

Roaring great pub



The Black Lion, by the river in Hammersmith, with right, the garden and inset, happy staff, Jessie Riggen and Simon Farquhar

WITH nights drawing in, cold creeping into the bed and a cup of hot chocolate becoming ever more appealing, the end of summer drinking has arrived.

Knowing that beer gardens will once again be the realm of the desperate smoker and man on the phone instead of the beautiful city girl drinking Magners, Pubsy is writing this with a tear in the eye and a black armband on.

Pubs like The Black Lion in Hammersmith, make this eventuality ever more heartbreaking with its perch close to the Thames, neat garden and traditional pub feel.

Having had to endure drunks and grotty burgers in other parts of the borough, Pubsy felt giddy with excitement upon walking in and seeing brass, wood and smiles on staff.

For far too long, the welcoming site for drinkers in and around Hammersmith has been a red faced pot bellied man staggering out while trying not to damage his gout-ridden foot.

The Black Lion is not like these pubs.

Guinness, the true test of any boozier, is served well and given the requisite time to rest and turn into black gold.

Draft ales, although slightly few in number, are kept well, poured well and taste great.

A few more would not go amiss, however, this is but a minor gripe.

Wine is served by the bottle or glass and certainly hit the spot with the lush on Pubsy's arm.



Prices are a little more than you're average bar but the quiet nature of the pub makes this more than worth it.

The food on the menu ranges from the standard fish and chips to the less frequent flan type dishes.

On days like the one Pubsy went in, whatever you order it is more than likely to taste excellent.

One gripe would be that chunky chips that come with the fish are missing from the burger leaving only skinny fries.

Note: pub grub should always be stocky and stodgy.

Despite being in the shadow of the more celebrated Dove, The Black Lion more than holds it own with great beer, great food and great staff.

Get yourself down there.

How the pub rates



Rating:
Barrel of beer – excellent
Pint of beer – good
half of beer – average
half of shandy – bad