

High Peak, Tameside and North East Cheshire CAMRA

Branch meeting

Monday 13th May 7:30pm

3 Drinks Behind, Gee Cross

Minutes

1. **Present:** John Robinson, Graham Privett, Geoff Caine, Martyn Ardern, Steve Mason, Geoff Williamson, John Litt, Ian Kerr, Mark Taylor, Dave Bridge, Glenn Hall, Aaron Parkinson, Nick Earle, Neil Hay, Rodney Oliver, Ben Zwierink (chair), Kevin Wilson, Jim Flynn (SSM CAMRA), John Pasiecznik, Peter Mitchell
2. **Apologies:** Frank Wood, John Clarke (SSM CAMRA)
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** were agreed. **Matters Arising:** Item 14: The complaint against the branch in connection with GBG25 selections has been considered, and there is no case to answer.
4. **Pub and Brewery news**
 - a. The “Bottom Dog” (Dog and Partridge, Ashton) has re-opened, with one handpump
 - b. Landlord of the “Top Dog” (Dog and Pheasant, Ashton) is to retire in November
 - c. Bridge Beers Brewery now moved to Newton Hyde site. The function room is licensed
 - d. Coach and Horses, Denton, now serving real ale (Robinsons Trooper)
 - e. Buxton Brewery – BLO has asked for an update, following brewery statement that it is considering options, and has closed its tap house in Macclesfield (Treacle Tap). [Note added later – reported in The Grocer 20/5/24 that, “Buxton Brewery has been sold in pre-pack administration deal to a company known as ‘Happy Place Investors’ “. Article claims that this will save the brewery and the two Buxton tap houses.]
5. **Stockport Beer and Cider Festival 20/6-22/6/24**
 - a. Guest speaker Jim Flynn, Festival Organiser
Jim welcomed the positive relationship between Stockport and South Manchester CAMRA branch and HPTNEC, and joint working on Mild Magic and Winter Warmer Wander. 25% of the new CAMRA members recruited at the festival are in HPTNEC branch area. Stockport BCF still needs volunteers, mostly behind the bars, but also for set-up and takedown. Volunteer [here](#)
 - b. Festival publicity
GP described need to distribute posters and beer mats publicising SBCF across HPTNEC branch area. Several members agreed to cover various areas, and took materials

6. Officers' reports

a. Chair

- i. Branch AGM will be held on 6th July, before the monthly branch meeting. All officer and committee posts are up for election. Anyone interested is encouraged to speak to existing committee members
- ii. Do volunteer for Stockport Beer Festival (see Item 5 above)
- iii. The October Greater Manchester CAMRA Area meeting will be at the Angel, Dukinfield, with a social afterwards in Ashton and Droylsden. Local members are encouraged to attend to welcome and guide our visitors from across Greater Manchester
- iv. GM Pub of the Year judging is progressing. BZ and Tom Lord are our branch judges. To be completed by early July

b. Treasurer: Balance £659.79

c. Membership secretary

- i. 1036(-4); M:F 81:18; U30s 25 (2.4%)
- ii. Beer Festivals are big for recruitment. Support Stockport BCF, where new members will get 3 pints free, plus usual benefits

d. Beer Scoring Coordinator

- i. 40 branch members have scored 3034 beers in the branch in the last year
- ii. Of 359 pubs, 208 have had beers scored
- iii. Watch list pubs – Astley Arms, Dukinfield & Kings Head, Droylsden – do try to get there and score beers

e. Social secretary

- i. 25/5/24 Stalybridge social
- ii. 29/6/24 details TBC. Bus to Chelmorton, and maybe Buxton Brewery
- iii. 20/7/24 We will try again to visit Thornsett Brewery Tap. Details TBC

f. Secretary

- i. Mild Magic ends Sunday. Post your cards to arrive by 25/5/24
- ii. New membership posters and leaflets (revised membership fees) – take as many as you can use
- iii. Next meeting is at a new venue – Traders, Marple
- iv. Thanks to 3 Drinks Behind – buy more beer

7. Meetings schedule

Date and time	Day	Meeting	Venue
May 25 th 1:30pm	Saturday	Social around Stalybridge	Station Buffet Bar
June 8 th 1:30pm	Saturday	Branch Meeting and Social	Traders, Marple
June 29th TBC	Saturday	Social to Chelmorton, and Buxton Brewery	TransPeak TBC
July 6 th 1:30pm	Saturday	AGM , Branch Meeting & Social	Half Way House, Ashton
July 13 th 1pm	Saturday	GM County Meeting	Real Crafty, Wigan

July 20th 1:30pm TBC	Saturday	Visit to Thornsett Brewery Tap	Outside Beer Shed (shared taxis)
August 3rd 1:30pm	Saturday	Pub of the Summer presentation & social	Kingfisher, Poynton
August 10 th TBC	Saturday	Geoff Lees Memorial Dinner	TBD
August 17th 1:30pm	Saturday	Branch Meeting and Social	TBD
September 4 th – 11 th	Wed-Wed	Munich trip	TBD
September 16th 7:30pm	Monday	Branch Meeting	TBD
October 12 th 1pm	Saturday	GM County Meeting	Angel, Dukinfield
October 19 th 1:30pm	Saturday	Branch Meeting	TBD

8. Branch Golden Jubilee Celebrations

On Tuesday 22nd April 2025, the branch will be 50 years old. Rodney Oliver has agreed to convene a group including all previous branch chairs to arrange a celebration. Any ideas welcome. Please contact Rod.

9. Branch Trip to Munich, 4th September to 11th September 2024

The dates are now fixed, and we'll decide on a hotel shortly. If you're thinking of coming on the trip, please let the secretary know, and say whether you have fixed a room-share with anyone, or if you'd like to share with someone, and we'll put potential sharers together.

10. Handpump Hijack

Carlsberg Marstons have launched a range of their brewery-conditioned keg ales, which are served through a handpump, long known as the signifier of cask ale. This "Fresh Beer" costs more than keg, which costs more than cask (for the same beer). Any pubs serving these beers will be withdrawn / barred from the Good Beer Guide, and banned from receiving any CAMRA awards. Please let us know if you spot any of these anywhere. Currently includes Wainwright Gold and Amber, and Hobgoblin IPA.

11. AOB

- a. The Angel, Dukinfield is planning a beer festival late August. Up to 18 different ales
- b. Dog and Partridge, Ashton ("Top Dog") landlord retiring after 37 years. Refer to the committee whether to make a long-service award ACTION

12. Date of next meeting – Saturday 8th June 1:30pm Traders, Marple

Peter Mitchell, Secretary