

# Minutes

## Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Branch Meeting

### Cask And Tap

Topping Street, Blackpool, FY1 3AD

19:30pm on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Attendees:** Rick Pickup (RP, Chair), Rob Wheatley (RW), Keith Edgington (KE), Matt Walker (MW), Alistair Blair (AB), Gary Walkey (GW), Kevin Potts (KP), Gary Levin (GL), Steve Fairbrother (SF), Victoria Fairbrother (VF), Graham Monk (GM), Natalie Barker (NB), Andrea Walker (AW), Steven Walker (SW).

#### 1. Welcome

RP Opened the meeting at 19:30 and welcomed all.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from: Lee Rawlings (LR), Giles Morgan (GM).

#### 3. Expressions of Interest

There were no expressions of interest.

#### 4. Minutes of previous meeting including accuracy/action minutes

- a. Accuracy: The previous minutes were accepted as accurate.
- b. **Ongoing Action 1** – Survey (RP) – This is covered in Agenda item 6.
- c. **Action 2** – POTY, COTY and CPOTY – These have been agreed, verified and submitted to HQ, as such the action is now **Closed**.

#### 5. Branch Website (GW)

There was a prolonged discussion around implementing the proposed 'Beer Engine' website to replace the existing branch website. It was agreed that over a short period of time the branch would transfer to use the 'Beer Engine' website with admin access being initially granted to a number of committee members. RP took the opportunity to thank GW on his work to make this happen as well as thanks for his service to the branch over many years prior to him leaving his key post at the forthcoming AGM.

#### 6. Membership Survey

MW reported that 102 branch members had completed the survey, MW read through a number of key points raised. MW will produce a generic report on the findings and look to implement any recommendations after the AGM under the management of a new chairman. **Action 1 – MW to produce a generic report for issue to all branch members. Action 2 – Any recommendations to be discussed with new chairman, post AGM.**

#### 7. NW Regional Meeting (Black Horse, Preston, 12:30pm on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025)

NW Regional Director to be appointed at this meeting.



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## 8. Branch AGM (Cask and Tap, Blackpool 19:30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025)

An agenda item for diaries especially as RP will be standing down as Branch Chairman and this meeting will be seeking volunteers for a number of branch committee posts, should any persons wish to volunteer for any of the posts they should submit their requests to RP or KE prior to the AGM. Any current incumbents need to ensure they have applied to stay in their roles in the same way.

## 9. Officers' reports:

### a. Treasurer

GM reported that there have not been any transactions completed in the last period however the branch is still waiting for the Scouts to bank the cheque of £350.00 previously sent to them for storage hire, RP agreed to contact Kevan Bamfold to ascertain intentions to pay the cheque into the Scouts bank account.

RP presented a receipt for certificate frames for which GM issued a cheque to RP at the meeting. The annual accounts have been audited and validated. **Action RP to contact Kevan Bamfold.**

### b. Socials

5<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Visit to Hebden Bridge, outline plan is to catch the train from Blackpool North (11:19), Poulton (11:25), Preston (11:44) to convene at the Night Jar in Hebden Bridge at 13:00.

### c. Membership

RP read out the submission from LR. As of Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025, in summary the branch currently had 1,949 members. There are currently 144,881 national CAMRA members. It was reported that as a branch we are reducing our numbers at approximately the same attrition rate as the national CAMRA average. LR has a stock of CAMRA application forms at the Fifteens Public House in St Annes. An interesting discussion took place, instigated by NB to look at how the branch could attract new young members. **Action – as National CAMRA Young Members lead AB to advise on discussions held.**

### d. Pubs Officer

GL reported that the Castle on Central Drive was currently being refurbished by Craft Union who are reputed to favour the introduction of real ale.

## 10. Any other notified business

RP requested that a volunteer make themselves available to review a Lancashire CPOTY nominated establishment. RW volunteered.

## 11. Date and venue of future meetings

The Next Branch Meeting is scheduled at 19:30 on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025, at the Cask and Tap, Blackpool. Subject to approval by the new Chair.

The Branch AGM is scheduled at 19:30 on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at the Cask and Tap, Blackpool.

**RP thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20:40pm.**