

THANET CAMRA – MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER
at THE SWAN, WESTGATE-ON-SEA

In attendance were:

Martin Knight, Dennis Brandrick, Nick Gurr, Danny O’Sullivan Michael St Clare-Newman, Peter Jaquiss, Martin Baldwin, Peter Newton, Julian Dungey, Jill Stone, Julian Stone, Chris Welsh, Terry Monaghan, Graham Rickett, John Thomson, Leo Gair, Steve Spratt, Steve Saunders, Mark Sharratt.

Apologies for Absence were received from:

Antony Walbank, Jo Walbank, Debbie Aris, John Brockman,

The meeting opened with a moment’s silence for the Late Jez Laming, former Branch Treasurer and long-standing branch member.

The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true record Proposed Julian, Seconded Mike. Matters arising – due to change of opening hours at Ramsgate Tap, the AGM has moved to Northdown Brewery. We will go to Ramsgate for our social on 4th January instead;

FINANCE

In Debbie’s absence the secretary presented her report:

As requested by head office I have submitted the branch financial statement as at 31st October to St Albans, and as expected they are asking when we will be depositing our surplus funds with them.

The current bank balance is **REMOVED**, with two AOT invoices still to pay (**REMOVED**).

Now that we have festival budget approval, we are due to pay the deposit of around **REMOVED** to the Winter Gardens in December.

We also have another Ale of Thanet print run coming up along with AGM expenses and potential minor expenses pre-festival.

So, I would propose that we send St Albans around **REMOVED. Please let me know if this, or any other sum, is agreed and I can then let St Albans know.**

The meeting agreed this figure.

REMOVED

The meeting agreed to a budget of **REMOVED** for the Hogmanay social. DB to liaise with Gav at Ramsgate.

MEMBERSHIP

Julian reported that we have 613 locally with 192,947 nationally. Up 1376 from September.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Nick reported that we have 615 followers on Facebook; 756 on Twitter and 308 on Instagram.

PUBLICATIONS

Steve reported that the next issue of AOT is due to be published next month, the copy date is 29th November to have articles to Steve. Region have asked about an article on NBSS, Steve will recycle a previous version.

We are still having issues with the Legal Deposit Libraries who appear to be losing deposit issues, Steve informed the meeting that these are being sent recorded delivery.

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‘Beery Steve’s Guide’ – updated version on the branch website with a new print version due in 2020.

SOCIAL REPORT

Danny reported that there had been a good turnout for the Broadstairs ramble and at the Canterbury Food Festival. Numbers were down for the Birchington crawl, but this may be because of the Rugby.

Future events:

Thursday 19th December: Cliftonville Crawl. Start at 19:30 at Banks, then Tap Room and Laughing Barrel.

Saturday 4th January: Hogmanay social at Ramsgate Brewery Tap Room. From 12noon.

Monday 6th January: Joint lunchtime trip to Sandwich with Maidstone CAMRA. Start at Red Cow at 13:10, then Smugglers, Crispin, George & Dragon.

Thursday 30th January: Broadstairs walk. Start at 19:30 at The Pub, then Mind the Gap and finishing at Tartar Frigate

KRM

From the last KRM in West Malling: currently vacancies for Regional Director and East Kent Area organiser. Paul Saunders (Sussex and Surrey RD) is currently our interim RD until the next regional AGM.

GBG – Jeff is going to investigate the allocations in Kent with a view to these changing from the 2020

CBOB Nominations – in general these are not being made in the numbers that the NE would like.

NBSS scoring – branches should encourage members to use this more, so it becomes more useful to branch committees. GBG app can be used for this, tech issues to be reported to MK so these can be passed on to the IT team at St Albans.

25th January – Bouverie Tap, Folkestone.

JD asked about the Kent Beer Festival and the possibility of dropping the name ‘Kent’. MK reported that at the last KRM the Canterbury branch were looking at returning to Canterbury Rugby Club, but this appears since to have fallen through, with no more news at present.

