



**Campaign for Real Ale
Stroud CAMRA
Minutes 12th July 2023**



1. Attendance & Apologies

Attendees: Andy Burston, Bob Fletcher, George Hill, Tony Hill, Andy Long, Tim Mars, John McMahon, Jez Wareham.

Apologies: Nick Bishop, Bob Blenkinsop, Bob Brooks, Phil Burton, Andy Stayte.

2. Minutes of the meeting/action updates/Matters arising from 10th May meeting

a. March minutes

The minutes were accepted.

b. Action updates

Reference	Description	Actionee	Status
March #5	Future socials	Bob Fletcher	On-going
April #7	Set date for Stroud Ale Walk	Bob Fletcher	Complete
May #3	Issue identified with the WhatPub entry for Curio Lounge	Tim Mars	On-going
May #6	Evidence on issues with CAMRA membership list provided for sub-branch communications (those opted in) to be collated and submitted to the RD Peter Bridle	Tim Mars	On-going
June #1	May minutes were accepted as a correct record with the exception to wording around the Comms tool. Reword requested.	Tim Mars/Philip Burton	Complete
June #2	Pubzilla update needed for the Cross Hands Stroud	Andy Burston	Ongoing
June #3	Tim Mars to liaise with the Press/Matt Bigwood and publicise the COTY on Facebook and through Email to members	Action Tim Mars	Complete
June #4	Tony as Chair, to would write on behalf of Stroud CAMRA to Stroud MP on plight of the Old Neighbourhood and the Vine Tree	Tony Hill	Complete
June #5	Tim would notify all members encouraging them to also write to their MP on plight of the Old Neighbourhood and the Vine Tree	Tim Mars	Complete
June #6	A Facebook post would be written/posted tagged to Chas Townley to ascertain if the owner of the Vine tree and Old Neighbourhood are the same	Tony Hill	Closed – post not needed, Chas contacted by Tim

Reference	Description	Actionee	Status
June #7	Philip Burton would put together a briefing on the Vine tree and Old Neighbourhood for WhatsApp.	Philip Burton	Complete
June #8	Proposed social by vintage bus for members of the Gloucester and Cheltenham CAMRA groups to tour some pubs in Stroud.	George Hill	Ongoing
June #9	Philip to organise cover for Bob Fletchers Tippler deliveries	Philip Burton	Complete

3. Chairs Report

a. Cirencester Update

- Planning has now been granted for work on The Tunnel House which includes the addition of glamping pods, we await news of timing for the works and a possible new occupant.
- Rumour has it that the Wheatsheaf Cirencester is to be put on the market for development due to poor condition of the building, not sure how this works as the pub always appeared to trade well. We will keep an eye open with the planning department.
- The Twelve Bells Cirencester remains on the market for £750k.
- The Marlborough Arms Cirencester is a bit up and down at present, the beer quality on our last visit was quite poor with majority of cask ales being from North Cotswold Brewery and not very well kept.
- The Drillmans Arms in Stratton continues to be well run and serving a good selection of cask ales in good condition.

b. Dursley Update

- The Royal Oak, Wotton under Edge is still closed, although we understand that a new tenant has been found and a delivery of stock was recently observed. We have also been told that the lock up garages in the car park have been sold, and that there may be an intention to build housing in their place. This is however, hearsay and we await confirmation.
- Possible uses for The Fox in Hawkesbury Upton will be the subject of a public meeting held at the Village Hall there on 15th July. It is hoped that its future as a pub can in some way be combined with uses giving additional value to the Community.
- The fact that The Boar's Head in Berkeley remains open was seen as good news, the view being that perhaps Greene King, who have a degree of interest there, may be keen to see it remain a pub. It seems that planning permission for the proposed development by the owner has not been granted.

- Mills Brewing: Shipments are currently being made in a different style of bottle due to a shortage of their regular French-made bottle earlier this year, caused by the destruction of glass manufacturing plants in Ukraine, along with hangovers from COVID-related shutdowns and Brexit. As a small business they are not able to hold much stock of empty bottles, so had to go with an alternative for a few batches. They are slightly lighter in weight but surprisingly can hold more pressure than the usual bottle, so will be equally good for the long-term ageing of beers. A fresh supply of the familiar bottles is already back in the building. There is also now an alternative way to buy supplies through the Webstore. This involves building up a box, which will be shipped to the customer at the end of each season, i.e., four times a year. The early June release from the Mills Brewing webstore was Twig. Recent release on the Mills Brewing webstore was Saison Cider Cask.
- Lucifer Brewhouse: Starting on July 6th there will be a tap takeover by the Brewery at The Falcon Steakhouse, Wotton under Edge. This will continue until the beers run out, so get in early to try their excellent beers.
- Trips: Thanks to public transport problems, our trip to the GSWR Steam Rail and Ale Festival was a bit of a damp squib. The bus from the station to the racecourse was 45 minutes late and when we got to the railway, there didn't seem to be as many trains shuttling between Winchcombe and Toddington, so we only had time for one trip to Toddington. On return to Winchcombe, there was almost 1 ½ hour wait for a train to the racecourse, and no beer as it had run out. On arrival at the racecourse, we were locked in the station for almost 20 minutes. By this time the busses from the racecourse park & ride had ceased to run and we had to get a taxi. Then we had a wait for a train home. So instead of being back home by about 7pm, it was almost 10pm when I arrived. Not a very enjoyable day out considering how pleasurable it was in previous years. I hope our outing to the Worcester beer festival is a better prospect.
- There are beer festivals Fleece Hillesley - 21st - 23rd July 2023, Royal Oak, Cromhall – see website/social media, Old Spot, Dursley - see website/social media.
- We meet regularly on the last Tuesday of the month to discuss local matters, our pubs and breweries and to enjoy the beers. All are welcome and details of meetings are on the Dursley & District CAMRA website.

c. Forest Update

- With less than 100 CAMRA members residing within a wide geographical area, activism in the Forest of Dean subbranch area is always going to be challenging. However, CAMRA is still relevant and core members still meet every Thursdays to monitor pubs. In June we visited the Littledean House Hotel, Bespoke Brewery Tap, Hearts of Oak in Drybrook and the Lyon Inn at Westbury.
- Alan and Sylvia Black are life-members of CAMRA and were active until a decade or so ago. With the light evenings it was a pleasure to welcome both Alan and Sylvia to some of our summer pub visits.

- The Forest of Dean subbranch of CAMRA held their AGM at the Dog House in Coleford on 1st June. The existing committee members were willing to continue in their posts and Geoff Sandles was formerly elected as chairman. He thanked previous chair John Fox in his absence for his contribution, and as there was no other business the meeting was ended within 20 minutes of it starting. We then presented the certificate for Forest of Dean CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year to the Dog House. Bar manager Jordan, and staff members Carrie-Anne and Tash, were presented with the certificate. This is the fifth consecutive year that the Dog House has clinched the title. There must be other cider pubs in the Forest of Dean worthy of consideration.
- Our social secretary Andrew Tubb has organised some 'days out', with a trip to Bristol planned soon.
- Andy and Geoff attended the North Cotswold CAMRA 'Steam and Ale' festival on the GWSR on Saturday 17th June. We met with the Dursley sub-branch. A lineside fire caused delays and the scheduled timetable was affected. We did manage to get to both Toddington and Winchcombe. The quality of the beers was found to be good, cellar management made difficult because of the warm weather. A good effort by the North Cotswold branch.
- Pub news. On Thursday of this week, we will be visiting the recently re-opened Railway Inn in Newnham on Severn. Their social media shows two Wye Valley Brewery beers on offer.
- The New Inn at Ruspidge has also re-opened recently. We have yet to visit.

d. Gloucester Update

- No formal update – currently no Chair – Margaret has resigned
- Margaret organised social in Café Rene in unofficial capacity, everyone agreed the beer was much improved.

e. Gloucestershire Update

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Beer Scoring Report for June 2023: The overall quality of beer in our pubs is generally good to very good, which is encouraging. The vast majority of submitted scores were 3 and above. One beer – [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] There were 26 assessors contributing to beer scoring. Pubs assessed.
- In Cirencester sub-branch – 9
 - In Dursley sub-branch – 7
 - In Forest of Dean sub-branch - 10
 - In Gloucester sub-branch – 4
 - In Stroud sub-branch – 7
 - TOTAL - 37
- Treasurer's Update: Bank balance £1,349.45 all GBG monies in. Mark going to check Gloucester Beer Festival accounts.
 - Membership Secretary's Update: The new membership figures for the branch are;
 - Gloucester 442, + 3

- Stroud 162, -1
- Dursley 177, -1
- Forest 94, -4
- Cirencester 111, -1
- Other 18, no change
- TOTAL 1004
- Updated individual sub-branch lists to follow.
- Secretary's Update: Will need to start ordering GBG2024 soon, will need to think about dual cover.
- Licensee packs due to be delivered early August. I'm on holiday so have instructed HQ to deliver to Andrew's.
- Regional Meeting Saturday 21st October, location TBC.
- GBG: Geoff raised concerns that entries crafted to be 80 words long were changed to 95 words without his input. Andrew to confirm length required next time and to agree roles and responsibilities for next edition. Action AF
- The Tippler: Clarification was sought regarding any guidelines around pages per sub-branch. Andrew to discuss with Chris. Action AF

f. Other

Discussion ensued on the dual cover aspect of the 2024 GBG and difficulties that may cause on advance ordering of our usual 10 copies. A proposal to go with the Bruce Dickinson cover and a vote was held which was carried unanimously.

Action #1: Tony Hill to order Bruce Dickenson cover copies

4. Pubs Officer's Report

Tim Reported on current status of the Ram at Woodchester. David Morgan, an expert in matters such as these and was suspicious that the property was being marketed through Frowens, an agent not known for commercial sales. Suspicion is that the property is being aimed at a residential market.

5. Pub Data Officers Report

Andy reported that the Whatpub update for the Ram at Bussage needed additional photos which he was planning to take Sun 16th.

Action #2: Andy B to photograph the Ram

6. Award Ceremonies

The focus is now on the final ceremony- Club of the Year for Chalford Sports and Social Club. The award has now been fixed for Sunday 16th July at 14-30. Members were reminded. Tim reported that Mat Bigwood of the Stroud Times was unable to attend but would consider publication of a supplied article with photos. Further our normal CAMRA photographer, Bill Hicks was in Portugal so not available. George stated that his Fiancé, Rachel had a camera and was experienced in its use.

Action #3: George Hill to ask Rachel to do photographs

