

Richmond & Hounslow CAMRA. AGM Minutes of Meeting

Annual General Meeting - Date, Location, Participants, Apologies for Absence, Start/Close Times

Date: 30 April 2019

Start Time: 20:00

Location: The Cabbage Patch, 67 London Road, Twickenham. TW1 3SJ

Participants

Charles Owens	(CO)	Philip Harrison	(PH)
Roy Hurry	(RH)	Sylvie Marie	(SM)
Andy Pirson	(AP)	Martin Mathews	(MM)
Stewart Murray	(SM)	Danny Walsh	(DW)
John Austin	(JA)	Bob Gordon	(RG)
Iain Sutherland	(IS)	Trevor Dawson	(TD)
George Gimber	(GG)	Paul Leonard	(PL)
Vince Webb	(VW)	Richard Northmore	(RN)

Apologies for Absence

Gisela White	Dave Brimner
Doug Scott	Tony Grimmer
Cathy Almond	
Geoff Strawbridge	
CAMRA London Regional Director	
Roy Tunstall	
CAMRA London Regional Secretary	

Close time: 20:56

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Minutes of Richmond and Hounslow Branch Annual General Meeting

CO opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at The Cabbage Patch, Twickenham on 30 April 2019 were tabled and accepted

Chair's Report for Richmond and Hounslow CAMRA AGM 2019

In my final report, please indulge me in mentioning some events that fall before this voting year but within the years that I have acted as chair. I will try not to steal the thunder of other post holders but apologise if I mention some topics in their remits and mention some of the stalwarts that have held the Branch together in my tenure.

Nothing that we have achieved could have been done without the support of our committee, Branch members and other volunteers. Those that have stepped in whilst I have been unavailable to attend regional meetings, seminars and rallies are very much thanked.

I have attended the vast majority of Regional Meetings, training courses and seminars in the last few years and have ensured that the Branch is represented and recognised for its achievements. I have addressed the General Conference three times on a variety of issues from pub preservation to traditional fruit augmented cider. I have attended and acted as rapporteur to both the super-regional conferences based in London.

George Gimber, whose excellent work over many years must be highlighted, will mention in his report the expansion of the Branch area but it should now be easier to negotiate with our two councils rather than having three branches involved. Whether more branch mergers or even closures will occur depends on the activity levels of the branches and, crucially, the ability to recruit active members into committee and support roles.

We have not suffered as much as others in the scale of pub closures but we have monitored planning applications and similar and assisted local support organisations. We also lobbied our councillors and MPs and seen significant changes in planning law as part of our National campaigns. One of the keys to preserving pubs is to prove that they are viable and have significant local support, which is not always the case.

Andy Pirson will report on Finances but it has been a pleasure to work with our volunteers for the Twickenham Beer and Cider Festival, which we managed to keep running and to contribute annually to CAMRA funds.

Stewart Murray reports on membership but must also be commended for continuing to put out timely e-mail shots of information to members on a diverse range of issues.

John Austin has performed several roles over the years from writing the festival programme to arranging this AGM venue.

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Roy Hurry has continued to do sterling work as secretary and social secretary and providing sage advice when necessary not just to the Branch but to regional and national officers too.

Lastly, thanks to all the committee and Branch members over the years, without whom there would be no campaigning. Thank you.

Charles Owens.

Secretary's Report:

RH confirmed that there were no issues to report.

Treasurer's Report:

AP tabled the R&H Branch 2018 accounts and other information.

AP also provided an insight to the 2018 TBF financials as well as beer, cider and glass sales together with TBF attendee numbers.

AP also raised the subject of the need for branch members to provide NBSS input.

Questions:

- IS wondered whether the increase in beer sales at the 2018 TBF might be due to the introduction of a cooling system. This was said to be unclear but perhaps more due to the increase in attendee Numbers.
- PH mentioned that there had been many positive comments on the use of beer cooling.
- RH attributed the increased attendance in part to the additional advertising which was implemented for the 2018 TBF.
- JA wondered about the lower attendance in 2017 however no clear reason was identified.

Appointment of Examiners of Accounts

The continued appointment of Paul Manning was proposed by AP and seconded by VW and approved unanimously by those present.

Membership Secretary's Report:

General

The following bullet points may be of interest. Please refer to the 'Branch Membership Figures' attachment and to the 'Membership Secretary's Report - April 2019' where necessary.

- Over the last year (May 2018 to April 2019) Branch membership has decreased from 1,131 to 1,070 members; a reduction of 61 people - approximately 5% of our strength.
- However, this significant reduction is predominantly because:

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- 30 members, all of whom had the Griffin Brewery as their membership address, did not renew their membership last July.
- Database cleansing of deceased members and additional in-year losses among our Retired members have further reduced numbers.
- An abrupt reduction of 19 members last November remains unexplained.
- During the period May 2018 to April 2019 I have despatched approximately 400 letters, primarily by email but also by surface post, to:
 - Welcome new members to CAMRA and to the Richmond and Hounslow Branch.
 - Welcome existing members who have moved into the Richmond and Hounslow Branch area.
 - Ask lapsed members to reconsider their departure from CAMRA.
- I now use the CAMRA Communications Tool to issue the Branch e-newsletter. This avoids any GDPR complications and ensures that the address list is up-to-date. The newsletter reaches some 75% to 80% of our membership. One or two newsletters are sent to members each month.

Membership trends

- Membership trends this year have been distorted by a number of non-recurring events. However, although it would seem that Branch membership remains reasonably stable there does seem to be a slow downward movement.
- Active participation by members in Branch events and NBSS scoring remains disappointingly low.
- Most Branch members who left CAMRA in the last year:
 - Did so at the expiry of their initial 12/15 month membership period.
 - Had paid their subscription by cheque or cash.

See Attachment 1 - BRANCH MEMBERSHIP FIGURES MAY 2018 TO APRIL 2019

Stewart Murray
Membership Secretary

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Press, Publicity and Public Affairs Officer Report:

JA said that he had helped to organise the TBF otherwise he had nothing further to report.

Social Secretary's Report

RH had nothing to report

Pub Campaigns Officer Report

TD told us that there have been a number of pubs closing and that he is in touch with Gareth Jones who is based in Wandsworth and is responsible for AVC's.

Pub Database Coordinator & Webmaster's Report

Pub Database Coordinator

Pub records are kept by the branch so that we can identify what pubs and bars we have trading in our allotted area. The information kept also helps with campaigning, Good Beer Guide selection, and enables our branch to advise CAMRA HQ when requested.

For those unfamiliar with this branch activity, this involves keeping up to date an online database system provided by CAMRA called Pubzilla and is populated by data supplied by each CAMRA Branch. Since 1st October 2017 there's been a significant change to the area covered by this Branch. The branch boundaries have for the first time been defined fully by the London boroughs where they reside rather than by postcode sectors or road boundaries. For our Branch this means we have acquired many additional pubs for both West London and West Middlesex Branches. Currently Pubzilla contains 414 entries (includes closed pubs). We have come a long way since the Branch originally started listing pubs on a Microsoft Word document.

The information collected in Pubzilla is used to populate the public website called WhatPub. It is quite comprehensive and also includes photographs, I and others have taken. This is an ongoing activity as pubs get redecorated, change name, or are reopened/redeveloped after a long closure, or new!

In my role of Pub Records Officer I'm constantly looking out for news and changes to our pubs. This information comes from conversations with pub landlords, staff and regulars, following pubs on Twitter, local papers and reports received from CAMRA members via the WhatPub feedback facility.

Our branch covers a wide area and I'm sure many changes to our pubs still remain unreported. Maintaining branch pub records relies on only 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 me or at a branch meeting. 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's Branch News section, and also, in the regular *WhatPub.com* section of the London Drinker Magazine. It also helps to inform the branch when it comes to Campaign Strategy.

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WhatPub.com

After CAMRA launched its new national pub website called 'WhatPub' to the public in September 2012 I've been receiving feedback from the site from the public (not always useful it has to be said) in the form of an email to me. This information has been acted upon by updated Pubzilla accordingly and exported to WhatPub. WhatPub.com is currently listing 35,580 pubs nationally serving real ale.

Branch Website — www.rhcamra.org.uk

The web site has been regularly maintained throughout the year and has continued to be a useful reference for users. Web statistics as reported by the current hosting company (1&1 IONOS) have indicated the following Site Analytics:

Total visitors for the last 12 months were **26,188**. These are uniquely identified on the basis of the IP address and the browser ID. If a visitor goes to the website more than once a day, only one visitor is counted.

GBG Coordinator

Every year the branch draws up a list of pubs to be included in the Good Beer Guide. Our Branch are allocated only 18 pubs (+ some reserves) to be included. I carried out four surveys for the 2020 Good Beer Guide and coordinated and checked the submissions of a further seventeen. The Pubzilla database was subsequently updated and then used to compile, check/correct WhatPub Status errors, and then submit these final GBG candidates to the CAMRA Regional Director by the stated deadline.

Branch Pub & Brewery News

Reports are regularly posted under Branch News on the website. 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 unrecorded.

More reports from members needed!!

