

Ullage and Spillage

by J.Random

Way back in the mists of time, and for some reason the 70s was an unusually foggy decade, the Imperial College Real Ale Society compiled a list of serious drinking errors committed by its members. I do not have the original list so I have attempted to reconstruct it as best I can from my random access memory.

Drinking Error #1. Attempting to pick up glass with back of hand.

Drinking Error #2. Hand approaching side of glass with tips of fingers aligned with centre.

Drinking Error #3. Closing fingers and thumb together before detectable palm-to-glass contact.

Drinking Error #4. Excessive deviation of glass from vertical when not actively drinking.

Drinking Error #5. Failure to maintain adequate grip on glass.

Drinking Error #6. Gesticulating with drinking arm while holding glass (See also Error #18).

Drinking Error #7. Turning wrist to read your watch with glass in hand.

Drinking Error #8. Completely missing mouth with rim of glass.

Drinking Error #9. Tipping glass before full and complete lip contact.

Drinking Error #10. Starting to smile as glass approaches mouth thereby smashing glass on teeth.

Drinking Error #11. Tipping glass more steeply than strictly needed to deliver beer within mouth.

Drinking Error #12. Laughing while drinking and expelling beer through nose.

Drinking Error #13. Inhaling while drinking and coughing beer over adjacent compatriots.

Drinking Error #14. Tipping beer down throat faster than throat can drain into stomach.

Drinking Error #15. Failure to confirm presence of solid, level surface before putting glass down.

Drinking Error #16. Moving glass to bar/table with base of glass below level of bar/table.

Drinking Error #17. Placing glass with less than 50% of base on table/bar.

Drinking Error #18. Gesticulating with arm below level of glasses on table or bar.

Drinking Error #19. Failure to remove glass from table space required for head while sleeping.

Drinking Error #20. Falling over while holding glass containing beer.

Hopefully this handy checklist will help CAMRA BC members to correctly identify drinking errors should they occur. However, the more reductive of readers will already have recognized that there is only one basic error and that is wasting good beer. It was not considered necessary to list errors associated with spilling other people's beer because one could not automatically assume they would be drinking the good stuff.

Before closing I might note that while doing rudimentary research to see if anybody else had published such a list, I did come across Ten Walking Mistakes to Avoid. Walking mistake #9 was Not Drinking Enough. It did not mention Walking Mistake #11 which is of course Drinking Too Much. Personally, I recommend drinking quality rather than quantity.

Cheers §