

CAMRA – RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the Cabbage Patch Public House, Twickenham, on Thursday 10 April 2014. The Meeting commenced at 8.07 pm.

1. PRESENT: Charles Owens (Chair), Roy Hurry (Minutes), George Gimber, Martin Matthews, Sylvie Marie, John Austin, Dave Scott, Andy Pirson, Stewart Murray, James Murray, Geoff Strawbridge (London Regional Director), Bob Gordon, Paul Firby, Bryan Betts, Paul Leonard, Brian Kirton, Mike Heather, Peter Turl (guest), John Lisle (guest), Anthea Lisle (guest)
Charles Owens welcomed those present.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Cathy Almond, Helma Betts, Hugh Spingall, Paul Manning, Iain Sutherland, Kingsley Usher.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 16 May 2013 at the Roebuck Public House, Richmond, were circulated and their acceptance was proposed, seconded, and agreed by a show of hands.

Matters Arising: Charles Owens clarified that two optional annual awards being considered were for the 'Most Improved Licensed Premises' for which The Crown, Twickenham, was nominated by a majority vote by those present, and an 'individual appreciative' award to, for example, a long-serving pub landlord or campaigner, for which nominations were invited.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Charles Owens' tabled report was circulated (attached).

There were no Matters Arising.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Roy Hurry confirmed that all Branch, Committee and Beer Festival Sub-Committee Meetings had been constitutionally called and duly minuted.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Stewart Murray's report was circulated (attached). It showed an increase in Branch Membership over the past year from 892 to 925.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Andy Pirson circulated the printed audited accounts for the past year (to 31 March) for both the regular Branch activities and for the Beer Festival.

The regular Branch accounts showed a turnover of £939.40, a deficit on the year's activities of £347.40, mainly due to the Branch Mailout agreed at the last AGM that cost £514.22, and cash in-hand/bank of £164.74.

The Beer Festival Account showed a turnover on the 2013 Festival of £31037.45, with a surplus of £8395.87 (after a previous year's adjustment), of which £6000.00 had been forwarded to 'HQ', and £1390.00 set aside for Branch funds, leaving a surplus for the accounting period of £1005.87, reflecting an improvement in turnover and surplus on the previous year's Festival. Cash in-hand/bank was £3293.43.

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Sylvie Marie, seconded by Bryan Betts, and agreed unanimously by a show of hands.

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

The continuing appointment of Paul Manning as Auditor was proposed by Andy Pirson, seconded by Bryan Betts, and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

8. OFFICER REPORTS

Reports were made verbally or tabled from the following Branch Officers:

Pubs Officer – Paul Firby, who was keen to appoint ‘area’ representatives to feed him news of pub developments

Press & Publicity Officer and Public Affairs Spokesman – John Austin

Social Secretary – Roy Hurry

Branch-based Brewery Liaison Officer – John Austin (in respect of Twickenham Fine Ales)

Young Members’ Contact – James Murray

NBSS Co-ordinator – James Murray

Webmaster and Pub Database Co-ordinator – George Gimber

Beer Festival Organiser – Brian Kirton who reported that this year’s Festival would have adjusted ‘opening’ times

(Note: where individual reports are available electronically they can be provided on request)

9. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE:

It was noted that Jim Whewell had resigned from the Committee as he had moved away from the Branch area.

Prior to the Meeting Paul Firby had been proposed and seconded for a Committee position and this was agreed by a show of hands.

At the Meeting Bob Gordon was proposed by John Austin and seconded by Andy Pirson, and his appointment was also agreed by a show of hands.

Current Committee Members who were willing to continue were returned unopposed, namely:

Charles Owens – Chairman

Roy Hurry – Secretary

Andy Pirson – Treasurer

Stewart Murray – Membership Secretary

John Austin

James Murray

The Branch Committee now had 8 members – still 1 short of the constitutionally permitted number.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Charles Owens said that the 3 key Branch targets for the coming year would be:

- better communication with Branch Members – hopefully by an electronic Branch newsletter
- to improve knowledge of, and pubs’ commitments to the LocAle scheme, and improve awareness of pubs that offered Member discounts
- increased Branch presence at local events

There being no further business, [the Meeting closed at 9.42pm.](#)

RAH

ATTACHMENTS

**Richmond and Hounslow Branch of CAMRA
Chairman's report for AGM on 10 April 2014**

Welcome to all members present. I do not propose to repeat key points made in the submissions by other officers and thank them all for their efforts over the last year. Looking back to the presence of the old Richmond and Hounslow Branches in the 1974 Good Beer Guide, thanks are due to all the past officers, who have kept us going for the last 40 years. Their reports reflect our success in maintaining branch membership numbers, remaining solvent, campaigning on a range of issues, managing the transition to What Pub to describe our pubs and report on them for The Good Beer Guide.