Here is some good news — During the last 12 months we have seen three pubs that had been closed for a number of years reopen with cask beer on the bar. The Crown (formally Carvosso's) at 210 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick opened in February this year. The Black Dog Beer House at 17 Albany Road, Brentford, opened its doors in October last year. In a few days, next door to the Bull's Head (Young's) in Barnes the Watermans Arms will reopen on the 2nd May after it was closed and converted to other uses back in the 1980s.

Major Refurbishments to three pubs have taken place. The Park Hotel in Teddington (Young's), and soon to reopen; The Anglers (Fuller's) in Teddington and Kings Arms Hotel, 2 Lion Gate, Hampton Court Road, if real ale will be available is not known.

Here is the bad news — Airman in Feltham closed, The Watermans Arms at 12 Water Lane, Richmond, closed its doors in March this year and had been (reportedly) sold by the Ram Pub Company (Young's). It is one of the oldest pubs in Richmond dating back to at least 1660 and rebuilt in 1898. With the redevelopment of Brentford the Magpie & Crown has closed and its future uncertain. Stop Press! However, it has just reopened under new management. The Freehold of the Rifleman in Twickenham has been sold by Enterprise in a job lot of 370 Free-of-tie

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leases for £350M to Tavern Propco Ltd. The pubs future is now uncertain. Old Kings Head in Hampton Wick closed in February 2018.

Brewery News

Fuller's announces that it has entered into an agreement for the sale of its entire beer business to Asahi Europe Ltd. Georgina Young, their head brewer has resigned and accepted a post of Head Brewer at Bath Ales.

Oddly Brewery at Unit 12, Platt's Eyot, Lower Sunbury Road, Hampton, has moved out of our branch area to new premises in Tottenham, London.

The Kew Brewery founded in 2015 by Dave Scott has passed control of the brewery to Jana Gray and partner Jonathan.

London Drinker Magazine

I've distributed 260 copies every two months to pubs in Teddington, Ham, Hampton Wick and Hampton Court.

George Gimber
Branch Pub Database Coordinator & Webmaster
pro@rhcamra.org.uk

Cider and Perry Representative Report

There has not been much change in the branch outlets this year apart from the Black Dog in Brentford which opened in October, is serves 4 ciders on hand pump and always one Perry. The Black Dog Brentford has been nominated as Branch Cider pub of the year, I received only 9 nominations. Judging will take place April/May with the London area winner to be announced 19th May, this will then go onto the national cider pub of the year judging.

We sold 87% of the cider and perry at this year's beer festival, this was very pleasing the rest sold on to the Sussex Arms Twickenham. I intend to visit all our known cider pubs in the next few months to take a look at what is going on and try to arrange a cider social or two.

Cheers

Bob Gordon,
Cider rep

Brewery Liaison Officer Reports

BLO reports have been received relating to Reunion Ales. These are available for perusal on request. JA who is BLO for Twickenham Fine Ales and EEL Pie Brewing provided a verbal report – see Attachment 2

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Nominations for Committee Positions/Roles

The nominations for election of the committee were as follows:

Those not continuing:

Chairman Charles Owens

Consequently, JA proposed BG as the new Chairman. This was seconded by RH and unanimously accepted with a show of hands.

Those willing to continue:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Branch Contact/Secretary/Social Secretary | Roy Hurry |
| 2. Membership Secretary | Stewart Murray |
| 3. Treasurer | Andy Pirson |
| 4. Press and Publicity/Public Affairs Officer | John Austin |
| 5. Cider and Perry Representative | Bob Gordan |
| 6. Minutes Preparation | Richard Northmore |
| 7. Web Master and Pub Database Co-ordinator | George Gimber |
| 8. Clubs liaison | John Lisle |

All positions were unanimously accepted with a show of hands.

- Election of Additional Committee Member:

Phil Harrison - Proposed by Iain Sutherland, seconded by Richard Northmore

CO is no longer a committee member but will continue some of his branch roles.

Matters Arising/Any Other Business

BG thanked Co for his service over eight years as Chairman. SM proposed a vote of thanks.

JA will arrange the next R&H Branch Committee Meeting at The Eel Pie, 9-11 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 9NJ on 9 May. **Action: JA**

BG warned that he would inevitably miss a few R&H Meetings as a result of work commitments.

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AP suggested that at this forthcoming Committee Meeting a Vice Chairman be nominated for the R&H Branch

JA has arranged the outing for the TBF volunteers to the Twickenham Fine Ales brewery on 23 May 19:00 until 21:00. The visit will include a brewery tour and three pints of beer. Anyone wanting a Twickenham Fine Ales glass will need to pay for it.

