

## Another U-turn Darling

The leading trade body for pubs and bars in the UK – the Associate of Licensed Multiple Retailers – today endorsed the call by Liberal Democrat MP Greg Mulholland to reverse the decision to impose record above inflation duty increases for the next four years.

At the AMLR annual conference, Chief Executive, Nick Bish, responded the Liberal Democrat MP's oral question to the Chancellor saying:

“Greg Mulholland says the Chancellor will go down in history as the man who killed the British pub. For many licensees that is already a painful reality.

Pubs are closing in record numbers – 14 per week – and the duty escalator will only escalate that decline. It is time for the Chancellor to step off it.”

He went on to warn the Chancellor will only be presiding over his own decline – closed pubs pay no taxes and higher beer duties fuels rising inflation. The Chancellor needs another U-turn now.”

24<sup>th</sup> April 2008