



Campaign for Real Ale
Stroud CAMRA
Minutes 8th January 2025



1. Attendance & Apologies

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

Apologies: Bob Brooks, Jez Waring.

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

a. December Minutes.

December's minutes were accepted as is.

b. Action Status

Reference	Description	Actionee	Status
Nov #5	Propose itinerary for GBBF 2025 outing	Andy Burston	Ongoing
Dec #1	Post Itinerary for TWAF to Stroud CAMRA Whatsapp	Tony Hill	Complete
Dec #2	Launch Ballot for POTY	Tim Mars	Complete
Dec #3	Advertise January Social	Bob Fletcher	Ongoing
Dec #4	Survey of the Crown & Sceptre needs organising	Andy Burston	Ongoing
Dec #5	Chase Tippler roundsmen that have not confirmed delivery	Tony Hill	Compete

c. Matters Arising

None.

3. Officers Briefings

a. Chairs Report/Branch Meeting Brief Out

The Ram Inn, Woodchester reopened 21/12/2025. I my wife, Trudie & Mabel, the Cockapoo walked there on Boxing Day. A promising start – though the toilets are temporary and outside whilst building work is ongoing. Wet led at the moment as kitchen etc. still being worked. Four real ales, two from St Austell (so possible partial tie as a lot of other local pubs) and two local. Opening hours variable while the building work is still on, best source is Google (they said they update). Was not able to do a WhatPub update but have marked as open with the usual caveat on reliability of the data pre survey.

The chair then briefed on the Branch meeting held on 07/01/2025 in the Pelican Inn Gloucester. There was really too much material to present in entirety so only salient points were briefed on. Things of note to minute in these minutes were:

1. The first West Central meeting has been previously reported however our ACC Peter Bennetts made it clear that there was an expectation of full attendance of sub-branch chairs at this, something which is new and raises the sub-branch chair workload. The meeting is in Worcester on 22nd Feb.

2. Dursley branch was to lose half its pubs in the boundary change however an agreement has been reached on the status quo, good news indeed for Gloucestershire and a good result for Peter Corfield, thanks goes to Peter Bennet.
3. A new structure proposed for Gloucestershire to comprise of 4 groups allowing for Glos to be covered, this would seem to raise sub-branches up a level and diminish the Gloucestershire office. We will have to see how this is received.

It was agreed to upload the minutes and sub-branch reports to the Stroud CAMRA WhatsApp group to allow interested parties to read the detail.

Action #1 Tony Hill

b. Pubs Officer's Report

Tim reported on a discussion he had with builders working at the Bowbridge arms which is being refurbished for new owners. Apparently Butcombe brewery are involved, possibly a partial tie in lieu of works to the cellar.

c. Pub Data Officer's Report

Andy Burston reported that the Goat, Stonehouse (nee the Globe Inn) has closed again, various rumours but no facts around this. He also reported that the Magpies Club, Stonehouse does not have real ale and questioned if it should be created in WhatPub, with the conclusion that it should. The same discussion around Juliet a bar and bistro that has now opened in the premises formally occupied by the Corner House on London Rd.

Action #2 Andy Burston

4. Threatened Pubs Update

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

As of 2024 year end the group have raised £223k of the £400k needed and have extended the share offer to the end of January. They say that the share offer cannot be extended beyond this date so we wish them well in hitting the target.

For all the latest information check the Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559116111731&locale=en_GB

b. Old Neighbourhood - Chalford

It seems that the community group can stand down as Wez Birch of the Ship Inn has had an offer accepted on the property. He intends to open as a pub to complement the Ship. The only potential fly in the ointment is the owners still have the change of use appeal going ahead. If this is granted (hard to see how since the thrust of their argument is the pub is not viable and an offer from Wez blows that argument) before contracts exchange then the situation may change.

c. Kings Head - Kings Stanley

No news since September.

5. POTY Ballot/Branch POTY Judging

Stroud POTY:	Ale House Stroud.
Stroud COTY:	Chalford Sports & Social Club.
Stroud C-POTY:	Carpenters Arms, Westrip.
Dursley POTY:	New Inn, Woodmancote.
Dursley C-POTY:	TBA
Dursley COTY:	None
Cirencester POTY:	Drillmans Arms, Woodmancote.
Cirencester C-POTY:	None
Cirencester COTY:	None
FOD POTY:	Dog House, Coleford.
FOD C-POTY:	Bells Hotel & Country Club
FOD COTY:	Poss Dog House or Forest Brewery Tap
Gloucester POTY:	Pelican.
Gloucester C-POTY:	Pelican.
Gloucester COTY:	BMI Club.

