

## **Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch meeting held at the Fox and Crown, Newark Wednesday 12/3/25 @ 7:30 pm.**

**Attendees:** Stuart Clift, Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, Rory Audsley-Spence, Allister Ferguson, Andy Sear, Colin Campbell, John Dunstan, Jo Dunstan, Jim Power, Andrew Parker, Lesley Jenkinson, Russ Briggs, Ros Briggs, Sam Lucas, Jim Mason, John Ward, Dominic Haythorne

- 1) **Apologies for absence** - Moira Walter, John Williams, Peter Harris  
Members were asked to forward apologies for absence direct to the Branch Secretary [secretary@newark.camra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@newark.camra.org.uk)
- 2) **Review of Actions from Previous Minutes**  
The Action Log was updated
- 3) **Chair's report** – Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and The Fox & Crown was thanked for providing the venue.
- 4) **Treasurer's report** – Despite a request not to do so, CAMRA HQ had forwarded an advance in line with the approved budget for the festival that is now not able to go ahead. This has been returned. Otherwise, no transactions have taken place. The branch has agreed to allocate some funds to subsidise transport to a branch meeting in August at The Full Moon, Morton. A £5 contribution from members using the transport will be requested, but this will not fully cover the cost.

A request has been submitted to HQ for £1K to support our pubs in activity relating to the beer festival weekend (Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025) – see item 12 below. It is anticipated that branch members will assist, during the weekend with campaigning activities taking place to encourage CAMRA membership etc.

The Treasurer has agreed to edit an edition of the Branch Magazine and asked members for content/articles. As at 6/3, only 2 articles have been received. Members are requested to send any further articles through as a matter of urgency, as it is hoped to get something out in time to publicise activity relating to the beer festival weekend in May. Articles should be sent to John at [treasurer@newark.camra.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@newark.camra.org.uk) by the end of March.

- 5) **Secretary's report**  
The CAMRA website now allows members to submit suggested updates to beer and brewery information through the listing directly. To see an example click [here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page.

**Voting is now open for the 2025 CAMRA Annual General Meeting and National Executive Elections.** All CAMRA members should have received notification that they are entitled to vote on the resolutions proposed in the Notice of CAMRA's 2025 AGM and in the National Executive Elections. Voting ends on 9/4/25.

- 6) **Membership/Young Members** – no report. The secretary reported that the current membership was 531 an increase of 2 from last month.
- 7) **Vice Chair / WhatPub / Web** – A new branch website was still in the process of being built and is being updated with the new CAMRA branding.
- 8) **Pub of the Year (POTY) & Good Beer Guide (GBG)**  
This year's overall POTY winner, The Final Whistle, has been submitted to the County Co-ordinator to be entered in the Nottinghamshire round of judging. Volunteers will be required from our branch to assist in judging. Our Regional Director has confirmed that if a branch is unable to supply judges, their nominated pub will not be included for judging in the next round. Our Good Beer Guide entries for 2026 have also been submitted to the County Co-ordinator.
- 9) **Cider Update** – The Branch Cider POTY winner, The Organ Grinder, has been submitted to the Area Cider Representative for inclusion in the East Midlands round of Judging.

Cider & Perry Month will take place in July. The branch are 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 CAMRA Cider & 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**

- Roaring Meg, Newark - due to re-open shortly under its original name of "The Vine".
- Lord Nelson, Winthorpe - due to re-open in March.
- The former Stray's building on Middlegate has had a bar installed and, subject to licence, will be opening under the name of "The Locke & Key".
- Just Beer has been sold with handover due to take place on 1/4/25.

11) **Brewery Liaison Officer Co-ordinator** – Rory did not have anything new to report.

