

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE – THANET BRANCH
MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7th
NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE RED LION, RAMSGATE

IN ATTENDANCE

Jo Walbank, Dennis Brandrick, Jez Laming, Peter Jaquiss, Barry Branchett, Jon Stringer, Steve Saunders, Julian Dungey, Graham Rickett, Nick Gurr, David Gorton, Lynne Backler, Danny O'Sullivan, Martin Baldwin, Mike Newman

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Debbie Aris, Tony Walbank, Philip Chandler, Mike Austen, Micky Rush, Jim Greenfield.

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Jo welcomed everybody to the meeting and

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes were circulated and the following matters brought up:

- **Distribution of Minutes:** This was discussed at some length and the issues regarding the minutes were outlined to those present. It was decided that where possible minutes would be prepared and sent to Nick for abridgement of sensitive data and placing onto the website for the membership to read.

The minutes were signed as a true record with one amendment to page 2 (marked on file copy). Proposed Jez, Seconded Julian

FINANCE REPORT

In Debbie's absence, the secretary reported that we have **REMOVED**. All outstanding invoices from the recent edition of Ale of Thanet have been paid.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jez reported that we have 579 members locally, up 3 from September. Nationally 191,032, up by 1157.

SOCIAL REPORT

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Danny reported that there has been good attendance at several social events recently. Green hop festival in Canterbury involved lots of Kent branches. The Weatherspoon's beer festival at the Royal Victoria Pavilion allowed some of our members to check out the chaos that is the spoons cellar room and enjoy tastings of the spoons festival beers. All enjoyed the Hussar beer festival in Garlinge and others the Cliftonville crawl.

Our most popular social was the Wantsum brewery trip and the visits to the 2 St Nicholas at Wade pubs which involved 17 members. He will endeavour to visit more out of the way places as the local pubs really appreciated our custom and some quality ale was on offer. Will start some socials at 7.30 pm on weekdays as aware some members have a distance to travel

All meetings are now in AOT and What's brewing. He is hoping to put a list of CAMRA meetings in some of our most prominent pubs in Thanet.

Julian proposed a vote of thanks to Danny for his hard work on the social diary.

KENT REGIONAL MEETING

The last KRM was held on 30th September at the London Tavern. Jo reported that there had been some discrepancies regarding the award of prizes to ciders at the Kent Festival, some of which are not classed as Real Cider, this to be discussed at the next meeting.

Damien had questioned the financing of Drinker's Voice, but no clarification was forthcoming.

It was mentioned that CAMRA t-shirts must have the logo on the breast or sleeve, but no clarification was available from Kae.

Next meeting is on Saturday 18th November at Gillingham.

PUB UPDATES

- **Seaview, Birchington:** Had closed and reopened under temporary manager after the developer that was proposing to buy it had pulled out.

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- **Swan, Westgate:** To be refurbished whilst trading continues.
- **Wheel Alehouse:** To open again at lunchtimes.
- **Hovelling Boat:** Up for sale, Paul has had some offers.

BREWERIES & PUB CHAINS

- **By the Mile:** Jon reported
- **Four Candles:** Dennis reported that Paul has started a range of small batch experimental brews (36 bottles). These often have varied flavours, and have already included a spicy Chilli Porter and a Juniper flavoured Rye Pale. Mike would like to market these under the 'Planet Thanet' name to keep them separate from the Candles brand, whilst still selling them at the pub. Mike has asked for the branch's blessing to use the name, as he doesn't want people to think they are connected with the festival.
- **Isla Vale:** No change, no new beers.
- **Margate:** Progressing very well, now capable of brewing substantially in the basement, 46-48 firkins of ale. Test brewing to begin in January, with full opening and production due for summer 2018.
- **NauticAles:** Nothing to report.
- **Ramsgate:** Jon reported
- **Wantsum:** Graham reported that the water is now being Burtonised at the new site. Montgomery and Ravening Wolf are not available in Key Keg.

GOOD BEER GUIDE and PUB OF THE YEAR

Scores to Jo by end of January

BRANCH OBJECTIVES

- **ACV Status:** CAMRA have asked branches not to pursue ACVs anymore, unless there is the complete support of the licensee and the property owner. Locally these are the **REMOVED, REMOVED & REMOVED**. Next heritage committee meeting is on Thursday 9th November.

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- **Ale of Thanet content:** Next copy deadline is 24th November. Steve is in search of content.
- **Engagement of Young Members (18-30s):** Ongoing

BEER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Main roles have now been filled, although Jez needs an assistant on finance, Jo needs an assistant on the cider bar and Julian needs an assistant on membership.

AOB

- **DO:** Asked for suitable venues for branch meetings.
- **JS:** Asked who bought the kit from Attwells.
- **JL:** Asked about the incident at Tenterden. Jo reported back to meeting regarding the proceedings which have been somewhat delayed by St Albans, however, the letter is now drafted to be posted this week.

The next meeting will be the AGM to be held on Saturday 3rd February 2018 at 11:30 at Red Lion Ramsgate.

Socials are arranged on Wednesday 6th December – Margate (Led by Steve and Nick); Sunday 17th December – Christmas Social at The NauticAles; Saturday 6th January – Westgate and Birchington (Led by Danny); Tuesday 16th January – Ramsgate Harbour (Led by Danny); Friday 2nd February – Dover Winter Ales Festival.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:49