

## HOT SPOTS

An occasional series that spotlights places drawing crowds and creating buzz.

Area pubs come up with the answer to attracting crowds through the week

# QUIZ NIGHTS



Kelly Schneider announces the winning team at the Pub at Rookwood Mews' (below) trivia night. Mark and Gemine Fallon were part of that victorious team. (Polly Campbell's team stayed home that week.)

James Geyer for The Enquirer

By Polly Campbell

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**P**ubs and bars on Monday nights are not usually hot spots, but the Pub at Rookwood Mews has a way to turn Mondays from quiet to busy. They do it by taking normally intelligent, well-informed people and turning them into cutthroat competitors. It's called Monday night quiz night.

"See that team over there? We don't know them, but we don't like them. We tied with them once, and they refused to arm-wrestle us for the title," said one particularly avid member of a team of co-workers from the downtown public library, who play almost every Monday.

The prizes include a \$25 gift certificate for the winning team, and T-shirts are given out during contests. But that's not the prime motivation for the folks who crowd into the English-style pub at Rookwood Commons—simply winning is. And socializing. Many teams make it a weekly activity.

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**Question:** When is National Trivia Day celebrated?

**Answer:** Today, Jan. 4! But trivia can be celebrated any day, of course, particularly on Mondays and Tuesdays, when local bars often schedule quiz nights.

### IF YOU GO

Quiz night at the Pub at Rookwood Mews (nonsmoking)

**When:** Questions start at 7:30 p.m., get there by 7 p.m. Monday

**Where:** 2692 Madison Road, Norwood (Rookwood Commons)

**Special:** Half-price fish and chips

**Phone:** 513-941-2748

**Also:** The Pub at Crestview Hills (smoking)

**When:** Questions start at 7:30 p.m., get there by 7 p.m. Tuesday

**Where:** 2853 Dixie Highway, Crestview Hills

**Special:** Half-price fish and chips

**Phone:** 859-426-7827



# LIFE

## COVER STORY



Photos by James Geyer for The Enquirer

The English-style Pub at Rookwood Mews boasts half-price beer and fish and chips on Monday, which is trivia quiz night.

# Eat, drink – and learn a bit

## QUIZ FROM PAGE D1

Nicole Kelsch of Anderson Township says she has been coming most Mondays for over a year with the library team.

"Anyone I've brought to quiz night always wants to come back," she said. She has turned her friend Erik Tholking into a regular, too. He says he's ready to be the final authority on any questions in his specialties: "anything on history or geography. We also brought a real librarian with us for anything hard," he said.

Geoff Pipoly, whose team of graduate student friends won three weeks in a row recently, thinks of quiz night as something like a revenge of the nerds. "I guess we're just wired for obscurity," he said. "It has to do with our general nerdiness and inability to interact socially with others."

But they've got that competitive intensity, too, illustrated by a member of his team who once ran around the pub waving his shirt and doing the "YMCA" dance after one especially triumphant win.

## Entering the competition

I have never been immune from competition myself. So when I went to quiz night to write this story, I thought I'd put together a team and give it a go.

The questions begin at 7:30, but I'd arrived an hour early, staked out a table and had a plate of bangers and mash and a pint of Scottish Belhaven beer, waiting for my group of crack trivia buffs to show up.

They included someone who assured me she could handle any question thrown at her about network television, our own geography specialist, my husband – who knows rock music circa 1961-1982 at a ridiculous level of detail, and a few guys who modestly confessed they knew a thing or two about sports.

Which was good, because the abysmal depth of my sports cluelessness was revealed by the very first question: "What was the score of yesterday's Bengals game, who did they play, and for a bonus point, how many touchdowns passes did Carson Palmer throw?"

For anyone but me. They got a little harder, but in general, the questions were not especially difficult.

"In 1968, who did Time magazine call the world's most spectacular guitarist?" (Jimi Hendrix) or "What is the largest fresh water lake in the world?" (Lake Superior).

My other experience with quiz nights is at Molly Malone's in Pleasant Ridge, and those questions seemed more rigorous. Tholking said he goes to Christy's in Clifton on Tuesdays sometimes for its quiz night.

"Those questions are a little more obscure," he said.

## Leader of the quiz

Kelly Schneider, a bartender at the Rookwood pub, is in charge of the quiz. She reads all of the questions and compiles them. "I get them off the Internet, or I might look at Trivial Pursuit sometimes," she said. "I do 20 questions, and usually about 10 are ones most people know, five you can guess at and the rest you just

have to know."

I now know more than I did before: that the two countries in South America that do not border Brazil are Chile and Ecuador; Columbia does. The bloodless coup in Portugal in 1974 was called the Carnation Revolution, and the NFL was founded in 1920.

These are the kinds of improvements to the mind not usually made while drinking beer and eating fish and chips in a bar.

Which, by the way, are quite good and half-price during quiz night.

We already knew who wrote "The Night Before Christmas," could identify 30 rock songs from the '60s in 30 seconds or less, identified the movie "Anaconda" from a plot summary and knew the author of "American Buffalo."

In fact, in the end we knew more than everyone else. More than the library team. More than Pipoly and his "nerdy" friends. Apparently we were wired for obscurity. That's right. We got the \$25 gift certificate and the glory, the awed admiration and envy of everyone in the bar that Monday.



Trivia night winners Sean Callan (from left), Mark Fallon and Genine Fallon accept a gift cer-