

**Dee Valley CAMRA
Minutes of Branch Meeting
7.30pm on 24th September 2025
Bridge End Inn, Ruabon LL14 6DA**

In attendance: 7

Rob Gow, Brian Bennett, Jenny Bennett, Keith Harrison, Elved Gray-Jones, Cameron Sides, Keith Jones.

Apologies: 5

Alan Roberts, Brian Hardman, Melissa Chamberlain, Brian Wright, Jane Wright.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

- AR to arrange beer tasting session with Dave Welsby - carried over

CAMRA Finances

There are significant challenges to the organisation ahead. On the back of a £350,000 loss from this year's GBBF and Winter GBBF, a decision has been made to cancel those events for next year. The printed Beer Magazine will only be available online. Other cost savings are being sought.

Saving Expenditure

- Chris Charters, RD, outlined in an email some ways the RDs can make expenditure savings and invited all his Branches to suggest what they can do.
- No easy solutions from branch level but it was thought that this analysis should come from HQ as they would know the detail via Branch expense requests.

CBOB (Champion Beer of Britain)

- The process is now open for members to nominate up to five beers in each of the 12 different CAMRA beer style categories - access and explanation is available from the CAMRA website homepage, once signed in.
- Voting ends at the end of October.

- For the future, there has been a proposal that the CBOB nomination process mirrors that of the GBG nomination process i.e.via the Branches, the Area and then the Regions route.

Branch Bank Account

RG will arrange for AR, KH and himself to meet at the Metro Bank in Chester to open the Dee Valley account.

Website / Social Media

- RG has changed the links on the Dee Valley > Pubs website page to point to the national Beer Scoring page and away from WhatPub now.
- New digital banners are available to use to promote the new GBG and pubs via Social Media.
- RG to remove JB as Cider Rep on the DV website.
- RG to add BB as Pub & Club Contact on the DV website

Pub & Brewery News

The Buck, Bangor-on-Dee - is selling Purple Moose beers

Llangollen Brewery - rumoured to be closed - KJ to confirm.

Wrexham Lager Brewery - AR to arrange a tour - carried over from last meeting.

Oddfellows, Acrefair - reopening, selling bottled beers.

Brittania Inn, Llangollen - landlord retiring.

BLOs to action their reports before the next Branch meeting in readiness for the next Regional meeting.

Cider Report

No update

Membership Report

- Dee Valley branch has 271 members, one up since the last meeting.

Wales region is down 6 and the national number has dropped by 295 since the last meeting. 5 out of 16 Regions gained members in August, notably the West Midlands whose success was from the GBBF (1355 vs 1114 last year).

- Recruitment nationally in 2025 is down 300 compared to end of August 2024.

- There is currently a "Member-Get-Member" scheme where members can offer new members £5 off their first year and get a six months free "Taste Card" themselves - check CAMRA website for details.

Social Events Report

North Wales PotY presentation @ Bridge End Inn, Ruabon 30th Aug.

The Mayor of Wrexham attended. Good session was reported.

RG to check with BH for photo and publication of the event.

Future Events

- 1st Nov.- Welsh Regional Meeting - The Albion, Conwy @ 1.30pm
- 14th/5th Nov - Movemberfest, Mold
- 26th Nov - Winner of the LocAle PotY Presentation - The Glynne Arms
- LocAle PotY Runner-Up Presentation - White Lion, Holt - BB to arrange
- 29th Nov - Branch Christmas Social in Chester - BB to arrange
- 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

Other potential socials discussed:-

- Joint Social with Vale of Clwyd in Mold - pre-Christmas - AR to follow up
- Branch Social in Liverpool - early Spring - TBC

Branch Fundraising

Discussed potential car boot sale, but would hit similar complications to a raffle.

Auction of unwanted beer, pub and brewery paraphernalia?

Member, pub and brewery simple donations ... via Go Fund Me page?

To discuss further at the next meeting.

Correspondence

- To celebrate Cask Ale Week, Greene King pubs are offering 25% off all cask ales until 26th Oct - just show your CAMRA membership card.
- Your Digital Membership Card can be downloaded to your smart devices.

Next Branch Meetings - 7.30pm start

22nd Oct	<u>Crown, Llandegla LL11 3AD</u> - including GBG '26 Nominations
26th Nov Survey	<u>Glynne Arms, Hawarden CH5 3NS</u> - including GBG '26 Allocations and Locale PotY '25 Winner Presentation.
17th Dec	<u>TBD</u> - including PotY '26 Nominations BB to check Nag's Head, Wrexham

AOB

- Do we need to celebrate the inclusion of our pubs in the new GBG - particularly the new entries? RG to list any notable anniversaries for next meeting.
- Welsh language Membership forms will not be printed due to cost cuts.
- Spare GBG publicity materials will not be released from the mailing house for a couple of weeks - only then will they be made available to order.
- LocAle materials are being re-printed and "should be back in stock before too long".

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Keith Harrison
Branch Secretary

Branch: Dee Valley

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