

CAMRA SWD - September 2019 Meeting
Wednesday 11th, 8 pm – Bridport, Woodman Inn

Meeting Notes

1. **Attending:** Chaired: Dave Harris (E).
Adrian Patterson, Russ Ware, Rich Gabe, Dave Harris(Y), John Parker, Ellis Ford, Bruce Mead, Simon House, Graham Morey, James Buckley, Jill Diggins, Alex Bardswell, James Bennett, Kylie Stroud, Richard Stirk.
Apologies: Tony Egerton, Leslie Senior, Diane Senior, Alan Fowler, Kelvin Nicholson, Steve Browne, Andy Redding
2. **Beer Scores/ GBG**
 - **Beer scoring**
 - o Since the August branch meeting, 676 additional beer scores have been submitted and entered into the database by 67 different CAMRA members (31 from West Dorset).
 - o Are you one of the 31? We would like more beer scores in order to get a more accurate shortlist of pubs to assist with our GBG selection, which is why we are asking members who attend these meetings to submit beer scores regularly – don't forget the competition in the latest Giant Dongle!
 - o AP to discuss the changes to the reports.
 - **GBG**
 - o Licencee packs are being distributed along with the latest Giant Dongle (and some posters for licences to encourage members to submit more beer scores).
 - 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. He'll be bringing some along to next week's AGM.
 - o In order for members to vote on pubs for the GBG 2021 (in January's meeting), they will have had to submit one beer score in the qualifying period. An increased threshold will be agreed for the GBG 2022 and published in advance.
 - **Beer Scoring & GBG Review**
 - o Three 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 fourth meeting is scheduled for next month.
 - **Pub News (from Tony Egerton)**
 - o Skippers, Sherborne was been sold by Wadworths to Red Oak Taverns. This makes five Red Oak Taverns in West Dorset; the others are Britannia, Portland, Royal Exchange, Portland, Belvedere, Weymouth and Duke of Albany, Weymouth.
 - o Local pubs currently listed for sale:
 - Royal Standard, Upwey; Little Ship, Upwey, Royal Oak, Weymouth (Dorch Rd); Giant, Cerne Abbas, Lugger, Chickerell, Eight Kings, Southwell, Shave Cross Inn; Shave Cross; King Charles Tavern, Bridport, Pulpit, Portland, Brace of Pheasants, Plush, Rivers Arms, Cheselborne, Pie & Ale house, Weymouth; Somerset Hotel, Weymouth
 - o There's been a licensee change at the White Horse, Litton Cheyney and also at the Belvedere in Weymouth.
The licensee at the Belvedere is Lyn MacKenzie who members will remember from the Boot, The King's Arms and the Royal Oak (Quay)
 - o The new owner of the Elm Tree, Langton Herring, has introduced two Isle of Purbeck beers to the pub.
 - o The Nothe in Weymouth frequently has no real ale. This is the last pub in the area run By Richard Lamb, who has left the Boot and The King's Arms in recent months.
 - o The Spyglass at Preston has taken out the beer python so no real ale there now.
 - o The Rock, Weymouth has closed seeking a new licensee.
 - o The Sly Fox, Osmington is now closed (again) with notices posted on the doors.
 - o Little Ship, Portland is in the process of changing hands and is now open.
 - o Kings Arms, Dorchester. Local adverts in Dorchester are announcing the re-opening in early 2020.
 - o Sailor's Return, Weymouth. Laurence Taylor has succeeded his mother Jackie as licensee, who sadly died earlier this year.

3 Membership Status (KN)

New Members 4
Members moved into Branch 4
Lapsed Members 1
Cancelled Members 3
Total notified by HQ 680, net gain of 4 members.

4 Octoberfest Dave Harris stated that all activities on the task list were up-to-date.. Rich Gabe said that all staffing positions had now been filled. Sourcing of the beers from Cornwall was also going well and we will continue drip feeding to the media to build interest.

5 Social Media Update (Bruce Mead) Facebook Total page likes 532, up 32 from the last meeting
Octoberfest Total unpaid reach 22K, paid reach via advert a further 8.5K resulting in over 300 clicks through to the ticketing page. Online ticket sales slightly ahead of this time last year. Response shows 655 as interested, and 85 as going. Hopefully release of beer list will convert some of those interested into going.
James and Andy posting regularly on Twitter and Instagram respectively. Both gaining followers at a steady rate.

6 Social Events

Rich reminded members that the main upcoming events were Octoberfest in three weeks time and Poole Beerfest in early November with a chance to beat East Dorset at skittles on Sat 16th November at Tom Browns.

7 Giant Dongle inputs (JP) John asked for support in getting more material for Giant Dongle. This last period had seen contributions drop off so that current issues were 28pp. Various actions were confirmed and we would try and get the word out to the membership.

8 WhatPub Updates (JP) Again here it was apparent that some of our WhatPub pages were well out of date. There was agreement that this was so. It tended to be that pubs which made it into the GBG were reviewed more often, so we need to find ways of getting others updated. John suggested that an “adopt-a-pub” scheme might be developed where members took pubs and looked after their WhatPub entries that way.

9 Pubs to visit

- o According to Whatpub, the nearest 5 pubs to this meeting are:
 - George Hotel
 - Bull Hotel
 - Stable
 - Greyhound
 - Pursuit of Hoppiness
- In the other direction and a little further lies the Crown which needs more scores.

10 AOB

- a) Alex Bardswell had gone to the Square & Compass presentation. She had only found out about it late in the day.
- b) Jill Diggins gave an update on the pubs on Portland which seem to be reducing in number and in activity
- c) Dave Harris(Y) had attended the Regional meeting together with Alex Bardswell. He reported that the four hour meeting contained much moaning, which he felt was unproductive time. Points which came out of it were:
During a piece by ABI Newton from HQ there various Branches said they were not getting adequate info – various examples were given.
CBOB system had been redefined. Anyone could now vote for any beer without restriction.
West Dorset were to host Regional Meeting in September 2020.
- d) AB had not been able to see any of our publicity within the Pavilion recently

Meeting closed at 20.36.

Next Meetings – AGM Friday 20th September, Tom Browns Dorchester. October 9th
8pm Branch Meeting Seven Stars; East Burton (POTY Nominations close in 10 days). Contact Tony Egerton 01305 789906(h) 07711 752720(m) agegerton@aol.com