

If you wish to contact us, please replace the [at] with the @ symbol in the email addresses shown in this newsletter

Cheltenham Motor Club Wins!!



Our heartiest congratulations to club steward Neil Way and the team at the **Cheltenham Motor Club (CMC)**, which once again has been crowned as

CAMRA National Club of the Year 2017

It's the second time the club has won this prestigious award in five years, having won in 2013. It has also been a finalist in the intervening years. Neil is seen collecting the award from Keith Spencer of CAMRA.



Due to the timescales over which the awards are organised and presented, it is believed that this is the first time that both the national CAMRA Club-of-the-Year and national CAMRA Pub-of-the-Year, the Sandford Park Alehouse, have come from the same town or city and hold their respective awards at the same time. Together with our website being the current CAMRA website of the year, that's not bad for one branch!

Report on the Branch AGM

The Branch AGM was held on 21st February, attended by 23 members. There are a number of changes to the Committee to report, with John Crossley elected as the new Chairman. Departing Chair, Rob Coldwell takes up the Secretarial position vacated by Chris Martin. We also welcome Dave Midwinter (Middy) and Dave Gibbons into the fold. For the full listing please see the contacts page on our website. We do however, still have a couple of vacancies, so if you'd like to take up the 'Young Members' representative post, or be the new editor of this esteemed publication (☺), then please get in touch.

In his final address to the AGM, Rob said:

"The 12 months I have spent as chairman seem to have flown by and there has certainly been a lot that has happened in that short time. The year started with the Sandford Park Alehouse winning the National POTY award and finished the Cheltenham Motor Club winning the COTY award. As a filling to the sandwich our branch also won the CAMRA award for website of the year."

"It hasn't been all awards though. Although enjoyed and praised by all those who attended, the second Cheltenham Real Ale Festival didn't manage to build on the success of the first but as a branch we will learn and produce the beer festival that a festival town deserves. I've enjoyed the past year as chairman but unfortunately, I've not really got the time to do as much in the role as I would like so I'm standing aside but will continue in the more adminy role of secretary. I would like to thank the enthusiastic committee members who have supported me in my time as chair and I know that the committee myself include with continue to support John."

In response, John stated:

"After three or four years as Pubs Officer, a number of people have asked me why I am not chair, so this year, having been retired for two years and have more time on my hands, and following discussions with Rob who has other commitments like a full time job, he said he would prefer to revert to being secretary allowing Chris Martin, with similar commitments to concentrate more on our award winning website."

"I would like to thank Rob for the excellent job he has done for the past year, and for our branch, pubs, clubs to receive 3 major awards in one year is extraordinary and unlikely ever to be repeated. Of course the pub and club of the year is not of Cheltenham CAMRA making, other than nominating them, so I would like to congratulate Grant at the SPA and Neil at the CMC and their teams for their incredible achievements in the past year and hope their success will continue."

"We are continually being blessed with new bars opening, (probably more than those closing), so who knows what pubs/clubs could be in future Good Beer Guides. This last year we have seen a number of new excellent bars opening, such as Brewhouse & Kitchen, Whittle Taps (ex Slug & Lettuce), The Fire Station, Bottle of Sauce (ex Quaich/St.James Hotel), and just this week the Cosy Club, well worth a visit. I hope the trend will continue."

"I am still also Pubs Officer and Transport Officer so I hope I can continue successfully in those roles and maintain the excellent work Rob, as chair, has done in the past year. Finally, I would also like to thank Ian for producing this fine monthly newsletter for the past four years as he has now relinquished this role and this is his final Cheers."

Calling All Socialists ...

... or indeed, persons of any other political persuasion! Our branch runs a number of social events throughout the year, including:

- ❖ a monthly mid-week "Ale Amble";
- ❖ occasional out of town Saturday excursions, usually in conjunction with another branch;
- ❖ beer festival outings, including the Great British Beer Festival;
- ❖ a Christmas curry and charity sing-along;
- ❖ a regular branch social.

Branch socials take place on the second Wednesday or Thursday of the month (the day alternates monthly) – the starting location of which can be found in the 'Events Listing' at the end of this newsletter. A normal night will usually include at least one Good Beer Guide listed pub or club and a couple of others which we think are worth visiting. They're a great way to get to know your fellow branch members. All members and their partners are welcome, so why not come along and introduce yourself? We'd be delighted to meet you.

