

THANET CAMRA – MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26th JULY 2018 at THE MONTEFIORE ARMS, RAMSGATE.

REMOVED = CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REDACTED

PRESENT

Jo Walbank, Dennis Brandrick, Mark Sharratt, Nick Gurr, Martin Baldwin, Geoff Orton, Graham Ricketts, Damien Clark, Mike St-Clare Newman, Jez Laming, Steve Saunders, Peter Jacquiss, Rick Bean, Jon Stringer, Julian Dungey

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Tony Walbank, Danny O'Sullivan, Lynne Backler, Freda & Barry Parker.

Jo welcomed everybody to the meeting and informed those present that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss nominations for Pub of the Year (PotY) and the Good Beer Guide (GBG) and therefore could all other business be curtailed where possible.

THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, held in May were circulated and signed as a true record. Proposed Steve, Seconded Graham

The following matters were arising:

- **Loop Guide:** Steve says it needs to be updated. We are currently running with 'Beery Steve's Guide' instead.

FINANCE REPORT

Jez reported that we have **REMOVED**. The branch still needs around **REMOVED** so the proposal is that **REMOVED** is sent to HQ as a donation with a further **REMOVED** as a returnable deposit. 2 outstanding invoices from the previous Ale of Thanet outstanding; one of these is for the previous tenant at the **REMOVED**, so we are proposing that this is written off.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Julian reported that we have 572 members locally. Nationally 192,501.

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE REPORT

Nick reported that we are averaging 75 hits a day on our website and we have 141 followers on Instagram; 484 on Twitter and 481 on Facebook.

SOCIAL REPORT

In Danny's absence, the secretary presented his report: The Margate trip was well attended by 17 members, the Deal and Walmer trip less so, possibly due to the World Cup. Last weekend's walk from Palm Bay to Broadstairs was well received and 6 members attended.

The 2 members that requested the trip to Herne and Herne Bay on the 4th August are now not available for this date. If others are not available to attend, then Danny will postpone to an alternative date as Martin Hillier is planning to open the Butcher's Arms early especially for us.

PUB UPDATES

- **London Tavern:** Carl is selling as he wants to pursue a new challenge
- **St Lawrence Tavern:** Up for sale by Thorley
- **The Swan:** Also up for sale
- **Foresters Arms:** Is now shut
- **Neptunes Hall:** Ken is leaving in October, Sheps are advertising the tenancy.
- **Bell, Minster:** Now reopened.

BREWERIES & PUB CHAINS

- **By the Mile:** Jon reported business as usual.
- **Four Candles:** Dennis reported that it's business as usual at the Candles.

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- **Isla Vale:** Steve and Nat have recommenced beer production and are acquiring new ingredients. Present stocks of Golding delicious their 3.8% copper session ale went to The Harbour Arms and The Fez – with the intention of all future ales going locally rather than trying to spread further afield now. Bosuns Best is still made uniquely for The Wheel Alehouse. They are looking to revamp their ales a bit. No prospect of a green hop ale this year.
- **Margate:** The brews will be traditional, real and craft Ales. Ciders and Perrys will be produced and the pub will have traditional local food and music occasionally. The Victorian brick ceiling of the basement beneath the footpath at the side of the pub, between the car park and the High Street, is now fully repaired and a new hydraulic scissor lift is currently being installed to allow delivery/export of all products between the basement brewery and ground level. All brewery vessels are now in place in the basement and awaiting plumbing in, by the manufacturers in the next few weeks. David has opted for gas burner heaters (400,000 BTU) for the Copper, rather than the usual electric elements 1) to minimise the labour in cleaning between each brew 2) to avoid the well-known "burnt" deposit and taste entirely. All units in place for a 10 BBL system for a capability of brewing 4 different beers at once. The large size was installed simply because it would be impossible to add to in the future, after closing the walls and floors of the building. At start up, small batches from the smallest vessel (8 BBL – half full) will be brewed. This will be achieved as bespoke split cooling jackets have been installed, so only need the bottom half for small capacity brewing. David will entertain any specialist recipe requirements by request and/or testing. David was keen not to forget Cider and Perry productions. A still for producing Gin, Vodka and Whisky is already in place. Those first production bottles are already on site with branded name "The Old Cottage", so distilling already prior to beer production. A bonded warehouse has been acquired for this purpose. Start date predicted middle/end of August.
- **NauticAles:** Nothing to report
- **Northdown:** Northdown brewery have taken possession of the unit behind Hornby hobbies in the old Mears unit in Margate. They have now got clearance from HRMC with an AWRS number, so production of four ales has begun. Concentrating on getting the unit primed for production now. Brewing kit was delivered in April. They are brewing now and in full production. The first beer Pale Ale Mary (unfined) 4.0% abv is already stocked in Harbour arms, Banks, The Tap Room, Ales of the Unexpected, The Lifeboat and Two Halves in Margate. Hovelling Boat in Ramsgate and Pearson's Arms in Whitstable, as well as bag in boxes in Tom Thumb theatre & Cliffs Cafe in Margate. Others are waiting for the fined beer, this has now gone out to most of the above establishments. HE-Bru has also been released now and has been distributed throughout the Thanet area. Both ales have also gone to Derbyshire as well after enquiries from a local beer fest in Derbyshire – Coach & Horses Horsley and Arkwrights Real ale bar Belper. The 2 other brews Papworth Victory Bitter 4.6% traditional bitter and Muggy Porter 5.0% are about to go to mash July 24th ish and then the porter the following week. a taproom is in preparation and will be ready towards the end of July.
- **Ramsgate:** Martin reported that Gadds' No 5 has won silver at the SIBA awards. Festiv'Ale, Silver Surfer and Green Hop are all in the pipeline. Wheely Pale Ale has been brewed to celebrate Eddie Gadd's charity bike ride. Gadds' No 11 has now been launched in cans at 1.2%. The brewery are sponsoring t-shirts for the Foyer team at GBBF; West Coast IPA and Black Pearl will be available at Olympia.
- **Wantsum:** 13 ales available out of 14 of their core range and charity ale. They have re-introduced Yellow Tail their 4.5% 4 hop blonde and Millers Mirth 4.2% darker hoppy beer with fruit overtones for the spring/summer season. Four of their ales (Ravening Wolf, Golgotha, 1381 and Montgomery) are now available in key keg. Price increases are afoot for the purchase of firkins but not changing wholesale prices but discount structure. They continue to supply Duddas Tun as supplier of

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Cider and Perry. They have had an order for their one hop ale Eldorado 4.2% for GBBF. Their range has been extended to include Portsmouth and Bournemouth areas with a new venture about to start in Cambridgeshire/Northamptonshire areas. An open day festival is planned for 28th and 29th July and regular brewery experiences are being held for those interested in brewing their own beer. Wantsum believe they will be doing 6 or 7 green hop versions - only 2 will be ready for the Canterbury Food and Beer festival 21st and 22nd September which kick starts the release of the green hop beers from Kent. They will be running a small green hop festival at the brewery on the 6th October in collaboration with Goody ales (minibus triangulating between Wantsum, Goody's and Herne Bay station)

PUB OF THE YEAR & GOOD BEER GUIDE

REMOVED

Jo will email those that have expressed an interest in judging.

Jo reminded the meeting that judging is a silent process and landlord's should not know that we are there judging.

AOB

- **MN:** KRM – Still asking for BLOs to check brewery lists; still seeking a regional webmaster; need a regional cider rep and co-ordinator; we also need a branch cider rep; still seeking candidates for regional director; the region have asked for criticism for the Kent Beer Festival (we have felt the logo is very poorly thought out; the plastic glasses were a disappointment; there was an issue with the power so the cooling was not sufficient); New national branding guidelines have been released, including new certificates; A national education officer is being appointed to produce education material.

The next meeting will be Monday 10th September, at The Swan, Westgate. Then Tuesday 13th November.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22:03