



Campaign for Real Ale
Stroud CAMRA
Minutes 10th July 2024



1. Attendance & Apologies

Attendees: Andy Burston, Bob Fletcher, Tony Hill, Tim Mars.

Apologies: Nick Bishop, Bob Brooks, George Hill, Andy Long, John MacMahon.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting/Action Status/Matters Arising

a. June Minutes.

The minutes were accepted as true however Tim feels that a rewording of the Pubs Officers Report would more clearly make the point with respect to contrast between village and town pubs fortunes.

Action #1 Tim Mars

Minutes to be updated and shared when Tim has provided the wording.

Action #2 Tony Hill

b. Action Updates

Reference	Description	Actionee	Status
Apr #6	Survey Star, Whiteshill & update Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Complete
Apr #7	Survey Vine Tree, Randwick & update Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Complete
May #5	Organise walk taking in Vine Tree, Randwick and Star, Whiteshill for surveys	Tony Hill	Complete
June #1	Update May minutes	Tony Hill	Complete
June #2	Raise issues around new West Central region at Branch meeting	Tony Hill	Complete
June #3	Share data capture form for Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Complete
June #4	Allocate final Summer gold cards	Tony Hill	Complete
June #5	Arrange publication of Club of The Year Presentation	Tim Mars	Complete
June #6	Publicise itinerary for social at the Vine Tree & Star Inn on July 6 th	Tony Hill	Complete
June #7	Write to the editor of Beer on poor choice of graphics	Tim Mars	Complete

c. Matters Arising

None.

3. Officers Briefings

a. Chairs Report

The chair raised the issue of the new West Central region at Branch with an action agreed for Branch Chair to take this up with CAMRA central. Since then, new emails have been received further complicating matters in that Wyre Forest sent the following communication:

Kevin,

Recently, the branch received a member's proposal regarding the Regional Reorganisation. This was put on the agenda for our monthly branch meeting which was yesterday (2nd July). The supporting document (attached) was discussed and the 3-point motion was adopted.

The motions are:

- 1. Wyre Forest Branch expresses its lack of confidence in the regional restructure which has been imposed on us. The concerns articulated by our Core leadership and individuals have been disregarded.*
- 2. We propose a fresh look at regional relationships in the West and Midlands of England, in a better, democratic consultative process involving members and branches.*
- 3. The branch will communicate these views of Wyre Forest Branch to relevant people and bodies in the CAMRA hierarchy and to other affected branches.*

As the wording suggests, the branch members present are hopeful of an improved process going forward, so that we achieve a workable/better/effective regional structure for CAMRA in our part of the country.

Rob Budworth

Chair

Wyre Forest CAMRA

Email: contact@wyreforest.camra.org.uk

Tel: 07845 901706

This was shortly followed by the West Central acting RD (RD for Scotland) sending this:

All

Just for info, the original plan was for myself to be the interim RD for West Central, but for personal reasons I am unable to take on that extra role for now. Kevin will communicate when someone is in place to take over the interim RD role for West Central and who will hopefully find a satisfactory way forward for you all.

Regards

Stuart

This means we are further in limbo.

Discussion ensued on how best we should respond to this new situation with the outcome that the Chair was actioned to capture Stroud' thoughts for onward transmission to Gloucestershire Branch Chair for inclusion in a communication to head office. Stroud's position is best summarised as:

"Have CAMRA really not got anything better to do than focus on this unwanted reorganisation when our organisation, the industry and Cask Ale is under more threat than at any time we can remember. Our energies could be far better spent."

The committee felt that if forced through significant damage may be caused to the organisation that may take many years to recover if at all.

Action #3 Tony Hill

The chair then briefed on the Branch meeting held on 02/07/2024. There was really too much material to present in entirety so it was agreed to upload to the Stroud CAMRA WhatsApp group to allow interested parties to read.

Action #4 Tony Hill

Finally, the chair appraised the committee on the Good Beer Guide 2025 which this year comes in two alternative covers one featuring Coronation Street's Rover's Return & the other Emmerdale's Woolpack!

<https://camra.org.uk/publications/the-good-beer-guide-2025/>

The committee were unimpressed with this approach.

b. Pub Officers report

Committee had previously been appraised of the fact that the Crown and Sceptre would be looking for new management after 15 years with Rodda Thomas ending his tenure. Tim raised the suggestion that Stroud CAMRA should present him with a certificate to in some way mark his contribution to the community pub and real ale over 15 years' service to Horns Rd and Stroud. The committee felt this was deserved and fitting. Tim Mars to find out the date of the closing party (anniversary of 15 years).

Action #5 Tim Mars

Tony Hill to determine what is possible certificate wise and order.

Action #6 Tony Hill

c. Pub Data Officer's Report

Andy Burston stated that the Pubzilla update had been done for the Star, Whiteshill but export to Whatpub was needed pending details of Facebook page and Website URL. This was discussed and it was agreed not to wait but to publish. It is not a given that either will happen and better to have accurate information for everything else published. Update is easy if the data does become available.

The issue of which are our aged data pubs now that most changes of licensee are complete came up and Andy agreed to export and order a list from Pubzilla to determine this.

Action #7 Andy Burston

4. Threatened Pubs

Currently we have three threatened pubs, for which community groups are working to save, the Rose & Crown – Nympsfield, the Old Neighbourhood - Chalford and the Kings Head - Kings Stanley.

a. Rose & Crown – Nympsfield

News from the Rose & Crown may be found on their website here:

https://nympsfieldcommunitypub.co.uk/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWOCMTAAAR0y2W4cXW1FDEhOlo93eJLy4YzvSUg1uzaefmAy2e7X5DteSohgJDSJYZs_aem_RcsbT7HszkBr5dukh0feYQ

Latest information is that the group have received a £10,000 ‘reach’ grant from social investment business group. In addition, they are planning further events similar to the pop-up pub event and will be launching their share offer.

b. Old Neighbourhood - Chalford

Following the planning refusal (change of use to residence) The community group have move on launching their prospectus to raise the money needed to buy the pub:

<https://theoldneighbourhood.co.uk/>

c. Kings Head - Kings Stanley

No news but updates as they appear can be found here:

<https://www.kingshead-kingsstanley.uk/village-meeting/>

5. 2024 Summer Gold Card Allocations

The final allocation of Gold Cards and completion is as follows:

Venue	Location	Spring Assessors	Summer Assessors	Progress
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Venue	Location	Spring Assessors	Summer Assessors	Progress
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Note on Gold cards could all judges please capture the price information and measure the beer temperature where possible.

6. Breweries Update

The Fresh Standard Brewing Co

Seasonal ales Snift, our cask Hazy and Bryter will be heading to Postlip beer festival in a couple of weeks and the brewery will be participating in the Gloucestershire beer week again in September. They have contacted Paul of Keep Brewing about this event but have yet to hear back.

Keep Brewing

No news.

Stroud Brewery

No news.

7. July Social/Future Socials

The July Social to the Vine Tree, Randwick and Star Inn, Whiteshill was discussed. 5 of us attended with 3 of us walking the picturesque footpath across the valley between the venues whilst the rain held off.

The Vine Tree is a secluded gem nestling in the flank of a steep hill with spectacular views of the Stroud Valley and across to Rodborough and Selsley Common. It has been taken over by Suzi & Barry-Jon Williams on 29th February 2024 and opened on 7th March with Will Lomas as front of house manager. The new team are not new to pub hospitality with Suzi and Will having honed their skills in the well-respected Old Fox in Coaley. On the bar we found Wye Valley HPA, Otter Bitter and Uley Old Spot, all in good condition.

The Star is a Grade II-listed Cotswold-stone 17th century inn with a comprehensively modernised, altered and updated interior. It was taken over by George Ross on 2nd April 2024. On offer was Stroud Budding and Stroud OPA, both direct from the barrel in the cellar. Both were enjoyed

The next social will be the Black Horse, Cranham with a look in at Painswick on the way back.

Action #8 Bob Fletcher

8. Pub Data/Surveys

The **Vine Tree**, Randwick was fully surveyed on the 6th July and fully updated on Whatpub,

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0399/vine-tree-inn-randwick>

The Star Inn was fully surveyed on the 6th July thank, to Andy Burston and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0507/star-inn-whiteshill>

Pub survey data should be captured on the form provided in our WhatsApp group and returned to Andy Burston or Tony Hill. As many Photos as possible should be taken in landscape format and again returned to the aforementioned. The following status was is now out of date and only Outstanding surveys are as follows (pending update, see action 7):

Pub	Reason	Surveyor
Cross Hands, Stroud	Aged data	Andy Burston/Jez Waring
Fostons Ash, Birdlip	Tenancy Changes	Bob Fletcher
Royal Oak Inn, North Woodchester	Aged data	TBD
Fountain, Stroud	Tenancy Changes	Jez Waring and Bob Blenkinsop
Waypoint, Painswick	Tenancy Changes	Bob Fletcher

9. Any Other Business

The chair had been contacted by Jill MacKenzie who is organising Gloucestershire Beer Week and is requesting a contact list for licensees with a view to involving more Stroud pubs.

Action #9 Tony Hill

The Star at Whiteshill should be added to the Tippler delivery list, with roundsman Andy Burston.

Action #10 Tony Hill

Additional Tippler stands are needed.

Action #11 Tony Hill

Date and time of the next meeting

Note that in the Chairs absence Andy Burston will be chairing the August Meeting

Wednesday 14th August at 19:30. chair@stroud.camra.org.uk

Stroud CAMRA Calendar 2024

Date 2024	Event	Venue
Tue 9 th January	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 10 th January	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 31st January	2025 GBG ranked list of 10 to be submitted to Branch. Updates to GBG descriptions commence	N/A
1 st – 3 rd February	Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival	Watson Hall, Tewkesbury
Wed 14 th February	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting Spring GC Assessments allocated	The Ale House 7.30pm
15 th – 17 th February	Great British Beer Festival - Winter	Burton Town Hall
Thur 29th February	Deadline for all 2025 GBG descriptions to be entered in Pubzilla	N/A
Tue 12 th March	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 13 th March	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 10 th April	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
26 th - 28 th April	CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference	Caird Hall in Dundee
Tue 7 th May	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 8 th May	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting Spring GC assessments conclude Summer GC Assessments allocated	The Ale House 7.30pm
Mid-May	2025 GBG Proofs are received	N/A
Fri 31st May	2025 GBG Proofs are approved	N/A
Wed 12 th June	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Tue 9 th July	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 10 th July	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 7th August	Good Beer Guide 2025 Licensee packs are due to be sent	N/A
Wed 14 th August	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting Summer GC assessments conclude Autumn GC Assessments allocated	The Ale House 7.30pm
19 th - 21 st July	Cotswold beer festival.	Postlip Hall Tithe Barn
Wed 10 th September	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 11 th September	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 9 th October	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 12 th November	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 13 th November	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting Autumn GC Assessments conclude POTY candidates determined and Shortlist for 2026 GBG finalised	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 11 th December	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm