

Minutes

South Devon CAMRA Branch Meeting 12th September 2023 at 7.30 pm

Maltings Taphouse and Bottle Shop

Teign Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 4AA

There were 9 members present and due to the absence of the Chairman Ian Packham chaired the meeting. Ian explained why both Bob and Lawrence were not present.

Apologies: Bob Southwell, Lawrence Stringer, Billy Kidd, Dave Buckler

Chairman's Report: Bob had sent an email to Ian and the main contents of it related to the temporary social secretary position being shared between Alan Cooke for the normal social events and Billy Kidd to organize the Christmas Social on the agreed date of Saturday 9th December at the Torbay Inn, Paignton.

Secretary's Report: As Lawrence was not present and will not be for a little while his other roles were discussed. Ian Packham will take notes and produce some minutes and Alan Cooke will take on the Branch Contact role plus sending items out via the Comms Tool.

Treasurer's Report: Ian stated that there was currently £2181.03 in the bank account but that there is still money to come in and be paid out from the beer festival. There is sufficient money in the account to cover the cost of the latest edition of News and Brews.

Membership Secretary's Report: It was reiterated that we do not currently have a Membership Secretary and that we are looking for a volunteer to take on the role.

Social Secretary's Report: Alan reported on the various social trips during July, August and September with the main ones being the Haytor Hoppa trip in August where we went to the Rugglestone at Widecombe and the Kestor at Manaton which was a very pleasant day out plus the midweek social to Newton Abbot where it was found that a large number of pubs did not open until 4pm. Also there was the beer festival at the Durant Arms in Ashprington where there was a good selection of beers plus the 'Thank You' trip for volunteers at the Sunshine Beer Festival where we visited Clearwater Brewery in Bideford to present the Beer of the Festival award. After the brewery visit we called at the The Champ, the brewery's tap in Appledore, the Globe at Beaford, a GBG pub, and finally the Tom Copley. A lot of miles but well worth it. Our thanks were given to Dave Buckler for organising the day and driving the bus.

The coming events are Abbfest on 14th to 17th September, followed by the midweek social on 20th September to visit the pubs of Brixham, meeting in the Vigilance at 11am for breakfast or noon for the start of the crawl. On Saturday 30th September there is an Interbranch Social at the Blue Anchor in Teignmouth from midday – **this has subsequently been cancelled due to the rail strike on that day with many branches now unable to travel there.**

The Christmas Social is scheduled for Saturday 9th December starting at midday at the Torbay Inn Paignton. More details to follow.

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Magazine Report: Andrew reported that the new issue of News and Brews was available and that he would be making deliveries to people on Thursday 14th. Over the last year the magazine made a small surplus of about £240.

Beer Festival Report: Dave Buckler was unable to attend the meeting but Ian gave a report following a wash up meeting held on Friday 8th September. There were issues with rail strikes on the Thursday and the Saturday plus licensing issues on the Thursday which meant that we could not open to the public. Also on the Saturday the weather was terrible with rain most of the day. Friday, however, had good weather and the attendance was up on last year for that day. There were also issue regarding the minibus but these will be taken forward for next years festival. As a result of all of this and the outstanding sponsorship monies and invoice for first aid services we expect to make a small loss of about £800 although we did purchase a stillage along with Exeter and Somerset branches, costing us £1100. If this is taken out we expect to make a small surplus which is good considering the circumstances over the period of the festival.

Website, Social Media and WhatPub Report: Alan reported on the number of page views on the website for July which was 10500. The most popular was the Sunshine beer festival followed by Diary, Pub Guide and Beer Festival page. Recent events have been added along with the diary being up to date to the end of November.

There have been 15 updates submitted for WhatPub with about half of them being from visitors to the area.

The South Devon CAMRA Facebook page continues to attract interest, albeit a little slowly, it now has 514 members.

Cider News: Ian reported that October is Cider and Perry Month with a focus this year being placed on Perry as a result of a new Kickstarter Project for a Perry book. Also we have been approached by Hunt's as they wish to support Cider and Perry Month and offer a discount to pubs.

Brewery News: We have heard that the Palk Arms at Hennock have purchased some brewery equipment and will be starting up in due course. Wait for further information.

Pub News: The Tally Ho at Littlehempston has now purchased the freehold of the building from the Community Group so it is now wholly owned by them.

AOB and Date and Venue of Next Meeting: Ian spoke about the launch of the Stagecoach number 12 bus route with pubs listed. Stagecoach want to launch it in November and wanted details of a suitable pub on the route with parking to launch it. It was agreed that it should be the Railway Brewhouse in Newton Abbot with dates to be decided.

There is a regional meeting in Bristol on Saturday 21st October.

A date was required for a December meeting as it was agreed via a motion at the AGM that the process for Branch Pub of the Year should start a month earlier. The meeting has been organized for Tuesday 12th December at the Paignton Conservative Club.

The next branch meeting is Tuesday 10th October at the Preston Conservative Club starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.