

Mild & Bitter

Keeping Derby CAMRA drinkers informed since 1975

National Winter Ales Festival Is on the Right Track at Derby

Last month's record breaking National Winter Ales Festival at the Roundhouse was a runaway success. An anticipated attendance of 11,000 was comfortably surpassed as 13,500 drinkers piled into the historic building, exceeding the previous best Derby beer festival attendance of 12,164 at the Assembly Rooms in 1993. The 2014 attendance was 50% higher than last year's Derby CAMRA Winter Ales Festival at the Roundhouse; moreover, the figure represented the highest ever National Winter Ales Festival attendance at any venue. Extra beer supplies were drafted in and few of the 414 cask beers were left at the end, with the continental and cider bars also doing very well. 168 new members joined the campaign, and a panel of experienced judges voted Dunham Massey, Dunham Porter, Champion, Winter Beer of Britain 2014. Inadequate toileting facilities on Friday night were an unfortunate glitch but the huge turnout for NWAFF confirmed Derby as an ideal, centrally located destination for national festivals. Gillian Hough wants to thank all of the volunteer staff who worked so hard to ensure the festival's success, and Gillian gratefully acknowledges the efforts of those who worked additional hours when asked to do so. All volunteers who staffed the foyer area are deserving of a special mention as they worked quickly and efficiently to admit customers, peaking at 700 per hour on Friday. **Have you signed up for the trip to Derby Brewing Company and The Tap yet? The workers' outing is on Friday, 9th May. Contact gillian.williams1@yahoo.co.uk**

NWAFF Review Meeting

Come and air your views on the Roundhouse festival. All members are invited to attend the upstairs room of the **Brunswick**, 1 Railway Terrace, at 730pm on **Wednesday, 26th March**.

2015 National Winter Ales Festival Chairman

Applications are invited for this important role, so if you wish to play a prominent part in organizing NWAFF 2015 in Derby, please contact Branch Secretary, Ian Forman, **01332 882996** or secretary@derbycamra.org.uk by **Monday, 31st March**.

Derby CAMRA Branch Meeting, Bell and Castle, Burton Road, Thursday, 13th March

March's branch meeting will be at the Bell and Castle at the town end of Burton Road on **Thursday, 13th March at 8pm**. If you haven't already visited the refurbished pub then why not take the opportunity to try some fine ales served by obliging staff with CAMRA discount available as a bonus. Come and hear how the prestigious National Winter Ales Festival fared. Wheelchair access is good.

Derby Branch AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Derby CAMRA AGM will be held at the **Flowerpot**, King Street, Derby, on **Wednesday, 9th April at 8pm**. CAMRA members may stand for any committee position they wish, so long as they have a proposer and seconder, both of whom must also be members. Please bring your membership card in order to vote. For more information contact **Branch Secretary, Ian Forman** secretary@derbycamra.org.uk

POTY Presentation Dates

March has a packed social itinerary which includes Pub of the Year presentations on 6th, 18th and 27th. Please see page 4 for details.

Pattenmaker's Latest

A 1,500 strong petition has been delivered to Business Secretary, Vince Cable. We await developments with interest.

Help to Secure a Beer Duty Freeze

The Budget on 19th March is looming large and CAMRA is urging you to contact your MP with a view to him/her joining our campaign by writing to Chancellor, George Osborne, requesting a much needed freeze in beer duty. Local MPs: Chris Williamson (Derby North), Margaret Becket (Derby South), Pauline Latham (Mid Derbyshire), Jessica Lee (Erewash), Patrick McLoughlin (Derbyshire Dales), Nigel Mills (Amber Valley), Heather Wheeler (South Derbyshire).

Charter Festival Update

There is still a vacancy for **Publicity Officer**. **The next meeting will be on the 5th March at The Tap, Derwent Street, starting at 8pm**. The meeting is upstairs and is therefore unsuitable for wheelchairs. The City Charter Festival is between **9th - 13th July** at the Assembly Rooms. For festival announcements, please 'Like' our Face book page www.facebook.com/derbybeerfestival
Carla Johnson

AGM – Motions for Debate

Should you wish to have a motion for debate discussed at the branch AGM, then please forward the motion to the Branch Secretary, Ian Forman secretary@derbycamra.org.uk by **Wednesday, 26th March**, for inclusion in April's Mild and Bitter. Proposer and seconder must be CAMRA members.

