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pints and people since 1971

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FULL PINTS

Published by



Branch Pub of the Year

Congratulations to The Steam Packet Inn, Isle of Whithorn, which has won our Branch Pub of the Year competition, having been judged against our other three finalists.

Our finalists were *The Twa Dugs*, West Kilbride; *Weston Tavern*, Kilmaurs; *Number Forty Seven*, Troon; and *The Steam Packet Inn*, Isle of Whithorn. Having been visited by several judges from across our branch area, *The Steam Packet Inn* was the overall winner. It last won the title ten years ago in 2016. A presentation will be arranged with owner Alastair Scoular in due course – watch for details in our monthly members' email – CAMRA Calling. *The Steam Packet Inn* now goes forward to the Scottish Pub of the Year competition (which it won in 2014) – the winner of that stage will be known at the start of July.

SUMMER 2026



Full Pints changes

As you'll have noticed, we've had to slim down Full Pints from our usual 36 or 40 pages, to just 8 pages in this edition. And with limited space, we've had to cut back on longer articles and photos.

As was announced in the Spring edition of Full Pints, our Advertising Manager has stepped down from the role and we are urgently looking for someone to take over that position, as we need to secure sufficient advertising to cover our printing costs for each edition. Please email fullpints@ayr.camra.org.uk if you are interested in finding out more information on what's required of the role.

Our plan is to produce a normal edition in the Autumn ahead of the Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival held in Troon at the start of October.

New Book

The 9th edition of the Good Beer Guide Belgium has just been published.

This fully revised and updated edition by Tim Skelton features over 1,500 beers, the brewers who make them, and the very best places to enjoy them, from cosy cafés and specialist beer bars, to brewery taps and famous festivals. Order a copy from the CAMRA shop here: <https://orlo.uk/SFenX>



CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) is an independent, voluntary, consumer organisation whose vision is to have quality real ale, cider & perry and thriving pubs in every community. We currently have around 550 members in the Ayrshire & Wigtonshire Branch. We have four social group areas – namely North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and Wigtonshire, with regular social events and meetings being organised. We aim to produce Full Pints quarterly and copies are available in all our branch's real ale outlets, as well as being emailed to members and being downloadable online at ayr.camra.org.uk.



NUMBER 47

ALES FROM:

**GREENE KING, BELHAVEN, CAIRNGORM BREWERY,
FIVE KINGDOMS BREWERY, STEWART BREWING**

**QUIZ THURSDAY FROM 9.30PM
DJ AT WEEKENDS FROM 10PM**

**OPENING TIMES:
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY: 12 NOON - 1AM
THURSDAY-SUNDAY: 12 NOON - 2.30AM**



SKY SPORTS, TNT SPORTS, PREMIER SPORTS

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FREE FESTIVAL ENTRY

CAMRA members can now get FREE entry to all CAMRA-run festivals across the UK. As no two festivals are the same, there are different methods to claim your free entry. Some festivals may require you to purchase a free ticket in advance via Tckty, CAMRA's in-house ticket website. Others may simply need you to show your valid membership card at the door (such as our own festival in Troon). Most festivals however will offer an admission package, which will include the cost of a glass, programme and token card as well as your free entry. Any admission will still be subject to venue capacity restrictions, and "in association" (eg in partnership with a pub/club) may not offer the free entry. Check in advance as to what is available for each festival.



Champion Beer of Britain Heats

Larbert Real Ale & Cider Festival hosted two heats of this year's competitions:

PREMIUM PALE, BLOND & GOLDEN ALES:

- 1st: Loch Lomond *Lost in Mosaic*
- 2nd: Fyne Ales *Avalanche*
- 3rd: Cairngorm *Cairngorm Gold*

BRITISH & NEW WORLD IPAs:

- 1st: Cromarty *Raptor*
- 2nd: Cromarty *AKA IPA*
- 3rd: Cromarty *Rogue Wave*

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to **Cairngorm Brewery** - their *Wildcat*, a 5.1% Premium Bitter, won overall Silver in the Champion Beer of Britain finals held at the Cambridge Beer Festival.

