

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 31st MARCH 2006

A truly unique beer from the Cairngorm Brewery

On Friday, the Cairngorm Brewery in Aviemore released their latest ale Blessed Thistle, and yes, it is brewed with Scotland's national flower, the thistle.



Sean Tomlinson, Operations Manager and Head Brewer for Cairngorm is delighted with the new recipe commenting that "before hops were used for bittering beers, many different herbs and spices would be employed to impart bitterness and flavour and this brew takes us right back to those days. Thistles are boiled in the wort giving bitterness, whilst various roasted malts are used to create a smooth, full-bodied malty ale. The late edition of Goldings hops and a touch of ginger adds to the flavours".

Brewery MD Robbie Walker is particularly pleased with the new brew, commenting that it is an excellent addition to the company's programme of seasonal ales. He commented, "I was somewhat sceptical to Sean's initial idea but have to admit that the beer lives up to, if not surpasses the brewery's reputation for quality."



Interest in the beer by publicans and wholesalers is already high. Sales Manager, Merlin Sandbach believes "this has been partly driven by those interested in the name itself and the ingredients. Supported by the growing reputation of the Cairngorm Brewery, Blessed Thistle is one of those rare beers where the intrigue created is matched by a very drinkable beer."

ENDS

Picture: Head Brewer, Sean Tomlinson (left) with brewers Ewan Grant and Gordon Smith

The Cairngorm Brewery

The Cairngorm Brewery Co Ltd has been trading since 2001 and is based in Aviemore within the Cairngorm National Park.



The brewery has a 10bbl mash tun and copper, 90bbls of fermentation capacity and 120bbls of conditioning capacity. All malts are milled on site and whole hop flowers are used; both aid in ensuring that consistent high quality is maintained. The majority of the beers are racked and leave the site in cask format.

The brewery has 16 different brews; some brewed all year round, others as seasonals. Seven are now bottled.

Recent notably awards

2006	SIBA UK Champion Best Bitter	Trade Winds
2005	CAMRA GBBF* Champion Speciality	Trade Winds
2005	CAMRA Champion Beer of Scotland	Black Gold
2005	Runner up to CAMRA Champion Beer of Scotland	Trade Winds
2005	SIBA UK Champion Stout	Black Gold
2004	CAMRA GBBF* Champion Speciality	Trade Winds
2004	CAMRA Champion Beer of Scotland	Trade Winds
2004	SIBA Scottish Champion Stout	Black Gold
2004	SIBA UK Bavarian Style Wheat Beer	White Lady

* GBBF – Great British Beer Festival.

CAMRA stands for the **Campaign for Real Ale**
More information about this organisation can be found on their web site www.camra.org.uk

SIBA stands for the **Society for Independent Brewers**
This is a trade organisation for independent brewers and more information can be found on their web site www.siba.co.uk

If further details required, please contact:

The Cairngorm Brewery, Dalfaber, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, PH22 1ST

Managing Director Robbie Walker
Tel 01479 812222
Email rwalker@cairngormbrewery.com