

# **CAMRA – Ipswich & East Suffolk Branch branch Meeting**

Date: 17/11/15

Venue: Lord Nelson, Ipswich

## **Agenda**

**Welcome:** Chairman (Matt) welcomed members (14) and opened the meeting at 20:04 hrs.

**Apologies:** Tim Edwards, Chris Kenworthy, Terry Marquand, Andy Shaw

**Minutes of last meeting:** Accepted and read

**Matters arising:** Pubs Officer report: Crow, Gt Glenham should have read Crown, Gt Glenham.

**Correspondence:** The Secretary circulated lists of CAMRA branch mailouts since the last meeting, Memos from HQ posted on members web-site where:- UK Immigration rules and volunteering: Assets of Community Value workshop: Good Beer Guide 2017 survey form information: GBF 2017 survey form: GBF 2017 style sheet: GBF 2017 pubs section timeline: National Winter Ale Festival 2017-2019.

Additionally, due to its importance, HQ e-mailed directly a memo regarding Submitting a motion for debate at CAMRA's 2016 annual conference which was made available to the meeting. (This will be posted on the members web site in the usual way)

**All memos can be found on the Members Dashboard by logging on to the the Members Site on the CAMRA web-site – <http://www.camra.org.uk>**

2 pieces of Correspondence had been received since the last meeting. One was notifying the branch that The Poacher, Cratfield was the subject of a planning application for change of use to a domestic dwelling. This was forwarded to the Pubs and Clubs Officer, who had also been contacted directly, by the correspondant and had already replied to same. Although Cratfield actually falls within the North East Suffolk branch area Phil had offered advice due to the short period of time for lodging objections but had copied all correspondance to N.E.Suffolk branch and referred the correspondant to them for future action.

The second was an e-mail from members of CAMRA North Manchester branch regarding their Regional Director's decision to recommend the formation of a new city centre branch over the objections of the existing 3 Manchester branches. Having sought to have a letter outlining their objections included in Decembers 'Whats Brewing' magazine publication of the letter was refused by CAMRA HQ. Although the matter is a strictly local issue it was felt the refusal to print the letter and other issues surrounding the handling of the matter caused them grave concern regarding branch input on issues to HQ. Comments from other local CAMRA branches regarding this last point was sought.

Copies of both e-mails where available to the meeting.

## **Officers Reports**

**a) Chairman:** Matt had nothing to report. However he pointed out that he had filled the role of branch chairman for the last 4 years and reminded the meeting that nominations for various committee posts needed to be considered for submission at the Branch Annual General Meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 at the Thomas Wolsey, Ipswich.

**b) Vice-Chairman:** Not present no report

**c) Treasurer:** Gordon stated the various branch accounts stood at:-

Branch (TSB) account - £694.70

Petty Cash - £35.95

I.B.F. (Barclays) account - £667.22

The cheque for £900 from St Judes had still to be put into the IBF account. Earl Soham brewery had stated they had sent a cheque to Nigel, who had not yet received it. Mill Green brewery had invoiced us for beer but had also received £250 worth of glasses from us. It was suggested the invoice should be written off. Uffa's still maintained they had provided beer in lieu of glass sponsorship money. The issue of non-payment by FreeRanger for their food site was now being pursued by HQ. After a search of the internet their address had been obtained and this would be passed on to HQ. Trevor was requested to provide any e-mails/correspondance with them prior to the IBF event.

**d) Membership:** Not present but an e-mail report was received by the Chairman. The branch membership now stood at 1003 with 11 new members joining as per the November report from HQ. In any case it was surely worthy of some publicity, certainly in our next issue of Last Orders if not in the local press. It was worthwhile considering how the branch might wish to celebrate the milestone of our 1000<sup>th</sup> member. Perhaps a celebratory drink in a local pub to which the 11 new members might be invited, with a free pint and some branch memorabilia as a reward to the lucky 1000th? Congratulations to all branch members, volunteers and committee members who make Ipswich&East Suffolk branch area a great place to appreciate fine ale!

**e) Young Membership:** Not present but e-mail report. Chris had been unable to attend the fair at University College Suffolk but felt that we should have stalls at other fairs in future. He had spoken to various other branches and all showed a low number of young members, which needed addressing. Chris felt that a greater use of Facebook/Twitter etc should be used to get our message across to younger people. Both Iain and Mike, who had worked on the stall at U.C.S. On 22<sup>nd</sup> October, felt it had been a worthwhile exercise. Several people had expressed an interest, though no young members had been signed up on the day. We should certainly repeat the exercise during freshers week (early in September) 2016.

**f) Social Secretary:** Not present no report. There will be a 'Saturday Stagger' around out of town centre pubs in Ipswich on 28<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 1300hrs at the Steamboat Tavern.

