



## May 2009 Newsletter

Next Club Meeting Sunday 24th May @12:30pm

### THE PRESIDENTS REPORT

#### **STOP PRESS - MAY MEETING DELAYED BY ONE WEEK!**



Our next meeting is here again but unfortunately our next scheduled meeting (the third Sunday in the month) clashes with a new open club competition being organized by the Melbourne Brewers. It is a British Ale competition being held at Oscar's Ale House, 7 Bayview Rd Belgrave, VIC 3160 (03) 9754 8002. I must say that the publicity for this event has been minimal, and I know I usually have my head in the clouds but I haven't heard very much about this competition. Alas, regardless of our meeting date, the comp is on and I feel that Westgate would be showing poor form to run our usual meeting at the same time as a sister club is trying to run an open comp, particularly as we will be hoping for their support for our Stout Extravaganza in July.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter I have a few 50 litre kegs that would make ideal boilers or a hot liquor tank, they are currently stored in the shed at the Naval Association Hall, if anyone is interested in these kegs then please contact me.

As I mentioned in the last report we now have approval from the Naval Association to make use of part of the outside shed to house a brewery, at our last meeting we had a cleanup and reorganized the shed so that we and the Naval Association can make better use of the space. At this point we have everything we need for a full grain brewery except for a sparge arm which is a minor problem that we can work around, and possibly a fermenter or two. In order to get the "new brewery" up and operational we will be running a working bee prior to our delayed meeting (now on May 24<sup>th</sup>). We will commence at 9.00 AM-ish, BBQ breakfast, some work, some beer and hopefully an operational brewery by the time the regular meeting starts at 12.30 -ish. My plan is to make an inaugural club brew for the upcoming AGM, I have some Weyermann organic pilsner malt that I will make available for the purpose, so I guess a club Bohemian Pils will be the go, unless there are any other suggestions.

Our annual Stout Extravaganza is coming up again and will be held on the first Sunday in July (5<sup>th</sup>). This major club event simply can't be run by one or two people doing everything, we desperately need members to put up their hand to help out, one or two small jobs each will help make our event workable and a success! We need people to pick up entries from the various shops, steward, judge, clean up, wash glasses etc. - even if only for an hour - will help your club and your mates. If we leave everything to the same few people it won't be long before those people say "stick this up you're ar..... I'm outta here!"

While on the subject of volunteers, as mentioned earlier, the AGM is coming up and all committee positions will be declared vacant. Your club needs a new committee; anyone can do it, it's not brain surgery, and it doesn't require a huge commitment, if there are no nominations then the club will fold. There is no easy way to say this, we are teetering on the brink of oblivion now and without a new committee and a few new ideas then we're FINISHED!!! The time for thinking about being on the committee has gone, it's time to ACT! Join in, and you will get more out of your club.

Riggers  
Passionate Craft Brewer

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Coming Events
- IPA in London
- Commercial developments
- Imperial Beer
- New AABC Categories
- British Ale Entry Form
- Westgate Stout Entry Form



THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE AT THE NAVAL ASSOCIATION HALL, GRAHAM STREET, WEST FOOTSCRAY (OPPOSITE THE YMCA) MELWAYS 41 J3

## **Coming Events**

### **2009**

**17th May**

Melbourne Brewers  
British Ale Comp

**5th July**

Westgate Stout Extravaganza

**3rd - 4th October**

Vicbrew

**October**

AABC in Canberra

## **Contacts**

**President**

Paul Rigby

**Secretary**

Colin MacEwan – 95347198

**Treasurer**

Colin MacEwan

**Newsletter Editor**

Gavin Germon

**Email**

[westgatebrewers@yahoo.com.au](mailto:westgatebrewers@yahoo.com.au)

**Correspondence**

PO Box 5043,  
Garden City,  
Vic 3207

## **Club Meeting Diary**

**May 2009**

AGM brewing

**June 2009**

Stout Competition

**July 2009**

AGM

**August 2009**

Pale Ale Competition

**September 2009**

tba



**Sponsors of Westgate Brewers**

Westgate Brewers is committed to encouraging responsible drinking  
**REMEMBER– If you Drink and Drive-You're a Bloody Idiot**

The Editor and Publisher of this newsletter do not guarantee any product which is advertised in this publication, nor do we take any responsibility for any claim or action which may result from the use of any product or the following of advice which appears in this magazine. We, the Editor and publisher of this magazine encourage letters and debate from our readers, but reserve the right to edit any letter, or refuse to publish any letter, for legal reasons.

