COMPAIGN FOR FOR REAL ALE Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA

The Campaign for Real Ale

CAMRA Issue 151 Summer 2012



Booze on the Ouse, Diamond Jubilee Beer Tent St Neots Riverside, Fri 1st - Mon 4th June 2012 St Ives Beer & Cider Festival, 25-27 Oct 2012

The White Hart godmanchester



Opening Times

Mon - Thu 11.30-3pm & 5-11pm Fri & Sat 11.30-12am Sun 12-10.30pm

Food Served Mon - Sat 12-2.30pm & 6-9pm Sun 12-9pm

The White Hart, 2 Cambridge Road, Godmanchester, PE29 2BW Tel 01480 414050 www.whitehart-godmanchester.co.uk

Steve and Sue Cooper welcome you to The White Hart in Godmanchester and our sister pub The George in Spaldwick.

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We have a great selection of menus, all being cooked to order using primarily fresh local produce.

Our menus are also complemented by an extensive wine list, many of which are available by the glass and a large selection of real ales. We have recently been accredited to the Cask Marque and will have a number of new ales to sample in the forthcoming months.

The $George_{spaldwick}$

Opening Times Mon - Thu 11.30-3pm & 5.30-11pm Fri & Sat 11.30-12am Sun 12-10.30pm

Food Served Mon - Sat 12-2.30pm & 6-9pm Sun 12-7pm



The George, High Street, Spaldwick, PE28 OTD Tel 01480 890293 www.thegeorgespaldwick.co.uk

2 Support your local pub - don't give them an excuse to close it!

PUBS OF THE YEAR

The Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA selected the **Pig and Abbot**, **Abington Pigotts** as its Pub of the Year 2012.

CAMRA gives this annual award to the pub that it judges to provide the widest appeal for its combination of good beer, atmosphere, style, service and value.

Pat and Mick Thompson have run the Pig and Abbot for many years, with Pat looking after the food, and Mick the cellar. The Pig and Abbot is an idyllic Queen Anne period pub with exposed oak beams and a large inglenook features a woodburning stove. Pat offers home made traditional pub food and specialises in fresh fish and chips, and steak and kidney puddings and pies. The regular real ales are Adnams Bitter and Fullers London Pride with two guest beers typically from large and family independent breweries, like Woodforde and Timothy Taylor.



The Pig and Abbot is a true community pub and the bar area is often thronged with residents from Abington Pigotts and neighbouring villages.

Pictured receiving their award from branch vice-chairman

Richard Harrison are Mick and Pat Thompson.

The Pig and Abbot now progresses as an entry in the Cambridgeshire Pub of the Year competition.

Most Improved Pub of the Year

The award for Most Improved Pub goes to Pete Butler and Sue Gilliland of the **Olde Sun, St Neots**. Pete and Sue ran the Woolpack in St Neots several years ago; at the time it was considered to be the best pub in the town for quality real ale. Since leaving the Woolpack, Pete has been looking for the his 'ideal' pub, where he could be free of tie and able to choose whatever beers he wanted—his opportunity came with a lease from Enterprise Inns.

Pete focuses on beers from Woodforde's,



Adnams, Thwaites, Theakstons, and other similar large and family independent breweries. The beer range constantly changes, and Pete is always on the lookout for interesting seasonal beers.

Sue offers home cooked food, with a main menu of traditional pub food and black-board specials.

Cider Pub of the Year

A new award from Huntingdonshire branch this year, Cider Pub of the Year, goes to the Pig 'n' Falcon in St Neots. Here, John Nunn offers a regularly changing range of four-six real ciders and perrries, some from local producers and some from traditional cider producing areas like South Wales and Herefordshire.

In addition the Pig 'n' Falcon has started



running cider festivals at which twelve real ciders will be available. These take place 2nd-9th May and 22nd-29th August.

The Pig 'n' Falcon now progresses as an entry in the national Cider Pub of the Year competition.

