

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

To:	APPLE Committee
From:	Andrea Briers
CC:	NE; RDs; RCCs.
Subject:	Minutes of the APPLE Committee Meeting, June 2016
Date:	29th August 2016
Status:	For Information

Please find below the minutes of the June APPLE Committee meeting.

Summary of Key Points

- **National Cider & Perry Championships 2016:** The new judging admin team worked very well indeed and everything went fantastically well. Planning for a National Speciality Cider & Perry Competition is underway.
- **Cider Pub of the Year:** It has been confirmed that we will no longer hold a public nomination phase. Branches alone will decide their Branch Cider Pub of the Year.
- **New Pomona Award:** guidelines for a new Pomona Award were agreed.
- **Strategy Exercise:** We will be having further discussion in Reading, on 16th July.
- **Producers questionnaire:** updates are currently being sought for the list of cider producers prior to sending out the questionnaire by October.
- **Promotional month of October:** This will start with the CPotY presentation on Friday 30th September.
- **National Cider & Perry Trip 2016:** Will take place around the Ely / Cambridge area, on Saturday 8th October 2016.

Action Decisions Required (from the NE)

- None.

Andrea Briers
Chair of CAMRA's Cider and Perry Committee (APPLE)



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

CAMRA INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE CAMRA

Minutes of the APPLE Committee, Saturday 18th June 2016, noon Brigantes, 114 Micklegate, York YO1 6JX

Committee present: Andrea Briers [ABr], Phil Kempton [PK], John Lewis [JL], Gareth MacDonald [GM], Sarah Newson [SN], Ian Packham [IP], Chris Rouse [CR], Linda Thompson [LT].

RCCs present: Mike Gilroy (Greater Manchester), Bill Wilkinson (North East), Vanessa Gledhill (West Pennines).

Others present: Mike Robinson (Rochdale, Oldham & Bury, Cider Rep), Simon Gibson (Cambridge & District, Cider Maker).

The meeting opened at 12:15 with Andrea Briers chairing.

Action

1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence

- **Apologies from Committee:** Gillian Hough [GH], Mick Lewis [ML], Paul Scrivens [PS].
- **Apologies from RCCs:** Ian White (Greater London), Sally Lavender [SL] (West Midlands), Chris Charters [CC] (Wales).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2a. Corrections

- None.

2b. Action Minutes

448. On-going.				ABr/IP (448)
449. Done.	452. On-going.			ABr/IP (452)
457. Done.	461. On-going.			ABr/CR (461)
475. On-going (Mr Knibbs has still not been seen).				IP/ABr/BS (475)
478. Done.	479. Done.			CR (480)
480. On-going.				CR (482)
481. Done and OK.	482. On-going.			CR/ABr (483)
483. On-going.				ABr (487)
484. Done.	485. Done.	486. Done	487. On-going.	
488. Done.	489. Done.	490. Done	491. Done.	
492. Done.	493. On-going.			GH (493)
494. Done.	495. On-going.			GH (495)
496. On-going.				ML (496)
497. On-going.				CC (497)
498. On-going.				ML (498)
499. Done.	500. On-going.			ABr (500)
501. Expired.	502. Done.	503. Expired.	504. Done.	
505. Done.	506. On-going.			CR (506)
507. Done.	508. Done.	509. Done.		

2c. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes Not Already on this Agenda

- None.

3. Producer List, Database and Website

- CR said there has been no progress (he has been too busy, mostly with festivals).
- ABr distributed an email from Greg Davies before the meeting. He would like the APPLE committee to take a lead in finding out what certain producers are doing with their cider. ABr said that we have investigated such claims in the past, but have not been able to establish the truth. With this, and the poor response to our survey on hot-filling, we have decided to approach the issue in a different way, i.e., to form a positive list of cider makers who do conform to our definition.
- PK agreed, if the producers do answer that's good but if they don't then there is nothing we can do.
- ABr said that CR is working on a questionnaire which will go out to producers by October.
- IP pointed out that the memo said by the end of June.
- ABr said that the questionnaire has been sent out, and will be again, to the committee and RCCs. She asked what procedures we have at Head Office for it to be sent out. She will send it to MRSG.
- CR said that he wanted it emailed out to producers as we want them to fill out a web form. Getting questions on the web form is being sorted.
- IP will sort out where to send to and Head Office resource if necessary. He said that he will send out