## IPA IN LONDON

Initially many types of beer were sent to India for the British troops. It took some time for pale ale to become the preferred drink and command the highest prices. Perhaps returning troops or the decline in Porter brewing led to "Pale ales as prepared for India" becoming popular in London.

This is an extract from Zythophile's blog detailing these moments. For the full version of the story of IPA go to...

<http://zythophile.wordpress.com/2008/11/19/ipa-much-later-than-you-think/>

In August 1839 the railway arrived in Burton upon Trent, slashing the cost to the town's brewers of getting their goods to market elsewhere in England. Freight charges between Burton and London fell from £3 a ton to 15 shillings, and the time it took a cask of ale to travel from Staffordshire to the capital dropped from a week to 12 hours. Over the next 18 months London's wine merchants began advertising anonymous India pale ales, names of brewers not given. Then, on April 15 1841, the following advertisement appeared on page seven of *The Times*:

EAST INDIA PALE ALE – BASS & Co respectfully acquaint the public that a printed list of the bottlers of their INDIA ALE may be procured on application at the London Store, 49 Great Tower-street, where it may be had in casks of all sizes. This particular kind of ale differs greatly from the common malt liquors. It is more perfectly fermented, and approaches nearly the character of a dry wine; it has the light body of a wine combined with the fragrance and subdued bitter of the most delicate hop. That it is wholesome in an eminent degree is proved by it being drunk as the common beverage in India, where, from the nature of the climate, nothing which is not friendly to health can be used as an article of diet by Europeans. Many of the faculty also prescribe this ale to invalids. Dr Prout, who has examined that brewed by Bass & Co, in his work on diet &c, especially recommends it to weakly persons on account of its dryness, its mild tonic properties, and because it is not liable to turn ascecent in the stomach as other malt liquors are. The high esteem in which the pale ale of Bass & Co is held in India will be seen by a statement given below of the comparative quantity shipped by them and by Hodgson & Co to Calcutta in the season 1839 and 1840: Shipped by Bass & Co 4,936 hogsheads, by Hodgson 1,463 ditto.



Points to note there are that East India pale ale, India Ale and pale ale are all used as synonyms of the same article; and that Bass reckoned its EIPA had a "subdued" bitterness of "delicate hop" – not a teeth-puckering hop-filled wallop. But Bass itself wasn't calling this "Pale Ale as prepared for India": it clearly liked the sound of "India Pale Ale".

## IPA IN LONDON CONT..

Another cheeky point to note is that Bass failed to mention its biggest rival and fellow Burton brewer, Allsopp, which responded with its own ad in *The Times* the very next day:

EAST INDIA PALE ALE – In consequence of the increased consumption of this malt liquor, and at the request of several eminent medical men, who are strongly recommending its use to their patients, Messers ALLSOPP and SONS beg to inform the public, and the trade generally, that they can be supplied with their ALES in casks of various sizes, by application to Mr John Edwards at their stores, Old Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street. The reputation which this ale has acquired in all parts of India can be ascertained by a reference to the mercantile prices current, by which it can be seen that it commands a preference over all other ales which are now offered to the public ... Parties in the country can be supplied with casks direct from the establishment, by addressing their letters to Burton-on-Trent, or to Old Swan-lane.



Sucks to you, Bass – we’ve got *several* medical men on our side, not just old Prout, and we sell for a higher price in India than you do, nyaa nyaaa ...

April 1841 appears to be the moment “Pale Ale as prepared for India” took off in England, or at least in London, with up to five or six small ads from wine merchants now appearing in *The Times* every day for “India Ale”, “pale India ale”, “pale export India ale” and other variations. Bass and Allsopp were not the only Burton brewers selling to the London market: Others included Mason and Gilbertson, whose brewery in Horninglow Street was later owned by the Thompson family, eventual partners in Marston’s, and who were advertising their India Pale Ale, “now so much recommended by the medical profession”, in *The Times* on October 29 1841.

Another was Saunders & Co: William Saunders began brewing on the north side of Horninglow Street around 1835, and was “probably” (according to CC Owens’s *The Development of Industry in Burton upon Trent*) absorbed by Allsopp’s in 1865. In December 8 1842 *The Times* carried an advertisement for Saunders’s “East India Pale and Golden Ales”, with the claim that “The fermentation being conducted upon a principle which renders them entirely free from acidity has brought them under the notice of several of the most eminent physicians in London ... Invalids generally will find these ales an agreeable and refreshing beverage.”

From now on, India Pale Ale became part of the mainstream brewing offer in Britain. But though as a style it was more than half a century old, having developed from the pale ales brewed in England and shipped out, along with porter, small beer and other brews, as a name it was remarkably new.

## Commercial Developments

<http://www.theshout.com.au/beernewsitems/index.php>

### FOSTER'S RELEASES WOLF BLOSS IN PLASTIC

By Ian Neubauer

Foster's Group has launched the Wolf Bloss Green Label, which has added two new wines to the range that come in PET (polyethylene terephthalate).

Foster's announced at an official launch in Sydney yesterday (May 5) that the new bottles produce 29 per cent less greenhouse gas emissions than glass over the total life cycle of the product.

The figure takes into account all phases of production and consumption, including winemaking, packaging, delivery and disposal, and was independently verified by sustainability consultancies Net Balance and Energetic.

"The introduction of Green Label responds to one of today's strongest consumer insights and emerging trends for environmentally friendly products," said Wolf Bloss global brand director, Oliver Horn.

"[It] is about adopting a more sustainable approach and providing an alternative packaging choice with a lower greenhouse footprint, while still ensuring the same aesthetic appeal, 750ml volume and quality as a traditional Wolf Bloss wine in glass".

PET packaging is used across a wide range of F&B products in Australia. The lightweight plastic is shatter-proof and features an interior barrier that protects the flavour, aroma and colour of the wine for up to 12 months.

The Wolf Bloss Green Label range is available in a crisp dry white and cabernet shiraz and will be backed up with a million-dollar advertising and merchandising campaign.



### LION TO FINALISE KIRIN TAKEOVER NEXT WEEK

By Ian Neubauer

Lion Nathan has said it expects to become a wholly owned subsidiary of Kirin Holdings over the course of the next week.

Lion posted the statement on the Australian Securities Exchange late Monday (Apr 4) afternoon, announcing it is still in the process of agreeing to the terms of a mutually satisfactory agreement with the Japanese conglomerate.

It follows an April 27 statement by the brewer that it had accepted in principle a \$3.5 billion takeover bid for the remaining 54 per cent of the company Kirin does not already own.

Kirin will pay Lion shareholders \$12.22 per share – a 32 per cent premium on the share price before the takeover bid was first made public on April 22.

Kirin has not released details on any operational changes it has in store for the Australian brewer.

However it has been widely reported that Lion Nathan CEO Rob Murray will take charge of Kirin's enlarged Australian portfolio that also includes Dairy Farmers and National Foods.



## TOPLESS BEER HEADS TO MELBOURNE

By James Wilkinson

Since its launch in December 2008, [Skinny Blonde](#) has been winning over Sydney and Gold Coast drinkers for not just its taste, but its cheeky packaging, which features a pin up girl with a disappearing bikini.

Thanks to strong sales in recent months, the beer is now headed for Melbourne, with the first Skinny Blonde set to be on sale in the Victorian capital during the coming weeks.

"Skinny Blonde was first packaged in Sydney in December last year and sales have doubled since January," head brewer and The Vines drummer Hamish Rosser told *TheShout*.

"It is now available through national distributors ALM and HLW and so far there has been a high take up rate in bottle shops across Sydney and the Gold Coast," he said.

Rosser said following strong international press, sales have boomed and the company, Brothers Ink, are brewing the low-carb beer as fast as possible.

"Given the nature of the label, which features a 1950s pin up girl with a disappearing bikini, everybody wants to get their hands on it... and given that this is also a tasty low carb beer, there have been re-orders across the board," Rosser said.

While the beer bottle is cold, the girl on the label can be seen with a red bikini. But as the bottle gets warmer, it disappears and by the end, when the bottle is at its warmest, she is topless.

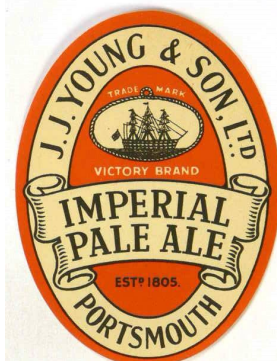


## Imperial What Now?

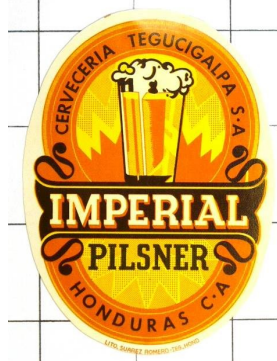
Some people object to the use of the word Imperial to describe anything other than Russian Stouts. As well as meaning "of, like or pertaining to an emperor or empress", imperial can also mean "of special size or quality". As you can see below there are many examples from the past of breweries using the term, some regal and some not so regal. With the modern trend of imperial IPA, imperial brown ale etc, I think its more useful to think of them as being of "special quality" rather than having any royal associations. Much like the term special bitter is used to denote a stronger or hoppier version of bitter.



