

CAMRA – Ipswich & East Suffolk Branch Branch Meeting

Date: 23/06/15

Venue: Thomas Wolsey, Ipswich

Agenda

Welcome: Chairman (Matt) welcomed members (18) and opened the meeting at 20.07 hrs.

Apologies: Terry Marquand, Jane Scott, Tim Edwards

Minutes of last meeting: Accepted and read

Matters arising: None

Correspondence: The Secretary said that the following memo's had been received from H.Q.: Cider Bar training at GBBF 2015 – cider bar training course: CAMRA campaigner of the year award – invitation to submit nominations: Beer pricing at Festivals – Guidance for fixing beers prices at beer festivals: Branch Public Affairs Officer: Role Description: Assets of Community Value Service launch – details of support service offered by CAMRA HQ for this: Popularity of Pubs articles by Mirror Group newspapers – notification of correction requested by CAMRA.

Copies of all are available from Mike on request.

Additionally 2 e-mails received from members of the public seeking to contact the branch. One regarding Assett of Community Value information, since found to have been dealt with by branch Pubs officer (Phil Hastie). The other was concerning the setting up of a real ale micro pub in Ipswich. This is at an early stage and the prospective landlord just wished to make contact with the branch.

Officers Reports

a) Chairman: Matt stated he had nothing to report.

b) Vice-Chairman: Phil stated he had nothing to report

c) Treasurer: Gordon reported that the Beer Festival account was being reconciled at present. Meanwhile the branch account stood at **£209.12** and petty cash **£61.69**. There was a cheque for **£650** from the John Peel Center Stowmarket, following their beer festival in February, awaiting payment into the Branch account.

d) Membership: Not present no report

e) Young Membership: Chris reported he had e-mailed young members encouraging them to work at the Ipswich Beer Festival. He also proposed arranging a pub crawl round Ipswich specifically for young members. He had also e-mailed the University Campus regarding them displaying posters and leaflets at their premises.

f) Social Secretary: Not present, no report. However Phil reported Jane intended to try to arrange a trip to the Harwich Redout beer festival possibly for July 23rd.

g) Media & publicity: Nigel stated that he had spoken on Radio Suffolk about the Ipswich Beer Festival the previous Thursday (18th June). The next edition of Last Orders had just been started and articles for inclusion should be sent in soon. Following the recent fire at the Unruly Pig he had thought of writing an article on pub fires – there had been 17 major pub fires over the last 10 years with few pubs surviving to re-open.

h) Beer Festivals: Nigel took the opportunity to thank all volunteers throughout all stages of the Ipswich Beer Festival (IBF). There had been a good turnout throughout and especially on both the set up days (24 on each day) and on the takedown (16). These were often the hardest days for people to volunteer for. Overall it looked like there would be a loss incurred for the IBF. This was due mainly to the poor, wet weather encountered on the Friday evening and all day Saturday which had driven attendances down. Attendance figures were 1700 Thursday, 1100 Friday and 1400 Saturday -4200 overall. The event charity, Chrissie and friends, had taken approximately £760 in pub card donations with about the same amount in direct contributions. The branch had donated £100 to them as a contribution for using their sound equipment in lieu of hiring a Public Announcement system for the festival.

A survey was currently being run on the IBF on line, via Survey Monkey, to gain insight into how the public saw the festival. Some comments already made were:- a lack of advertising near the ground, uncertainty on pricing on entry, some people thought the event too short (!) However there had been a lot of positive feedback as well. It might well be the branch would have to undertake a follow up survey to find out what people wanted at future IBF's.

Meanwhile the I.T.F.C. wanted a wash-up meeting in the near future.

i) Pub Officer: Phil reported as follows:-

Unruly Pig (Bromswell) following a devastating fire this is closed until further notice
Henley Cross keys - I have submitted an ACV application on behalf of the branch and am currently waiting for a reply.

Coddenham Dukes Head - a local group have submitted an ACV application and there is also a planning application to convert it into residential use.

Bentley case is Altered - due to the success of this community pub it has now increased its opening times.

Spread Eagle Ipswich - I have had confirmation from Grain that this has definitely been purchased by them and is due to reopen at the end of July 2015.

Ipswich Riverside Hotel - has now reverted to the original name, Station Hotel.

Trimley St Martin Hand in Hand - now reopen again.

Ollies Ipswich - now reopened as Shamrock and now selling real ale.

Other pub news from attendees:-

Masons, Ipswich presently shut

Three Mariners, Trimley had closed again

Dukes Head, Stowmarket said to be becoming a Pizza restaurant

White Horse, Hitcham closed, believed a change in status to residential planned.

j) Tasting Panel: Not present no report.

k) Brewing Liaison Officers:

Briarbank – Chris reported that they were considering going over to key keg dispense. Their Black Horse stout was now being served at low pressure, without a head. This was as it had originally been envisaged as being served. They were also currently selling a lot of wheat beer.

Swan, Stratford St. Mary – Allan confirmed they had done a trial brew of an IPA recently and were also doing a brew of a dark beer.

A.O.B.: Nigel stated that following problems with this year's Suffolk Pub Of The Year (POTY) voting, as Suffolk county organiser, he was considering arranging county wide liaison meetings regarding this issue.

Certificates for Ipswich & East Suffolk branch Rural POTY and Suffolk POTY had been given to the White Horse, Sweffling.

Other branch POTY winners were:- Ipswich – Fat Cat

Urban – Royal William. Stowmarket

Cider – Swan, Stratford St. Mary

It was provisionally suggested certificates would be given 3rd July to the Fat Cat, Sunday 28th June to Swan Stratford St. Mary and to the Royal William 10th July.

Possible future branch meetings: 21st July – Arcade Tavern Ipswich: 18th August – Kings Arms, Stowmarket: 15th September – Duke of York, Ipswich: 20th October – White Horse Felixstowe: 17th November – Steamboat, Ipswich: 15th December – Lord Nelson, Ipswich.

Next meeting: Arcade Tavern, Ipswich 2000hrs 21/07/15

Close meeting: The Chairman thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 2215hrs