

CAMRA – Richmond & Hounslow Branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Thursday 22 April 2010

Minutes of meeting at the Roebuck Hampton Hill

- 1 Persons present: Andy Pirson, Roy Hurry, Brian Kirton, George Gimber, Charles Owens, John Austin, Martin Mathews, Sylvie Marie, Paul Leonard, Colin Rose, Ola Piercy, Hugh Springall, Brian Newman, John Lisle and Kimberley Martin.
- 2 Apologies for Absence: Bryan and Helma Betts, Colin Hedderwick, Paul Manning and Cathy Almond.
- 3 Minutes of the Last Meeting: These had been circulated on the Google group and web site and hard copies were available for the meeting. The minutes were accepted unaltered.
- 4 Chairman's Report: Andy welcomed all present. This has been a strange year with some absence of direction. Having decided not to run a beer festival this year some impetus was lost and efforts concentrated on keeping the branch running. However we have had some new faces through the year. The year started badly in relation to the proposed Hampton Court Jazz and Beer Festival, with which we decided not to be involved. This has led us to petition HQ for a policy on involvement in outside for profit beer festivals and await the results of two motions put to the AGM in Douglas. Subject to these we are in discussion with Richmond Athletic Association for an autumn festival (see AOB below). Our Google group has expanded to 30 of our more active members. This generates a lot of discussion, particularly lately due to the proposed change of use of the Railway, Hampton Wick. It has not been a particularly good year for pub closures (see 10 below). Our PotY (where we are meeting tonight) 2009 came 7th in London. Unfortunately, documentation for the London PotY did not arrive with the lead judge despite follow-up requests. On a brighter note, The Masons Arms in Teddington has been bought as a free house by the licensee of the Roebuck and will be run as a real ale based establishment. As an incentive to revitalise the branch it is intended to reinstate the Twickenham Beer Festival for 20 to 22 October 2011 and the Clarendon Hall has been booked. Members asked if there would be enough people to successfully run the festival and this was discussed. It was suggested that we get into a dialogue with Harlequins RFC and possibly other clubs to encourage their members to join us and take part in the festival. **(Action for next year's secretary to liaise with potential RFCs).**
- 5 Treasurer's Report: Andy presented accounts for the branch and for the beer festival and took questions from the floor. These accounts were accepted. Proposed by Charles, seconded by Ola.

- 6 Appointment of Auditor: Paul Manning was reappointed. Proposed Andy and seconded by Ola.
- 7 Secretary's Report: Charles reported that he had attended various functions and meetings including the London pub of the year judges' briefing and was commencing judging hopefully next week. All possible reports to HQ etc. for this year had been submitted on time either by Charles or Roy.
- 8 Membership Secretary's Report: Colin has submitted a written report, which Charles read out. The group expressed their heartfelt thanks for Colin's excellent work over the last ten years and a vote of thanks was proposed by Andy and agreed unanimously. It was felt that he had stood down rather than resigned and everyone feels that he has done his bit for the branch.
- 9 Social Secretary's Report: Roy reports on the twice a month meetings, which has developed into one crawl, one single pub social and a branch meeting. They have not been especially well attended but signs were encouraging. There was a trip to the Triple fff brewery funded by the last festival. As there is no festival money available so touring of South/East London brew pubs is proposed for Saturday 19th June (using public transport starting 1100 at Richmond Station).
- 10 Pub Records Officer's Report: George provided a written report to members, which was discussed and took questions from the floor.
- 11 Beer Festival Report: Please see the Chairman's report above. Brian Kirton is happy to run it and is looking for 10 volunteers for the sub-committee. Please e-mail Brian if interested (they do not have to be members of this branch).
- 12 Publicity Officer's Report: John presented a written report and augmented this with an oral report. He has written a press release about our PotY and judging process.
- 13 Brewery Liaison Officer's Report: John presented a written report and augmented this with an oral report. The Twickenham Brewery is expanding to 150 casks per week and the share release has been fully subscribed. There are 17 ales brewed currently, four staples and the seasonal and occasional beers. Strange Brew was particularly singled out as excellent. Their beers are available from the cask in Noble Green (Hampton Hill) and Real Ale Ltd. (E. Twickenham).
- 14 Nominations for Committee: Andy Pirson, Roy Hurry, George Gimber, Charles Owens, John Austin, Martin Mathews and Brian Kirton were proposed by Colin Rose, seconded by Paul Leonard and selected. The committee will meet on Thursday 29 April at the Rifleman, Twickenham. (*Secretary's note: Martin subsequently had to sadly withdraw his offer to join the committee*).
- 15 Any Other Business:
 - a. Richmond Athletic Beer and Banger Festival – Nick Dolan: This commenced as a pre-meeting at 1930 with Patrick Toland RAA and Nick Dolan Real Ale Company. Patrick presented proposed financial figures for donations to

CAMRA in writing. A fixed fee for helping would be increased after a threshold number of attendees had been reached when entry fees would be added to the CAMRA donation. Three beer vouchers per person would be supplied to a limit of 40 per day. The proposed festival is 23/4/5 October 2010. The ethos of the festival remains as per minutes previously circulated. Dimple glasses customised to the festival will be provided as collectors' items (£2 returnable deposit). 100+ casks plus cider to be provided. There will also be a short-notice availability (probably Twickenham, Hop Back, Sharps, Meantime and St. Austell, which would be bright beers to fill a hole if needed) and a bottled beer bar. Logistics with RAA and RAC but utilising the expertise of CAMRA members. The RAA ground is fully licensed and they will provide SIA cleared security staff. (*The following is in the meeting proper*) The new committee will discuss this matter on 29 April. This follows two meetings with Nick Dolan where we had agreed to assist but this is dependent in the resolutions mentioned above in the Chairman's report. If this festival is a success, we will need to reconsider organising a CAMRA festival. However, having our own festival does assist branch cohesion and is contributing to our campaign but cannot continue if it is loss-making. Alternative premises should be considered in the future.

- b. List of good premises that have disabled access – Paul Leonard: There is an action group respecting accessibility to premises on the borough (Richmond Users for Independent Living) and there are many wheelchair users who are keen on real ale and want to get out and about using funds with which they are provided by central government. However, access can be very problematic with temporary ramps. By surveying our pubs we can encourage wheelchair users into our real ale establishments. Accessibility in this case includes provision of disabled toilets. The branch expressed its support for the provision of disabled access wherever practicable.
- c. Opposing change of use, The Railway, Hampton Wick – George Gimber: We have written a letter of objection. Enterprise Inns have sold the premises to an individual who wants to change the use to private dwelling. This is opposed by local groups including The Hampton Wick Association. If the opposition is successful there is a person interested in buying the premises and reopening as a pub. This may be decided as late as June although work on the premises appears to have started. The planning officer is still deliberating. George is attending a work shop with CAMRA on 22 May relating to saving your local. Kimberley mentioned that if our publicity officer sent some bullet points to John Howard at HQ that they will issue a press release.
- d. Paul Leonard: The Getting a Life initiative is active in Richmond (alone amongst London Boroughs) and parents and carers are hoping to buy a pub for upstairs residential use by disabled persons and use as a social centre/CAMRA pub downstairs. Respite care funding (£750 per night) could fund the whole operation.

16 The meeting ended at 11.25 pm.