

# Minutes

## Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Branch AGM

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 19:30pm

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

**Attendees – Rick Pickup (RP, Chair), Rob Wheatley (RW), Graham Monk (GM), Keith Edgington (KE), Matt Walker (MW), Victoria Fairbrother (VF). Steve Fairbrother (SF), Allan Dyson (AD), Gary Walkey (GW), Giles Morgan (GM2), Gary Levin (GL), Alastair Blair (AB), Ralph Warrington (RW), Gary Barnes (GB), Kevin Potts (KP).**

1. **Welcome** – RP opened the meeting at 19:35pm after presenting the Cask and Tap with their well-deserved Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Branch Pub of the Year award for 2025 and he warmly welcomed all who were in attendance, he advised that this was a formal meeting and as such the agenda was to be followed accordingly.
2. **Apologies for Absence** – Received from Lee Rawlings (LR) and Phil Marquis (PM).
3. **Expressions of Interest** – Gary Barnes – Landlord of Cask and Taps.
4. **Minutes of Last AGM (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024)** – These were accepted as a true recording by Rob Wheatley and seconded by Matt Walker
5. **Chair's Annual Report** – Outgoing Chair Rick Pickup started his report stating that the branch is bumbling along doing the best it can to the best of its ability to support its local pubs and breweries, this is despite negativity from some members as well as being restricted without a beer festival, branch magazine or any other major public facing activities. RP talked about dwindling membership as shown in the membership secretaries report later, we also have a number of poorly educated members who wander around giving CAMRA a bad name and a number of pubs that serve very poor-quality cask ale as well as the damned Fresh Ale in some of our premises. There is much for us to do.

Sadly for the branch RP is standing down as Chair, but will still be around and will become the branch membership secretary, he had lots of positive ideas when elected back in 2019 but mostly through Covid-19 he feels he has been unable to stem the trend in reduced membership numbers, beer festival support and availability as well as rising magazine production costs, on a positive note even though branch meeting attendances are not what they were in 2019, we have some new and younger faces on the committee with hopefully more to come, we have quite a few new good pubs serving decent cask ale but we need the people drinking in them to join the campaign, this is not just a local issue for us but nationally as well.

In closing RP thanked the committee who have kept him on the straight and narrow with particular thanks to Gary Walkey who has spent some 35 years as a committee member and is retiring by leaving us with the new Beer Engine website to administer.

RP moves into his new role to enable him to continue his national CAMRA commitments and he wished his successor well and will always support him as and when required.

# Minutes - Continued

6. **Treasurer's Annual Report** – GM Published and presented a balance sheet for all to read, the accounts have been verified and these were accepted by Rick Pickup and seconded by Matt Walker

1. **Appointment of Accounts Examiner** – It was agreed and accepted that Terry Gorst would continue as the accounts examiner and he was happy to do so, there were no objections to this action.

## 7. Other Officers Reports

1. **Membership Secretary** – Prior to the meeting LR reported that membership nationally is falling with 3965 new members but 5475 lapsed, a loss of 1510, the current total CAMRA membership stands at 144,794. Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Branch membership currently stands at 1938 members with a loss of 43 members through the last period, this positions the branch as 7<sup>th</sup> biggest nationally in membership size. LR thanked all members who have helped him with membership in the last 12 months as he now signs off.

## 8. Election of Officers

1. **Chair** – Matt Walker (New in post replacing Rick Pickup)

2. **Vice Chair** – Rob Wheatley (Re-elected)

3. **Secretary** – Keith Edgington (Re-elected)

4. **Treasurer** – Graham Monk (Re-elected)

5. **Membership Secretary** – Rick Pickup (New in post replacing Lee Rawlings)

6. **Young Members Officer** – Alastair Blair (New in post replacing Matt Walker). Alastair also holds regional and national chair posts for this position.

7. **Social** – Alastair Blair (Re-elected)

8. **Pubs Officers** – Gary Levin, Victoria Fairbrother, Alastair Blair (All Re-elected)

9. **IT Officer** – Steve Fairbrother (New in post replacing Gary Walkey)

10. **Social Media Representative** – Matt Walker (Re-elected)

## 9. Date and Time of Next AGM

AGM – Thursday 30th April 2026 at 19:30 Venue TBC