National Pub of the Year

The Swan with 2 Necks, at Pendleton, Lancashire, has won the CAMRA national Pub of the Year award.

Ashbourne CAMRA Pub of the Year

The Smith's Tavern, Ashbourne, has been voted Ashbourne CAMRA Pub of the Year with the Sycamore, Parwich, runner-up. The Red Lion, Kniveton, came out on top in the Most Improved Pub of the Year category. Congratulations to all concerned.

NWAF Sponsors

CAMRA expresses its sincere thanks to the following sponsors of the National Winter Ales Festival: Marston's Brewery, J D Wetherspoon, Tap House (Smisby), Babington, J W Lees Brewery, Wentwell Brewery, Wingerworth Pub and Kitchen, Festival Glasses, Batemans Brewery, Derby Brewing Company, Dancing Duck Brewery, Leatherbritches Brewery, Acorn Brewery, Thwaites Brewery, Castle Rock Brewery, North Star Brewery, SIBA, Blue Monkey Brewery, Everard's Brewery, Cask Marque, Nottingham Brewery, Peak Ales Brewery, Falstaff Brewery, Brown Ales Brewery, Black Bull's Head (Openwoodgate), Beers of Europe, Brampton Brewery, Abbeydale Brewery.

NWAF 2014 Champion Winter Beer of Britain

Old Ale/Strong Mild 1 Exe Valley, Winter Glow 2 Beowulf, Dark Raven 3 Grainstore, Rutland Beast **Porter** 1 Dunham Massey, Dunham Porter 2 Ayr, Rabbie's Porter 3 Bateman's, Salem Porter **Stout** 1 Cairngorm, Black Gold 2 Ascot Ales, Anastasia's Exile Stout 3 Marble, Stouter Stout **Barley Wine/Strong Old Ale** 1 Kinver, Over the Edge 2 Moor, Old Freddy Walker 3= Green Jack, Ripper Triple; Highland, Orkney Porter **FINAL** 1 Dunham Massey, Dunham Porter 2 Cairngorm, Black Gold 3 Exe Valley, Winter Glow 4 Kinver, Over the Edge

NWAF 2014 East Midlands' Regional Beer Judging

Old Ale/Strong Mild 1 Castle Rock, Midnight Owl 2 Muirhouse, Magnum Mild 3 Brampton, Impy Dark **Porter** 1 Welbeck Abbey, Portland Black 2 Bateman's Salem Porter 3 Brewsters, Stilton Porter **Stout** 1 Dancing Duck, Dark Drake 2 Grainstore, Ratcliffe Stout 3 Blue Monkey, Guerilla **Barley Wine/Strong Old Ale** 1 Parish, Baz's Bonce Blower 2 Barlow, Full Monty 3 Nobbys, Tow'd Navigation **FINAL** 1 Welbeck Abbey, Portland Black 2 Castle Rock, Midnight Owl 3 Dancing Duck, Dark Drake 4 Parish, Baz's Bonce Blower

The gold winner of each East Midlands' style shown above goes forward to the national finals at the 2015 festival.

Local Media and the NWAF

The National Winter Ales Festival benefitted from acres of coverage in the Derby Telegraph. Unlike certain other cities, such as Lincoln, we're fortunate to still have a local, daily newspaper. Many choose to read news on-line but at just 45p the paper edition of the Derby Telegraph represents great value for money. Radio Derby did us proud as well, with several on-air interviews with the festival's organizers. Also, there was BBC and ITV East Midlands' television coverage which will have helped to boost attendance to record levels.

2014 Annual Beer Census Results

The trawl of 75 Derby real ale pubs on 31st January has produced the following findings: 194 different ales (180 in 2013); an average price of £2.94 (2.87 in 2013). Many thanks to all of those dedicated members who visited so many pubs. Derby CAMRA has, with these impressive statistics, thrown down the gauntlet to the likes of Norwich, Sheffield and Nottingham.

Understanding the Awards/ Answers for the Disappointed Landlord

Whenever the list of city Pub of the Year appears, there will be inevitably, some puzzled licensees. How is it, they ask, that my pub - one of the best in the area - isn't mentioned? What they don't understand is that the award in reality is a popularity contest determined mainly at one branch meeting of 30 or so members. It is not purely a measure of their beer quality - all the candidates sell good, if not, great beer, but it is a judgement by a limited sample of the members. The dropping of a pub from the Good Beer Guide (GBG) is a more serious matter, and is not done lightly. The sample size is greater and surveying is subsidised by the branch to ensure that all likely candidates are rated. But this means that out of the way pubs may well be rated on two or three trips organised surveys. And if the beer is less than good on those occasions, it has a disproportionate effect. These trips are not advertised in advance to the licensee, nor should they be as the sample should be as Joe Public might find it. Overall the number of surveys is vitally important to get a proper assessment and to this end in recent years the branch has doubled the number of surveys. However there is an unavoidable cut-off in that the branch has a limited number of GBG entries. And furthermore, as competition amongst pubs increases, the standard is raised. So even standing still may not be enough to retain GBG status.

John Arguile

Inside Out with the Beer King

Last month, BBC's Inside Out took a nostalgic look at some pub closures in Nottingham and Derby with our own Beer King, Les Baynton. Les focused on the "Mile" a popular pub crawl that used to start at the Derbyshire Yeoman, a Home Ales house, which is now McDonald's. Many of the "Mile" pubs have closed but those that have innovated such as the Greyhound and Mr Grundy's have, to an extent, mitigated the losses. The consensus was that many pub drinkers tend to bypass their local in the suburbs and head straight for the city centre. Chaddesden's vanishing pub scene is evidence of this.

Is Champion Beer of Britain Self-Defeating?

The absence of the all-conquering Elland, 1872 Porter from the National Winter Ales Festival was, I'm told, owing to its failure to progress through the regional stages of the competition. Given that the Yorkshire brew won Champion Beer of Britain and Winter Champion Beer of Britain in 2013, one can only assume that the brew has altered in terms of quality/quantity of ingredients or conditioning time. When a small brewery wins a national award it's inevitable that demand will soar. With many micros brewing to capacity, the proprietor is then in a quandary with three options available. He/she could carry on in the same manner to achieve the high quality that merited recognition, but with no increase in output. Result: brewer's integrity intact but no extra sales and therefore some disappointed customers. In order to meet some/all of the increased demand the brew could be given a reduced conditioning period. Result: inferior beer but greater sales. Thirdly, the proprietor could sub-contact the beer to a larger brewery in order to fulfil demand. Result: An inauthentic brew but valuable revenue for the brewers involved. Coniston Bluebird triumphed in the 1998 Champion Beer of Britain contest, and in order to sate massive demand, the Cumbrian brewery opted to have some of the brewing sub-contracted to Brakspear in Henley on (under?) Thames. The ersatz beer that emerged did neither brewery much credit. CAMRA could, perhaps, consider separate awards for small and larger breweries but that might diminish the ultimate CAMRA beer accolade.

PG

Photos Required for What Pub

CAMRA has a national pub site which you can review and update yourself. Visit whatpub.com and log in with either the same details you use to visit the members' area of CAMRA's national website or, if you have not visited the Members' area of CAMRA's national website before, try your CAMRA membership number and postcode when you joined the campaign (upper case, no space). To enable Derby branch to provide a comprehensive online guide to all of its pubs, we are seeking your images of pubs from all over our area.

photos@derbycamra.org.uk

Marchington Melee 3

Upwards of 20 beers and ciders will feature at the village hall, The Square, Marchington, ST14 8LF, on 7th and 8th March. Bands will be on and admission is £3.50.

Mild & Bitter on the Web

Mild & Bitter is available to view in the Members' Area of the award winning Derby Branch Website, as well as a number of back copies, in case you have mislaid previous editions.

Minutes of the Derby CAMRA Branch Meeting held at the Thomas Leaper on 12th February 2014

Apologies: Les Baynton (later), Mark Grist, Charlie Pratt, Julian Hough going home early, Chris and Sue Rogers.

