

CAMRA – RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the Roebuck Public House, Richmond Hill, Richmond, on Thursday 16 May 2013. The Meeting commenced at 8.12 pm.

1. PRESENT: Charles Owens (Chair), Roy Hurry (Minutes), George Gimber, Peter Sandwell, Ola Piercy, Colin Rose, John Austin, Andy Pirson, Stewart Murray, James Murray, Geoff Strawbridge (London Regional Secretary), John Lisle (guest), Paul Leonard (from 10.05pm)

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Hugh Springall, Martin Matthews, Sylvie Marie, Paul Manning, Cathy Almond.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 26 April 2012 at the Prince of Wales, Twickenham, were circulated and their acceptance was proposed by John Austin, seconded by Charles Owens, and agreed.

3. There were no Matters Arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S & BEER FESTIVAL ORGANISER'S JOINT REPORT:

Charles Owens' report was circulated (attached).

There were no Matters Arising.

5. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE:

There being no nominations, current committee members were returned unopposed, with the exception of George Gimber who wanted to stand down (see Pubs Officer's Report). It was assumed that Jim Whewell would continue, giving a new Committee of 7 persons (the Branch Constitution allows up to 9), being:

Charles Owens, Roy Hurry, Andy Pirson, John Austin, Stewart Murray, James Murray, Jim Whewell

0. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

There was no report as the office was currently unfilled.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Andy Pirson circulated the printed audited accounts for the past year (to 5 May) for both the regular Branch activities and for the Beer Festival.

The regular Branch accounts showed a surplus on the year's activities of £83.00 and cash-in-hand/bank of £512.14.

The Beer Festival Account showed a surplus on the 2012 Festival of £4834.17, of which £3500.00 had been forwarded to 'HQ', and £1281.96 set aside for Branch funds, leaving a surplus for the accounting period of £52.21.

Some questions asked under Matters Arising were duly answered.

0. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

It was unanimously agreed that Paul Manning continue as Auditor.

7. PUBS OFFICER'S & WEBMASTER'S JOINT REPORT:

George Gimber's report was circulated (attached).

Under Matters Arising Geoff Strawbridge complimented George on all that he had done so capably

and professionally with data compilation and transmissions, particularly in respect of the GBG submissions and the WhatPub database.

8. SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Roy Hurry read out his report (attached).

9. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Stewart Murray said that Branch membership had shown a small increase over the year, and interestingly the 'category' showing the biggest increase was 'Retired'. We need to address particularly the recruitment of younger members.

10. YOUNG MEMBERS' CONTACT'S REPORT:

James Murray reported that four events had been arranged since last April, but attendance had been disappointing. A possible future option might be a joint event with Kingston & Leatherhead Branch. James was thanked for all his efforts.

11. BREWERY LIAISON OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Stewart Murray said that the last year had been one of consolidation for The Botanist, who now had a selection of twelve different regular or seasonal beers, although not many seasonal beers had appeared so far this year.

John Austin read out his report on Twickenham Fine Ales (attached).

12. PRESS/PUBLICITY OFFICER'S & PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER'S JOINT REPORT:

John Austin read out his report (attached).

13. CIDER REP'S REPORT:

There was no report available.

14. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:

A Motion was proposed by Charles Owens, seconded by Roy Hurry, that Item No.6 in the Branch Constitution be changed from its current wording:

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting shall be held once in every year and fifteen months shall not elapse between one Annual General Meeting and the next. Only members of the Branch and Directors of CAMRA or their duly appointed representatives shall be entitled to vote at the Branch Annual General Meeting.

The business to be conducted at the Annual General Meeting shall include:-

the approval of the Accounts of the Branch

the election of officials

the appointment of Auditors.

At least twenty-eight [28] days notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members of the Branch and to the Directors of CAMRA either by post or by a CAMRA publication which in the ordinary course of events will give sufficient notice. A quorum for the Branch Annual General Meeting shall be seven [7] members present, unless previously approved by the Regional Director or the Directors of CAMRA

to (see *italics*):

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting shall be held once in every year and fifteen months shall not elapse between one Annual General Meeting and the next. Only members of the Branch and Directors of CAMRA or their duly appointed representatives shall be entitled to vote at the Branch Annual General Meeting.

The business to be conducted at the Annual General Meeting shall include:-

- the approval of the Accounts of the Branch
- the election of *Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and other Branch Committee members*
- the appointment of Auditors.

At least twenty-eight [28] days notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members of the Branch and to the Directors of CAMRA either by post or by a CAMRA publication which in the ordinary course of events will give sufficient notice. A quorum for the Branch Annual General Meeting shall be seven [7] members present, unless previously approved by the Regional Director or the Directors of CAMRA

The Motion was carried unanimously, to take effect from next year's AGM.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Charles Owens proposed that the Branch should make two annual awards, in addition to the existing 'Pub of the Year' award, as and when suitable candidates are identified, these being:

- a) Most Improved Licensed Premises
- b) To recognise achievement by individuals or groups either in trade or in campaigning

This was agreed by a 'show of hands'.

Charles Owens asked for the Meeting's agreement to the Committee's wish to do a newsletter mail-out to all Branch members some time this year at a likely cost of around £500.00. This was agreed by a 'show of hands', as was the recommendation that costs should be from existing Branch funds rather than making a claim for same from 'HQ'.

There being no further business, [the Meeting closed at 10.30pm.](#)

RAH

ATTACHMENTS

Richmond and Hounslow CAMRA

Chair's Report for the 2013 AGM

My year again started with the London Pub of the Year Judges meeting, which led in due course to visiting all the candidates and judging them and the wash up meeting to finalise the winner.

Our Branch AGM followed as were the various Branch business and beer festival meetings during the year, the majority of which I was able to attend. Minutes were taken at all meetings.

Following the AGM, I have attended all the London Liaison Committee meetings, minutes and summaries of which have been circulated.

I attended the launch of "London City of Beer" at Ealing beer festival. With Bryan Betts and others, I contributed to the Olympic Games special edition of London Drinker.

I again collated the votes for our Branch Pub of the year and presented the results to the committee for a final decision that saw The Sussex Arms, Twickenham victorious. The same premises also won the London and National Cider PotY awards.

In the run up to our festival, I wrote all the relevant health and safety policies, etc., which were required by Richmond Council and CAMRA HQ. Both accepted the first submitted drafts. I attended all the main days of the festival in October and recorded attendance and Health and Safety Issues. Happily, there were no reportable incidents, although one person had to be ejected by police for objectionable behaviour. One person had an adverse reaction to alcohol apparently due to prescribed medication but was removed by his friends and did not require hospitalisation.

In the latter part of the year, I organised the voting and comments for licensed premises for consideration to be included in the Good Beer Guide, which were presented to the committee for decisions and short listing. All descriptions were completed and submitted with George Gimber's considerable assistance within HQ deadlines. Whilst the results are embargoed until the GBG is printed, this year's list again reflects improvements in the trade as a whole and what can be done to improve pubs, even where certain pub companies had written off as unviable.

I set some aims at the beginning of the year and have been successful in increasing the number of venues taking London Drinker. We campaigned against the change of use of the Charlie Butler in Mortlake, initially successfully but the pub was demolished following a public enquiry. We also had several letters published in the local press and lobbied on several issues including the now defunct beer escalator taxation. I also attended the mass lobby of parliament with Iain Sutherland.

Unfortunately, I have been somewhat inactive of late due to an operation, which meant that I could not attend the National AGM as planned. I would like to thank all of the rest of the committee for filling in my absence. I offer particular thanks to Roy Hurry, who has taken on several roles and Paul Leonard for stepping in to do minutes when available.

Lastly I should like to give a very big thank you to George Gimber, who is stepping down from the committee but has offered to continue as our web master.

Cheers,

Charles Owens, chair 2012/13

CAMRA - Richmond & Hounslow Branch

Branch AGM - Thursday 16th May 2013

Held at the Roebuck, 130 Richmond Hill, Richmond.

Pub Records Officer's & Webmaster's Report

Records

Since my previous AGM report HOPS (a CAMRA approved online database) now contain a comprehensive record of the pubs in our branch area. Pictures of all (~260, with a few exceptions) have now been prepared and up-loaded. It should be noted that many of these pubs have now closed or ceased to exist and have been included for historic interest reasons. Good Beer guide descriptions have been used with many expanded with additional information. I have also endeavoured to provide some sort of description to as many remaining pubs as possible from information gleaned from local history books, personal visits, pub guides and online searches etc. At present we only have comprehensive data (beer range, opening times, description, and facilities) on pubs that have been surveyed for the Good Beer Guide plus a number of additional pubs that I have reviewed or surveyed. To complete our input to the CAMRAHOPS database a comprehensive survey will be needed for all other pubs and bars. This is a lot of work that will require a joint effort from our branch members to complete.

The latest statistics for our branch published for the CAMRA Pubs Online pub database are: 170 pubs serving real ale. 98% pubs listed have basic details. 68% of pubs have full details. The branch has been given Green status.

