

**CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE – THANET BRANCH  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019  
at THE BRADSTOW MILL, BROADSTAIRS**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Jo Walbank, Dennis Brandrick, Nick Gurr, Steve Saunders, Jez Laming, Peter Jacquiss, Paul Williams, Philip Chandler, Barrie Branchett, Antony Walbank, Rob Rosevear, Pete Silman, Terry Monaghan, Francine McAfee, Barry Wade, David Gorrod, Rick Bean, Vick mason, Julian Dungey, Martin Baldwin, Geoff Orton, Mark Sharratt, Graham Rickett, Jon Stringer, Reg Cocks, Vic Cocks, Martin Knight

**Apologies for absence** were received from Jeff Waller, Colin and Debbie Aris, Danny O’Sullivan, Lynne Backler, Mike St Clare Newman, Steve Villette, Damien Clark, Anita and Jamie Ives, Mike Austen, John Keeley, Alan Church, Sarah Saunders,

**CHAIR’S WELCOME**

Jo welcomed everybody to the meeting. She informed everyone that the KRM was also happening on the same date, so we have no one from the region joining us today.

She informed the meeting that she is standing down as Chair today, due to her lack of time and her health.

We have expected to see some changes because of the revitalisation, but there haven’t been the major changes that we feared may happen.

She also informed the meeting that Damien (who is representing us at the KRM today) is also stepping down from the committee and she expressed a vote of thanks to Damien for all he’s done for the branch over the years.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

These were circulated and signed as a true record, with no amendments. Proposed by Julian, Seconded by Tony.

**MATTERS ARISING**

Nick had asked about GDPR – we have had clarification from HQ on this. Also, membership secretaries have undertaken an online course related to that. Peter’s volunteer database is encrypted.

Tony asked if Planet Thanet would be the biggest festival in the county – yes it was.

**ADOPTION OF MODEL BRANCH CONSTITUTION**

This was adopted by the meeting. Proposed by Steve, seconded by Jez

**ACCOUNTS**

Jez reported that we have had an interested year financially. He thanked Debbie for guiding him in his first year in post. We had a bumpy ride with the surplus drop from the beer festival, but still send **REMOVED** to HQ. We still have a healthy balance though of **REMOVED**.

Philip asked about the drop in beer festival surplus and this will be addressed in the beer festival report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Beer Festival:** Jo reported that the 2018 festival was down on previous years. There are a number of factors that contribute to this – notably the earlier in the year, the less the festival makes. The weather was atrocious. This combined with some problems we had with the Winter Gardens regarding admissions and their fire safety certificate. Jo had to seek clarification on this from senior leaders at the WG, but unfortunately, this had already had a detrimental effect on our numbers.

A lot of our costs had also increased, which affected the surplus; but we did still make a healthy surplus to send to HQ and we have achieved better than a lot of festivals that maybe only make **REMOVED** surplus.

**CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE – THANET BRANCH**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**  
**at THE BRADSTOW MILL, BROADSTAIRS**

This has made this year's festival planning much harder, particularly because the WG have increased their rental rate four-fold to nearly **REMOVED**. This has meant we have had to implement some significant changes to the 2019 festival – particularly with the introduction of security searches and a ban on personal picnics. The WG have given us a considerable discount on the rental, but these changes have been implemented to ensure that they can recoup some of that discount.

The positives of this though are that we will open the festival to CAMRA members an hour earlier on Friday, but we will close an hour earlier on Saturday.

Martin B expressed a vote of thanks to the festival committee for their work in 2018.

Jo informed the meeting of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes, particularly to ensure the quality of the beer and she thanked Dennis for his hard work in this area.

Martin K expressed a vote of thanks to all those that volunteer at the festival.

**Breweries:**

- **Four Candles:** All is well at the Four Candles as we enter 2019. There has been an increase in off sales during 2018, which has helped to promote the brewery in the wider drinking circle in East Kent. Beers are still being well received in both the pub and elsewhere. Quite a few contract brews for other establishments now happen in addition to beers produced under the Four Candles brand.
- **Isla Vale Alesmiths:** Brewing is now only being done by Nat and only Bosun's Best for the Wheel Alehouse at present.
- **Margate:** Another setback. TDC have asked for alterations to the windows which will delay opening.
- **NauticAles:** Micky is still looking for premises, but this is ongoing as he is currently out of the country.
- **Northdown Brewery:** Tap room is now open on Friday and Saturday evenings. Their bottled beers are selling well locally, although these are still produced in London. They are hoping to have 4 fermenters online soon to double capacity.
- **Ramsgate:** An exciting year for Ramsgate, No 3 won the Taste of Kent awards Beer of Kent in March; Sue Fisher will be brewing another special beer for International Womens Day – a ruby beer called 'Power of Women' to be launched at the Ravensgate on 4<sup>th</sup> March. The brewery is also taking part in Kents Big Weekend. They are also taking part in a European Collaboration brew project, teaming up with a brewery in Estonia. Number 11 was also launched in 2018 and has been very well received with much press coverage.
- **Wantsum:** Released three fairly new beers: little ships a 2.4% citra ale; overlord a 6% NEIPA and hurricane. They will be sponsoring the glasses at this year's festival. It's their 10 year anniversary this year and there will be a celebration in the summer. They are looking to brew with a new hop – Earnest.

**Pubs Report**

Steve reported that we've had a good year locally. 2 Pubs have opened (The Pub, Broadstairs and The Laughing Barrel), but sadly 2 pubs have also closed. Great Tree and the Foresters. The Brown Jug is currently closed following Jenny's retirement, but we don't know what is happening there.

The St Lawrence Tavern is also due to reopen soon.

**Membership**

Julian reported we have 560 members locally (down 13 from last AGM); Nationally 190,918 (down 559 from last AGM). He reported that the membership team nationally are going to be scrutinising the figures to try and establish why membership is dropping.

Jo reported that she had received some letters from members informing her that they would not be renewing and what we should do to change. She has fed this back to HQ, but we are still tied by HQ's rules and guidelines.

We are not the smallest membership in Kent, despite having the smallest geographical area.

**Social Secretary**

**CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE – THANET BRANCH  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019  
at THE BRADSTOW MILL, BROADSTAIRS**

Danny sent his report in advance to be presented on his behalf by the Secretary  
Been a good year and most aims have been achieved. As of today, with our first business meeting in Broadstairs since I took over, we have now had meetings in Birchington, Westgate, Garlinge, Margate, Ramsgate and now Broadstairs, fulfilling my aim to spread the meetings around Thanet. All meetings are now regularly in AOT and What's Brewing at least 2 months ahead and often more, so no excuses to say you didn't know about a meeting!

All GBG pubs had at least one visit in the last year, and many prospective GBG pubs have been included on the list to visit. Most meetings are reasonably well attended though only 10 members went to the Xmas bash at NauticAles. Will look again at that one for the next Xmas do.

The Social Secs blog has continued in AOT. This gives good publicity to the pubs visited and the opportunity for landlords and members alike to approach me about a visit to pubs that we don't regularly visit.

Hoping to do a couple of brewery trips later in the year and a Faversham/Sittingbourne tour to visit the numerous new pubs that have sprung up.

**Social Media**

We have had 125,000 hits on our website, around 30,000 of those since Nick took over in March. 181 followers on Instagram, 567 on Twitter and 521 on Facebook. All of these have increased from last year.

**ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

Jo dissolved the committee ahead of the election of officers.

There was one nomination for chair: Martin Knight, proposed by Jez, Seconded by Steve. All voted in Favour.

Following Damian's decision to stand down the post of Public Affairs Officer was open, Jo Proposed Nick Gurr for this role, seconded by Julian. All Voted in Favour.

After stepping down as Chair, Jo was proposed to fill the vacant space of Cider Representative by Julian, seconded by Graham. All voted in Favour.

The remainder of the committee were asked if they were willing to stand again in turn and were duly elected as follows:

Vice Chair – Steve Saunders

Secretary – Dennis Brandrick

Treasurer – Jez Laming

Membership Secretary – Julian Dungey

Website & Public Affairs – Nick Gurr

Social Secretary – Danny O'Sullivan

Branch Contact – Graham Rickett

Core Branch Positions – Tony Walbank, Geoff Orton, Mike St Clare Newman, Mark Sharratt, Peter Jacquiss.

**BRANCH OBJECTIVES FOR 2019**

Julian proposed that we use this as a way to increase our social media presence, perhaps with a competition.

Steve proposed that we continue the objectives from 2018, particularly attracting more advertising for Ale of Thanet.

Philip proposed that we increase attendance at socials, Martin said that we will discuss with Nick and Danny on a way forward of this.

**GBG 2020 and POTY 2019**

**CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE – THANET BRANCH  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019  
at THE BRADSTOW MILL, BROADSTAIRS**

Jo reported that we have some scores in, but not all yet. The deadline for judging is 30<sup>th</sup> January. Jo will collate the scores with the chair and secretary to prevent leaking of scores.

**Branch Publications**

Steve reported that the current issue of AoT is available now. We tested a new print supplier for this issue locally. This is a reduced cost and the quality is improved. Copy date for the next issue is 18<sup>th</sup> February.

He is looking to update his pub guide in time for the beer festival.

**AOB**

- **AW:** Asked about the status of a landlord regarding drink driving; but it was felt that as no conviction was prevalent, the branch should not discriminate. DB to seek guidance from St Albans.
- **GR:** ACV – Graham presented the ACV certificate to the Walmer Castle venue. The new owners seem to appreciate this. Jo asked if the presentation was approved by CAMRA following the guidance from HQ that branches should not be involved in ACVs, only individuals.
- **GR:** CBOB – deadline for BLOs to update beers is 25<sup>th</sup> January.
- **DB:** Asked about signatories on the bank account. It was suggested that Martin Knight is added as a signatory. Proposed by Dennis Brandrick, seconded by Jo Walbank.
- **JD:** Proposed a vote of thanks to the Bradstow Mill for their hospitality today and for the buffet lunch.
- **JS:** Asked about the date of the next meeting. To be advised by new committee.
- **MB:** Suggested that MK sends an introduction email to the membership as new chair.

The meeting closed at 14:24