



**Campaign for Real Ale
Stroud CAMRA
Minutes 9th April 2025**



1. Attendance & Apologies

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

Apologies: Peter Bennetts, Nick Bishop

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

a. Review/Accept Previous Months Minutes.

March's minutes were accepted as is.

b. Action Status

Reference	Description	Actionee	Status
Nov #5	Propose itinerary for GBBF 2025 outing	Andy Burston	Ongoing
Jan #2	Create Magpies Club and Juliet Bistro/Bar on Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Ongoing
Mar #1	Post Gloucestershire Branch reports in the WhatsApp group	Tony Hill	Complete
Mar #2	Establish the date that Anne started serving bar at the Old Crown Ebley	Tony Hill	Complete
Mar #3	Create entry for the King Street Social Tap in WhatPub	Tony Hill	Complete
Mar #4	Publicise the POTY presentation at the Alehouse in local press	Tim Mars	Complete
Mar #5	Organise C-POTY for Carpenters Arms, Westrip and publicise	Tony Hill	Complete
Mar #6	Organise COTY for Chalford Sports & Social Club and publicise	Tim Mars	Ongoing
Mar #7	Ensure discussion on determination of the POTY is on the April agenda	Tony Hill	Complete
Mar #8	Organise social Bowbridge Arms/Crown & Sceptre 23/04/25	Bob Fletcher	Ongoing

c. Matters Arising

An attempt was made by the chair to confirm Anne, the barmaid from the Old Crown, Ebley length of service but no reply has been received. The committee agreed that without confirmation we cannot proceed with any presentation.

3. Officers Briefings

a. Chairs Report (Gloucestershire Area Meetings Brief out)

We now have all the Gloucestershire Area Branch Pubs and Clubs of the year selected:

Branch	Pub of the Year	Cider Pub of the Year	Club of the Year
Cheltenham	Sandford Park Alehouse Cheltenham	The Strand Cheltenham	Cheltenham Motor Club
Gloucestershire	The Pelican Gloucester	The Carpenters Arms Westrip	Chalford Sports & Social Club
North Cotswold	The Bell Moreton in Marsh	None	None
Tewkesbury	The Cobblers Newent.	Cross House Tavern Tewkesbury	None

It will now be the responsibility of each Branch to Judge the Pubs and Clubs of the other Branches for the County Pub and club of the Year. We need to achieve this by the end of May 2025.

The chair appraised the committee of his and Chris Halls attendance at the inaugural Gloucestershire Area meeting at the Fountain Inn Gloucester. The main aim was to bring together the Gloucestershire Area branches, which includes Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and North Cotswolds. The attendance was good with a full room, perhaps 40 or so. The agenda was purposefully loose and discussion topics included:

Judging for Gloucestershire Area POTY, C-POTY and COTY. Branch judging is being organised, the question was posed to committee if anyone wants to get involved. Chris Hall confirmed he had already volunteered for COTY judging.

Gloucester Beer Festival: need was expressed and support offered by Tewkesbury. Various venues were suggested but this remains a challenge in terms of availability for a week, cost and a location with good transport links. Gloucester volunteers also may pose a challenge. A second Winter Ales festival was discussed and thought a good idea.

Changes to organisation of pubs by postcode, it was suggested this was illogical and led to strange geographies, like Glos being responsible for pubs down the Severn Vale as far as Slimbridge. Stroud chair opposed this on the grounds that postcode is simple to understand, unambiguous and is the basis of operation for the comms tool. It was agreed to stay with the status quo for now.

The chair visited Stroud's Fountain Inn on Wednesday 2nd April, which now does have real ale, Adnams Southwold Bitter and Greene King (Morland's) Old Speckled Hen was evidenced. Sadly, the Adnams was gone. A survey was performed. Then onward to the Retreat which was quiet and had Otter Amber and BBF Independence, both beers in good nick, Otter surprisingly good as not normally a fan. These are now the fixed offering so WhatPub updated. The chair and Andy Long then swung by the King St Social Tap which now has all 3 hand pulls in use, with Brains Rev James, Fullers London Pride and St Austell Proper Job. Busy but footy on so we did not partake.

Tipputs Inn is closed – Andy Burston has updated WhatPub. The Prince of Wales, Cashes Green is also closed – the chair updated WhatPub.

There is a meeting convened by Peter Bennetts on the future of the Gloucestershire Branch/Gloucester at the Pelican on 17th May.

The chair has received 2026 GBG proofs via Email. These need reviewing and any errors/changes fed back.

Action #1 Tim Mars

b. Pubs Officer's Report

Tim reported on a recent visit to the Ram, Woodchester where work is still ongoing. He was impressed by wonderful staff and felt that despite extensive renovations the character had been preserved. Toilets are now complete but the room to the front and kitchens were still work in progress.

Tim also reported on the Crown and Sceptre where the beer range seems more adventurous of late. He enjoyed a pint of North Cotswolds Freedom a beer that was new to him.

c. Pub Data Officer's Report

Andy reported that the recent restructure of Pubzilla data where Stroud is now separated from Gloucestershire had resulted in him receiving emails from CAMRA members with pub updates submitted through Whatpub (7 emails to date). He has updated the Hog which is now open 7 days and various other pub updates including Bisley House and Cross Hands. The Old Neighbourhood is also now open under Wez Birch's stewardship.

d. Webmasters Report

Chris reported that he is now involved with all Gloucestershire's Websites and was aiming for a common look and feel. He will canvas others to do the regular updates when he has finished the structural work.

