

As I said last year we have had our ups and downs and in a lot of ways It's been a strange year:

1. We lost John Woods, but have been able to celebrate his life and have enjoyed the memory of him a real man of ale. Oakham ales paid tribute by brewing a special beer which was our beer of the festival. John is sorely missed.
2. Our membership still hovers around 190 – Dave Casewell, our Membership Secretary will expand further. He deserves our thanks for passing his tests so we can get a better idea of our membership.
3. Dave Laughton our esteemed Pubs Officer is not available tonight so I will read his report out. He has kept an eye on the scoring and appeals for a lot more. I will read out his report later. Congratulations to our POTS winners and to the Green Dragon, Ryhall for winning Pub of the Year for the second time.
4. We lost one of our breweries – Stoneyford has been assimilated into Grainstore in Oakham so we no longer have a brewery in Ryhall. The remaining breweries are doing well and rumours fly around about a potential new venture in Uppingham.
5. Our Beer festival was a welcome return. The financial viability, if we repeat the exercise, well depend a great deal on the local authority being realistic in their rental expectations. Negotiations will commence soon. Special thanks are due to Dave Casewell for his organisational skills backed up by Lorely; Russ Hibbitt who sorted our beer out, despite having 2 other festivals to worry about at the same time; Des Burgess who managed the bars so well. Others like Sue Holford – catering and all the members from the branch and elsewhere who gave their time and a lot of sweat into proving our visitors a great event.
6. Branch is viable Neil Broad, our Treasurer, will expound.
7. Rutland CAMRA is an important part of Discover Rutland, our local tourist board, who now recognise how important our Campaign is for tourism in the County. I have represented the branch as a few of their events to promote our cause.
8. We are still in the Good Beer Guide as an independent county.
9. Our website, www.rutlandcamra.org.uk is up and running thanks to Hugo Spiegl. Over the festival period we had over 1000 hits, we are averaging about 100 hits a week. It works well and we have links with other CAMRA branches and other organisations such as Discover Rutland.
10. I was selected to be a member of CAMRA's Public Affairs Committee and have attended several meetings and lobbying events in Parliament where a great deal of work is done. The current effort is to make the Pubs Code Adjudicator to be more accountable. Watch this space. CAMRA are holding a mass lobby of Parliament October 30th and if I can get time off work I will attend, last time we had four members attend it would be nice not to fly solo on this.
11. Tiny Pint is presenting a challenge but I hope we get something out soon.
12. Bakers Dozen brewery, based here in Rutland, were one of the finalists at this year's Great British Beer Festival's Champion Beer of Britain contest. Well deserved recognition well done Dean and Jill.

Branch meetings are still well attended, other branches would be envious at the percentages we get. We have had whisky and magic to liven things up and I hope we can provide more entertainment next year.

I went to CAMRA's AGM and Members weekend in Warwick, good venue but dreadful members bar. Colin Valentine stood down from the Chairman's role after 8 years I think he will be very missed but we will get behind our new chair, Jackie Parker. Sadly, we have also lost a good friend of Rutland, Tim Page the Chief Executive, under circumstances I don't know or care about.

Almost finally we should be all grateful to those who serve on our Committee for doing so much work promoting the Campaign here in God's County.

I am happy to stand again as Chairman and press officer and Editor of Tiny Pint, please feel free to stand against me - please.

Thank you to all who have helped, we have achieved a great deal but we must find a way of enthusing members and encourage them to be more active in the branch.

Jon Whowell Branch Chairman 9th August 2018

Press Officer Rutland CAMRA 2018 AGM report

We received reasonable coverage for our festival and also there was considerable coverage on the news of John Wood's passing.

We mainly use the website new page as a way of disseminating information and this is proving a useful tool

Jon Whowell

6th August 2018

Tiny Pint Rutland CAMRA 2018 AGM report

3 Issues of our magazine – The Tiny Pint - have been produced over the last year. We have a new supplier Matelot Media, who are easier to work with. My apologies that due to family issues I was not able to get an issue out for the Festival and the ongoing heat scenario has increased my lethargy. We will be back so keep articles and high resolution picture coming in .

Many thanks to all our advertisers for their support

Jon Whowell

6th August 2018