Local business people revive the Blackburn Beer Festival

After a break of several years, Blackburn will host a real ale festival this May at Blackburn Rugby Club. The festival is being organised by a committee of local business people who, after a trip to a similar festival in Bolton, felt a Blackburn beer festival was long overdue. Thwaites is part of the organising team and is using their extensive brewing contacts to help bring an eclectic selection of ales from across the North West and beyond. The festival will take place on the first bank holiday in May, from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th.

One of the festival organisers is Ian Liddle of Farleys Solicitors, who explained why he wanted to get involved. “Farleys wanted to help bring a festival to Blackburn as it was a real shame that there wasn’t already something like this in our town, especially after seeing how successful festivals are in other places. And we’ve chosen the youth charity Blackburn Youth Zone to benefit from all proceeds so it’s definitely a worthwhile venture.”

David Gorton from accountancy firm PM+M explained how the festival is organised: “We are asking local companies to sponsor all parts of the festival, from the barrels of beer to the pint glasses, so all the money we take on the door and in beer sales goes straight to the Youth Zone.”

Farleys and PM+M are the main festival sponsors alongside manufacturing firm, Cardboard Box Company.
Paul Westhead, president of Blackburn Rugby Union Football Club, said: “We expect around 1,500 people will visit the festival over the three days. They can expect up to 60 real ales, plus a range of lagers and ciders, and live music will add to the atmosphere. It’s shaping up to be a fantastic weekend”

To sponsor a barrel or to find out about other sponsorship opportunities contact events@blackburnyz.org or call 01254 292000.

Ends

Photo shows (L to R): John Dickinson, chairman of Blackburn Rugby Club; Julia Wright of Blackburn Youth Zone and David Gorton of accountancy firm PM+M celebrate the launch of the festival

Notes to editors:

Blackburn Youth Zone opened to young people in June 2012, having been in the ‘making’ for over five years. The Zone now has more than 3,000 members aged 8-18, offering them a safe and exciting environment in which to spend their spare time.

Young people are at the heart of the Zone – everything from the design of the building to the projects, programmes and activities on offer, right through to the Zone’s staff, have been chosen in partnership with our young people. We listen to their opinions and giving them a voice in issues that affect them.

As a registered charity, we rely upon funding from outside sources and work in partnership with the council, local businesses and other bodies to ensure that we remain at the heart of the town and continue to meet and recognise the needs of the young people of Blackburn with Darwen.

For more information about Blackburn Youth Zone, please contact Julia Wright on 01254 292000 or email julia.wright@blackburnyz.org