We also had a very successful beer and cider festival and again thanks are due to everyone who helped in this endeavour.

Personal goals to be more represented in local press saw twelve letters and e-comments being published in various papers. We are also present via London Drinker in an increased number of pubs and clubs (e.g The Old Goat in Fulwell, The Twickenham Club and Jolly Coopers in Hampton).

I have attended several meetings, seminars and LLC meetings (thanks to Roy Hurry for attending the one which I had to miss). I also completed the judging for all the London Pub of the Year contenders as lead judge.

We have campaigned about national issues and legislation is pending to deal with the disgraceful position where pubs can be demolished or their use substantially changed without planning permission.

We will commit to assist residents' groups and action groups to support community pubs where applicable. Particularly, I should like the Branch to campaign to have appropriate premises listed as assets of community value, preferably working with other local groups. By the end of this meeting, once the other officers have had their say, we should adopt three objectives for the year to come, which can be covered in any other business.

Best wishes and cheers, Charles.

Richmond & Hounslow CAMRA

Annual General Meeting - Thursday 10 April 2014

Membership Secretary's Report

General

The following bullet points may be of interest. Please refer to the 'Branch Membership Figures' attachment and to the 'Membership Secretary's Report – April

2014' where necessary.

* Over the last year (May 2013 to April 2014) Branch membership has increased by approximately 3.7%, from 892 to 925 people.

* During this period I have despatched almost 200 letters, primarily by email but also by surface post, to:

* Welcome new members to CAMRA and to the Richmond and Hounslow Branch.

* Welcome members who have moved into our area to the Richmond and Hounslow Branch.

* Ask lapsed members to reconsider their departure from CAMRA.

* Email contact details of Branch members aged 18 to 30 have been supplied on three occasions to the Branch Young Members' Contact in order to facilitate Young Members events.

Membership trends

* Membership growth has primarily been in the 'Single - Retired' category.

* Joint membership categories have seen a net minor increase but numbers have generally been static.

* The Single membership category has seen a minor reduction.

* Under 26 membership has been static.

* Other Single categories of membership have been generally static.

* Most members who left the Branch:

* Did so at the expiry of their initial 12/15 month membership period.

* Paid by cheque or cash.

Future Challenges

* Although the growth in retired members is welcome, more younger people need to be recruited.

* Only around 1% of Branch members are regularly active. Ways must be found to persuade some of the other 99% to participate in Branch events.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

MAY 2013 TO APRIL 2014

Total of Joint and Single Membership Categories

MONTH	MAY 13	JUN 13	JUL 13	AUG 13	SEP 13	OCT 13	NOV 13	DEC 13	JAN 14	FEB 14	MAR 14	APR 14	CHANGE IN YEAR
Joint	282	284	286	286	288	284	270	288	280	286	286	286	+4
Single	610	616	618	630	633	627	627	634	630	637	638	639	+29
Total	892	910	904	916	921	911	897	922	910	923	924	925	+33

Single Membership - Single, Single Retired, and Under 26 Categories

MONTH	MAY 13	JUN 13	JUL 13	AUG 13	SEP 13	OCT 13	NOV 13	DEC 13	JAN 14	FEB 14	MAR 14	APR 14	CHANGE IN YEAR
Single	390	394	395	395	395	388	385	391	387	386	384	384	-6
Sgl Retd	156	160	171	171	175	175	179	182	181	189	191	192	+36
U26	16	15	14	14	14	15	15	14	15	15	16	16	0

Richmond & Hounslow CAMRA

Membership Secretary's Report - April 2014

Today's Informer software report for Richmond and Hounslow Branch shows a net increase in our membership of 1 during March.

Details of the March figures are below.

Membership Category	28 February 2014	31 March 2014	Difference
Joint	223	221	-2
Joint life	6	6	
Joint ret'd	55	55	
Joint U26	2	4	+2
Total joint	286	286	
Single	384	384	
Single disabled	1	1	
Single life	39	39	
Single retired	191	192	+1
Single student	3	3	
Single U26	16	16	
Single unemp	4	4	
Total single	638	639	+1
Total	924	925	+1

Stewart Murray
Membership Secretary
2 April 2014