

**GREATER MANCHESTER REGIONAL MEETING
HELD AT BRITON'S PRTECTION, MANCHESTER
SATURDAY 02nd OCTOBER 2021**



Attendance:

Guests Gillian Hough (National Executive and Derby)

Bolton branch: Don Chattwood, Bert Kerks

Central Manchester branch: Steve Davis (Minutes), Graham Donning, Heather Airlie

High Peak, Tameside and North-East Cheshire branch: Ben Zwierink, Phil Moss (RD)

Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch: Peter Alexander, David Rigby, Peter Sheldon

Salford and District branch: No attendees

South East Lancashire branch: Ann Packwood, Andy Packwood

Stockport & South Manchester branch: John Clarke

Trafford & Hulme branch: Caroline O'Donnell, John O'Donnell, Ali Warrington

Wigan branch: Sandy Motteram

The RD chaired the meeting. The meeting commenced at 13:05.

Apologies

Received from: Tim Field, Tony Evans, Cath Potter, Dick Withecombe, Steve Ingham, Neil Worthington, Graham Walsh, Beverley Gobbett, Ralph Warrington, Martin Ward, Steve Prescott

1. Previous Meeting Minutes

Previous minutes accepted.

2. Action Points & Matters arising

No	Responsible	Action
1	RD	Take to Branches Committee a request for the rationale for the decision to no longer offer Life Membership. RD awaiting a response so carried forward
2	Branch Chairs	Branches to discuss and give views on cashless pubs and ordering apps before the next regional meeting in October. Two branches had responded
3	Regional Secretary	Send out Central Manchester and HPTNEC reports after the meeting.



		Actioned
4	RD	Check with People Committee there are no issues in the dissemination of gender split data. Not done so carried forward

Matters Arising

The situation with cashless pubs and ordering apps was discussed. Central Manchester branch had said that it would be good if the GBG and Whatpub were enhanced to have symbols for card only and cash only establishments. Others felt this wasn't necessary as they rarely looked at the symbols and including this information in the pub description was sufficient. Some members felt that cash only was more of an issue for them as they didn't carry cash now.

Gillian Hough said the NE held their hands up and got the situation wrong with respect to the Life Membership decision and it would go back to conference next year.

3. Branch and other Reports

The regional CPOTY competition was discussed, and Sandy Motteram wanted to know which pubs came second and third as only the winner was announced.

Action 1: RD to provide information on what came 2nd and 3rd in Regional POTY.

Graham Donning was not happy with the comment in the SE Lancs report asking why we were giving our regional POTY award to a 'market stall' – Cob and Coal. Others were also not happy with that comment and noted that it was open 6 days a week which could be more than some traditional pubs and it also comes within CAMRA's definition of what a pub was.

Some felt that we should give awards for different types of pubs, others felt this diluted the competitions and that a single winner was best. Peter Sheldon felt that when he looked at finalists for National Pub of the Year, they were largely rural pubs and felt that urban pubs suffered in comparison to rural pubs.

The regional POTY was discussed, and Caroline O'Donnell said we had had a good standard of judges this year with consistent scoring and plenty of new faces. It was felt that some of the scoring categories needed greater clarity. Many felt that there were issues with 'Adherence to CAMRA principles'; for instance a lack of visible CAMRA materials might just be down to poor support from the local branch but a pub could be marked down for that. Apparently, there had been a more up to date judging form than the one Caroline distributed because she was unaware of it, but it caused no issues as only one judge used the more up to date form. This caused some members to note that sometimes memos are not added to the CAMRA website until a couple of weeks after they had been issued; Gillian Hough would follow this up.

Members need to be encouraged to judge and we need to get over that you don't need to be an expert and it is quite easy and an enjoyable experience.

Heather Airlie raised that that she could only get POTY type certificates printed. Caroline O'Donnell had had others emailed to her. Sandy Motteram said that he had had Pub of the Season emailed to him. He also noted that you could create your own but that the fonts used in CAMRA certificates were paid for fonts, so he was not sure of the legality of using them.



The RD said he had been contacted by Linda Johnson who was the Tasting Panel Coordinator for the North-West and asked to encourage members to vote for CBOB. Currently we don't have a GM Tasting Panel coordinator and John Clarke mentioned that Bob Stukins might be amenable to doing the role.

Cath Potter had sent in a report on MBCF. It was noted that Andrew Rodbourne had stood down as Organiser due to ill-health. Cath said the budget had been approved, Caroline O'Donnell said it hadn't been officially approved but the festival scrutineers were happy with it.

Steve Davis noted that we were getting close to the February festival date and asked if there was a Go/No Go decision date? Caroline said the festival was viable from a financial viewpoint but still assessing if viable from a volunteer viewpoint. Peter Alexander said that it was very late to be with no named festival organiser. Caroline said that the approach had been team-based and so the load was shared in the absence of a named organiser though one would have to come forward. Caroline said that the Health & Safety function was being resolved. Peter Alexander emphasised that there was always a requirement for someone walking the floor and highlighting H&S infringements.

