

Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch meeting held at the Navigation, Newark Wednesday 12/2/25 @ 7:30 pm.

Attendees: Stuart Clift, Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, Rory Audsley-Spence, Allister Ferguson, Andy Sear, Colin Campbell, John Dunstan, Jo Dunstan, Moira Walter, John Williams, Tom Leggott, Jim Power, Andrew Parker, Lesley Jenkinson, Russ Briggs, Ros Briggs, Richard Challand

- 1) **Apologies for absence** - John Ward, Sam Lucas, Peter Harris, Jim Mason
Members were asked to forward any apologies for absence direct to the Branch Secretary secretary@newark.camra.org.uk
- 2) **Chair's report** – Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and The Navigation was thanked for providing the venue. Stuart reported that all branches have been asked to provide details to their Regional Director in relation to what they were doing to increase uptake in their events and broadening the demographics of those participating. Stuart asked members to forward any suggestions to him chairman@newark.camra.org.uk
- 3) **Review of Actions from Previous Minutes**
The Action Log was updated – see below
- 4) **Treasurer's report** – there hadn't been any transactions on the bank account since the last meeting.
- 5) **Secretary's report**
 - a) CAMRA has now launched its new branding to encourage more people to get involved and celebrate how much CAMRA has changed the beer landscape and continues to campaign for cask beer, cider & perry. We are not expected to change any historical materials however, any branding on websites/social media needs to be amended.

b) A Campaigns Calendar detailing all CAMRA campaigns, award announcements and flagship events during the year is now available [here](#).

c) Nottinghamshire County Council approached the branch to ask us to promote the flexible, on demand bus service -running Monday to Saturday between 7.30pm & midnight. The Nottsbus On Demand services don't follow a fixed timetable. Instead, they operate on a flexible, on demand basis, allowing travel between bus stops and designated points within these areas

Balderton	Beacon Hill
Coddington	Fernwood
Hawtonville	Lincoln Road Estates
Newark Bus Station	Newark Castle Station
Newark Northgate Station	Newark Wharf
Northgate Retail Park	Winthorpe

Concessionary passes, Newark All-Rounder, Stagecoach DayRider and all MegaRider tickets are valid on the service. The first journey is free, use code FIRSTFREE1 in the 'promo codes' box in the Nottsbus On Demand app. The app is available to download on [IOS](#) and [Android](#)

You can also book by calling 0115 804 0404. (phone line available between 8:30am & 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8:30am to 4:30pm Friday. More info about Nottsbus On Demand is [here](#)

- 6) **Membership/Young Members** – no report. The secretary reported that the current membership was 529.
- 7) **Vice Chair / WhatPub / Web** – A new Website was in the process of being built and is being updated with the new CAMRA branding.
- 8) **Pub of the Year (POTY)** – The winners and runners up have been announced as follows:
Town Pub of the Year: Winner - Just Beer. Runner-up – Organ Grinder (presentations have taken place)
District Pub of the Year: Winner - Final Whistle. Runner-up – Old Coach House
The presentation for the District awards will take place on Saturday 29th March 2025 starting at the Final Whistle, Southwell at approximately 2pm.

It was suggested that once the presentations have taken place, the Newark Advertiser should be contacted to ask if they will run an article. **ACTION** – Sam to draft an article for submission to the Advertiser.

- 9) **Cider Update** – The presentation to the winner of Cider and Perry Pub of the Year took place at the Organ Grinder last month. The runner up presentation to the Final Whistle will take place on 29/3/25 at approximately 2pm.

CAMRA have launched a new campaigns calendar and as a result, the Cider and Perry Month will now take place in July, rather than having two separate events in May & October. The branch are already holding a meeting/social on Saturday 12th July 2025 at the Final Whistle, Southwell which is a former winner of Branch Cider POTY and is this year's cider POTY runner up. Once the Cider and Perry Month toolkit has been updated, the Cider rep will see if there is anything else the branch can do locally to support the campaign.

