

## South Devon Branch

### Minutes of meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Held at Paignton Conservative Club

Apologies: John and Kate Becks, Dave Faulkner

LS = Lawrence Stringer

IP = Ian Packham

AC = Alan Cooke

DW = Dave Wheeler

DB = Dave Buckler

**Chairman's Report:** Bob gave a report on the Committee Meeting held at Torbay Inn on 5<sup>th</sup> March and highlighted the need to try and improve the attendance at Social Meetings; the committee had suggested having a speaker and asked the meeting for comments. It was thought to be a good idea and was left with AC to sort out. Paul suggested something might be looked at on a Saturday to encourage those who cannot make a Tuesday or Wednesday. IP and outlined the changes of Membership Secretary and Secretary. It was good to see that Lawrence Stringer was back after his extensive illness and had agreed to swap roles with DW. LS will take on Membership Secretary and DW will become Secretary. All agreed unanimously.

**Treasurers Report:** Ian reported that we had £1434.18 in the bank. We have paid for a marquee at the Sunshine Festival and for the recent edition of News and Brews. We had applied for a loan from HQ to fund any upfront payments we might have for Sunshine Festival.

**Membership Report:** Lawrence gave his first comments as Membership Secretary. DW reported that figures were the same as reported at the last meeting because he had not received any updates for this month. Region December 23 10988, January 24 10956 a loss of 32 members. Branch December 23 537 January 24 539 a plus of 2

**Social Secretary Report:** See report attached from AC. Bob reported that late September we have the all Branches Social and he asked the meeting to respect that he would organise and would anyone else refrain from any involvement in contacting the venue. Question was asked about volunteering at the Maltings Festival. In essence the more volunteer hours we put in from South Devon the more we get. IP reported that past monies received ranged from £500 to £900.

### Website

#### Recent additions:

The Inn Sign Society has been in contact, consequently there is an item about them on the News page. Like many clubs and societies they are looking for new members.

There have been several additions to the Beer Festivals page.

The MaltingsFest opens on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Please consider helping to serve behind the cask ale bar. You can register in advance by e-mail to Norman, address on our website. Please ensure that you sign in and out, our branch will get paid for hours you work.

The Spring edition of N&B is now available on the website.

The BLOs details have been updated

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.

## **WhatPub**

All the GBG entries have been updated

There have been about 10 other submissions in the last month

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

## **Social Media**

An initial copy of the Sunshine BF poster has been posted, attracting 2200 visits and numerous shares in the first 3 days.

Post advertising Maltingsfest and how to volunteer has proved popular and has been shared on FB pages all over Devon.

Posts by the Blue Anchor in Teignmouth informing of upcoming beers have proved popular as usual.

## **Social Secretary**

### **Past Events**

There has been one trip since our last meeting, to Chagford. It was well supported despite the extended amount of travelling involved. We were joined by several Exeter members and two from Huddersfield branch. Details on the Recent Events page of our website.

### **Coming Events**

The next Midweek Social is on 20<sup>th</sup> March to Salcombe. Meet on the 164 Tally Ho! bus: leaving Totnes at 1100, Kingsbridge at 1145 arriving in Salcombe at 1205. It may be possible to visit some pubs in Kingsbridge on the way back.

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

**News and Brews:** As was reported at the last meeting Andrew had announced that the Autumn edition would be his last magazine. The Committee had discussed this at some length and Bob said that we thought the job should be divided down into 3 or 4 areas. Editorial, Advertising, Distribution, Publicity. BK suggested that we need to be clever as to how we put out the communication. Perhaps a full page in the next edition of N&B. DW said that the suggestion of dividing some of the tasks highlighted just how much work Andrew has put in over the past 10 years and as a Branch we owed him a lot.

**Sunshine Festival Report:** DB was not present so IP gave an update. AC presented to the meeting a flyer about sponsoring a Cask or boxed Cider. Could members take them out to pubs/clubs etc. DW reported that the pre sale of tickets was now live and we already had 2 purchased for Friday and 2 for Saturday.

**Cider News:** Bob reported that the Cider Bar was not now going ahead with alterations and that a Cider Festival was being held in Kingsbridge.

**Brewery News:** Billy gave brief report

**Pub News:** The Union in Newton Abbott is closed until further notice.

POTY, COTY, CPOTY – POTY, The Durant Arms was the outright winner and would also pick up Rural POTY.

The Torbay Inn was runner up and would also pick up Town POTY.

COTY was Paignton Conservative Club with no runner up.

CPOTY was the Queens Arms, Brixham.

It was agreed that the presentations would take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April starting with Durant Arms 12.30 followed by Paignton Conservative Club 3pm and the Durant Arms 4pm. We would sort out a date for the Queens Arms and notify the branch later.( Later: CPotY presentation on 13<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm)

AOB: BK reminded people of the importance of putting in beer scores, Bob asked for different venues to be considered.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm