

Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch Meeting
Held at Just Beer on Tuesday 10th February 2026

Attendees: Stuart Clift, Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, Sam Lucas, Rory Audsley-Spence, John Dunstan, Jo Dunstan, John Ward, John Williams, Dominic Haythorne, Ian Gooden, Jane Rigbye, Stephen Rose, Steve Allwood, Pip Barley, Ray Spink

- 1) **Apologies for absence** – Ros & Russ Briggs, Allister Ferguson, Andy Sear
- 2) **Review of Actions from Previous Minutes** - No outstanding actions
- 3) **Chair's report** – Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and Just Beer was thanked for providing the venue.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** - £500 refund for rent received from the Town Hall. Winter festival accounts are now closed.

Social Media/Beer Gutter Press – Next edition of the BGP to be published towards the end of April so that it can be used to advertise the NTNBF if taking place. **ACTION** – members to send articles for inclusion in the Branch Magazine to John Dunstan treasurer@newark.camra.org.uk

5) **Secretary's report**

The secretary reported that the current branch committee members have multiple roles and there are still vacancies - including the key role of Young Members Contact. At a recent branch committee meeting, Jo Dunstan was co-opted to the role of Membership Secretary. Thanks were given to Jo for stepping into this role. As much as the committee tries, they can't be everywhere and ask members who may be interested in standing for any positions to contact secretary@newark.camra.org.uk for further information.

Other things branch members can do to help the thinly-stretched committee are:

- Help deliver leaflets, magazines & beer festival promotional documents
- Survey pubs and clubs & check their entries to camra.org.uk/pubs and submit amendments
- Score beers - this helps shortlist Pub of the Year and Good Beer Guide entries.

- 6) **Membership/Young Members** – Jo reported that the branch membership, as at the end of January, was 490. In the last month, 13 memberships have lapsed and 3 new members have joined.

7) **Vice Chair / Pub Database / Web /Tasting Panels**

- **Tasting Panels** - Rob Green, The Deputy Regional Director, is setting up a tasting panel. Dates for training sessions are awaited.

- **Pub Database** – all pub and club information has now moved to the CAMRA website . In the next few months the branch hopes to carry out a full audit of all of all licensed properties (including clubs) in our area to check details are up to date (particularly opening hours). At the same time, licensees are to be encouraged to check their own information and keep the branch updated with any amendments. It is hoped that as many members as possible will assist with this. Rory suggested that members could pair up to carry out the surveys, taking it in turns to drive.

Richard agreed to prepare survey forms with guidance on Mobility Access Statements which are required for each property. The Secretary agreed to draft a letter to be handed to licensees asking them to regularly check their own record on the CAMRA database and to submit any amendments required to the branch (both actions already on the branch Committee Action Log)

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

Presentations for the Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year awards have taken place and winners have been put forward for the next round of Judging.

GBG entries – Reminder given to members that the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is used as a “significant” factor when determining GBG entries. Members are asked to regularly enter beer scores for pubs they visit via the CAMRA website [Find Pubs & Clubs to Visit - CAMRA - The Campaign for Real Ale](#) (Log-in required).

9) **Cider Update** – Nothing further to report.

10) **Pub/Club Protection Officer** – Nothing to report.

11) **Brewery Liaison Officers (BLOs)** – BLO reports were submitted at the January branch meeting.

Allister Ferguson (Milestone) – nothing further to report

Jim Mason (Jacaranda) – nothing further to report

Dominic Haythorne (Cat Asylum) – The brewery is open on 22/2/26 for the apple tree blessing. Currently brewing Simco, Dark smoked larger and Wee Moggie.

12) **Beer Festival** – Sam, the Beer Festival Organiser, reported that it is not possible to hold a festival in the Castle Grounds in May, due to the ongoing Castle renovations. A meeting is being held with the Town Hall to discuss the possibility of holding a festival again in November but this will be subject to certain works needing to be carried out to the toilet facilities. It isn't known yet whether the local pubs will be holding a “Not the Newark Beer Festival” in May.