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A LOOK BACK IN TIME

IOYEARS AGO

CAMRA claimed a major victory for small brewers as the government cut beer excise duty by 50% for producers of less than 3000 barrels a year (around 860,000 pints). Brewers producing up to 18000 barrels a year received a graded duty discount saving them up to £120,000 a year. CAMRA's Mike Benner said 'This will help even out the playing field for Britain's 350 small brewing companies, which will promote competition and increase consumer choice'. But CAMRA was soon supporting calls for an increase in the ceiling for reduced duty to the European Union maximum of 120,000 barrels a year. Some significant cask beer producers such as Adnams were above the 18,000 barrel limit and were therefore forced to pay full duty on their entire output, and for others such as Hop Back and Hook Norton which were around the 18,000 barrels, the limit represented a deterrent to expansion.

In the summer of 2002 St Neots CAMRA enjoyed a visit to Elgoods brewery in Wisbech and a walk around the pubs of Huntingdon town centre. The branch held open meetings at the White Hart, Great Staughton, the Stukeley Country Hotel and the Chequers in Eynesbury.

Enterprise Inns' £2.9b acquisition of the Unique, Voyager and Laurel Pub Partnership chains of pubs was seen as good news for real ale choice by the Society of Independent Brewers, which expected Unique's Cask Ale Club purchasing agreement with UK microbrewers to be maintained, and possibly extended to other parts of the Enterprise empire, including the 900 Voyager pubs. Enterprise now controlled over 9000 pubs, unprecedented for any company in the UK. CAMRA mounted a campaign to try to save the revered beers of Oxfordshire brewery Brakspears as the company announced a review of its beer division that sparked fears of a decision to exit brewing in the wake of similar moves by other regional brewers. CAMRA's liaison officer with Brakspears, Colin Lanham said 'Brakspear's greatest asset is its beers, and therefore its brewery. To close it would be to tear the heart out of the community'.

Other ominous news from Oxfordshire was the acquisition of Witney-based Wychwood Brewery and its brands, the best known of these being Hobgoblin, by the independent drinks distributor Refresh UK.

Greene King bought 107 pubs from



Morrells, the Oxford pub company that had been taken over three years earlier by beer tycoon Michael Cannon's SDA company, after the Eld family closed the

Oxford brewery. Along with the 107 pubs, Greene King Also acquired the rights to the Morrells name.

25 YEARS AGO

Ipswich brewer Tolly Cobbold bought a



75% stake in St Neots brewery James Paine and its estate of nine pubs. Five years earlier the Paines brewery had been sold by maltsters and millers Paines and renamed James Paine by its new owners.



A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Tolly, part of David and Frederick Barclay's brewing and hotels empire along with Camerons of Hartlepool, had nurtured a close trading relationship with Paines for a number of years and said that the takeover would deliver the injection of capital that was needed to develop the business. But Tolly could not guarantee the future of brewing in St Neots. Tolly's marketing director Brian Cowie said 'Brewing will continue at present. although there is a question over the volumes that are involved'. Regarding the future for brewing, he said 'I cannot give a view at this stage'. CAMRA's liaison officer with James Paine. Steve Leader, said he would not be surprised if the end was near for the brewing side.

What's Brewing, the CAMRA members' newspaper, reported that only 60 of the established independent brewery companies remained, a fall from around 250 in less than 30 years. A map of the UK published in the July 1987 issue of What's Brewing showed barren spaces in Scotland, which had only five brewing compaoperating within its borders, and nies Norfolk, which now only had part of the national Watney group. What's Brewing said 'If we want to keep what little is left today, we will need to ensure that the open spaces on the map do not grow any bigger'.

'Don't Bury Rayments' was the slogan of a



CAMRA East Anglia campaign against Greene King's plan to close its Rayments brewery at Furneux Pelham in Hertfordshire. CAMRA launched a postcard writing campaign, a programme of public

meetings, protests and a march in Bury St Edmunds.

The Lorimer and Clark Caledonian Brewery in Edinburgh was saved and relaunched as the Caledonian Brewery Company as Lorimer and Clark's General Manager Dan Kane signed a management buy-out deal with the brewery's owners for 58 years, Vaux breweries of Sunderland, who had announced the previous year that it was to close the brewery.

St Neots CAMRA held Sunday lunchtime 'family socials' at the Exhibition in Godmanchester and the Jester at Ashwell. There were other summer socials at the Manchester Arms, Tilbrook and, on a July Wednesday, the Hardwick Arms Arrington, moving on to the Queen Adelaide at Croydon. Another two-pub social was held at the Cross Keys, Upwood followed by the White Lion at Bury. There was also a joint event with Cambridge branch at the White Swan in Conington.

