

Shandy Bass canned

Leicestershire Police nearly canned Shandy Bass after taking a pop at officers drinking the soft drink saying it could create the wrong impression and is unacceptable to the public.

An officer with a penchant for the product was stunned to be taken aside into a room and told he could no longer indulge in his favourite lunchtime drink. Further to the action being taken, other officers in the force were also made aware that drinking the soft drink could provoke 'disciplinary action'.

A news item sent out through the forces internal computer system from the Professional Standards Department stated: "this particular drink contains very low levels of actual alcohol, namely 0.5 percent and could therefore be seen as a soft drink rather than an alcoholic beverage. Despite this, it still contains alcohol and there is every likelihood that members of the public who come into contact with a member of staff who has consumed such a drink will smell what they perceive to be alcohol on the officer's breath. This would create the wrong impression and is unacceptable."

The missive then attracted around 1500 hits before being pulled from the system last month.

Kevan Allcock, secretary of the Leicestershire Police Federation, said the officer initially involved thought he was going to be told 'some serious bad news' as he was taken to a room and reprimanded over his Shandy Bass drinking.

The Federation and Unison, who represent police staff, even called Britvic, the company who make the drink, to ask about alcohol content and were told the at the very most it would be 0.5 percent and the main reason they had the content on the can was due to religious concerns for some consumers.

Mr Allcock said: "When I first heard about it, I treated it as a joke or at least some kind of over exuberance from a senior officer and the advice came through from the Professional Standards Department. You would have to drink a bathful of Shandy Bass and you still wouldn't be drunk."

Shandy Bass: banned for giving the wrong impression



Clarification

Alan Partridge featured in our article on Ipswich Community Radio station CopThat but unfortunately we got the location of his show and Sgt Neil Boast's slightly mixed up.

To appease some of the football fans in both Ipswich and Norwich and indeed to clarify, Sgt Boast's radio station is based at ICR in Ipswich, not in Norwich as stated, where the fictional character played by Steve Coogan based his radio show.

For those of you who have not heard the show, it is broadcast on www.icrfm.co.uk and you can listen on-line every Wednesday at 11.30am and on 105.7 FM if close to Ipswich town. The station covers a raft of issues and is aimed at the public as well as police officers.

Icing on the cake

The first edition of *Police* magazine to roll off the print run 40 years ago was re-printed on a cake to celebrate 40 years of the Federation publication which goes out to 40,000 members.

The top team at the Federation's headquarters joined managing editor Metin Enver, Syreeta Lund, editor, art editor Lisa Ryszkowska and founder of *Police* in 1968, Tony Judge.

The first edition in September 1968 showed an early contender for the panda car on the cover, a pale blue mini, a car make that was at the height of its popularity during the decade.

Over the years the magazine has documented many issues which impact on officers on the ground such as pay, strikes, sexism and racism as well as providing a voice for the Federation and officers themselves.

Piece of cake: the JCC and editorial team celebrate the 40th anniversary of *Police* magazine



Photography: Police Federation