



Campaign for Real Ale
Stroud CAMRA
Minutes 12th October 2022



1. Attendance & Apologies

Attendees: Bob Brooks, Andy Burson, Bob Fletcher, George Hill, Tony Hill, Andy Long, Tim Mars, Andy Stayte, Richard Taylor

Apologies, Nick Bishop, Philip Burton

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting/Matters Arising

a. Stroud CAMRA Website Update (Andy Stayte)

Andy Stayte reported that Google Analytics are now enabled on the Stroud CAMRA website and this includes a hits counter. Discussion between himself and Phil Burton covered surprise by the high number of hits. Speculation that this may be due to “bots” gathering data was covered. The meeting agreed to return to the topic when Phil Burton was present.

b. Stroud Ale Trail Update Andy Long/Jane Yarham

Andy Long updated the meeting on work currently in progress by himself, Bob Fletcher and Jane Yarham to prepare a second Ale Trail covering the commons. This new route takes a bus out to Minchinhampton visiting 7 pubs on the walk back to Stroud (Crown - Minchinhampton, Old Lodge, Amberley Inn, Black Horse - Amberly, Bear - Rodborough, Prince Albert and finally the Clothiers Arms. Discussion ensued on the need to publicise the existing trail as currently the work is to no one’s benefit. The Website was mentioned and this all agreed was needed but immediate benefit can be had by posting on the Facebook page.

Action: Andy Long

Bob Brooks handed round a walks leaflet produced by the Stroud Valleys Project and suggested that Stroud CAMRA should approach them to discuss the possibility of them producing a leaflet for our Ale Trails.

Action: Tony Hill

c. Cider Making Visit/Talk Date (Tony Hill)

Bob Jeffrey had contacted the Chair, Tony Hill asking if he should organise the Cider making visit for the following week (19/10/22) as he had been delayed in doing it due to his house move. It was felt that this was too short notice to publicise to our members. Accordingly, the trip is cancelled. The opportunity may be reviewed next year. The meeting extends thanks to Bob for working this.

d. Woolpack Visit Date (Tim Mars)

Tim has been unable to get a reply from his Email to Dan Chadwick of the Woolpack on this and has yet to obtain a phone number for him. Given the number of events in our calendar near term it was felt that this item should be removed from the minutes/action list. Should a response from Dan be forthcoming in the future it can be raised as AOB.

e. Cider Pub of the Year Presentation (Tim Mars)

The date for this was set at 15/10/22 but was cancelled by the licensees due to a bereavement. Ex committee discussion ensued as to what to do with respect to rescheduling with the outcome that we should go for the 22/10/22 to keep the presentation in October and preserve the link to CAMRA Cider Month.

Action: Tim Mars

This necessitates rescheduling the Club of The Year presentation scheduled for the 23/10/22 as it was felt we could not expect support from members and press over two successive days on a weekend. Dates in November were suggested.

Action: Tim Mars

f. Club of the Year Presentation (Tim Mars)

See action above – rescheduling agreed to November.

There was debate on the level of competition for this award in the Stroud CAMRA postcodes. George Hill mentioned a club in Nailsworth, Nailsworth Social Club which does not have an entry in Whatpub. He thought that it stocked one real ale and agreed to visit and photograph the bar.

Action: George Hill

Bob Fletcher mentioned the Painswick Golf Club which does have an incomplete entry on Whatpub. Bob thought that this club was open to the public. The committee requested if he could collect further information/photographs.

Action: Bob Fletcher

g. Stroud Beer Festival Discussion (Nick Bishop)

Nick has been unable to attend due to work/family commitments. It was felt that this item should be removed from the minutes/action list. It can be raised as AOB as needed in the future.

h. GBG Launch

[REDACTED]

Action: Tim Mars

3. Officers Briefings (as applicable)

a. Chair's Report (Branch news)

The chair started with an appeal to members to cover the allocated Autumn Gold cards since half the time has gone with much less than half the reviews having been completed. All agreed to make efforts to close this out before the next meeting. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and Andy Stayte and Tony Hill agreed to postpone the gold card until after, lest this skews the result.

The Chair appealed for help with tasking, such as organising socials, organising presentations. GBG launch etc. the feedback is that if there is something specific to do there are members willing to do it. Just need to ask.

The previous month's meeting suggestion for a Christmas meal to be combined with the December social was discussed. There were mixed views around the table with issue such as the business of pubs and people's diaries being raised. Richard Taylor suggested doing it in January to mitigate this and provide a small boost to the generally poor January trade. Tim suggested that it was not in the spirit of a CAMRA social. Tony suggested that we could do a social with a, 18:30 start for those eating with a 19:30 start for those just interested in the social without food. When it came to a vote the outcome is that the delegates felt that a meal was not needed December or January.

The September social was held at Fostons Ash, The Camp. This social lacked some balance not being graced by any of our usual ladies, Charlotte, Jane or Muriel – six grumpy old men it was then (I include myself in this genre). Many subjects were broached including the inevitable discussion around beer, pubs and breweries. We even strayed into the somewhat bomb cratered subject that covers the level of competency displayed by our shiny new Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, surprisingly no lives were lost and all that took part in this risky endeavour left with no animosity.

The beer offer at Fostons Ash is one of two changing guests (no regular ale) and on this occasion both were from Goffs, a brewery that is not often seen in our Stroud Valleys pubs. I took a half of the Joustier and my companions took the Cheltenham Gold. I followed with a Cheltenham Gold for my second beverage. All agreed that the Cheltenham Gold was the preferred beverage beer from our perspective but both were at an agreeable temperature and an enjoyable social was had.

Whatpub fully updated:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0625/fostons-ash-inn-stroud>



Pub news from Dursley, the New Inn – Waterly Bottom is closed temporarily (we hope) due to outgoings exceeding income. The Prince of Wales Berkeley which has been closed for some time would now seem to be a used car lot.

b. Pubs Officer's Report

Nothing to report.

c. Pub Data Officers Report

Nothing to report.

4. Future Socials

We previously minuted that future socials for October and November were pencilled as the Ragged Cot & the Ram Inn, Bussage, however Tim had cause to visit the Fleece at Rooksmoor and was sufficiently impressed to suggest this as the October social. Since this also has not had a full survey for a similar length of time as those proposed this fell within our aim to update Whatpub at the same time. Accordingly, the suggestion was accepted. Date was discussed and agreed as 25/10/22. Organisation, publicising needed.

Action: Tony Hill

5. Any Other Business

None.

6. Date and time of the next meeting

Wednesday 9th November.

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