

Mild & Bitter

AGM: YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE BRANCH ACTIVITY

The AGM at the **Flowerpot on Thursday, 14th April** will witness the departure of at least three Derby Branch committee members. John Arguile, Pip Southall and Stephen Boa have all indicated that they won't be standing for re-election at the meeting. Derby is a dynamic, campaigning branch, which organises two big beer festivals and has two newsletters. Somehow, we still find time to participate in campaigning issues and we have a thriving social scene.

Self-evidently, we need the requisite personnel to fulfil effectively these activities. The Derby committee is, therefore, urging you to consider your role within CAMRA, and to step forward to help us by becoming a committee member. You would require a proposer and seconder, both of whom must be CAMRA members, and let Branch Secretary, Ian Forman, have your nomination by the start of proceedings at 8pm on the 14th April. Ian may be contacted on 01332 882996 or email: Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk

Without replacements for our departing committee members, there will be an inevitable diminution of our campaigning power. There will be a free buffet and some free beer at the AGM.

Budget Woes

Pub goers and publicans will have been disappointed by the Chancellor's tax hike in last month's Budget which will make the £3 pint commonplace. The only concession was the promise of an 18p duty reduction in pints of 2.8%abv and below, which would have impacted on Brewdog's Edge (2.7%) at the Roundhouse festival. Perhaps there's a challenge here for our brewers to produce low strength, full bodied and flavoursome beers such as Cain's Mild and Ruddle's Bitter of yesteryear. So the on/off trade pricing chasm persists though, previously, there was a glimmer of hope when minimum pricing was introduced, alas, with a unit price so low as to have negligible impact on supermarket pricing. Clearly the lobbying power of the supermarkets and health zealots holds sway with the government, and further pub closures appear likely with, I fear, city centre premises amongst the casualties.

10th Winter Beer Festival – a success??

Whilst most readers hopefully made a trip to the Roundhouse for our 10th Winter Beer Festival here's a report of the highlights just in case you missed it.

We expected 4500 people to attend but got virtually 7000, rather than selling 17,000 pints of beer and cider we shifted 25,000 pints or 75,000 1/3 pt nips if you prefer... So as you've probably gathered we had quite a runaway success...

Although the logistics of scouring the local area for an extra 80 firkins (9 gallon casks) of beer and then getting it into position and ready for the new Loc-ALE festival (virtually) on Saturday was a mammoth task. We'd like to extend a **MASSIVE** thank you to everyone who helped us out with beer or man power or indeed anything else.

With that Herculean effort we managed to get enough beer to sustain us to have 27 at 20:45 and amazingly still 1 at 23:00 when the bars closed – and just about everyone sighed with a joyous relief.

Lots of lessons to learn though, regarding expectations for next year and the quantities of beer, programmes and toilets we must look ahead...

Next year: - just around the corner will be the formation of next year's team, which has a few vacancies in it for certain not least that of Chairman and beer orderer as we step down to concentrate on running The Alexandra (Siddals Rd) and organising our Wedding. There will doubtless be other rolls that will need filling...

2014: - Did someone say **National Winter Ales??** Well we just did, assuming nothing major goes amiss, CAMRA's National Winter Ales festival will be coming to Derby in 2014 and will be around for a few years after that at least.

Ralf Edge and Anna Dyson

Derby Summer-Fest

The next Derby Summer Beer Festival will take place in the Assembly Rooms from **6-10 July, 2011**. Russell Gilbert has been elected as the new Chairman and the organisation is now under way. The next planning meeting is on **Wednesday 27th April in the Alexandra Hotel**, starting at 8pm. If you would like to take part in the organisation of next year's event then please pop along to the meeting or contact Russ on **07909 967142 or summerbeerfest@derbycamra.org.uk**

Derby Country Pub of the Year Celebration Evening

The Derby Branch Pubs of the Year 2011 were presented with their winning certificates at the Derby Winter Beer Festival Trade Session. The Country Pub of the Year, the **Royal Oak in Ockbrook**, will be hosting a celebration evening on **Tuesday, 12th April**, with a bus (£2 return) leaving Cathedral Green, Derby at 7.30pm. All members are invited to attend.

Members Weekend & AGM

CAMRA's Members weekend & AGM will take place in the Octagon Centre in **Sheffield from 15th – 17th April**. The event is not just about the formal business of the AGM but features a Beer Festival, Brewery Trips, Pub Crawls, etc. Pre-Registration is now closed. Why not come along and join members of Derby & Amber Valley who will be there to enjoy the weekend.

May Mild Month

May is traditionally the time of year when CAMRA supports Real Mild and this year is to be no exception with National Mild Day being on Saturday 7th May. Branches up & down the Country will be holding special events throughout the Month and Derby Branch will be following suit with 2 separate Mild Crawls. The 1st will be on **Saturday 7th - around Derby** - Meet in the Brewery Tap, Derwent St at 3pm. The 2nd will be on **Saturday 28th around South Nottingham**. An opportunity to visit some of the pubs in the southern area of the City - Ruddington, Gamston and West Bridgford including the National Inventory Test Match Tavern and plenty of other GBG listed pubs. Meet at the Bus station for the 11am Red Arrow.

Derby Branch Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies for roles within the Branch:-

Derby Drinker Editorial Team to work alongside others in the team to put together 6 issues per year. If you have any experience in this field or are looking for an exciting new challenge then please get in touch.

Derby Drinker Advertising Manager to obtain adverts and thereby sustain a viable Derby Drinker. A full Job Spec is available on request.

If you are interested in any of these roles

then please *contact the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or e-mail: Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk*

Mild and Bitter Editorship

Since Gareth Stead stepped down two months ago, Paul Gibson has been the stand-in Editor. Derby CAMRA wishes to appoint a new Editor on a permanent basis, so if this appeals to you, please in the first instance, contact the **Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or e-mail: Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk**

Derby Website now live

Derby CAMRA's new website is now live. **www.derbycamra.org.uk**

Please have a look around it and let us know what you think. The site contains Beer Festival info, details of Branch socials, Branch contacts, etc. If you have any suggestions for the site then please e-mail the Webmaster, Richard Mackney at **webmaster@derbycamra.org.uk**

Mild & Bitter on the Web

Mild & Bitter will shortly be available to view in the Members Area of the Derby Branch Website. This will mean that it will no longer be e-mailed to you but you will need to log on to the website each month to view the new edition. To access the Members Area please follow the instructions on the screen.

If you want to receive an e-mail reminder each month of the new M&B you will need to join the Derby CAMRA User Group (see below).

E-mail User Groups

Did you know that Derby & Amber Valley Camra have a user groups which circulates info on social events, beer festivals, breweries, pubs, etc helping you keep right up-to-date with the current happenings on the real ale scene. They are open to all members, to join just send an email to the administrator with your membership number. For Derby contact, Stewart Marshall, **beersurvey@derbycamra.org.uk** For Amber Valley contact, Nathan Dilley, **NDilley@hotmail.co.uk**

Minutes of the AGM of the Derby Branch of Camra held at the Flowerpot on Thurs 22nd April 2010

Apologies. Phil and Christine Hall, Stewart Marshall, Konrad Machej, Dan Cramp, Brian Burke.

Mins of last meeting. Accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising. None.

Appointment of tellers. Carl and David Brett were appointed as tellers.

Chair's report. Dan was not at the meeting but the committee had published in Mild and Bitter, a statement about the present state of the branch. Jok read out the statement-Undermanned and underwhelmed. We needed more *active* help to complete branch tasks.

Kevin Hepworth questioned the accuracy of the statement in that last year's Mild trail had been a disaster. It had actually been a success in 2009. Jok conceded the point.

Rob Davison was thanked for his tenure of the branch before he resigned.

Finance.

Branch Accounts. Jok moved and explained the branch accounts. He spoke of the lowest operating costs for 20 years. This was unprecedented. He called for questions.

Proposed - Ian Forman, Seconded by Joy Olivent. Accepted by branch.

Winter Beer Festival 2009. Jok read out a report on the festival which was upbeat.

9% more people drinking more beer. Keen pricing had made good profit. Sponsorship had been a major item. 50p oncrease in glass prices. Costs held down with effect. Big increase on 2008. Steve Crispin and his team were congratulated on their sterling efforts.

Accounts had been audited and reported on by auditor, Marie Gibson. This was available for scrutiny. Proposed - Brian Eldred, Seconded - Ralf Edge. Accepted by branch.

Summer Festival. Carl Brett introduced the accounts by giving a report. Greater take and revenue but increased costs balanced this. Staff and security were the main costs and are being looked at. Glasses also looking to reduce numbers ordered to reduce surplus. Bank costs caused an effect. No interest paid on account. Net reduction of 5% on return. Proposed - Kevin Hepworth, Seconded - Eric Streets. Accounts accepted.

Appointment of new auditors. Last year's auditors reappointed, subject to confirmation.

Motions for debate. Terry Morton had proposed that the front page of DD be reserved for festival business by reducing or stopping advertising. Terry spoke about and proposed and recommended the motion for approval. Other branches had not covered their publications front page with adverts. Jok clarified the committee's views on the matter which was they did not wish to dictate terms having come twice to committee and believe it should be a decision of the editor. A discussion ensued. Joy Olivent thought that the position was that space had already been sold. The editor Pip Southall was asked for his views. He had no preference. He said he had been trying to cut adverts as they dropped out. Slots would disappear as adverts dropped out. Kevin Hepworth asked how much the reduction should mean as there were only 4 adverts on the present front page. He saw no problem with the present arrangement, with the proviso that they should be dropped if they stop adverts. Seconded by Ray Smith who also spoke on the motion asking why Derby Brewery should be allowed prime spot on front page. Ralf Edge, Chair of winter festival was happy with present status quo. However, Martin Roden said

that the editor should have the say in a commercial world. We should make the most of the front page.

Amended motion. Instead of banned put withdraw advertising in the pre festival editions at the request of the relevant festival committee. Proposed by Kevin Hepworth, Seconded by Les Baynton. Amendment carried.

Vote on the amended motion. Amended motion carried.

Election of Committee. 11 candidates, 2 for chair - Gareth Stead and Stephen Boa, who both had the opportunity to speak to members. Gareth Stead won the vote for chair.

Gareth thanked Dan Cramp and Rob Davison for their efforts as Chair.

Jok Arguile for Treasurer. Unopposed. Ian Forman for Secretary. Unopposed.

A paper vote took place to select 6 committee members from the 8 candidates. Elected - Ralf Edge, Chris Sherratt, Joy Olivent, Konrad Machej, Dean Smith, Stephen Boa. Not elected - Anna Dyson & Terry Holmes.

Branch Awards. The branch awarded David and Carl Brett tankards for their efforts for the branch over the years at beer festivals.

AOB. POTY held back to next branch meeting.

Meeting closed at 22.13pm.

Derby AGM Agenda

1. Apologies. 2. Appointment of tellers. 3. Minutes of last meeting. 4. Matters arising. 5. Chairman's report. 6. Finance (Treasurer's Report, Branch & Beer Festival Accounts, Auditors Report, Appointment of New Auditors). 7. Motions for debate. 8. Election of new Committee. 9. Branch Awards. 10. Any other Business.

VALLEY VIEW

News from the Amber Valley Sub-Branch

Greater Choice For Ripley Real Ale Drinkers

It's conceivable that, back in 1958, Harry Webb (Cliff Richard) and the Drifters (Shadows) could have popped into the Midland, Ripley, for a pint of Shipstone's when they performed at the nearby Regal nightclub. For the past 8 years, however, Pub People Company has run the Nottingham Road hostelry but only recently has the Midland become the focus of attention for real ale aficionados. This is on account of the half dozen brand new handpulls that dispense the likes of Blue Monkey, Castle Rock, Derby and Amber Ales brewed in the town. Card carrying

CAMRA members enjoy 15p a pint discount, and Ripley is rapidly becoming a destination of note for the discerning drinker. In a further development, Ashover Ales are now available on the other side of town, at the Barnes Wallis on Maple Avenue.

Brewery News

Amber Valley Borough Council has approved plans for the conversion of a building at School House Farm, Lodge Lane, Shottle, into a micro brewery. The project is the brainchild of Tony Latham and Craig of the GBG listed George and Dragon, Belper, who intend to brew 64 casks of ale per week. Tracey and Richard Creighton, the sister and brother-brewing combo are working on two new **Leadmill** brews, which will be on the bar at the Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse in time for the royal wedding on 29th April. Forgeries Old Faker and Forgeries Fluffer have been inspired by some storming performances by The Forgeries band at the Oak. Let's hope that the forgeries are confined to the music and beer and don't extend to the royal mint's notes! Two breweries local to us but in the Erewash Valley CAMRA area are reporting brisk business. Firstly, the **Coppice Side** brewery in Heanor has succeeded in supplying two house beers to the Spotted Cow in Holbrook, and Andy McAuley at the **Marlpool Brewing Company** has been granted a premises licence at his site at the top of Breach Road, Marlpool. An off sales will allow visitors to take away his beer at a bargain £1.50 a pint, and an on licence means that you can enjoy Andy's beers for £2.00 a pint on the premises. Please note that these facilities are available at weekends only, and, in the future, it is hoped to offer guest beers as well. The Crown, Heanor is a permanent stockist of Marlpool beer.

Club Call

If you know of any clubs serving real ale in the Amber Valley area, please let us know, as we are hoping, next year, to nominate a club for the annual Club of the Year award.

