

Minutes of the Newark CAMRA Branch Meeting
Held at The Hearty Goodfellow on Saturday 25 July 2026

Attendees: Richard Trafford, Carolyn Gibbons, Sam Lucas, Rory Audsley-Spence, Steve Rose, Pip Barley, Peter Harris, John Williams, Moira Walter, Jim Mason, Jane Rigbye, Ian Gooden.

- 1) **Apologies for absence** – Jim Power, Allister Ferguson, John & Jo Dunstan, Stuart Clift, Ros & Russ Briggs, Dominic Haythorne.
- 2) **Review of Actions from Previous Minutes** - none
- 3) **Chair's report** – In the absence of the Chairman, Richard took the chair. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and the Hearty Goodfellow was thanked for providing the venue.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – No report provided.

Social Media/Beer Gutter Press (BGP) – It is hoped that an Autumn edition will be published, but this will be dependent on members submitting articles for inclusion in the magazine. If you'd like some inspiration, archived versions of all previous editions of the BGP, including the Spring 2026 edition are on the branch [website](#). The branch are also looking for businesses to advertise in the magazine, if members know of anyone that may be interested, please let the branch [treasurer](#) have the details.

- 5) **Secretary's report** – An East Midlands Regional CAMRA meeting took place on 20/6/26 at the Round Corner Brewery, Melton Mowbray. The Vice Chair and Secretary attended on behalf of the Branch.

HQ Updates – CAMRA HQ are recruiting for some important roles at national and regional level:

- Secretary to the National Executive – experience of minute taking and helping set agendas is essential.
- Beer Festival Financial Assessors – there are vacancies to join the team of assessors, ideal for someone with a finance background or Beer Festival Organiser/Treasurer skills.
- Members' Weekend Visionary Lead – a key role in setting the strategic direction and driving continuous improvement for CAMRA's annual Members' Weekend.

Find out more and apply [here](#).

Call for Volunteers at the Collingham Cricket Club Beer Festival.

The 2nd Annual Collingham Beer Festival is being held over the 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 June, was 492 (down 2 on previous month).
- 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.

- **CAMRA Pub Database** – This includes details of all pubs and clubs and the information is available [here](#) . Over the next few months the branch needs to carry out a full audit of all licensed properties (including clubs) in our area to check details are up to date (particularly opening hours). Licensees will be encouraged to check their own information and keep the branch updated with amendments. Several members have already kindly volunteered to survey and distribute CAMRA leaflets and copies of the Beer Gutter Press to many of our pubs. Anyone who would also like to assist with this please contact secretary@newark.camra.org.uk

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

POTY - 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). Richard gave details of the pubs in our area which are currently receiving the highest scores and said that CAMRA HQ has suggested branches offer an “incentive” to members to encourage them to enter beer scores. As our branch doesn’t have funds to offer prizes, Richard announced that he would personally buy whoever scores the most beers each month, a pint if they attend the branch meeting. This month he would be buying himself a pint!!

The Secretary reported that at the recent East Midlands Regional Meeting all BLOs were asked to do everything that they can to keep Pilgrim up to date with details of beers brewed by their nominated brewery as this information is used when members are scoring beers.

- 9) **Cider Update** – CAMRA are campaigning to back authentic UK grown and made cider and perry. It isn’t fair that industrial drinks by global companies are made from as little as 35% juice. We need to urge the Government and MPs to require the ‘minimum juice content’ in cider and perry to be raised from 35% to 50%. There is a tool to lobby your MP [here](#).
- 10) **Pub/Club Protection Officer** – Peter reported that the Crown, Southwell was now selling cask ale. Jim reported that the Reindeer, Southwell was selling up to 6 cask ales and would welcome a visit from the branch. It was agreed to visit after this meeting.
- 11) **Brewery Liaison Officers(BLOs)**

Allister Ferguson (Milestone) – Allister met with Ken on the 23rd to start a data review for his beer list of 85 regular beers (cask & bottled). He is meeting with Ken again next week to review the final list and send any amendments back to Pilgrim (The CAMRA beer database). The brewery is doing well which has been helped by the increased footfall from the World Cup. Four speciality beers were brewed for the duration of the World Cup.

Jim Mason (Jacaranda) – Jim visited Jacaranda on the 24th and spoke to Joe Chambers from the brewery. There are no new brews. They continue to brew 'Rail' which is only sold in the Final Whistle - it was commissioned by them. 'Rail' being a bird like the other Jacaranda brews fits in well with a pub themed on railway memorabilia. Joe said that he was finding it difficult to get Newark pubs to take his beers. Just Beer has taken it in the past, but not for a long time.

Dominic Haythorne (Cat Asylum) – No contact made with the brewery since last month.

- 12) **Beer Festival Update** – The 2026 [Newark Beer Festival \(Winter Edition\)](#) is taking place **Friday 20th & Saturday 21st November 2026** in the Ballroom at the Newark Town Hall. There will be around 50 beers and 15 ciders on offer. Food will be available and there will be acoustic music in the evenings and a quiz in the afternoons.

