

# Mild & Bitter

## Roundhouse Turning Into Stellar Event

When the Derby Winter Festival debuted in 2002 at the Assembly Rooms, Darwin Suite, few could have foreseen that the summer festival's junior sibling would grow in stature to rival its long established big brother. And yet with the dust settling on the 11<sup>th</sup> Winter Fest, that's exactly the scenario, with a thumping attendance of 9,000 at "the festival that rocks", with several of the bands receiving rave reviews. Also, the festival was a triumph for West Hallam brewery, Nutbrook, whose Perfect Fifth was voted Beer of the Festival by you the punters, whilst Mad Hatters from Stockport won the cider category. Nearly all of the 350 beers sold out and congratulations go to Konrad Machej and his team for a successful membership drive which recruited 109 new members, 22 more than last year. Places are still available on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March for a social trip (for volunteers and non workers) to Church End Brewery in Warwickshire, plus 2 pubs. Tours of Church End will be followed by a buffet lunch, and the coach will leave Stand X4 on Full Street at 11am and return at 8pm. The cost for non workers is £10.00 & for volunteers £5. Please call Sian Roberts to book your place: 07847 124629. The Brunswick is booked for the wash up Meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March. If you have any positive comments or suggestions for improvement please send them to [Gillian.williams1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Gillian.williams1@yahoo.co.uk) by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Finally, a very big thank you to Festival Chair, Gillian Williams, and to each and everyone of the many, many volunteers who helped to make the festival something Derby can be proud of. The portents for Derby CAMRA hosting the National Winter Ales Festival at the Roundhouse from 2014 could hardly be better. **Nominations for 2013 Winter Festival Chairman, to be with Ian Forman (details below) by Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April.**

## Derby Branch Meeting & Social – Station Inn, Midland Road, Derby, Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March

The March Branch Meeting will be held in the back room of the Station Inn, Derby, beginning at 8pm. The agenda is printed elsewhere. Landlord, Dave Lalor, has been welcoming customers for 20 years or more, and the jugged Bass has built up a formidable reputation. For further branch meeting information *contact the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman on 01332 882996 or email [Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk)*

## Sub-Branch for Ashbourne?

Following the success of the Amber Valley sub-branch, Derby CAMRA is now seeking to establish a sub-branch in the Ashbourne area. An exploratory meeting will be held at the Smiths Tavern in Ashbourne town centre at 8pm on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. All members are urged to attend, particularly those living in the Ashbourne area.

## Committee Nominations Required for AGM

Advance notice is hereby given of the Derby CAMRA Annual General Meeting on **Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm** at the Flower Pot, King Street, Derby. Derby CAMRA will once again be seeking members to stand for committee positions. So if you want to play a part in determining the future direction of the branch please get in touch with branch Secretary, Ian Forman, whose contact details are on this page. A proposer and seconder will be required. Motions for debate should also be submitted to Ian, by Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March to ensure publication in April's Mild and Bitter. The branch accounts and branch awards will also be presented on the night.

## Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year Presentations

The dates to make a note of in your diary are Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm, when the Five Lamps is presented with the city and overall winner awards, and five days later, at 9pm on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook. We're not expecting 100 members to come to the Country Pub of the Year as occurred when Derby CAMRA recorded its highest branch meeting attendance in March 1978, but a good turnout at the Oak would be welcome. The century was notched up in the run-up to the inaugural City Charter Beer Festival at the King's Hall, Queen Street, in April 1978. Bus will depart from Cathedral Green at 730pm, £3 per head. Names to Dean Smith 07703458623.

## Derby Drinker Distributors Required

Head of distribution, Joy Olivent, requires distributor(s) for Cromford, Brassington, Carsington, Fenny Bentley and Kniveton, so if you can help, please contact Joy on 07766306985. We wish Joy well in her recovery from illness.

## Derby Cask Pubs Map

Derby CAMRA is currently designing a Real Ale Pubs Map and we require your help to produce it. If you have any current pub photos or are able to take any then please e-mail them to [photos@derbycamra.org.uk](mailto:photos@derbycamra.org.uk)

## AGM and Members' Weekend

This year's AGM is at Torquay on the English Riviera between Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> April. Now Torquay may not be "Mecca" for real ale but there are a number of watering holes worthy of attention including the centuries old Hole in the Wall. There are some interesting looking trips planned and there will, of course, be a beer festival at the Riviera Centre which is staging the long weekend. For the uninitiated, Torquay is a large, hilly resort built on the headland and offers an abundance of accommodation. The vagaries of the English weather are unpredictable but this Members' Weekend looks enticing.

## Make May a Mild Month

This slogan was coined by CAMRA way back in the 1970s but in recent times Derby branch hasn't, perhaps, given quite as much attention to the annual promotion of this fine beer style that it deserves. It's good to hear then that, this year, a concerted effort will be made to highlight the availability of Mild around Derby, courtesy of our esteemed Social Secretary, Dean Smith. Look out for further details on this topic in the coming weeks. The Amber Valley sub-branch is also undertaking the groundwork to promote Mild during May.

## Three Cheers for Chiron

Bakewell brewery, Thornbridge, has won two gold awards in the 2012 Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) competition. Their Chiron beer topped the premium bitters, pale and golden ales category, whilst Jaipur IPA triumphed in the strong bitter section.

## Boat at Cromford Set to Sail Again

The Boat, discreetly tucked away off Cromford Market Place, has been purchased by a private buyer, and will reopen shortly with Dave and Lorraine Mountford of the Rising Sun, Middleton by Wirksworth, taking over. The Rising Sun was featured in the last Mild and Bitter, and we wish Dave and Lorraine every success at the Boat, whilst they continue to oversee business at the Middleton pub.

## Regional Meeting

Members are invited to attend the next one at the Canal House, Nottingham on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The meeting starts at noon and CAMRA national Chairman, Colin Valentine, will be present.

## Derby Summer Fest

Next meeting:- **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March**, 8pm at the Alexandra.  
If you would like to take part in the organisation of this summer's event then please contact the Festival Chairman, *Russ*

*Gilbert on 07909 967142 or  
summerbeerfest@derbycamra.org.uk*

## Mild & Bitter on the Web

Mild & Bitter is now available to view in the Members Area of the Derby Branch Website as well as a number of back copies in case you have mislaid previous editions. You will now have a choice to follow the link in the reminder e-mail straight to the Members Area or download the attachment.

## 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](mailto:beersurvey@derbycamra.org.uk) For Amber Valley contact, Nathan Dilley, [NDilley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:NDilley@hotmail.co.uk)

## Derby Website now live

Derby CAMRA's new website is now live. [www.derbycamra.org.uk](http://www.derbycamra.org.uk) If you have any suggestions for the site then please e-mail the Webmaster, Richard Mackney [webmaster@derbycamra.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@derbycamra.org.uk)

## Minutes of the Derby CAMRA branch meeting held at the Wardwick,

### Derby on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Apologies.** Stewart Marshall, Joy Olivent, Les Baynton, Julian Hough.

**Mins of last meeting.** In M&B. Accepted as a true record.

**Matters arising.** Regional meeting now at Canal House.

### Officers' Reports

**Chair.** National AGM in Torquay soon. Registration closes on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Trips now bookable. Community Pubs Month in April- we will be having community pub socials.

CBOB nominations still open. GBBF recommendations by 16<sup>th</sup> March. COTY 2013 deadline 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Clubs can self nominate. Winter festival next week. ABC crawl had been successful. Beat last year's figure. Thanks to all involved. Ashbourne sub branch preliminary meeting to be at Smith's on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Derby AGM in April. Nominations for committee to secretary prior to meeting. DD distributors for Cromford and Derby centre needed. POTY certificates to be presented at the beer festival trade session.

**Secretary.** Steady interest in forming Ashbourne sub branch centre.

**Treasurer.** VAT issue has been resolved. Pre accounts to be available at next branch meeting.

**Winter Beer festival.** Opens next Weds. Everything going well. Staffing forms

available at meeting. Please volunteer.

There is always a need for workers.

Flyers available. Beer list on website.

Gillian gave details of contests for beers etc.

Locale tee shirts available at festival. Staff reward social on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> March 11am Church End and pub tour. Fine details were discussed.

**City Charter Festival.** Russ spoke about next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Budget had gone to scrutineers.

**Campaigning.** Locale and discounts going fairly well. Mild month not as successful. Dean had been away so plans delayed.

There will be crawls and events with letters being prepared and action taken at the winter festival. Let Dean know of mild pub gains or outlets.

**DD.** Latest festival issue out. There had been some problems with Colourstream and the size of boxes and copies etc. Extra copies available at the meeting for those missed because of the difficulties. April /May copy date by 20<sup>th</sup> March. Publication schedule to be included in next edition.

**GBG.** Choices for 2013 made at recent Falstaff meeting. Available soon to members.

Lack of survey out of town this time.

**Locale.** Links to locale pubs now on website.

**Membership.** Not enough interest in manning the membership desk to help Konrad, who will be on his own for some sessions. Membership over 2 months 60 letters set out so very positive at moment. **M&B.** ABC and Winter festival write ups for publication please - 200 words for each.

April AGM issue to all members of our branch.

**Regional.** Venue change – see above. Derbyshire round of pub judging sorted. Branch pubs by 16<sup>th</sup> March then county round starts.

**Socials.** As published in M&B. Dean back from US. He thanked committee for filling in in his absence. Gaps in March to be filled in. Loughborough, Leicester and Burton beer festival imminent. Apr – bus tour round Derbyshire POTY nominations. Then Mild May month.

**Sub Branch.** Kevin Hepworth to audit accounts. Treasurer found? POTY presentations to take place at the Old Oak and Hunter Arms on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Transport.** New Derbyshire timetable.

**Website.** Lots of winter festival hits and up to date. Programme going on site on 10<sup>th</sup> with bus times etc.

**Information Exchange.** Hopton Hall brewery? Willington beer festival in June. Three pubs in village involved. Duke of Clarence has been sold. Patten Maker/Garden City connection. Bluebell at Farnah Green open again. Bear at Alderwasley caretaker landlord? Prince of Wales Spondon bottom bar open?

Investigation needed. Fishpond at Matlock Bath refurb with staff being re-interviewed. New Zealand open very soon with student focus. Hay at Shirland shut.

Brewery in Shirland? Butcher's at Heanor now open again. Marpool brewery tap open. Furnace for sale.

**AOB.** Wyvern rail have been in touch. CAMRA Wirksworth Guide possible if anyone can help. Ian's 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> May at Church Hall at Horsley Woodhouse. Julian wanted to nominate Nunsfield Club as club of the year. Joy Olivent has been very ill. Branch to send bunch of flowers and card. After winter festival there is the Shrove Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb Ashbourne Shrovetide social. 12am from Sitwell St. **Meeting closed at 2140.**

### Derby Branch Meeting

#### Agenda

1. Apologies. 2. Minutes of last meeting. 3. Matters arising. 4. Officers' reports - Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. 5. Other reports - Beer Festivals, Campaigning, Derby Drinker, Good Beer Guide & Surveys, LocAle, Membership, Mild & Bitter, Pubs Officer & Pub Preservation, Publications, Regional, Sales, Socials, Sub-Branch, Tasting Panel, Transport, Website. 6. Information exchange - Pub, Brewery, etc 7. Any other business.

## VALLEY VIEW

### News from the Amber Valley Sub-Branch

#### Good Beer Guide Pub Licensee Dies

Ken Hallsworth, the well regarded licensee of the Horse and Jockey, Leabrooks Road, Somercotes, for a quarter of a century died on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> February. Amber Valley CAMRA wishes to express its condolences to Ken's family. All Amber Valley CAMRA members are invited to the Jockey for a wake on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March at 330pm and this is likely to be the last time the characterful, old pub is open.

#### April Fools' Day Social

Pete and Jayn Hounsell of Amber Ales cordially invite Amber Valley CAMRA members to their brewery tap, the Talbot Taphouse, Butterley Hill, Ripley, on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> April at 1pm. A complimentary cask of Barnes Wallis or Blond will be available to card carrying CAMRA members, and sustenance will be in the form of rolls and pork pies. Pete and Jayn are hoping to brew a special, old style English Pale Ale to commemorate St

George's Day later in April. The Talbot will feature in a CAMRA publications book due to be published in May, entitled 101 Beer Days Out. Author, Tim Hampson, an experienced beer/pub journalist, features pubs up and down the country that are identified as "beer destinations".

### Dancing Duck's Easter Parade

The Hunter Arms, Kilburn will be serving up an Easter treat for devotees of Derby's Dancing Duck brewery. Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April, the Amber Valley CAMRA Pub of the Year will showcase all six of the company's brews including the outstanding oatmeal stout, Dark Drake.

### Wetherspoon Vouchers Accepted at Ripley Pub

Enterprising licensee, Toby Metcalfe, of the Thorn Tree, Ripley Market Place, is now accepting CAMRA members' Wetherspoon vouchers, for which he will give 50p a pint discount on his real ales.

### Inn Brief

As reported in the last issue of Mild and Bitter, the Black Bull's Head, Openwoodgate reopened, free of tie, on 24<sup>th</sup> February, and the Dog and Doublet, Pye Bridge, is open for business again. We understand that the Blue Bell, Farnah Green is trading again and Shottle brewery beer has been spotted on the bar. The Marquis of Ormond, Codnor should be opening again soon.

### Minutes of the Amber Valley CAMRA Branch Meeting at the Old Kings Head, Belper, 26<sup>th</sup> January

The meeting commenced at 8:35pm with 23 attendees, and as there were some there who were new to Branch Meetings, each introduced themselves. **Apologies for absence:** Nigel Heathcote, Karen Guest, Chris Wilbraham, Wendy & John Truman **Minutes of last meeting:** accepted as a true record. **Matters arising:** Paul asked if Mick Wallis had approached Pete Hounsell regarding holding a St Georges Day Social at the Talbot Taphouse, Mick had not yet had the opportunity to do so (action MW). **Officer's Reports:** Phil Marshall (Membership Secretary). The first newsletter has gone out, but Phil has had no help from Gus Manning nor gained access to the Derby CAMRA website. He has, however, tweaked the Branch Facebook page a little. Paul Gibson told Phil that he had received some Membership info from CAMRA HQ, which he would pass on at the end of the meeting. Jane Wallis (Social Secretary). Jane issued copies of her January Report, which stated the number of pubs visited on the Alfreton survey – 5 with around 12 different real ales available. The Wagon &

Horses (Weatherspoons) was not included as only Ruddles and Abbot were available, so the survey party moved on. The next trip is on February 11<sup>th</sup> to Holbrook and Heage, with the March 17<sup>th</sup> survey taking in Codnor and Riddings. Jane said that the 7 members on the survey felt that Alfreton was not an ideal venue for a Saturday evening survey, and would be better if visited midweek or on a weekend walking trip. The increase in the cost of the bus to £120 has been approved by Derby CAMRA, so Barratts have been given a list of proposed trips through to November. The walk organised by Anne Kennedy on 7<sup>th</sup> January was a success, with 13 members attending. Starting from the Hunters Arms, the walkers called at pubs in Holbrook and Makeney en route to the Queens Head at Little Eaton. Anne intends to organise another walk, following a different route, later this year. Phil Marshall has agreed to lead a crawl of Sheffield pubs later this year on a date to be arranged, probably before May. Alison said that the Stout and Porter Trail will likely be on March 10/11, so the Sheffield crawl would need to be on a different date to avoid a clash. Trevor Spencer (Secretary). The Thorn Tree at Ripley has been booked for the March 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting, and Trevor will contact the Victoria at Alfreton with a view to holding the April 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting there. Nathan Dille (Chairman). Nathan said that the results from the National Winter Ales Festival indicated that the event had been very well attended, and mentioned Derby Winter Beer Festival, saying that volunteers to work at the event would be very much appreciated. Chris Rogers, whose wife is the Staffing Officer for the festival, also commented that volunteers are needed. **Beer Festival:** Chris Rogers said that as yet we have no Treasurer, and unless this position is filled the Festival, which has been booked for 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September, cannot go ahead. Chris stated that there have been 2 Festival meetings so far, and at the next one, at the Beehive on 9<sup>th</sup> February, draft budgets will be discussed so that a budget can be submitted to HQ. However we are at an impasse as without a Treasurer we are unable to proceed. Phil said he would include a request for this position to be filled in his next Newsletter, while Paul will advertise the vacancy in M&B. A Staffing Officer is also needed, and Chris said that anyone volunteering would be supported, a point reiterated by Alison, who will provide as much help as possible to whoever takes on the role of Staffing Officer. Chris said that the Festival opening hours will be Thursday evening, all day Friday and Saturday and Sunday lunchtime. Regarding entertainment, some bands had already been approached. **AOB:** Paul Gibson said that he had transferred the bulk of the proceeds from the Beer Festival to Derby Branch. **Pub of the Year:** The idea of reciprocal judging discussed at the December Branch Meeting will be on the



agenda at Derby Branch's next Committee Meeting. The idea is that we nominate our pubs, and Derby nominate theirs, then Derby members judge our pubs while we do the same for Derby. Anne Kennedy suggested that perhaps our pubs could be given information regarding the criteria for POTY, which may result in pub standards being raised. Alison said that the criteria should be the judging notes provided, and commented that CAMRA members have access to this anyway. Nathan suggested that we may need to speak to Derby Branch before any decision is made, although Derby member Stewart Marshall opined that we can go ahead if we wish to. Alison commented that there has been some negative comments regarding both GBG and POTY selections, but this may be a little sour grapes at not being chosen. However, the criteria for POTY is inevitably subjective as we all have different ideas as to what makes a good pub. Anne felt that more judges should lead to a fairer judgement, while Alison said that Landlords can be invited to view the criteria on the CAMRA website. Stewart mentioned that the criteria is available in the Members Area, so Alison suggested that it could be placed in the public area of the Derby website and Licensees invited to view it. Paul asked who would be responsible for informing pubs of the criteria, while Anne said that this was dependent on having up to date contact details, as while a letter can be put together for a mail shot, we need to know which pubs are open and especially which are closed. Jane said perhaps the criteria could be put into Derby Drinker and M&B as well as on the website, and Nathan said we need to bring the matter up with Derby and ask their opinion. Regarding the issue of reciprocal judging, Jane asked if we have enough volunteers to make this work, while Nathan commented that more time would be needed for the judging, perhaps with an earlier start being made. As for the 2012 POTY, the presentations are on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, from 8:30 at the Old Oak, who are runners-up, and 10pm at the Hunter Arms. It was mentioned that some finalists in the POTY competition were not in the current GBG, and Alison said that the criteria for POTY is very different from that of the GBG, which is based on beer quality alone, whereas the POTY judges have several other factors to consider. Jane commented that GBG entry is dependent on the NBSS scoring system. The selection meeting for the GBG is at the Holly Bush, Marehay, Ripley on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 start. Stewart Marshall set a February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for NBSS submissions to be used for the next GBG. Responding to a question as to why there

