

CAMRA – Ipswich & East Suffolk Branch Branch Meeting

Date: 28/03/17

Venue: Lord Nelson, Ipswich

Agenda

Welcome: Chairman (Matt) welcomed members (20) and opened the meeting at 20.06 hrs.

Apologies: Jane Scott, Sophie Watson, Phil Hastie

Minutes of last meeting: Accepted and Read

Matters arising: Allan referred members to the memo from HQ re Beer Ordering for GBBF mentioned in correspondence last month. Although not mentioned in the memo, changes in the Law meant that resale of beers ordered but not broached, and subsequently resold after **any** beer festival, where now subject to far tighter scrutiny and restriction under new regulations that come into force in the very near future. Previously the branch had been quite good at re-sales but in future we would be required to prove the provenance of all beers we sought to re-sell.

Correspondence: Mike said that the following memo's had been received from H.Q.: New Rates Material Order form: Branch Committee Self Service Management System: Financial Statements for 2016: Certificate Ordering update: Bright Beer at CAMRA festivals and events: Volunteers Voice Survey: Publicising Heritage Pubs: Pub Scammers: SIA Training and Licensing: Updated Beer Festival Business Plan form: Membership Secretary document revisions: Mild Month: Beer Festival Business Plan:

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>

Two pieces of correspondence had been received from the Long Shop Museum, Leiston and Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (re Christchurch Mansion) seeking help to organise beer festivals at both sites. Correspondence had also been received from the new owners of the Rose, Lindsey introducing themselves and from the Duke of Marlborough, Somersham announcing that the keys had been handed to the Suffolk Community Pub Ltd, a community benefit society, which therefore now owned the pub.

Officers Reports

a) Chairman: Matt stated that 2 RARA's had now taken place and both had been successful. A full programme was planned for this year, many during the day.

b) Vice-Chairman: Not present, no report

c) Treasurer: Allan reported the following amounts in branch accounts (unchanged from last month) -

Barclay (IBF) £474.48

TSB (Branch) £491.22

Petty Cash £ 35.94

£1001.64

A cheque for £295 had been received from John Peel Centre for their 2016 festival and this would be banked forthwith.

d) Membership: Not present at start of meeting, but Tim reported later that though slightly down from 1000 membership had stabilised, at about 990+.

e) Young Membership: Chris reported that a membership stall had been at the University Fair earlier in March. One student spoken to had stated he was interested in trying to form a University Real Ale Society. There had been a young Members Regional meeting at Ely on 18th March and a copy of the minutes of this was made available to the branch meeting for perusal. Future meetings and socials would be:

April 22nd - Bury St Edmunds Beer Festival

May 26th – possible social at Cambridge Beer Festival

August (dates tbc) – Clacton social and also GBBF

September – St Albans and Bedford.

Unfortunately Chris Stone was stepping down as Young Members Regional Rep. for personal reasons. His place would be taken by Dan Maycock, YMC Cambridge & District.

f) Social Secretary: Not present, no report.

g) Media & publicity: Nigel reported there had been no Radio or paper interviews since the last meeting. He was starting to prepare for the next edition of Last Orders. As Nigel wanted to attend the CAMRA AGM deadlines for this edition were tight, 6th April being the last possible date.

h) Beer Festivals: Nigel reminded the meeting that volunteers were still required for the Beer&Co Folk and Beer festival on 28 + 29th April, although the branch cricket team had volunteered en block to do at least 1 shift. Beer&co did not expect the branch to provide staff for all 5 events they had planned as they were seeking co-operation from a number of local organisations/charities. Members were, of course, perfectly free to volunteer for the other events on a personal basis if they wished. However for the 2 events they were hoping we would provide staff for they were offering the branch 50pence for every customer through the door for branch funds. A number of people expressed reservations with providing assistance to a commercial enterprise and felt the branch should be pursuing its own CAMRA beer festival. A lively and spirited discussion then took place. It was pointed out that CAMRA HQ had no objections to our involvement. Also our last 2 beer festivals had not been a financial success and this was an opportunity to be involved with an Ipswich beer event without us facing any financial loss. To-date no branch member had come forward to act as a beer festival organiser, nor had any suitable venue been identified. Time was running out if the branch wished to hold an IBF this year. It was decided the branch would offer assistance for these events.

The John Peel Centre, Stowmarket wished us to provide assistance at a beer festival on 29+30th September along the lines previously provided for their February festivals in past years. It was agreed the branch would do so.

The Long Shop Museum, Leiston had contacted the branch about helping plan and implement a small beer festival there on Friday 20th, Saturday 21st October and combining it with their existing Final Fling event on Sunday 22nd October, closing at 5pm on the Sunday. There would be traditional folk music throughout. Rodger had already stopped at the Museum, whilst doing some pub survey work in Leiston, and reported that there was a large room, with kitchen and toilet facilities, that should prove very suitable for such an event. Also while talking to Earl Soham brewery he had sounded them out and they had indicated they would be willing to supply both their own and other local brewery beers for the event. It was decided to pursue the matter with the Long Shop Museum.

Mike produced the e-mail from Eleanor Root, Colchester&Ipswich Museums Service, positing a small beer festival/bar at Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich in the autumn/winter 2017. Tim Edwards undertook to look into this suggestion and report back.

i) Pub Officer: Following pub news was given to the meeting by members:-

Duke of Marlborough, Somersham – now a community owned pub

Kings Head, East Bergolt – an application for change of use had been submitted

Oyster Inn, Butley – has re-opened

Limeburners, Offton – new landlord has moved on and pub has reverted to the previous landlady

Kings Head, Laxfield – has advertised for a new tenant, but is still open under a temporary manager

Grand Old Duke of York, Ipswich – intends to concentrate more on cider in future, whilst still providing its range of real ales. To this end it will holding a Blues and Cider festival from Thursday 13th to Monday 17th April. 12 draught ciders will be available as well as different bands each day

De La Pole Arms, Wingfield - has re-opened last week (strictly speaking is in Mid Suffolk branch but was visited on the last RARA on Sat 25th March)

j) Tasting Panel: Terry apologised that there had been no tasting panels recently and proposed a panel meeting for 11th April at 1900hrs at the St Judes Tavern, Ipswich.

k) Brewing Liaison Officers:

Dove st – various new brews, mostly flavoured with orange and juniper, had been on offer recently and regulars asked to vote for their favourites. It was intended that the winning 2 would be brewed in the run up to Ady and Carols forthcoming nuptials.

Calvors – new small batch brew kit has been installed. Two new beers added to permanent range, brewed with american hops – American Red 4.5% and Session IPA 4.2%. All Calvors ales are now available in both firkins and pins, and as a filtered beer in 2 keg sizes. Each craft lager now carries a gold or silver SIBA award for the bottled range. The Premium Pilsner lager came 2nd (silver) in the National Keg awards last week. Finally they are working with University of Suffolk to create a new beer commemorating their 1st year of University status. To be launched early April and name proposed is Suffolk Graduate (name tbc!).

A.O.B.: Allan reported that he had checked the Cricketers mandates as per the POTY meeting and they were valid. Therefore the votes they entered for members have to stand. Both clubs nominated had been surveyed and the California club was successful as branch Club of the Year. After surveying all branch POTY winners, and after a close vote by attendees, the Branch POTY was The White Horse, Sweffling.

Nigel reported that the Beer guide covering Suffolk coastal area was planned to be on the lines of the current Colchester Branch beer guide. The printer has offered to do it for free if they are allowed to chase advertising and if it covers costs. Pubs who do choose to advertise will get a photo and extended coverage in the guide. Non advertisers will just get standard entry and no photo. A total of 140 pubs/hotel bars are short-listed presently. It is also proposed to incorporate a summary of Southwold and Walberswick, for completeness, as these are big tourist centres just outside the branch area

Next meeting: The Grand Old Duke of York, Ipswich 2000hrs 25th April 2017.

Close meeting: The Chairman thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 2142hrs.