

Draft Minutes of the Leicester CAMRA Annual General Meeting 2022,  
held at The Pharmacie Arms, Syston, on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT** Gary Akiens, Jay Bannmuller, Richard Bird, Steve Branston, Dave Brown, Mick Buglass, Charlie Corcoran, Roy Denney, Clive Gamble, Robert Hamnett-Day, Keith Henford, Steve Johnson, Pete Loveday, Alethea McMinn, Dave Noseley, Philip Tiplady, Neil Rowley, Gary Sanders, Keith Williams, Gary Winkless, Bill Woolley (21).

1. **CHAIR'S WELCOME** The Chairman welcomed the membership as well as Regional Director for East Midlands CAMRA, Robert Hamnett-Day, to the AGM.
2. **APOLOGIES** Shawn Collier, Andy Collins, Rob Maccardle, Steve Peck, Derek Ross, Mandy Stephensen.
3. **MINUTES OF 2021 AGM** The minutes of the previous AGM were approved.
4. **MATTERS ARISING** None.
5. **OFFICERS' REPORTS (SUMMARY)**
  - a. The **Chairman**, Roy Denney, reflected on the reactivation of the branch and the *Drinker* magazine, which was being distributed to over 300 pubs, raising a small profit for the branch; the print run had increased from 5,000 and 7,000 copies for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions respectively, and the ambition was to gradually increase the number [**↗8a**]. He reported on the progress of negotiating terms for a potential Beer Festival in 2023 at the Morningside Arena (a 2,500-seater proposition) and on the introduction of branch-branded merchandise – badges and/or apparel. As he had previously made clear, his tenure as chairperson would be limited to one year, and so he would step down at this meeting.
  - b. The **Social Secretary**, Gary Akiens, gave a recap of a busy year once trips had restarted in full after the Covid pandemic (a gap of some 574 days), among them to places such as Crewe, Gloucester, Manchester and St. Albans as well as more local outings to the Vale of Belvoir, Melton Mowbray, Whitwick and Burton. He had taken up use of CAMRA's ticketing system for social coach trips [**↗8b**].
  - c. The **Membership Secretary**, Gary Sanders, who took over from Clive Gamble in July, thanked his predecessor for his work, and reported the current branch membership number to stand at 1,481 members.
  - d. The **Branch Secretary**, Jay Bannmuller remarked on the current difficult economic climate and its impact on both consumers and the trade. He reported on the successful migration of banks as well as necessary changes made to the branch constitution. He outlined the future digital strategy and invited members to consider playing a more active role in our branch.
  - e. The **Treasurer**, Charlie Corcoran, gave an overview of branch finances up to 31 August 2022 (as outlined in the AGM Pack), emphasising that, although the annual accounts were verified by two CAMRA members independent of our branch, they were not prepared to sign off the COBAS report due to erroneous balances resulting from historic mis-entries [**↗8c**]. The branch bank balance stood at £6,695.29 as of 31 August 2022, up £2,376.79 from the previous year [**↗8d**].

## 6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations for the following roles had been received by the Secretary on or before the nomination deadline of 11 October:-

<i>Role</i>	<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>
<b>Branch Chairman</b>	Bill Woolley	April Rule	Michael Rule
<b>Branch Secretary</b>	Jay Bannmuller	Roy Denney	Mick Buglass
<b>Branch Treasurer</b>	Charlie Corcoran	Jay Bannmuller	Dave Noseley
<b>Membership Sec.</b>	Gary Sanders	Gary Akiens	Jay Bannmuller
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Gary Akiens	Gary Sanders	Bill Woolley
<b>Committee Member<sup>1</sup></b>	Mick Buglass	Roy Denney	Gary Akiens
<b>Committee Member<sup>2</sup></b>	Philip Tiplady	Jay Bannmuller	Bill Woolley
<b>Committee Member</b>	Roy Denney	Mick Buglass	Jay Bannmuller

<sup>1</sup> with portfolio of Pub Protection Officer

<sup>2</sup> with portfolio of Communications Officer

These nominations were then individually voted upon, and carried all in favour. Following the election of the new committee, Robert Hamnett-Day thanked the branch and outgoing committee for their work in the past year.

