

CAMRA – Ipswich & East Suffolk Branch Meeting

Date: 25/07/17

Venue: California Club, Ipswich

The meeting was preceded by a presentation from the branch to the California Club in recognition of its being voted Branch Club of the Year.

Agenda

Welcome: Chairman (Matt) welcomed 19 members to the meeting, which started late owing to the COTY presentation. Sophie agreed to take the minutes in the absence of the Secretary.

Apologies: Mike, Eric, Gordon.

Minutes of last meeting: Terry said that the closure date for East Anglia POTY should have been 13th August, not 30th August. Otherwise accepted.

Matters arising: None

Correspondence: None

Officers' reports

a) Chairman: Nothing to report.

b) Vice-Chairman: Nothing to report.

c) Treasurer: Allan reported £791.90 in the branch account; other accounts were unchanged. He had received a bill for £1300 from HQ for haulage and wristbands in respect of the Ipswich Beer Festival that had been held at the football club two years' previously, which he intended to challenge.

d) Membership: Not present, no report.

e) Young Membership: Chris reported that a few people had agreed to go to the careers fair on Tuesday 13 October. There was to be a regional social on 25 August.

f) Social Secretary: Jane reminded members about the Harwich Redoubt Beer Festival at the end of July. She had tried to arrange a trip to Epping and Ongar, but had not been able to get any information. She was talking to National CAMRA and hoped to organize a trip to the Netherlands.

g) Media and publicity: The new Last Orders was out. No other report as Nigel was away.

h) Beer festivals:

1. Matt explained to the branch that we provide free help to the MEAL Beer Festival in return for the lock-up in which we keep our equipment, which is shared with West Suffolk. Only six members from Ipswich and one from W. Suffolk helped at this year's beer festival. There was no suggestion yet that they might start charging or ask us to move our equipment, but the lack of support was disappointing. It was noted W. Suffolk use the equipment more than we do and provide less help, but we do need to keep hold of it. Allan said that if we can't even support existing events such as MEAL, how can we possibly expect to resurrect the Ipswich Beer Festival?

2. There would be a Beer & Co event at St Peter's (Ipswich) in mid-August. Individuals were volunteering but it was noted that this is NOT a CAMRA event. The branch officially supported the April event and will do so again at New Year.

i) Pubs Officer: The following pub news was given to the meeting by members:

Redwald's Ale House, Rendlesham was now open as a bar, but plans for a brewery had gone by the wayside. Opening times on website were out of date.

Mulberry Tree, Ipswich had closed and was for sale.

Duke of York, Ipswich had closed but there were rumours of someone taking it on.

Three Buccaneers, Ipswich (previously Silver Star) had two ales in bottles and hoped to have real ale in due course.

Inkerman, Ipswich had closed but was now open again.

Salutation, Ipswich was possibly to be refurbished.

There had been some controversy around the Cricketers, Ipswich in relation to GBG voting forms and the MEAL Beer Festival.

j) Tasting Panel: Not present, no report.

k) Brewery Liaison Officers: None present, no reports.

AOB:

1. Chris said that the National Winter Ales Festival was being badged as "GBBF Winter".

2. Ads were being placed on WhatPub but members could opt out.

3. The national website was being refurbished and attention was drawn to the CAMRA Discourse feature.

4. Roger pointed out an error in the photos in Last Orders. Matt said he would apologise to the Fat Cat on behalf of the branch.

5. Allan said that anyone doing regional pub judging in Colchester, Norwich and Lowestoft would have to get there under their own steam.

6. The bowls match tentatively arranged for 3 Sep in Beccles was still to be confirmed. Allan said he would contact the Norfolk branch chairman and chase up the date.

Next meeting: Spread Eagle Ipswich, 2000hrs, Wednesday 23 August 2017 (note Wed not Tue).

Close meeting: The chairman thanked attendees for what might have been the quickest branch meeting ever, and closed the meeting at 20.38.