Beer Festivals

7th to 10th April at Grapes, High Street, Belper (22 beers).
14th to 17th April at King William, Milford.
21st to 25th April at New Inn, Riddings (12beers), and Talbot Taphouse, Butterley Hill, Ripley (20 beers).
22nd to 25th April at Wheel, Chapel Street, Holbrook.
28th April to 1st May at Poet and Castle, Codnor (40 beers).
28th April to 2nd May at Belper Rugby Club, Derby Road, Belper (30 beers).
29th April to 1st May at Black Horse, Somercotes (20 beers).
29th April to 2nd May at Thorn Tree, Waingroves, Ripley (16 beers).
29th September to 2nd October at Butterley Station, Ripley. **2nd Amber Valley CAMRA festival.**

New Webpage

Amber Valley CAMRA has now got its own dedicated webpage on the Derby CAMRA website

www.derbycamra.org.uk/ambervalley

This will contain all the latest Amber Valley info, including social details and Branch contacts. If there is anything you would like to see on this page then e-mail the Branch Secretary, Paul Gibson at maria.curl@hotmail.co.uk

Minutes of the Amber Valley CAMRA meeting at the Beehive, Peasehill, Ripley on 31st March 2011

Meeting started at 830pm with 14 attendees.

Apologies for absence Anne Kennedy.

Minutes of last meeting Accepted as a true record.

Matters arising GBG issues resolved. Alison had emailed Andy Brett re Trent sponsoring a real ale trail, and Carl Brett, who has a contact there, will get back to Alison.

Committee reports Nathan, Chairman, reported popular socials, and our members had helped at the Roundhouse festival. Enquires have been made on our google group re working at the second AV festival. Secretary, Paul, said Derby Telegraph had devoted a few column inches to Pub of the Year award evening. All Things Local had also published a page on this subject. Paul's computer had contracted a Spyware virus just before sending the AV column to Nottingham Drinker; consequently the editorial deadline was missed. Social Secretary, Alison, reported a good turnout on last survey trip. Mild trail on 14th May-meet Gatehouse, Nottingham at noon. Stout trail went very well. Next survey trips: 16th April to Kilburn, Horsley Woodhouse and Denby. 21st May to Somercotes area. Alison will be absent from both trips and Mick and Jane Wallis kindly offered to deputize for her. Alison is still looking at the possibility of bi-monthly public transport outings and will report again. Pete Webb said that Your Bus had taken over Belper to Heanor bus route previously run by Doyle's and offered all day ticket at just £3.75. Alfreton Town trips at £13 per head to Solihull on 9th April; Gloucester on 16th April and Gainsborough on 25th April. Membership Secretary absent.

Club of the Year We need more nominations than just the Strutt Club to give the competition credibility, so we will ask AV members to identify clubs selling real ale, and attempt to survey them. Action PG.

BLO New brewery at Shottle will require Brewery Liaison Officer, and after an appraisal of duties by Amber Ales BLO, Mick Wallis, Pete Webb said he would approach Andy Pearson. Action PW.

Pub news Stables bar at Red Lion, Fritchley to open by Easter? Thorn Tree, Market Place, Ripley selling four ales from the Marston's portfolio. Midland Hotel, Ripley, making big effort with discounts. Railway, Peasehill serving Hobgoblin plus Amber Ales. Crown, Sleetmoor Lane is open again.

Future meeting dates 26th May, branch at Victoria, Alfreton. 30th June, branch at upstairs room of Midland Hotel Ripley. Nathan and Alison to book both meetings. 19th May festival meeting at Queens Head, Marlpool (Nigel to book).

AOB Beehive landlord, Steve Cresswell, was congratulated on 18 years of service at the Peasehill pub. Congratulations were also due to Derby CAMRA for the wonderful winter festival at the Roundhouse. Another coup for Derby was the announcement that they would be hosts to the National Winter Ales Festival in 2014, 2015 and 2016. National Executive member, Julian Hough, who apologised for not previously having attended an AV meeting, expressed his exasperation that Derby CAMRA had been "on trial" for the recent winter festival despite having run 40+ festivals before. He went on to say that sub-branches engage with local CAMRA members, and there was evidence that discounts were attracting new members. Many members had pre-registered for Sheffield AGM. We must campaign for our precious pubs as well as for real ale. Julian confirmed we still have a technical committee. Fast track cask ale is controversial, as is cider motion at AGM. An appeal was made for help at Derby summer festival. Branch activities had deposited 890k to central funds, including 90k from Nottingham branch alone. Julian said "Real Ale Champion" had been appointed to present good cask beer in all of J D Wetherspoon pubs. Ex-Editor of the Morning Advertiser has opined that the pub industry is behind the times, just look at the booming coffee house trade. Destiny of Leatherbritches brewery at Green Man, Ashbourne is undecided. Richard Lomas made a pertinent point saying that it would make a good "pilot" for JDW houses with on site breweries. Orkney will have JDW pub soon. Mark Little commented that our website needs updating although PG had sent Richard Makeney a new AV page on 11th March. RM to be contacted. **Meeting closed at 9.35pm.**

Amber Valley Diary

Thu 7th April – BEER FESTIVAL MEETING – Hunter Arms, Kilburn. 830pm start.

Sat 16th April – FREE SURVEY TRIP to Horsley Woodhouse, Denby and

Kilburn. 730pm from Ripley Market Place. For Alfreton and Belper pick ups, ring Alison.

Thu 28th April – BRANCH MEETING – Greyhound, Whitemoor Lane, Belper 830pm.

For all Amber Valley Socials contact Alison Cox on 01773 570675 or alisonhcox@hotmail.com

Amber Valley Contacts

Chairman: Nathan Dilley on 01773 570675 or NDilley@hotmail.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Gus Manning on gusinthepub@yahoo.co.uk

Derby Branch Diary

APRIL

Wed 6th – Rowditch, Uttoxeter New Road, Derby. 8.30pm onwards.

Tues 12th – Royal Oak, Ockbrook. Country POTY celebration. Cost £2 return on mini bus, 730pm from Cathedral Green, back in Derby for 11pm.

Thu 14th – AGM - Flowerpot, Derby. 8pm.

Weekend 15th-17th – CAMRA members weekend, Octagon Centre, Sheffield.

Tue 19th – Surburbeer – Spondon. White Swan, Moor St – 8.36 – 9.20 Malt Shovel, Potter St - 9.30 – 10.35 Suggested timings, Spondon Flyer from the bus station, 830pm (buses are every half hour). Return bus 10.47.

Wed 27th – Brunswick, Railway Terrace, Derby. 8.30pm onwards.

Wed 27th – SUMMER-FEST MEETING, Alexandra 8pm.

MAY

Tue 3rd – COMMITTEE MEETING- 8pm – TBA.

Wed 4th – Olde Dolphin Inne, Queen St, Derby. 8.30 pm onwards.

Sat 7th – Mild Tour, Derby - Mid afternoon start. Come and seek out some Mild in our own city. If anyone hears of pubs doing anything special please let me know. Meet at the Brewery Tap, Derwent St - 3pm.

Wed 11th – BRANCH MEETING at Brunswick, Railway Terrace. Start 8pm.

Wed 18th – Crown and Victoria, Beeston. If you're collecting you mild ticks then this should be another great opportunity. If you're not, then just enjoy a great selection of real ales and ciders. In 2 great pubs the Crown being Nottingham CAMRA's POTY. Suggested timings are Train at 7.24 pm (also a train at 8.10) returning on the 10.22 train (also a last chance train at 11.21).

Wed 25th – Suburbeer – Chellaston, Lawns/Corner Pin. Suggested timings, Arriva Bus 60 from the bus station at 8.13 pm (also at 7.43 and 8.43) Lawns 8.30pm, Corner pin 9.30 pm. Return bus 10.42.

Thu 26th – SUMMER-FEST MEETING – Alexandra, 8pm.

Sat 28th – Mild Tour, South Nottingham. Morning set off. An opportunity to visit some of the pubs in the southern area of the city, exact details when I see the Nottingham CAMRA mild crawl list, but I envisage us getting to Ruddington, Gamston and West Bridgford including the National Inventory Test Match Tavern and plenty of other GBG listed pubs. So expect a bit of walking and public transport hopping – all adds to the day! Suggest we meet at the Bus station for the 11am Red Arrow.

For all Derby Socials contact Dean Smith on 07703 458623 or Socials@derbycamra.org.uk

Derby Contacts

Secretary - Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or e-mail: committee@derbycamra.org.uk

M&B PLEASE NOTE

If you do not want to receive Mild and Bitter (M&B) and other communications from the Derby branch of CAMRA, please inform Tim Williams, 39 Breedon Hill Road, Derby, DE23 6TH, or email: timwilliams@39bhr.fsnet.co.uk. Your details will then be deleted from the Derby branch database. We will also inform CAMRA HQ that you do not want contact from the Derby branch (including Amber Valley Sub-Branch). CAMRA HQ will, however, retain your postal and (unless requested) email address details but will not make them available to us. The Derby Branch database is controlled by Tim Williams and is separate from the main CAMRA membership database. Your details will not be used for any purpose other than official communication from Derby CAMRA to M&B subscribers. Since the databases are separate you must inform both CAMRA, and Tim Williams of any changes to your details.