To complement the data in HOPS or to present the information in a more presentable usable form I have also prepared some additional reference documents (Word & Excel):

RH-pubs-supplementary-data Lists names of pub companies and changes to pub names

BranchPubsAddressList Information duplicated in HOPS but useful

List-of-lost-pubs A quick and useful reference

RH-pubIDs This lists all ID numbers allocated to branch pubs

RH-pubs-surveys-log Keeps a record when a pub has been surveyed or reviewed - inc names of tenants/mgrs. This is an essential log of when and what pubs have been visited and it needs to be kept up to date to help plan/coordinate future pub survey visits.

Recent News: The long term developer of the HOPS system has been Rob Nicholson (Macclesfield & East Cheshire branch). After many years of service Rob has decided to step down as HOPS developer. This will not have an immediate impact on our use of the HOPS system. However, as a result of Rob's decision; the system is left without a developer to implement planned updates such as automatic synchronising with WhatPub.com. It's hoped that a new developer can be found from within the HOPS community to continue Rob's work.

WhatPub.com

After CAMRA launched its new national pub website called 'WhatPub' to all members last September I've been transferring our Branch HOPS data into it, including photographs (easier said than done!). WhatPub.com is currently near to listing 32,000 pubs nationally serving real ale. The 'WhatPub' website aims to become the best, most comprehensive, online pub listing which all pub-goers can use.

Pubs and Bars

As stated in previous reports, with so much change taking place in the pub trade keeping track of what's happening over the entire branch area has been a demanding task and as such many changes will inevitably go un-recorded. We now estimate to have about 202 still open (or about to open) today, but this figure may be less.

Here is some good news. During the last 12 months we have seen two pubs that had been closed for a number of years reopen with cask beer on the bar. The Waldegrave Arms reopened as a Free house after 6 years of closure, and the Ranch now renamed Ales & Tails for 3 years. More good news; The Sussex Arms was voted our Pub of the Year but also London & National Cider Pub of the Year 2012. Presentation certificates were presented to Peter Brew and Ash Zobel.

The bad news is that we have seen three pubs demolished; George & Dragon - Brentford, Queen Dowager - Teddington & Charlie Butler in Mortlake. Also two pubs in Hounslow and one in Feltham converted to supermarkets; Warren and the Duke of Wellington plus Crown & Sceptre. Also, the following pubs/bars are known to have ceased trading since the last AGM and their future looks uncertain: Dukes Head, Hampton, Windmill, Hounslow, Koyote Bar in Twickenham.

Developers are still stalking our pubs so expect more to be lost in the future.

Brief summary of what's been reported over the past year.

See Branch News on the website for more information.

Brentford

- The **George & Dragon** at 29 London Road, Brentford, was demolished end of Feb 2013.

Feltham

- The former **Crown & Sceptre** pub that closed in 2009 is to become a Tesco Express. Planning permission was approved by Hounslow Council April 2012.

Hampton

- The **Dukes Head** in Hampton is now closed and boarded up with a 'Freehold for sale' notice from AG&G installed.

Hampton Court

- The **Liongate Hotel, Restaurant & Bar** at 1 Lion Gate, Hampton Court Road, was closed and boarded up.
- The **Cardinal Wolsey** on Hampton Court Road has been closed since Aug 2011. The pub is now displaying a sign "Pub to let on flexible terms" from Shepherd Neame.

Hampton Hill

- Permission for change of use from A4 (public house) to A5 (take away) was finally approved converting the **Jenny Lind** at 80 High Street into a KFC that opened in Dec last year.

Hanworth

- Approval granted for the demolition of the **New Moon** at 50 Main St, and the erection of a new 3 storey residential development.

Hounslow

- The **Warren** at 419 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, which has been vacant since around November 2010 has now been converted into a Tesco Express. See front page of the Dec/Jan LD.
- The **Cross Lances** (Fullers) at 236 Hanworth Rd, under the new tenants Adie Line & Mike Stevens.
- Hounslow Council granted consent for conversion and mixed use classes of what was **The Beaver** that closed in 2009 and located at 51 Salisbury Rd.
- AG&G are advertising a Freehold development opportunity for the **Windsor Castle** at 152 Bath Rd.
- The **Windmill** at 45 Bell Rd is displaying a notice on the window that states 'Closed until further notice'. AG&G are advertising this pub 'for sale or to let'. The property is to be sold freehold with vacant possession on an unconditional basis.