- 10) **Pub Protection Officer** – it was noted that the Roaring Meg, Baldertongate was currently closed and it had been reported in the Newark Advertiser that the conditions of the pub's licence have been modified after unsafe electrical fittings were discovered. The former Stray's building on Middlegate has opened as a café and is believed to be applying for a bar licence. It's not known whether real ale will be served. The former Sir John Arderne building is up to let. It was reported that the Lord Nelson, Winthorpe has closed recently and there is a notice outside suggesting that it could become a community asset.
- 11) **Brewery Liaison Officer Co-ordinator** – Rory has sent out the BLO Job description and hints and tips on how to use Pilgrim to all 3 BLOs. An action was issued to the BLOs at the beginning of the year, one has completed this. Rory will work with the others to ensure they have access to Pilgrim.

- 12) **Beer Festival** – In December it was announced that, due to works on the castle gatehouse, we are not able to hold a beer and cider festival in the castle grounds in 2025. We said we were trying to find another suitable venue. We wanted somewhere that would be outdoors and at the scale/quality of previous events. Despite our most arduous efforts it has not been possible to find such a venue, consequently there will not be a festival in May this year. As a CAMRA branch this is very disappointing but without a suitable venue we have to accept this and look to the future. The festival will return and the branch looks forward to the support of the members when it does. It was explained that all options had been explored with site security, safety and proximity to the town centre being the biggest factors when considering possible venues.

- 13) **Forthcoming Social Events** – The Social Secretary reported that the following have been arranged:-

Saturday 29th March 2025 - presentation for the District Pub of the Year awards starting at the Final Whistle, Southwell at approximately 2pm, followed by the Old Coach House.

Saturday the 5th of April. Nottingham Independents' Castle Beer Festival - **90 Bus to Old Market Square Nottingham, then a short walk to the Castle. Suggested bus leaves Newark 16:15 and arrives at 17:15. Last returning bus 22:30 or train home to Newark.**

The Festival is led by local breweries and will showcase over 100 different beers from 10+ local breweries, alongside a selection of local ciders, street food, and live music, all set within the iconic castle grounds. Many of the breweries in attendance will be brewing special beers for the occasion and launching new beers at the festival. Tickets: £10 (plus booking fee)

<https://www.nottinghamcastle.org.uk/nottingham-independents-castle-beer-festival/>

- 14) **Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings**

- Wednesday 12th March 2025 – Fox & Crown, Appletongate, Newark @ 7.30 pm
- Saturday 12th April 2025 – Milestone Brewery Tap, Cromwell NG23 6JE @ 1.15 pm. Those who wish to travel by public transport from Newark, can take the Marshalls 37 bus from Newark Bus station at 12.55. (Please double check bus times prior to setting off). This meeting will be more of a social with an initial amount of branch business taking place (only that which is essential) giving those attending the opportunity to have a chat over a beer or cider.

- May – no branch meeting (possible social to be fixed)
- June TBC (possibly Royal Oak Collingham/Cat Asylum Brewery – Allister to confirm)
- Saturday 12th July 2025 – The Final Whistle, Southwell NG24 0ET @1pm (details of public transport from Newark to be circulated nearer the time)
- 13th August - Possible meeting at the Full Moon, Morton subject to being able to obtain a reasonably priced mini bus from Newark - attendees will be asked for a small donation towards the cost.

15) **Any Other Business**

There was no other business

Meeting Closed at 8.30 pm

Newark CAMRA Action Log 2025

Date	Owner	ACTION	Update	Date Closed
12/2/25	SL	Once all of the POTY presentations had taken place, the Newark Advertiser should be contacted to ask if they will run an article. Sam to draft a suitable article for submission to the Advertiser.		
8/1/25	CG	Any branch member interested in taking part in tasting panels to pass their details to the Branch Secretary by 28/2/25	Expression of interest received from Rory	
8/1/25	AF	Allister and Andy to liaise with the Royal Oak at Collingham and Cat Asylum Brewery to see if a social/branch meeting could be arranged for June.	12-2-25 No action taken so far – AF to action prior to the March meeting	
8/1/25	JD	Branch members to send articles for inclusion in the Branch Magazine to John Dunstan treasurer@newarkcamra.org.uk by 31/3/25		
8/1/25	RT JD	Vice chair to make contact with CAMRA HQ to see if there is a corporate licence that can be used and if not, investigate obtaining a licence for the branch. The Treasurer agreed to carry out a cost benefit analysis for this.	On-going	
Closed items				
8/1/25	RAS	Rory to send out a copy of the BLO Job role description to all BLOs.	Documents sent out to John. Allister & Jim	6/2/25