

South Devon Branch
Minutes of meeting Tuesday 13th February 2024
Held at Torquay Conservative Club

Apologies: Lawrence S., Dave B., Edgar h.

Chairmans Report: Bob gave a brief report with nothing significant changing.

Secretaries Report: In the absence of a Secretary Ian gave the report. Feedback from Lawrence is that he is steadily improving and is looking to take on some of the roles he had previously relinquished. Ian had attended a Regional meeting and they had asked for ideas as to how to promote cask ales. Some ideas were given to take forward. Region had two vacancies for PLO for 2 Breweries. John B volunteered to cover Newton Abbott.

Treasurers Report: Ian reported that we had £2654.53 in the bank. We had to cover News and Brews and possibly some Festival expense. No questions on finance from the floor.

Membership Report: Region December 23 - 10988 January 24 - 10956 a loss of 32 members. Branch December 23 - 537 January 24 - 539 a plus of 2.

GBG Selection: Billy presented the years beer scores and had highlighted in yellow 24 pubs that had met all criteria. These were approved unanimously enblock to be included in 2025. We then had further discussion on a further 5 to be included with 3 reserves.

Social Secretary Report:

Past Events

Alan reported there had been just the one Midweek Social since 12th December – a trip to the pubs of Ivybridge. This was enjoyed by around 25 members. Most of the pubs had been made aware of our intended visit; however the numbers came as a surprise to some of them. The final pub of the day was the Horse & Groom at Bittaford a GBG entry and regular winner of Plymouth CAMRA awards.

A full report appears on the Recent Events page of our website.

Coming Events

The next Midweek Social is on Feb 21 to Chagford and Moretonhampstead. Meet in Exeter for the Stagecoach 173 bus to Chagford. There are 4 pubs in Chagford centre, unfortunately two of the pubs in Moretonhampstead will be closed, leaving just one open. There will be an option to return earlier from Chagford to enjoy pubs in Exeter.

The 173 bus stops in Exeter are as follows:

Exeter Sidwell St, Stop 40 1115
Exeter Central, Stop 27 1121
Exeter St Thomas, Stop SW 1127
Arrive Chagford 1220

As usual up-to-date details of forthcoming socials, festivals, meetings and events can be found on the website.

WhatPub: Alan was contacted by a member from Manchester way, describing a day out in Paignton and Torquay. He visited the following pubs:

UPSIDE BAR QUEEN VICTORIA HENRY'S BAR TALK OF THE TOWN HYDE DENDY SPINNING WHEEL INN ON THE GREEN PALACE EMBASSY TAVERN SHIP INN OLD MANOR HOUSE BEEFEATER BELGRAVE SANDS HOTEL Bistrot Pierre TQ Beerworks	He also made these comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Offshore Bar was closed for a refurb until the beginning of Feb - will cask survive?• Cinnabar has closed and all branding has disappeared• Twenty1 no longer has cask beer• Seamus O'Donnell was just shut - looked like it could be seasonal?• The Apple and Parrot no longer has cask• The Griffin up by the Museum also no longer does cask He obviously doesn't hang around!!
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I thank everyone who has either completed a survey or just submitted an update. This is the only way we can keep WhatPub up-to-date – an out of date website is no use to anyone. I encourage all members to help maintain, if it's only for your local pub. One way visitors will judge our branch by the accuracy of our WhatPub entries. I'm only an e-mail or text message away. I can always e-mail a copy of the current data for any pub

Website Report: Alan reported it is the first Formal Meeting since 12th December 2023

Items added include CAMRA's announcement that the national PotY for 2023 is the same as 2022 – The Tamworth Tap and the good news that the community have succeeded in buying the Drewe Arms.

I am always happy to receive items or articles for the News page.
Please remember it's YOUR website, feel free to use it and contribute to it.

News and Brews: Andrew gave an update on the next edition and then announced that the Autumn edition would be his last magazine. We have 3 editions to sort out how we go forward. The meeting thanked Andrew for all his work.

Beer Festival Report: DB was not present so IP and DW gave an update. Main discussion at the last planning meeting was around sponsors. If anyone knows of a Brewer, Pub or Company that would be prepared to sponsor the Festival let DB know.

Cider News: Bob reported a couple of news items.

Brewery News: Billy gave brief report

Pub News: White Hart Hotel currently closed will reopen in April.

AOB: Steam Packet – Kingswear have a meet the Brewer evening on 16th February.

Next Meeting: 12th March at Paignton Conservative Club 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.55pm