



**Campaign for Real Ale**  
**Stroud CAMRA**  
**Minutes 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024**



**1. Attendance & Apologies**

Attendees: Bob Brooks, Andy Burston, Tony Hill, Andy Long, John McMahon, Tim Mars.

Apologies: Nick Bishop, Bob Fletcher, George Hill.

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

**a. May Minutes.**

Footer date wrong in May minutes. Title for 2. States December. Old neighbourhood says private hime not home. Also a request for page numbers to be added to minutes going forward.

**Action #1 Tony Hill**

**b. Action Updates**

Reference	Description	Actionee	Status
Jan #2	Corner House Pubzilla survey/update needed (moved location)	Andy Burston	Complete
Mar #5	Kings Head Kings Stanley community group to be put in touch with CAMRA Help (Paul Ainsworth)	Tim Mars	Complete
Apr #5	Survey Bear, Bisley & update Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Complete
Apr #6	Survey Star, Whiteshill & update Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Ongoing
Apr #7	Survey Vine Tree, Randwick & update Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Ongoing
May #1	Corrections to April Minutes	Tony Hill	Complete
May #2	Share AGM and branch meeting reports to Stroud CAMRA WhatsApp group	Tony Hill	Complete
May #3	Share Rose and Crown village meeting presentation to Stroud CAMRA WhatsApp group	Tony Hill	Complete
May #4	Organise May social to Bear at Bisley	Bob Fletcher	Complete
May #5	Organise walk taking in Vine Tree, Randwick and Star, Whiteshill for surveys	Tony Hill	Ongoing
May #6	Appeal for a Cameraman/woman for presentations	Tony Hill	Complete

**c. Matters Arising**

None.

### 3. Officers Briefings

#### a. Chairs Report

The Chair started by outlining recent events on the new West Central region. Under the boundary changes being implemented, Gloucestershire moves from being part of the former South West to being part of the new West Central region consisting of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Oxfordshire. The Chair had received the following communication by Email:

*Hi All,*

*Please see the note below concerning West Central Region. Please can reply to this email so I know it has reached all Branches, if you are not the correct recipient, please can you forward to correct person in your Branch. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or RD Scotland. The recent election process for the West Central Region failed to have a candidate step forward for the position of Regional Director.*

*As is usual practice for this situation the Regions and Branches Committee have recommended another Regional Director to cover West Central until another election process can take place. The Regional Director who will be overseeing West Central Region is Stuart McMahon the RD for Scotland.*

*Stuart will have two objectives;*

*To work with and encourage the setting up of County structures (where required ) within the region.*

*To run an election for the position of Regional Director.*

*Hopefully this can be short term and a new Regional Director can soon be in place.*

*Yours Sincerely*

*Kevin Keaveny*

*Chair of Regions & Branches Committee & Regional Director for Yorkshire*

This then precipitated a string of responses best summarised as follows:

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position on changes</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Oxfordshire	John Winney	Extremely negative	Imposed structure virtually ensures branch non-engagement
Forest of Dean	Geoff Sandles	Content	Would prefer three counties (not Oxford)
Stroud	Tony Hill	Negative	Made it clear that it was his personal view
Wyre Forest	Rob Budworth	Negative	Previously raised concern that the new region was likely to fail and fear that we will be proved right

Sheakespeare Lloyd Evans Negative

The branch is currently not in a positive position regarding the framework of the new region

The common theme seemed from branches seemed to be one of branches raising issues during consultation and no obvious account taken of these. Committee discussed the current position and came to a view that it was less than ideal having RD for Scotland with temporary custodianship of the new West Central region. Committee unanimously agreed that the new region has no support from Stroud. The chair was actioned to bring this up at the next branch meeting

#### **Action #2 Tony Hill**

The Chair enjoyed a BBQ with family to celebrate a significant age milestone and chose Fresh Standard Brew Co for the necessary libations. A visit was made to find the expected Solution Common Pale Ale @4.8ABV unavailable. Seems the Brewery had a pump failure (repairs in hand) which has meant a period of no brewing. Luckily Richard found a poly pin of single Hop beer, Harlequin which was 4.4% pale and very moreish.

#### **b. Pub Officers report**

The plight of three of Stroud's exceptional village pubs contrasts strongly with the trading situation in the town itself.

The Rose & Crown at Nympsfield, the Kings Head at Kings Stanley and the Old Neighbourhood at Chalford are all closed and under threat in a similar way. Developers are circling, wanting to build houses on their extensive car parks with a view to then applying to convert the pub to residential.

This is a pattern we have already seen at the Ram, South Woodchester, once one of the busiest and most popular pubs in the area, in that case planning permission was granted for houses in the lower car park (which morphed into a single house for Alan Sutton) as the 'price' for the retention and refurbishment of the pub. This was stymied by the death of landlord Stephen McAsey and the pub remains closed.

Meanwhile, in Stroud town itself, while the Market Tavern/Union/Pelican remains shamefully closed, and we have lost the Swan, there has been something of a renaissance. Since Wetherspoon opened the Lord John in 1996, we have seen the arrival of the Ale House, the Corner House, the Curio Lounge, Brody's, the Town Owl Taphouse and now an application by Amber Taverns for a license at 2 King Street (part of M&Cos former department store opposite Lloyds Bank).

The explanation for the contrast is, in all bar one case, the nature of the premises, The Rose & Crown, the Kings Head and the Old Neighbourhood are detached freehold buildings, public houses with landlord's accommodation upstairs, easily envisaged for conversion into houses. The Lord John, the Corner House, the Curio Lounge, Brody's, the Town Owl Taphouse and the proposed Amber Taverns development are all bars occupying retail units, which could as easily be shops as bars. The odd one out is the Ale House, which is a public house with integral landlord accommodation (and toilets!) upstairs. Were (for example) Wetherspoon to close the Lord John, another operator might reopen it as a bar—or it might revert to being a shop. Whichever, at the end of the day it's just a 'retail unit'.

Tim also reported that 2025 GBG proofs had been reviewed and approved.

### c. **Pub Data Officer's Report**

Andy Burston explained that the frequency of changes of ownership/tenancy of pubs was causing a backlog of Pub Surveys and reiterated his request for help in surveying from committee members. A form is available to complete when surveys are completed. Tony Hill added that pictures should be taken to accompany the data, as many as possible, inside and out all in landscape (Portrait pictures are not handled properly by Pubzilla). Andy offered to share the data capture form on WhatsApp.

**Action #3 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**

The Nympsfield community pub group hosted a pop-up pub at the Rose and Crown to raise funds, over 300 people attended, details at their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Nympsfield-Community-Pub-61559116111731/>

### b. **Old Neighbourhood - Chalford**

No news.

### c. **Kings Head - Kings Stanley**

Post meeting note. The following update was found on their Website:

*21/05/2024*

*We learnt today that Stonegate group refused the offer that had been made (see below) and are still holding out for £450K. This is disappointing and does not take into account the amount of work required to renovate the property nor does it take into account that there is no trading history available to support such a valuation.*

*As a community we would not want to be offering such a sum, even if we could raise it.*

*As a steering committee our view is that Stonegate are deliberately trying to show that they have tried to sell it as a pub but this has not been viable and will follow this with a change of use application. Our understanding from Stroud Council is that this would be difficult to achieve and that there are policies in the Local Plan that seek to protect pubs. However, as we all know big business have lobbying and legal powers we do not have.*

*Meanwhile, we aim to resubmit the ACV (Asset of community Value) application which will give some element of additional protection.*

*If there any lawyers out there with specialist knowledge in this area, please do let us know if you can offer any further advice.*

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

## 5. 2024 Summer Gold Card Allocations

Allocation was progressed with the last couple to be agreed using WhatsApp:

**Action #4 Tony Hill**

Venue	Location	Spring Assessors	Summer Assessors
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	All March Meeting	All June Meeting
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Nick Bishop Bob Fletcher	George Hill John McMahon
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Andy Burston John McMahon	Tony Hill George Hill
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tony Hill Bob Fletcher	Andy Burston George Hill
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Bob Brooks Andy Burston	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	George Hill John McMahon	Tony Hill Tim Mars
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	George Hill Tony Hill	Bob Brooks Bob Fletcher
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	John McMahon Andy Long	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tony Hill Andy Burston	Tony Hill Bob Brooks
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	George Hill Bob Fletcher	Bob Brooks Andy Long
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tim Mars Andy Long	Andy Burston John McMahon
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tim Mars Bob Brooks	Tony Hill John McMahon