Minutes of last meeting Printed in M&B. Accepted as a true record. **Matters arising** None. **Officers' reports:** **Chairman** GS said NWAf imminent. POTY results had been announced and reported in press. Furnace won city title, with Little Chester Ale House runner up - Presentations on 6th March. Country - 18th March for Winner Pattenmakers, and 27th March for runner up presentation at Royal Oak, Ockbrook. 16 judges had done a great job. ABC crawl had taken place - 194 different beers 14 more than last year. Press release to follow. Apr 9th AGM at the Flowerpot 8pm. Motions to Ian Forman for publication in April M&B. Members' weekend in Scarborough 25th - 27th April.

Secretary Nothing of note to report.

Treasurer Problems with DD advertising of late. Website to be worked on to resolve the issues currently being faced. AGM - audits taking place with Kevin. Branch audit by John Arguile. No revenue from NWAf may cause cash flow problems? **National Winter Ales Festival** Friday volunteers needed to unload; please ring Gillian. Lorry will collect and deliver stillage for festival. Staffing going well but not fully staffed as yet. Trade session might be busy. Mixture of free and bought beers. Soft drinks will also be available. All bases covered about availability of beers! Successful publicity crawl had taken place in January. Beer list is currently online with lots of hits. 414 beers available. Continental beers have more countries represented than before. Wide range available. 70 different varieties of beers. Mead, Perry and cider available as well. Facebook and Twitter are busy. 1990 brown tokens had been instigated. The original intention had been to use them on the day of issue. This will apply for the NWAf. Tokens will be able to be used ONLY at the Alexandra prior to the festival. They cannot be used outside the festival after the opening. For Saturday and Sunday of set up and Sunday take down, food will be available. Publicity in Derby Telegraph and major advert in the bus station. Tourist board map has been commissioned by Derby Live. **City Charter Summer Beer Festival** 9th to 13th July. Best part of the team in place. Budget has been accepted. Stewart Rayman - glass passed from one festival to the other to remember old friends. Full page advert should be in NWAf programme.

Campaigning goals What pub? Ongoing. Still only 24% with much to do. Pub map delayed but there is one in the programme thanks to John Arguile. Intention is to do our own soon. Pub Preservation: Detailed planning application analysis is currently taking place thanks to Tony Cooper.

Pattenmakers debate had taken place. Clare had foregone the right to renew the lease. This is now open to competition. Enterprise Inns have a formidable legal team. Could be registered as a Community Asset but the portents aren't promising. Enterprise maintain they are being fair. Tim Williams extolled the virtues of publicity to discourage potential persons who might be tempted to take it on. **DD** Will be out after festival owing to delays. **GBG** Selection meeting for 2015 guide on Monday 24th Feb at Falstaff. Some gaps. Six pubs desperately need information. Annual Beer Census - surveys of prices had taken place. A rise of 2.4% in price of average beers. WhatPub campaigning goal will not be met. **Surveys** Dean gave details that had been published in M&B. **Membership** Bumper month -50 new members. 1 transferred in 1 out and 23 lapsed. Konrad away soon but he is willing to stand for membership Secretary in his absence. Erewash members issue is still live and unresolved. Carl Brett needs to rule on the matter. It may be difficult to resolve as it concerns at least 300 different post codes. HQ may be reluctant to resolve? **M&B** Copy date is weds 26th Feb. **Regional Meeting** Saturday, 1st March at Arkwright's, Belper. **Socials** Published in M&B. POTY presentations as recorded earlier. **Ashbourne sub-Branch** Mark Grist not at meeting. POTY Smiths Tavern with Sycamore at Parwich runner up. **Information Exchange** Bulls Head, Repton now free house with links to Joiners at Quarndon. Station now reopened. Noah's Ark, Borrowash earmarked for flats? George Cross closing? Brunswick going back to Everards? Brewing unaffected. Terry Morton spoke of Chaddesden "beer desert" with the Wilmot up for sale. **AOB** Les Baynton to be on BBC Inside Out soon discussing what is left of the Derby Mile. 17th Feb at 7.30pm. It wasn't known whether we had made our campaigner of the year nomination by the 1st February deadline. Russ Gilbert thanked Lee of the Thomas Leaper for the food and support. Everards looking to take over unwanted traditional pubs under the Project William scheme. **Meeting closed at 2215.**

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-Branches, Tasting Panel, Transport, Website. 6. Information exchange - Pub, Brewery, etc 7. Any other business.