CO told BG that R&H Branch will need new judges for the London POTY selection BG will consider this after the TBF. **Action: BG**

Prepared by: RN

10 May 2019

Attachment 1

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

MAY 2018 TO APRIL 2019

Total of Joint and Single Membership Categories

MONTH	MAY 18	JUN 18	JUL 18	AUG 18	SEP 18	OCT 18	NOV 18	DEC 18	JAN 19	FEB 19	MAR 19	APR 19	CHANGE IN YEAR
Joint	301	303	303	305	309	306	306	303	305	301	293	293	-8
Single	830	831	833	801	798	794	792	776	780	782	778	778	-53
Total	1131	1130	1136	1106	1107	1100	1098	1079	1085	1083	1071	1070	-61

Single Membership - Single, Single Retired, and Under 26 Categories

MONTH	MAY 18	JUN 18	JUL 18	AUG 18	SEP 18	OCT 18	NOV 18	DEC 18	JAN 19	FEB 19	MAR 19	APR 19	CHANGE IN YEAR
Single	428	430	431	409	411	409	413	401	407	412	412	408	-20
Sgl Retd	318	318	319	317	312	311	307	305	304	302	299	299	-19
U26	18	17	17	11	11	10	9	9	8	8	8	9	-9

Stewart Murray
Membership Secretary
28 April 2019

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Attachment 2 Miscellaneous BLO Reports (For information purposes)

Reunion Ales by Doug Scott

Quarterly Report January 2019

Beers:

Frost Fair (4.5%) returned for the winter/Christmas period, with cinnamon, cloves and orange peel added to the mix of Northdown and English Cascade hops.

A new trial brew, a chocolate oatmeal stout called **Midnight Runner** (4.8%) was also brewed. Both beers were available at the new taproom on a visit there on 7th December and were very pleasant.

Engage (3.7%) a golden beer brewed during Rugby events has also been brewed again to coincide with the autumn internationals.

Minimalist (3.4%) a "dry hopped table beer" brewed with Mosaic and Rakau has emerged again to coincide with #tryanuary

True Zeal (4.3%), an amber ale brewed with Nelson Sauvignon Blanc is being launched as part of London Beer Festival this January. Website states: "we will be launching a new beer across Wetherspoons pubs in London. We will be joined by a number of other great London breweries, all showcasing new craft beers and real ales. 'True Zeal' is a 4.3% amber ale brewed using the coveted Nelson Sauvignon hop. True Zeal sets the full flavoured, Sauvignon grape like flavours of the prized New Zealand hop against a sweet, caramel, malt base. Keep an eye out at your local Wetherspoons this January and give it a try for #Tryanuary!"

Taproom:

The visitor centre/taproom is now up and running and open most Fridays only from 5pm-10pm. Check the brewery website or twitter feed before dropping by. Six taps in the wall dispense 4 keg beers and two on cask, though there are two handpumps mounted on the bar, which may come into use in the future. UPDATE : Will reopen on 1st February.

Events:

Reunion will be hosting a stand at Craft Beer Rising from 21st to 23rd February at Old Truman's Brewery, Brick Lane. There will be various Meet The Brewer events coming in 2019.

As mentioned above Reunion Ales will be participating in London Beer Festival at Wetherspoons pubs in London with True Zeal.

Stockists:

Majestic Wines now list Reunion Ales beers in their stores in St John's Wood, Windsor and Gerard's Cross. Cans are available in convenient to carry 4 packs as well as individual cans cross Majestic Wines. More stores to follow with launch tastings taking place throughout 2019.

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Quarterly Report April 2019

Beers:

Tiger Hill (4.0%) returned as the March special, a Darjeeling Saison with darjeeling tea leaves sitting delicately on a traditional Belgian saison.

Engage (3.7%) Returned in February for Six Nations rugby.

Taproom:

Opening of the taproom is more intermittent, with openings advertised via social media. Latest was on April 26th.

Events:

Reunion had a tap takeover at Lady Mildmay in N1 in April

Reunion were one of the beers on the London Craft Beer Cruise in April

Stockists:

Majestic Wines now list Reunion Ales beers in their stores in St John's Wood, Windsor and Gerard's Cross. Cans are available in convenient to carry 4 packs as well as individual cans cross Majestic Wines. More stores to follow with launch tastings taking place throughout 2019.

Eel Pie Brewing by JA

This is a very small brewing operation in Church Street, Twickenham. It is one of a few brewing train establishments.

Twickenham Fine Ales by JA

This brewery is experiencing price competition problems because of there being many (130) London Breweries many of which are selling aggressively. Twickenham Fine Ales have range of 20 cask ales a reduction from 30 recently. The brewery opens on Days when international rugby is played at Twickenham and when Harlequins play at home.