

Minutes: Branch Meeting

Date: Thursday 11 February 2021

Time: 8:30pm

Location: On-line, using Zoom



Branch members present were: Dave Lands (Chairman), Bob Bone, Cathy Bone, Jerry Dearmer, Andy Fenwick, Malcolm Graveling, Thomas Grinyer, Terry Hewitt, Pete McGill, Dave Moore, Ann Teather, Steve Thompson and John Butler (Minutes). Also present were Barry Philips (Bromley Branch) and Mark Silverstein (SW London Branch). An apology for absence was received from John Leahy.

The minutes of the last Branch Meeting (12 November 2020) had been circulated and were taken as read. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's report

DL thanked those attending, particularly those who were new to our meetings. He introduced MS, who was taking on the role of BLO for the Cronx. He reported the news that Les Maggs, former Chairman of West London Branch for many years had sadly passed away.

Things are pretty much in limbo at present regarding pubs as only delivery services are allowed. Our three breweries are all doing delivery services too. ST has tidied up the breweries part of the web site. The Golden Ark is doing deliveries.

Treasurer's report

ST reported that there have been no activities on the account. Andy Gray has examined the accounts and signed them off; this has been notified to the RD and to HQ. COBAS has also been signed off. ST will circulate the audited accounts to committee members.

Membership report

AF reported that we have just under 1,600 members, which is still more than 10% of the total for London. In the last year, 222 memberships have lapsed, and there have been 41 new memberships. Screen shots were shared of these figures and the breakdown of ages from the membership system.

Campaigning and Branch Mailouts

- Recent branch mailouts have concerned (a) GBG 2022 – which is on the agenda and (b) an action planner which came out last week (DL shared this on screen).
- It was noted that Croydon is to hold a Mayoral Referendum, but this is unlikely to have any campaigning aspect.
- DL said that four of our five MPs have government or shadow responsibilities. Paul Scully (Sutton & Cheam) has a hospitality aspect to his. Elliot Colburn (Carshalton & Wallington) has two of our breweries in his area and has been in contact with them.
- DL reiterated that it is worth sending emails to MPs even if they follow a standard pattern provided by CAMRA. AF suggested changing the wording in the subject line so that they stand out.

- The Members Weekend (16-18 April) will no longer take place in Sheffield but will now be on line.
- GBBF Winter (March) is now on line too. Beer packages may be sold out but you can register for the other content for £5.
- The latest London Drinker magazine has now been published on line. The branch wishes to record its thanks to its editor, Tony Hedger, for his efforts in keeping the magazine going and maintaining the publication schedule.
- London Region will be holding a virtual Annual General Meeting on 31 March. The region is still in need of a Chairman, Treasurer and Finance Officer, and also now a Secretary, as Roy Tunstall is standing down. Anyone prepared to consider any of these roles is invited to contact Geoff Strawbridge (directly or through Dave Lands).

Pub Protection

JL submitted a report, giving the following information:

- Sutton: No new applications; one outstanding (proposed development at Sutton Park House, 15 Carshalton Rd, which incorporates a bar). This is pending consideration.
- Croydon: The Beehive - granted change of use from A4 to shop, with flats added.
- Croydon: Drum & Monkey – application refused (mainly on inappropriate design for flats – worth a full read of P2020/05950)
- Croydon: Orchard (Shirley) - awaiting a decision
- Croydon – Glamorgan - pending consideration

ST reported back from the Save The Glamorgan Group's meeting. No date for the hearing has been given yet, and group chairman Ron Appleby has asked the Councillor to check again. The minutes of the last meeting should come out soon to those who attended.

DL noted that the freehold of the Windmill has been put on the market, at around half of the figure of the Glamorgan's. This is relevant for compliance with Croydon's Local Plan, which requires a pub to be on the market for six months. TH asked if the special development zone in East Croydon included the Glamorgan site; ST believes that it doesn't. It was noted that Rodger Molyneux had said that the owning company (Glamorgan Ltd) was about to be struck off due to filing no returns; however this would not affect the development.

DL said that the future of the Albert Tavern was still in abeyance. There is also a report that the licensee of the Pawsons Arms has bought the freehold, but DL has not been able to check this.

No marketing has been noted for the Alma, which ought to go on to CAMRA's central list of Covid-related pub closures; JB will follow this up.

WhatPub updates / takeaway services

Only the entry for the Golden Ark has been updated.

GBG 2022

We have now been advised that the 2022 Guide will be compiled and published. The initial submission date is 19 April and publication date will be 28 October. Guidelines have been issued to assist branches with submission of entries. There is likely to be a 20% reduction in pubs but more reserves will be requested. Anticipated changes for our branch include the Cock & Bull and Shelverdine Goathouse.

Branch Festival

Lightly pencilled in with the Stanley Halls is the first weekend in October, although it is far from certain that we will be able to proceed.

AF has had initial discussions with Best Cask regarding supply of cask beer. If we are unable to proceed we may consider alternatives by liaising with pubs but it is too early for any such plans.

Events

It was agreed to:

- continue with on-line social events each Thursday
- hold an open committee meeting on 11 March, and
- hold an AGM on Thursday 22 April.

An AGM is not essential and we did not hold one in 2020. We do not need to ensure that all members are notified but we will inform as many as possible using the web site, email, London Drinker and social media. The use of What's Brewing will no longer be possible due to its planned changes, and a change to our constitution will arise.

BLO reports

DL introduced Mark Silverstein, who has volunteered to fill the vacancy for BLO for the Cronx. MS gave a short introduction to himself and why he volunteered. He informed the meeting that the brewery does have mini-kegs available for delivery.

BLO responsibility for Anspach & Hobday has remained with Alex Lines of SE London branch. The BLO for Signal is Andy Fenwick.

Any Other Business

BB observed that London Drinker includes special awards given by other branches. A discussion was held on how to obtain certificates, either through the delayed HQ approach or by adapting certificates locally. DL asked that any nominations for particular awards should be made to him.

CAMRA's 50th anniversary book is available to order (and DL has done so).

Close

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:40pm. DL thanked members for attending.