

Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch Meeting
Held at The Organ Grinder on Tuesday 7th October 2025

Attendees: Stuart Clift, Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, Sam Lucas, Rory Audsley-Spence, John & Jo Dunstan, David Wright, Andy Sear, Allister Ferguson, Ray Spink, Ros & Rus Briggs, John Ward.

- 1) **Apologies for absence** – Colin Campbell, Jim Power, John Williams, Peter Harris, Andrew & Lesley Parker, Dominic Haythorne.
- 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 Organ Grinder was thanked for providing the venue.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** - Festival advance expenses starting to come in, and being paid from the advance received from HQ.

Social Media – nothing to report.

5) **Secretary's report**

Champion Beer of Britain Nominations - Nominations have opened for the Champion Beer of Britain 2027. The Champion Beer of Britain is one of the most prestigious beer competitions in the world. The competition starts with individual nominations from CAMRA members and tasting panel nominations, then area competitions. Read more and vote [here](#). The Branch Chair has the facility to submit votes on behalf of members via a proxy vote. Anyone wishing the Chair to submit a vote on their behalf should submit this to chairman@newark.camra.org.uk.

Digital Membership Card – Members can now download a digital membership card direct to a smart device. This will not replace paper cards but will be an extra feature. To add a digital card to a digital wallet on a smart phone, log in to your [user account](#) on the CAMRA website. You'll find your digital membership card under the 'Membership' section of your profile. Click on either the Google Wallet or Apple Wallet option for an instant download.

- 6) **Membership/Young Members** – In the absence of our Membership Secretary, Carolyn reported that the current membership was 496. In the last month 20 members have left and we have gained 3 new members.
- 7) **Vice Chair / WhatPub / Web /Tasting Panels**
Tasting Panels - Rob Green, The Deputy Regional Director, is setting up a tasting panel for the East Midlands and has arranged two training sessions:
15th November 2025 at the Vat and Fiddle, Nottingham and
16th November 2025 at the Brampton Brewery Tap, Chesterfield
The cost is £15 per head to cover beers drunk and the training lasts approximately 3 - 4 hours.
- 8) **Pub of the Year (POTY) & Good Beer Guide (GBG)**
GBG entries – Reminder given to members that the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is to be used as a "significant" factor when determining GBG entries.

Richard explained how NBSS scores, linked with pub nominations from members have been 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). Why you should score your beer [YouTube video](#)

Branch Pub of the Year and Cider & Perry Pub of the Year 2026 – Judging has commenced.

- 9) **Cider Update** – The branch held a cider/perry information and tasting event following the meeting and 12 members took part. Thanks to Jason for providing some of the ciders.

The Final Whistle Southwell are holding a cider festival Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th October with 17 ciders and 10 cask ales.

The Cider and Perry Pub of the Year winner, is the [Blackfriars Tavern](#) in Great Yarmouth.

- 10) **Pub Protection Officer** – It was reported that the Vine is being renamed as The Rose. A new pub has opened on Castle Gate called Bar Twenty2 (next door to The Duck public house). It has 2 cask ales and a craft wall.

- 11) **Brewery Liaison Officers(BLOs) -**

Allister Ferguson (Cat Asylum) – Met with Henry from the Cat Asylum Brewery, twice. Both informal one at the Cricket Club Beer Festival and another at the 8th birthday celebration at the brewery 27th September. Had a general chat about how his business is going and on both occasions Henry expressed positive outlooks. Currently brewing in rotation 12 different beers depending upon his limited capacity and orders as they come in, they are:-

Newark IPA
Wee Moggy
Moggy

Big smoke
stout.
Simcoe

Columbus
Limited Edition IPA
Limited Edition Newark HB.