## 7. NEW CHAIR'S WELCOME

The newly elected Chairman, Bill Woolley, addressed the membership. He thanked Roy Denney for his involvement in the branch and on the committee throughout the past year. He acknowledged that previous chairpersons had taken on a lot of other jobs and that he would do his level best in his new role. However, he stressed that he would accept this position for the duration of one year only, after which he would step down from the post.

## 8. DISCUSSION ARISING FROM OFFICERS' REPORTS

### a. *Leicestershire Drinker* advertisements – concerns of favouritism

There was a query from the host of the meeting, Dave Noseley, about a half-price advert which had been accepted, and why there appeared to be certain discounts for some advertisers and some for others. It was pointed out that the *Drinker* had agreed that any advert for an actual CAMRA event [– the event in question was to be a regional CAMRA Beer Tasting training day –] would be half price; this was not immediately obvious from the accounts (as smaller adverts are half price), although the half price for the smallest would have stood out. Roy also noted that the *Drinker* did not extend any discount to any establishment offering a meeting place to any of the five branches, as it would not be viable if it did. As Dave had raised the matter though – and suggesting the function room of the *Pharmacie Arms* for potential future tasting training days – Roy offered him a one-off half-price advert, but not as any precedent for any future discounts for anybody for meeting provision.

### b. Social Trips and sub-committee

Roy thanked Gary Akiens for his continued endeavour in organising and conducting social trips. The question of the need of a separate social sub-committee was raised. The Regional Director said there was no requirement as long as trips were brought to the full committee for approval and authorisation. He also noted that any branch member could suggest ideas for trips, but these should be brought up for discussion at branch meetings.

**c. Discrepancies on COBAS Report due to historic mis-entries & Auditors**

The Treasurer gave an explanation as to the erroneous balances shown on the COBAS Report. These were historic mis-entries of 'inter-entity' balances, whereby festival transactions had been put through the branch bank account. Although these were later reversed (not until 27 May, once the new NatWest bank account was up and running), they were now still showing on COBAS. Consequently the examiners, Peter Smith and Joe Krych, had been unwilling to sign the Report until these errors would be addressed for any independent assessment to have confidence in the (COBAS) audit process. Philip raised the question whether this would result in our branch being blacklisted. To this the RD replied that, so long as the accounts would be voted on at the meeting, this should be fine. Subsequently, Mick Buglass proposed to ask the membership to accept the accuracy of the accounts, seconded by Gary Sanders. Thereupon the membership voted to accept the branch accounts as presented, all in favour. Mssrs Smith and Krych were reported to be happy to be nominated as auditors again for the next year if by then the COBAS errors would have been resolved.

**d. Branch account holding balance**

Charlie also stressed that the current branch bank balance of £6k+ was higher than was currently allowed by CAMRA HQ. However, he stipulated that much of this balance was accumulated profit from the *Drinker* magazine and kept as float; furthermore, a couple of thousand pounds were earmarked for the potential 2023 Beer Festival (for which the provision of a suitable venue was currently being negotiated), another £500 for the production of an updated *City Pubs* gatefold flyer. The Regional Director replied that, once the festival business plan would be approved by HQ, our branch would always be able to apply for a loan; moreover, if our branch kept sitting on the balance, this might prevent other branches in the country who are struggling to get a hold of vital funds. It was thus agreed to remit £2,500 to HQ.

**e. Branch inventory**

Branch Financial Policy requires us to report on the branch's current inventory; this was determined to be an unspecified amount of festival glasses as well as an old cash counting machine, all held in secure storage. The RD stressed that, for insurance purposes, the replacement value of these items needed to be known and reported to HQ even if their actual value were zero. It was thus suggested to produce a branch inventory sheet.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 8.50.

Respectfully submitted:  
Jay Bannmuller  
14 November 2022