is a February deadline for a book that comes out in September, Alison commented that several months are needed for editing. Price Surveys: Trevor inquired how those who volunteered to take part at the December meeting were getting on, and apart from some problems determining the price of lager, everything seemed to be going ok. **Pub Information:** The Smithfield, Derby may soon become a fish restaurant at the back, while still carrying on as a pub at the front (John) The Black Bulls Head, Openwoodgate, is due to open as a Free House in February, and will be considered as a future Branch Meeting venue. (PG) The Strutt Arms, Milford, is to close again shortly (SM) Regarding pub delicensing, Nathan asked if it is possible to find out about this before reading about it in the local newspaper, and Paul commented that the Branch needs a Pub Officer, while Alison said that if a pub closure makes the news, we hear about it, if not we don't as very little info is available. Trevor agreed to contact Julian Tubbs regarding this issue. **Meeting closed at 9:30pm.**

### **Amber Valley Diary**

#### **MARCH**

**Thu 15<sup>th</sup> - Beer festival meeting** – Butchers Arms, Hands Road, Langley, Heanor, 8pm.  
**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> – Survey.** Free bus trip surveying pubs in Codnor and Riddings. 730pm from Ripley Market Place. For Alfreton and Belper pick-ups, please ring Jane.  
**Thu 29<sup>th</sup> – BRANCH MEETING** - Thorn Tree, Market Place, Ripley. 830pm.  
**Thu 29<sup>th</sup> to Sat 31<sup>st</sup> – Beer festival**, Holly Bush, Makeney.  
**Sun 1<sup>st</sup> April – Social.** Lazy Sunday afternoon at the Talbot Taphouse, Ripley. Bring your membership card.

*For all Amber Valley Socials contact  
Jane Wallis on 01773 745966*

### **Amber Valley Contacts**

Chairman: Nathan Dille on 01773 570675

### **Derby Branch Diary**

#### **MARCH**

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> – Summer Fest meeting** – Alexandra, 8pm.  
**Thu 8<sup>th</sup> – BRANCH MEETING** – 8 pm, Station Inn, Midland Road, Derby.  
**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> - Winter Beer fest – Social /Thank you trip** See page 1 for details.  
**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> – Winter fest wash up meeting**, Brunswick 8pm.  
**Thu 15<sup>th</sup> – Pub of the Year presentation**, 5 Lamps, Derby. From 8pm.  
**Tue 20<sup>th</sup> – Pub of the Year presentation**, 9pm at Royal Oak, Ockbrook. Bus from

Cathedral Green at 730pm, £3 per head. Names to Dean Smith 07703458623.  
**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> 'Suburbeer'** Windmill, Oakwood, Derby.  
 Catch the Trent H1 Bus from stop J2 (near the Quad) 7.35 or 8.35 bus. Return bus is 10.19, in Derby for 10.30.  
**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> to Sun 1<sup>st</sup> April – AGM and Members' Weekend**, Torquay.  
**APRIL**  
**Thu 12<sup>th</sup> – AGM**, Flower Pot, Derby. 8pm.

*For all Derby Socials contact  
Socials@derbycamra.org.uk*

### **Derby Contacts**

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#### **M&B- PLEASE NOTE**

Please tell me if you:

- ♦ Don't want to get M&B
  - ♦ Don't want other stuff from Derby CAMRA
  - ♦ Expected M&B but it did not arrive
  - ♦ Change your email or postal address
- Also tell HQ if you change address. The M&B database is kept on my home PC and is entirely separate from the CAMRA membership database.

*Tim Williams, 01332 381358  
timwilliams@39bhr.fsnet.co.uk*

**Mild & Bitter – (C) 2011 - Derby & Amber Valley CAMRA**  
**EDITOR: Paul Gibson - E-MAIL: mildbitter@derbycamra.org.uk**

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