTION OF
CONTAINERS**

**PUB OWNERS, LANDLORDS
& WHOLESALERS:**

**HAVING TROUBLE GETTING
YOUR KEGS AND CASKS
COLLECTED?
CONTACT US AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE**

WWW.KEGWATCH.CO.UK

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT KEG WATCH ON

KEGLINE 0808 100 1945

**KEG WATCH LIMITED IS A TRADE ASSOCIATION LIMITED BY GUARANTEE,
WORKING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE BREWING INDUSTRY AND ITS ALLIED TRADES.**