

THANET CAMRA – MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30th MAY 2018 at THE AUSTRALIAN ARMS, RAMSGATE.

PRESENT

Jo Walbank, Dennis Brandrick, Jez Laming, Mike Newman, Freda Parker, Barry Parker, Danny O'Sullivan, Lynne Backler, Mark Sharratt, Julian Dungey

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Martin Baldwin, Graham Rickett, Tony Walbank, Damien Clark, Steve Saunders, Peter Jacquiss, Nick Gurr.

Jo welcomed everybody to the meeting and informed those present that today CAMRA's chief executive Tim Page announced that he would be leaving the Campaign to return to working in the charitable sector until his retirement. Branch officers have been asked to say nothing about this publicly beyond the issued statement.

THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, held in April were circulated and signed as a true record. Proposed Jez, Seconded Mark

The following matters were arising:

- **Beer Festival:** Jez asked for clarification regarding the showcasing of local sponsors, which Jo explained was to try and encourage some new sponsors.

FINANCE REPORT

Jez reported that we have **REMOVED**. The branch needs to set aside approx. **REMOVED** for various obligations throughout 2018, therefore he proposed that we submit **REMOVED** to CAMRA central funds.

5 outstanding invoices are still outstanding from the previous edition of Ale of Thanet.

2018 BEER FESTIVAL RESULTS (2017 figures)

At the last branch meeting we discussed the reasons for this year's festival results. The headline figures are as follows-

Total Income £ **REMOVED** (£**REMOVED**)

Total Expenditure £ **REMOVED** (£**REMOVED**)

Surplus £ **REMOVED** (£**REMOVED**)

Attendance Figures - Total 3004 (3549)

Friday 2241 (2553)

Saturday 763 (996)

This is 545 fewer people than 2017

Spend per head (SPH) excluding entrance was £ **REMOVED**, this compare well to the 2017 SPH of £ **REMOVED**

If the same number of people attended the festival would have made a similar surplus to last year.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Julian reported that we have 581 members locally, which is a drop of 8 from the last meeting. Nationally 191,593, up by 164.

SOCIAL REPORT

Danny reported that the Butchers Arms visit is now on 4th August not the 18th. Ramsgate beer tour starting at the Ravensgate is now on Wednesday 19th September.

- **Wednesday 6th June:** Margate walkabout 7.30 pm. Starting at Ales of the Unexpected and towards the Cinque Ports and beyond.
- **Saturday 17th June:** Train trip to Deal and Walmer. Starting at The Just Reproach at 12 pm and ending at The Berry.
- **Saturday 21st July:** Walk from Reading St, White Swan to Nineteenth Hole, via The Laughing Barrell and onward to The Yard of Ale finishing at The Four Candles. Meet at 12 pm

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- **Saturday 4th August:** Bus trip to Butchers Arms, Herne (early opening especially for us) and micro crawl of Herne Bay. Details to follow.
- **Sunday 19th August:** Jo will lead a tour starting at NauticAles at 12 pm
- **Wednesday 19th September:** Ramsgate walkabout. Start 7.30 pm at the Ravensgate, then Red Lion and Monte.
- **Saturday 22nd September:** Canterbury Food and Drink Festival. Meet at 12 pm at the Green Hop Beer tent.

BEER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Jo reported that planning will begin again after the summer. The new logo for 2019 has now been made public and will be appearing on our social media and website soon.

KENT REGIONAL MEETING UPDATE

Jo reported that the region is still looking for a volunteer deputy webmaster. We need to nominate a branch cider representative. Kae is due to retire as regional director next March; if anyone is interested please contact Kae. BLOs please check that the CBOB box on BIS is ticked if your brewery wishes to be considered for this and ensure that all the beer details are complete.

Next meeting is 30th June at Dartford WM Club.

PUB UPDATES

- **Wheel Alehouse:** Alan is in negotiations regarding the sale of the business.
- **Great Tree:** Closing as a pub and being opened as a café.
- **Artillery Arms:** Has been sold to a property developer.

BREWERIES & PUB CHAINS

- **By the Mile:** Jon was absent and had not sent a report in advance.
- **Four Candles:** Dennis reported that business as usual at the Candles. Stig and Mike are still producing the same excellent quality of beer that we came to expect under Paul. Recently announced a beer festival to take place on weekend 7/8th July at the Sarah Thorne Theatre.
- **Isla Vale:** Still amassing ingredients to get up to capacity for full production. No new beers planned.
- **Margate:** Different parts are almost complete – later this year possibly for production.
- **NauticAles:** Their flagship ale Maiden Voyage is becoming increasingly popular; several festivals around the country have ordered it and feedback has been excellent. Micky Rush is looking for premises in Thanet to start his own brewing operation, these premises need to accommodate grain, hop and cask storage and offices. Once Micky has located premises he would be willing, if there is interest, to partake in a fly on the wall series for AoT following his progress to brew first ale.
- **Northdown:** Plumbed in and getting ready to start production.
- **Ramsgate:** In Martin's absence the secretary presented his report: Gadds' No 3 won Kent Beer of the Year at the Taste of Kent Awards. Summers Day (Light Kentish Ale at 4.3%) and Festive Ale (Hoppy Pale Ale at 3.8%) are currently in production. No. 11: A low alcohol full flavour pale ale 1.1% is to be launched during the summer (postponed from early May), finer detail being put in place and launch will be at the brewery when everything is ready. One of the breweries regulars, Seaside, will soon be available in cans. The successful brewery tours continue at the beginning of each month, on rare occasions when places become available I will be informed and local CAMRA members will be offered a place on a first come first served basis. As this will be at very short notice the information will be released via Thanet CAMRA social media.
- **Wantsum:** Had a successful beer festival and will run more. Their tours are also going well. They will be part of the green hop festival in early October with several other

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breweries. Plenty of cask and key keg ales being produced, a large range of guest ales are also now being supplied.

PUB OF THE YEAR & GOOD BEER GUIDE

Jo informed the meeting of the new judging process for this year which is designed to include as much of the membership as possible. She has written an article which will be published on the website and in Ale of Thanet with the nomination deadline of 25th July. The shortlist will be prepared at the next branch meeting. Those wishing to judge must contact Jo in advance or be present at the meeting on 26th July.

AOB

- **JL:** Loop Guide. Is there any progress? We will ask Steve at the next meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 26th July, venue Montefiore Arms. The following one will be Monday 10th September, venue TBC. Then Tuesday 13th November.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22:10