4. Threatened Pubs Update

Currently we have two threatened pubs, for which community groups were working to save, the Rose & Crown – Nympsfield and the Kings Head - Kings Stanley.

a. Rose & Crown – Nympsfield

Latest news:

We regret to inform you that our purchase of the Rose & Crown Inn is not proceeding - for now, at least.

Following the recent withdrawal of the stables planning application, the owner has decided to put the pub and stables back on the market.

We have communicated to the owner that our existing offer to purchase the pub remains on the table, and we hope a buyer for the stables can be found quickly so that our purchase of the pub can resume. All investors have received an email; please check your inbox if you haven't read it yet.

They are still proceeding with the next popup pub night 17th May.

Share certificates have now been issued to all those who purchased shares through our Community Share Offer and who are now members of Nympsfield Community Pub Limited (NCPL).

The map below shows the approximate spread of our 427 members. You can see that the majority of our members are from the local area, but we also have members from further afield in the UK, as well as members from Europe, America, Australia and South Africa!

For all the latest information check the Facebook page:

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

b. Kings Head - Kings Stanley

No news but committee members commented that skips have been seen outside so work would seem to be being carried out.

5. COTY Presentation/Branch Area Judging & Awards

We will be doing the CPOTY presentation next, which is a double one on 13th April at 16:00. Sammie has been repainting the area above the bar with the new CAMRA logo.

Committee agreed to go for a May date for the COTY presentation at Chalford Sports & Social Club. Tim contacted Rob and Ali Brady, dates were offered but some clashed with bank holidays. The committee determined that the 1st June date was the most appropriate and that we should request 3pm.

Action #2 Tim Mars

The chair asked if any Stroud committee members were able to help with area POTY, C-POTY and COTY judging. Chris Hall confirmed that he would do C-POTY judging.

6. 2027 GBG Survey Candidate Pubs

The following rank order list represents the pubs that are expected to be in the 2026 GBG, and therefore potential candidates for the 2027 GBG for which Spring Gold cards are needed. Allocation was completed as follows:

Rank	Pub	Location	Spring Judges	Status
1	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Bob Fletcher, Nick Bishop	Complete
			All May Meeting	
2	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Bob Fletcher, John McMahon	Complete
3	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Bob Fletcher, John McMahon	
4	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Andy Burston, Tim Mars	
5	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Andy Burton, George Hill	
6	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Nick Bishop, Bob Fletcher	
7	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Tony Hill, George Hill	

A shortlist of candidate pubs to provide an additional 4 pubs was proposed at the March meeting. Allocations of judging was as follows:

Pub	Location	Spring Judges	Status
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Andy Long, Tony Hill	Complete
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Tim Mars, Bob Brooks	
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Tim Mars, Bob Brooks	
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Tony Hill, Chris Hall	Complete

Pub	Location	Spring Judges	Status
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	John McMahon, Bob Fletcher	Complete
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tony Hill, Tim Mars	Complete
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Andy Burston, George Hill	Complete

Following completion of judging these are to be down selected at the May to four additional pubs to make the 12 based on the Spring gold card results. The [REDACTED] is changing hands [REDACTED] so drops out of the candidate list irrespective of score.

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 #3 Tony Hill

7. Breweries Update

The Fresh Standard Brewing Co

A new beer supporting May is Mild month has been brewed, unusually a golden mild at 3.6% ABV.

Keep Brewing

No news

Stroud Brewery

Stroud Brewery won a SIBA award for sustainability:

<https://stroudbrewery.com/blogs/news/national-sustainability-award>

8. May/Future Socials

The chair proposed a bus trip to Clavell & Hind Brewery Tap in May. Committee thought this was a good idea.

Action #4 Tony Hill

9. Pub Data/Surveys

The Lord John, Stroud was fully surveyed on 6th March and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/lord-john-stroud-172127>

The King St Social Tap, Stroud was fully surveyed on 17th March and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/king-street-social-tap-stroud-198808>

The Curio Lounge, Stroud was fully surveyed on 17th March and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/curio-lounge-stroud-195482>

The Brewhouse and Kitchen, Gloucester was fully surveyed on 19th March and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/brewhouse-kitchen-gloucester-quays-gloucester-172179>

The Hopkettle, Gloucester was fully surveyed on 19th March and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/hop-kettle-gloucester-197488>

The Fountain Inn, Slad Rd was fully surveyed on 2nd April and fully updated on Whatpub:

<https://camra.org.uk/pubs/fountain-inn-stroud-171839>

An attempt was made to survey the Clothiers Arms, Stroud on 8th April but it was found that it is due to change hands 28th April to Community Pubs Ltd. Interestingly there are 3 companies with similar names to this on company's house and all are dissolved.

Price of Wales Cashes Green is now closed pending new tenants, Whatpub updated.

The following list of outstanding surveys is in priority order:

Pub	Last Survey Date	Reason
Cross Hands, Stroud	04/01/2013	Aged data
Waypoint, Painswick	05/11/2022	Tenancy Change
Bowbridge Arms (reopened 7 th Mar)	08/01/2019	Tenancy Change
Retreat, Stroud	28/08/2021	Aged data
Falcon Inn, Painswick	01/12/2021	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.

10. Any Other Business

None.

Date and time of the next meeting

Wednesday 14th May 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
Sun 16 th February	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
Sun 2 nd March	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
Sat 22 nd March	Gloucestershire Area Branch Meeting	Fountain Inn upstairs 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