

CAMRA – Ipswich & East Suffolk Branch Branch Meeting

Date: 24/01/17

Venue: Thomas Wolsey, Ipswich

Agenda

Welcome: Chairman (Matt) welcomed members (26) and opened the meeting at 20.03 hrs.

Apologies: Amber Scott, Robin Cooper, Tim Edwards, Liz Edwards, Sue Shaw, Rick Fearn, Terry Marquand

Minutes of last meeting: Accepted and Read

Matters arising: None

Correspondence: Mike said that the following memo's had been received from H.Q.: CAMRA communications tool – FAQ: VAT compliance: Branch update Membership Workshops 2017 update: CAMRA BF Business Plan: Business Plan Guide: Business plan Launch Memo: GBG 2018 Club Entries - differences from Pubs: Protecting Pubs – update: Public Transport support Group Meeting: CAMRA's Vision for Pubs: Club of the Year competition 2018: Identifying Councillor 'Pub Champions': Pub Closure statistics: Pub Closures from Use of Permitted Development Rights

All memo's sent by HQ since the last meeting can be found on the Members Dashboard by logging on to the Members Site on the CAMRA website at <http://www.camra.org.uk>

No other correspondence had been received

Officers Reports

a) Chairman: Matt remarked it had been an interesting year for the Branch. Although there had been no Ipswich Beer Festival, due mostly to a lack of a cost effective venue, the Ipswich Ale Trail, organised single handedly by Nigel, had gone very well, with 17 pubs taking part and a large number of completed 'passports' being completed and submitted. The Real Ale RunABOUTS had once again been very successful, with only 2 being cancelled for lack of support. On the down side the Branch had been threatened with litigation over a poem printed in Last Orders. Although nothing had happened legally the issue, that should have died naturally, had rumbled on and it was time to draw a line under the matter.

Jane restated her opinion that the last matter had seriously damaged the branches relationship with an important real ale pub in Ipswich and she felt an apology was due the pub as a first step to repairing that relationship. It was pointed out that although the Branch shared her concerns and wanted to repair the relationship with the pub concerned, any apology could be construed as an admission of guilt and the threat of legal action meant no apology as such could be given. However any action short of an apology would be welcomed by the Branch.

b) Vice-Chairman: Post vacant, no report

c)Treasurer: Gordon reported the following amounts in branch accounts -

Barclay (IBF) £474.48

TSB (Branch) £512.22

Petty Cash £ 35.94

£1022.64

The yearly VAT return, meant to have been pre-pared by the previous Treasurer, was still outstanding and the matter had been referred to HQ.

d)Membership: Not present but e-mail report submitted.

Membership is essentially static over the last year, which is itself a reasonable achievement for the branch, given we did not run an Ipswich Beer Festival in 2016. Looking at the sources of new members, the single main one is still beer festivals - there are many festivals in and around the region, and of course a number of people sign up to CAMRA at those events. They are then allocated to their home branch once the forms are processed by HQ. So, continuing to publicise beer festivals around the region, for example through Last Orders and on the branch website and FB page, will continue to provide a stream of new members.

One of the outcomes of the national "Revitalisation" project is likely to be a subsidiary category of membership, possibly "Associate Member", which would be free of charge. Clearly this would not provide access to Wetherspoon vouchers, or any other members benefits (cheap or free beer festival entry, discounted merchandise). It remains to be seen whether this will substantially increase CAMRA's reach, of whether it might cannibalise existing membership.

e) Young Membership: Chris reported that a Facebook page for young members had been set-up at both Branch and Regional level. There was a young members pub crawl held on Sat 17th December. There was another University Volunteer Fair on 9th March 2017 between 1100-1400hrs and it was hoped to have a stall there.

f) Social Secretary: Jane stated there had been a number of Branch visits to various venues/festivals around the eastern Region over the year. The next was a visit to Ely on 28/01/17 to attend the Elysian beer festival and it was hoped to arrange various other trips over the coming year. It was also hoped to arrange a week end trip away as had happened in the past.

g) Media & publicity: Nigel reported there had been no Radio or paper interviews since the last meeting he had attended (November's). As had been mentioned in the Chairman's report there had been some controversy with some landlords during the year and it was hoped they could be put to rest and things could move on. On a positive note local pub openings had been greater than closures in recent months, bucking the national trend but a good sign none the less.

The Ipswich Ale Trail had proved a great success. A total of 17 pubs had taken part and 1800 leaflets printed, of which 1600 had been picked up in Pubs. It was hoped to redo the trail

again in 2017 and hopefully increase pub participation to 25+. If this was the case the trail might be split into 2-3 separate trails.