Isleworth

- The **Castle** a large traditional landmark pub owned by Young's PubCo has been displaying a 'To Let' sign. This pub considered 'under threat' as it's not trading too well.
- The **Rose & Crown** (Grade II listed) has been closed and boarded up since 2008. On the 2nd Jan a planning application for the demolition of the coach house and existing single storey rear extension to the main building, internal alterations and subsequent conversion into 3 houses is still pending a decision by Hounslow Council.

Mortlake

- On 11th July 2012 Landguard Investments Ltd closed and boarded-up the **Charlie Butler** at 40 Mortlake High Street. The developer has now demolished the pub (built in 1968 by Young's & Co) and is to redevelop the site for a four-storey residential building.

Richmond

- One Paradise Road, 1 Paradise Rd. Richmond, reopened as the '**Rincòn - bar español**'. No real ale. The new owners also own Don Fernando's tapas restaurant near the Station.
- The **Shaftesbury Arms** was completely transformed including the garden at the back by Young's & Co. The pub bears no resemblance to the original layout. The dark wood panelling that remains has been stripped and left unfinished. Outside has been repainted grey and the name changed to The Shaftesbury.
- The **Hope** at 115-117 Kew Road, Richmond was repainted and reopened 18th May 2012.
- The **Mitre** at 20 St Mary's Grove, has been sold by Young's & Co to a private landlord and continues to trade as a pub free of tie. Its long-term future uncertain.

Teddington

- Sammy's at 172 High St reopened on 22nd September 2012 as the **Royal Oak Bar & Restaurant**
- The **Hogarth** at 58 Broad St closed on 1st June 2012 for a week's refurbishment and reopened with new tenants.
- After being closed for 6 years, the **Waldegrave Arms** finally reopening as a FREE House with cask beer on Friday 24th August 2012.
- The **Bloated Mallard TW11** at 3 Victoria Road closed on the 20th April 2013. The new tenant from the Hand Made Pubs group has started a major refurbishment of the premises before reopening as The Railway in June 2013.
- Dermot McCann the long-standing and respected tenant of the **Adelaide** at 57 Park Rd has retired. The new tenant from 16th April is Mariana Carciun who was the bar manager.
- La Cloche at The **Lion** in Wick Rd, Teddington have replaced Fuller's London Pride with Hogs Back T.E.A. Other real ales are Sharp's Doom Bar and Twickenham Naked Ladies.

Twickenham

- The **Crown** at 174 Richmond Road reopened on Tuesday 14th May after an extensive refurbishment. Unconfirmed report suggests that 4 real ales are being served.
- The **Mulberry** at 65 Richmond Rd closed. The building is known to be in poor condition and not likely to reopen.
- The Ranch on 29/31 York Street (previously known as the Hook, Line & Sinker) that's been closed for about 3 years, re-opened as **Ales & Tails**, real ale, craft beer and cocktail house.
- The Marble Hill (ex-Rising Sun) at 277 Richmond Rd was sold off by Young's & Co. The pub is now a Free house and been renamed the **Aleksander** after the new owner's (Roger and Magdalena Davy) two-year-old son.
- The **Koyote Bar** at 33-35 York Street is up for sale through AG&G for £600k.
- The **Sussex Arms** was voted Branch PotY and London & National Cider Pub of the Year 2012. A presentation certificate was presented by Ian White (Regional Cider Co-ordinator) to Peter Brew and Ash Zobel.
- On the 20th March 2013 Young's & Co finally sold the **Old Anchor** in Twickenham to an investment company who sold on to a property developer. The new owners have given the Landlord (Barry

Reilly) a 6 month 'Tenancy at Will' whilst they explore options, so the pub is now a Free House, but its future after September is uncertain.

- The **Rugby Inn** at 11 London Rd, that's been ('temporarily') closed for some time, is receiving some refurbishment as the outside has been repainted. The new tenant is Alan Ricketts who was running the Three Kings in Twickenham. His wife Claire is to continue to run this pub.

Information on all pubs and bars in our area is available online at: www.camrahops.com.

Reporting

Capital Pub Check reports have been regularly sent to maintain *London Drinker's* records.

Our branch covers a wide area and I'm sure many changes to our pubs still remain unreported. Maintaining branch pub records is relying on just a few people reporting news of changes. If you're reading this and know of a change of beer range, opening times, management, closure etc. please report it to the Branch. This information will give the branch a better perspective of what's happening to our pubs and the availability of real ale that can also be made available to a wider audience via the web site, and also in the regular Capital Pub Check section of the London Drinker Magazine. It also helps to inform the branch when it comes to Campaigning Strategy.

