

CAMRA – RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the Cabbage Patch Public House, Twickenham, on Thursday 23 April 2015. The Meeting commenced at 8.10 pm.

1. PRESENT:

Branch Members: Charles Owens (Chair), Roy Hurry (Minutes), Andy Pirson, Paul Leonard, Hugh Springall, Tony Davies, George Gimber, Martin Matthews, Sylvie Marie, Brian Newman, Steve McGrail, Danny Walsh, James Murray, John Austin, Paul Firby, Stewart Murray, Patrick Deller, Iain Sutherland, Bryan Betts, Trevor Dawson, Zainab Hafidh-Hurry, Brian Kirton, and: Roy Tunstall (London Regional Secretary), Geoff Strawbridge (London Regional Director), John Lisle (guest), Anthea Lisle (guest)
Charles Owens welcomed those present.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Cathy Almond, Bob Gordon, Jean Leonard.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 10 April 2014 at the Cabbage Patch Public House, Twickenham, were circulated and their acceptance was proposed by Andy Pirson, seconded by John Austin, and agreed by a show of hands.
There were no Matters Arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Charles Owens gave his report for the year (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.
There were no Matters Arising.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Stewart Murray's report was circulated (attached). It showed an increase in Branch Membership over the past year from 919 to 937.

Matters Arising: Paul Firby commented that at the last national CAMRA AGM it was stated that older 'new' Members were more likely to fulfil volunteer roles, a point that was endorsed by Geoff Strawbridge.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Andy Pirson circulated the printed audited accounts for the past year (to 31 March 2015) for both the regular Branch activities and for the Beer Festival.

The regular Branch account showed a turnover of £350.00, a surplus on the year's activities of £251.84, and cash in-hand/at bank of £416.58.

The Beer Festival account showed a turnover on the 2014 Festival of £31919.48, with a surplus of £6952.25, of which £5000.00 had been forwarded to 'HQ', and £1874.99 set aside to fund 2 years' staff outings, giving a net surplus for the accounting period of £77.26, and cash in-hand/at bank of £3604.81.

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

Geoff Strawbridge complimented the transparency shown in the accounts.

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

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

8. OFFICER REPORTS

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

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)

Pubs Officer – Paul Firby

Beer Festival Organiser – Charles Owens who reported that definite date availability for this year's Festival was still awaited from Richmond 'Council'

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

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

9. NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE:

Charles Owens (Chairman), Andy Pirson (Treasurer), and Stewart Murray (Membership Secretary) were willing to continue in their current positions, and were all proposed by Bryan Betts, seconded by Iain Sutherland, and re-elected.

James Murray was proposed by Charles Owens, seconded by Paul Leonard, to become Secretary, and was elected by a show of hands.

The re-election of John Austin, Paul Firby, Bob Gordon and Roy Hurry was agreed by a show of hands.

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

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Tony Davies gave details of a Beer Festival being arranged in Hampton this year.

Charles Owens will solicit nominations from Members for pubs considered worthy of being considered for listing as an ACV (Asset of Community Value). A discussion on the subject, guided by Geoff Strawbridge, was held.

Volunteers are sought for the distribution of *London Drinker* to pubs in Hampton, Isleworth, and parts of Richmond.

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 23 April 2015**

Welcome to all members present. I will not repeat key points made in the submissions by other officers and again thank them all for their efforts over the last year. Thanks are due to all the past officers, who have kept us going for the last 40 years and for arranging the reunion at The Express Tavern in Brentford.

Their reports reflect our success in maintaining branch membership numbers, remaining solvent, campaigning on a range of issues, managing the transition to new computing systems, which have posed a raft of problems.

We also had a 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 again saw letters and e-comments being published in various papers and social media. We are also present via London Drinker in an increased number of pubs and clubs (e.g. Twickenham Club and The Hampton pub).

I have attended the CAMRA AGM several meetings, seminars and LLC meetings. I also completed the judging for all the London Pub of the Year contenders as lead judge.

Thanks to Paul Firby for creating our e-newsletter, which has resulted in more involvement in voting and judging issues. Of particular interest was the emergence of several new pubs for consideration for the Good Beer Guide and our Pub of the Year. Next year's judging should be even more competitive as the remaining pubs continue to improve.

We have campaigned about national issues and legislation has been passed (at least in part) to deal with the disgraceful position where pubs can be demolished or their use substantially changed without planning permission. Locally, we have seen the closure of several pubs, some reinvented as restaurants serving real ale and the opening of others like the Mute Swan and Mulberry Tree.

I should like the Branch to campaign to have appropriate premises listed as assets of community value, preferably working with other local groups but this can now be done by the Branch alone where deemed appropriate..

By the end of this meeting, once the other officers have had their say, we can adopt three objectives for the year to come, which can be covered in any other business. However this is a CAMRA guideline, not a rule and most branches expressed a wish at the AGM to work on ACVs as the number 1 priority.

Charles Owens

Richmond & Hounslow CAMRA

Annual General Meeting - Thursday 23 April 2015

Membership Secretary's Report

General

The following bullet points may be of interest. Please refer to the 'Branch Membership Figures' attachments and to the 'Membership Secretary's Report - April 2014' where necessary.

- * Over the last year (May 2014 to April 2015) Branch membership has increased by approximately 2.0%, from 919 to 937 people.
- * During this period I have despatched almost 400 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.
 - * Ask members for whom we do not have an email address to amend their CAMRA membership details to include their email address (should they have one and wish to do so).
 - * Email contact details of Branch members aged 18 to 30 have been supplied on two occasions to the Branch Young Members Contact in order to facilitate Young Members events.
 - * Email contact details of Branch members have been supplied to the Branch e-newsletter officer in order to initially populate the e-newsletter database.

Membership trends

- * Once again, membership growth has primarily been in the 'Single - Retired' category; this is particularly noticeable over the last two years.
- * Joint membership categories have seen a net minor decrease but numbers have generally been static.

- * The 'Single' membership category has again seen a minor reduction.
- * 'Under 26' membership has improved.
- * Other Single categories of membership have been generally been 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

- * The growth in retired members is, of course, welcome but more younger people need to be recruited and retained.
- * About 1% of Branch members are regularly active. Ways must be found to persuade some of the other 99% to participate in Branch events. Hopefully, the e-newsletter will assist in this respect.

Stewart Murray
 Membership Secretary
 20 April 2015

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

MAY 2014 TO APRIL 2015

Total of Joint and Single Membership Categories

MONTH	MAY 14	JUN 14	JUL 14	AUG 14	SEP 14	OCT 14	NOV 14	DEC 14	JAN 15	FEB 15	MAR 15	APR 15	CHANGE IN YEAR
Joint	282	280	276	280	280	284	284	296	290	286	282	280	-2
Single	637	639	648	645	662	660	664	659	654	649	656	657	+20
Total	919	919	924	925	942	944	948	955	944	935	938	937	+18

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

MONTH	MAY 14	JUN 14	JUL 14	AUG 14	SEP 14	OCT 14	NOV 14	DEC 14	JAN 15	FEB 15	MAR 15	APR 15	CHANGE IN YEAR
Single	379	378	384	382	389	385	388	377	376	374	377	375	-4
Sgl Retd	195	197	200	200	208	210	212	216	211	208	211	211	+16
U26	16	17	17	17	18	18	18	18	19	19	20	20	+4

Stewart Murray
Membership Secretary
20 April 2015

Richmond & Hounslow CAMRA

Membership Secretary's Report - April 2015

The Informer software report for Richmond and Hounslow Branch shows a small net decrease in our membership of 1 last month.

Details below:

Membership Category	1st March 2015	1st April 2015	Difference
Joint	221	221	
Joint life	6	6	
Joint ret'd	51	49	-2
Joint U26	4	4	
Total joint	282	280	-2
Single	377	375	-2
Single disabled	1	1	
Single life	40	40	
Single retired	211	211	
Single student	3	4	+1
Single U26	20	20	
Single unemp	4	4	
Total single	656	657	
Total	938	937	-1

Stewart Murray
Membership Secretary

2 April 2015

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

MAY 2013 TO APRIL 2015

Total of Joint and Single Membership Categories

MONTH	MAY 13	APR 15	CHANGE IN 2 YEARS
Joint	282	280	-2
Single	610	657	+47
Total	892	937	+45

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

MONTH	MAY 13	APR 15	CHANGE IN 2 YEARS
Single	390	375	-15
Sgl Retd	156	211	+55
U26	16	20	+4

Stewart Murray
