CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE - THANET BRANCH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY
28TH JANUARY 2017 AT THE LONDON TAVERN, MARGATE

ATTENDANCE
Mark Sharratt, Jez Laming, Mick Minter, Martin Baldwin, Danny O’Sullivan, Graham Rickett, Stan
Strangwick, Barry Wade, Damien Clark, Leo Gair, Debbie Aris, Steve Saunders, Sarah Saunders, Jenny
Faulkner, John Davies, Kae Mendham, Dennis Brandrick, Julian Dungey, Antony Walbank, Philip
Chandler, David Hawkins, Peter Jaquiss, Geoff Orton, Mike St Clare-Newman, Vince Mason, Reg Cocks,
Paul Leeks, Pete Silman, John Brockman, Paul Williams, Nicholas Gurr, David Gorrod, Shawn Galvin, Clare
Galvin,
Apologies for Absence were received from Jo Walbank, Steve Villette, Jim Greenfield, Jeff Waller,
Francine McAfee.

CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME (Copy on File)
Martin welcome everyone to the meeting and said that it has been a very successful year for the branch,
starting with the Yard of Ale coming runner up in the National Pub of the Year competition; followed by
another very successful beer festival at the Winter Gardens which saw over 3000 drinkers visiting over
the two days. We were very lucky to host a consultation meeting for the revitalisation project, which
was attended by Michael Hardman, one of the founder members of CAMRA. Local brewery Gadd’s has
won the local round of the strong ale category of the Champion Beer of Britain competition and goes
forward to the national finals at GBBF. Our magazine, Ale of Thanet, has won the best magazine for Kent
and now goes forward to the national finals. Martin took the opportunity to thank all the

MINUTES OF THE 2016 AGM
The minutes were circulated and signed as a true record with one amendment: John on attendance.
Proposed Julian Dungey, Seconded Tony Walbank.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES
There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

ADOPTION OF MODEL BRANCH CONSTITUTION
This was adopted by the meeting. Proposed by Tony Walbank, Seconded by Damien Clark

ACCOUNTS
Debbie circulated copies of the audited accounts and pointed out the following points:
- Surplus from Beer festival of [redacted], which meant we could send a healthy amount to St
  Albans
- There is no longer a non-permanent loan to HQ, but we can request money back at any point
  which is freely given.
Kae asked Debbie if there were any debtors against Ale of Thanet, and was informed that at the point of
the accounts there were none.
Phillip asked about the expenditure with regards to Stewarding and Security and was informed that this
was a necessary expense in line with the Winter Gardens license.
Debbie thanked Chris Hunt and Steve Villette for auditing the accounts again and then informed the
meeting that this will be her last year as treasurer.
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The accounts were proposed by Graham Rickett, seconded by Julian Duggey. Damien proposed a vote of thanks to Debbie for all her hard work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Breweries:
- **Attwells**: Sadly Attwells was wound up during 2016
- **By the Mile**: A new brewery, set up by John Stringer, head brewer at Gadd'scurrently only available in bottles, but John hoping to start using cask soon. His beer is available at the local farmers markets.
- **Four Candles**: A successful year at the candles which has seen the production of brew number 100, back in the summer, which was put into bottles and sold as a celebration beer at Christmas. More of a barley wine, this tipped the scales at 8.4%. Mike also produced, in Paul’s absence, the Candles’ strongest cask ale, a hoppy IPA at 6.1%. The brewery is going from strength to strength and now regularly supplies beer not only to its own premises but also to other establishments locally (and some festivals nationally); notably Candles beer can regularly be found at NauticAles and the InnDoors at Sandgate, for whom Paul brews their house Sandgate Special. An exciting year in store in 2017 and we look forward to seeing what rises from the cellar.
- **Isla Vale Alesmiths**: Graham reported that there is not much to report from IVA. Ninkasi
- **Margate**: Graham has heard from Dave at the Margate brewery who has found much of the history of the building, but there is no news about brewing.
- **NauticAles**: Micky reported a successful year for the brewery and is hoping for another successful year. They will be donating another cask of Maiden Voyage to the festival.
- **Northdown Brewery**: Another new brewery, cuckoo brewing in London at present, but will be moving to premises by the lido in Cliftonville.
- **Ramsgate**: Martin will send to me.

