

CAMRA – Richmond & Hounslow Branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Thursday 28 April 2011

Minutes of meeting at the Waterman's Arms, Richmond

- 1 Persons present: Andy Pirson, Roy Hurry, Brian Kirton, George Gimber, Charles Owens, John Austin, Martin Mathews, Sylvie Marie, Paul Leonard, Colin Rose, Hugh Springall, Bryan Betts, Noel Rice, Ian Sutherland, Paul Manning, Stuart and James Murray.
- 2 Apologies for Absence: Helma Betts, Ola Piercy, Steve Williams, Nick Mullhall and Cathy Almond.
- 3 Minutes of the Last Meeting: These had been circulated on the Google group and web site and hard copies were available for the meeting. The minutes were accepted unaltered.
 - a. Paul Leonard raised the issue of a list of disabled access/egress friendly pubs, which remains under consideration by the branch.
- 4 Chairman's Report: Roy welcomed all present. Roy pointed out that he was standing down as Chairman as he had volunteered to do it for one year, having noticed from attending the LLC meetings that are branch were not doing all the things that other branches were doing and that this needed bringing up to date. This year we have contributed, amongst other things, to the Price Survey and best bottled beer and best beer in Britain nominations. We have not put forward nominations for The John Young Memorial Award or Campaigner of the Year. With a small branch, we have difficulties filling committee and sub-committee posts (Ealing Beer Festival having over 20 people on its committee for example). At the end of Roy's address, John Austin moved for a vote of thanks for Roy's year in office which was supported unanimously.
- 5 Treasurer's Report: Andy presented accounts for the branch and for the beer festival and took questions from the floor. Bryan asked if the deposit for the festival from 2010 had been lost, Andy answered that it had. There was a discussion about holding funds in our accounts. Charles gave the situation from the CAMRA rules, which state that anything over £250 held by a branch should be forwarded to central funds and that that had been ratified at the recent AGM in Sheffield. Branches are supposed to apply for funds from the central reserve as needed. Whilst the need to support CAMRA is accepted a paramount, clearly this is unworkable and over bureaucratic for those running beer festivals and it was felt that the amount needs to be raised significantly. The beer festival budget needs to be submitted soon and £300 has to be found to cover insurance, which can be done by moving existing money between accounts. The accounts were accepted. Proposed by Bryan, seconded by Charles.

- 6 Appointment of Auditor: Paul Manning was reappointed. Proposed Andy and seconded by Brian.
- 7 Secretary's Report: Charles reported that he had attended various functions and meetings including the London pub of the year judges' briefing and would hopefully be putting out a visits schedule next week (this has been delayed by one branch being very late in selecting its pub of the year). Last year's judging was completed on time and our No. 1 selection, The Harp, Chandos Place, WC2, went on to win not only London PotY but also became the first London pub ever to win the national title. All mandatory reports to HQ etc. for this year had been submitted on time either by Charles or Roy. Richmond and Hounslow Branch has completed rather more reports than many branches (see Roy's report above).
- 8 Membership Secretary's Report: Andy submitted a written report. A discussion on the peaks and troughs during the year and the generally increasing membership. Whilst it was accepted that many members join in order to support the ideals of CAMRA in general, ideas to promote active branch membership are sought. Roy asked if part of the number fluctuations was due to ironing out discrepancies in members actual addresses, Andy replied that this had had some effect but more impact was due to people joining by cheque at or following the GBBF and failing to renew. John asked why the figures showed young members as under-26 rather than under 30, which is current policy. Andy replied that this is due to how the reports on the newish membership database were constructed.



NBSS summary
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(Membership rates also use 26 as a pivot point.)

