

The Herald Tribune



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Newsletter of the Ann Arbor Brewers' Guild

January 2011

January Meeting

This month's meeting of the AABG is Friday January 14th. It will be hosted by **Randy deBeauclair**. See the map and directions on the next page. The featured style is **English Pale Ales**.

English Pale Ale

The English Pale Ale can be traced back to the city of Burton-upon-Trent, a city with an abundance of rich hard water. This hard water helps with the clarity as well as enhancing the hop bitterness. This ale can be from golden to reddish amber in color with generally a good head retention. A mix of fruity, hoppy, earthy, buttery and malty aromas and flavors can be found. Typically all ingredients are English.

AABG 2011

January	Randy deBeauclair	English Pale Ales*
February	Belgians	
March	Bock*	
April	Josh Budde	Wood-aged Beer*
May	Stephen Krebs	Pilsner
June	Chuck Warpehoski	Wheat Beers
July	Steve Darnell	Mead*
August	Patti Smith & Jeff Bletch	Sour Beers
September	Jeff Renner	Specialty/Experimental/ Historical*
October	Hefeweizen*	
November	Chris Frey	Porter and Stout
December	Rolf Wucherer	Dark Lagers*

* Denotes AHA Club Only Competition Style

All meetings are the second Friday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m., except for the July meeting (BeerBQ) which is the second Saturday.

AABG Pico System

The club's pico system is available to members for brewing. If you wish to borrow it contact Mike O'Brien at:

734.637.2532

picobrew@comcast.net

Access the AABG Club System forum at:

<http://tinyurl.com/29h7yxc>

8. English Pale Ale

- 8A. Standard/Ordinary Bitter
- 8B. Special/Best/Premium Bitter
- 8C. Extra Special/Strong Bitter

8A. Standard/Ordinary Bitter

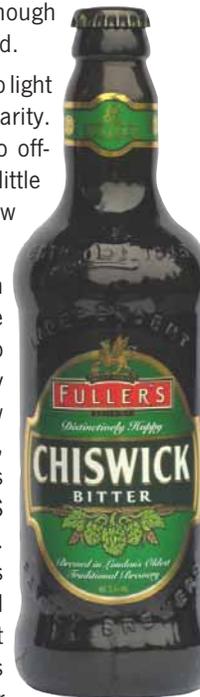
Aroma: The best examples have some malt aroma, often (but not always) with a caramel quality. Mild to moderate fruitiness is common. Hop aroma can range from moderate to none (UK varieties typically, although US varieties may be used). Generally no diacetyl, although very low levels are allowed.

Appearance: Light yellow to light copper. Good to brilliant clarity. Low to moderate white to off-white head. May have very little head due to low carbonation.

Flavor: Medium to high bitterness. Most have moderately low to moderately high fruity esters. Moderate to low hop flavor (earthy, resinous, and/or floral UK varieties typically, although US varieties may be used). Low to medium maltiness with a dry finish. Caramel flavors are common but not required. Balance is often decidedly bitter, although the bitterness should not completely overpower the malt flavor, esters and hop flavor. Generally no diacetyl, although very low levels are allowed.

Mouthfeel: Light to medium-light body. Carbonation low, although bottled and canned examples can have moderate carbonation.

Overall Impression: Low gravity, low alcohol levels and low carbonation make this an easy-drinking beer. Some examples can be more malt balanced, but this should not override the overall bitter impression. Drinkability is a critical component of the



style; emphasis is still on the bittering hop addition as opposed to the aggressive middle and late hopping seen in American ales.

History: Originally a draught ale served very fresh under no pressure (gravity or hand pump only) at cellar temperatures (i.e., "real ale"). Bitter was created as a draught alternative (i.e., running beer) to country-brewed pale ale around the start of the 20th century and became widespread once brewers understood how to "Burtonize" their water to successfully brew pale beers and to use crystal malts to add a fullness and roundness of palate.

