

Dee Valley CAMRA
Minutes of Branch Meeting
7.30pm on 20th May 2026
Crown Hotel, Llandegla LL11 3AD

In attendance: 8

Alan Roberts, Keith Harrison, Brian Bennett, Jenny Bennett, Rob Gow, Elved Gray-Jones, Steve Lamond, Cameron Sides (Elihu Yale).

Apologies: 3

Brian Wright, Jane Wright, Shelagh Roberts.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

- The date for the branch PotY presentation was changed at the request of the venue. The alternative date was communicated and attendance was good.

Website / Social Media

- Updated with photos from the branch Pub of the Year (PotY) presentation at the Bridge End Inn.

Pub & Brewery News

Mill Inn, Cefn Mawr - now open serving up to three real ales. Will be developing the beer garden next. AR suggested we visit, perhaps for a social.

Red Lion, Marford - now open following refurbishment - *BB to survey*.

Magic Dragon Brewery - won Bronze in the Mild Category for their Old Magic Mild in the Champion Beer of Britain (CBoB) competition

Big Hand Brewery, Wrexham - gone into liquidation.

Whitbread - still closing some attached/associated pubs to the general public.

Cider Report

- No update

Membership Report

- Since our last meeting, Dee Valley branch has 259 members, down six.

- The Wales Region is down 1 and nationally we are down 174 to 140,834.
- Recruitment figures were up 6.4% for the 4 months to April compared to the same period last year, this despite overall member number losses.
- 5 of 16 Regions grew members (Mar v Apr 2026), the North East being the best.
- Subscriptions will increase by £1 from 24th June (but below inflation).
- The "Pay More" and "Recurring Card Payment" facilities will go live imminently.

National AGM & Members Weekend Report

- AR went to the event in St. Albans - notable points to advise are:-
- Motion 6 was passed forcing the Executive to have bilingual materials produced eg Welsh/English Membership forms for recruiting purposes.
- Motion 3 was passed allowing the Executive to split the AGM and the Members' Weekend into two separate events from 2028.
- A gloomy, but transparent, account of our national finances was given.

Branch Meetings

- Following a recent Strategy Meeting and some verbal feedback from members:
- A change to the Branch Meeting timetable was proposed
- A reduce the number of meetings per year during less busy months
- To allow more room in the diary to arrange socials / events outside of meetings
- A new calendar will be drawn up and presented at the next Branch Meeting

Correspondence

- AR received notification that Nico Llewelyn, Secretary at Gwynedd a Mon branch and the Wales Region has fallen ill, but after a period in hospital is now recovering.

All at Dee Valley wish him well and for him to have a speedy recovery.

Social Report

- The Dee Valley branch PotY Winner's Award Presentation at the Bridge End Inn, Ruabon was held to a packed pub, roaring fire and free nibbles. AR explained our PotY process to all and congratulated the pub for winning the branch award (again). He wished them well for the next round - the Regionals.

Future Events

- Sat 23rd May - Our own Spring Social will be in Liverpool - meet 11.30-12noon, at The Central, 31 Ranelagh Street. L1 1JP, opposite Liverpool Central Railway Station. Come and join us!
- Fri 29th May - PotY Runners-up presentation at the Golden Lion, Rossett - arrive at 7.00 for a 7.30pm start.
- 5th-6th June - Chester Beer Festival, Town Hall. Free entry if booked online as a member - pay only for glass and beer tickets.
- June Branch Social - Ales in Wrexham including a stop at the Tap to celebrate the Magic Dragon Brewery's success at the Champion Beer of Britain competition:
 - BB to contact Richard to arrange an appropriate date
 - SL to arrange the certificate
- Sat 13th June - Wales Regional Meeting at Bridge End Inn, Ruabon LL14 6DA - arrive at 1.30 for 2pm start.
- Sat 1st Aug (TBC) - North Wales Seaside Beer Visit to Conwy - details to be confirmed by EG-J.
- Sat 29th Aug (& Sunday but we're going Saturday!) - Deeside Round Table's "Dee Fest 2026" - The Gladstone Centre, Chester Road, Hawarden, CH5 3GL

Get tickets £12.50 on line while they last!

- 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

Future Branch Meetings - 7.30pm start

June No meeting - but catch up with us at the Magic Dragon Tap, Wrexham to celebrate their award with a pint or two - date to be confirmed.

Wed 22nd July Cross Keys, Llanfynydd LL11 5HH (TBC by AR)

AOB

Beer Scoring

- This process is being simplified next month to improve understanding and gain greater usage from members.
- Rather than us attributing a numerical score to each beer, we will select from the following: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Acceptable, Poor, Undrinkable.
- To help chose the most appropriate word score, we will be provided with a description and typical drinker's reaction to that score.
- Use a separate tick box to indicate if the pub/club does not serve cask ale.
- The new scoring will be converted back to numerical scores for analysis.

- To check out the detail log in to the CAMRA website and go to Beer Scoring Resources > "New ratings for cask beer scoring - summary".

Promotional Pricing

- BB provided some prices to include an advert / info piece in magazines and EG-J added some typical prices for leaflet drops for potential future use.

Meeting closed at 8.52pm.

Keith Harrison
Branch Secretary

Branch: Dee Valley

branchsecretary@deevalley.camra.org.uk