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HALF PINTS

Beers from Huntingdonshire's newest brewery, the **Red Brewery** in Great Staughton, will begin appearing in local pubs in May. A branch visit to the brewery is planned for July 21st (see page 14).

Cambridge City Council is considering new planning policies to protect urban pubs and has appointed consultants to survey the city's remaining pubs and guide future planning decisions. Cambridge has seen a spate of recent planning applications to change pubs to housing and 23 Cambridge pubs have closed since 2007, including 11 since the start of 2011. The Seven Stars on Newmarket Road and the long-closed Greyhound on Coldhams Lane are the most recent applications. The new National Planning Policy Framework recognises the amenity value that pubs can provide to urban communities and Cambridge planners have cited this in refusing changes of use for two pubs, the Unicorn, Cherry Hinton and the Carpenters Arms, Victoria Road, although these decisions are the subject of forthcoming appeals. The local plan for Cambridge is due to be reviewed by 2014, and the council will use the report from their consultant to guide revisions. Revised local plans can be expected to include protection for urban pubs, in line with the new national framework, which confers a duty on councils to 'plan positively' for the retention and development of local services including pubs.

Cambridge CAMRA has submitted its own planning application to return the Royal Standard in Mill Road to pub use in the hope of heading off alternative proposals for change of use, following its use as a restaurant for some time and the city council's rejection of a plan to replace it with housing. Drinkers, trade groups and MPs have all condemned the Chancellor's decision to hike beer tax above the rate of inflation in the Budget. Campaigners were particularly angered by the Chancellor's apparent attempt to conceal the beer duty increase by saying: 'I have no further changes to make to the main duty rates set out by my predecessor'. CAMRA's Chief Executive Mike Benner vowed that the campaign to stop automatic rises in beer tax in next vear's Budget had begun and urged all CAMRA members to encourage people to sign the Beer Tax e-petition, with the aim of influencing the Budget in 2013. Mike said: 'A sustained campaign over several months will get us over the 100,000 signature hurdle. Once we are over this hurdle we can expect a high profile Parliamentary debate within the following month'.

Bedford brewer Wells and Young has launched a new £5 advertising campaign on digital television station Dave, featuring comedian Rik Mayall, for its Bombardier bitter brand. Wells and Youngs say that 700 new outlets for Bombardier have been secured since the launch of the Rik Mayall promotion last year.

Greene King are spending £4m on IPA with a new television advertising campaign and new cask brands IPA Gold (4.1% abv) and IPA Reserve (5.4% abv). These beers have been designed to be 'distinctively different' following market research which indicated that many drinkers think that Greene King beers all taste very similar.

CAMRA has voiced its support for government proposals for a minimum price per alcohol unit in England and Wales. CAMRA's Mike Benner said 'CAMRA would support a minimum price of the second



HALF PINTS

between 40 and 45 pence a unit to give pubs a chance to compete at a time when sixteen pubs close their doors forever across Britain every week. In the last ten years, the cost of a pint has increased by an incredible 43% in pubs but just 1% in the off trade – contributing to a culture where people are more likely to drink at home or on the streets This move to end irresponsible alcohol loss leaders by the large supermarkets will encourage a cultural shift towards drinking beer sociably and responsibly in well-run community pubs'.

Pub and restaurant operator Cambscuisine has acquired the renowned Tickell Arms at Whittlesford near Cambridge and will reopen it in June featuring cask beers from the Milton brewery. Cambscuisine operate four other businesses, the Cock at Hemingford Grey, two Cambridge Chophouse restaurants and the Boathouse at Ely. The revamped Tickell Arms will feature separate entrances to pub and restaurant in line with the arrangement at the Cock. The Tickell has a formidable reputation as a charming but idiosyncratic pub of great character, and was famously run by the eccentric Squire Kim Joseph Hollick De La Taste Tickell until his death in 1990.

Launching its Community Pubs Month in April, CAMRA cited new research showing the integral role of pubs throughout the lives of local communities. 89% of young adults visit their local pub to meet and socialise, 25% of married couples met their partner in pubs and 36% of adults say their local pub is used for events such as weddings, christenings and funerals.

