

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE – THANET BRANCH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2018

at THE RED LION, RAMSGATE

IN ATTENDANCE

Tony Walbank, Jo Walbank, Debbie Aris, John Brockman, Peter Jaquiss, Jez Laming, Philip Chandler, Steve Villette, Julian Dungey, Barry Branchett, Rick Bean, Mike St Clare-Newman, Graham Rickett, Keith James, David Gurnod, Nick Gurr, Martin Baldwin, Brian Taylor, Steve Saunders, Stan Strangwick, Mark Sharratt, Damien Clark, Jeff Waller, Dennis Brandrick, Daniel O'Sullivan, Chris Hunt, Jon Stringer, Reg Cocks, Vic Cocks, Terry Monaghan, John Buchanan, Linda Buchanan, Geoff Orton

Apologies for absence were received from Stephen Spratt, Barry and Freda Parker, Leo Gair, Colin Aris, Sarah Saunders, Chrissy Clark, Claire and Shawn Galvin, Miles Quinn, Kae Mendham, John Kealy, Alan Church,

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Jo welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was nice to see such a good turnout, special welcome to Jeff Waller, East Kent Area Organiser.

This year being her first in post, has been a learning curve, and she thanked those Branch members who have been a font on knowledge for her to draw upon.

We have again had a great year with our beer festival, attracting over 3,000 customers, sending a considerable return to St Albans and raising a record £650 for Kent Young Carers.

Following instructions from St Alban's that branches should not pursue ACV's following a case where it was deemed that CAMRA was a national rather than local community group and therefore lacked a local focus – it was therefore decided that our Heritage Committee would be dissolved. On behalf of the branch can she thanked Graham for leading this committee and for Geoff Orton for keeping record.

With CAMRAs revitalisation still ongoing, we are now at a point that proposals have been made and will be voted on at the CAMRA AGM in April, this will include proxy voting for those who cannot attend, remember to register for your vote in March.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

These were circulated and signed as a true record, with amendments made to the file copy.. Proposed by Tony Walbank, Seconded by Julian Dungey.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

ADOPTION OF MODEL BRANCH CONSTITUTION

This was adopted by the meeting, although this may need to be revisited later in the year as a result of the revitalisation vote at the national AGM. Proposed by Steve Saunders, seconded by Tony Walbank

ACCOUNTS

Debbie presented the accounts and informed the meeting that we had received a good surplus from the beer festival. Martin asked about the difference in surplus in previous years and the meeting discussed that this could be due to the time of year that Easter falls and the weather over festival weekend. Debbie thanked Steve Villette and Anita Ives for auditing this year.

Jo then thanked Debbie for her 15 years of service to the branch as treasurer and the branch presented her with the Dick Parkin memorial trophy for all her hard work as she steps down from the role this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beer Festival: This year, Jo has taken on the role of Festival Organiser in order to free Debbie up from the committee, Jez is our new Festival Treasurer, Mark is our new bottle beer manager and Peter is our volunteer coordinator. We are already thinking of the 2019 festival and hope to reveal our logo at this year's festival. Peter appealed to the meeting for volunteers to help at the festival, either during setup or the festival itself.

Breweries:

- **By The Mile:** Nothing to report, Jon is hoping to release a beer at the beer festival
- **Four Candles:** All is well at the Four Candles as we enter 2018. There are some exciting developments at the brewpub recently, including some works in the brewery to introduce another fermenting vessel in order to increase capacity; the latter part of 2017 has also seen the launch of a new range of beers under the brand 'Planet Thanet Beer Co', these are full batch production runs of smaller experimental brews that Paul has attempted at home and tested in the pub. These beers will usually be over 5% ABV and will only be available in bottles, both in the pub and at the Offy in Broadstairs and Whitstable. Mike has taken on a new member of staff recently whose job is to manage stock and distribution and therefore off sales of casks have seen an increase recently, meaning that you can find Candles beer on draught in several locations in East Kent.
- **Isla Vale Alesmiths:** Only now producing Bosun's Best for the Wheel Alehouse, for the foreseeable future.
- **Margate:** Looking at a brew date of May/June 2018.

