



Campaign for Real Ale
Stroud Sub Branch
Committee Minutes Friday 28Feb2020



1]Welcome and Introductions: Bob Brooks, Bob Fletcher, Tony Hill, George Hill, Richard Taylor, Nick Bishop, Bob Jeffrey, Andy Burston, Tim Mars

3]Acceptance of last minutes: It was noted that a report from Andy Burston of progress of Keep Brewing had been omitted.

5]Chair's Report - See below

6]Secretary's report: a]A report from the Gloucestershire Branch (GL) AGM was given. A]A discussion on the way we assess our POTY and our GBG recommendations was discussed led by the Regional Director (RD). We have this as an agenda item. B]The possibility of funding and support for a campaign to increase membership was noted by the RD, eg: village pubs. **We agreed to investigate this further.** C]The secretary reported on his survey of active members their support for ales of less than 4% that we might recommend to local pubs. D]We agreed to investigate the possibility of a website to log our documents **Further discussion will take place.**

7]Pubs officer report: a]He reported: i]that he had submitted an article for the Tippler on our POTY award; that certificates for POTY's can be produced by January; ii]He welcomed the appointment of Geoff Sandals as GL Branch Pubs Officer; iii]that he was updating WhatPub entries; iv]He was working on gaining certificates for our Pub Focus project; v]**He wished to put discussion of our next Pub Focus on the March Agenda;** VI]That we should enquire quickly about the timetable for assessing other sub branches POTYs and which pubs had been selected. BJ agreed to chase.

8]POTY/GBG assessment process. **We agreed to provide some proposals for the March meeting** which were to include: transparent details of our process to avoid any criticism of corruption; information as to how to inform pubs of our assessments/selections.

9]Brewery Liaison Officers i]Keep Brewing. They were brewing a new ale called Heart of Gold 3.8%. Andy also reported he was moving to Devon and we would need a new BLO. Richard Taylor agreed to consider it. ii]Both Artisan and Big River breweries have indicated a desire to take part in RAB/RAC scheme." Our BLO report that the Artisan brewery is brewing a special ale for the Red Lion in Arlingham, that PA01 is now back in production and a new ale less than 2.8% is being investigated. The discussion then ensued as to what this involves, and the BLO informed us breweries have to send samples of all their bottled beers (neither brewery uses cans at present) to Brewlab with a small fee. Brewlab then test the beer to check for a minimum number of viable yeast cells in the bottle and if present the brewery is able to declare that CAMRA says this is real ale in a bottle. Our meeting was not happy with this description of real ale as we define it as cask ale.

11]Pub News: i]The White Bear Tewkesbury had been taken over by Inferno Brewing, ii]The Woolpack Inn Stonehouse had closed for refurbishment.

12]Facebook, SC WhatsApp and other media: i]Tim had agreed to assist the Cirencester Sub Branch in setting up their own FB site. Ii]Ou FB site was very active and admired.

13]Cider POTY Carpenters Arms presentation. BJ noted details of bus times there on a Saturday and we agreed to wait until the Pubs Officer could find a Saturday free.

14]AOB. i]Uley are reviewing prices. ii]A logo and website for SC was proposed. **Proposal for next meeting.** Iii]The possibility of organising village pub walks was proposed. **BJ to start proposals iv]Also a social to be discussed at next meeting.** v]It was agreed to move the Spring assessment final date to the May meeting. vi]Tony informed us that Brewlab certified bottled and canned beer as Real Ale depending on the live action inside. Tim Mars remonstrated about CAMRA calling bottle and canned ale as Real Ale **Action to be decided later.** Vii]Tony asks that we consider a logo for Stroud CAMRA (See appendix 2) **Action next meeting**

Next Meeting – Wednesday 18 Mar 2020

Chairs Report

Hopefully those of you that were not able to attend the pub of the year presentation at the Prince Albert on Friday 24th January have seen the picture online ably taken by our very own Bill Hicks of strolling with chums fame. For those that did attend I hope you enjoyed it. The event was filmed by Bone Soup Productions for a forthcoming documentary on pubs to be screened by the BBC. For my first pub of the year presentation this was somewhat of a big deal, necessitating the writing of some words ahead of time. This I thought would be enough but in addition, on arrival at the pub a release form had to be signed, radio microphone secreted about my person followed by a period of time ahead of the event to allow the butterflies to rise. The actual presentation was delivered against the backdrop of a packed pub, not sure how well I stuck to the script, but we did get a cheer or two. I may have been helped by the pint of Battledown Black which Lottie cheekily topped up from her own glass. The Stroud News obviously questioned my photogenicity as the picture actually published in the paper was doctored to show a mysterious hand passing the certificate to Lottie and Miles. The short notice needed to pull this together meant the production of a stand in certificate and thanks must go to Bob for making this happen supported by Tim and Richard Holt from Gloucester Branch.

Since I now have the real certificates, we need to plan the presentation to our cider pub of the year.

Bob Fletcher, Bob Jeffrey, Tim Mars, Richard Taylor attended the Gloucester CAMRA Branch AGM on Tuesday the 4th February at Stroud Brewery where a presentation was made to Bob Brooks recognising his years of commitment to CAMRA in the chair & to Muriel Brooks for her unwavering support not the least of which was given as wheel-lady. We await the formal minutes but Bob Jeffrey did take notes and can provide a further summary of proceedings.

On the 5th February Tim and I attended a meeting with the Save Our Star group where we were appraised of the current situation. Tim provided them with a wealth of information that he has accrued on general options and the situation on previous village buyouts. I will leave it to Tim to provide more information.

On the 7th February I and a group of friends met at the Regal in Gloucester for breakfast before boarding a No 71 bus for Tewkesbury where we enjoyed what was on offer at the winter ales festival. A very relaxed afternoon of imbibing was enjoyed before taking the least tortuous route home to Stroud (No 41 to Cheltenham followed by No 66 to Stroud) which sadly involved leaving at 17:15. If you have not done this festival before I thoroughly recommend it and Friday afternoon would be my pick. Highlights for me were Cerne Abbas Gurt Coconuts Rum Stout 6.7% (Its Gurt, its rum, its coconutty. Vic, the brewer, successfully conducted one of his experiments again with his old oak rum cask with no black sticky explosions this time! They were keeping this for themselves over Christmas, but we got one!) & New Bristol Bristol Amaretto Stout 4.0% (Smooth stout. Maris Otter, Crystal Rolled Oats and Chocolate Malts, with almond liqueur, Amaretto, added for extra style and sophistication.)

Appendix 1 From where does the name Doughcob originate?

The name originates from several hundred years ago before the construction of the Gloucester to Sharpness canal, when ships could only reach Gloucester on higher tides and had to navigate around the tortuous Arlingham bend in the River Severn. When a ship loaded with flour bound for Gloucester ran aground on a sandbank, the villagers unloaded the cargo at low tide, living on the free supply of flour for months they deep fried dough to make made doughcobs.

I understand that the term doughcob may be used/applied to someone who hails from Arlingham but don't quote me on that.

Appendix 2

Inspired by Dursley sub-branch logo (the Market Place) – do Stroud want to consider something similar – line drawing of the Sub Rooms maybe:

