

THANET CAMRA – MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER
at THE AUSTRALIAN ARMS, RAMSGATE

In attendance were:

Martin Knight, Dennis Brandrick, Jo Walbank, Tony Walbank, Julian Dungey, Debbie Aris, Graham Rickett, Mike St Clare, Peter Jaquiss, Rick, Brian Taylor, Nick Gurr, Damien Clark, John Brockman, Lee Thain, Vince, Jill Stone, Julian Stone

Apologies for Absence were received from:

Steve Saunders, Martin Baldwin, Geoff Orton Danny O’Sullivan, Lynne Backler, Mark Sharratt, Terry Monaghan,

The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true record Proposed Tony, Seconded Graham.

Matters arising – Date for GBG nominations had been changed from 11/8 to 31/8;

FINANCE

Debbie reported that we have completed the beer festival finances apart from the charity cheques - £400 to Oasis (yet to be cashed); £876 to Cheerful Sparrows (to be presented) **REMOVED** surplus from festival. Current balance is **REMOVED**. We will soon need to pay the deposit for the Winter Gardens which is **REMOVED**, therefore Debbie is advising that we retain the full balance locally as working budget for the beer festival. She is pleased to report that the current edition of Ale of Thanet actually made a small profit of **REMOVED**.

MEMBERSHIP

Julian reported that we have 619 locally with 191,571 nationally – down 174 from the last meeting.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Nick reported that we have 606 followers on Facebook; 726 on Twitter and 292 on Instagram.

PUBLICATIONS

Steve has extended the copy deadline for the next issue of Ale of Thanet to the end of this week. He hopes to compile next week.

It has been suggested that maybe photos could be larger. Maybe fewer but better quality and size images.

The meeting discussed upping the print run to 2500 for the Spring and Summer editions in 2020.

SOCIAL REPORT

In Danny’s absence, the secretary presented his report: Head office have been missing meetings for What’s Brewing despite being given them several months in advance. He will be writing to them tomorrow with more meetings and point out their failings.

Good meetings recently in Margate for our curry night. Nice to see Wayne from Hovelling Boat there. Could encourage a few other landlords to come along. Wayne learnt a lot about the working of the branch, how the GBG works and most importantly for him, what his competition looks and tastes like!

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Our NauticAles and onwards social attracted 3 new members, and one new lady has already asked to come along to the 39 steps later this month, so we are doing something right.

Meetings for next 5 months

Tuesday 17th September – 1930 Start: Meet at 39 Steps; then The George Inn, The Pub etc.

Saturday 28th September – Launch of Green Hop Beers at Canterbury Food Festival. Meet in Dane John Gardens at 12 noon

Saturday 19th October - Noon start. Old bay Alehouse; Then Wheel and Swan.

Wednesday 6th November – 19:30 Start: Meet at Montefiore, Ramsgate; then new Ramsgate micro in High street. Finishing at the Royal Victoria Pavilion.

Thursday 19th December – 19:30 Start: Meet at Banks's; then Tap Room, Laughing Barrel.

Saturday 4th January 2020 – Hogmanay social in Margate; Location TBC. 12 noon start. The meeting nominated the Northdown Brewery Tap.

KRM

From the last KRM at Gillingham in July; Martin reported that we are still in need of a Regional Director, with the Sussex RD currently in the post as caretaker until next Easter. There was also a discussion about PotY scores where one branch in Kent (not local) had some anomalies with obvious favouritism towards one pub, these were discounted and an average of all other scores used.

The next meeting is on 21st September at the Admiral's Arm, Queenborough. The meeting felt that the Kent Beer Festival should be renamed to the Canterbury Beer Festival, and asked Martin to take this forward to region.

PUB UPDATES

- Albion Inn (AKA Little Albion/Hogs Head) – Closes again on Thursday for full refurbishment with new tenant.
- Bell, Minster – Now open with new tenant.
- Bedford Arms – To close for refurbishment later this month.

BREWERIES

- 4C – Business at Usual
- IVA – Graham reports it's business as usual.
- Margate – Nothing to report.
- NauticAles – Nothing to report.
- Northdown – Graham reported that Merry Margate was awarded bronze medal at the Kent (Canterbury) beer festival. They are brewing a Green Hop Porter this year.
- Ramsgate – Martin reported that Jon Stringer has left the brewery and Eddie is Head Brewer designate. 14 September sees an event called Lambic Dreamer and features 6 Lambic style beers, one brewed by Eddie. There will be food and a talk on this style of wild yeast beer, tickets cost £20 and are limited to just 20. Green Hop Open Day this year is on Saturday 21st Sept. at the new brewery Tap in Pysons Road. Green Hop Collaboration Brew is currently being planned, it is likely to be the same breweries as last, Canterbury Ales, Four Candles, Canterbury Brewers and Ramsgate. Will have a stall at both the Canterbury Food Festival and Broadstairs Food Festival. Gadds' Green

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Hop will have a pre-launch at the Monte, date TBC. Brewery tours continue to be a success, check the brewery's FB page for details.

- Wantsum – John reported that Red Raddle has been dropped from the core range. Current single hop ale is Amarillo; with Ekuanot planned for next. They still have some of their 10th Anniversary special brew available, as well as Hop Hoodening Ale, which has been brewed for the Hop Hoodening event at Canterbury Cathedral on 14th September. They will hold their Green Hop festival on 19th October and their planned green hop beers this year are Fuggles, Goldings and Bullion. The brewery tap is now operating a loyalty scheme – Buy 10 pints and get 1 free.
- XYLO – Damien proposed Graham as BLO, seconded by Rick.

GOOD BEER GUIDE and PUB OF THE YEAR

Jo reported that we have 19 nominations made online; but some of these were not completed correctly. Jo will provide the list to those that have expressed an interest in judging (with a copy being held on file) in order that licensees are not aware their pub is being judged. The list will be checked against current membership records to ensure that judges and proposers are eligible.

The current list is embargoed until 12th September when the new guide is published.

BEER FESTIVAL UPDATE

Jo reported that the previous figures from Jez were incorrect; but these have been audited by Debbie and we are submitting correct figures to HQ soon. The rent is increasing at the Winter Gardens again this year, but only by around **REMOVED**.

The first meeting of the 2020 organising committee is next Monday, 10th September, at the Conqueror. Jo asked if anyone was interested in stepping into the role of Festival Organiser as she may not be at full fitness next Easter following scheduled surgery later this year.

EDUCATION, LEARNING and DISCOVERY

Mike attended GBBF on the Learning and Discovery zone as a volunteer. The area was always busy and well attended by drinkers from all over the world. Mike is hoping to resurrect something similar at the Thanet Festival 2020.

AOB

TW – CBOB; there was some confusion as to what happens after the local judging. Can we ask Kevin to come and speak to the branch about the process?

BT – Volunteered for the first time at GBBF this year; he recommends this to all.

Next Meetings:

Monday 18th November – Swan, Westgate

Saturday 18th January – Ramsgate Brewery Tap

The meeting closed at 22:07