

## **AN ORAL HISTORY OF BREWING IN 3 LONDON BREWERIES**

**INTERVIEWEE:** Simon Phillip Mole  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** 1958  
**PARENTS' OCCUPATIONS:** Father – Brewing room boy and brewer at Watney's Brewery, Mortlake; mother looked after three sons and then became a veterinary nurse.  
**INTERVIEW LOCATION:** Simon's parents house in Goring, Worthing.  
**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** May 3rd 2019  
**INTERVIEWER:** Bob Hall  
**SUMMARISER:** Ioana Constantinescu

Simon joined Watney's in the bottling plant as a lab technician in 1978 and then went to Fullers for 21 years when he was 23 years old, to learn brewing.

He was a shift technician "living in the lab". He loved the work and as a "white coat" knew everyone.

His dad used to take him to the brewery when he was about 10 when he was on duty.

Simon loved motorbiking, so despite getting cheap beer didn't drink much.

He explained in detail the differences between Fosters brewed in Australia and UK and Belgian Stella and Welsh Stella.

Simon was made redundant when Fosters moved to Reading which is when he went over to Fullers. He was involved in setting up the new brewery machinery at Fullers and for doubling the output of kegged beer. He traveled all over Europe looking at how kegging lines worked. He explained in detail where the kit came from, how the new kit was installed and also the setting up of the robot in the bottling plant which was named Les after an engineer who worked there.

Simon recounted an amusing story that made the press: "Watney's tries to blow up Youngs pub".

He and his dad enjoyed shooting at the club in Ship Lane with rifles that his granddad had given them. These were sent to the police by the Petersham club after the Ship Lane club closed and all the guns were moved over.

Simon recalls being at Mortlake when the Marchioness went down and everyone was looking for people in the river.

The funniest thing for him in the lab was the "Quotiest Quote" book where they wrote down the funniest things that people said.

He left Fullers when people started to come and go and he became disillusioned, but he clearly loved working in the lab at Mortlake doing shifts. He thought it was a job for life but it became monotonous after a while.