

JOLLY BOYS RETURN TO CROYDON AFTER AN ABSENCE OF 3 YEARS
Thurs. October 3rd 2019



East Croydon Station – Main Booking Hall (circa 1992), looking from the North – Billington Hill.

Here we go again, older but no wiser – alas ! Well, what has changed since our last visit. More horrendous multi-storey blocks have shot up – many of 35+ storeys. These you will see during our trip. Anyone fancy a ‘pad’ on level 33 ?

The ‘station’ looks as if a reconstruction is on Network Rail’s current agenda – only some 27 years since the last revamp, and even more recent than when the platforms were updated. The trams are still running although some changes around Dingwall Road have been mentioned at various times. Southern House, in George Street (former SR technical / Central Division HQ), is now attracting HM Revenue & Customs back – again !! Many pubs have closed down – see What Pub web-site.

St. Georges walk (western section) now flattened for redevelopment. The Whitgift Centre, the main retail core of the town centre, re-vamp still on hold – as it has been for the past 5+ years ! Lastly, BOX PARK, a two-level multi-culinary paradise, adjacent to the main station is still trading (only just) but it does have a CRONX brewery tap – micro type pub, which we shall be visiting, see (Pub No. 5).

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To access Pub No. 1 (The George), one can either turn right outside the main station frontage and walk for around 8 mins straight ahead, until reaching the pub on your right. Or, on leaving the main exit, cross the twin tram tracks and catch any tram from the island platform for a two minute ride to the next stop (George Street). You then retrace the route for some 50 metres whereupon you will be at The George. REMEMBER. Free Travel on the trams if you show your “Tick Box” card – it does not have to be dated !!

The Pubs

1. **The George**, 17-21 George Street, CR0 1LA. A former furniture retail outlet which although fairly narrow in width does extend back a fair distance, such that there is a front and a back bar, which both have differing beer ranges – so have a good look first. Usual “Wetherspoon’s” breakfasts, etc., are to be found. **Leave at 10.55 hrs.** On leaving turn right and follow the tram track to the corner of George Street, also noticing the famous Almshouses (dating from 1596 and still used for habitable purposes). Turn left along the High Street and walk around 200m before reaching the junction with Katharine Street and pub No. 2 – The Spread Eagle.
2. **The Spread Eagle**, 39 – 41 Katharine Street, CR0 1NX. A former Natwest bank branch which also provides an upstairs function room with own bar facilities. This is a “Fuller’s” house, which has the usual range of London Pride, ESB, HSB, Seafarer and a guest – Gritchie (Wiltshire) Moon Lore. This may still be available for our visit. **Leave at 11.45 hrs.** On leaving, turn left, across the High Street and straight into
3. **The Green Dragon**, 58 High Street, CR0 1NA. A fairly large, open plan establishment with a good selection of ales. At the time of the ‘recce’ there were to be found beers from Messrs. Wantsum (Kent), Windsor & Eton, Reunion, Hogs Back, Southwark Brewing and Brew Monster (Cwmbran). This is also the recommended FOOD STOP, and our timing should ensure we are ahead of the mid-day ‘office crowd’. **Leave at 12.55 hrs.** On leaving, again cross the High Street and immediately to the right will be
4. **The Ship**, 47 High Street, CR0 1QD. A small / medium sized hostelry which has some genuine age to it, at least over 120+ years. At night it becomes a ‘music’ venue, but at least not at lunchtimes. It is a Marston’s house, so expect some of the usual culprits, eg. Pedigree, Hobgoblin, Bombardier, Eagle IPA. Also, the landlord may obtain a ‘guest’ from the Marston’s list – hopefully Ringwood Razorback (3.8%). No Food as kitchen currently being re-furbed ! **Leave at 13.30 hrs.** On leaving, turn right, cross Katharine Street and proceed to the corner of George Street and turn right and carry on up George Street towards East Croydon Station. Just before reaching the station you will come to Dingwall Road and the infamous “BOX PARK” and also, at street level, pub No. 5

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5. **The Cronx**, Units 3 & 4 Box Park, 99 George Street, CR0 1LD. This is really a micro-pub, but selling beers from the locale Croydon brewery (Cronx in New Addington – since 2012). There are 4 beers in the Cronx Range, but also some other locale guests – Brockley & Cellar Head (Flimwell, E.Sussex). All very drinkable ! Our timing should ensure that we can all fit in. If anyone wishes to sit in the main Box Park communal area (tables with benches), then beer will be poured into PLASTIC beakers !!
- Leave at 14.15 hrs.**

On leaving turn left and on reaching the corner of Dingwall Road, turn left again and walk on up to the station main entrance and continue until the ‘taxi rank’ (Billington Hill is reached. Turn left again and proceed downhill until reaching the corner where The Porter & Sorter, our final destination, will be found .

6. **The Porter & Sorter**, 1 Billington Hill, CR0 6BT. Another Marston’s ‘house’ together with the usual favourites (similar) to The Ship, but may find beers from Bank’s and Wainwright’s also (if you are lucky) ! This pub also does reasonably priced meals (not sampled), so could prove useful for those who are still hungry before departing on the homeward journey.

TRAINS

Far too many really to mention here, very much a suit yourself scenario.

However, just a few helpful pointers.

Main London termini served are LONDON BRIDGE (13 mins) and VICTORIA (18 mins)

These are DIRECT SERVICES (fast – except for stopping at Clapham Junction on the VICTORIA route).

Also, THAMESLINK trains from St Pancras International (30 mins), Farringdon, Blackfriars and London Bridge.

SOUTH COAST. Almost everywhere along the Sussex Coast and inland is served by both Southern and Thameslink trains. Redhill, only 12 mins from East Croydon, also provides links with Reading and Tonbridge. All these services are best left to individual choice.

LASTLY. Those who are CAMRA members should bring their current cards with them, as some of the pubs operate a DISCOUNT !!