



**Campaign for Real Ale
Stroud CAMRA
Minutes 12th February 2025**



1. Attendance & Apologies

Attendees: Bob Brooks, Andy Burston, Bob Fletcher, Tony Hill, Chris Hall, John McMahon, Tim Mars. **Apologies:** Nick Bishop, George Hill, Andy Long, Jez Waring.

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

a. January Minutes.

January'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 #3	Advertise January Social	Bob Fletcher	Complete
Dec #4	Survey of the Crown & Sceptre needs organising	Andy Burston	Complete
Jan #1	Upload Branch minutes to WhatsApp group	Tony Hill	Complete
Jan #2	Create Magpies Club and Juliet Bistro/Bar on Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Ongoing
Jan #3	Add change to determination of POTY (drop member vote) to minutes for Feb meeting	Tony Hill	Complete
Jan #4	Publicise January social to the Rose Inn, Paganhill & Old Crown, Paganhill on 21/01/25	Bob Fletcher	Complete
Jan #5	Add Webmaster to the Agenda	Tony Hill	Complete

c. Matters Arising

None.

3. Officers Briefings a. Chairs Report

Brett Laniosh (the acting West Central Regional Director) is the only candidate for the West Central RD election. Stroud has one a vote to be tendered at the inaugural West Central committee meeting on February 22nd in Worcester. Discussion was conducted and the committee voted unanimously for Brett's appointment. Stroud vote to be tendered at the meeting.

Action #1 Tony Hill

There seems to be some confusion on the process for determining the county level POTY, CPOTY and COTY. The chair was informed by the ACC there has to be a Gloucestershire winner which includes Tewksbury, Cheltenham and North Cotswolds. This would be a fundamental change to previous years process where Gloucestershire winner is selected from the subbranches that still remain in Gloucestershire, these being Cirencester, Dursley, Forest of Dean, Gloucester & Stroud. It was agreed that the chair would seek guidance.

Action #2 Tony Hill

The Chair reached out to the new owners of the Bowbridge Arms about the reopening date which was expected beginning of February but has yet to happen. They have had issues during refurb and now plan to reopen on Friday 28th February.

The Prince of Wales, Cashes Greens owners have taken on the Woolpack Inn, Stonehouse. New tenants are expected for the Prince of Wales in April and in the meantime the pub is operating with no food.

The Chair & Chris Hall visited the Ram Inn, Woodchester on the 5th February to do a Pubzilla survey. Both were impressed by progress with the pub now having indoor toilets, sporting events (6 nations) on large screen TV and pop-up food nights since the last visit over Christmas. There is still work ongoing to the kitchen, disabled toilet & room to the front of the pub. The owners are keen to have some CAMRA publicity material (LocAle) and a Tippler stand. Chair will drop a stand and some Tipplers off and contact Richard Taylor with a view to adding the pub to his round.

Action #3 Tony Hill

The Tippler deadline is brought forward to Friday 14th February. Discussion ensued as to what we should send for consideration for publication. Suggestions were:

- Rodda formally of the Crown and Sceptre award for 15-years' service to the community
- The Fresh Standard Brewing Co win in blind tasting at TWAF 2025
- The Chalford Sports & Social Club COTY win

Action #4 Tim Mars

The chair appraised the committee of the visit last Friday to TWAF 2025 which was supported by himself, Bob Fletcher, Chris Hall and Andy Burston: Three of us caught the 08:35 service 62 From Stroud to Gloucester with Andy Burston taking the 64 service from closer to his home. Converging on Gloucester four intrepid beer hunters lined our stomachs with one of Tim Martin's big breakfasts in the Regal. Then, replete we boarded service 71 to Tewkesbury arriving at 10:45 in time to get one of the last tables in the Watson Hall. The bar opened at 11:00 and we were able to start ticking off the beers we had already marked on our beer lists. Sustenance at lunch time in the form of pork pies was provide by Bob Fletcher, thank you. All of us agreed that a great day was had with great beers, great company and loads of laughs along the way. the Stroud win on blind tasting (see brewery news below) was a highlight. We may need a new itinerary next year to converge for breakfast at Tewkesbury to get in a little earlier to guarantee securing a table.

