

CAMRA - RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at The Hope, Richmond, on Thursday 21st April 2016. The Meeting commenced at 8:15pm

1. Present:

Branch Members: Charles Owens (Chair), James Murray (Minutes), Stewart Murray, Hugh Springall, Don Patteon, Steve McGrail, Tony Davies, Paul Leonard, George Gimber, Mike Sheldon, Zainab Hafidh-Hurry, Iain Sutherland, Andy Pirson, Roy Hurry, Andrew Bell-Wright, Danny Walsh, John Austin, Paul Saunderson, Bob Gordon, Paul Firby

Also attended: Roy Tunstall (London Regional Secretary), Geoff Strawbridge (London Regional Director), John Lisle (Guest), Anthea Lisle (Guest), Elaine Davies (non-member)

Charles Owens welcomed those present.

Apologies: Martin Matthews, Sylvie Marie, Cathy Almond, Doug Scott, Giesla White, Sarah Bell-Wright

2. Minutes Of The Last ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Thursday 23rd April, 2015 at The Cabbage Patch, Twickenham were circulated and acceptance was proposed by Andy Pirson and seconded by John Austin, this was agreed by a show of hands.

Matters Arising: CO highlighted CAMRA's ACV status campaign as being a success and having an effect in the branch area too, with a number of pubs either achieving ACV status or being recommended to receive ACV status. He also mentioned thanks to members who helped distribute copies of the London Drinker to different areas of the branch, which previously did not have a designated deliverer.

3. Chairman's Report:

Charles Owens gave his report (attached)
There were no **Matters Arising**.

4. Secretary's Report:

James Murray confirmed that all Branch, Committee and Beer Festival Sub-Committee Meetings had been constitutionally called and duly minuted.

There were no **Matters Arising**.

5. Membership Secretary's Report:

Stewart Murray's gave his report (attached) . The report showed a small net increase in Branch Membership of 3 from 933 to 936.

There were no **Matters Arising**.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Andy Pirson circulated and printed audited accounts for the past year (to 31 March 2016) for both regular Branch activities and the Beer Festival.

The Branch bank account showed a balance of £393.66, with a total expenditure for the year of £22.92.

Adoption of Branch accounts was proposed by Iain Sutherland and seconded by Paul Leonard, and agreed by a unanimous show of hands.

Beer Festival accounts were similarly adopted and proposed by John Austin and seconded by Andrew Bell-Wright, and again agreed by a unanimous show of hands.

Geoff Strawbridge complimented the work in which AP had undertaken in collating and finalising the accounts.

7. Appointment of Auditor

The continuing appointment of Paul Manning was proposed by Andy Pirson, and seconded by Iain Sutherland, and was agreed by a show of hands.

8. Officer's Reports

Reports were made verbally or tabled by the Following Branch Officers:

- Pubs Preservation and Beer Festival Organiser - Charles Owens
- Social Secretary and Branch Contact - Roy Hurry - see attached report
- Pubs Officer - Paul Firby
- Pubs and Publicity Officer - John Austin - see attached report
- Webmaster and Pubs Database Officer - George Gimber
- Cider Representative - Bob Gordon
- Branch Based Brewery Liaison Officers
 1. John Austin - Twickenham Fine Ales - see attached report
 2. Paul Firby - Kew Brewery
 3. Doug Scott - Reunion Ales, Hanworth
- National Beer Scoring Scheme Officer - Andy Pirson

9. Nominations for Committee

Charles Owens (Chairman), James Murray (Secretary), Andy Pirson (Treasurer) and Stewart Murray (Membership Secretary) were willing to continue in their current positions, and were all proposed by Iain Sutherland and seconded by Tony Davies. Paul Firby gave notice that he would be standing down as Pubs Officer, but would continue to write and circulate the branch's newsletter.

10. Proposed Changes to the Branch Constitution

The following amendments to the branch constitution were discussed and agreed. (the constitution had been circulated to members before the meeting began, with the proposed changes highlighted in RED.)

- Paragraph 3 - REGULATIONS - "National Executive of CAMRA" formerly directors of CAMRA.
- Paragraph 4 - MEMBERSHIP - "Allocated to the branch" not "that" branch.
- Paragraph 4a - "If any member of the Branch shall cease to be a member of CAMRA, her/his membership of the Branch shall automatically terminate".
- Paragraph 5 - OPEN MEETINGS - "The Branch shall hold an open meeting *at least* once in every two calendar months"
- Paragraph 6 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS - The Business to be conducted at the Annual General Meeting shall include :- The approval of the *examined* accounts of the Branch and The appointment of *Examiners of Accounts* "
- Paragraph 7 - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS - to include the wording "to vote" - *Only persons entitled to vote at a Branch Annual General Meeting shall be entitled to vote at a Special General Meeting.*
- Paragraph 9 - COMMITTEE MEETINGS - "(note deletion of sub-paragraph)"
- Paragraph 10 - ELECTIONS - "In the event of a shortfall in nominations, proposals can be made and seconded by any member of the Branch at the AGM. Where the nominee is not present, written evidence or some other evidence of willingness of the nominee to stand is required."
- Paragraph 11 - FINANCES - "(note deleted words of "mainland of") section to be removed.
- Paragraph 12 - EXAMINATIONS OF ACCOUNTS - "independently examined" and "Accountant" wording agreed. "received, paid and" wording also agreed. Sentence 4 "member of the national executive" deletion of words "member of the". Wording for "Regional Finance Officer" was agreed.

11. Any Other Business

Paul Leonard suggested that all Twickenham Beer Festival and Annual General Meeting minutes should be recorded as historical items. George Gimber suggested that these should be archived on the Branch website.

Tony Davies gave details of the Second Hampton Beer Festival , which is being arranged for the weekend of 17/18th June. Flyers were provided to all members.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 22:49

Minutes by JM

ATTACHMENTS

Richmond and Hounslow Branch of CAMRA Chairman's report for AGM on 21 April 2016

Welcome to all members present. I will not repeat key points made in the submissions by other officers and again thank them all for their efforts over the last year. Thanks are due to all the past officers, who have kept us going for the last 40+ years.

Their reports reflect our success in maintaining branch membership numbers, remaining solvent, campaigning on a range of issues, and improving our communications via updated web site, social media and our e-newsletter.

We again had a successful beer and cider festival which was badly affected by the Rugby World Cup and rail closure (again) on Saturday but definitely worth doing if only to maintain continuity of the event and again thanks are due to everyone who helped in this endeavour.

Personal goals are to be more active around ACV applications, following our successful application for the Red Lion, Isleworth and ongoing discussions with Richmond Council respecting the Rising Sun, Hampton Hill. Whilst Hounslow recognise the validity of a local CAMRA Branch application, Richmond do not do so yet, setting them apart from the councils that have accepted and approved over 1,000 ACV applications from branches nationally.

I have attended the Beer Festival Road Show, several meetings, seminars and LLC meetings. I also completed the judging for all the London Pub of the Year contenders as lead judge.

Since expanding our communications, more members are suggesting candidates, voting or judging for the Good Beer Guide and our Pub of the Year. Well done to the Mason's Arms, Teddington for winning and the Sussex Arms, Twickenham as runner up for this year.

Unfortunately we were limited to 17 pubs in the GBG, to the exclusion of many fine licensed premises, which are better than some that I judge in London Pub of the Year. I know that this does cause disappointment to hard-working licensees and cellar people but we do try and be fair and to spread the premises across the Branch where possible but the reality is that if a pub scores less than a yearly average of 3 under the National Beer Scoring System, they are unlikely to be put forward.

We have seen the closure of several pubs, some reinvented as restaurants serving real ale or not. The trend to change pubs to supermarkets seems to have died off locally but this also has to do with market forces and the recovery of certain chains may see them expanding again and the threat they pose with loss-leading alcohol sales and taking over of pubs must not be forgotten.

By the end of this meeting, once the other officers have had their say, we can adopt three objectives for the year to come, which can be covered in any other business. However this is a CAMRA guideline, not a rule and we are empowered to decide and prioritise issues as locally needed.

Best wishes and cheers, Charles.

Richmond & Hounslow CAMRA

Annual General Meeting - Thursday 21 April 2016

Membership Secretary's Report

General

The following bullet points may be of interest. Please refer to the 'Branch Membership Figures' attachments and to the 'Membership Secretary's Report - April 2016' where necessary.

- * Over the last year (May 2015 to April 2016) Branch membership has decreased slightly from 938 to 936 members.
- * During this period I have despatched almost 300 letters, primarily by email but also by surface post, to:
 - * Welcome new members to CAMRA and to the Richmond and Hounslow Branch.
 - * Welcome members who have moved into our area to the Richmond and Hounslow Branch.
 - * Ask lapsed members to reconsider their departure from CAMRA.

Membership trends

- * Once again, membership growth has primarily been in the 'Single - Retired' category; this is particularly noticeable over the last three years.
- * Joint membership categories have seen a minor increase but numbers have generally been static.
- * The 'Single' membership category has again seen a larger than normal reduction in numbers with a loss of 20 members.
- * 'Under 26' membership has remained static.

* Other Single categories of membership have been generally been static.

* Most Branch members who left CAMRA:

* Did so at the expiry of their initial 12/15 month membership period.

* Had paid their subscription by cheque or cash.

Stewart Murray
Membership Secretary
20 April 2016

Public Affairs and Publicity Officer's Report
for R & H CAMRA AGM 2016

We had good coverage of the Twickenham Beer and Cider Festival from the **Richmond & Twickenham Times** and the **Hounslow Chronicle**, both in print and online.