Festival Volunteering – We are once again looking for **keen volunteers** to help out. Not just at the festival but also with set-up and take-down. For full details, please follow this link [Festival Staffing - Newark CAMRA](#) where you will find a copy of the online [staffing form](#) which should be completed and forwarded to Sam at staffing@newark.camra.org.uk. If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact Sam.

Tickets are now on sale and we advise buying a ticket beforehand to ensure that you get in. There will be no under 18s allowed and we can only allow assistance dogs. Tickets are priced at £10. CAMRA members must buy a ticket and on arrival, on presenting a valid membership card, will receive £10 of beer tokens to refund the ticket price. Non-members will receive £5 of beer tokens on arrival as part of their ticket. [To buy tickets follow this link.](#)

13) **Forthcoming Social Events**

Our most recent Social was a train trip to Loughborough on Saturday July 11th. It was a great day out with plenty of refreshingly good beer, excellent bar snacks and fine company.

The next trip is the **York Half-Pint Marathon on Saturday September 19th**. Departing on the 09:19 train, direct to York arriving at 10:03. We plan to visit 13 pubs and bars (most are GBG listed), having a half pint in each venue. The first venue opens at 10am so we will get a decent full day. The return train is 17:55 getting back to Newark at 18:40. If you have a rail pass, the return ticket is approximately £23. If not, then hopefully there will be enough people to benefit from a group save discount, if there is one. Do let the [social secretary](#) know if you will be attending, so that you can be sent details of the itinerary and be included in a group save ticket, if required.

As November is busy with both the Beer Festival and branch AGM, the next event will be our **Christmas Social on Wednesday December 9th at Castle Cuisine**, Castle Gate. The restaurant is unlicensed so we can take our own alcohol, be that beer, lager, wine or spirits. They sell soft drinks and request that we don't supply our own. They have kindly allowed us to provide a cask of ale for general consumption which will be for sale at a discounted price, to be announced once we know what it costs us.

The restaurant runs a party menu at £23.95 per head which includes poppadum, mixed starter and a main of choice per person, plus a side dish of choice and a naan of choice, shared between two people. Please let the social secretary socials@newark.camra.org.uk know of any specific dietary requirements well in advance.

Those of you who have already visited this restaurant will know how good it is and how friendly the staff are. If you haven't been before, this is a perfect opportunity for a first visit.

Numbers are initially restricted to 30 for this event so it is important that we know if you will be attending.

We are using Tckty to sell tickets at £10 each, which will reserve your place on a first come, first served basis. That initial £10 will go towards your bill with the balance of £13.95, plus any tip, payable on the night by cash or card.

This is a very busy time of year for hospitality so if you need to cancel, please let Rory know in good time and if the tickets can be resold, you will receive a full refund, if not, the restaurant will retain the deposit.

Please save these dates in your diary and book your Christmas Social ticket soon as they are already selling well, <https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/570/newark-christmas-social>.

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

Forthcoming Festivals etc

- 25 – 29 August [Peterborough Beer Festival](#)
- 27 – 29 August [Ashbourne Beer & Cider Festival](#)
- 29 – 30 August [Collingham Cricket Club Beer Festival](#)
- 7 – 10 October [Nottingham Beer & Cider Festival](#)
- 21-24 October [Steel City Beer & Cider Festival](#), Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield
- 20 - 21 November [Newark Winter Beer Festival](#)

Events are subject to change – check websites/socials for updates.

14) Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings

- **August** – no meeting
- **Wednesday 9th September 2026** – 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 2026** – Organ Grinder, Newark @ 7.30 pm.
- **Wednesday 11th November 2026** – Branch AGM to be held at the Ram, Castlegate Newark @ 7.30 pm.
- **Wednesday 9th December** – **Christmas Social** at Castle Cuisine, Castle Gate, Newark. book your ticket <https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/570/newark-christmas-social>

15) Any Other Business

A query was raised as to which pubs in our area gave a discount to CAMRA members or accept CAMRA vouchers.

Information about where vouchers can be redeemed is found at www.camra.org.uk/vouchers.

It is also possible to filter on the [CAMRA website](#) to find those who accept vouchers or offer a discount. Richard explained that those pubs who do accept vouchers, do not receive any form of refund for this from CAMRA and any discount given comes out of their profit margin.

Richard added that the [Member & Volunteer Experience Policy](#) says that “*No member shall ask for or expect a discount for beer or other products or services in any venue, unless a discount is clearly advertised as available to CAMRA members. This includes the use of the vouchers issued as part of CAMRA membership*”.

It was also confirmed that when it comes to judging for Pub of the Year, offering discount to members is not one of the criteria set, as this is an unfair business proposition for those who do not offer a discount whether through choice or inability to afford.

The meeting closed at 2pm and was followed by a pub crawl around Southwell.

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