

Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch Meeting
Held at The Crown, Normanton on Trent on Saturday 13th June 2026

Attendees: Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, John & Jo Dunstan, Ros & Russ Briggs
Rory Audsley- Spence, Sam Lucas/

- 1) **Apologies for absence** – Stuart Clift, Jim Power, John Ward, John Williams, Jim Mason, Allister Ferguson, Dominic Haythorne, Peter Harris
- 2) **Review of Actions from Previous Minutes** - none
- 3) **Chair's report** – In the absence of the Branch Chair, Richard agreed to chair the meeting. Everyone was welcomed and The Crown at Normanton on Trent was thanked for providing the venue and refreshments.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – John reported that he had recently attended training for the CAMRA accounting system (COBAS).

Social Media/Beer Gutter Press (BGP) – The Spring 2026 edition of the Newark CAMRA Branch Magazine is now available and can be read on our Branch [website](#). The Editor thanked everyone who contributed articles to this issue. We hope to publish an Autumn edition in September, but this will depend on members submitting articles for inclusion. For inspiration, archived editions of the Beer Gutter Press are available on the branch [website](#). The branch is also seeking businesses interested in advertising in the magazine. If you know of any potential advertisers, please pass their details to the [treasurer](#).

- 5) **Secretary's report - Call for Volunteers at the Collingham Cricket Club Beer Festival.**
The second Collingham Annual Beer Festival will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend and will be open to the public on Saturday 29 August (6pm–11pm) and Sunday 30 August (1pm–11pm). A wide selection of beers, ciders and food will be available on both days, with live music from Beggars Belief on Sunday. Although the festival is organised by the Cricket Club and is not affiliated with CAMRA, the club has asked whether branch members would be willing to volunteer behind the bar. Volunteer shifts will be arranged in 2.5-hour blocks, and beer tokens and food vouchers will be provided to all 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 May, was 494.
- 7) **Vice Chair / Pub Database / Web /Tasting Panels**
 - **Tasting Panels** – Still awaiting information from Rob Green, the Deputy Regional Director, about setting up a tasting panel. Richard agreed to chase this with Rob.
 - **CAMRA Pub Database** – this covers all pubs and clubs and has now fully transferred to the [CAMRA website](#). Over the coming months the branch aims to carry out a full audit of all licensed premises in our area, including clubs, to ensure details are up to date (particularly opening hours). Licensees will also be encouraged to check their own entries and notify the branch of any changes. It is hoped that as many members as possible will assist with this important work.
- 8) **Pub of the Year (POTY) / Good Beer Guide (GBG) / NBSS**
The Final Whistle Southwell has been awarded Nottinghamshire Pub of the Year and has now gone through to the East Midlands round of the award.

National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) – the scoring system for NBSS has been updated and everything about the new ratings and descriptions are on the beer scoring [web page](#). Reminder given 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** – The Plough at Coddington has reopened following a fire.

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

Dominic Haythorne (Cat Asylum) – Henry has had a lot of positive feedback about the charity beer "Old Dribbler" and has decided to make it a regular feature along with Simcoe & Newark IPA. He is preparing for "CatStock" on Saturday the 18th of July and has already sold nearly 300 tickets. There are now 10 bands involved with the event as well as 2 different food vendors. Tickets are £22 each and are available from the Cat Asylum website.

Allister Ferguson (Milestone) – Allister reported that he spoke to Ken last month and the beer list has now been updated to include all seasonal and bottled beers. The list now stands at around 100 entries.

Jim Mason (Jacaranda) – no information from the brewery since the last report. Jim is hoping to visit the brewery in the next couple of weeks. Their cask session beer 'Rail' 4% is going well and is the house beer in the Final Whistle. Their latest creations are Firecrest at 3.4%, and a “premium pilsner” Rhapsody at 5%. Both appear to only be available in bottles.

12) **Beer Festival Update** – The 2026 Newark Beer Festival (Winter Edition) will take place **Friday 20th & Saturday 21st November 2026** in the Ballroom at Newark Town Hall. The branch is once again seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help - not only during the festival itself but also with set-up and take-down. Members are encouraged to keep these dates free in their calendars.

Festival Sponsorship – We’re looking for members who can support this year’s festival by helping to approach and engage with potential sponsors. If you’re interested in getting involved, please contact Sam, our Festival Organiser, at beerfestivalorganiser@newark.camra.org.uk

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 review all nominations and select the official charity of the festival.

13) **Branch Socials** - The most recent social was a train trip to Cleethorpes on Saturday May 30th. It was a gloriously sunny day and some of us got rather hot. The pubs didn't quite live up to Newark standards but it was still a great day out with plenty of good beer, excellent fish and chips and fine company.

Our next trip is to Loughborough on **Saturday July 11th**. Departing on the 10:10 train from Castle Station, changing at Nottingham and arriving in Loughborough at 11:31. We plan to visit two brewery taps and six pubs, (five of which are GBG listed). We plan to take the 17.54 train back to Newark. If you have a rail pass the ticket is under £12. If not, then hopefully there will be enough people to benefit from the group save discount, if there is one.

After Loughborough, the next day trip will be **Saturday 26th September** to Sheffield for a half-pint marathon. Details to follow.

As November is busy with both the Beer Festival and the branch AGM, the next event will be the Christmas Social in December. Date and 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 as part of our efforts to encourage new members, so please feel free to invite your friends.

Forthcoming Festivals etc

- **25 – 29 August Peterborough Beer Festival**
- **29 – 30 August Collingham Cricket Club Beer Festival**
- **7 – 10 October [Nottingham Beer & Cider 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 25th July**– 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**– Rose & Crown, Farndon @ 7.30 pm. Those travelling by public transport from Newark can take the 90 bus from the bus station at 7.12 pm. Return @ 9.24 pm. [Pathfinder 90 Web Timetable.pdf](#)
- **Tuesday 13th October**– Organ Grinder, Newark @ 7.30 pm.
- **Wednesday 11th November**– Branch AGM to be held at the Ram, Castlegate Newark @ 7.30 pm.

15) Any Other Business - None

The meeting closed at 1.45pm

Newark CAMRA Action Log 2026

Date	Owner	ACTION	Update	Date Closed
Closed items				
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	16/5/26 - Magazine published	16/5/26
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