



**Minutes of the Kent Regional Meeting held at
the Ship Centurion, Whitstable on
Saturday 26th March 2022**

The meeting commenced at 12.07 with Martin Knight, Kent Regional Director, in the chair.

SYNOPSIS

The lack of a paper or downloadable What's Brewing continues to hinder activity at branch level, leading to problems with activation and retention of members. In order to raise the issue constructively at a higher level Martin Knight would need to know what use if any branch members were making of What's Brewing and what value it had for branches. Branches were actioned to let him know their situation as soon as possible.
The signatories on the Kent bank account would need revising to reflect the latest management structure. The full list would become Martin Knight as regional director, Ian Fielder and Glyn Parry as area organisers, Geoff Hetherington as treasurer and Kae Mendham as finance officer.
It seemed that Christina Ketchum was no longer a CAMRA member so the position of Regional Cider Representative was vacant. There was no channel by which to deal with the Cider Pub of the Year in Kent. Therefore it was assumed that there would be no Kent winner this year.
The lack of an editor was seen as the most likely impediment to producing a branch magazine but if one editor could be found it would be possible to produce a composite magazine covering multiple branches, along the lines of Draught Copy. This could be particularly useful in East Kent.

1 ATTENDANCE

1.1 Branch not represented: Swale. Total Attendance 16.

1.2 Also present were:

Martin Knight	Kent Regional Director
Adrian Moss	Secretary
Glyn Parry	Area Organiser, East Kent
Ian Fielder	Area Organiser, West Kent
Kae Mendham	Regional Finance Director
Geoff Hetherington	Regional Treasurer

1.3 Apologies for Absence have been received from:
Roland Amos, Martin Atkins, Bob Belton, Gerry Keay, Peter Page-Mitchell (SE & Kent Brewery Liaison Co-ordinator), Mike St Clare-Newman, John Sissons, Linda Thompson, Jeff Tucker.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Approved.

2.1 **Matters Arising.**

None.

2.2 ACTION LIST (New items and status changes in **bold**).

No	Description	Actionee(s)	Required by	Status
111	Consider revision of branch pub allocations for the 2022 and subsequent Good Beer Guides.	Branches.	In advance of a meeting to be arranged before preparation for the 2024 guide.	Closed. Action 117 continues.
112	Seek a candidate for East Kent area organiser.	East Kent branches.	As soon as possible.	Closed.
113	Clarify the lack of an obvious replacement for the Internal Policy Document.	Regional Director, Surrey & Sussex.	As soon as possible.	Ongoing, awaiting the outcome of the National AGM.
114	Clarify whether CAMRA's insurance covers non-members working at beer festivals as conflicting advice has been received.	Regional Director, Surrey & Sussex.	As soon as possible.	Closed. Non-members should be covered but it is advisable not to use them.
115	Contact Christina Ketchum to see if she is still prepared to act as Kent Cider Representative.	Regional Director.	As soon as possible.	Closed. Apparently she is no longer a member.
116	Inform Martin Knight of branches which did not see the proofs of the pub section of 2022 Good Beer Guide.	Those branches affected.	As soon as possible.	Closed.
117	Schedule a separate meeting of branches to decide revisions to branch pub allocations for the 2024 Good Beer Guide.	Ian Clennett and Martin Knight.	In time for preparation of the guide.	Ongoing.
118	Inform Martin Knight of the extent of branch usage of What's Brewing and its value to the branch.	Branche	As soon as possible	New. Minute 5.1 refers.
119	Liaise with Linda Thompson on steps to reinstate regional cider reporting.	Regional Director	As soon as possible	New
120	Contact East Kent branches to seek an editor for a composite magazine equivalent to Draught Copy	Damien Clark	As soon as possible	New. Minute 9.2 refers.

3 REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 3.1** Some branches were still not back up to speed after the lockdowns. For instance, Ashford were still short of a chairman.
- 3.2** A new development of the comms tool which might replace Yahoo groups is in beta testing but there are no details.

4 AREA ORGANISERS' REPORTS

- 4.1 Kent (East)** Nothing to report.
- 4.2 Kent (West)** Nothing to report.

5 CAMPAIGNING

- 5.1** The lack of a paper or downloadable What's Brewing continues to hinder activity at branch level, leading to problems with activation and retention of members. News items are not easily available in any form which is readily usable by the majority of members. The news website which nominally represents What's Brewing is not easy to follow or attractive and seldom up to date and was described as unfit for purpose. As a result the most obvious incentive for people to join CAMRA and remain members was missing. In order to raise the issue constructively at a higher level Martin Knight would need to know what use if any branch members were making of What's Brewing and what value it had for branches. Branches were actioned to let him know their situation as soon as possible.

6 FINANCE

- 6.1 Regional Finance Officer's Report** Kae Mendham would like to be informed of the dates of branch AGMs. She and Martin Knight should receive copies of examined accounts from branches after an AGM. If examined accounts are not available at the AGM a copy of the unexamined accounts should be submitted with an explanation for the absence of any examination. There was no information on a COBAS training session in Kent.
- 6.2 General Finance** The current balance is £328, which should be sufficient to cover requirements until the signatories on the bank account were updated. No requests for funding were submitted by branches.
- 6.3 General Matters** The signatories on the Kent bank account would need revising to reflect the latest management structure. Linda Thompson and Jeff Waller would be removed from the list and Martin Knight and Glyn Parry added. The full list would then be Martin Knight as regional director, Ian Fielder and Glyn Parry as area organisers, Geoff Hetherington as treasurer and Kae Mendham as finance officer.