John, McMahon, Bob Fletcher, Andy Burston, Andy Long, George Hill and Tony Hill all offered driving services supporting the judging of POTY, C-POTY & COTY at County level competition.

A motion was proposed to change the way we arrive at our POTY for next year. The current system is time consuming, gets little traction with voters, only 27 of over 150 so turnout of less than 20% and favours the “known” town pubs. The proposal is to determine our shortlist in the usual way but then vote at committee on the winner with voting members needing to have recently visited all shortlisted to allow a proper competition where the merits of each venue are compared and contrasted. This would be a similar process to other sub-branches notably Dursley. Discussion and agreement on any changes was proposed for a future meeting:

Action #3 Tony Hill

6. Breweries Update

The Fresh Standard Brewing Co

No news.

Keep Brewing

No news.

Stroud Brewery

No news.

7. January/Future Socials

The agreed social for January to the Rose Inn, Paganhill followed by the Old Crown, Paganhill on Tuesday 21st January 2025 needs publicising:

Action #4 Bob Fletcher

Discussion ensued on the social for February and committee settled on the Crown and Sceptre followed by the Bowbridge Arms (if open).

8. Pub Data/Surveys

Chalford Sports & Social Club was surveyed on 10th December and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/1141/chalford-sports-social-club-france-lynch>

The Crown & Sceptre changed hands W/C 25th November with Rhiannon Roberts and Owen Isserlis the new team in charge:

https://stroudtimes.com/meet-the-new-owners-of-much-loved-pub/?feed_id=15512&fbclid=IwY2xjawGxq-tleHRuA2F1bQIxMQABHdpR0alGTusXchasWFwS1oGKKIKxGRtly3SNpyOZea6bAMV-2M6LFE-Aww_aem_10kg4x2jKcWPPk0s-x_6MQ

Holy Water, Stroud was surveyed and a new entry created in Whatpub. Thanks goes to Chris Hall:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/1163/holy-water-stroud>

Chris Hall reported that the Cross Hands, Stroud has had its licence reinstated.

The following list of outstanding surveys is in priority order:

Pub	Survey Date	Reason
Fountain, Stroud	30/10/2020	Tenancy Change
Waypoint, Painswick	05/11/2022	Tenancy Change
The Goat, Stonehouse (nee Globe Inn)	26/06/2022	Business Change
Crown & Sceptre	24/02/2023	Tenancy Change
Bowbridge Arms	08/01/2019	Tenancy Change
Prince Albert, Rodborough	24/02/2020	Aged data
Stroud Brewery Tap, Thrupp	04/03/2020	Aged data
George Inn, Newmarket	04/03/2020	Aged data
Carpenters Arms, Westrip	15/03/2020	Aged data

Any members can do the survey on the form provided in our WhatsApp group and returned to our Pubs Data Officer Andy Burstson or Chair Tony Hill. As many Photos as possible should be taken in landscape format and again returned to the aforementioned.

9. Tippler

All Tippler deliveries confirmed complete.

10. Any Other Business

Chris Hall has now started to fill in the gaps and restructure the Stroud CAMRA website. It was proposed to add Web Master to future meeting agendas.

Action #5 Tony Hill

Date and time of the next meeting

Wednesday 12th February at 19:30.chair@stroud.camra.org.uk

Stroud CAMRA Calendar 2025

Date 2025	Event	Venue
Tue 7 th January	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 8 th January	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Date TBD	2026 GBG ranked list of 10 to be submitted to Branch. Updates to GBG descriptions commence	N/A
6 th – 8 th February	Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival	Watson Hall, Tewkesbury
Wed 12 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
Date TBD	Deadline for all 2026 GBG descriptions to be entered in Pubzilla	N/A
Tue 11 th March	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting (week later than normal due to availability)	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 12 th March	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 9 th April	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
11 th - 13 th April	CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference	Riviera Centre, Torquay
Tue 5 th May	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 14 th May	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting Spring GC assessments conclude Summer GC Assessments allocated	The Ale House 7.30pm
Date TBD	2026 GBG Proofs are received	N/A
Date TBD	2026 GBG Proofs are approved	N/A
Wed 11 th June	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Tue 2 nd July	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 9 th July	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
18 th - 20 th July	Cotswold beer festival.	Postlip Hall Tithe Barn
Date TBD	Good Beer Guide 2026 Licensee packs are due to be sent	N/A
Wed 13 th August	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting Summer GC assessments conclude Autumn GC Assessments allocated	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 10 th September	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 2 nd September	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 8 th October	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Tue 4 th November	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 11 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 10 th December	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm