

Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch meeting
Held at the Royal Oak, Collingham on Saturday 21/6/25

Attendees: Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, Peter Harris, Jim Power, Colin & Dawn Campbell, Malcolm & Sharon Scrimshaw, Allister Ferguson, Dominic Haythorne, Russ & Ros Briggs, Pat Douglas, Rob Townsend.

- 1) **Apologies for absence** - Stuart Clift, Andy Bailey, John & Jo Dunstan, Rory Audsley-Spence, Sam Lucas, John Ward.

Members were asked to forward apologies for absence direct to the Branch Secretary secretary@newark.camra.org.uk

Simon Chapman from Collingham Cricket Club was welcomed to the meeting, He updated the branch on the plans that are taking place for the Cricket Club Beer & Cider Festival. It will be open to the public on Saturday 23rd August 6 – 11 pm and Sunday 24th August 1 – 11 pm. Members were asked if they would be available to volunteer to help at the festival. Further information will be circulated nearer the time.

- 2) **Review of Actions from Previous Minutes**

The Action Log was updated (see below).

- 3) **Chair's report** – Unfortunately Stuart was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, Richard (Vice-Chair) agreed to take the meeting. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and the Royal Oak was thanked for providing the venue.

- 4) **Treasurer's report**

- Branch funds remain healthy
- Funds received from HQ to support the “Not the Newark Beer Festival” in May. Still awaiting remaining claims from organisers before returning unused funds to HQ
- Winter beer festival publicity taken out of branch funds prior to any advances in respect of the festival
- Tkty site up and running for on-line tickets for the Winter Festival.

Social Media – the Newark Beer Festival Facebook group now has 930 members. Branch members were asked to please share if you can so we reach over 1000! The Branch Facebook page has over 1000 followers, but gets only half the reach and engagement of the Beer Festival Group. Please follow, like and share if you can.

- 5) **Secretary's report**

- **Messages from HQ** - It's been over a year since the launch of so-called 'Fresh Ale', Carlsberg's line of keg beers that are served through traditional cask hand pulls. CAMRA believe that consumers are being misled into believing this is real cask beer, and are asking members to collect any evidence of this. If anyone sees Carlsberg 'Fresh Ale' on a bar near you, please inform the Branch Secretary secretary@newark.camra.org.uk who will forward details to CAMRA using [their quick reporting form](#).

Update from Regional CAMRA Meeting held on 31/5/25

The Secretary & Vice-Chair attended the East Midlands Regional meeting on 31/5/25 on behalf of the branch. Some of the items raised included:-

- **Tasting Panels** – 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. Richard confirmed that as Nottinghamshire Area Co-ordinator, he is hoping to set up a joint tasting panel for the North of Nottinghamshire. Peter Harris confirmed that he has completed the relevant training and would like to be included in any future tasting panels.

ACTION - Any branch member interested in taking part in tasting panels to pass their details to the Branch Secretary.

- **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. They were also reminded to only list beers produced by that brewery that are regularly brewed not specials/seasonal/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.

- 6) **Membership/Young Members** – no report. The secretary reported that the current membership was 525 reduction of 2 from last month.
- 7) **Vice Chair / WhatPub / Web** – The branch now has a new website [Newark CAMRA Branch Website](#). This contains a live diary/events page so please revisit it regularly for updates. Comments or feedback on the contents were welcomed. From now on minutes of branch meetings will be uploaded to the website to avoid the need for them to be sent out to members separately and reduce the amount of “clutter” going into members’ in-boxes.

8) **Pub of the Year (POTY) & Good Beer Guide (GBG)**

POTY -Having taken top spot in Newark CAMRA Pub of the Year, The Final Whistle, Southwell went forward to the county level competition. Pitched against the top pubs from all five branches in Nottinghamshire, the Final Whistle was judged the winner and is officially Nottinghamshire County Pub of the Year 2025. The East Midlands finalists are:

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

GBG entries – A motion 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 how this will work for the Newark Branch and asked that members regularly enter 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)

- 9) **Cider Update** – Cider POTY judging for East Midlands has taken place and the winner was the Red Lion at Kniveton with the Round RobInn, East Leake being the runner up.

Cider and Perry Month will be taking place in July. The Branch are holding a Branch 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. A notification is being 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.

Nottingham Branch will once again be 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**

- The Vine, Barnbygate, Newark (aka Roaring Meg) – reopened as a pub/café. No real ale. Closed Monday & Tuesday.
- The Locke & Key (former Stray’s building) on Middlegate has reopened
- Great Northern, Carlton on Trent – permanently closed and up for sale
- Admiral Rodney, Southwell – new tenant
- Crown, Southwell – the new tenant is now leaving.

WhatPub is currently being updated with details of premises offering CAMRA discount – if members are aware of any premises which offer a discount that aren't recoded on WhatPub please notify the Branch Secretary.

- Ram – discount for CAMRA Members
- Old Post Office – accept CAMRA vouchers or give discount for CAMRA Members
- Lord Ted – discount for CAMRA Members
- Old Coach House – discount for CAMRA Members
- Prince Rupert - discount for CAMRA Members

11) **Brewery Liaison Officer Co-ordinator** – no report

12) **Beer Festival** – The Beer Festival Committee are moving forward with detailed planning for the Newark Beer Festival (Winter Edition) which is taking place on Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd November 2025. Newark Town Hall has been booked and the budget has been approved. An initial run of flyers and posters have gone out and we have been active on social media. Information should be going out in the next few weeks about volunteering. [Tickets](#) are now on sale for the event through CAMRA HQ's system. As it's an indoor venue, with limited capacity, tickets are being sold in advance.. The "Afternoon Session" will run from 10:30 – 16:00 and the "Evening Session" from 17:00 – 22:30. There will be around 50 beers and 15 ciders on offer. It's advised to buy a ticket beforehand to ensure that you get in. More information can be found here: [Newark Beer Festival 2025](#)

13) **Forthcoming Social Events**

- **26th – 28th June 2025 - Leicester CAMRA Beer Festival.** Abbey Pumping Station Museum, Corporation Rd, Leicester LE4 5PX, for more information and tickets - <https://leicester.camra.org.uk/events/leicester-beer-festival-2025/>
- **Thursday 3rd July – Sunday 6th July.** Retford Ale Trail. Seven Retford pubs are involved. [Retford Ale Trail July 2025](#)
- **Saturday 21st - Sunday 22nd November.** Newark Beer Festival (Winter Edition) at the Newark Town Hall. [Newark Winter Beer Festival - Newark CAMRA](#)

Allister reported that he was hoping to arrange a social to 8-Sail Brewery, Heckington – more details to follow.

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

- **Saturday 12th July 2025** – The Final Whistle, Southwell NG24 0ET @ 1pm. The meeting will be followed by visits to other pubs in Southwell. Those travelling by public transport from Newark, can take the Stagecoach bus from Newark bus station at 12.20 pm. (Please double check bus times prior to setting off).
- **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.
- **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**
There was no other business

Meeting Closed at 2pm

Newark CAMRA Action Log 2025

Date	Owner	ACTION	Update	Date Closed
21/6/25	AF	Allister to arrange a venue and date for the Christmas social in December.		
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.	
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 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
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