Peter Sheldon said that last time Jon Gobbett had reached out to branches to get more local people involved, he should do the same again. Don Chattwood noted expenses had been £25k for the last festival but Caroline added that a lot of local volunteers who were there early and left late in the day still needed city centre hotels for that reason so using local volunteers would not stop a large expenses cost. Ali Warrington checked that those who had put their names forward to help would be contacted at some point.

Gillian Hough said other festivals had found it hard to get volunteers.

Whilst discussing festivals Graham Donning said that Central Manchester would be holding a small festival at 53Two on Watson Street on 3/4 December. There would be 3 sessions with capacity of 80 per session. This would be all ticket and card payment only. We would be selling tickets from 11th October on CAMRA's Tckty system.

4. Regional Volunteering opportunities

a) Brewery Liaison Coordinator

Again still open.

b) Pub Date Admin

Again still open.

Action 2: RD to add Tasting Panel Coordinator to opportunities list.

5. Guest Q&A – Gillian Hough

Gillian introduced herself and outlined her responsibilities.

Gillian says she sees her role as to speak for the membership and firmly believes the NE should be telling the staff what to do not visca versa. She chairs Real Ale, Cider and Perry campaigns committee. Gillian outlined current campaigns and the submissions made to the UK government and the devolved administrations.

Key points from the Q&A follow: -

She informed us that RAIB was being extended to cans and replaced as 'Canned and Bottled live beer'. Graham Donning asked about the accreditation for this because with RAIB brewers had to pay Brewlab to do the checking and they were charged for it, consequently many brewers



didn't bother. Gillian said they could now self-certify but pay Brewlab for the checking if they wished. There would be checks in the later stages of CBOB that self-certified cans/bottles were live beer. The signup process for breweries will be easier and lists available on the CAMRA website. Graham asked about supermarkets erroneously claiming items on sale are real. Gillian says we can talk to them about it, but we have no control over what they do.

Sandy Motteram said that there had been no update on SBR. Apparently, there has been no update from the government and the alcohol review is ongoing.

Graham asked about small measures at beer festivals. It is now believed that sampling of beer is not now seen as illegal. We should perhaps talk to a Local Licensing board of whether they would see this as acceptable before trialing at a small festival. The government does not want to change the Weights and Measures act though.

Ali Warrington said BIS was clunky, Gillian revealed it was developed as a prototype and not originally intended to be the live system. BIS2 will, when developed, take the original prototype and develop into a full system. There is money available to do this. Don Chattwood asked if BIS can be enhanced to include cider and perry makers, Gillian said yes but the challenge will be getting current cider and perry data in there.

Don Chattwood asked if BIS was extended to cider and perry makers could we then score their products, Gillian believed that that should be feasible.

7. AOB

Steve Davis has said that Steve Ingham had requested him to find out how many places we would need for the presentation to Nancy for 50 years at The Peveril of the Peak on October 17th. It was agreed 25 places and Steve Davis would pass that on to Steve Ingham.

Don Chattwood confirmed the regional bank account was now empty, the funds having been passed to CAMRA HQ. He expected the bank account to be closed imminently by HSBC. The proposed sale of Diageo sales back To Diageo had not happened as they said the share certificate had not been presented by 20th May, the closing date. Don now had the share certificates after 3 month's efforts. Fortuitously Don has now sold the shares on the open market for more than we would have got from Diageo. Don needs a form signing and then will pay the money into his account and pass the money onto CAMRA HQ.

Heather Airlie wants information on breweries with good environmental policies.

Peter Alexander asked when the regional POTY presentation to Cob & Coal would be. RD said it needs organising.

Action 3: RD to arrange Regional POTY presentation.

John O'Donnell said that the ongoing digitisation of What's Doing was proceeding very slowly. Neil Worthington needs to drop off his copies of the magazine. Don Chattwood said he was happy to drive over to Neil's house and pick them up and then start scanning them in.

8. Dates and Locations of future meetings

Saturday 15th January 2022, 13:00. Venue yet to be determined but should be in South East Lancs.

(Post Meeting Note: Steve Davis has contacted Steve Prescott to arrange).

The meeting closed at 16:00



Actions Summary

No	Responsible	Action
C/F1	RD	Take to Branches Committee a request for the rationale for the decision to no longer offer Life Membership.
C/F4	RD	Check with People Committee there are no issues in the dissemination of gender split data.
1	RD	RD to provide information on what came 2 nd and 3 rd in Regional POTY.
2	RD	RD to add Tasting Panel Coordinator to opportunities list
3	RD	RD to arrange Regional POTY presentation

