

Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch Meeting
Held at the Final Whistle, Southwell on Saturday 12/7/25

Attendees: Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, Colin Campbell, Trevor Gill, Sam Lucas, Andy Sear, Jim Mason, Rory Audsley-Spence, Tom Carrington, Moira Walter, John Williams, Rob Green.

- 1) **Apologies for absence** - Allister Ferguson, Peter Harris, Ros & Rus Briggs, John & Jo Dunstan, Jim Power, Stuart Clift.
Members were asked to forward apologies for absence direct to the Branch Secretary secretary@newark.camra.org.uk
- 2) **Review of Actions from Previous Minutes** - The action log was updated (see below).
- 3) **Chair's report** – Stuart was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, Richard (Vice-Chair) agreed to take the meeting. Richard welcomed Rob Green, East Midlands Deputy Regional Director to the meeting and thanked the Final Whistle for providing the venue and refreshments. Richard confirmed that the meeting would be kept as short as possible so that everyone attending could have an opportunity to have a chat over a beer or cider and enjoy the other lovely pubs in Southwell.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report/Social Media** – no report
- 5) **Secretary's report**
Messages from HQ - A major reason behind the new CAMRA website camra.org.uk was to merge a number of 'ancillary' websites into it, including whatpub.com. Feedback on the pub listings section on the new website, suggests that the online pub guide is a major improvement over WhatPub. As a result, the WhatPub website will shut down on 25/8/25, as all the functions of that platform, such as submitting beer scores and updating pub information, are now part of the CAMRA website. It's recommended that members immediately stop using WhatPub and start using the new pub section on the CAMRA website instead <https://camra.org.uk/pubs>.
- 6) **Membership/Young Members** – no report. The secretary reported that the current membership was 525, the same as last month
- 7) **Vice Chair / WhatPub / Web**
The importance of Tasting Panels across the region was once again reiterated. Tasting Panels are responsible for tasting all the beers that are regularly brewed within the branch region. The Tasting Panel submits the descriptions of regular beers which are listed in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide and put forward beers to CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain Competition. Rob Green (RG) confirmed that he is hoping to set up an East Midlands regional Tasting Panel and will be contacting branches about this soon. Richard Trafford, Peter Harris and Rory Audsley-Spence have already expressed an interest in taking part.
ACTION - Any branch member interested in taking part in tasting panels to pass their details to the Branch Secretary.
- 8) **Pub of the Year (POTY) & Good Beer Guide (GBG)**
POTY – Judging is underway for the East Midlands round of Pub of the Year (POTY). East Midlands finalists are:

Derbyshire – Burnt Pig, Ilkeston
Lincolnshire – Lord Harrowby, Grantham
Nottinghamshire – Final Whistle, Southwell
Leics & Rutland – Railway Inn, Ketton

GBG entries – Richard reported on a motion which was passed at the recent members' weekend, that the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) should be used as a "significant" factor when determining GBG entries – definition of "significant" to be determined. Richard explained the issues that this posed for the branch bearing in mind that very few scores for local pubs are submitted. He asked members to regularly enter beer scores for pubs they visit. These are entered via the CAMRA website [Find Pubs & Clubs to Visit - CAMRA - The Campaign for Real Ale](#) (Log-in required).

Branch ordering of The Good Beer Guide 2026

Branches can now submit orders for the Good Beer Guide 2026 (in packs of 10). Prices for branches is £8 - the RRP is £16.99.

ACTION - Members interested in purchasing a copy of the GBG were asked to let the Secretary know.

- 9) **Cider Update** – Cider and Perry Month is taking place in July. In recognition our July Branch meeting was held at the Final Whistle, Southwell which is a former winner of Branch Cider POTY and is this year's cider POTY runner up. A letter has been drafted to go out to some licensees in the area to explain the definition of real cider and to encourage them to sell this in their premises.

Carolyn explained that in order to be real, cider and perry should never be concentrated then diluted – either in terms of the juice used, or the alcohol content. Some well-known ciders & perries may be served from boxes and look like they should be "real" but actually aren't eg Lilley's / Westons / Thatchers / Gwynt Y Ddraig. CAMRA has created a map and list of producers of real ciders which can be found on the CAMRA website <https://camra.org.uk/promotional-campaigns/promoting-real-cider-and-perry/map>. It is a living document that is updated on a regular basis.