7 PUB OF THE YEAR, CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR AND CLUB OF THE YEAR.

- 7.1 Pub of the Year** All branch winners were known and judging forms and guidelines would be sent out imminently. The guidelines were new with two extra categories. It was confirmed that there is no embargo on revealing a branch winner, only those at higher levels. Branches should ensure the pub is informed first and then details can be added to the Kent website and other publicity.

7.2 Club of the Year Jeff Tucker had heard of winners from GDV, MMK and West Kent branches. Other branches had until March 31 to submit theirs to him. Judging would be open to any branch, using the Pub of the Year guidelines, and should be completed by the end of July.

7.3 Cider Pub of the Year There was no channel by which to action and communicate this. Therefore it was assumed that there would be no Kent winner this year.

8 CIDER

8.1 It seemed that Christina Ketchum was no longer a CAMRA member so the position of Regional Cider Representative was vacant. Martin Knight would liaise with Linda Thompson and Angela Briers to ascertain the course of action to follow.

9 PUBLICATIONS

9.1 Good Beer Guide Ongoing. Branch data entry to WhatPub for the 2023 guide was required to be completed by April 19. Branch pub allocations for the 2024 guide might still be revised depending on the outcome of the separate meeting to which action 117 refers.

9.2 Magazines The 200th edition of Draught Copy had appeared. Both Medway Beer Belly and Ale of Thanet needed new editors in order to restart. The lack of an editor was seen as the most likely impediment to producing a branch magazine but if one editor could be found it would be possible to produce a composite magazine covering multiple branches, along the lines of Draught Copy. Expenditure to establish the first few editions could be considered a campaigning expense, with a view to the venture later becoming self-financing via advertising. This could be particularly useful in East Kent and Damian Clark agreed to contact East Kent branches to see if anyone was prepared to become editor for such a project

9.3 Websites The Kent Website is now using “BeerEngine”, CAMRA’s web platform for the provision of CAMRA Branch websites. The URL has therefore changed to <https://kent.camra.org.uk>. Branches need to change this detail on their own websites and other communications. It was thought that branch meetings could be listed on the site together with other branch news.

10 COMMUNICATION

For the time being the best means of communication would be Discourse for messages, backed up by an email circulation list for documents. In future documents could also be made available via the Kent website. Dates and venues of meetings will be added to the national Branch Diary website and the national planner once confirmed.

11 BREWERIES (items not covered by submitted reports)

11.1 Peter Page-Mitchell’s latest report had been circulated before the meeting.

12 FESTIVALS (those having significant CAMRA involvement)

White Cliffs The earliest the Town Hall venue would be available is expected to be 2025, though the council are keen to have the festival back. Other options may be pursued for 2023 and 2024.

Thanet 15 and 16 April 2022. Ongoing. There will be a key keg bar.

Bexley 5 to 7 May 2022. Ongoing. Budget approved.

Kent & East Sussex Railway 17 and 18 June 2022. About 50 beers etc.

Kent No plans at present. Attempts are being made to recover the deposit for the Westgate Hall, Canterbury.

Cricket Tents Nothing possible this year. Canterbury seems no longer to be available as a venue.

East Malling 3 September 2022. Budget under discussion.

Faversham Hop Festival 3 and 4 September 2022, confirmed.

Spa Valley 7 to 9 October 2022. CAMRA will have more control than in 2021.

13 BRANCH REPORTS (items not covered by submitted reports)

Reports had not been received from Canterbury or Medway. There were no additional items.

14 FUTURE MEETINGS

To avoid clashes with beer festivals, Bexley and MMK had agreed to swap dates for this cycle only, with the previous sequence to resume thereafter.

May 21	Beer Seller, 64 High Street, Tonbridge TN9 1EH (to be confirmed).
Jul	DDS. Date and venue required ASAP.
Sept	Bexley. Date and venue required ASAP.
Nov	Thanet.
Jan 2023	Medway.
Mar	AGM. Swale.
May	MMK
Jul	Ashford.
Sept	GDV.
Nov	Canterbury.
Jan 2024	Bexley
Mar	AGM. DDS.
May	W Kent.

It was noted that there was a need to minimise travel expenses, to cover no more than two meetings in the year.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 15.1** Tasting panels and Champion Beer of Britain were not included in the agenda for this meeting but should be from now on. Glyn Parry had offered to help try to re-establish the Kent tasting panel and chair it. Approximately 20 people attended a virtual introductory training session last year. Glyn and Martin Knight were working to arrange a suitable date and venue for training to take place and Kevin Travers would attend to conduct the session.
- 15.2** The 2022 area judging for Champion Beer of Britain has commenced and Thanet Beer Festival will host the judging of the speciality beers category. Disappointingly, some other festivals have declined to be involved, so as it currently stands judging of all categories will not be possible this year. The organisers of other festivals in the region that are planned for later in the year were asked to consider hosting a category judging. There are plenty available and there is flexibility as to the number and style of beers to reflect the size and type of festival. Kevin Travers is also happy to consider pub and non-CAMRA events.

Meeting closed at 15.07.