Comments: The lightest of the bitters. Also known as just "bitter." Some modern variants are brewed exclusively with pale malt and are known as golden or summer bitters. Most bottled or kegged versions of UK-produced bitters are higher-alcohol versions of their cask (draught) products produced specifically for export. The IBU levels are often not adjusted, so the versions available in the US often do not directly correspond to their style subcategories in Britain. This style guideline reflects the "real ale" version of the style, not the export formulations of commercial products.

Ingredients: Pale ale, amber, and/or crystal malts, may use a touch of black malt for color adjustment. May use sugar adjuncts, corn or wheat. English hops most typical, although American and European varieties are becoming more common (particularly in the paler examples). Characterful English yeast. Often medium sulfate water is used.

Vital Statistics

- OG ... 1.032-1.040
- FG ... 1.007-1.011
- IBUs ... 25-35
- ABV ... 3.2-3.8%
- SRM ... 4-14

Commercial Examples: Fuller's Chiswick Bitter, Adnams Bitter, Young's Bitter, Greene King IPA, Oakham Jeffrey Hudson Bitter (JHB), Brains Bitter, Tetley's Original Bitter, Brakspear Bitter, Boddington's Pub Draught.

When and Where

Friday Jan. 14, 7:30 pm
Randy deBeauclair
2134 Copper Cove
Pinckney MI
734/878-3472



Directions

From Ann Arbor take 23 north to the Pinckney/M-36 exit #54. Go West on M-36 approx. 8–9 miles to McGregor and turn South/left. Go approx. 1/4 mile on McGregor and turn right onto Copper Cove. My house is the fourth on the right, 2134 Copper Cove.

If you live on the West side of Ann Arbor, it will likely be a bit faster to go through Dexter and take Dexter/Pinckney Rd. North to McGregor. Turn Right on McGregor and go approx. 3.3 miles to Copper Cove, which will be on your left.

Randy's house is brown brick/tan siding, and at the top of a steep driveway. Park in the driveway, (it is a bit steep), or on the street, either side.

Guide for New Members

Bring 1–2 bottles per batch of your beer that you'd like to share, or an interesting commercial beer. Bring tasty munchies to cleanse the palate and sop up the alcohol. Feel free to share and sample with other members and make and accept constructive comments. Please use good judgment while imbibing and don't drive while intoxicated.



Ivanhoe English Pale Ale

— Real Ale Reviews —
real-ale-reviews.com

The guy behind the counter looks as decrepit as the shop, and the shop doesn't even look open, it's grape-bordered window dressing might be confused for a long boarded up newsagents. It leans against Ladbrokes on the Dereham Road, just a short walk (and not very scenic walk) from the pot-holed streets of Norwich city centre.

Ivanhoe jumps off the shelf, of all the local beers it looks the most promising (though in fairness surprisingly few of the local beer label designs would make Pump Clip Parade). Adorned with knights jousting, something feels right about buying this beer in Norwich, a city that was once second only to London and is



now an oft-overlooked destination for cultural delights.

And the beer fits the bill that the label tees up – malty, almost sour and distinctively English in all elements (inherited from the English Maris Otter and chocolate malt, the Golding and Admiral Hops). Pale ales nowadays don't often come without the promise of tropical fruit or a hop roll call scaling double figures. Ivanhoe redresses the hop/malt balance and if anything hints at English harvest fruit.

Ivanhoe shows that nothing more than a hint of the historical is needed to make a beer I'd happily revisit regularly.

More regularly than I'm likely to joust. And unfortunately more regularly than I get to ramble amongst the cobbles and wood beams of Norwich.

beer-pages

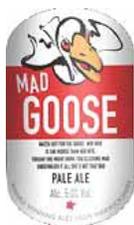
with Roger Protz and Tom Cannavan

Twelve English Pale Ales

★scrapes in ★★decent ★★★good
★★★★★excellent ★★★★★sublime

Purity Brewing Co., Mad Goose Pale Ale

This beer from Purity brewery in Warwickshire is brewed with Maris Otter, Caragold and Wheat malts, and hopped with Hallertau hops for bittering and Cascade and Willamette for aroma. It pours a medium, burnished gold colour with a fairly thin off-white head. The nose is juicy and tangy, with a vibrant orange fruitiness and a nicely leafy, nettly background as well as a cushion of malt. In the mouth it is medium-bodied and has a sense of depth and richness, even though the chicory bite of the hops and that citrusy character also keeps it lively and racy. Long, with a dry, crisp finish, this is delicious and beautifully made stuff. 5.0% ABV, 50cl, £1.85, brewery website, Local Tesco.★★★★★



