

Subject: West Cumbria CAMRA Branch Meeting Minutes
Time/Date: 2pm Saturday 1st November 2025
Venue: The Globe 95 Main Street Hensingham CA28 8QX Tel: 01946 590772

Phil, Chair, opened this meeting by welcoming those present.

- 1) **Present** – Malcolm Richardson(MR); Hugh Price(HP); Stephen Walker(SW); Garry Connor(GC); Andy Roberts(AR); Brian Maudling(BM); Phil Wolstencroft(PW)
- 2) **Apologies** – Vernon Watson(VW); Keith Earnshaw(KE); Andy Moores(AM); Geoff Wilkinson(GW); Keith Harrison(KH)
- 3) **Minutes of August Meeting** – shared, approved - HP, seconded - PW
- 4) **Matters Arising from above** – It was intended to enter Sue Jefferson of Keswick Brewery for a well-deserved ‘Women in Brewing Award’, however, due to submission difficulties, this did not happen.
- 5) **Mail Ins, correspondence etc;** - PW discussed latest news from weekly issued CAMRA Volunteer Bulletin, most notably submission deadlines for Pub of the Year(PotY); Club of the Year(CotY); Cider & Perry Pub of the Year(CPPoty):
 - a. PotY – Branch 15:03:26 Regional 31:07:26 Super Regional 30:09:26
 - b. CotY – As above
 - c. CPPoty - Branch 15:03:26 Regional 10:05:26 National Winner 01:10:26

There followed discussion and early visibility nominations for above, TBC at next meeting.
- 6) **Branch/Membership Publicity Update** – It was agreed this would be deferred until next meeting for GW, Branch Membership Secretary, to feedback latest status. Further, it was agreed to distribute latest CAMRA publicity materials during future planned campaigning, recruitment and engagement Events, several options for locations of these Events were suggested and an engaging discussion ensued, thanks to AR for initiating.
- 7) **POTS nominations** – Jennings Tap nominated by SW, discussion ensued regarding timings of Awards, to be finalised at next meeting.
- 8) **GBG 2027 / POTY 2026** – SW informed he would continue as GBG Branch Co-ordinator beyond intended 2026 end date and that he will also become GBG Co-ordinator for Cumbria. PW and other attendees thanked SW for valued contributions to date and for taking further responsibilities for CAMRA’s most significant and informative publication.

SW wished a thank you and appreciation be noted for the work of Geoff Wilkinson, Andy Roberts and Vernon Watson for delivering all West Cumbria GBG packs and Publicity materials.

SW then initiated an engaging discussion regarding CAMRA National Beer Scoring System(NBSS) and the fact that data shows this is not utilised to the extent it should be for leveraging GBG selection and other purposes by Branch Membership, however, visitors to the area used it to a significant extent. CAMRA West Cumbria has a GBG entry allowance of 22 Pubs with 3 Reserves.

Tentative PotY nominations: Bower House(AR); Strands(PW)

WhatPub/Pubzilla – AR advised he would continue as Branch contact/data input and checker, PW thanked AR. However, AR advised there was no submissions from Branch membership, although tourist seasons redressed this balance to an extent entries mostly centre upon Keswick area, AR requested the former improve significantly to maintain database accuracy.

- 9) Financial report** – BM provided an overview and income/spend information, conclusion being Branch has <£1k rather than c£1.3k informed by HQ. BM to forward latest Accounts status to Regional Director and Finance Team, cc PW.

Discussions ensued regarding most efficient and effective manner in which the Branch membership can engage with CAMRA National drive for recruitment and publicity. Conclusion being that engagement and recruitment Events should be initiated and organised to those Pubs on periphery of Branch area without public transport, these not being supported by CAMRA in manner National guidelines dictate. SW advised Policy and Branch financials could support this strategy in correct circumstances. AR suggested an 'Early Spring Event' - TBC at next meeting.

- 10) Latest Brewery Reports** – SW advised Jennings have just obtained a 10bbl Plant to double their existing capacity. HP advised Keswick Brewery's new brewer has commenced limited run brews, Graphite Stout(nod to Pencil Factory) being well received. AR/HP advised the new 'Pagola' was quality construction and very effective. AR advised himself & GW will be visiting West Walls brewery on 15 November, PW to advise Solway Branch Chair(completed). MR advised today was All Saints Day, recognition to St Augustin – Patron Saint of Brewing.

SW advised Rick Pickup, CAMRA Regional Brewery Officer Co-ordinator, had resigned due to on-line abuse, PW,SW,HP noted what an outstanding contribution Rick makes and hoped he would return to role once this unacceptable behaviour was resolved.

- 11) Carlisle Beer Festival Feedback** – No-one present attended

- 12) Socials** – Covered above

- 13) Next meeting.....** 2pm Saturday 13 December Castle Bar – TBC due to Christmas events