

AN ORAL HISTORY OF BREWING IN 3 LONDON BREWERIES

INTERVIEWEE Dave Barney, Warehouse Supervisor
DATE OF BIRTH 1944
PARENTS OCCUPATIONS Mother stayed at home bringing up family. Father was a bricklayer
INTERVIEW LOCATION Fullers Brewery, Chiswick
DATE OF INTERVIEW 18th March 2019
INTERVIEWER Ioana Constantinescu SUMMARISER Chris Conway

Started 1978 and worked for 22 years. Started off as bookkeeper, checking stock and worked his way up to supervisor in the warehouse. Dave's wife worked in wages office and he found out about his job through his wife. Discusses how he developed his skills at figure work from previous employment

Dave describes his typical working day getting orders ready for the various lorries some of which were for export as far away as the USA and also dealing with returns. The work was nearly all manual, with all of the paperwork being handwritten. Dave describes his first memories of working in the brewery and particularly the noise from the bottling hall.

He Discusses the working environment from the personal perspective and stresses the family atmosphere that existed. He talks about the strong family presence within the workforce which was cross generational and gives examples of some of the more well-known families who worked in the brewery

Talks about how technology changed during his period in the bottling hall and moving stock around.

Refers to perks of the job and particularly the share options and staff account that all staff had in addition to the separate arrangements for the draymen and the drinking culture that was atypical in breweries.

Dave identifies the main health and safety changes that took place in the loading areas during his time at the brewery. Staff relations were generally good. Only one case of industrial action when the draymen went on strike for 5 weeks over terms and conditions.

Dave tells a couple of anecdotes about colleagues he worked with including a fork lift driver and colleague in packaging and an incidence when the health and safety officer managed to set fire to the rest room.

Dave recalls that he used to know all of the Turner family but less so as time went on. Good working relationship between the management and staff.

With regard to relationships between different brewing companies, he refers to the friendly rivalry with Youngs. Dave talks about the cultural mix of the brewery and how this increased over his time and the role of women.