

Minutes

Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Branch Meeting

Blackpool Cricket Club, Barlow Crescent, Blackpool, FY3 9EQ

19:30pm on Thursday 15th January 2026

Attendees: Matt Walker (MW, Chair), Rob Wheatley (RW), Keith Edgington (KE), Alistair Blair (AB), Rick Pickup (RP), Gary Levin (GL), Steve Fairbrother (SF), Kevin Potts (KP), Ray Jackson (RJ).

1. Welcome

MW Opened the meeting at 19:35 and welcomed all, RP then made a statement to the branch explaining his recent withdrawal of CAMRA support and that he was now back in the fold.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from: Victoria Fairbrother (VF), Graham Monk (GM). Phil Marquis (PM).

3. Expressions of Interest

There were no expressions of interest.

4. Minutes of previous meeting including accuracy/action minutes

Accuracy: The previous minutes were accepted as accurate.

Action 1 – Branch Documents (SF) – It was agreed to discuss the “Model Constitution” at this branch meeting as the motion would need to be declared to the membership prior to the next AGM and that it will need ratification at the next AGM, after much discussion it was agreed to propose a move from the existing 2015 constitution to the new constitution in line with CAMRA national recommendations, this will be presented at the AGM in April where any notable changes will be outlined – **Action Ongoing (AGM).**

Action 2 – Treasurers Reports – Having been paid, the scouts are looking at potentially clearing the store, MW to contact Regional Director to ascertain if we can scrap the holdings – **New Action – Ongoing.**

Action 3 Beer Scoring - MW advised membership - **Action is closed.**

Action 4 – Role Change - With RP moving on, GL has now taken on the role as branch GBG Co-Ordinator, at the January branch meeting RP is back in the fold so this activity will revert to RP taking back the role **Action – Closed.**

5. Officers' reports:

a. Treasurer:

In his absence and prior to the meeting, GM presented a statement of accounts and a bank statement for the committee to see, it was noted that there are currently 4 unpaid GBG's of which 2 have been sold by the Taps, they have 1 in stock and there is a copy still with 15's of St Annes to be accounted for.

b. Membership:

RW stated that CAMRA currently has 142,082 members with the branch currently having 1824 members for which we are the 7th largest branch in the UK.

c. Pubs Officer:



Minutes

Under the heading of Pubs preservation GL provided the latest details of the Running Pump at Catforth which has been closed since Covid, planning permission has now been submitted to potentially convert it into 4 homes but this has gone quiet since December.

The following pubs were discussed at length:

- The Squirrel and The Manchester both closed
- Gilberts in Carleton who are hoping to sell real ale when expansion upstairs.
- Sullivans Bar Too, Clifton Arms - Preston New Road, Niko - Lytham

The committee also discussed the error on the recent newsletter between the Keg n Cask (Lytham) and Cask and Taps (Blackpool), apologies to all for any confusion caused. Details of these and others are updated regularly and available on the branch website or via Fylde Ale.

d. Social Trips and Branch Diary:

The planned social trip on the 6th December to Bradford, proved problematic for many, only 1 member attended and the committee recognized that they need to ensure that all future trips would have a dedicated point of contact with better communications on the day, apologies were given to KP.

There are upcoming beer festivals in Colne 29-31 January, Wigan 5-7 March and Lancaster Beer and Buses on the 25th April, members may wish to attend, further details are available on the branch website and in Fylde Ale.

e. IT

SF provided an update with Beer scoring transitioned to the new system for 2026.

6. Beer Scoring for GBG 2027 Entries.

GL presented data gathered from the Current 2025 Branch Scoring System as well as the NBSS Analysis for 2025. This created a couple of minor differences in nominated pubs, a vote was taken and by a vote of 6 to 3 it was agreed to only use the score from the Branch Scoring System so the 23 nominated GBG entries were duly selected with 2 reserves put in place, committee members agreed to ensure all premises are visited by a committee members and report back to RP by the end of February 2025 with their findings.

At the end of the meeting and with all committee members still in attendance, it was recognized that nominations for Pub of The Year had not been discussed at the meeting. MW will present a google form on the branch website for members to vote on the committees top 10, these results will create a shortlist for the branch judging panel to assess using the National Judging Criteria.

7. Any other notified business

Newsletter - MW requested that if there are any members who may wish to contribute to the newsletter, please fee free to submit any entries to MW.

8. Date and venue of future meetings

The Next Branch Meeting is scheduled at 19:30 on 26th March at the Steamer, 3 Queens Terrace, Fleetwood FY7 6BT. The AGM will take place at the Cask and Tap, Topping Street, Blackpool, FY1 3AD at 19:30 on 30th April 2026. **Action - MW to advise CAMRA Regional Director (RW).**

MW thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21:20pm.

