

**Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch Meeting**  
**Held at The Flying Circus, Newark on Wednesday 8 April 2026**

**Attendees:** Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, Ros & Russ Briggs, Lesley & Andrew Parker, John Ward, Colin Campbell, Allister Ferguson, Dominic Hathorne, Tom Leggott, Jim Mason, John Dunstan.

- 1) **Apologies for absence** – Sam Lucas, Stuart Clift, John Williams, Moira Walter, Jo Dunstan, Andy Sear.
- 2) **Review of Actions from Previous Minutes** – see action log below
- 3) **Chair’s report** – Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and The Flying Circus was thanked for providing the venue and the “nibbles”.
- 4) **Treasurer’s Report** – see beer festival report below.

**Social media/Beer Gutter Press** – Next edition of the BGP to be published early May so it can be used to advertise the NTNBF and Winter Beer Festival. **ACTION** – members to send articles for inclusion in the Branch Magazine to John Dunstan by 30/4/26  
[treasurer@newark.camra.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@newark.camra.org.uk)

- 5) **Secretary’s report** – nothing to report
- 6) **Membership/Young Members** – branch membership, as at the end of March, was 490.
- 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 still 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.

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

**NBSS** - 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** –Spring House has closed. Lord Nelson at Winthorpe has opened, serving Indian food. New premises have opened in Southwell – The Minster Tap. The Caunton Beck has reopened. Plough at Coddington has closed temporarily following a fire. The Prince Rupert, Newark has new owners - Queensway and Punch Taverns. There has been a change of licensee at the Old Coach House, Southwell.

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

Allister Ferguson (Milestone) – three meetings held with Ken which revolved around what information CAMRA hold and what the current position is on what is being brewed. Lots of updates needed to the CAMRA database as some of the seasonal beers didn't appear. A general update for the bottled section is still needed. This will probably need 30 plus updates as Ken is very active bottling.

AF reported that he is planning to have a get together for the BLOs to share any learning on approach and the mechanism for updating Pilgrim.

Jim Mason (Jacaranda) – They have brewed a new hazy pale called Fuzzy Logic, which will be sent to Rail Ale in May, as well as their first mild - a dark mild called Starling (ready in a couple of weeks). They also have a couple of new beers coming in June and July. These will stick to the bird theme and will be variations on a 3.4% pale ale - one traditional and one modern. Both will only be using British hops.

Dominic Haythorne (Cat Asylum) – No recent contact with Henry.

12) **Beer Festival** – It's once again not possible to hold a festival in the castle grounds in May of this year, due to the ongoing castle renovations. It is hoped that Newark pubs will be organising a "Not the Newark Beer Festival" event over the late May Bank holiday weekend and the Treasurer has approach CAMRA HQ for some funds to assist with publicising this.

Planning has commenced to hold a further Winter Beer Festival 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November, in the Town Hall Ball Room on a similar scale to last year's event. The Treasurer is working on the budget prior to submitting this to CAMRA HQ for approval. Nothing can be confirmed relating to this festival until budget approval has been received. The branch will once again be looking for keen volunteers to help – members are asked to please keep these dates free in their calendars.

13) **Forthcoming Social Events** – It was reported that eleven members enjoyed a great day out in Matlock in March. One pub was closed and in the throes of changing hands but there were still six pubs to visit and enjoy, along with some excellent, and reasonably priced food along the way. A full report will feature in the next edition of the Beer Gutter Press.

Due to a change in circumstances, our next social trip will no longer be to 8 Sail Brewery but will be on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May** to **Cleethorpes** instead, where there are five GBG pubs plus one local recommendation and the opportunity to visit the smallest pub in Britain at only 8' x 8' (plenty of outdoor seating, so hope for sunshine). We will take a direct train from Castle Station at 10:15, arriving in Cleethorpes at 11:51. We will catch a direct return train at 18:04 getting back into Castle Station at 19:44.

As usual, it is helpful to know who is thinking of coming, even if you can't confirm till much nearer the time, so please do drop Rory a line at [socials@newark.camra.org.uk](mailto: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***

- **17 – 19 April** Spring Beer Festival at the Brown Cow, Mansfield - See social media for details.
- **23 – 26 April 2026 St George's Beer Festival at The Mallard, Worksop.** See social media for details
- **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

- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> July 2026** – Hearty Goodfellow, Church Street, Southwell NG25 0HQ @ 1pm. Meeting to be followed by a Southwell “pub crawl”.
- August – no meeting
- **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2026** – The Rose & Crown, Farndon @ 7.30 pm.
- **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2026** – The Organ Grinder, Newark @ 7.30 pm.
- **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2026** – Branch AGM to be held at the Ram, Castlegate Newark @ 7.30 pm.

15) **Any Other Business** – none.

**The meeting closed at 8.30 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 early May. <b>ACTION</b> - members to send articles for inclusion in the Branch Magazine to John Dunstan <a href="mailto:treasurer@newark.camra.org.uk">treasurer@newark.camra.org.uk</a>	8/4/26 – last date for receipt of articles is 30/4/26	
<b>Closed items</b>				
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. <b>ACTION</b> – Vice Chair to send an email on behalf of the Branch.	31/1/26 - Following the Government's <a href="#">business rates U-turn</a> 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. <b>ACTION</b> - details passed to Social Sec to investigate transport options.	<b>14/1/26</b> – The new Social Secretary confirmed that there were no suitable public transport options – Action closed  <b>10/9/25</b> - 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. <b>ACTION</b> – Social Sec to investigate transport options	<b>14/1/26</b> – The new Social Secretary reported that a visit to 8 Sail was being planned for May – Action closed  <b>10/9/25</b> - 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