



# The story of Vitoria's craft beer heritage

*Craft beers are young, urban and fashionable, and increasingly popular*

**upsurge:** a strong increase in the strength or quantity of something

**twist:** (in this context) an interesting difference or change, (normally) a contorted form

**bandwagon:** an activity or cause that has suddenly become fashionable or popular.

**coined:** invent (a new word or phrase)

**hops:** (Plants) the dried ripe flowers, esp the female flowers, of the hop plant, used to give a bitter taste to beer

Recent years have seen a huge **upsurge** of excitement around creative brewing with radical new beer styles. Although Vitoria-Gasteiz does enjoy some very good craft beers of its own, it could have been decades ahead of the current trend.

Pól runs The Carlingford in Vitoria-Gasteiz with his wife Leyre but with an interesting little **twist**. He stocks over 30 beers from England and Ireland, among them craft beers.

Craft beers are growing in popularity, but Pól cannot be accused of simply jumping on the **bandwagon**. His interest in English craft beer goes way back to his earlier days in the industry. When I asked him how he became interested in craft beers, it is with great sadness he tells me about his late and great friend Stuart Wilde.

Stewart was an English man living in Vitoria and interestingly a founder of the current scouting system for Deportivo Alavés. His idea was to open a bar in Vitoria with a difference. He would open a microbrewery serving his own beer. He produced three beers, a golden ale, a red ale or bitter and an English style porter, back in the day when the term microbrewery and craft beer hadn't been **coined** yet.

He brought Pól out to Salvatierra where he had built his brewery and this was the moment Pól realised that people like himself could produce beers on a commercial level. After revisiting some very fond memories of his times heading out to the brewery with Stuart at all hours in the morning after work in the bar, to shovel **hops** into the beers, the sad realisation of the passing of his friend hits once again.

Pól was young and without the means to carry on the idea. The new owner of the bar reverted to a more traditional style and, although the brewery is still used to this day, Stuart's beers sadly disappeared. However, with time, Pól would go on to open his own bar and if he couldn't brew the beer himself, he would at least offer great Irish craft beers and English small-batch produced beers as well as more industrial beers such as Guinness.

These are unquestionably exciting times for craft beers and for beer drinkers. Craft beer is all about flavour. Format is secondary and there is no clear definition of what craft is. It can be cask, keg, bottled or canned and it can be brewed anywhere (even at home in your own kitchen). The presentation is as attractive as the taste, you only need to see Pól's selection.

When asked what was the most enjoyable part of producing his own beer, Pól jokingly replies, "Having to test your produce first, of course, however in a quality control capacity!".

*Pól was interviewed by ECP coach Darren Lynch. Pól, a native of Dublin, grew up in the city centre and on his way to school smelled the hops being toasted at the Guinness Brewery. You can visit Pól and Leyre and try their lovely beers at Bar Carlingford in Calle Cercas Bajas - near the crossroads with Beato Tomás de Zumarraga. Why not visit their [Facebook](#) page? (Carlingford Vitoria)*

*"Let's chat about that!"*

- Why could Vitoria have been ahead of its time? Is this type of thing important?
- What does Pól remember with great fondness? Why?
- What does cask mean?
- What did Pól eventually go on to do?
- Have you tried beers with unconventional flavours? If so, what did you think?

## Weekly English Practice

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[weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com](http://weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com)

[www.englishcoachingprojects.net](http://www.englishcoachingprojects.net) Calle San Ignacio de Loyola 15 bajo  
[info@englishcoachingprojects.net](mailto:info@englishcoachingprojects.net) 01001, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Araba-Alava





# “iLook, iThink, iSpeak” Express yourself better!

## Rugby World Cup 2015

The Rugby world cup is now in full swing and excitement is growing as the knock-out stages get nearer. With all the ‘fighting’ done on the pitch, supporters from both teams come together in pubs and bars for drinks and harmless banter.

In Gasteiz, this is an extra opportunity, on top of the annual Six Nations, for rugby supporters and expats to get down to the **Carlingford** and enjoy the special atmosphere that international rugby matches generate. See you there!



## Different football codes

Did you know that there are over half a dozen different ways to play the game called ‘football’ and that there are 4 different types of goalposts?

Look at the following list. How many of these versions do you know about?

You can click on each name to find out more about them.

- Gaelic football
- Australian Rules football
- Association football
- Rugby Union football
- Rugby League football
- American football
- Canadian football



WIKIPEDIA  
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Describe the rules of the ones you know.

How many versions can you play in your town?

Why not go to YouTube and watch some videos to see how different they all are?



Look in a dictionary or online (or ask your ECP coach) to find out what these phrases from the text mean:

- full swing**
- knock-out stages**
- harmless banter**
- expats**
- get down**

## Welcome to WEEKLY ENGLISH PRACTICE 2015-16!

English Coaching Practice S.Coop. recently celebrated its 5th anniversary which means that this is now the 6th year that we have produced this extremely useful supplement to your English language learning journey.

Don't forget that you can contribute to the WEP with ideas, articles, recommendations, corrections, anything! Just speak to your ECP coach :-)