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From: -
Sent: 15 May 2013 13:13
To: Lehal Reena (CCP)
Subject: Ban the tie!

Sirs,

I refer to the article entitled *"Crackdown on pub firms will backfire says Enterprise boss"* by Nathalie Thomas and the prejudiced pronouncement therein by the Chairman of Punch Taverns in the Business section of today's Daily Telegraph. What hypocrisy for Mr Tuppen to claim that government proposals are based on *"flawed, misrepresentative and, at times, misleading"* evidence!

Restrictive, anti-competitive practices are outlawed in every other area of business in the UK with the exception of the pubs industry where its all too powerful pubcos persist in operating the "beer tie". Expectation of an about turn from the Office of Fair Trading after its repeatedly spurious endorsement and support of the "beer tie" over a considerable number of past years was never going to materialize. Furthermore expectation for the industry to self-regulate was unlikely to be constructive or fair.

The controversial measuring equipment employed by the pubcos' enforcer, Brulines } has never been approved by the National Measurement Office, Weights & Measures Act and Trading Standards. The pernicious fines imposed by the pubcos from the results of such dubious measurements in association with the "beer tie" are not dissimilar to some practices of the bootleggers in the USA during the Prohibition era! However the prefix to the trade description of Brulines' recently announced new measuring system entitled **"iDraught"** appears to denote some association with the reputable Apple company, in which case it is to be hoped that this new system may at least be fit for purpose and conform to the Weights & Measures Act?

Government legislation is long overdue to regulate the pub industry and ensure that, similar to every other area of UK business, it is no longer allowed to operate an anti-competitive, restrictive practice. Far too many pubs have been forced to close because the "tied" public house is placed at a competitive disadvantage.

(retired/a consumer)

London

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