A proposed list of Real Ale RunABOUTs had been prepared, with a number being held during the day as this seemed to be the more popular now. Ipswich Bus management are very keen to keep these bus trips going providing they are profitable and that is their biggest issue. They are run as commercial trips and must at least cover the costs. Some local CAMRA people have been keen to speculate on things such as the bus trips being cancelled for years, usually without any foundation and that's an issue the branch has had to live with for a long while. Some local members would rather speculate on things not happening than support them when they do! Nigel stated he personally found it very frustrating and undermining but it's all part of the local pub whispering habit which is why he liked CAMRA business discussed at meetings and not ad-hoc in bars - we can then collectively agree a policy and document it through the minutes.

h) Beer Festivals: Ipswich Town FC have offered the use of parts of the South Stand as a possible venue for the Ipswich Beer Festival, should the Branch decide to hold one. This would be partly inside and partly outside. However it must be said the costs suggested are quite high. The event with the John Peel Centre, Stowmarket will not be taking place at end of February but an event later in the year is a possibility. Our events with the Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket are going to take place again this year – dates TBA. Additionally Beer & Co are seeking to co-operate with us for several events they plan to hold throughout the year in Ipswich – events at Martlesham and Felixstowe have also been mooted. All financial risk would be theirs, we would supply some kit (stillage etc.) and volunteers to work. CAMRA HQ have stated they have no problem with this arrangement.

i) Pub Officer: Post vacant, no report. However attendees reported as follows:-

Spread Eagle, Ipswich – live music was being staged again
Mulberry Tree, Ipswich – presently closed but due to re-open 10/02
Brickmakers, Ipswich – possibly closed.
Steamboat, Ipswich - one of the landlords (Rob) had left but pub is still open.

j) Tasting Panel: Not present, no report.

k) Brewing Liaison Officers:

No reports. However the Brewers Watts&co had moved from Colchester to Suffolk and where setting up a craft Brewery in the Debenham area.

A.O.B.: The meeting was reminded that voting for entry in the 2018 Good Beer Guide was now open and would close on 27th February 2017, the day before the February meeting. There were 108 contenders for 29 places in the guide. All branch members were encouraged to vote. Also 3 clubs had been submitted for entry to Club of the Year and needed to be assessed.

Branch cricket team report from Iain Blacklaw -

I can announce that the CAMRA cricket team is alive and well. This year we had fixtures against Bardwell x 2, Brightlingsea x 2, Mellis and Stansfield who regained the Compasses Cup.

A new fixture was held against East Ladies. We were beaten by a bunch of girls but only on the last ball of a 30 over match and they do play league cricket.

Unfortunately, the fixture against Frinton CC Over 50's team was cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch.

We played in two competitions: The Old Newton tournament which we WON. and the MultiYork Cup, at Mellis, which was abandoned due to torrential rain.

On July 29th, 60 years since England won the World Cup, we played the Antwerp Cricket Club, in Belgium. Due to holiday commitments, most of their regular team were on holiday. So they recruited some teenage Afghan asylum seekers from the local refugee centre. They were experts in street cricket. Some of them had never played on grass before or with a real cricket ball. They still managed to beat us but didn't get us all out.

Many thanks go to the Fat Cat for their continued sponsorship. The team wore their shirts and hats at the Cat's 20th anniversary to show our appreciation.

Next meeting: The Arbor House, Ipswich 28th February 2017. (to be followed by a meeting to assess GBG2018 and POTY results)

Close meeting: The Chairman thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 2059hrs and handed the meeting to Nigel Smith, Suffolk County Organiser for the Branch AGM.

Ipswich & East Suffolk Branch CAMRA – Annual General Meeting

Chair - Nigel Smith, Suffolk County Organiser

Election of Branch Officers

Chairman – Matt Long indicated he would stand again. Proposed by Sophie, seconded by Rodger. No further nominees. **Matt Long** was elected unopposed.

Secretary – Mike Lewis indicated he would stand again. Proposed by Matt, seconded by Sophie. No further nominees. **Mike Lewis** was elected unopposed.

Treasurer – Gordon Taylor indicated he would not stand again. Allan Crampton indicated his willingness to stand. Proposed by Matt, seconded by Chris. No further nominees. **Allan Crampton** was elected unopposed.

Membership – Although not present Tim Edwards had indicated by e-mail he would be prepared to stand again. Proposed by Caroline, seconded by Nigel. No further nominees. **Tim Edwards** was elected unopposed.

Vice Chairman – Sophie Watson indicated she would stand. Proposed by Allan, seconded by Matt. No further nominees. **Sophie Watson** elected unopposed.

Social Secretary – Jane Scott indicated she would stand again. Proposed by Rodger, seconded by Mike. No further nominees. **Jane Scott** elected unopposed.

Young Members – Chris Kenworthy indicated he would stand again. Proposed by Nigel, seconded by Caroline. No further nominees. **Chris Kenworthy** elected unopposed.

Pub Protection Officer – Rodger indicated he was prepared to stand. Proposed by Nigel, seconded by Mike. No further nominees. Elected unopposed. As Rodger has no access to internet Nigel Smith agreed to help with this aspect of this post.

Media – Nigel Smith indicated he would stand again. Proposed by Sophie, seconded by Matt. No further Nominees. **Nigel Smith** elected unopposed.

Member without Port-Folio – Gordon Taylor indicated he would stand. Proposed by Nigel, seconded by Mike. **Gordon Taylor** elected unopposed.

Motion put to meeting

That this Branch talk to Beer & Co with a view to co-operating in staging various Beer festivals as appropriate.

Proposed by Nigel, seconded by Mike.

For -14 , Against – 0 , Abstain – 10 **Motion Passed**

AOB

It was suggested the Branch look into the production of a local pub guide in booklet form. This could either be for the Branch area or Suffolk Coastal area, so would be cross branch in the latter case.

The AGM was closed at 2251hrs.