"Ale Ambles" and Other Trips

Ale Ambles take place on the last Wednesday of the month and are a leisurely day time trip around a nearby town or city. The March Amble, on Wednesday 29th, will see us visit Swindon. For more information on this and other trips, including the departure time and confirmation of service, please contact Veronica - [social\[at\]cheltenhamcamra.org.uk](mailto:social[at]cheltenhamcamra.org.uk).

Pub, Club and Other News

- ❖ Cheltenham's latest drinking establishment has now opened. The Cosy Club, offering 2 local(ish) ales, can be found in the recently expanded Brewery Quarter.
- ❖ The annual Wetherspoon's Spring Real Ale Festival takes place for 12 day from 22nd March. With 30 ales available, many brewed exclusively for the festival, there should be something to suit everyone.
- ❖ Don't forget that April is Community Pubs Month. See <http://communitypubscampaign.org.uk/> for more details, where licensees can directly order some promotional material. So if you have any pub news of your own, then please send it to [news\[at\]cheltenhamcamra.org.uk](mailto:news[at]cheltenhamcamra.org.uk) and it could be included here and on our award winning website.

Brewery News

 Tel: 01242 693409 battledownbrewery.com	 Tel: 01242 509946 brewhouseandkitchen.com	 Tel: 01242 870164 cotswoldlionbrewery.co.uk	 Tel: 07887 537356 deyabrewing.com	 Tel: 07526 934866 prescottales.co.uk
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- Look out for the first of this year's 'Super-6', from Prescott. "No.1" is a 4.2% ABV refreshing Session IPA, brewed with New World hops.

Sign Up a Friend Now

We told you last month about CAMRA's new initiative to recruit new members. "Member Get Member" is a quick way to introduce your family or friends to join one of the largest consumer organisations in Europe. Just visit www.camra.org/mgm, enter your CAMRA log-in details and sign them up. The system allows you to send a personalised email to up to four friends. As the advert says:

"Ale ... tastes better with friends ... tastes better together. And that's the truth of it. So why not show your friends how much you care and invite them to join CAMRA today? As you already know there are a whole host of benefits to being a member of CAMRA, from discounts in thousands of pubs across the UK to having the chance to connect with over 185,000 like-minded members.

CAMRA membership boasts so many benefits it's far too long to list here but why not refer them today and as a reward for them joining we will give you both a 5% discount in the CAMRA shop and each month we will choose two lucky winners at random to give away a case of free beer! It could be both you and one of your friends. Visit camra.org.uk/mgm to refer a friend today".

And Finally ...

Although our headline story celebrates the Cheltenham Motor Club as National COTY, whilst at the same time the Sandford Park Alehouse (at the time of writing) is the National POTY, it's time to consider our branch nominations for this year. We need your nominations, but you have to be quick. The deadline for entry is 12th March, so please send your nominations to [pubs\[at\]cheltenhamcamra.org.uk](mailto:pubs[at]cheltenhamcamra.org.uk). And don't forget, you can also use Whatpub? to score the beers at your local. The more members that vote, the better the representation will be. Members can log on to whatpub.com to submit your scores.



Latest CAMRA Discounts

CAMRA Discounts <i>The following establishments are currently offering a CAMRA discount</i>			
Battledown Brewery	Brewerism	Brewhouse & Kitchen	Favourite Beers
10% discount on all off-sales	10% off all tours. See their website for terms	10% off pints and halves everyday	10% off all cash purchases
Feathered Fish	The Greatfield	Sandford Park Alehouse	The Spectre
On Mondays, real ales are £2.50	20p off ales every day. On Monday they're £2.49.	10% off all real ale and cider on Mondays	On Tuesdays, all real ales are £2.50
The small print: Please note that you must present your CAMRA membership card at time of purchase and that these discounts are at the discretion of the licensee and are subject to change			

Events	
<i>8th Mar</i>	Branch Monthly Social , starting at The Cosy Club, Brewery Complex from 8:00pm.
<i>20th Mar</i>	Branch Business Meeting , Sandford Park Alehouse, 8:00pm. All branch members welcome.
<i>23rd – 25th Mar</i>	Bristol Beer Festival , Brunel's Old Station, Bristol Temple Meads.
<i>29th Mar</i>	Ale Amble to Swindon. Contact Veronica for details.
<i>31st Mar – 1st Apr</i>	Gloucester Beer Festival , Blackfriars.
<i>6th Apr</i>	Branch Monthly Social , starting at The Old Restoration, from 8:00pm.
<i>Listing correct at time of publication. Please check our website for the latest info.</i>	