

# WEST BERKSHIRE CAMRA

Website: [www.westberkscamra.org.uk](http://www.westberkscamra.org.uk)  
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## BRANCH MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2023 (7.30pm)

### WHEATSHEAF, THATCHAM

**Attendees:** Richard Marshall (Chair), Mike Avery (Sec), Andy Pinkard, Paul Worsley, Richard Lock, Jeremy Harding, Andy Pavey, Trevor Coles, Becky Harrison, Tony Harrison, James De-mere, Max Followell, Allan Brooke

**Apologies:**

Item	Topic	Action By:	Status:
1	<p><b>BRANCH MEMOS AND BULLETINS</b></p> <p>Members are able to view all the Branch Memos and Bulletins in the Branch Resource section of the national CAMRA website. You will need to log in using your membership number and password.</p> <p><u>Memos since last meeting include:</u> 10-11-2023 GBBF 2024 Beer Orders 06-10-2023 Year End Financial Statements and Remittances 13-10-2023 Feedback from September Events Committee Meeting 27-10-2023 Pub of the Year 2024 27-10-2023 Club of the Year 2024 27-10-2023 Cider and Perry Pub (or Club) of the Year 2024 08-09-2023 Issuing Awards 15-09-2023 Registration for Members' Weekend 2024</p>		Info, unless otherwise specified
2	<p><b>ULLAGE MAGAZINE</b></p> <p>Due to health issues, Tim Thomas resigned as editor of Ullage in October after 15 years in the role and having edited 65 printed and 8 'online only' issues of the branch magazine.</p> <p>Tim was thanked for his time in the role and for all his work in support of the branch over the years.</p> <p>Anyone interested in taking over the role of Ullage editor will be offered full support and is invited to contact Mike Avery <a href="mailto:secretary@westberkscamra.org.uk">secretary@westberkscamra.org.uk</a> &amp;/or Tim Thomas <a href="mailto:editor@westberkscamra.org.uk">editor@westberkscamra.org.uk</a> for further information. Demands of the role need not be onerous as the magazine contents can be trimmed to reflect the time that you are able to commit to the role.</p> <p>The future of Ullage was discussed at the meeting. The preferred option would be to continue with Ullage as a printed magazine if a new editor can be found. In the interim we may produce a smaller publication in the style of a newsletter with perhaps a more limited distribution. Paul W provided some examples of what could be produced along with prices for printing.</p>		Info

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	A sub-committee to determine the way forward was set up and they will meet on Wed 29 Nov at 7.15pm at the Cow & Cask, Newbury.		

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3	<b>CAMPAIGNING TOPICS</b>		
	<b>GBG 2025</b> Paul agreed to arrange our Jan and Feb GBG selection meetings.		
	<b><u>POTY / COTY / Cider POTY 2024</u></b> This will be discussed in more detail at our meeting in Jan with a decision on the winning venues at our Feb meeting.  <u>The deadlines for the competitions are:</u> <b>POTY</b> – Branch winner to be notified to Regional Director or Regional Pub of the Year (PotY) Coordinator by Sunday 17th March 2024. <b>COTY</b> – Branch winner to be notified to Regional Director or Regional Club of the Year (CotY) Coordinator by Sunday 17th March 2024 <b>Cider POTY</b> - Branch Winner to be notified to Regional Cider Co-Ordinator or RD by Sunday 17th March 2024		
	<b><u>Regional &amp; National Matters</u></b>  The timetable for implementing the regional reorganisations is being accelerated. Our Regional Director, Alexander Wright has said that he will not be standing for re-election next year.		

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4	<b>BRANCH DIARY DATES</b>		
	Dates and venues listed below are those planned at the meeting so may be subject to change. Please ensure that you check our Branch Website, Facebook page and Twitter feeds (see top of page 1) for the latest updates on events.  <u>Diary Dates:</u>  Wed 15 Nov Branch Meeting at the Wheatsheaf, Thatcham. (7.30pm start). Wed 29 Nov Ullage Sub-committee meeting at Cow & Cask, Newbury. (7.15pm start) Tue 05 Dec Xmas Lunchtime Social at Hatchett, Newbury. (From 12.30pm). Wed 13 Dec Xmas Evening Social at the Bacon Arms, Newbury. (7.30pm start). Wed 10 Jan Branch Meeting (GBG Selection) at Plough on the Green, Newbury. (7.30pm start). Thu 25 Jan Lunchtime Social at the Plume, Hungerford. (From 12.30pm). Mon 19 Feb Branch Meeting (GBG Selection) at Cow & Cask, Newbury. (7.30pm start). Wed 28 Feb Lunchtime Social at the Swan, Thatcham. (From 12.30pm). Wed 13 Mar Lunchtime Social at Cow & Cask, Newbury. (From 12.30pm).  <u>Notes:</u> 1. We need to consider disabled access when arranging events. 2. Nominated person should contact the venue a week prior to meeting / social to confirm the booking and ensure that the venue has their contact details.		