Website

The web site has been constantly maintained and has continued to be a popular reference for users. Web statistics as reported by the hosting company (1&1) have indicated the following total visits (previous year in brackets) to our web site www.rhcamra.org.uk

Month Unique visits

April 2013 7771 (7350)

March 2013 7749 (5420)

February 2013 6862 (5201)

January 2013 7444 (5809)

December 2012 7503 (6558)

November 2012 8324 (6629)

Month Unique visits

October 2012 14063 (13153) *

September 2012 7639 (10543)

August 2012 7390 (9868)

July 2012 7539 (8627)

June 2012 5895 (6935)

May 2012 6884 (8200)

** This is the month of the Twickenham Beer Festival.*

Note. At present the branch website is sharing its hosting with an unrelated company, (that I've connections with) and is, in effect, getting a free ride. This situation still needs to be corrected in the longer term and the domain URL registered with CAMRA HQ and not me as at present. This will incur some annual hosting costs to the branch when it is implemented, however.

Final note

This will be my last report. After a number of years in the role I will be standing down from the Committee as Pub Records Officer for the Branch at this AGM. I will, however, continue to (unless suitable volunteers wish to take up these tasks):

- a. Maintain the branch website and HOPS/WhatPub databases, but only on the basis of information received.
- b. Update the CAMRA National Online Editorial System for the next Good Beer Guide entries.

George Gimber

Pub Records Officer & Webmaster

CAMRA RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW - AGM, Thu 16 May 2013

Social Secretary's Report

No brewery visits have been made in the last year.

Attempts were made to agree a date with By The Horns Brewery to visit and present their 'Beer of the Festival' certificate, but no date was forthcoming.

We have therefore arranged the 'Festival Staff' outing for 29 June to visit the Langham Brewery. The number of 'acceptors' to date is only 21, so we will very likely have space for non-staff at a charge of £20.00.

Attendance at 'Socials' in the branch area has been very disappointing. Similarly numbers at Branch Meetings have been very low – one meeting at The Botanist – which included a talk by the brewer -did not attract any non-Committee members apart from Paul Leonard who was taking the Minutes.

In view of this a decision was made to reduce the number of Branch Meetings – missing some months unless there is a good reason to hold one, such as 'GBG final selection'.

We have to address the matter of membership activation urgently – and that will be addressed under 'Any Other Business' tonight.

Roy Hurry,
Social Secretary

Public Affairs and Publicity Officer's Report

for R & H CAMRA AGM 2013

My reports on the Twickenham Beer and Cider Festival, the Branch Pub of the Year, and the visit to Hammerpot Brewery were all published in **London Drinker**.

My comments on pub closures in the Branch and later the importance of pubs in the local community were published in the **Hounslow Chronicle**. In contrast, the **Richmond and Twickenham Times** seems determined not to mention any local Camra activities, not even the Beer and Cider Festival, or Pub of the Year, despite having copy and photos provided by me.

As before, I produced the **Festival programme**, having secured advertising from local pubs, breweries shops etc.

We have during the year contacted the local MP, Dr Vince Cable, on behalf of CAMRA in respect of early day motions, the beer tie, pub closures and the beer duty escalator.

Charles, our Chairman, has written on several occasions to the Rich and Twick about national issues and campaigns

Current activity led by CAMRA HQ is about the "Fair Deal For Your Local: Time for Pubco Reform" campaign

John Austin

Public Affairs and Publicity Officer

BLO Report for Twickenham Fine Ales. AGM 2013

TFA finally moved in to their new premises at 18 Mereway Rd at the end of 2012 having suffered a number of delays with equipment suppliers etc.

The new 25 barrel facility has plenty of space for brewing, storage of raw materials and beer (in cold storage), offices, etc. and still has room for additional equipment (a bottling line?)

Their old 10-barrel plant was sold to Spain and Tom Madeiros will be going out to help the buyers with their initial brewing.

The new brewery has enabled TFA at last to satisfy demand for their beers, as limited output has been a cause for concern in the past 2 or 3 years. Output is currently around 150 to 160 casks per week.

“Vanguard” (4.1% abv) was introduced early this year, and “Original” is no longer brewed. “Naked Ladies” is consistently the best seller.

On the staffing side, Tom Madeiros is still there as head brewer (**Thank Goodness!**).

TFA are now seeking a new brewing assistant, as the last one is out of action for some months due to surgery.

Ben Norman was engaged during the year to take on Sales and Marketing.

Shareholders can expect their first dividend this year, I believe. I said this last year, but I was clearly over-optimistic!

A list of TFA 's beers is attached.

Cheers,

John Austin

R & H Brewery Liaison Officer