**g) Media and Newsletter:** Nigel advised that the latest issue of Last Orders magazine was now out. The article on non-alcoholic drinks seemed to have been well received and several complimentary comments had been made regarding the magazine as a whole. Although Nigel was prepared to carry on editing the magazine in the short term he felt that it was time to look for a sucessor in the post as editor. Nigel also reminded the meeting that all production costs for the magazine were met by advertiseing and currently advertisers were not complaining on costs. Additionally the majority of distribution was carried out by the printers as Last Orders distribution was linked to the distribution of 'Grapevine' magazine which was also produced by the current printer. Should there be any change of printer then the branch would need to arrange for distribution of Last Orders throughout the branch area.

**h) Beer Festivals:** Nigel reported that the wash-up meeting with I.T.F.C. had taken place. The Club had been happy with the event and were surprised by the possibility there might not be a repeat next year. It was explained that the financial loss might result in CAMRA HQ not being prepared to agree to a festival in the near future. As a possible smaller alternative the Club offered the possibility of utilising the concourse below the South stand along with the Sir Bobby Robson Suite and Legends Bar or some combination thereof. This should allow the staging of a 700-800 person festival. However after examining the costs the Club provided at a later stage Nigel stated he felt that they were too expensive unless a lower price could be negotiated. The Club representatives at the meeting had not heard any details of the proposed visit by Dusseldorf F.C. next year.

With respect to future I.B.F's Nigel stated that he was unwilling to act as event organiser and that somebody else would have to take over this role. However he was prepared to continue to organise the beer festivals held at Stowmarket for the John Peel Centre and Museum of East Anglian Life. A final decision on holding the Ipswich Beer festival would have to be made at the Annual General meeting in January

**i) Pub Officer:** Not present no report. However the following were reported by members:-

Turks Head, Hasketon – reopened

Pump+Grind, Ipswich – wanted to extend opening hours.

It was also reported that Morrisons supermarket in Ipswich were seeking to be able to sell bottled beer up to midnight

**j) Tasting Panel** Not present no report. However those who had attended the tasting session at the Dove commented on how interesting it had been. Indeed all the tasting panels held this year had been excellent and thanks were extended to Terry for his work on this.

**k) Brewing Liaison Officers:**

Briarbank – the complaint by Briarbank regarding the Good Beer Guide entry had now been sorted. Details had also been changed on the branch web site to reflect that entry to the bar above the brewery was open to all. The empty casks provided to the IBF/M.E.A.L. Beer festival were still missing and enquiries to date had been fruitless. It may well be that the branch would need to compensate the brewery for their loss.

**A.O.B.:** Alan reminded the meeting that nominations for possible entry into the 2017 Good Beer Guide were needed. He also reminded members that as decided when nominations were requested for the 2016 Guide any nominations where the landlord had changed in the last 10 months had to be agreed before acceptance. To this end it was suggested that the Spread Eagle, Ipswich fell into this category following its purchase by Grain Brewery. The current landlady was known to the branch and had kept other pubs within the branch area. A vote on the Spread Eagle's eligibility for nomination was held and the result was:-

yea – 6 : Nay – 3 : abstain – 5: therefore the pub is able to be nominated for possible inclusion. (note this does not mean it has been automatically nominated)

Alan also reminded the meeting that nominations for Pub Of The Year were also required by the end of December. There were 3 classes for nomination- Town (Ipswich pubs) Urban (pubs in Adeburch, Framlingham, Felixstowe+Walton, Leiston, Needham Market, Stowmarket+Stowupland and Woodbridge) and Rural.

**For further information on G.B.G and POTY nominations please see the entry on the branch web site – see the dropdown menu under the More tab on the Home page.**

Nigel reported that the Real Ale Run Abouts for 2015 were due to end soon and requested suggestions for 2016. These would be needed soon as the itinerary had to be agreed with Ipswich Buses. Criteria were:- for Friday night a max. distance of 30miles, for Wednesday afternoon the same and at least one venue where food could be obtained. Saturday afternoon the same as Wednesday. Nigel also suggested that a bus trip to Chappell beer festival could be arranged. Also a trip to Mid Anglia branch's festival at Yaxley and back via Sproughton beer festival was feasible.

Finally with regard to the change in Branch area following Mid Anglia sub branch becoming a full branch in their own right numbers and details of branch members affected were still being sought. It was hoped to be able to present details at the A.G.M. in January. However it looked like we might lose 9-12 pubs with other Suffolk branches losing the same.

**Next meeting: Steamboat, Ipswich 2000hrs 15/12/15**

**Close meeting:** The Chairman thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 2136 hrs.