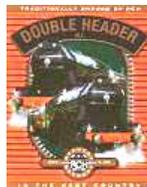
RCH Brewery, Ale Mary

(RP) Ale Mary won the CAMRA Champion Bottled Beer of the Year competition in 2001 and stunned the judges – of whom I was one – with its exotic spicy character. The beer is RCH's premium bitter Firebox with the addition of ginger, cloves, cinnamon, coriander, nutmeg and pimento. The beer recalls the heady days of medieval brewing when a witch's brew of herbs and spices were used in the brewing process. More conventional ingredients are pale and chocolate malts and Progress and Target hops. The amber beer has an orange fruit signature that is quickly overlain with a peppery, gingery and perfumy aroma. Coriander and ginger in particular dominate the palate, which also has powerful hints of hop resins, citrus fruit and juicy malt, with even a faint chocolate note. The prolonged finish is dry, bitter, perfumy, spicy, herbal and hoppy. 6.0% ABV, 50cl, £26.99 X 12, Livingbeer.com, Onlyfinebeer.★★★★★



RCH Brewery, Double Header

This bottle-conditioned ale has a bright gold colour with a foamy, cream-coloured head. Bright, resinous clove and spicy hop nose. There are green, herbal undertones too. On the palate there is plenty of zing and grip, with a smooth, full texture, but a cutting edge of hoppy bitter flavours. A refined, background maltiness emerges and this has very good fruit too. All in all, a very nice beer indeed. 5.3% ABV, 50cl, £1.37, Asda.★★★★★



RCH Brewery, Pitchfork Rebellious Bitter

Named after a 17th century farmer's rebellion, this bottle-conditioned beer pours a cloudy orange-gold, with a very low carbonation, thin off-white head. This is a particularly aromatic beer that is distinctly fruity, with exotic aromas of fleshy mango and papaya and a juicy tangerine quality. On the palate there is an immediate sweep of bitter, endive-like hops that cut across the mouth with a pithy, grapefruity dryness. It is quite light bodied, and those sweet notes of fruit can be glimpsed on the mid palate before that bitterness and grassy hop quality overpowers the finish. A cracking beer for lovers of those almost astringent hop flavours. 4.3% ABV, 50cl, £1.69, Beersofeuropa, Onlyfinebeer, Sainsbury's.★★★★★



Ridgeway Brewing, Ivanhoe Pale Ale

Formed by a former head brewer from Brakspear, Ridgeway does not have a brewery, but has its beers brewed to order by other breweries. This bottle conditioned "Very English Pale Ale" pours a ruddy brown colour with some yeasty haze and a moderate off-white head. There is caramel on the nose, and some vinous red fruits, with a hint of nuttiness and brown sugar. In the mouth this feels quite powerful and old-fashioned, with a leathery grip and nicely chewy, dense hop bitterness and fruity flavour. It has good depth and a fairly long finish where the



hoppy, endive and nettle notes come through. A characterful beer. 5.2% ABV, 33cl, 12 @ £19.99, Livingbeer.com, Onlyfinebeer, Pierhead.★★★★★

Ridgeway Brewing, Rob

A bottle-conditioned organic ale, this pours a medium gold colour with a pillowing white head. The nose has an aromatic, floral edge to citrus fruits, with a touch of resinous hops beneath. On the palate this is quite savoury and dry, with a nice bite from the hops and more of that lemony fruit. Not a hugely complex beer, but it finishes with a bit of spice and hoppy presence. 4.3% ABV, 50cl, £1.95, Vintage Roots.★★★★★



