

Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch Meeting
Held at the Full Moon, Morton on Wednesday 13th August 2025

Attendees: Stuart Clift, Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, Colin Campbell, Andy Parker, Lesley Parker, Sam Lucas, Andy Sear, Rory Audsley-Spence, Tom Leggott, John Ward, John Dunstan, Jo Dunstan, Ros Briggs, Russ Briggs, David Wright, Jim Mason, Dominic Haythorne, Peter Harris, James Kirkham (Jacaranda Brewery)

James Kirkham from the Jacaranda Brewery was welcomed to the meeting and he gave a brief update of the history of the brewery.

- 1) **Apologies for absence** - Moira Walter, John Williams, Allister Ferguson, Jim Power. 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** – Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and the Full Moon, Morton was thanked for providing the venue and food. David Wright was thanked for driving the mini bus.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** - Work ongoing on festival finances. Receipts from the festival ticketing site have begun to come through.
Social Media – Newark Beer Festival group has 933 members. Post reach is c200-300. Likes and Shares very low. The Newark CAMRA page has 1.1k followers. Likes and shares similarly low.
- 5) **Secretary's report**
Messages from HQ - CAMRA Website/WhatPub – reminder that WhatPub website will shut down on 25/8/25 as all its functions are now part of the CAMRA website <https://camra.org.uk/pubs>.
Free entry for members to CAMRA-run festivals - from next year, members will get free entry to CAMRA-run festivals as a new membership benefit and recruitment tool. More information, including initial FAQs, are available on the Festival Hub [here](#)
- 6) **Membership/Young Members** – no report. In the absence of our Membership Secretary, it was reported that the current membership was 520, 5 down from last month.
- 7) **Vice Chair / WhatPub / Web**
Rob Green, the East Midlands Deputy Regional Director, is hoping to set up a joint tasting panel for the East Midlands Region and subject to there being enough interest, he is hoping to arrange a training session. Tasting Panels are responsible for tasting 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 is aware that the Newark branch is keen to join in with a joint tasting panel. Peter Harris has already confirmed that he has completed the relevant training and would like to be included and Richard Trafford and Rory Audsley-Spence have expressed an interest in taking part in a training course.
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)** - The Burnt Pig at Ilkeston has won East Midlands Pub of the Year.

- **GBG entries** – Richard reported on a motion passed at this year’s members’ weekend, that 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 and explained how NBSS scores linked with pub nominations from members would be used to shortlist pubs for POTY & GBG. 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).
- **Newark Branch Pub of the Year and Cider & Perry Pub of the Year 2026.** Newark CAMRA will soon commence judging for these awards. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the judging and also for nominations for both awards. Branch Members can nominate a pub with the proviso that no member may submit a vote for any establishment in which they have a vested interest in any way whether as a result of:
 - i) Ownership/management of the establishment, whether as owner, shareholder, tenant, manager or otherwise.
 - ii) Responsibility for the beer/cider ordering of a club of which they are a member.
 - iii) Employment in the establishment, whether as bar staff, kitchen staff or cleaners, whether full or part time and whether paid or unpaid.

Volunteers to join the judging panel should be CAMRA members and regular drinkers of cask ale or real cider/perry. You must be available to visit all of the nominated pubs at least twice and, for POTY, judges are asked to enter beer scores on the CAMRA website for each visit (see item above). Judging takes place between October 2025 and 12th January 2026.

If you would like to join either of the **judging panels** or make a **nomination** for the Branch **Pub Of The Year or Branch Cider & Perry Pub Of The Year** please email POTY@newark.camra.org.uk. The closing date for nominations and for volunteers to be an assessor is Monday 29th September 2025. In both cases members are asked to include their name, email address and CAMRA membership number in their email.

- **Branch ordering of The Good Beer Guide 2026**

Branches can submit orders for the Good Beer Guide 2026 (in packs of 10). Prices for branches is £8 - the RRP is £16.99. Forms must be submitted to HQ by 5th September. So far 5 members have expressed an interest (John W, Richard, Colin, Sam & John D). **ACTION:** Branch Secretary to contact North Notts Branch to see if they would like to join in with a joint order.

