

**Dee Valley CAMRA  
Minutes of Branch Meeting  
7.30pm on 23rd July 2025  
Cross Keys, Llanfynydd. LL11 5HH**

**In attendance: 6**

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

**Apologies: 6**

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

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Accepted as a true record.

**Matters Arising**

- AR visited the Wynnstay Hotel, Wrexham, to check for Fresh Ale. They were serving Hobgoblin Ruby. There was no indication that this was Fresh Ale on the pump clip and the staff were not aware.
- AR will message Dave Welsby, regarding his Beer Tasting recruitment, and check on its success following last meeting. AR to ask for the possibility of him doing a session for our branch.

**DV Branch Bank Account**

- Lloyds Bank, that we were using for our branch bank account, has started charging for our business. So, following guidance from CAMRA HQ, RG has withdrawn all funds and has since found another bank to use - Metro Bank, who is opening a physical branch in Chester soon. RG, AR and KH will be signatories as before. RG to update us more at the next meeting.

**North Wales Pub of the Year (PotY)**

- Winner: Dee Valley's *Bridge End Inn, Ruabon* !!
- The presentation will be at the Bridge End Inn, 3pm Saturday 30th August.

Certificate and frame have been sourced, and the Mayor of Wrexham has been invited.

EG-J to invite other North Wales branches to attend.

Please come along to congratulate and support Matt and team.

Other North Wales winners were ...

- Club of the Year = Esplanade Club, Rhyl
- Cider of the Year = Myrdinns Tap, Barmouth.

### **LocAle Pub(&Club) of the Year**

The submissions were discussed and six nominations were selected - these were communicated by email separately to members on 25th July.

Branch members are asked to help us decide which one should be our branch winner.

- Visit as many of these six pubs to judge the LocAle beer quality
- Taste their LocAle beer (the one(s) brewed within 30 miles of the pub)
- Importantly, *record the Beer Score* on the GBG App or via the CAMRA website (any queries with this contact [chair@deevalley.camra.org.uk](mailto:chair@deevalley.camra.org.uk) or [branchsecretary@deevalley.camra.org.uk](mailto:branchsecretary@deevalley.camra.org.uk))
- Deadline is midnight Tuesday 26th August, just before the next meeting.

Unfortunately there are still no Welsh Language Membership forms or LocAle signs available from CAMRA HQ to distribute.

### **Website / Social Media**

BH states that we have 138 followers on Facebook - this is almost double from two months ago. Also, we now have a Facebook group which anyone is free to join. Members can post own photos and information about pubs and beer in the Dee Valley branch area. Please "like" and "tag" people you think may be interested to spread the word. CS to approach the manager at Elihu Yale to promote their pub.

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)

### **Wales Regional Meeting Report**

EG-J attended on behalf of our branch, which included South Wales branches.

- A eulogy for John Hopkins was given, who passed away recently; he was a long - time and loyal member of Gwynedd a Mon branch
- Chris Charters was voted in to continue the position of Regional Director for Wales for another three years
- The debate was resumed regarding branch boundaries in South Wales
- The PotY results were announced

- It was suggested that the Dee Valley branch should consider a Brewery of the Year Award
- The national financial situation was discussed
- The three Area Organisers and Regional Director agreed to align dates for the next GBG submissions to prevent any issues experienced last year
- Next meeting will be Saturday 25th October - venue to be confirmed

## **Pub & Brewery News**

Bridge End Inn, Ruabon - Car park closed until Wednesday 30th July

Pant-yr-Ochain - The National Eisteddfod will be held in Isycoed this year, which is close to the Pant-yr-Ochain - from 2nd to the 9th August - Welsh beer available!

The Old Barn at Plassey - New gastro pub opened at Plassey Holiday Park, Eyton, Wrexham, LL13 0SP. BB to check out the ales.

## **Cider Report**

No update

## **Membership Report**

Dee Valley branch stands at 271 members, down 6 since the last meeting.

Wales region is also 6 down and the national number has dropped by 506.

Top region is Scotland, gaining 42 members and East Anglia trails losing 194.

Membership subscription charges have now increased, seeing, for example, Single Membership rising to £34 / yr (via direct debit) and Joint Memberships rising to £42 (via DD).

## **Social Events Report**

21st June - Branch Social, Oswestry - Bailey Head is a free house with an eclectic range of ales. There was a presentation from the Shrewsbury CAMRA branch. The group then moved on to other pubs in the town. Good trip overall.

### Future Events

Saturday 9th August - North Wales Summer Trip - The multi-branch summer social will start at the Picture House, 24-26 Prince's Drive, Colwyn Bay LL29 8LA - meet at 12.45 - followed by the Bay Hop and Black Cloak. Then onto Rhyl and Prestatyn.

### Main National and Local Beer Festivals

5-9 Aug - Great British Beer Festival, NEC Birmingham.

24-27 Sept - Shrewsbury Beer Festival - discount available if we go in as a group.  
Details at next meeting.

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

NB 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)

### **Correspondence**

- WhatPub will close on 24th August - pub info and beer scoring to be actioned via the CAMRA website

The GBG App will be shutdown from 18th August as each member's subscription individually expires - use the new CAMRA website instead.

### **Next Meetings**

27th Aug	Dog & Pickle, Lavister. LL12 0DN
24th Sept	Bridge End Inn, Ruabon LL14 6DA
22nd Oct	Crown, Llandegla LL11 3AD - (AR to confirm)

**Meeting closed at 9.10pm.**

Keith Harrison  
Branch Secretary

**Branch: Dee Valley**

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