b. Pubs Officer's Report

Tim Mars visited the Crown and Sceptre and spoke with the new licensees Rhiannon Roberts and Owen Isserlis who have indicated the desire to not change the basic formula that Rodda established. The committee agreed this was a wise move given the success enjoyed by the establishment. He then went on to say that cask Fresh Standard Red Mild was found on and this was welcomed by all and may mark a welcome shift in beer stocking policy.

c. Pub Data Officer's Report

Andy appraised the meeting of changes to the structure of Pubzilla where Stroud pubs have been separated from Gloucestershire and editors are able to log in as Stroud or

Gloucestershire. Some difficulties were experienced initially but all seems to be well now.

d. Webmasters Report

The Chair congratulated Chris Hall on the look and feel of the new website and other committee members that had viewed it agreed. Chris went on to say that it was still very much a work in progress. He described the work done to make sure the look and feel was consistent with CAMRA guidelines and had taken inspiration from other branches. He had also picked up a lot of knowledge from his participation in judging the CAMRA Website of the year competition. Tim asked if the Facebook posts were fed to the website automatically and Chris responded that so far this was not found to be possible.

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**

Latest news:

01/02/2025 WE HAVE A VERY EXCITING UPDATE TO START THE WEEKEND!

Thanks to you all we SMASHED through our quarter of a million pound milestone in the final hours of the share offer, raising an amazing £264,00!

The management committee are working hard to confirm the next steps and we'll have an update for you all very soon but in the meantime we just want to say a huge huge thank you to everyone who has invested to help make this project a success

The good news keeps rolling in...

07/02/2025 We have been informed by Stroud District Council that our application to the Rural England Prosperity Fund was successful and they have approved a grant of £20,000! The grants panel were very supportive of our project and recognise the value of the Rose & Crown Inn to our local community.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund is a fund provided by central government through the Department for Environment Food Rural and Agriculture (DEFRA) and is used to support the development of rural economies.

A huge success for our amazing grants team

For all the latest information check the Facebook page:

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

b. Old Neighbourhood - Chalford

APPEAL WITHDRAWN NOTIFICATION HEARING CANCELLED Old Neighbourhood Inn Chalford
APP/C1625/W/24/3346380

Wez Birch has the keys. Will remove this pub from the threatened pubs list going forward. **c.**

Kings Head - Kings Stanley

Chris Hall reported that the Kings Head, Kings Stanley, Stroud has had a licence application granted. There is therefore some confidence that this will reopen as a pub soon.

5. POTY Presentations Branch POTY Judging & 2026 GBG Entries

For the Stroud winners, certificates are with us now all installed in frames. Discussion ensued as to the best days and times focussing on the POTY award to the Ale House. Rugby on Saturdays made that day a problem and there were issues with attendance for midweek days. It was agreed to go with Sun 2nd March at a time to best suit Nigel following the lunch service. Tim agreed to liaise with Nigel. Other presentations to follow.

Action #5 Tim Mars

REDACTED

GBG descriptions need to be entered ASAP in Pubzilla for our 10 off 2026 GBG candidates.

Action #6 Tim Mars

6. 2027 GBG Survey Candidate Pubs

The following rank order list represents the pubs that are expected to be in the 2026 GBG:

REDACTED

These should be surveyed as potential entries to the 2027 GBG. In addition, we require a minimum of 4 additional pubs for yearlong survey to arrive at our rank order of 10. The Chair had output NBSS Beer Scoring data for the previous year which comprised some 200 scores. This data together with local intelligence from committee members indicated the following potential additional candidate pubs:

REDACTED

Chris Hall suggested asking the membership for nominations through the Website and Facebook page. Committee agreed.

Action #7 Chris Hall

It was agreed that the candidate list would be visited once and scored to down select to the best 4 to add to the 8 pubs from the 2026 guide to makeup our yearlong survey list of 12 pubs.

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 best-known town pubs. The chair understood the proposal was 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. However, this proposal was not widely accepted by committee with several different variations proposed. It was accepted that the member vote would be dropped and that due to time constraints the discussion on the exact format for determination by committee would roll forward to the next meeting.

