

THANET CAMRA – MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9th MAY at THE WHEEL ALEHOUSE, BIRCHINGTON

In attendance were:

Martin Knight, Dennis Brandrick, Steve Saunders, Nick Gurr, Mike Newman, Graham Rickett, Rick

Apologies for Absence were received from:

Tony Walbank, Julian Dungey, Peter Jaquiss; Danny O’Sullivan, Jez Laming, Jo Walbank, Mark Sharratt, Geoff Orton, Martin Baldwin

The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true record Proposed Steve, Seconded Nick.

Matters arising - Harbour Arms – Not up for sale (confirmed by Carol)

FINANCE

Due to Jez’s unfortunate illness and hospitalisation; he was unable to present a report to the meeting but did send comments to say that early indications show a healthy surplus for the 2019 Beer Festival; with some invoices still outstanding, which will be paid upon his return home.

AOT invoice outstanding to Steve; IVA invoice outstanding.

MEMBERSHIP

Julian sent his report in advance to be delivered by the secretary:

I’m pleased to report a significant upturn in our membership for this meeting, however, there still appears to be a downturn nationally. CAMRA are introducing new initiatives to try and increase membership.

I have also included our regional figures that John Cottrell Head of Membership has sent out as you can see; we are now not the smallest sized branch in terms of membership, let’s try and keep these figures up.

Please note CAMRA membership is to increase as 1st July 2019 £1.50 for standard rates £1.00 for concessions.

Branch

This Meeting: - 625

National

This Meeting: - 190,080 -574

Last Meeting: - 190,654 (06/03/19) - 264

AGM: - 190,918 (19/01/19)

Kent Regional Figures

Maidstone & Mid Kent	816
Bexley	714
Medway	667
West Kent	652
Thanet	625
Canterbury, Herne Bay & Whitstable	613
Gravesend & Darent Valley	591
Swale	558
Ashford, Folkestone & Romney Marsh	523

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Deal, Dover & Sandwich

460

Festival Sign Ups

We had sign ups 13 for Thanet and 10 outside our branch area, with Aylesbury (2) and Plymouth (2) being the furthest afield.

Graham asked what the new initiatives to increase membership are.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Nick reported that we've had a good increase over the festival period: Twitter - 674, Facebook – 575; Instagram – 243. 137,756 hits on the website. c 2000 hits for the festival beer and cider lists.

SOCIAL REPORT

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

Some good crowds for recent socials, especially our micro crawl of Broadstairs and a full bus for Nicks mystery bus tour of North Kent. More of those to come hopefully.

Future visits

MAY - 25th. Volunteers trip to Crabble Mill

JUNE - 12th. Wednesday. 7.30 pm. Margate Crawl. 7.30pm. Start at Harbour Arms, Two Halves and onwards.

22nd - Saturday. Loop bus tour. Starting at the Hare and Hounds at 12 noon, Nautic Ales at 12.30, then on towards The Conqueror and beyond.

JULY - 16th Tuesday. - 7.30pm. Broadstairs seafront Crawl. Start at The Chapel and onwards.

Future events. Dates not arranged yet.

Wetherspoons curry and a pint or 2 night.

Possible visit to London for the BIG beer festival.

Green Hop festival, Canterbury.

Suggestions welcome for August and September.

Nick commented that we should be supporting national beer day on 15th June and Graham spoke about supporting Cask Ale Week in September – he is going to get publicans on board to support this.

KRM

Martin informed the meeting that the next KRM will be hosted by us on 18th May at the Bradstow Mill. All welcome.

PUB UPDATES

Hornby – Applied for premises licence to sell alcohol at their visitor centre

Unit 3, Margate Arm – Premises licence applied for

Bell, Minster – to shut for an extended period

Bottleshop Margate to reopen as Night Swift

Spoons Margate – Closed for refurbishment, reopens on 11th June.

BREWERIES

4C – Nothing new to Report

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IVA – Nothing new to report.

Margate – No further progress at yet.

NauticAles – Nothing to Report

Northdown – Graham reported that it's business as usual at Northdown. 2 new fermenters to be installed at the brewery and Jonny to start KeyKeg production. 2 new ales in the pipeline – NEIPA and a summer golden ale.

Ramsgate – Martin sent his report in advance.

Wantsum – Graham reported that the UXB raspberry is still available. This was well received at the beer festival. 18/19 May hosting a beer festival at the brewery to coincide with the brewery's 10th anniversary.

GOOD BEER GUIDE and PUB OF THE YEAR

The proof has appeared, we need to check for errors and report these to Kae by Friday 17th.

Cider PotY presentation is planned for 17th May at the Hair of the Dog.

BEER FESTIVAL UPDATE

Jo sends her apologies and will send a report in due course. Basic figures Friday 2359; Saturday 1046. Current figures show we should be in a much healthier position this year and surplus may be similar to 2017.

The learning and discovery space was very well received, with around 350 people engaging with the space over the weekend. We got through the same amount of beer in 2 days that the Manchester got through in 4.

AOB

MK – San Clu have asked if we could advise them in organising a beer festival. This is not something we can do officially but individuals could maybe give advice.

SS – AOT copy deadline 3rd June.

Wednesday 10th July – London Tavern (Venue TBC)

Monday 2nd September – Venue TBC

The meeting closed at 21:33