

## **APPBG Inquiry: Loch Leven submission**

### **Q1; What has happened to cask beer over the last twelve months?**

Consumption of cask beer is primarily something that happens in Bars and with the bars being closed/restricted across the UK, volumes have been decimated. Christmas 2020 sales of cask were less than 2% of the previous (pre lockdown) Christmas.

Without cask we run the risk of Breweries going out of business as the margin/litre is considerably less with Keg and Bottle/can.

### **Q2; Why does cask beer matter?**

**MARGIN:**

For a small brewer, especially one who does not have keg or small pack facilities, it is the highest margin item in our armoury, as we can brew, package and deliver direct to Customers, without having to transport beer to a third party to package our beers.

**SUSTAINABILITY;**

The containers are all fully recycled and recycleable.

A forty litre keg holds the same amount of beer as 120 330ml bottles.

No CO<sub>2</sub> or mixed gas is released to atmosphere during the dispense of cask beer.

Most Craft cask will be produced from local ingredients and distributed to local pubs. Very low food miles.

### **Q3; What could the Govt do to help the sector?**

- Introduce legislation to free up market access. The larger brewers use their financial clout to prevent Tennents and Independents buying beer from anyone else by lending them money at low rates of interest, contingent upon the borrower only buying beer from them.

- Find a better way to manage the proposed DRS system, which doesn't involve having to change labels/pay the same as a huge brewer. Also develop a UK system rather than have Scotland do their own thing which will depress sales of Scottish beers in England and vice versa.

- Make sure any changes to SBR do not negatively impact small brewers, as they will be the first to be hit by lowering the threshold to 2,200HI.

I calculate that we would need to either increase the price of each firkin by around 10% or take the hit myself.

Hope this helps

Christie Slater

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Chairman; SIBA (Scotland)