12) **Beer Festival** – The Newark CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival will not be taking place in May. This is because the castle grounds are not available as a venue due to the Gatehouse Project works. The good news is, that Yupp.Beer & the Fox and Crown have contacted the branch to say that they would like to arrange a beer festival around the local pubs on the usual Beer Festival weekend with a working title of "**Not the Newark Beer Festival**". The dates will be Thursday 22nd May to Sunday 25th May 2025. Each pub involved, will be responsible for their own beer and it's hoped that they will have at least 6 real ales on and if possible, a real cider or two. Newark CAMRA are happy to support this event by assisting with advertising etc. Once a list of pubs taking part has been finalised, Yupp will move forward with the event planning and we can start to publicise it. It's hoped that the event will bring in extra trade to our pubs and create a festival weekend celebrating real ale and cider around the area.

13) **Forthcoming Social Events** – The following have been arranged:-

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> 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. Those who wish to travel by public transport from Newark, can take the Stagecoach 28 bus from Newark Bus station at 12.20 or the 29 bus at 13.20 to Southwell. (Please double check bus times prior to setting off).

For those unable to go to Southwell for the presentation, the branch have been notified of an event taking place in Nottingham on 29<sup>th</sup> March. This event celebrates Women in Beer and is raising funds for Nottingham Women's Centre. The event is taking place in three Castle Rock Brewery pubs, all within a few minutes of Nottingham train station. The full programme is here:

<https://letsbeer.uk/nohalfmeasures-beerdebunked/>

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April** - Nottingham Independents' Castle Beer Festival will celebrate local independent breweries and cidermakers. **The branch will be visiting on Saturday 5/4/25 taking the 90 Bus to Old Market Square Nottingham, then a short walk to the Castle. Suggested bus leaves Newark @ 16:15 and arrives @ 17:15.** Last returning bus 22:30 or train home to Newark.

Tickets: £10 (plus booking fee) <https://www.nottinghamcastle.org.uk/nottingham-independents-castle-beer-festival/>

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025** - Southwell Racecourse Sausage and Cider Festival & Raceday. Early Bird tickets are £13 or £10 if there is a group of 10. The Cider Representative has been in touch with the organisers and it is not yet known what ciders will be available. The cider rep has given advice to the organisers and hopefully further details will be available soon.

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

- **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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
- **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June** – Branch meeting at the Royal Oak, Collingham at approx. 12.15pm followed by a visit to Cat Asylum Brewery in Collingham. Details of public transport to be notified shortly.

- **Saturday 12th July 2025** – The Final Whistle, Southwell NG24 0ET @ 1pm. Those who wish to travel by public transport from Newark, can take the Stagecoach 28 bus from Newark Bus station at 12.20. (Please double check bus times prior to setting off).
- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August** - The Full Moon, Morton. Minibus £5 per person from town wharf at 7pm to the Full Moon, returning at approximately 9.30 pm. Members wishing to travel by minibus should contact the Branch Treasurer [treasurer@newark.camra.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@newark.camra.org.uk) and pay the £5 cash to John in advance.  
**ACTION** – Jim Mason agreed to contact Jacaranda Brewery to see if they would like to join the branch for this meeting.

15) **Any Other Business**

There was no other business

Meeting Closed at 8.35 pm

**Newark CAMRA Action Log 2025**

Date	Owner	ACTION	Update	Date Closed
12/3/25	JM	Jim Mason agreed to contact Jacaranda Brewery to see if they wanted to join the branch at our meeting on 13/8/25 at the Full Moon, Morton.		
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.	12/3/25 – will take place following District POTY Presentations on 29/3/25	
8/1/25	JD	Branch members to send articles for inclusion in the Branch Magazine to John Dunstan by 31/3/25 <a href="mailto:treasurer@newarkcamra.org.uk">treasurer@newarkcamra.org.uk</a>	12/3/25 – Members asked to send any articles to John asap in order to get magazine published in April.	
8/1/25	RT JD	Vice chair to make contact with CAMRA HQ to see if there is a corporate MS Teams licence that can be used. 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
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. Richard to speak to Rob Green who is co-ordinating this for Nottinghamshire	12/3/25
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.	12/3/25 - Cat Asylum Brewery have confirmed we can visit on 21/6/25. Meeting to be held at the Royal Oak Collingham beforehand.  12/2/25 - No action taken – AF to action prior to the March meeting	12/3/25