13) **Forthcoming Social Events** - The first social of the new year was held on Saturday 31st January and it was gratifying to see so many CAMRA members gathered at the Fox & Crown in the early afternoon. From there, groups visited other Newark pubs.

The next social will be a train trip to Matlock on **Saturday March 28th**, taking the 09:39 direct train from Newark Castle, arriving in Matlock at 11:20. We will then walk to the Thorn Tree for fabulous views and our first pint of the day. This pub re-opened under new management in December and has been recommended by the local CAMRA branch chair. A further six pubs will be visited (five of which are GBG entries) before catching the return train at 17:44, arriving in Newark at 19:19. For those with a rail card, the ticket is under £18. For those who don't, hopefully there will be enough people to benefit from the group save discount.

Following that, there will be a train trip to 8 Sail brewery in Heckington on **Saturday May 30th**, details to follow.

Members are asked to save the dates and let Rory know if you hope to attend any event as an idea of numbers is always helpful socials@newark.camra.org.uk

Non-CAMRA members are welcome on social trips in an effort to encourage new members, so please invite your friends.

Forthcoming Festivals etc

- 5th – 7th March [Loughborough Beer Festival](#)
- 19th – 21st March [Burton and South Derbyshire Beer and Cider Festival | CAMRA](#)
- 21st – 23rd May [44th Lincoln Beer Festival – Lincoln CAMRA](#)

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

14) Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday 11th March 2026** – Rose & Crown, 25 Main Street, Farndon @ 7.30 pm. Those wishing to travel by public transport from Newark can take the 90 bus from the bus station at 7.12 pm. Return bus @ 9.20 pm. [Pathfinder 90 Web Timetable.pdf](#)
- **Wednesday 8th April 2026** – Flying Circus, 53 Castle Gate, Newark @ 7.30 pm
- **Saturday 16th May 2026** – Milestone Tap, Cromwell NG23 6JE @ 1.15 pm. Those who wish to travel by public transport from Newark, can take the Marshalls 37 bus from the bus station at 12.55 – returning at either 2.58 pm or 3.50 pm (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.
- **Saturday 13th June 2026** – Crown, Normanton on Trent @ 1pm. Those who wish to travel by public transport from Newark, can take the Marshalls 38 bus from the bus station at 11.55 am, returning at either 3.47 pm or 5.57 pm (please double check bus times prior to setting off).
- **Saturday 25th July 2026** – Hearty Goodfellow, Church Street, Southwell NG25 0HQ @ 1pm. Meeting to be followed by a Southwell “pub crawl”.
- August – no meeting
- Wednesday 9th September - TBC

15) Any Other Business

- At the recent branch committee meeting, it was agreed to ask members to assist with distributing leaflets, BGPs, beer mats etc. A central point for delivery/pick-up was required – to be determined. **ACTION** – CG agreed to draft suggestions for delivery rounds (action already on the branch Committee Action Log).
- John D suggested that members should give their support to pubs currently affected by flooding.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Newark CAMRA Action Log 2026

Date	Owner	ACTION	Update	Date Closed
10/2/26	John D & Branch Members	The next edition of the BGP to be published end of April. ACTION - members to send articles for inclusion in the Branch Magazine to John Dunstan treasurer@newark.camra.org.uk		
Closed items				
14/1/26	RT	Recent email from The National CAMRA Chairman, gave details of how CAMRA have been campaigning Government to have a rethink on the higher business rates bills that pubs will be facing from April. ACTION – Vice Chair to send an email on behalf of the Branch.	31/1/26 - Following the Government's business rates U-turn it was decided that it was no longer appropriate to contact the local MP.	31/1/26
13/8/25	RAS	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 Social Sec to investigate transport options.	14/1/26 – The new Social Secretary confirmed that there were no suitable public transport options – Action closed 10/9/25 - On hold until the new year with a view to a possible social in 2026.	14/1/26
13/8/25	RAS	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 – Social Sec to investigate transport options	14/1/26 – The new Social Secretary reported that a visit to 8 Sail was being planned for May – Action closed 10/9/25 - 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.	14/1/26