FUTURE FESTIVAL DATES

The following festivals will all have cask ale available.

SIBA Indie Beer Festival (Independent): The Pitt Venue, 20 West Shore Road, Granton, Edinburgh. Fri 26 - Sat 27 June

Alloway Beer Festival (Independent): Cambusdoon Sports Club, Alloway. Fri 3-Sun 5 July

Glasgow Real Ale Festival (CAMRA): The Briggait, Glasgow. Thurs 6 - Sat 8 August

Twa Dugs Festival (Independent): The Twa Dugs, West Kilbride. Fri 28-Sat 29 August

Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival (CAMRA): Troon Concert Hall, Troon. Thurs 1 - Sat 3 October

Carlisle Beer Festival (CAMRA): Station Hotel, Carlisle. Thurs 29 October - Sat 31 October

Alloa Real Ale & Cider Festival (CAMRA): Alloa Town Hall. Fri 6 - Sat 7 November

The Paisley Food and Drink Festival hosted three heats of the competition:

SESSION PALE, BLOND & GOLDEN ALES:

- 1st: Loch Lomond *Southern Summit*
- 2nd: Five Kingdoms *Summerisle*
- 3rd: Fyne Ales *Jarl*

SESSION BITTERS:

- 1st: Swannay *Scapa Special*
- 2nd: Loch Lomond *Bonnie and Blonde*
- 3rd: Loch Lomond *West Highland Way*

SESSION STOUTS & PORTERS:

- 1st: Cairngorm *Black Gold*
- 2nd: Broughton *Stout Jock*
- 3rd: Swannay *Sneaky Wee Orkney Stout*



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Email: branchchair@ayr.camra.org.uk

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Minutes of Branch Meetings are available to members from the Secretary.

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Full Page: £100 (£360/year)
1/2 Page: £55 (£200/year)
1/4 Page: £35 (£120/year)
1/8 Page: £20 (£70/year)

Websites:
ayr.camra.org.uk
ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk

Social Media:
 Ayrshire & Wigtownshire CAMRA
Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival

 [ayrshire.camra](https://www.instagram.com/ayrshire.camra)

Full Pints is designed by Montfode Design, www.mf93.co.uk. The magazine is published every three months and distributed to all real ale outlets in our region. The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the editor or of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

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SCORE AND WIN!

CAMRA's Beer Scoring Advisory Group has been reviewing our beer scoring system and descriptions. Their recommendations have been approved, and changes to the scoring system will go live on 1 June. Previously beers were scored using a numerical scale (0-5). These have been replaced with simpler text 'ratings' with updated descriptions and possible reactions! The new ratings are shown opposite.

One of our branch campaigns this year is to increase the number of scores we receive, which ultimately helps us select the best pubs for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide. As an incentive, we're running a **competition** to win a 5L mini-cask of beer, by encouraging members to visit as many pubs as possible in our branch area (currently around 49 pubs).

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.



The prize will be awarded to the A&W branch member who scores beers in the most branch pubs. The competition will run from Sunday 29 March 2026 to Sunday 7 March 2027. If two or more members have scored the same number of pubs, then the winner will be the member who has submitted the most beer scores in total.

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Forthcoming Events

Any late changes or additions will be shared on our Facebook group. Our CAMRA Calling monthly email and Facebook page will have full details nearer the time. Further events are shown on our website at ayr.camra.org.uk

SAT 13 JUNE

Joint Social with Glasgow & West of Scotland Branch – Ayr.

Smoking Goat (12 noon), West Kirk, Wellingtons, and The Twa Dugs. The Growler may also be visited to try some of their live 'craft' ales.

TUES 16 JUNE

South Ayrshire Social, 7pm

Prestwick Pioneer

THURS 18 JUNE

North Ayrshire Social, 7.30pm

Railway Inn, Glengarnock

WED 24 JUNE

East Ayrshire Social, 2.30pm

Black Bull, Darvel

FRI 26 / SAT 27 JUNE

SIBA Indie Beer Festival, The Pitt Venue, Granton, Edinburgh.

More info at siba.co.uk/indiebeerscotland

FRI 3 – SUN 5 JULY

9th Alloway Beer Festival

Cambusdoon Sports Club, Alloway. Branch Social and Club of the Year Presentation on Sun 5 July from 2pm.

SAT 4 JULY

Joint Social with Renfrewshire Branch, 2pm

Brown Bull, Lochwinnoch

MON 6 JULY

Branch Committee Meeting, 7.45pm

The Twa Dugs, West Kilbride

THURS 16 JULY

North Ayrshire Social, 7.30pm

Village Inn, Fairlie

MON 20 JULY

Beer Festival Planning Meeting, 7.30pm

Wheatsheaf Inn, Kilmarnock

TUES 21 JULY

South Ayrshire Social/Branch Meeting, 2pm

Number Forty Seven, Troon

WED 29 JULY

East Ayrshire Social, 7.30pm

Weston Tavern, Kilmaurs

THURS 6 – SAT 8 AUG

Glasgow Real Ale Festival

The Briggait, Glasgow. Branch Social on Fri 7 Aug from 12 noon. More info and advance tickets at g-raf.camra.org.uk

SAT 15 AUG

SCOTB Regional Meeting, 1pm

Twa Dugs, West Kilbride

TUES 18 AUG

South Ayrshire Social, 7pm

Wellingtons, Ayr

THURS 20 AUG

North Ayrshire Social, 7.30pm

Paddle Steamer, Largs

WED 26 AUG

East Ayrshire Social, 7.30pm

Mill House, Stewarton

FRI 28 – SUN 30 AUG

Twa Dugs Beer Festival

Twa Dugs, West Kilbride.

Branch Social on Sat 29 Aug from 2pm.

Steam Packet Presentation

Branch Chair Lindsay Grant presented Steam Packet Inn owner Alastair Scoular with our Wigtownshire Pub of the Year (POTY) award on a recent visit. Our other area winners were pictured in the last edition of Full Pints. Alastair also received a national award for **Five Kingdoms Dark Storm** winning Bronze in the Strong Stouts and Porters Category in the Champion Winter Beer of Britain competition.



Branch AGM 2026

The branch AGM was held on Saturday 28 March 2026.

Members heard reports on our activities for the past year and elected committee members for the next year – the committee can be found online at ayr.camra.org.uk/branch-matters/committee/

The meeting also agreed our campaigning targets for the next year – we need your support and suggestions to help us to achieve them:

- **Target 1:** Increase the number of beer scores logged by our branch members on camra.org.uk.
- **Target 2:** Retain and increase CAMRA membership within our branch.
- **Target 3:** Encourage younger people to attend CAMRA supported events.

Membership News

CAMRA's Membership Subscription Rates will be increasing by £1 from 24 June 2026.

Until now recurring payments could only be made by Direct Debit but CAMRA has now rolled out recurring card payments as an alternative option. Members choosing to pay by a recurring payment benefit from a £2 reduction in their annual subscription.

Join CAMRA at camra.org.uk/membership

SPRING 2026 WORDSEARCH – SOLUTION

We asked you to find the names of 30 UK Beer Festivals in the last edition. The answers were:



Keep up to date with the Ayrshire Beer & Cider Festival at www.ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk 1-3 October 2026

In addition, there is a new offer available as we try to grow our community. If a member refers someone to CAMRA they'll get £5 off membership, and the referrer will get a free 6-month TasteCard membership worth £39.99. **To start referring:**

1. **Log in to your CAMRA account** at camra.org.uk
2. Go to 'My Profile' to find your **unique referral link and code**.
3. **Share** with anyone who might enjoy joining CAMRA.