Minutes of the Ashbourne CAMRA Sub-Branch Meeting at Hulland Ward on 28th January 2014

Apologies: Pat Laughlin, Keith Palmer, David Coackley, Phil Lee, Malcolm Philippe, Diane Grist, Hannah Barton, Konrad Machej. **Minutes of December meeting/matters arising** Minutes approved. No matters were arising.

Chairman's Report AGM in Scarborough 25th-27th April. NWAf at Roundhouse discussed. Chairman reminded members to volunteer where possible. Staffing forms were available. Chairman to contact Green Man re possible festival is still outstanding. The Chairman noted a unusually low attendance at this meeting so Ashbourne POTY declaration delayed until at least 31st January. Members not present, but likely to vote, would be contacted. Chairman had been copied in on correspondence between Derby membership secretary and various CAMRA parties concerning sub-branch membership lists. List for our area?

Secretary/Treasurer Secretary absent but had indicated that there are no matters to be raised for this meeting. Open a bank account to deal solely with transactions for the Beer Festival. Dave Leigh will take that task on and will report to the sub-branch. **Branch Activity** Dave Leigh reiterated that we need to make surveying a primary focus this year. All agreed and various groups of pubs were discussed. A minibus trip(s) to be arranged to cover a few of them in the near future. The December walk had not happened, but one is mooted for February 23rd. Pub ramble to cover the Kniveton/Hognaston region. We could incorporate ad-hoc surveys into our branch meeting nights by having the meeting at one pub, then moving to nearby pubs. Starting next month, we will meet at Sudbury and go to Doveridge and also Boylestone if time permits. **Pub of the Year Competition** It had been agreed to delay the results until more votes had been received. **Pub Reports** The White Hart, Ashbourne is presently closed. Coach & Horses, Ashbourne - signs are coming. The Black Horse, Hulland Ward - sold and we will do something to recognise Muriel's long tenure. The Yew Tree, Ednaston - re-opening is imminent. George & Dragon, Ashbourne - change of regime? **Dates for Diary** 25th March, Black Cow, Dalbury Lees+ survey of 3 Horseshoes. 29th April, Ostrich, Longford. **Any Other Business** Richard Bright looking at ACV application for a local village shop and was gaining useful insight into the processes, should we have cause to apply it to a threatened pub. Kevin Woolley reported our Twitter following was very small at present, but included some notables. Chairman said local radio network had contacted us as a result of seeing our tweets regarding the POTY competition. **Meeting closed at 2100.**

Amber Valley CAMRA

Black Bull's Head is Pub of the Year

Congratulations to Andy Horsfall and Nikki Butt at the Black Bull's Head, Openwoodgate, on becoming Amber Valley CAMRA Pub of the Year for the second year running. Placings : 2 Holly Bush, Makeney; 3 Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse; 4 Thorn Tree, Waingroves; 5 Beehive; 6 Talbot Taphouse; 7 Hunter Arms; 8 Moulders Arms.

Club of the Year Results

1 Strutt Club, Belper. 2 South Wingfield Social Club. 3 Milford Social Club.

Arkwright's lifts Belper's Pub Scene

Arkwright's on Campbell Street is quite the best thing, beer wise, to happen in Belper for a few years. Old brewery advertisements and mirrors add to the ambience of Arkwright's, which opens 4pm weekdays and noon at weekends.

AGM Review

The Amber Valley CAMRA AGM at the Hunter Arms elected a new committee: Chris Rogers, Chairman; Nora Harper, Secretary; Paul Falconer, Treasurer; Steve Cook, Membership Secretary; Jane Wallis, Social Secretary; Phil Marshall, Webmaster; Trevor Spencer, Beer Festival Chairman. Retiring committee member, Nigel Heathcote, was thanked for his efforts.

Julie Weston

Julie Weston, nee Millhouse, passed away at the end of January at the age of 69. Julie was the former landlady of the Kestrel, Marehay, and Spanker, Nether Heage. Amber Valley CAMRA sends its condolences to Julie's family.

