

CAMRA – Ipswich & East Suffolk Branch branch Meeting

Date: 16/04/16

Venue: Arcade Tavern, Ipswich

Agenda

Welcome: Chairman (Matt) welcomed members (15) and opened the meeting at 20:06 hrs.

Apologies: Phil Hastie, Allan Crampton, Terry Marquand, Rick Fearn, Sue Shaw

Minutes of last meeting: Accepted and read. A question was asked re e-mailing of minutes and the Secretary explained this was no longer done but minutes were posted on the branch web-site prior to the next meeting, though printed copies were provided prior to the meeting for perusal by attendees.

Matters arising: none

Correspondence: Mike reported HQ had posted memo's on the following -

Advertisements in Branch Magazines; Returning Membership Forms from Beer Festivals; Community Pubs Definition March 2016; Community Pubs Month; Pub Company Liaison; Working with your Local Council; Treatment of Disabled Visitors to Events; Local Plan Support for Branches

All memos sent by HQ since the last meeting can be found on the Members Dashboard by logging on to the Members Site on the CAMRA web-site –

<http://www.camra.org.uk>

Emails had been received regarding opening of a new micro pub opening in Ipswich (see pub news) and the reallocation of St Peters Brewery BLO functions to North East Suffolk Branch (it actually does lie in their branch area!). Also the George Hadleigh had enquired re GBG entry. (rules/criteria for entry briefly explained to them)

Officers Reports

a) Chairman: Matt commented briefly on the survey re revitalising CAMRA and encouraged members to reply to same and make their views known. Some 50 meetings were to be held throughout the country regarding this wide ranging review, which would also canvass views of breweries/landlords.

b) Vice-Chairman: Not present no report

c) Treasurer: Gordon gave the balance of the various branch accounts as:-

IBF account £830.44

Branch account £558.34

Petty Cash £ 35.94

Total £1424.74

As discussed at the last meeting a cheque had been issued to Colourplan for £458 for printing services for the last IBF. Nothing had been heard from HQ regarding chasing Freeranger. He had also been unable to contact Peter Tetley regarding the VAT return which

was still required and for which he had been chased. (Nigel undertook to chase Peter for the return again.) Income from the festival at the John Peel Centre was still to come. Finally a number of people were now doing on line banking for paying for issues of Last Orders.

d) Membership: Tim reported membership presently stood at 1008. There had been 26 new members since the start of the year. 8 had been signed up by friends, 7 direct via the CAMRA web site and 5 at beer festivals.

e) Young Membership: Not present no report.

f) Social Secretary: Not present no report. However a visit to the Harwich Ale Trail was planned for 29th April. The next RARA would be to Bury for the beer festival on 22nd April.

Rae requested that new members be sought for the Steel Quoits teams in the branch area. There was to be an open day at the Golden Hind Ipswich over the bank holiday but people were welcome to try quoits at any time. Various pubs, such as the White Horse Finningham and Turks Head Hasketon had expressed interest in holding quoits events/tournaments. Perhaps the branch could challenge Mid Anglia branch to a match at the White Horse?

Nigel stated he had met an Adnams Rep whilst at the Robert Ransome and had been invited to organise a brewery tour. Also he had heard the Cricketers had a Greenjack beer tasting arranged for 29th April which members might be interested in attending.

g) Media and Newsletter: Nigel advised that the latest newsletter was being printed. He had also been on Steve Foster's programme on Radio Suffolk recently and been asked about the Ipswich Beer Festival. He had explained that this was still being looked at. Matt had received a similar query from Heart F.M..

h) Beer Festivals: Niaomi reported she and Paul had a meeting with the Ipswich Corn Exchange but nothing had progressed from this so there was still no firm venue. Nigel pointed out that a number of beer festivals were reporting reduced attendances (but not necessarily money). SIBA East Anglia were looking for a venue for an event and had suggested a possible joint event with the branch, but this would be in 2017 not this year. Given that no suitable venue had been found, and time constraints with getting a budget approved by HQ, it was decided by the meeting that the branch would not hold an Ipswich Beer Festival this year. Thanks were extended to Niaomi and Paul for their efforts.

However we would be holding a 20th festival in conjunction with the Museum of East Anglia life, at MEAL, on 14-17 July 2016.

i) Pub Officer: Not present no report. However Phil had emailed that branch members were now able to enter the California Club Ipswich on production of their CAMRA membership card.

Attendees reported the following:-

Dog & Duck, Campse Ashe - is being refurbished

Low House Laxfield – is being painted and decorated (although the interior and settles in the pub are listed)

Arboretum Ipswich – reportedly re-opening soon

White Horse Tattingstone - re-opened

Brewers Arms Ipswich– reportedly closing soon and up for sale (?)

County of Suffolk Ipswich– up for sale

Elephant and castle Ipswich– closed. (?)

East Town Bottle Shop and Bar – a new micro pub opening in Lloyds Avenue Ipswich soon (during May)

j) Tasting Panel Not present no report. However Terry had emailed panel members canvassing details of days/dates for futurepanels.

k) Brewing Liaison Officers:

Hellhound – Arthur had informed the branch he could no longer continue in this role due to personal commitments. Niaomi volunteered to take over this role.

Cliff Quay – Nigel informed that they had the forth-coming year well mapped out. However they were concerned about a possible downturn in trade and were doing more bottled beers accordingly. They were also conditioning beer for 2 weeks within the brewery before sale.

St Judes – had a beer festival planned for 20-23rd may.

A.O.B.: Allan had emailed a report re winners for County cider pubs of the year viz:

Engineers Arms, 68 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, SG16 6AA,,
<http://whatpub.com/BEE/210>

Letter B, 53-57 Church St, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, PE7 1DE,
<http://whatpub.com/PET/384>

Three Elms, Chignal St James, Essex, CM1 4TZ, <http://whatpub.com/CME/11064>

Mermaid, 98 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3RL,
<http://whatpub.com/SHE/704>

Railway Arms, Railway Station, Downham Market, Norfolk, PE38 9EN,
<http://whatpub.com/KLN/1288>

Caxton Club, Gaol Lane, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9SJ, <http://whatpub.com/WAV/4050>

Nigel reported the branch now had certificates that needed to be awarded for the various branch Pub of the Year winners. Additionally judging for the Suffolk County POTY needed to be done by the end of May. It was decided to present certificates and judge county POTY pubs on Sat. 7th May, leaving at 12:30hrs from outside the Cricketers Ipswich.

Next meeting: Rampant Horse Needham Market 2000hrs Thursday 17/05/2016

Close meeting: The Chairman thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 2145hrs