MPs have been publicised working sessions behind pub bars in an 'MP's in Pubs' campaign set up by the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group to encourage discussions on trade matters between licensees and politicians and demonstrate to MPs the challenges of running pubs. MPs are showing great interest in the scheme, which usually generates a picture in the local newspaper, and over 50 have done stints, with more to come.

CAMRA's Research and Information Manager Iain Loe has hung up his pub guides and statistical handbooks and retired from the Campaign's St Albans headquarters at the end of March. Iain's 23 years at CAMRA have seen him become an invaluable source of beer and pub knowledge and a hugely respected figure within the industry, acting as an ambassador and public spokesperson for CAMRA on a number of high profile issues.

More than 100 MPs and Peers attended CAMRA's annual Parliamentary reception, hosted by Greg Mulholland MP. In his kevnote address. Pubs Minister Bob Neill said he was delighted to bang the drum for well-run community pubs and praised CAMRA's ability for maintaining a healthy and constructive dialogue across the House of Commons. Mulholland gave his backing to CAMRA's stance on the need for radical reform of the national pub company business model. He promised he would urge the government to adhere to the will of Parliament and hold an independent review into the working practices of the pub companies. During the event the Parliamentarians were treated to a range of real ales and ciders including beers from Thwaites, Orkney, Otter and Westerham breweries.

PUB PLECES

Reports in Pub Pieces are provided by local CAMRA members, licensees and Opening Times readers. Further news of changes at local pubs is welcome. Please send news to news@huntscamra.org.uk.

David Manning, licensee of the **Green Man, Colne**, is offering an extended range of real ales through his membership of the Punch Taverns Finest Cask scheme. Oakham Inferno and Potton Shannon IPA are available all the time, and rotating guest beers are on offer with recent examples being Sharp's Doom Bar, Timothy Taylor's Landlord and Woodforde's Wherry. The Green Man is a gold member of the Oakham Oakademy scheme, the highest rating in this scheme.

The Robin Hood in St Ives closed in March following its purchase last year by Michael Purchas, who also owns the nearby Golden Lion Hotel and was largely responsible for the renovation of St Ives Corn Exchange for the town council in 2010. Mr Purchas has blamed competition, increased rates and parking charges for losses made by the Robin Hood and he has decided to close it and take time over its remodelling. It is understood that one plan being considered was to relaunch the business as a specialist real ales pub which could fill a gap in the town and meet an increasing demand for high quality locally produced real ale. The new owner has been in contact with council conservation officers about his proposals for the characterful 18th century building.

Draycott's bottled real ales are now on sale in the Clarendon Arms in Cambridge. Buckden Black porter, Ruby Bitter and Bronze Bitter are on offer alongside six cask beers including the excellent Greene King XX Mild.

A more regularly changing range of guest beers has been reported at the **White Hart** in **Warboys**, with Sharp's Doom Bar and Timothy Taylor's Landlord being typical examples.

The **Seven Wives** in **St Ives** has a revamped front patio area with new seating, part of the 50th anniversary celebrations for the pub, built in 1962. The exterior of the pub has had a full paint job with stylish resigning.

Dave and Tina Rieley have recently taken over the tenancy of Admiral Taverns pub the **Wheatsheaf** in **Gamlingay**. Dave and Tina previously ran the Good Beer Guide listed Old Talbot in Hilton, Derbyshire, which also secured third place in the 2011 CAMRA Derby Country Pub of the Year competition. At the Wheatsheaf, Dave plans to add to the two existing handpumps in the near future, and is keen to stock the beers of local breweries.

At the **Pig 'n' Falcon, St Neots**, the discount for CAMRA members has been increased to 50p off a pint and 20p off a half for all 'tap room' beers.

The **Crown & Cushion** in **Great Grandsen** has reopened following its makeover. It has been re-thatched and redecorated, with new flooring, new bar and new furniture. Ian and Teri Selkirk are currently offering beers from Milton, Potton and Oakham, and from Friday to Sunday they have an interesting food menu, based on Indonesian cuisine. Regular music nights are still a feature, with mid-week blues and jazz jam sessions as well as live bands.