Ridley's, Tolly Cobbold Original

Brewed by Riddleys (now part of Greene King), this is beer that pours a lovely amber/ruby colour with quite a thick, fluffy off-white head. The nose is very nutty and earthy, with a sweet chestnut character, some toffee and a soft, fruity background. On the palate there's a sweetness to this beer, with a red fruit quality and the malts dominating. It is soft and quite rich, and then the hops start to power through, with a bitter chicory streak cutting through the sweetness, and a cleansing acidity leaving this full and rich, but quite crisp and moreish. 3.8% ABV, 50cl, brewery website.★★★★★



Ruddles, County

County is a deep, amber-coloured ale from Ruddles Brewing (actually part of the Greene-King group) with a creamy-coloured head. It has a very pleasant, hoppy nose, with quite an estery character backed up by a nutty, malty weight. On the palate it has a broad, grainy nettle and herbal quality, with quite a full-bodied richness. There's a real bitter-edge to this beer, said by Ruddles to come from the Bramling Cross hops. This is a really good for a big production ale. 4.7% ABV, 50cl, £1.25, Asda, Booth's, Majestic, Sainsbury's.★★★★★



continued on next page...

Samuel Smith's, Organic Best Ale

Pouring a rich, deep gold with a hint of ruby and a thick off-white head, this beer has a luxurious nose, with plenty of creamy, bready malt notes and a nice edge of chicory or bitter leaves. On the palate it has terrific freshness, the hops and a zesty fruit character balanced nicely against roasted grain. 5.0% ABV, 55cl, £2.15, [Vintage Roots](#). ★★★★★



Sharp's, Doom Bar Bitter

Sharp's is a respected Cornish brewer, who's cask products are now joined by two bottled ales, neither of which is bottle-conditioned, but is made to mirror the cask version. Named after an infamous sandbank at the mouth of the Camel Estuary in North Cornwall, Doom Bar has an amber colour with an off-white head that dissipates quite quickly. On the nose there is an appealing blend of caramel and red apple fruit, with a nice cut of grassy hop notes. On the palate this is a smooth-drinking, creamy beer with a luxurious toffeed palate that is quickly overtaken by an incisive bite of bitter hops. The balance is excellent and there's a lingering hoppy finish in a lovely beer which, at 4% ABV, could qualify as a classy session ale. Sharp's are hoping for national listings, but for now the beers are mostly in local stores. 4.0% ABV, 50cl, £1.70, Co-op, Safeway. ★★★★★



Sharp's, Eden Ale

Sharp's bottled ales are not bottle-conditioned, but they are made specifically to mirror the qualities of the cask versions. Eden Ale pours a lovely amber colour, with an off-white head. It has a very attractive nose with oatmeal and biscuit aromas, some fresh orangy fruit and a nice toffeed note. There's a little floral nuance here too, in quite a complex profile. On the palate this creamy-textured beer has very a grassy, nettly bitterness playing against sweet biscuity malt and a nice edge of citrus acidity. With decent length too, this is lovely stuff. Sharp's are hoping for national listings, but for now the beers are mostly in local stores. 4.5% ABV, 50cl, £1.70, Co-op, Fabeers, Safeway. ★★★★★



Shepherd Neame, 1698

(RP) 1698 commemorates the year when Britain's oldest brewery opened in Faversham in Kent, in the heart of the country's major hop-growing region. The pale gold beer is bottle conditioned and won a silver award in the drinks section of the Sainsbury's/Daily Telegraph Best of Britain Awards in 2007. It is brewed from Pearl malted barley and crystal malt and has two Kentish hops – Target are added at the start of the copper boil while East Kent Goldings are added at the end of the boil and also in the whirlpool. The whirlpool is a vessel used after the copper boil that separates the liquid from used hops and protein. The Goldings add additional aroma and bitterness prior to fermentation. The beer has a spicy hop and pear drop aroma balanced by biscuity malt. Ripe fruit, hop resins and juicy malt fill the mouth while the long, quenching finish is dominated by spicy, peppery hops, sappy malt and rich fruit. 6.5% ABV, 50cl, £1.69, Asda, independents. ★★★★★