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5	<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>		
	<p><b><u>Social Secretary</u></b></p> <p>Becky Harrison volunteered to look into prices and options for vehicle hire with the aim of organising branch socials out of town (brewery visits, trips to rural pubs etc). She will work with Andy Pavey on this.</p> <p>Please contact Andy Pavey by email at <a href="mailto:social@ewstberkscamra.org.uk">social@ewstberkscamra.org.uk</a> if you have any suggestions for a social event.</p>		
	<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b></p> <p>There is £1,430.88 in the branch account on 7th Nov.2023.  We owe no money.  I have sold all the Good Beer Guides at £12 each. One has been donated as a raffle prize for our Xmas Quiz.  I think next year we will probably have difficulty selling 10 copies of The GBG because a lot of people are accessing it online.  We are still owed money for adverts in Ullage. I will chase these up again.  I will submit our accounts to CAMRA head office by the deadline.</p>		
	<p><b><u>Membership Secretary</u></b></p> <p>We currently have 302 members in our branch. 3 new members, 1 has moved out of the branch area.</p>		Info
	<p><b><u>Pubs Officer</u></b></p> <p>The Bull has new tenants.  The Cow and Cask will be opening on the 2 Sundays before Christmas, closed from the 9th to the 15th of January.  The Ibex advise that Nathan will be leaving the business, it will continue to trade with the remaining partner Gavin.  The Crown and Horns is no longer being marketed.  6 Bells at Beenham freehold back on the market.  The lease and goodwill of The Dolphin has been reduced to £50K from an initial £125K.  The Great Shefford Free of Tie lease is being advertised with no premium, the pub closed suddenly at the end of October having gone into liquidation in May.  The Rowbarge is seeking a new General Manager.  The Halfway closed suddenly at the beginning October and then held a creditors meeting  The Nags Head is apparently being refurbished and will reopen with a previous name - The Man in the Moon.  The lease of the Old Boot is back on market.  Colin and Katie at The Globe advise they will not be renewing the lease when it expires in 6 months time.  The Kings Head is being rebranded as a Craft Union, a percentage operator is being sought. The pub is due to undergo a six-figure investment by Stonegate.  Lease has become available for the Vine at Hannington.</p>		
	<p><b><u>Beer Scores Co-ordinator</u></b></p> <p>Members are encouraged to score cask beers each time they visit a pub as these will all count towards the scores used for GBG selection. Scoring is available to all CAMRA Members through "WhatPub" and the GBG app.</p>		
	<p><b><u>Press &amp; Publicity Officer</u></b></p> <p>This role is now vacant and we are seeking a volunteer to take on the role. For press and publicity enquiries please email <a href="mailto:pr@westberkscamra.org.uk">pr@westberkscamra.org.uk</a></p>		
	<p><b><u>Webmaster</u></b></p>		

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	<p>Our Branch Website: <a href="http://www.westberkscamra.org.uk">www.westberkscamra.org.uk</a> is sponsored by Mornington Software.</p> <p>The new site Theme has been active for a while now and no adverse effects noticed.</p> <p>I have added a few new features to the GBG Beer Score page and now pubs that serve Reals Ale but have not received a score are counted and listed. This could act as an aid memoir for people near those pubs to give them a score to get a more accurate picture of potential GBG entries across the whole Branch Area. As it stands, we have only had scores for 58% of eligible pubs in our patch for the current date range.</p> <p>The page has been re-styled to be printable. Ideally as a PDF document rather than onto paper.</p>		
	<p><b>Cider Officer Report</b> Pat Kyle is our branch cider representative. He can be contacted by email at <a href="mailto:cider@westberkscamra.org.uk">cider@westberkscamra.org.uk</a> .</p>		

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6	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Richard Marshall reported that volunteers had come forward for some of the vacant BLO roles.</p> <p>Richard also reported that Chris Marriage (a long-standing branch member) is now out of hospital and resting at home following his recent operation.</p> <p><u>Social Media Stats</u> Facebook: @WBCAMRA 524 (522) like / 628 (624) follow Twitter / X (followers): @WBCAMRA 1955 (1952) @WBCAMRAcider 139 (139) @UllageBeer 3164 (3173) @BerkshirePubs 1205 (1207) @NewburyBeer 558 (559)</p>		