Last September Trevor Fowler handed over the running of the **Samuel Pepys Diary Rooms** in **Huntingdon** to his

PUB PLECES

daughter Melanie but you'll still be able to choose from five regular real ales along with a sixth weekly guest ale chosen by the customers. Each week you can vote for the next guest ale by using a bottle top to make your choice and then enjoy it in pints, halves and even third-pints – a welcome option for those wishing to experiment. Look out for the 'Party at the Pepys' Beer Festival over Jubilee weekend 1-4 June – and you can enjoy live music most weekends. Melanie is also keen to reintroduce the Sam Pepys 6 pint loyalty card.

A planning application has been submitted on behalf of Punch Taverns for the demolition of their Manchester Arms pub in St Ives and redevelopment of the land as a retail unit. Objections have been lodged by St Ives Town Council, the Civic Society of St Ives and Huntingdonshire CAMRA. along with a number of local residents and businesses. The new National Planning Policy Framework has been cited by objectors as it requires planning decisions to guard against the loss of community facilities such as pubs, and town centre uses to be in town centres if sites are available as they are in the centre of St Ives. CAMRA have played down claims about the impact on the Manchester Arms of the nearby Marsh Harrier development, as a different style of food-led business that does not compete in terms of providing the facilities of a community pub. CAMRA have also said that the Manchester Arms should be prominently marketed for a suitable period at a market price as a freehold pub, to allow a more viable approach than the existing pub company leasing arrangement, with a free choice of suppliers to meet changing consumer preferences.

The new owner of the Royal Oak, Hail

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Weston failed to sell the pub in an auction on March 7th and is offering the pub at auction again on May 3rd, but this time as two lots, with the garden being offered in a separate lot from the building and car park, with the auction details suggesting potential for change of use for both lots. At a public meeting on April 24th, 130 local residents and the Parish Council indicated their opposition to any such changes. HDC have indicated that planning consent for change of use will not be granted.

Both of Earith's pubs closed in February after the departure of licensees Cliff and Wendy Jones, who jointly ran both the **Riverview** and the **Crown**. The Riverview, which is privately owned, has reopened under new management but the Crown has remained closed. Owners Enterprise Inns are carrying out repair work at the Crown before re-letting it.



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Cambridgeshire Dining Pub of the Year 2012 (Good Pub Guide)

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WOULD YOU EAT THERE?

Many of you will have noticed that pubs across the branch area display their 'Scores on the Doors' hygiene stickers to give an indication of the standards of food hygiene according to inspections carried out by local council environmental health officials. Pubs aren't obliged to display their star ratings but those that do are usually at least 3 star premises and this is an indication of good standards of food hygiene, whereas 4 star and 5 star premises have been operating to either very good or excellent standards.

Local councils are being encouraged to transfer to the Food Standards Agency's national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme rather than operate their own local schemes such as 'Scores on the Doors' and from April 2012 new stickers will begin to appear in food businesses across the branch area. Much of the branch area. is within Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC), which will be transferring to the national scheme in early April, and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), which covers the rest of the branch area. may well transfer later in the year.

The new stickers will look slightly different but the council's inspectors work out the ratings in exactly the same way, so you have no need to fear that hygiene standards will have dropped. However, if you have any concerns about hygiene or safety at a pub in the branch area, please contact your local council. You can contact them directly as follows:

HDC, envhealth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk, 01480 388388; SCDC, scdc@scambs.gov.uk, 03450 450500.



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12 Read Opening Times online: www.huntscamra.org.uk/news



GOOD BEER GUIDE

Each year the latest edition of the Good Beer Guide (GBG) is available from September onwards. Many of you may have wondered about how a particular pub finds its way into the Guide and why their local never seems to make it.

There are approximately 145 pubs within the branch area, of which around 120 sell real ale, and we carry out regular surveys to help with the selection process. Each CAMRA branch has an allocation of GBG entries. Currently we are entitled to nominate up to 17 pubs.

The selection process is primarily based on beer quality. We invite all our members to score each beer using the National Beer Scoring System and enter the score onto www.beerscoring.org.uk or our branch website via the members' area. The average beer scores are considered at selection meetings and in January each year the branch draws up a list of candidates from which the final 17 pubs are selected.