ACTION - Members interested in purchasing a copy of the GBG were asked to let the Secretary know by 30/8/25.

- 9) **Cider Update** – A suggestion has been made that the branch hold a cider/perry information and tasting event. Carolyn had spoken to Jason at the Organ Grinder who is happy for this to be held following our October Branch Meeting being held there on Tuesday 7th October.. There would be a charge for the ciders to be tasted payable on the night.

- 10) **Pub Protection Officer** – members reported the following:

- Spring House, Newark – Freehold up for sale but pub currently open
- Square & Compass, Normanton on Trent has reopened (4 cask beers on handpump)
- Boot & Shoe Flintham – temporarily closed for refurbishment
- Vine – notice on premises to say the pub is closed temporarily.

- 11) **Brewery Liaison Officers(BLOs)** – nothing to report.
- 12) **Beer Festival** – Members interested in volunteering to assist at the Winter Festival can find information and staffing form [here](#).

There will be acoustic music and a quiz – details to be released via Facebook in the near future.

[Tickets](#) are now on sale for the event through CAMRA HQ's system.

CAMRA members will receive a complimentary half pint token on production of a valid membership card. More information can be found here: [Newark Beer Festival 2025](#)

Beer Festival Charity – The Beer Festival Committee have nominated The Newark Crusader as its festival charity. They are a registered charity that offers a fantastic boat trip for elderly or disabled or disadvantaged adults or children on the River Trent.

13) **Forthcoming Social Events**

- Richard reported that a former member of our branch, who has moved to Louth has invited members to Louth for a social. These details have been passed to Allister to investigate public transport/minibus options.
- The possibility of a visit to 8 Sail Brewery has been looked into. The return train costs approx. £30 which Allister considered to be too expensive. Branch members present expressed interest in visiting the brewery and Allister was asked to investigate transport options.
ACTION: Allister to investigate transport options for both possible socials.
- **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

- **Saturday 23rd August 6 – 11 pm and Sunday 24th August 1 – 11 pm.** [Collingham Cricket Club Beer Festival](#) - The Festival 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. 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 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, returning at 21.15 (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.
- **Friday 19th December** – Christmas social 7pm Fox and Crown. Allister to circulate menu etc.

15) **Any Other Business - none**

Newark CAMRA Action Log 2025

Date	Owner	ACTION	Update	Date Closed
13/8/24	AF	Richard reported that a former member of our branch, who has moved to Louth has invited members to Louth for a social. ACTION - details passed to Allister to investigate public transport/minibus options.		
13/8/24	AF	The possibility of a visit to 8 Sail Brewery has been looked into. The return train costs approx. £30. Branch members were interested in visiting the brewery. ACTION - Allister to investigate transport options.		
12/7/25	RG All	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. ACTION - Any branch member interested in taking part in tasting panels to pass their details to the Branch Secretary.	Richard Trafford, Peter Harris and Rory Audsley-Spence have already expressed an interest in taking part.	
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.	13/8/25 - Rob Green has reported that he is still awaiting answers on this.	
12/7/25	CG All	Branches can now submit orders for the Good Beer Guide 2026 (in packs of 10). Prices for branches is £8 ACTION: Branch Secretary to contact North Notts Branch to see if they would like to join in with the order. ACTION - Members interested in purchasing a copy of the GBG were asked to let the Secretary know by 30/8/25	So far 5 members have expressed an interest (John W, Richard, Colin, Sam & John D).	
8/1/25	RT JD	Vice chair to make contact with CAMRA HQ to see if there is a corporate MS	On-going	

		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.		
Closed items				
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.	13/8/25 - Rob Green confirmed members should unsubscribe from receiving Fundraising Information in the CAMRA members area of the website. Notices about lotteries may still come through via Volunteer Bulletins. RG is raising this with Val Langford at HQ	13/8/25
21/6/25	AF	Allister to arrange a venue and date for the Christmas social in December.	13/8/25 arranged for 19/12/25 @ Fox & Crown, 7pm	13/8/25
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.	Carolyn had spoken to Jason at the Organ Grinder who is happy for this to be held. There would be a small charge for ciders tasted payable on the night.	13/8/25
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 the East Mids	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
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