*Note: Redemptions are limited to 1,000 new members, so hurry and get referring now!

**MONDAY NIGHT
QUIZ 9PM**

**WEEKLY
GUEST ALE**

**FOOD SERVED
TILL 7PM DAILY**



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Local Brewery News

FIVE KINGDOMS

Tae Bash is new beer that's been 28 years in the making! Breweries from all over Scotland have created limited edition beers to celebrate the Scottish Men's Football Team qualifying for the 2026 World Cup. A percentage from each beer will go to the Tartan Army Sunshine Appeal.

Superdelica is another new cask 4.3% pale ale loaded with Superdelic™ hops from Charles Faram and just a touch of Citra. Super juicy and tropical but still so clean and crushable.



ARRAN BREWERY

No major news to report. Check their facebook page for any last-minute changes to opening times (usually 10am-4.30pm Mon-Sat)

ROCK BREWERY

Rock is now contract brewing the ales - **Shoreline** and **Botanical Blonde** - for the **Cladach Beach House**. They also have a permanent keg line installed in the **Drift Inn, Lamlash** which currently has **Abyss**, a 3.5% dark mild. Bottle conditioned ales should be appearing soon.



Can you help us?

We've got some vacant volunteering roles in our branch which need filling. Contact branch chair Lindsay Grant for more information if you are interested in any of the roles. Email: branchchair@ayr.camra.org.uk

FULL PINTS ADVERTISING MANAGER

Contact existing and potential advertisers for *Full Pints*. Current requirement is to make contact four times a year, plus any follow-up calls.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE SOCIAL SECRETARY

Organise regular social events, currently monthly, around South Ayrshire real ale pubs.

WIGTOWNSHIRE SOCIAL SECRETARY

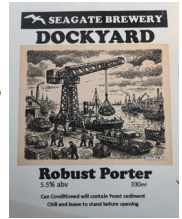
Organise regular social events around the Wigtownshire pubs and feedback any news or updates about the outlets in the area.

YOUNG PERSONS' CONTACT

Be a point of contact for any of our younger members and organise socials and events for them on a regular basis, some of which could be based around non-cask outlets.

SEAGATE BREWERY

A handpump should be installed very soon in the **Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash**. **Dockyard** is a new 5.5% robust porter is now available in can conditioned format, and will soon be available in cask. Currently experimenting with a dark lager and something special for the World Cup!



Local Real Ale Pub News

Bar 10 located in the **Bridgeway, Irvine** has two handpumps but no beer on them - if you're passing please pop in and ask for cask to show there's some demand.

A former ale outlet, **Macaulay's** in **Largs** has been refurbished by Amber Taverns and is now called **The Old Salt**, but sadly has not reintroduced cask ale.

Number Forty Seven in **Troon** has installed a 7th handpump which is being used for bag-in-box cider - currently **Weston's Old Rosie**.

The **Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot** has new owners after 72 years in the Crawford family. Robbie and Barbara have handed the reins over to Nick Dent of The Original Collection.



Erratum: In the last edition of Full Pints, we said that **Souters Inn, Kirkoswald** had been bought by the RAD Group. It is actually owned by Southern Ayr Ltd, who also run **Wellingtons** and the **Abbotsford Hotel**, both in **Ayr**.

Great British Pub Crawl

Dale Harvey, who runs the Great British Pub Crawl social media channels visited Ayr and Kilmarnock back in April.

Local CAMRA members met up with Dale briefly in Ayr's **West Kirk**, where **Full Pints** also managed to have a short interview with him - that will appear in the next edition. Since then, Dale has now been elected onto CAMRA's National Executive where he hopes to share his knowledge in trying to save pubs across the UK.



FIVE KINGDOMS



SCAN FOR
WEBSITE



fivekingdomsbrewery.com