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE – THANET BRANCH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2018
at THE RED LION, RAMSGATE

- **NauticAles:** Maiden Voyage is still doing well; Micky is launching a new beer today in celebration of the Six Nations Rugby.
- **Northdown Brewery:** Have now secured premises in Margate after utility problems at 2 previous sites. Looking at late March for first brew. The plan is to produce 4 core beers. Still cuckoo brewing in London at present for bottling.
- **Ramsgate:** No 3 has been voted into the final of the Kent Taste Awards, Dr Sunshine's is back on production in March. Martin tried a new West Indian IPA at the brewery this week which he says is a limited run and exceptionally good. Jon Stringer has been promoted to Head Brewer recently and we wish him all the best in his new role.
- **Wantsum:** Part of the collaboration that won the best Green Hop at the Canterbury Food Festival in 2017. A new 4000l fermenting vessel has been installed which has greatly increased capacity at the new site. New beer produced at Christmas which was well received, brewed with 5 malts and orange peel. They are producing a charity beer for Noah's Ark charity along with several other Kent breweries. Two special beers available for the Six Nations and a Valentine's Special Red Ale.

Pubs Report

- **Old Bay Alehouse:** This alehouse/micropub opened its doors on 24 March in the former Collectables & Nostalgia shop in the Minnis Bay area of the village. Run by couple Phil and Kirsty Griffiths it serves real ales, ciders & wine.
Minnis Bay Bar & Brasserie: Shepherd Neame pub reopened this pub at the beginning of March after a complete refit which saw the place extended and now includes a upstairs bar with balcony.
- **Sea View, Station Road:** Shepherd Neame sold this pub at auction in December. What the future holds for the place is unsure as the company have recently sold the Sportsman in Cliffsend and the Orb in Margate to developers.
- **Thirty-Nine Steps Brewhouse:** This micropub eventually moved into its new spacious premises a couple of doors down the road from its original location. A lot of work has gone into renovating the former delicatessen that the pub is now housed in. No signs of the brewery which is to be housed in the property.
- **Banks Ale & Wine House, Northdown Road:** This new outlet opened in a bank on the Corner of Northdown Road and Price's Avenue. Serves real ale direct on gravity dispense through 3 wall-mounted taps from the cellar room behind the wall.
- **Holly Tree, Northdown Road:** This large hostelry which has been closed since April 2016 was devastated by a large fire on 16 April.
Northdown, Summerfield Road: A micropub is due to open in part of the former hostelry after planning permission was granted earlier this year. The owners are still on the lookout for someone to run the pub after the previous partnership that was due to be run it pulled out.
- **Cinque Ports, Marine Terrace:** This large hostelry on the sea front which has been refurbished and refitted reopened under its original name in late Spring.
- **Doggett Coat & Badge, Market Street:** This pub, closed for a couple of years, has now been converted into an retro antiques shop called Ramsay & Williams.
- **ORB, Ramsgate Road:** Sadly this pub, one of Thanet's oldest hostelries closed its doors in August after Shepherd Neame sold it to a developer.
- **Ravensgate Arms:** This pub which lost its premises license in May reopened in August with Roger Bell, who originally opened the venue in 2014, as general manager.
- **Jackson's Wharf, York Street:** The pub has become part the Craft Union pub chain has reverted to its original name The Crown. The Belle Vue in Cliftonville and the Prince Albert in Broadstairs are also Craft Union outlets.
Eagle Inn, High Street: This pub which lay empty since suffering a fire in 1990s, has been granted change of use into a six-bedded hotel. The pub's eagle statue and sign are to be restored to their former glory.
- **Grog Wench/Falcon Inn:** A bit of a turbulent year from pub with tenants Simon & Jody Weight leaving in May after only a year into their tenancy and local businessman Louis Mayhew taking on the tenancy and reopened the pub in July after a short closure as the Falcon Inn. Sadly he decided that the pub wasn't turning a profit so gave up his tenancy in early November and the pub has been closed since. It has since transpired that the council were to review the pub's premises license due to a number of issue raised by the local police.

Julian asked about the Knot, but the new plans omit a community area, so we are unsure if there will still be a pub.

Chiltern Tavern is up for Auction in mid-February.

Super-spoons opened in Ramsgate

Membership

Jez reported that we now have 573, down slightly on November, but up by 9.5% on the 2017 AGM. We've gained 92 new members during the year, but with losses, this gives us a net gain of 48. Nationally 190,359. Jez thanked everyone for their support to him in this role as he moves onto another position this year.

Social Secretary

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE – THANET BRANCH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2018
at THE RED LION, RAMSGATE

Danny informed the meeting that the dates for future events are on our website and in Ale of Thanet, he thanked everyone for attending socials in 2017 and thanked Steve, Nick and Graham for all their support in helping him to arrange suitable locations and transport logistics.

Philip proposed a vote of thanks to Danny for his work in the first 6 months in the role.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Jeff took to the chair for the election of the new chairman

Nominations were received in advance for Jo Walbank as Chair, Proposed by Dennis Brandrick, Seconded by Julian Dungey; Jo was re-elected unopposed.

Steve Saunders as Vice Chair, Proposed by Julian Dungey, Seconded Dennis Brandrick; Proposed by Tony Walbank, Seconded by Jo Walbank; Proposed by John Kealy, Seconded by Alan Church; Julian Dungey as Membership Secretary, Proposed by Dennis Brandrick, Seconded by Steve Saunders

The remaining committee posts were elected en bloc as follows:

Vice Chair – Steve Saunders

Secretary – Dennis Brandrick

Treasurer – Jez Laming

Membership – Julian Dungey

Website – Nick Gurr

Social Secretary – Danny O’Sullivan

Branch Contact – Graham Rickett

Press, Publicity and Public Affairs – Damien Clark

Core Branch Positions – Tony Walbank, Geoff Orton, Mike St Clare-Newman, Mark Sharratt, Peter Jaquiss.

Proposed by Philip Chandler, Seconded by Tony Walbank

All in favour.

BRANCH OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

The meeting discussed if we wanted to have objectives in 2018, despite this no longer being a requirement. It was felt that we should continue with the following as objectives in 2018:

- Attract more advertising for the Ale of Thanet, to improve the income to cover the cost of printing this so we can improve the content of the magazine.
- Focus on distribution of Ale of Thanet
- Increase engagement/recruitment with the membership.
- Ensure the beer festival continues to be a resounding success

All in favour.

GBG 2019 and POTY 2018

The scores for these are now in, these will be discussed at the next branch committee meeting as we need to resolve a couple of issue with some nominees before making these public.

AOB

- **NG:** Nick asked what we as a branch should be doing regarding the GDPR.
- **DB:** Has anyone got a spare copy of the Winter Ale of Thanet to send to the Legal Deposit Library
- **DA:** To comply with Bank policy we need to minute that we approve the removal of Debbie Aris as signatory and the addition of Jez Laming and Jo Walbank as new signatories. Steve Saunders will remain as a signatory. Proposed by Julian Dungey, seconded by Graham Rickett. All in favour
- **JL:** Is the Ale of Thanet going to be submitted to the national magazine competition?
- **PC:** Raised concerns regarding some of the proposals made in the revitalisation document. Damien suggested that anyone with questions should address these to the NE representative that is present at the Kent Regional Meeting in March at Marden. The branch will investigate into transport options to attend this meeting.
- **TW:** Tony asked if Planet Thanet will be the biggest festival in Kent, as Kent festival is still trying to secure a venue.
- **GR:** Graham showed the meeting the newest item of merchandise – a scarf. Available from Ambition sports.

The meeting closed at 14:32