A suggestion was made that the branch hold a cider/perry information and tasting event.

ACTION - Carolyn to contact the Organ Grinder (our current Cider POTY) to see if we could hold a cider event as part of our branch meeting there on Tuesday 7th October.

The Nottingham Branch are once again arranging a "cider saunter" in August. Details will be published on their website and in the Autumn edition of Nottingham Drinker which will be available from the end of July.

- 10) **Pub Protection Officer** – members reported the following:
- Crown, Rolleston – open 5 days a week Weds – Sunday
 - Bromley, Fiskerton – open 7 days a week and when visited recently had 6 cask ales
 - Crown, Normanton – recently re-opened with 5 handpumps
 - Boat House, Farndon – re-opened currently no cask ale but they have plans to do so in the future.
 - Old Coach House, Southwell – it was reported that the current licensee is leaving
 - W heatsheaf, Southwell – currently 3 cask ales
- 11) **Brewery Liaison Officers(BLOs)** - BLOs were reminded of the importance of regularly updating information for their brewery and to keep descriptions short as this is what goes in the Good Beer Guide. Reminder to only list beers produced by that brewery that are regularly brewed not specials/seasonal or one-offs.

There is a vacancy for an East Midlands Regional Brewery Liaison Co-Ordinator. Anyone interested are asked to make the Branch Secretary aware.

Jim Mason reported that he had visited Jacaranda Brewery and one of the Directors will be joining the branch for our August meeting at the Full Moon, Morton.

- 12) **Beer Festival** – The Beer Festival Committee are moving forward with detailed planning for the Newark Beer and Cider Festival (Winter Edition) which is taking place on Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd November 2025. The Committee is also looking for a member to help with sponsorship. This will not necessarily involve finding sponsors, but liaising with them in terms of getting artwork and banners etc. Anyone interested in taking on this role are asked to contact Sam Lucas beerfestivalorganiser@newark.camra.org.uk. Members interested in volunteering to assist at the Festival (set-up, take down, staffing during the festival) can find information and the staffing form [here](#).

[Tickets](#) are now on sale for the event through CAMRA HQ's system. More information can be found on our website [Newark Beer Festival 2025](#)

Beer Festival Charity – Members wishing to nominate a local charity for the festival were asked to submit details to the Branch Secretary by 16th July. Charities should be available to attend the festival to promote their charity. The Beer Festival Committee will then consider these and select an official charity of the festival.

13) **Forthcoming Social Events**

Allister, the Social Secretary submitted the following written report:

The possibility of a visit to 8 Sail Brewery at Heckington has been looked into. The return train costs approx. £30 which Allister considered to be too expensive. The following Socials have been arranged:

Saturday the 9th of August - visit to the new Blue Monkey pub in Lincoln (ex-beer heads). Train from Newark Castle at 12.01 and then a bus up Steep Hill. Returning on the 18.30 train getting into Newark at 18.58 (£7.20 return). Visits will also be made to The Strugglers Inn, The Victoria and The Cardinals Hat plus others depending on time available. No need to book, the contact on the day is Allister Ferguson Social Secretary 07772984352.

Saturday 27th of September - trip to Beeston to visit The Crown Inn and several other fantastic pubs (Victoria, Star, Boat & Horses etc). Train from Newark Castle at 12.02 returning on the 18.24 getting into Newark for 19.02 (£9.19 return). No need to book, the contact on the day is Allister Ferguson Social Secretary 07772984352.

Forthcoming Festivals etc

- **5th – 9th August – Great British Beer Festival** at the NEC Birmingham.
The Full Beer list is available to view [online](#). CAMRA members can purchase their tickets with a significant discount. For more information and ticket options use this [link](#)
- **Saturday 23rd August 6 – 11 pm and Sunday 24th August 1 – 11 pm. [Collingham Cricket Club Beer Festival](#)** - The Festival will be open to the public on Saturday 23rd August (6pm – 11 pm) and Sunday 24th August (1pm – 11 pm) and is organised by the Cricket Club and does not have any links to CAMRA. It is free to enter and there will be 20 real ales and 6 ciders available. The club have asked if branch members would be willing to volunteer to work behind the bar. Shifts are allocated in blocks of 2.5 hours. Beer tokens will be allocated to volunteers as follows: 6 tokens (beer/cider value £15) per 2.5 hours worked. If working a block of 5 hours you will also receive a food voucher worth £5.

If you are interested, please complete the staffing form which can be found [here](#) and return it to simon130876@hotmail.co.uk

There is a QR code on their website and to help them with their planning they have asked that those interested in attending register this by using the QR code.

- **8th – 11th October.** [Nottingham Robin Hood Beer Festival](#) Trent Bridge Cricket Ground.
- **23rd – 25th October.** [Grantham Beer Festival](#) St Wulfram's Church, Grantham
- **Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd November.** [Newark Beer & Cider Festival](#) (Winter Edition) at the Newark Town Hall.

Please note that events are subject to change – check websites/socials for regular updates.

14) Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday 13th August** - The Full Moon, Morton NG25 0UT @7.30pm. 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 and pay the £5 cash to John in advance. **One of the Directors from Jacaranda Brewery will be joining the branch for this meeting.**
- **Wednesday 10th September** – Brews Brothers, Rubys Avenue, Fernwood NG24 3RQ @7.30 pm. Those travelling by public transport from Newark, can take the 90 bus from the Newark bus station @ 18.53 (Please double check bus times prior to setting off).
- **Tuesday 7th October** – The Organ Grinder, Portland Street Newark NG24 4XF @7.30pm.
- **Wednesday 12th November** Branch Annual General Meeting – to be held at the Ram, Castle Gate, Newark NG24 1AZ @7.30 pm.
- **December** – Christmas social TBC
ACTION – Allister to arrange a venue and date for the Christmas social in December.

15) Any Other Business

- John Williams asked if the branch could set up a group for active members to use to pass on updates (ie Groups.io). Richard confirmed that all relevant updates for the branch are shared in the monthly update. Rob Green (RG), the East Midlands Regional Director confirmed that the recommendation from HQ is that branches issue a maximum of two forms of contact to members per month, using the Branch Comms Tool and that using other forms of communication may not be possible under GDPR. Members could set up groups themselves but the Branch should not initiate this. **ACTION** – RG agreed to clarify this with the Regional Director.
- Rory Audsley-Spence expressed a concern that there was not an option for members to unsubscribe from receiving updates from HQ about raffles. **ACTION** – RG agreed to raise this at the next Volunteer & Member Experience Meeting.

Meeting Closed at 2pm

Newark CAMRA Action Log 2025

Date	Owner	ACTION	Update	Date Closed
12/7/25	RG	Concern was expressed that there was not an option for members to unsubscribe from receiving updates from HQ about raffles. ACTION – Rob Green agreed to raise this at the next Volunteer & Member Experience Meeting.		
12/7/25	RG	It was asked whether the branch could set up a group for active members to use to pass on updates (ie Groups.io) Rob Green confirmed that this would not be possible under GDPR. ACTION – RG agreed to clarify this with the Regional Director.		
12/7/25	CG	A suggestion was made that the branch hold a cider/perry information and tasting event. ACTION - Carolyn to contact the Organ Grinder to see if we could hold an event as part of our branch meeting there on Tuesday 7 th October.		
12/7/25	CG	Branches can now submit orders for the Good Beer Guide 2026 (in packs of 10). Prices for branches is £8 ACTION - Members interested in purchasing a copy of the GBG were asked to let the Secretary know. To determine if feasible to place a bulk order		
21/6/25	AF	Allister to arrange a venue and date for the Christmas social in December.	12/7/25 – no action so far	
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
12/3/25	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	12/3/25

			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	
12/2/25	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.	12/4/25 – Sam has sent a report and photographs to the Advertiser. 12/3/25 – SL reported that this will take place once all presentations have taken place.	12/4/25
8/1/25	JD	Branch members to send articles for inclusion in the Branch Magazine to John Dunstan by 31/3/25 treasurer@newarkcamra.org.uk	1/5/25 – Magazine published 12/4/25 – John confirmed articles have been received and he would be contacting publishers in the coming week 12/3/25 – Members asked to send any articles to John asap in order to get magazine published in April.	1/5/25
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.	21/6/25 – Jim has confirmed that Jacaranda Brewery are hoping to join us for our Branch meeting in August.	21/6/25