

Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch Meeting
Held at Milestone Brewery Tap on Saturday 16th May 2026

Attendees: John Dunstan, Jo Dunstan, Carolyn Gibbons, Dominic Haythorne, Liz Lucas, Sam Lucas, Rory, Audsley Spence, Jane Rigbye, Ian Gooden, Pip Barley, Richard Challand, Jim Barrie, Stephen Rose, Tom Leggott, Antony Barson.

- 1) **Apologies for absence** – Richard Trafford, Stuart Clift, Ros & Russ Briggs, John Williams, Moira Walter, Paul Ruthven, Andy Bailey, Jim Power, Peter Harris.
- 2) **Review of Actions from Previous Minutes** - none
- 3) **Chair's report** – In the absence of the Chair & Vice-Chair, the branch Secretary chaired the meeting. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and Milestone was thanked for providing the venue.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – The budget has been approved for the Winter Beer Festival and an advance has been received from CAMRA HQ. This has enabled the deposit to be paid to the Town Hall. The advance also included marketing money for the Not the Newark Beer Festival which has been used towards paying for printing of beer lists and flyers for the event.

Social Media/Beer Gutter Press (BGP) – The Spring edition of the BGP has been printed and members were asked to assist with distribution. Further copies for distribution can be collected from the Organ Grinder (10/15 copies per pub). Members were asked to keep an eye on branch Facebook posts and to re-post where possible.

- 5) **Secretary's report - Call for Volunteers at the Collingham Cricket Club Beer Festival.**
The Second Annual Beer Festival is being held August Bank Holiday weekend and will be open to the public Saturday 29th August (6pm – 11 pm) & Sunday 30th August (1pm – 11 pm). There will be a wide range of beers, ciders and food on both days, plus live music from Beggars Belief on Sunday. The festival is organised by the Cricket Club and does not have links to CAMRA, however, the club have asked if branch members would be willing to **volunteer** to work behind the bar. Shifts are allocated in blocks of 2.5 hours. Beer tokens & food vouchers will be allocated to volunteers. If you're interested, contact Charles Lucas on 07711688264 or charles.lucas@centrick.co.uk
- 6) **Membership/Young Members** – The branch membership, as at the end of April, was 489.
- 7) **Vice Chair / Pub Database / Web /Tasting Panels** - In the next few months the branch hopes to carry out a full audit of licensed properties (including clubs) in our area to check details on the CAMRA database 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.
- 8) **Pub of the Year (POTY) / Good Beer Guide (GBG) / NBSS**
Nottinghamshire Pub of the Year Award - Having taken top spot in the Newark CAMRA Pub of the Year competition, 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 2026, making it two years in a row for this award winning pub. There will be a presentation at the **Final Whistle on Saturday 23rd May at 2pm**, all are welcome to celebrate this fantastic achievement.

National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) – From 1 June, there will be changes to the scoring system to introduce new ‘ratings’ to replace the old ‘scores’.

A summary of the changes and the background to the review are available using this link [New ratings for cask beer scoring – summary](#)

Reminder given to members that 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 to report.

10) **Pub/Club Protection Officer** – no report.

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

Dominic Haythorne (Cat Asylum) – no core range beers being brewed. Current brewing specials including Old Dribbler, Wee Moggy and Mandarina Saison is being brewed for NTNBF. A special event is taking place at the Brewery on 18th July.

Allister Ferguson (Milestone) – no report

Jim Mason (Jacaranda) – no report

12) **Beer Festival Update** - It's once again not possible to hold a festival in the castle grounds in May, due to the ongoing castle renovations. Newark pubs are organising a “Not the Newark Beer Festival” (NTNBF) event over the late May Bank holiday weekend. The same pubs as last year will be participating:

Fox and Crown	The Flying Circus
The Navigation	More Than Just Beer
Final Whistle (Southwell)	Organ Grinder
Oscar's	Prince Rupert

2026 Newark Beer Festival (Winter Edition) - the Beer Festival Committee are moving forward with detailed planning for the Newark Beer and Cider Festival (2nd Winter Edition) which is taking place **Friday 20th & Saturday 21st November 2026** in the Ballroom at the Newark Town Hall. The branch are once again looking for keen volunteers to help out - not just at the festival but also with set-up and take-down. Members are asked to please keep these dates free in their calendars.

Beer Festival Charity – Members wishing to nominate a local charity for the festival are asked to submit details to the Branch Secretary by 30th June. Charities should be available to attend the festival to promote their charity. The Beer Festival Committee will then consider nominations and select an official charity of the festival.

13) **Forthcoming Social Events**

- On the late May bank holiday weekend the Newark pubs are again organising a “Not The Newark Beer Festival”. If you fancy a Friday evening touring the town centre, don't be on your own, let's go round together on an ad-hoc social. Meet in The Fox & Crown between 17:00 and 18:00 **on Friday May 22nd** and we can all head off to support our great pubs.
- **Saturday May 23rd** we are gathering at The Final Whistle in Southwell for a 14:00 presentation to celebrate the wonderful achievement of being voted Nottinghamshire Pub of The Year for the second year in a row. Buses available from the bus station at 12:09 or 13:09. After the presentation we will return to Newark and continue to tour the other pubs taking part in the NTNBF.

- **Saturday 30th May** there will be a branch social on to **Cleethorpes**, 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, returning on the 18:04 getting back into Castle Station at 19:44. If you have a rail pass the ticket is under £14. If you don't have a rail pass then hopefully there will be enough people to benefit from the group save discount.
- After Cleethorpes, our next day trip will be **July 11th** to Loughborough, to include a visit to Charnwood Brewery and seven pubs. More details to follow.

Please save the dates in your diary and let the Social Secretary socials@newark.camra.org.uk know if you plan to attend, especially if you wish to be included in a group save ticket.

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

Forthcoming Festivals etc

- **21– 23 May** [44th Lincoln Beer Festival – Lincoln CAMRA](#)
- **22 – 25 May** Not the Newark Beer Festival
- **25 – 29 August** Peterborough Beer Festival
- **29 – 30 August** Collingham Cricket Club Beer Festival
- **20 - 21 November** Newark Winter Beer Festival

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

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

- **Saturday 13th June 2026** – Crown, Normanton on Trent @ 1pm. If travelling by public transport from Newark, 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”. Those wishing to travel by public transport from Newark, can take the Stagecoach bus from the bus station at 12.09 pm.
- August – no meeting
- **Wednesday 9th September 2026** – Rose & Crown, Farndon @ 7.30 pm.
- **Tuesday 13th October 2026** – Organ Grinder, Newark @ 7.30 pm.
- **Wednesday 11th November 2026** – Branch AGM to be held at the Ram, Castlegate Newark @ 7.30 pm.

15) **Any Other Business** - None

The meeting closed at 2pm

Newark CAMRA Action Log 2026 – no outstanding actions