



Scottish Brewing Archive Association  
Promoting the History of Brewing in Scotland

## **SBAA Newsletter No. 30 – January 2017**

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### **Welcome**

Welcome to Newsletter 30 of the Scottish Brewing Archive Association. It's your SBAA Newsletter, so please read it all. And if you know of potential new members, please get in touch.

### **“View from the Chair”**

The start of a new year gives us the opportunity to plan our activities which will be agreed by your committee and communicated to you in the April Newsletter.

If however you have any ideas or suggestions please get in touch, it would be good to hear from you.

I am planning a new activity during the winter months, for details read the article “Scottish brewing history – sitting down”.

If you are interested in attending, please get in touch.

### **SBAA Membership**

Currently renewing your SBAA membership varies at different times throughout the year. To simplify matters it was agreed at the AGM in November for current members to renew their membership in line with the SBAA financial year which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed that the change in membership arrangements would start as from October 2017, giving some members time to make any changes with their banks.

For the current financial year please renew your membership as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. With your continuing support the aims of the SBAA can grow.

## Harvey Milne

Those of you who attended the AGM will remember that Harvey gave an excellent talk on his days when he worked at Alloa Brewery. Unfortunately not long afterwards Harvey had difficulty in walking and it was discovered that he had a tumour growth on his spine which is continuing to be treated in hospital.

I am sure you all wish Harvey the very best.

John Martin

## An Obituary

### D.I.H. Johnstone

In early November we received the sad news that David I.H. Johnstone had died at Burton on Trent after a short illness.

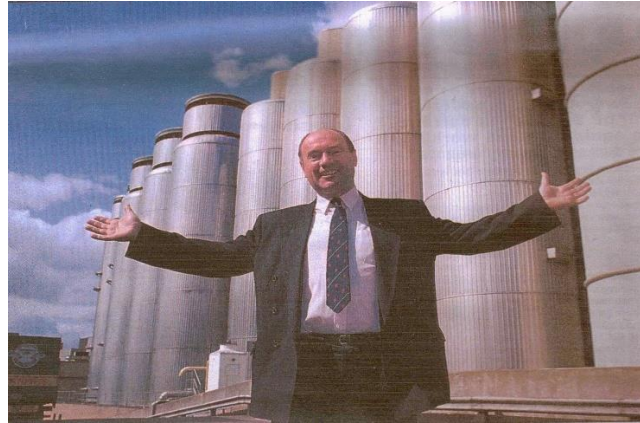
David was a past Chairman of the Scottish Brewing Archive during the years from 1990 to 1999 and was instrumental in securing the future of the Scottish Brewing Archive at Glasgow University. David painstakingly transcribed the Tennent's James Marshall letter copy book of a trip to the Americas in 1875/76 and wrote a three-part history of the beer can that was published by the SBA.

David was from rural South Lanarkshire and had a passion for home brewing from an early age. He left Hamilton Academy to study microbiology at Glasgow University and every day he would travel to his lectures by bus along Duke Street and, by his own admission, would pass the gates at Tennent's Wellpark Brewery and dream of being Head Brewer someday.

On graduating in the late Sixties David joined Wellpark Brewery as a graduate trainee. His passion, knowledge and intellect ensured promotion to various roles in the years ahead and he was affectionally recognised as an "expert on everything". To contradict David would usually bring a salvo of facts and personal experiences that would disarm any challengers. However, he was inevitably right. After senior roles in packaging and quality he landed his "dream" job as Head Brewer at Wellpark in 1987.

Apart from his contribution to Brewing and Management during this period DIHJ will be remembered for his roles in the Tennent's Lager Centenary year of 1985 and persuading the company to invest in a brewing museum located in a 200 year old cellar at Wellpark. The magnificent St Mungo Heritage Centre opened in time for Glasgow celebrating the accolade of being European City of Culture in 1990. During this time he also published several articles

documenting the history of the Tennent's business, in particular Wellpark Brewery. These are now regarded as the most comprehensive summaries on the company's illustrious past.



**David Johnstone at Wellpark Brewery**

Alas the brewing industry was changing and in 1991 DIHJ reluctantly accepted a "promotion" to become General Manager at another Bass-owned brewery, Hancock's in Cardiff. Following this David had several central roles at Bass Brewers Technical centre at Burton before retiring after more than 32 years service to brewing. His passion and interests extended beyond beer and he was a pioneer at the Scottish Flying Club at Strathaven, building a full scale flying Messerschmitt. Following his retirement his energy and enthusiasm was channelled into another interest becoming an antique guns and arms dealer in the East Midlands. However, it will be for his love of Tennent's that he will be remembered in these parts, indeed his knowledge had been in demand recently to advise on artefacts for inclusion in the proposed 'Tennent's Story' at the Wellpark visitors centre – he's missed already.

Ivor Reid

## **Scottish brewing history – sitting down**

Last year there were a number of guided walking tours in the Canongate and in Alloa that were designed to highlight and tell the stories of the many breweries that used to operate in both these areas. As there was a great deal of interest shown during these tours I am now thinking of something different.

Dependant on interest shown, I plan to continue with promoting the history of brewing in Scotland during the winter months, but this time indoors, with discussions and story telling over a beer, with a small group of say 6-8 people.

The first event will be in February or March but is dependant on the number of people showing an interest. If you would like to attend please let me know by phone or email.

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[martin.j7@sky.com](mailto:martin.j7@sky.com)

John Martiin

## Can you Help?

In early December last year I received a memo asking for assistance from a Sue Hamilton to confirm the provenance and family history of a badge relating to the Forth Bridge, which has connections to beer as well as trains.

This enquiry came about following the article in the winter edition of Pints of View, which highlighted the Raise Your Glass! brewing exhibition in Alloa.

Sue Hamilton was aware that her Great Grandfather, John A. Brown, worked for one of the Alloa breweries. The brewery where he worked provided the beer for the topping out ceremony for the Forth Bridge prior to its official opening in 1890. In recognition of this he was presented with a commemorative badge made from the same steel as the bridge itself and including his initials J.B.

What is not known however is which Alloa brewery he worked for.

The census records of that period have his name as John A.C. Brown in 1881 and later in 1891 and 1901 as John A. Brown. The census records of 1901 have his occupation as a "commercial traveller" while the previous census record has his occupation as a "brewers maveler" although we believe this is a spelling error and perhaps should read "brewers traveller"

It would be good to establish which Alloa brewery John A. Brown worked for at that time. Shown below are the images of John A. Brown and the commemorative badge.

If you can help with this enquiry please get in touch.

Phone 0131 441 7718 or email [martin.j7@sky.com](mailto:martin.j7@sky.com)



John Martin

## Brewing Exhibitions

The Alloa Breweries Memorabilia Exhibition at the Speirs Centre at Primrose Street in Alloa is ending now, but there will be another exhibition soon in the “Raise Your Glass” series by our associated but separate not-for-profit community interest company Brewing Heritage Scotland.

The next exhibition will be from dates to be confirmed in April to June at the local museum in the old Musselburgh Town Hall. Please try and visit it. Even if you think you have seen some material at an event in Alloa or Edinburgh, it is worth noting that this will feature previously unseen Musselburgh-related breweriana. Look out for more details later.

Allan McLean

## Annual General Meeting

There was a welcome turnout of members at the Annual General Meeting of the SBAA in the “Behind The Wall” pub in Falkirk on 24 November.

In addition to the formalities of the AGM, there was an entertaining and informative talk by Harvey Milne.

It was agreed that the nominated committee would serve under the chairmanship of John Martin, who thanked outgoing committee members who are no longer serving on the committee. These are Colin Valentine, Forbes Gibb and Jim Bird. The Chairman welcomed Richard Rees to the committee and also the Treasurer and Members’ Secretary, Helen Carmichael (email [biggroove@hotmail.com](mailto:biggroove@hotmail.com)). The new Secretary is Duncan Kellock.

The minutes of the AGM will be issued soon.

Allan McLean

## Scotland continues to gain many more breweries

As recorded before there has been a massive increase in the number of breweries. With the total in Scotland more than 100 we can no longer give up-to-date lists of new breweries. Therefore, as before, I am suggesting that members may care to look at a website that does give recent information:

<http://www.stravaiging.com/drink/beer/>

Allan McLean

# STICK

After attending the STICK conference last year in Edinburgh I thought it appropriate to share with you the organisations purpose and aims. I am indebted to Miriam McDonald who provided the following summary.

The SBAA already has a promotional page in the STICK web site under Who is Involved. So why not visit the web site. <http://www.stickssn.org/site/>

John Martin

## Scottish Transport and Industry Collections and Knowledge specialist network (STICK)



### Who are we?

Established in 2006 and launched in October 2007, STICK is an independent network with members throughout Scotland from private individuals to local authorities, universities, voluntary, national and independent museums. Our membership is open to anyone with an interest in Scottish industrial and transport heritage. We believe transport and industry collections provide a vital insight into Scotland's social, industrial and economic history.

## **What are we about?**

The network aims to promote care and enjoyment of transport and industry collections. Through research, stewardship and advocacy, STICK encourages wider engagement with transport and industrial collections across Scotland.

Many of Scotland's museums have collections relating to industry and transport. But most of them are small, often volunteer-run, and lack both financial resources and specific expertise when it comes to looking after and interpreting these collections. Even within the local authority run museums the small numbers of staff mean that there is rarely anyone who has detailed knowledge of the needs and interpretation of industrial collections. The STICK subject specialist network is an attempt to bring together all those with transport and industrial collections with those who possess the knowledge, skills and expertise to preserve the collections and explain their importance in Scotland's story.

## **STICK has several objectives as a network**

- Develop opportunities to advance acquisition, care, development, research and interpretation of transport and industry collections in Scotland
- Identify key issues facing the long-term stewardship and development of transport and industry collections and work together to tackle these
- Promote, encourage and advance access to Scottish transport and industrial collections through a variety of mechanisms
- Support informed, efficient and confident decision making in the acquisition and long-term care of transport and industrial heritage across Scotland

## **Why should you join?**

- A chance to develop opportunities to advance acquisition, care, development, research and interpretation of transport and industry collections in Scotland
- To tackle key issues facing stewardship and development of Scottish transport and industrial collections
- To promote, encourage and advance access to Scottish transport and industry collections To support informed, efficient and confident decision making in the acquisition and long-term care of transport and industrial heritage across Scotland
- Opportunities to network and learn more about Scotland's diverse transport and industrial collections
- Access to STICK's discussion forum and information on collections
- STICK has an autumn conference on an industrial or transport theme and a spring event with visit to an industrial museum or industrial/transport related site

STICK has recently been involved in various projects on industrial themes such as Old Tools New uses and the Machine Tools Project and supports the '[Celebrating James Watt: Shaping the Modern World](#)' group. See <http://www.stickssn.org/site/> for more information or please contact Ellie Swinbank (**Email: [Keeper@nationalminingmuseum.com](mailto:Keeper@nationalminingmuseum.com)**) National Mining Museum Scotland, Lady Victoria Colliery, Newtongrange, Midlothian, EH22 4QN or subscribe to our mailing list at <http://www.stickssn.org/site/pages/how-to-join.php>

## Beer related books

The following are a number of books that were handed in by a past member. I have now received word that the Scottish Brewing Archive do not need any of these books in Glasgow and as a result thought it best to ask if anyone would like any, rather than throw them out.

All the books are in very good condition.

If you are interested please get in touch with me by either phoning or by e-mail.

John Martin

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*Cellarmanship* by Ivor Clissold  
*Principles of Brewing Science* by George Fix  
*You Brew Good Ale* by Ian P. Peaty  
*The Great British Beer Book* by Roger Protz  
*The Beer Drinkers Companion* by John Dallas and Charles McMaster  
*Brewing for Victory* by Brian Glover  
*Additives, Adulterants and Contaminants in Beer* by Jeffrey Patton  
*Homebrew Classics - India Pale Ale* by Clive La Pensee & Roger Protz  
*The Great Beers of Belgium* by Michael Jackson  
*Home Brewing* by Graham Wheeler  
*The Historical Companion to House Brewing* by Clive La Pensee  
*Home Brewed Beers and Stouts* by C.J.J. Berry  
*The Big Book of Brewing* by Dave Line  
*Ale and Hearty* by Alan Wykes  
*Heritage Pubs of Great Britain*

and

*The New World Guide to Beer* by Michael Jackson