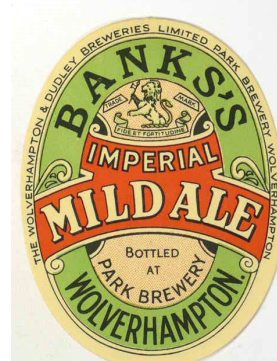
1940



1948



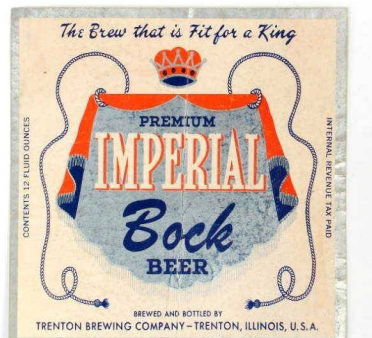
1950



1947



1952



1938



Unknown

# **VICBREW entries close in 4 months so the time to brew is now!**

## **AABC 2009 Categories & Styles**

### **1. LOW ALCOHOL (<4% ABV)**

- 1.1 Light Australian Lager
- 1.2 Leichtes Weizen
- 1.3 Scottish Light Ale
- 1.4 Southern English Brown Ale
- 1.5 Mild Ale
- 1.6 English Bitter

### **2. PALE LAGER**

- 2.1 Australian Lager
- 2.2 Australian Premium Lager
- 2.3 Pale Continental Lager
- 2.4 Munich Helles
- 2.5 Dortmunder

### **3. PILSENER**

- 3.1 Classic American Pilsner
- 3.2 German Pilsner
- 3.3 Bohemian Pilsner

### **4. AMBER & DARK LAGER**

- 4.1 Oktoberfest/Marzen
- 4.2 Vienna Lager
- 4.3 California Common Beer
- 4.4 North German Altbier
- 4.5 Munich Dunkel
- 4.6 Schwarzbier

### **5. STRONG LAGER (>6% ABV)**

- 5.1 Strong Pale Lager
- 5.2 Maibock/Hellesbock
- 5.3 Traditional Bock
- 5.4 Doppelbock
- 5.5 Eisbock

### **6. PALE ALE**

- 6.1 Cream Ale
- 6.2 Blonde Ale
- 6.3 Kölsch
- 6.4 Belgian Pale Ale
- 6.5 Australian Pale Ale
- 6.6 English Pale Ale

### **7. AMERICAN PALE ALE**

- 7.1 American Pale Ale

### **8. BITTER ALE**

- 8.1 English Best Bitter
- 8.2 English Extra Special/Strong Bitter (ESB)
- 8.3 Düsseldorfer Altbier

### **9. BROWN ALE**

- 9.1 Northern English Brown Ale
- 9.2 Irish Red
- 9.3 Scottish Ale
- 9.4 Australian Dark/Old Ale
- 9.5 American Brown Ale

### **10. PORTER**

- 10.1 Brown Porter
- 10.2 Robust Porter
- 10.3 Baltic Porter

### **11. STOUT**

- 11.1 Dry Stout
- 11.2 Sweet Stout
- 11.3 Oatmeal Stout

### **12. STRONG STOUT (>6% ABV)**

- 12.1 Australian Stout/ Foreign Extra Stout
- 12.2 Russian Imperial Stout

### **13. INDIA PALE ALE**

- 13.1 English IPA
- 13.2 American IPA
- 13.3 Imperial IPA

### **14. STRONG ALE (>6% ABV)**

- 14.1 Old Ale (English Strong Ale)
- 14.2 Strong Scotch Ale
- 14.3 English Barley wine
- 14.4 American Barley wine

### **15. BELGIAN STRONG ALE (>6% ABV)**

- 15.1 Belgian Blond Ale
- 15.2 Belgian Strong Golden Ale
- 15.3 Tripel
- 15.4 Dubbel
- 15.5 Belgian Strong Dark Ale

### **16. GERMAN WHEAT & RYE BEER**

- 16.1 Weizen/Weißbier (Wheat)
- 16.2 Dunkel Weizen
- 16.3 Weizenbock
- 16.4 Roggenbier (Rye)