Action #8 Tony Hill

7. Breweries Update

The Fresh Standard Brewing Co

A massive congratulations to The Fresh Standard Brew Co who took the crown at the 2025 Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival blind tasting with their 2024 Anniversary Porter @ 8.0%ABV.

The runners up are. 2nd Corinium - Imperial Porter 8.5% and 3rd Ashton - Jaffa Cake 6.2%

The chair reported "On the Friday session at TWAF as Chair of Stroud CAMRA I was made aware that one of our breweries, The Fresh Standard Brew Co may win an award. Moving to the judges table it became apparent that Fresh Standard had far done more than scooped an award but taken top spot beating off some real heavyweight competition from twelve other County brewers who had put up seventeen beers against them with a spectrum of styles and strengths ranging from 4.0%ABV to 10.5%ABV.

Well done Richard and Charlotte, we look forward to enjoying your beers at local hostelrys around Stroud and at the brewery Tap Room through 2025."

Keep Brewing No news. Stroud Brewery

No news.

8. January/Future Socials

The agreed social for January was to be to the Rose Inn, Paganhill followed by the Old Crown, Paganhill however on arrival at the Rose Inn Chris Hall found it to have no real ale. Accordingly, we decanted to the second venue, the Old Crown. There we found two real ales on, Ringwood Razorback and Ramsbury RPA both beers that are not commonly found locally. After discussion we followed up with a visit to the Carpenters Arms close by. After initial disappointment a good evening was had by all.

We had previously settled on the Crown and Sceptre followed by the Bowbridge Arms for our February social, however the Bowbridge is not open yet and Chris Hall has done a Pubzilla survey of the Crown and Sceptre. It was therefore suggested, discussed and agreed to convene at the Beacon Inn, Haresfield on Tuesday 25th February. If desired this may be followed by a visit to the Badger Inn, Eastington, the Woolpack, Stonehouse or a cross-border trip to the Old Forge, Whitminster. This can be determined on the night.

Action #9 Bob Fletcher

9. Pub Data/Surveys

Stroud Brewery Tap was fully surveyed on 21st January and fully updated on Whatpub, Thanks Andy Burston: <https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/1130/stroud-brewery-tap-thrupp>

The Carpenters Arms, Westrip was fully surveyed on 21st January and fully updated on Whatpub: <https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0536/carpenters-arms-westrip>

The Old Crown, Paganhill was fully surveyed on 21st January and fully updated on Whatpub: <https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0723/old-crown-paganhill>

The George Inn, Newmarket was fully surveyed on 29th January and fully updated on Whatpub: <https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0363/george-inn-nailsworth>

Egypt Mill, Nailsworth was fully surveyed on 29th January and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0745/egypt-mill-nailsworth>

Rose Inn was fully surveyed on 5th February and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0724/rose-inn-paganhill>

Hog, Horsely was fully surveyed on 5th February and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0292/hog-horsley>

Ram, Woodchester Inn was fully surveyed on 5th February and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0519/ram-inn-south-woodchester>

Amberly Inn was fully surveyed on 5th February and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0004/amberley-inn-amberley> The

following list of outstanding surveys is in priority order:

Pub	Last Survey Date	Reason
Cross Hands, Stroud	04/01/2013	Aged data
Fountain, Stroud	30/10/2020	Tenancy Change
Waypoint, Painswick	05/11/2022	Tenancy Change
Bowbridge Arms (expected reopening end Feb)	08/01/2019	Tenancy Change
Prince Albert, Rodborough	24/02/2020	Aged data
Old Crown Inn, Ebley	16/03/2020	Aged data
Stonehouse Court Hotel	03/10/2020	Aged data
Beacon & Railway Hotel	17/10/2020	Aged data
Stirrup Cup, Bisley	16/10/2020	Aged data

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

Chris Hall has surveyed the Crown & Sceptre. He will provide the data to Andy Burston for data entry.

Action #10 Chris Hall/Andy Burston

10. Any Other Business

None.

Date and time of the next meeting

Wednesday 12th March 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
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
Date TBD	2026 GBG ranked list of 10 to be submitted to Branch. Updates to GBG descriptions commence	N/A
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
13 th – 16 th March	Pelican Inn Winter Ale Festival	Pelican Inn, Gloucester
Sun 16 th March	Winner of POTY to be sent to RD	N/A
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

