

Minutes

Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Branch Meeting

Thursday 25th July 2024 7:30pm

Cask & Tap, 82 Topping Street, Blackpool, FY1 3AD

Attendees: Rick Pickup (RP, Chair), Rob Wheatley (RW), Graham Monk (GM), Keith Edgington (KE), Lee Rawlings (LR), Matt Walker (MW), Alistair Blair (AB), Gary Levin (GL), Gary Walkey (GW), Kevin Potts (KP), Steve Hudson (SH).

1. Welcome.

The meeting was opened at 19:30 and RP welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Victoria Fairbrother (VB).

Ralph Warrington (RD-NW).

3. Expressions of Interest.

LR as landlord of 15's St Annes expressed his interest.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting and any Matters Arising.

The minutes were accepted as a fair representation of the last meeting.

5. Outstanding actions from previous meetings.

GL to visit 'The Devonshire' on a Heritage matter – GL attended The Devonshire and reported that The Devonshire should no longer be classified as a heritage entry – **Closed**.

RP/KE to investigate locations which enables the branch to widen its profile and encourage local members to attend meetings – This matter is **Ongoing**.

6. Finance.

GM provided a copy of the latest bank balance for review by the committee and made a statement to reflect that there were no transactions in the previous month. No further matters arising.

7. Membership.

LR provided a presentation pack to show that during the period since the previous meeting there were 10 new members in the branch, while 12 memberships had lapsed. It was stated that we are currently a branch with 2011 members and we are the largest branch in the NW region, while maintaining our standing as 7th overall in the UK. The pack also reflected data for the previous 6 months as well as NW Region and National data for comparison.

8. Pubs Officers Report.



a. Planning applications/Licensing Issues.

GL Reported that there were a number of planning applications in our area and these were discussed affecting the following premises – Lifeboat, GOAT, Coronation Street and Backstage.

b. WhatPub Issue.

AB Reported that the current entries are under review and was able to make some minor amendments from the discussion within the branch meeting.

9. Discussion to urgent message from New Region Mailout 11th July.

As RD-NW was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting, RP reported that we are minimally affected and as this is currently in national discussion, we should await further updates.

10. Social Trips and Branch Diary for 24-25.

A planned outing on the 5C bus route was planned for Saturday 27th July, post meeting I can advise that 14 branch members enjoyed a pleasant afternoon with good Real Ale in numerous establishments along the route.

The branch is currently looking at organizing a bus route 42 event starting in Garstang, a Lytham/St Annes walkabout, the branch has also penciled in a Xmas walkabout to Wigan on the weekend of 13-15 December as well as supporting the Preston Pub Festival on 13-15 September. Further social events will be published on the branch website.

11. Branch Emails, Bulletin and Mailout.

Action - RP agreed to refresh the previous survey to all branch members to canvass opinions.

12. AONB.

GBG Launch – A discussion was held in support of the national request for branches to hold local GBG launches, the current proposal is to have a local launch at our branch pub of the year as well as a launch at one of our branch new entries – **Action – RP to advise on plans and details.**

The branch currently has 3 Brewery Liaison Officer roles to fill (Pool Brewing, Silent Mill and Shed Beer Breweries) – GL volunteered for the Pool Brewing role but the Silent Mill and Shed Beer Breweries are still vacant, RP will advise further details to interested volunteers.

Committee Introductions – MW requested current committee members to complete the requests for profiles with photographs so the site can be updated.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting.

Next Meeting – Date and Venue TBC as the current proposed date conflicts with the GBG Launch.
RP Closed the meeting at 20:40.