I organised and erected the Festival banner in Church St. and the 25 laminated A5 Festival flyers on lamp columns.

As before, I produced and arranged the printing of the **Festival programme**, having secured advertising from local pubs, breweries, shops etc., which more than covered the total printing cost.

I attended a CAMRA workshop in London on, among other topics, Publicity and Promotion for Beer Festivals.

We have been in contact with the local MP, Tania Mathias, about beer duty reduction, cider levy, and the protection of pubs and tenants.

We have commented to the press on pubs under threat in Hounslow.

Cheers,

John Austin

Public Affairs and Publicity Officer

CAMRA RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW - AGM, Thu 21 April 2016

Social Secretary's Report

In the past year we had just the one 'brewery' visit – but this time not to a brewery, going instead to Warminster Maltings where we were shown around by the owner, Robin Appel, who gave us a talk on the production of malt and its future. This was primarily the Twickenham Beer Festival Staff Outing – but others came along too. Coupled with visits to Devizes and a couple of Wiltshire villages, this was an interesting and enjoyable 'day out'.

Last September we did a 'travelcard' tour around a selection of revitalised London pubs, which included some in Kennington, Islington, Canonbury, Highgate and Kentish Town, and that attracted some people from other Branches. This type of 'day out' is something we have done in the past – usually with some sort of theme to the day, and we will be doing another one in June (see below).

However attendance at other 'Socials' in the Branch area has been disappointing, whether single-pub events or evening crawls in a particular area.

Similarly numbers at Branch Meetings have been very low – mainly just the Committee and a few 'regulars' who are thanked for their participation and input.

Suggestions for events that might attract more of our 900+ Branch membership will be welcome.

You will know (by now) that last year's Twickenham Beer & Cider Festival was not the financial success that we had planned (*if one of the 'home' nations had been involved in the World Cup match at Twickenham on the Saturday it might have been a different story!*).

It has consequently been decided that we should not run to the expense of coach hire and a brewery visit for last year's Festival volunteer staff, but that we should hold a London 'travelcard' tour' on **Sat. 4 June** when participants will have to pay their own travel and 'refreshment' costs, but Festival staff coming along will be given some cash towards this as a 'thank you' for volunteering. However to qualify for this you will need to 'register' your participation with the Social Sec.

The 'theme' this time is likely to be pubs that are currently the 'Pub of the Year' of various London Branches, and might include locations as diverse as Petts Wood, East Greenwich, Hackney, Euston and Charing Cross.

Our Festival Staffing Officer will shortly be sending an email about this to all last year's volunteers.

Roy Hurry,
Social Secretary

CAMRA R&H Branch AGM 2016 BLO Report for Twickenham Fine Ales

Twickenham Fine Ales, now 12 years old and London's oldest microbrewery, is going from strength to strength. There are currently 11 staff. A recent visit, which I attended, of the CAMRA London Tasting Panel was written up and published in the April/May London Drinker by Christine Cryne.

It has a custom made 25BBL kit and six fermenters, so can brew over 50,000 pints a week. TFA now brew over 25 ales a year – 4 regulars, 4 seasonals and 12 monthly specials, a keg IPA (Tusk) and a few "one-offs" (plus several joint brews with other breweries).

The brewery now uses wet yeast and has recently installed a grinding mill. A multi cask automatic cask washer is kept busy! The beers can be found across London and some surrounding areas, with Naked Ladies now national in Enterprise Inns. Many awards have been won over the years. The latest was Gothick Dark which won Bronze in the Champion Beer of Britain Old Ale and Milds Category for CAMRA London and the South East Region.

The additional capacity at the brewery has led to a significant increase in beer destined for bottling, and so far, Naked Ladies, Sundancer, Grandstand, Redhead and Honey Dark have been bottled. Twickenham also brew Kew Garden's Golden and Honey Ales and Kew Steam Ale, for the London Water and Steam Museum, which can be bought in bottles at the respective venues. The latest news is that bottled Naked Ladies has been voted top choice among Majestic customers and will now be stocked nationwide. It beat competition from over 400 other beers.

TFA have recently secured a major contract to supply the supermarket Aldi with bottles of an own label ale to distribute nationwide.

Full details of all beers are on their website at www.twickenham-fine-ales.co.uk The brewery shop is open 6 days a week, and on England home rugby days, and Harlequins games, the brewery bar and food stalls are open before the kick off. It has become a well established pre-match meeting, drinking and eating venue.

Pre-booked brewery tours are available, and often sold out well in advance. (Cost: £15/person including tour, glass and 3 pints!)

I have regularly updated the CAMRA Brewery Information System with information and updates on TFA and its beers.

I participated in a meeting of all London BLOs.

Cheers,

John Austin

BLO for TWICKENHAM FINE ALES