- 9 Social Secretary's Report: Brian reported on monthly meetings, which have developed into one crawl, one single pub social and a branch meeting. Not all have been especially well attended e.g. the darts and pools nights. Any ideas for events to Brian please. Roy mentioned that Kingston and Leatherhead are doing veteran bus trips to Ardingly (Sussex) Vintage vehicles fair where there is a CAMRA beer tent on 9 July and they have invited us along (we used to do this but the prices went up considerably) and places are be available at £18 (coach only, £15 for OAPs and £10 for bar volunteers). Martin mentioned that North Surrey regularly have spaces on their coach trips setting off from Egham. Paul mentioned successful brewery visits needed a good selection of beers and preferably a brewer explaining their processes. He asked if we have e-mail addresses for all members. Roy explained that we aspire to an e-newsletter but do not have a compiler nor a list of e-mail addresses. Bryan suggested drawing down money from HQ for a mail shot (Andy estimated cost of postage at just over £250) but Brian explained that we had done this before with a very poor response. Charles mentioned a recent good practice paper that indicated use of Twitter was effective, Bryan pointed out that this would need maintenance. George advocated expansion of the use of e-systems but warned of costs.
Action: Charles to write to local press to encourage members to join the Google group by using the feedback form on our website. (Paul added that they should be asked for their mobile phone numbers for texting).

- 10 Pub Records Officer's/Webmaster's Report: George provided a written report to members, which was discussed and took questions from the floor. George particularly pointed out the achievements at The Magpie and Crown (Brentford), Red Lion (Isleworth), Lass or Richmond Hill (Richmond), Masons' Arms (Teddington) and Rifleman (Twickenham). George pointed out the positive attitude of both councils, particularly Richmond in opposing change of use (on the dual basis of loss of public amenity and also not fulfilling the requirement to increase housing density in new developments) and the application of CAMRA's pub viability test. Martin proposed a vote of thanks to George for his work and



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Roy stated that George's report was the best ever, all agreed.



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- 11 Beer Festival Report: Brian Kirton. The hall is booked. Most posts are filled. We are still negotiating on the 300 person fire limit but can submit a budget based on this number (there was a discussion on this matter). A joint meeting at York House will be arranged. Please e-mail Brian if interested in helping (you do not have to be members of this branch). We need a beer festival to ensure the financial well-being of the branch and to publicise ourselves locally and nationally. The festival will run Thursday 27 October 1700 to 2230 and Friday and Saturday following 1100 to 2230.

- 12 Publicity Officer's Report: John presented a written report and augmented this



Publicity and Public
Affairs Officers Report

with an oral report.

- 13 Brewery Liaison Officer's Report: John presented a written report and augmented this with an oral report. Twickenham Fine Ales are looking to buy a pub but



BLO report for AGM
April 2011.doc

further comment is curtailed due to commercial sensitivity.

- 14 Nominations for Committee: All the current committee were willing to continue plus James Murray and Bryan Betts. This led to a discussion and procedural discussion leading to the next agenda item – amendment to constitution – being brought forward.

- 15 Amendments to constitution. The original proposal (Proposer Roy seconded by Charles) sought to amend the branch area to that which followed the last boundary changes. The amendment proposal sought to increase the committee to 8 from 7 as several members have more than one CAMRA suggested role (which formed part of a much longer discussion). Proposed by Andy, seconded

by Brian. Both the amendment and proposal were overwhelmingly passed. This will be subject to ratification via the regional director (Kimberly Martin). This allowed all eight candidates to be put on the committee for 2011/12. (*Note: this change has now been approved.*)

16 Any Other Business:

- a. Charles Owens proposed that the lead judge for London PotY be allowed travel expenses of up to the value of a pan-London travel pass (currently £8) per day. Seconded by Roy. This was passed after discussion and a vote. (*Note: Kimberley Martin has researched this with HQ and there is already a provision to pay these expenses from HQ and she has undertaken to collate claims and bring this to the attention of other London PotY lead tasters. This amendment is therefore dispensed with as unnecessary.*)
- b. Opposing change of use, The Railway, Hampton Wick – George Gimber: We have successfully helped to have the planning application turned down and written a further letter of objection respecting the appeal.
- c. Charles proposed taking a stand at the Friends of Twickenham Green Festival (at no cost and adjoining the real ale bar, and with support of The Friends and Licensee of the bar). This was accepted in principle for development by the committee. John offered use of his gazebo.
- d. Involvement in 3rd party, for profit beer festivals. Andy proposed that we have a branch policy not to be involved in these. Charles seconded the motion. Both spoke to the motion and it was passed with none against and several abstentions.
- e. Paul Leonard raised the issue of the recent “Barefoot Consultation and Conference” in Twickenham in which he took part. He has now been selected for the Twickenham advisory panel and hopes to promote CAMRA principles in developing the strategic blueprint to improve the town.

17 The meeting ended at 10.57 pm.