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

## 6. COTY Presentation

A double presentation was completed on 19<sup>th</sup> May with Andrew Frape of Glos CAMRA. Real ales available were Meor IPA (4.8%) from St Ives, On Point En Route (4.0%) from Bristol and 360<sup>o</sup> Double Decker, a 6% milk stout from Sussex, all were well received. The club put on a light buffet and a game of skittles was played CAMRA versus Chalford locals. This year the win went to Stroud CAMRA's Andy Long, who took the crown from last year's winner Rob Brady of the club. The event needs publicising in the local press:

**Action #5 Tim Mars**

## 7. Breweries Update

### The Fresh Standard Brewing Co

Experienced a pump failure and was running low on beer. Repairs are in hand.

## Keep Brewing

No news.

## Stroud Brewery

Stroud Brewery celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday and brewed a new beer to mark the occasion the brewers have created a celebratory pale ale called Party Pale, plus very limited editions (only 160 pints of each!) of two past beers – Sno IPA and Redcoat IPA which came top in a public vote of favourite past beers. Redcoat is a rye IPA originally brewed in 2012, and Sno is a north-eastern IPA from 2018:

<https://stroudtimes.com/stroud-brewery-celebrates-18th-birthday-with-free-party/#:~:text=The%20brewers%20have%20created%20a,vote%20of%20favourite%20past%20beers.>

## 8. June Social/Future Socials

Tony Hill proposed that the next social should be on July 6<sup>th</sup> and an afternoon walk to the Vine Tree and across the picturesque valley to the Star at Whiteshill. It was recognised that now all would be up for the inclines and that inclement weather may make it impractical. It was agreed that those not up for the inclines could take a vehicle and meet up with others. Should the weather not permit, vehicles would be the fallback also.

**Action #6 Tony Hill**

## 9. Pub Data/Surveys

**Bear Inn**, Bisley was fully surveyed on the 28<sup>th</sup> May and fully updated on Whatpub, Thank you Andy Burston:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0044/bear-inn-bisley>

**Corner House**, Stroud was fully surveyed on the 28th May and fully updated on Whatpub (the survey date does not seem to be updated?):

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/1151/corner-house-stroud>

**Globe Inn**, Stonehouse will be back looking for a new tenant when Terry Stevenson calls it a day in July. Probably expect a period of closure:

[https://www.stonegatepubpartners.co.uk/find-a-pub/globe-inn-stonehouse\\_024562](https://www.stonegatepubpartners.co.uk/find-a-pub/globe-inn-stonehouse_024562)

**Tipputs Inn** seems to have closed down. Now marked as such in WhatPub. Unclear what the issue is but recognise that this establishment is thought to be under the same ownership as the Rose and Crown at Nympsfield.

**Woolpack Inn** in Stonehouse is due to close until further notice (stated on a sheet on the door of the pub) on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Reasons are unclear but this potentially leaves no pubs in Stonehouse at all with the Kings Head, Kings Stanley and the White Hart in Leonard Stanley already gone.

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. Outstanding surveys are as follows:

<b>Pub</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Surveyor</b>
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
Vine Tree, Randwick	Tenancy Changes	Next social
Star Inn, Whiteshill	Landlord Changes	Next social

**10. Any Other Business**

Tim Mars raised the issue of graphics in “Beer” the CAMRA magazine featuring only keg taps rather than hand pulls and felt that this was an issue for an organisation focussed on promoting real ale. Tim maintained that this was a level of incompetence on behalf of the editors and showed a lack of care. A letter to the editor was discussed and agreed.

**Action #7 Tim Mars**

**Date and time of the next meeting**

Wednesday 10th July at 19:30.      chair@stroud.camra.org.uk

## Stroud CAMRA Calendar 2024

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