We also use the average beer scores to provide an online pub guide of the pubs in the branch area offering the best beer quality (www.huntscamra.org.uk/pubs).

Beer quality scoring is a simple but important way that all CAMRA members can contribute to the work of the branch. Go to your local – have a beer, note the quality on a simple 0-5 scale and submit your scores online. If you would like to know more about surveying for the Good Beer Guide then please contact the branch at andy.shaw@huntscamra.org.uk.



EVENTS AND SOCIALS

May 2012

Fri 18th Mild Month socials in Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots.

June 2012

- Fri 1-Mon 4 St Neots Diamond Jubilee Beer Tent. See below for details.
- Tue 12th Open committee meeting at the **Chequers, Little Gransden** (20:30)
- Sat 23rd Rail trip to **Stamford**. Catch the 10:13 from St Neots, or the 10:21 from Huntingdon, or join us anytime during the day by calling 07802 485449.

July 2012

- Tue 10th Open committee meeting at the Wheatsheaf, Gamlingay (20:30)
- Sat 21st Local brewery coach trip to the new **Red Brewery** in **Great Staughton**, plus visits to local pubs. Pick ups from St Neots, Huntingdon and St Ives. Free to CAMRA members. Book your place with the social secretary.

August 2012

- Tue 14th Open committee meeting at the Green Man, Colne (20:30)
- Sun 19th **Pub History Social, Eaton Socon** (12 noon 3pm). A guided tour of Eaton Socon's historic pubs led by local historian Sue Jarrett. Meet at the White Horse at 12 noon, or join us by calling 07802 485449.
- Fri 31st Local members socials in Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots.

An up to date listing of social events can be found on the web site: www.huntscamra.org.uk/diary, or contact the social secretary, Andy Shaw.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beer Tent Booze on the Ouse Beer and Cider Festival St Neots — 2012 Fri 1 - Mon 4 June 16 real ales plus real cider & perry and bottled foreign beer



Regatta Meadows Fri 6pm-11pm, Sat 12 noon-11pm, Sun 12 noon-11pm, Mon 12 noon-11pm

www.huntscamra.org.uk/festival for more details

14 Visit www.huntscamra.org.uk/diary for up to date details of socials



WHO TO CONTACT

Chairman: Kathy Hadfield-Moorhouse, 01480 496247 (h). Vice-Chairman & Secretary: Richard Harrison, 07740 675712 (m), secretary@huntscamra.org.uk Treasurer: Edric Ellis, 01480 492213 (h), treasurer@huntscamra.org.uk Social Secretary: Andy Shaw, 01480 355893 (h), socials@huntscamra.org.uk. Membership Secretary: Margaret Eames, 01480 385333 (h) Pubs Info: Roy Endersby, 01480 473364, pubs@huntscamra.org.uk



Local live music events guide: www.huntscamra.org.uk/gigs. List events free: gigs@huntscamra.org.uk or (01480) 477118

OPENING TIMES

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news@huntscamra.org.uk, 13a Peppercorns Lane, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8HL.

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All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA Your Details TifeSurname Forename(a) Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)A Address Email address Final address	Single Membership (UK & EU) Joint Membership (Partner at the same ad For Young Member and www.camra.org.uk or I wish to join the Campu the Memorandum and A	Direct Debit £23 £28 dress) concessionary rate call 01727 867201 aign for Real Ale, an	1. nd agree to abide by	BOLCARPAIGN FOR REAL ALL FLY Section 2014 (1994) Section 2014 (19	Particular Particular Alter extransit denialed an des dis desarrante denialed from the dis desarrante desarrante desarrante dis desarrante desarrante desarrante autores for search region of account
Tel No(a) Partner's Details (if Joint Membership) Title Sumame Forename(s) Date of Birth (ddfmm/yyy)	Signed Applications will be processed	Date		This Guarantee dwarfel he decided and recented The Direct Debit Guarantee ¹ The Survey a short by d have and heady modes. ¹ The Guarantee a short by d have and heady modes. ¹ The Guarantee a short by d have a first set heady modes. ¹ The Guarantee a short by d have a first set heady of the h	The active distances in any for sour Direct Data The Company for account forg distance or all to a software personal or all the active or personal or all the company for the forget of the Company for the forget of the forget regimest

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