Kae asked BLOs to ensure that the brewery information system is kept up to date, especially with addresses with postcodes. Peter Page-Mitchell has asked BLOs to keep their reports up to date.

Pubs:
Steve reported that there hasn’t been a huge amount of movement locally during the last year. We have had one pub open, Mind the Gap in Broadstairs. Also Ale Caesar opened on the seafront in Margate for the summer season, but sadly had to close in November due to end of lease. The new wetherspoons is intended to open in the Royal Victoria Pavillion in Ramsgate in the summer. The former Walmer Castle is due to open as a Greek social club. There’s a new micropub due to open in Minnis Bay, called the Old Bay Alehouse. Planning permission has been granted for the Northdown to become a micropub, operated by Alan from the Wheel Alehouse.

Jez reported that the Orb is currently shut, as the manager has walked away. The Artillery is temporarily closed due to needing a new premises licence following the death of the previous landlord. Hopefully the Thirty-Nine Steps will be moving to new premises within the next 6 weeks.

**Membership:**
- Locally increased by 66 to 524. Gain of 14% on last year. In the last 3 years we have grown our membership by 50%
- Nationally 185,000. Up 10,000 on last year.
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Jez also mentioned that we are looking for volunteers for this years beer festival and forms were
circulated.
Kae also asked the meeting if percentage of attendance could be included in the branch reports to the
regional meetings so that other branches can share good practice.

ELECTION OF BRANCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE
Martin informed the meeting that he was not standing for re-election in 2017 and the Secretary had
received one advance nomination for Chair; that for Jo Walbank, Proposed by Anita Ives, seconded by
Jamie Ives. Jo had indicated to the secretary in advance that she was willing to stand.

In terms of the remaining branch committee, Phillip Chandler was not seeking re-election.

There was also a nomination for Paul Leeks for the role of Chair, proposed by Graham Rickett, Seconded
by Geoff Orton and therefore a ballot of the attended membership was carried out, via secret papers
handed to the secretary. These were counted (and subsequently verified by Clare Galvin) with the result
being 18 in favour of Jo, 10 in favour of Paul and 3 Abstentions. Jo Walbank was therefore duly elected
as the Branch Chair.

The remaining committee were re-elected en bloc in the following positions:
Vice-Chair - Damien Clark
Treasurer - Debbie Aris (Debbie informed the meeting this would be the last year she would be standing
for the post)
Secretary - Dennis Brandrick
Membership Secretary - Jez Laming
Webmaster - Nick Gurr (Nick joined the committee in this role in place of Steve)
Pubs Protection Officer - Julian Dungey
Social Secretary - Paul Leeks (Paul joined the committee in this role in place of Steve)
Magazine Editor - Steve Saunders
Branch Contact - Graham Rickett

Core committee members - Mick Minter, Tony Walbank, Matt Edmondson, Geoff Orton

In the absence of the new Chair, Damien, as Vice, took to the seat for the remainder of the meeting

BRANCH OBJECTIVES FOR 2017
This is no longer a requirement, however the meeting felt it was good to have targets to work towards.
- Three new ACVs on new pubs in 2017 as a minimum.
- Members will correspond more with the editor of Ale of Thanet, especially in the 25th year of
  AoT
- Increase engagement/recruitment with young members.

All in favour.

GBG 2018 AND POTY 2017
Damien asked for scores by Sunday 12th February.
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AOB
- Graham reminded the meeting that branch branded clothing is available from Ambition sport in Ramsgate
- Tony asked Kae about technical issues with the GBG mobile app. Which is apparently ongoing. Kae suggested that complaints are directed to St Albans.

Damien thanked everybody for attending and to Carl and his team at the London Tavern for their hospitality in allowing us to hold our AGM there.
The meeting closed at 13:40