

CAMRA SWD - August 2019 Meeting
Wednesday 14th, 8 pm – Portland, Portland Social Club

Meeting Notes

1. Attending: Chaired: Dave Harris.

Leslie Senior, Diane Senior, Adrian Patterson, Russ Ware, Rich Gabe, Dave Harris(Y), Bruce Mead, Simon House, Kevin Launder, James Buckley, James Bennett, Jill Diggins, Kelvin Nicholson, Steve Browne, Andy Redding, Wilf Day

Apologies: Tony Egerton, James Bennett, Alan Fowler, Richard Walters, Kylie Stroud

2. Beer Scores/ GBG

• **Beer scoring**

o Since the July branch meeting, 525 additional beer scores have been submitted and entered into the database by 50 different CAMRA members (25 from West Dorset).

o Are you one of the 25? AP to ask for a show of hands of which attendees had submitted beer scores since the last meeting, and to encourage those who haven't to do so.

o AP to discuss the changes to the reports, i.e. Marks less than 2 and Standard Deviation.

o According to WhatPub, the nearest 5 pubs to this meeting are:

Name/Location	Number of Marks	Number of Days Visited	Number of Reviewers
Cove House PORTLAND (CHISWELL)	9	5	8
Little Ship PORTLAND (CHISWELL)	8	4	7
Britannia PORTLAND (FORTUNESWELL)	8	5	6
New Star Inn PORTLAND (FORTUNESWELL)	6	2	5
Royal Portland Arms PORTLAND (FORTUNESWELL)	26	20	12

o Most of these require extra visits. Is anyone planning to go to these pubs this evening and, if so, can you submit beer scores please?

• **GBG**

o Licensee packs are being sent to the branch today (14th August). We'll be asking the Publinkers to distribute them with the next Giant Dongle, which is due out shortly.

o As usual, there is an embargo on publicising, or releasing to the press, content from the new Guide before the official publication date of 12th September. This includes details about which pubs are listed in the new edition. This embargo does not prevent us from informing individual licensees of their inclusion in the Guide and distributing Licensee Packs before the 12th September publication date. However, if licensees are given packs and told of their inclusion in the Guide before publication, they must agree not to publicise in any way that they are in the Guide prior to the publication date. This includes communication with the press and local publicity activity by pubs themselves – verbally, in print or online.

o Tony has ordered 40 GBGs for the branch.

• **Beer Scoring & GBG Review**

o Two meetings have taken place and resulted in a number of actions and recommendations, some of which have and will be discussed at this meeting.

o The third meeting is scheduled for next week.

• **Pub News (from Tony Egerton)**

o Elm Tree, Langton Herring now has new owners. Initial reviews favourable.

o Hare and Hounds has re-opened with new tenants

o Boot Weymouth. Richard Lamb is no longer in control of the Boot, the franchise is now solely with Kevin Strickland. The operation of the Boot and the Wellington is unusual in that they are franchises (not Managed/tenanted/leased). In this Marston's business model the company set prices and policy and the franchisee takes a percentage of the pub profits but is responsible for paying staff wages and overheads. Currently I believe these are the only two pubs in our area operating this system.

o Stonegate has bought all the Ei Group pubs, subject to shareholder agreement. If this goes through Stonegate will be the country's largest pub owner with 4,760 pubs so expect some to be sold on to either smaller pub companies or property developers.

o Current West Dorset Ei Group pubs

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ Ilchester Arms, Abbotsbury | ▪ Halsey Arms, Pulham |
| ▪ Hunters Moon, Middlemarsh | ▪ Saxon Arms, Stratton |
| ▪ Sly Fox, Osmington | ▪ Gloucester, Weymouth |
| ▪ Punchbowl, Portland | ▪ Old Castle Hotel, Weymouth |
| ▪ Poet Laureate, Poundbury | |

- o Current West Dorset Stonegate pubs
 - Clipper, Weymouth (closed)
 - Rendezvous, Weymouth
 - Slug & Lettuce, Weymouth
 - Royal Oak (Quay), Weymouth

WhatPub and other Pub news

- o A member of the public has reported that the **Belvedere Inn, Weymouth**, is closing down because “the brewery are pricing the landlord out of business”. Tony believes that the current leaseholder, Tom, is selling the lease.
- o **New Star Inn, Portland** has changed hands.
- o **Bottle Inn at Marshwood** is reported to have been sold.
- o **The Coach and Horses at Winterbourne Abbas** is reported to have been bought .
- o Local adverts in **Dorchester** are announcing the re-opening of the **Kings Arms** in early 2020.

3 Membership Status (KN)

Lapsed Members 8
 New Members 8
 Total notified by HQ 676, no change on the month.

4 Garden of the Year The Crown at Puncknowle was announced as this years winner. Minibus trip this weekend to give award.

5 Octoberfest Dave Harris stated that all activities on the task list were up-to-date.. There was a delay in getting insurance form from HQ but we were chasing that up now and hope to get it sorted in the next week. Rich Gabe said that we’d had a strong response and most positions have been filled. There were still a few Saturday evening vacancies. Sourcing of the beers from Cornwall was also going well and we were drip feeding to the media to build interest.

6 Use of Social Media to promote Branch Events (Bruce Mead) West Dorset CAMRA Facebook page now has 500 likes, an increase of 56 in the last month. Octoberfest online promotion going well. Event has reached over 17,000 people. This is already 6,000 more than the total last year. Nearly 600 have said they are either interested or going. Will use targeted advertising to try and turn this interest into sales. Facebook posts showing what is on sale in our pubs are proving popular. If members see an interesting range of beers on sale in a local pub can they please email a photo of the hand pumps to Bruce Mead or James Buckley. It would be good to try to find how effective the campaign was in converting “likes” to actual ticket sales. Could some way be found to give Bruce visibility of ticket sales over the coming weeks? **DH to ask Nigel Smith to provide info.**

7 Social Events

Rich reported the South Devon trip had been very good; the Bristol trip had attracted about ten members; we were presenting Garden of the Year this Saturday. Future date: Skittles with ED Sat 16th November at Tom Browns.

8 AOB

- a) Alex Bardwell asks if a lift is available to Regional Meeting on 31st? **DH(Y) will offer.**
- b) Cider Festival at George on Portland this weekend and a beer festival advert for the Portland Social Club was noted for this weekend also.
- c) Kelvin reported a new membership form was available which had the new fees etc. Could editors and Publinkers get the new information into the public domain please.
- d) The Pymore are holding a beer fest of 30 beers and 20 craft ciders over August BH - Live music everyday. They still have 6 good well kept ales on but continue to use plastic glasses.

Meeting closed at 20.46.

Next Meetings – September 11th 8pm Branch Meeting Woodman Inn; Bridport. **AGM Friday 20th September, Tom Browns Dorchester.** Contact Tony Egerton 01305 789906(h) 07711 752720(m) agegerton@aol.com