



WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2009

**SBPA SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION HEARS CALL FOR MEMBERS
OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT TO SUPPORT NEW CROSS PARTY GROUP ON
BEER AND BREWING**

The President of the Scottish Beer and Pub Association (SBPA), Broughton Ales' Managing Director Alastair Mouat, has called on Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) to support a new Cross Party Group (CPG) on Beer and Brewing, which is being set up, in the Scottish Parliament. Mr Mouat made his call at the Annual SBPA Scottish Parliamentary Reception which was held in Scottish & Newcastle Pub Enterprises' pub, Jenny Ha's on Edinburgh's Canongate, near the Scottish Parliament. Twenty MSPs came along on the evening with over a hundred people attending the event, including over a dozen senior figures from the licensed and drinks industries in Scotland. The event was sponsored by Scottish & Newcastle UK.

MSPs are being asked this week to sign up for membership of the CPG which already has the support of several MSPs and the backing of many companies and trade representatives, and which is modelled on the All Party Beer Group at Westminster,

In his speech, Mr Mouat urged MSPs to support the Group saying, "the first meeting of the Group will hopefully take place in the new year, but if I could make a special plea to yourselves as Members of the Scottish Parliament, and indeed representatives from the licensed trade, to support the Group, and indeed to join it. The Group is a serious attempt to try and inform our elected representatives about the industry and the challenges facing it, and to provide a forum for more effective communication on issues affecting the sector. Given the challenges of the next year or so, we need the Group to be as effective as it can be, so please support it."

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He also stressed in his speech the special role which pubs fulfilled in Scotland saying, "I am sure that you will appreciate that trading conditions in the pub trade are very difficult at the moment ... bear in mind that most pubs in Scotland are run as SMEs and it is the small businesses that are being hit by the current economic climate. I would ask you, the MSPs, to remember this as you consider licensing issues over the coming months."

ENDS

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