

**Dee Valley CAMRA  
Minutes of Branch Meeting  
7.30pm on 27th August 2025  
Dog & Pickle, Lavister. LL12 0DN**

**In attendance: 8**

Alan Roberts, Brian Bennett, Jenny Bennett, Keith Harrison, Elved Gray-Jones, Cameron Sides, Brian Hardman, Steve Lamond.

**Apologies: 5**

Rob Gow, Deb Gow, Melissa Chamberlain, Brian Wright, Jane Wright.

AR informed the meeting that Brian and Jane would not be actively involved in activities for the near future due to Jane's illness - we sent our best wishes.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Accepted as a true record.

**Matters Arising**

- AR spoke with Dave Welsby regarding him hosting a beer tasting session with our branch. He is happy to do so. AR will speak with him on Saturday 30th August to arrange a date and venue.

**Branch Bank Account**

- AR updated us in RG's absence.

- We will be using Metro Bank, who is opening a physical branch in Chester soon. RG, AR and KH will be signatories as before. RG to arrange the formalities.

**LocAle Pub of the Year Selection**

- Locally brewed ales were tasted and scored in the six nominated pubs a total of 44 times since the last meeting. There were 22 different ales tried across 10 breweries.

- The scores were discussed and a winner and runner-up were chosen at the meeting. The beer score average for each pub was over 3.0 out of 5.0 - which is a good standard overall.

- Presentation dates for both pubs will be announced at the next meeting.

**Beer Scoring**



- Reminder that the "WhatPub" method of submitting beer scores is closing from 1st October.

- If anyone has the GBG App, this will also close but only as your latest subscription ends - no further subscriptions will be taken.

- The new CAMRA website includes the improved Beer Scoring functionality - you can use the website on your smart phones in the pub ... <https://camra.org.uk/pubs>

- Or if you prefer, record the beer score manually and enter it later at home ...

link to printable beer scoring cards and instructions <https://www1-camra.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/03134738/The-National-Beer-Scoring-System-CARDS.pdf>

- We need everyone to score all the beers they try, whether within our Dee Valley branch area or beyond. This helps to alert us to pubs serving real ale, and if so, its quality - ultimately this is the main reason driving selection into our annual Good Beer Guide. Any queries, contact the Branch Secretary below.

## **Website / Social Media**

This is going very well. The more people (not just members), that LIKE and JOIN our Facebook group will help spread the word for CAMRA and our branch. You can post own photos and information about pubs and beer in the Dee Valley branch area that you have enjoyed.

Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1AxoYPbBdu/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Queries to BH: [socialmedia@deevalley.camra.org.uk](mailto:socialmedia@deevalley.camra.org.uk)

## **Pub & Brewery News**

The Royal Oak, Bangor-on-Dee - was up for auction again but did not sell.

The Buck, Bangor-on-Dee - rumoured not to be selling real ale now - BB to check

Llangollen Brewery - Still no contact - AR to keep trying.

Wrexham Lager Brewery - Getting ready to move but keeping the existing site - AR to arrange a tour!

## **Cider Report**

No update

## **Membership Report**

Dee Valley branch has 270 members, one down since the last meeting.



Wales region is up 10 and the national number has dropped by 160 since the last meeting. 13 Regions lost members in July with only three gaining.

## **Social Events Report**

North Wales Summer Trip - EG-J attended from our branch and reported the social was successful.

Great British Beer Festival, NEC Birmingham - AR, KH & EG-J attended.

First time at the NEC. Huge space with plenty of seating but as a consequence lacked a little atmosphere. Directional signage to get you there as a walker was poor but access was very handy via the train. On arrival you were met with a cramped entrance not making use of the copious space available. However, there was a great range and quality of beers! Attendance was not great so we await the final balance sheet ...

## **Future Events**

- 30th August - North Wales PotY presentation - 3pm Bridge End Inn, Ruabon.

The Mayor of Wrexham, our Wales RD and representatives from other North Wales branches will attend.

- 24-27 Sept - Shrewsbury Beer Festival - discount available if we go in as a group. BB to share details at the next meeting.

- 25th October - Welsh Regional Meeting - details to follow.

- All CAMRA's Festivals and Events are listed on the national website by month; worth a regular check to find the ones for you [www1.camra.org.uk/events](http://www1.camra.org.uk/events)

Other potential socials discussed:-

- Joint Social with Vale of Clwyd in Mold - pre-Christmas - AR to follow up

- Branch Christmas Social in Chester - 29th November TBC

- Branch Social in Liverpool - early Spring - TBC

## **Branch Fundraising**

The Branch needs funds to help perform some basic campaigning functions. There was a discussion about how this could be achieved. Undertaking a raffle however was ruled out at this stage due to initial set up costs (e.g. licence, printing, materials) and potential lack of volunteers versus time available.

Please bring any thoughts / ideas to the next meeting or email the Branch Secretary using the address below.



## **Correspondence**

- As a branch, we are automatically entered into the National Branch Website of the Year competition. Good luck to us!
- AR has given an interview to the Wrexham Leader about the large number of pubs closing in Flintshire - 19 in six months. Article should be out next week.

## **AOB**

AR distributed the GBG 2026 Licensee Packs to volunteers for delivery to the relevant pubs. The Good Beer Guide is officially released on 25th September.

## **Next Meetings - 7.30pm start**

24th Sept	Bridge End Inn, Ruabon LL14 6DA
22nd Oct	Crown, Llandegla LL11 3AD - (AR to confirm)
26th Nov	Glynne Arms, CH5 3NS - (KH to confirm)

**Meeting closed at 8.54pm.**

Keith Harrison  
Branch Secretary

**Branch: Dee Valley**

[branchsecretary@deevalley.camra.org.uk](mailto:branchsecretary@deevalley.camra.org.uk)