Beer Festivals

George and Dragon, Bridge Street, Belper, 13th to 15th March. **Holly Bush**, Makeney, 27th to 29th March.

Amber Valley Diary MARCH

Sun 9th – Amber Ramble, Meet at the Greenway entrance, Peasehill Road, Ripley, at 1130am. Covering Pentrich and Swanwick before finishing at the Beehive.
Mon 10th – Beer Festival meeting, Red Lion, Riddings-8pm.
Sat 15th – Free survey trip, departing from Ripley Market Place at 730pm.
Thu 27th – BRANCH MEETING, Queen's Head, Chesterfield Road, Belper-8pm.

Contact Jane Wallis on 01773 745966

Amber Valley Contact

Chairman: Chris Rogers 01332 880041

Ashbourne Diary

MARCH

Tue 25th – BRANCH MEETING, Black Cow, Dalbury Lees-8pm and then surveying of Three Horse Shoes, Long Lane.

Ashbourne Contact

Chairman, Mark Grist m.grist2@sky.com

Derby Branch Diary

MARCH

Wed 5th – City Charter Festival meeting, The Tap, Derwent Street-8pm.
Thu 6th – City Pub of the Year presentations: Little Chester Ale House-815pm and Furnace, Duke Street-915pm.
Tues 11th – Cheque presentation to Mayor, 2013 CCF. Meet at Council House reception area at 620pm.
Thu 13th – BRANCH MEETING, Bell and Castle, Burton Road (town end), Derby -8pm.
Thu 13th to Sat 15th – Burton CAMRA beer festival at the Town Hall.
Tues 18th – Country Pub of the Year award: Pattenmakers' Arms, Crown Street, Duffield-915pm.
Wed 26th – NWAFF review meeting, upstairs at the Brunswick, 1 Railway Terrace-730pm.
Thu 27th – Country Pub of the Year award, Royal Oak, Ockbrook-915pm. The runner's up presentation will combine with a survey of pubs in a **free mini bus** departing from Cathedral Green at 730pm.
Mon 31st – Committee meeting at a venue to be announced.

APRIL

Wed 9th – AGM, Flowerpot, King Street, Derby-8pm.

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

Derby Contacts

DERBY - Ian Forman on 01332 882996
DERBY COMMITTEE
committee@derbycamra.org.uk
Chairman: Gareth Stead
Chairman@derbycamra.org.uk
Secretary: Ian Forman
Secretary@derbycamra.org.uk
Treasurer: Julian Tubbs
Treasurer@derbycamra.org.uk
Membership: Konrad Machej
Membership@derbycamra.org.uk
Pubs Officer: Stewart Marshall
pubsofficer@derbycamra.org.uk
Committee Member: Sue Rogers
threecatsscider@gmail.com
Committee Member: Sue Dudley
55@googlemail.com
Beer Surveys: Stewart Marshall
beersurvey@derbycamra.org.uk

Winter fest Chairman: Gillian Williams
gillian.williams1@yahoo.co.uk
Summer fest Chairman: Russell Gilbert
russgilbert@o2.co.uk
Ashbourne Chairman: Mark Grist
m.grist2@sky.com
NON COMMITTEE
Socials: Dean Smith
Socials@derbycamra.org.uk
Derby Drinker Distribution: Joy Olivent
dds@derbycamra.org.uk
Survey Trips: Dean Smith
surveytrips@derbycamra.org.uk
LocAle: Atholl Beattie
locale@derbycamra.org.uk

M&B Copy Deadline

Copy to mildbitter@derbycamra.org.uk
by Wednesday, 26th March, please.

Derby Drinker Deadline

Copy by 10th April to
derbydrinker@derbycamra.org.uk
Advertising: ads@derbycamra.org.uk

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- Change your email or postal address

Please also tell HQ if you change address or other details. If you want to opt out of emails do so via
emailoptout@camra.org.uk.

Tim Williams, 01332 381358;
MBdatabase@derbycamra.org.uk

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EDITOR: Paul Gibson - E-MAIL: mildbitter@derbycamra.org.uk

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