St Wulfram's IPS No. 1 Barley Wine
Double Brown Stout.
Bohemia Pilsner

John Ward (Milestone) – no report

Jim Mason (Jacaranda) – no 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 have been released via Facebook

[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](#)

- 13) **Forthcoming Social Events**

- The next few months is going to be very busy with both the Nottingham, Grantham and Newark beer festivals.
- Christmas Social on Friday 19th December at the Fox and Crown, Newark at 7 pm - food at 8pm. Due to the size of the kitchens at the Fox and Crown we have been asked to pre-order food. Menu choices are being taken in advance at the Branch AGM, along with a deposit of £10 per person. Please make your choice from the Holy Moly menu <https://www.castlerockbrewery.co.uk/pubs/fox-and-crown/> and let Allister have your choice (including the spice level), along with your deposit. For those unable to attend the AGM, the staff at the Fox will take orders directly up to Friday the 12th of December. Contact socials@newark.camra.org.uk for more information.

- Proposed Socials to Louth and 8 Sail Brewery - Over the next few months, active members will be busy with judging for POTY and organising the Beer Festival. As a result, it was agreed that the two items relating to proposed socials to Louth and 8 Sail Brewery be put on hold until the new year with a view to a possible social taking place in 2026. Also investigate the possibility of running socials jointly with the Worksop branch.

Any suggestions for future socials should be sent to our social secretary
socials@newark.camra.org.uk

Forthcoming Festivals etc

- 23rd – 25th October.** [Grantham Beer Festival](#) St Wulfram's Church, Grantham
Branch Members will be going on Thursday 23/10/25 taking the 12.56 train from Newark Northgate.
- Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th October** - The Final Whistle, Southwell Cider Festival with 17 ciders and 10 cask ales.
- Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd November.** [Newark Beer & Cider Festival](#) (Winter Edition) Newark Town Hall, Market Place. 10.30am to 4pm and 5pm to 10.30. £5 per session. 50 Beers & 15 Ciders. Live music, quizzes & food. More information and advance tickets at <https://newark.camra.org.uk/beer-festival/>

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

14) Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings

- 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 at the Fox and Crown, Newark @ 7pm (food at 8pm). See above for information about menu choices.
- Wednesday 14th January 2026** – The Prince Rupert, Newark @7.30 pm.
- Tuesday 10th February** – Just Beer, 32A Castle Gate, Newark @ 7.30 pm
- Wednesday 11th March 2026** – The Rose & Crown, 25 Main Street, Farndon – **Please note, this meeting will commence at 7pm**

15) Any Other Business - There was no other business.

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 had invited members to Louth for a social. ACTION - details passed to Allister to investigate public transport/minibus options.	10/9/25 - See item 13. On hold until the new year with a view to a possible social in 2026. Also investigate possibility of running a joint social with Worksop branch.	
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 all transport/minibus options	10/9/25 - See item 13. On hold until the new year with a view to a possible social in 2026. Also investigate possibility of running a joint social with Worksop branch.	
8/1/25	RT JD	Vice chair to contact 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. Treasurer to carry out a cost benefit analysis for this.	On-going	
Closed items				
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 RD.	7/10/25 – confirmed that the Branch would not be able to set up such a group but members could do so independently, if they so wished	7/10/25
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.	See item 7	
12/7/25	CG All	Branches can now submit orders for the Good Beer Guide 2026 ACTION: Branch Secretary to contact North Notts branch to see if they would like to join in with the order. ACTION - John W, Richard, Colin, Sam & John D to pay £8 to the Branch Treasurer asap in order that he can transfer the funds over to the Worksop branch.	10/9/25 -See Item 8 - Worksop Branch have agreed to order these on behalf of our Branch, those members who have requested a copy (John Williams, Richard, Colin, Sam & John D). are asked to pay £8 to the Branch Treasurer asap in order that he can transfer funds to the Worksop Branch.	10/9/25
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 tasing event. ACTION - Carolyn to contact the Organ Grinder to see if we could hold an event as part of our branch meeting there on 7/10/25.	Carolyn had spoken to Jason at the Organ Grinder who is happy for this to be held. There will 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 to send 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 confirmed that Jacaranda Brewery are hoping to join us for our Branch meeting in August.	21/6/25