### **17. FARMHOUSE ALE & WILD BEER**

- 17.1 Witbier (White)
- 17.2 Saison
- 17.3 Biere de Garde
- 17.4 Flanders Red Ale
- 17.5 Flanders Brown Ale/Oud Bruin
- 17.6 Berliner Weiße
- 17.7 Straight (unblended) Lambic
- 17.8 Gueuze
- 17.9 Fruit Lambic

### **18. SPECIALTY BEER**

- 18.1 Fruit Beer
- 18.2 Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer
- 18.3 Christmas/Winter Specialty Spiced Beer
- 18.4 Classic Rauchbier (Smoked Marzen)
- 18.5 Belgian Specialty Ale
- 18.6 Wood-aged Beer
- 18.7 Other Specialty



## **2009 Entry Form**

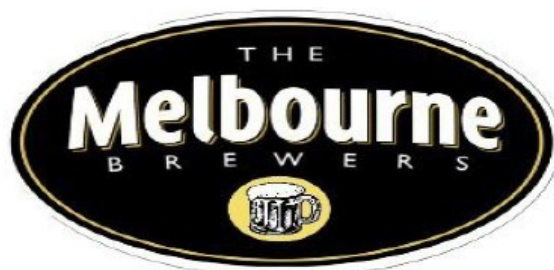
Welcome to the inaugural Melbourne Brewers British Ale competition. Inspired by the many fine ales originating from the United Kingdom. Beers such as the bitters, brown ale and others like Scottish ale and Irish Red.

**When:** 17th May 2009 from 1pm

**Where:** Oscar's Ale House, 7 Bayview Road, Belgrave, VIC 3160

Phone: 03 9754 8002 Melways Map Ref. 75 G10

Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each category. All are welcome to enter. Entries can be dropped off at The Brewer's Den, Greensborough Homebrewing and Grain and Grape or on the day of the competition.



Please visit [www.melbournebrewers.org](http://www.melbournebrewers.org) for up to the minute information including style guidelines (2008 AABC Style Guidelines).

---

### **ENTRY FORM — British Ale Competition 2009**

Please cut off entry form and attach with rubber band to bottle with entry details visible. Include entry fee in envelope attached to bottle.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Club:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Styles & categories (\$5 per entry, please supply 750mL, min 500mL):**

#### **Category 1**

Mild, Northern English Brown,  
Scottish Ale (70/-), Irish Red

#### **Category 2**

Ordinary bitter, Best bitter,  
Extra Special Bitter (English Pale Ale)

Please circle the category and style appropriate for this entry.

**OG** \_\_\_\_ **FG** \_\_\_\_ **Cap ID** \_\_\_\_ **Method (circle):** Full mash, extract, kit

Please make cheques payable to 'The Melbourne Brewers'





# 2009

# Stout Extravaganza



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at Bells Hotel and Brewery**  
**Corner of Moray and York Streets, South Melbourne (Melway 48 B7)**

Closing date for entries is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June if delivered to the following locations: Grain & Grape, Greensborough Home Brewing Supplies or The Brewers Den. Alternatively, entries can be delivered to the event, prior to 12:00 pm.

## Competition Rules.

1. A maximum of 2 entries will be accepted per Category, as long as they are separate styles. Entries must fit into the designated styles listed below.
2. A minimum of 500ml is required per entry. If 2 bottles are required, they must be clearly marked as bottle 1 and 2 and preferably be taped together. Cost per entry is \$6.
3. Judging will be by blind tasting, assessed against the current 2009 style guidelines. Style guidelines are available at the [www.vicbrew.org](http://www.vicbrew.org). Judges decisions are final.
4. Any tied placing's are decided on count-back using the following criteria, overall impression, flavour or smallest spread of scores.
5. Prizes are awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each category, as well as Club of Show and Best Novice. Best Novice is awarded to the highest score by a Victorian brewer who has not placed in a Vicbrew accredited competition.

## ENTRY FORM

Please cut off entry form and attach with rubber band to bottle with entry details visible. Include entry fee in envelope attached to bottle.

Name:..... Phone:..... Email:.....

Address:..... P/Code:..... State:.....

Club:.....

**Category:** (Please circle 1 style per entry)

**10. Porter**      Brown Porter      Robust Porter      Baltic Porter

**11. Stout**      Classic Dry Irish      Sweet Stout      Oatmeal Stout

**12. Strong Stout**      Australian/Foreign Extra      Imperial Stout

