

THANET CAMRA – MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24th APRIL 2018 at THE RODNEY, GARLINGE.

PRESENT

Jo Walbank, Dennis Brandrick, Peter Jacquiss, Nick Gurr, Barry Branchett, Tony Gibbins, Steve Villette, Martin Knight, Terry Monaghan, Wayne Hobbs, Geoff Orton, Julian Dungey, Mark Sharratt, Jon Stringer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Jez Laming, Debbie Aris, Graham Rickett, Steve Saunders, Tony Walbank, Danny O'Sullivan, Damien Clark, Martin Baldwin.

Jo welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced the committee to those present.

THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, held in November were circulated and signed as a true record. Proposed Julian, Seconded Barry

The following matters were arising:

- **Distrubution of minutes:** We have had issues in the past where some items discussed at meetings are of a confidential matter and these have been divulged outside of the meeting, therefore we need to make sure that these are censored before going into the public domain. The minutes on the website will always be the version to be discussed publicly.

CAMRA AGM and MEMBERS WEEKEND

The meeting discussed the national AGM that occurred last Saturday and Jo informed the meeting that Special Resolution 6 was not voted through and that under the conference motions CAMRA will now adopt a neutral position on Cask Breathers and Beer Festivals are able to adopt other methods of dispense if they wish but must put cask ale on a pinnacle.

The new national chair is Jackie Parker.

FINANCE REPORT

In Jez's absence, the secretary reported that the current balance is **REMOVED**. We are still awaiting payment from some AoT advertisers. There will be less surplus from the beer festival this year than previously. Overall, we have spent less, but also had a smaller number of attendees over the weekend. The accounts are still a work in progress and Jez hopes to give a full report in the near future.

He proposed a vote of thanks to Debbie for her help during the transition period and to Anita Ives, Chris Hunt and Sharon Quverlander for stepping in to cover for him during his absence on the Saturday.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Julian reported that we have 589 members locally, which is a climb of 16 from the AGM. Nationally 191,439, up by 1080 since our AGM in February. 31 new members recruited at the festival, 16 of these locally, including 3 young members.

SOCIAL REPORT

In Danny's absence, the secretary presented his report:

- **Wednesday 9th May:** Ramsgate Harbour walkabout. Meet at 1930 at the Hovelling Boat
- **Saturday 19th May:** Mild in May event. Meet at 1230 at the Old Bay
- **Wednesday 6th June:** Margate walkabout. Meet 1930 at the Ales of the Unexpected
- **Wednesday 8th August:** Gadds' beer walkabout. Meet at 1930 at the Ravensgate

Danny is also suggesting a visit to the Canterbury Food Festival to coincide with their Green Hop Ale tent. Date to be advised.

BEER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Jo reported that after a large reshuffle to the committee, we have taken more of an opportunity to showcase local sponsors rather than making as much money as possible for CAMRA. A lot of our consumables have increased in price, and with the lower attendance,

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caused by a change of staff at the Winter Gardens meaning that the admittance was handled differently, and the venue capacities were reported differently than previously, we will have less money to submit to HQ. We know that most people stayed for longer this year and we have had nothing but praise about the quality and selection of both ale and cider.

Julian proposed a vote of thanks to Dennis for his hard work on the beer selection and quality at the festival this year and to Peter for his hard work in organising all the volunteers. The charity bucket this year raised a total of £666.70, the festival committee are proposing to round this up to £670 which will be split equally between Margate and Ramsgate Air Cadet units.

KENT REGIONAL MEETING UPDATE

Jo reported that the KRM in March was cancelled because of the snow. The next one is on 12th May at the Drum, Stone Street, North Stanford. This will be the AGM where the new Regional Director will be elected.

PUB UPDATES

- **Wheel Alehouse:** REMOVED.
- **Swan:** Refurbishment is now complete. Gadds' No 3 and 5 are permanent beers, along with London Pride. A 4th handpump will be installed for the summer.
- **Walmer Castle:** In the process of opening to the community. All refurbishment should be done within the next 6 weeks.
- **Hovelling Boat:** Wayne Hobbs and Gordon Calver are the new owners.
- **Hare and Hounds:** New owners are now in residence. Opened on Monday 16th April. 2 real ales on the bar at present.

BREWERIES & PUB CHAINS

- **By the Mile:** Jon reported that there is not much happening at present. Maybe a dark beer for the Tap Room in the pipeline.
- **Four Candles:** There has been a change of personnel at the Candles with Paul Wenham-Jones now no longer brewing there. Mike is now training Stig Vatland (current Drayman) in the art of brewing and the two of them hope to continue to brew the exciting beers we are used to.
- **Isla Vale:** Steve and Nat have started brewing again and are acquiring new ingredients. They are looking to revamp their range a bit and are intending on focussing on supplying more locally for the foreseeable future.
- **Margate:** Looking like a start date of mid/late August, but David will not brew until everything is in place and right.
- **NauticAles:** Nothing to report.
- **Northdown:** Here
- **Ramsgate:** Jon reported that Old School Mild is due out next week. Gadds' No 11 is due to be canned next week, which is an ultra-session low ABV (1.2%) IPA. Launched on Sat 6th May at the Brewery shop. Cloudsurfer also due in May.
- **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. Hoppy Bunny their 4.1% Easter special sold really quickly, this alongside Red Smacker a red APA 4.3% were at Planet Thanet Beer Festival. Four of their ales (Ravening Wolf, Golgotha, 1381 and Montgomery) are now also available in key keg.

BRANCH OBJECTIVES

- The beer festival was another resounding success.
- AoT Distribution: Nick would like more volunteers to help with this. If members spot anywhere without any, please email Jo and let her know.

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AOB

- **NG:** Proposal of new GBG judging scheme. He would like to propose micropub of the year and traditional pub of the year. He would also like to improve the nomination process so that more members can be involved. Jo will liaise with Nick regarding this
- **GO:** Would CAMRA be interested in sponsoring beer mats in pubs? Jo mentioned that we are going to produce marketing beer mats for the 2019 beer festival.
- **JW:** Cider POTY Hair of the Dog, runners up – Fez, and Banks.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 30th May at 2000 at the Australian Arms; then Thursday 26th July, venue TBC.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:50