

Minutes

South Devon CAMRA branch meeting 14th March 2023 at 8.00 pm

The Barn Owl

Aller Mills, Aller Road, Kingkerswell, Newton Abbot TQ12 5AN

Those present:

Ian Packham - Branch Treasurer and Vice Chairman

Lawrence Stringer – Branch secretary and social secretary.

Phil (Billy) Kidd - Beerscoring coordinator

Alan Cooke - Whatpub and social media coordinator

Edgar Halton - Membership secretary.

Kate Halton

Roger Adams

Philip Stevens

Peter Lister

Eddie Pyle

The meeting started at 8.00 pm and the following apologies for absence had been received.

Bob Southwell – Chairman

Philip German

Paul (Grizzly) Adams

Dave and Amanda Buckler.

Andrew Thomson

As Bob was absent the Chairmans report was undertaken by Ian Packham. However as most of Bob's report to us fell into other categories this was short and swiftly led on to the Secretaries report.

Lawrence reiterated the request from Peter Bridle to lobby MPs ahead of the budget but did admit this may be a bit late as the budget is due tomorrow (Wednesday). He also advised that the Drewe Arms in Drewsteignton is up for sale and there is an initiative to turn it into a community owned pub. There is a questionnaire on the Drewe Arms website seeking views on customer's preferences in a pub and we have been urged to



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support this as the Drewe Arms is one of CAMRA's National Heritage pubs.

Lawrence continued, to mention that Black Tor Brewery is now in Liquidation and owe News and brews for some advertising. Andrew Thomson is chasing the liquidators for payment and it was agreed he should continue to do this although the amount is apparently quite small (£55.00 was mentioned).

Regrettably there have been other brewery closures recently, Hunters in Ipplepen and Platform 5 in Torquay. Also the Bear and Blacksmith in Chillington has now closed, but on a better note the Comms tool has been improved and Billy now has access to it.

The Treasurers report followed and Ian advised that at the time of the meeting, the branch bank account contained £3264. However there is a payment of £815 due to the printers for Spring News and Brews and also there is a need for funds to cover upfront costs for some beer festival items. The branch accounts are also being finalised and will be sent to Roger Adams for auditing ahead of the branch AGM in June. Ian and Billy then concentrated on the POTY/COTY/CPOTY submissions received while the meeting continued with Lawrence giving the Social Secretaries report.

The recent Salcombe and Kingsbridge trip had proved a great success with attendance from our friends in Exeter and east Devon branch as well as South Devon. We didn't quite fill the Stagecoach bus but had a good try.

Next week (22nd March is our midweek trip to Torquay and environs. This will start in Yates in Torwood St at 12.00 or at 11.00 for those requiring breakfast and will visit various pubs in Torquay, Babbacombe and St Marychurch, returning via Wellswood. There is also Weatherspoon's spring beer festival starting next Wednesday so a visit to the Green Ginger may be in order.

April branch meeting will be a social at the Dartmouth Inn Newton Abbot. Details are on the website, and May will also be a social meeting ahead of our AGM at Paignton Conservative Club in June.

Lawrence then spoke about the minibus. Apparently Mike at the Palk Arms is buying the minibus from Kingsteignton Football club and could make it available for our use. Lawrence had looked into this and found there are issues to do with hire or reward that will require a minibus permit and appropriate insurance. Agreed this would be looked into further so we can be prepared.

Next, Edgar Halton advised on the membership, which stands at 152607 nationally with South Devon having 543 members. We have had 6 new members, 4 transferred members and 12 lapsed. So are two down. This is in line with the reduction in national membership numbers.

The meeting now concentrated on the Pub and Club of the Year selection. These were announced from the various surveys received as follows.

Overall Pub of the year - The Queens Arms, Brixham.

Runner up and rural Pub of the year – The Durant Arms, Ashprington

Club of the year - Preston Conservative Club.



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Cider Pub of the year - The Queens Arms, Brixham.

Following this there was a beer break during which raffle tickets for three bottles of beer were sold by Alan Cooke. The raffle was eventually won by Peter Lister.

Next was the magazine report which was brief as Andrew was absent and we had already discussed the money owed by Black Tor brewery. Invoices have been sent to the latest advertisers and the Spring 2023 edition is now out for delivery across the branch area, along with a number of flyers for the SIBA Maltings fest in April.

Following this, Edgar advised the progress with our beer festival. The business plan is being formulated to be sent to CAMRA. Glass supplier snow need payment in advance and we also now have approval to buy a share in some stillage together with Exeter branch. The festival glasses will cost in the region of £2,000 and the stillage £ 1,100 so we will need a short term loan from CAMRA. More pubs and businesses are needed for sponsorship.

Alan Cooke then reported on the website, Whatpub and social media. The website news page has recently had 8 new items added and now includes details of 15 pubs available in Paignton. There was also a good write up of the Durant Arms by Devon Live. Spring News and Brews is also on the website, as well as the change.org petition in respect of the Kingsbridge Inn Totnes. Ian Packham has been involved in the ACV process. This stalled for a while but has now gained impetus with the online petition. Billy made his laptop available for members present to add their names to the petition. Alan continued that the majority of submissions on Whatpub come from non members.

After this Ian reported on Cider news. Exeter branch have asked all the pubs in their area to stock a real cider in May and this may be a good idea for us. Also a reminder that not all coder is real and there is a list to the real producers on our website.

The meeting now moved on to Brewery News from attendees as follows:

There is a new Brewery Information system coming out at the end of March which Ian Packham has

There is a new brewery in Newton Abbot, Copperhead Ales, who brew bottles beer as well as some cask. A volunteer BLO was requested.

Devils Pleasure in Sigford aren't answering their phone.

Devon Earth have a new beer - Quark Strongness and Charm, a 5% ABV vegan friendly beer. Hey will be supplying beer to Abbfest.

Riviera brewing were very busy at Christmas, producing lots of bottles and smaller casks. Their Devonian beer went well at Exeter's beer festival but overall beer sales are down. Regular brews are Riviera Gold and Amber Gold with Porter as a winter brew.

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New Lion Brewery - Not much development at the brewery, more on the Taproom which is now a separate business. Pandit is still a regular but they have staffing problems and really need a permanent support to the Head Brewer.

Following this Pub news was received as follows:

Torbay Inn Paignton - try to keep two hand pumps but sometimes this reduces to one.

The Landlady at Henrys bar in Paignton has just celebrated 30 years in the business and have Doom Bar plus one guest and often a real cider (Sams).

There was no further Pub news so the meeting went to AOB.

Ian and Billy reported that they have submitted all the GBG entries to HQ on time.

Maltings beer festival have asked for volunteers again.

Exeter are running a trip to the Tom Copley in Spreyton on 13th May. They have a few spaces on the coach and members should contact Martyn Shepherd (mart.j.shep@gmail.com) for availability and prices.

The meeting was closed at 9.36 pm.

