

Press Release – May 2009

Vale of Clwyd CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) Wins National Award

On Sunday June 16, Vale of Clwyd Branch of CAMRA received an award in recognition of recruiting most members in the last year in the small branch category.



Pictured above is Keith Spencer (CAMRA's National Membership Director) presenting Ian Ogden (Vale of Clwyd Branch Membership Secretary) with the certificate at The Blue Bell Inn, Halkyn. In accepting the award, Mr Ogden paid tribute to the *Ale Drinker* (Abercolwyn Branch's Newsletter), which is distributed throughout north Wales promoting CAMRA, and gave a special mention to *The Gold Cape*, (Mold) and *The Blue Bell Inn*, both of which offer discounts on real ale to CAMRA members and which had boosted local membership of the organisation.



This was followed by a second presentation by Keith Spencer to Steve and Ness Marquis, hosts of The Blue Bell and runners up for the Vale of Clwyd Branch Pub of The Year award for 2009. Mr Spencer said local pubs provide a large financial and social contribution to the community; The Blue Bell epitomised the best of British pubs in being a 'class-less, people place', attracting a wide cross-section of the community.

The next local CAMRA presentations are to be held at *The Golden Lion*, Llangynhafal (Vale of Clwyd Branch Pub of The Year winner 2009), during the afternoon of their joint "Route 76" Beer Festival, to be held on Saturday 11 July; this will be followed, on August 1st, by a special award for *The Grouse*, Carrog in recognition of the pub's 20 year continuous entry in *The Good Beer Guide*.