HQ have asked that we report Wetherspoon pubs which are displaying ales that have run out but still with the pump clip facing forwards. (Lyn Attack)

PUB UPDATES

- Albion Inn (AKA Little Albion/Hogs Head) – Now trading with new tenant. Has reverted back to original name of Albion Inn
- The Pub, Ramsgate – Now due to open in February
- Black Cat, Margate – now closed
- George & Heart, Margate (formerly Ambrette) – due to open in 2020, to be heavily supplied by Northdown
- Chilton Tavern, Ramsgate – currently closed for refurbishment, due to open for Christmas.
- Deal Cutter – Still up for lease

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- Honeysuckle – Still for sale
- Wheatsheaf, Ramsgate – Up for Sale
- Brown Jug, Dumpton – For sale as a house
- Saddlers – New leaseholder due
- The Orb – Planning application presented to TDC looking to demolish the building. Expiry date for objections has now passed.

BREWERIES

- 4C – Business as Usual. Brew number 444 currently fermenting.
- IVA – Graham reported that Nat has brewed a new ale for the first time in a while, a one off for a birthday party of the Ales of the Unexpected. Bosuns Best is still on at the Wheel, with others occasionally appearing in other pubs locally.
- Margate – Work has resumed on building the brewery.
- NauticAles – Micky is looking to bottle Maiden Voyage.
- Northdown – Graham reported that Merry Margate won bronze at Kent festival; they brewed a 5% Bullion Green Hop Porter; Pale Ale Mary has been nominated in the 2020 Taste of Kent Awards; new beer coming 6.2% mosaic single hop NEIPA called Hancock's Shaker; new pale ale coming using Styrian Dragon Slovenian hops, due out in December; collaboration beer due in January in conjunction with Wantsum. Tap room will be open on 23rd and 24th December for pre-Christmas sales.
- Ramsgate – Martin reported that the current specials are: Hit the Streets Rye Pale Ale, East Kent IPA and Dogbolter. Little Cracker is due to launch again on 30th November. The brewery is hosting a trade showcase on 7th December, this is also open to the general public. Eddie has offered a brewery tour to branch members, for free on 30th November at 11:00.
- Wantsum – In John's absence, Nick presented his report: Core range are all currently available. The 10-year anniversary ale is also available. Christmas beers will be 5 gold grains and figgy pudding. Brewery open day on 7th December, launching their new beer club. Beers are being stocked in Morrisons, Folkestone.
- XYLO – Graham reported that the brew equipment is now in the cellar, with initial small batches being brewed. Limited edition of Mandarina (6.6% IPA) most recently brewed, using Bavarian Mandarina hop. First brews from new kit due imminently, for KeyKeg dispense.

GOOD BEER GUIDE and PUB OF THE YEAR

Jo had not sent a report, but the meeting discussed the **REMOVED** which are currently being judged for PotY, however, these are going through a change **REMOVED**. Under current rules, if none of the new incumbents have come from a current GBG pub these should be discounted from judging. The meeting discussed the situation with the cellar manager at the **REMOVED**, MK asked for 2 members to confirm the situation here. SS and JD will take this on. In the meantime, judges are to continue to judge.

There is still time to judge, please contact Jo if interested.

BEER FESTIVAL UPDATE

Budget has been approved. Next meeting 2nd December at the Conqueror.

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AOB

MB – Has the certificate been presented for No 3 winning silver nationally for bottled beer?

JS – Expressed an interest to be Pubs Officer.

JD – Nationally HQ appear to be adding Clubs to WhatPub, many of these are false and have closed. MK to bring up at next KRM.

CW – Attended last meeting of EBCU in Madrid, with the objective to get a CAMRA person onto the European executive, this is Ray Turpey, former chair of the Campaigns Committee. CAMRA NE are responsible for the secretariat for the EBCU and are taking charge of regulating governance of the organisation and reforming the EBCU executive.

GR – Yahoo Groups are changing on December 14th. How will this affect us? MK reported that this will only affect posting documents.

GR – Boutilliers are opening a Tap Room at the brewery in Faversham and also a site in Ashford.

GR – Holding a presentation in March on the subject of Beer and Religion.

SS – Proposed that Julian Stone is WhatPub co-ordinator, with a view to taking on the role permanently at the AGM.

Dates of Next Meetings:

Saturday 18th January – Branch AGM, Northdown Brewery Tap, start 12noon prompt.

Monday 16th March – Red Lion, Ramsgate

Wednesday 20th May – Venue TBC

The meeting closed at 22:37