ABr (510)

<p>the list of Cider Producers tomorrow so that we can get it updated as soon as possible in order to send out the new questionnaire to producers within the next few weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR will collate the results, hopefully with the help of others. 	<p>IP (511) IP (512) CR (513)</p>
<p>4. Competitions & Awards</p> <p>4a. National Cider & Perry Championships Assessment (for 2016)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR had circulated feedback from Chris Rogers (via email before the meeting). CR reported that everything went fantastically well. The new judging admin team worked very well indeed. CR wanted his thanks to Mike Gilroy, Sally Lavender and Chris Rogers recorded. • ABr wanted her thanks to Sally Lavender and Paul Scrivens recorded for helping to get the press release out quickly. • CR had stated that the issues with the location of the judging area will be addressed for next year and that he would like to discuss the method of scoring here. • Chris Rogers thought that opinions of all the panellists should be given equal weight, and this sometimes didn't happen due to very high or very low scoring from one individual on a panel. The proposed solution was to rank the scores from each judge, and then add the ranks. He stated this is a recognised statistical method for dealing with exactly the problem in raw data and recommend that it is implemented next year. • Simon Gibson suggested excluding the highest and lowest scores. • Vanessa Gledhill said that her branch uses the ranking system for PotY because of a similar problem and that it works well. • PK said that it is not worth changing the system for the sake of one judge. • CR suggested changing the procedures document so that festivals can do the ranking system if they wanted to, then we have a fall-back provision. CR to update the procedures document. • The award to Hardings Cider for becoming National Gold cider at National Cider and Perry Championships 2016, was presented by Andrea Briers to Lee Harding at Cambridge Beer Festival on Monday 23 May 2016. 	<p>CR (514)</p>
<p>4b. National Speciality Cider & Perry Competition (for 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR had circulated a report on a Speciality Cider category at the East Anglian Bottled Cider Competition reported (via email before the meeting). • A significant issue arose in terms of what exactly was being judged - was it the 'drink' as presented, or was it the 'cider aspect' of what was presented. From discussions he had after the competition, it was felt that the 'cider aspect' should be promoted. • Simon Gibson said that as a producer his first concern was that you make a good cider to be judged. One of those in the competition could have been any drink not necessarily cider. • Mike Robinson said that "Real Cider with Real Fruit" should be stressed. • ABr said we should devise judging criteria to ensure that the underlying cider taste is emphasised. • Simon Gibson suggested we added an extra box to the judging form to say whether cider taste was present. • IP agreed we should add another box for "Cider aspect". • It was stressed that any 'Speciality' competition needs to be on a par to the existing competition to be acceptable. • CR to devise judging criteria, and form a suitable procedures document. • CR suggested that we should allow both bottled and draught entries, but this was rejected. • GM said the concern was that the people that were running the competitions would not be certain in what they were doing. He said that he would take it to branches committee to see if there was enthusiasm for the competition and report back to the committee. • CR agreed to train people as necessary. 	<p>CR (515)</p> <p>GM (516)</p>
<p>4c. Regional Cider Competitions Update (for 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR reported (via email before the meeting): <p>Update for 2017:</p> <p>Wales: took place at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society's Spring Festival (in May 2016). <i>Results: Cider (2 go through): 1st: Llanblethian Orchards, Orchard Blend</i> <i>2nd: Hallet's, Blindfold 3rd: Dee Cider, Richard's medium</i> <i>Perry (3 go through): 1st: Raglan Cider Mill, Snowy Owl</i> <i>2nd: Hallet's Perry 3rd: Gwynt y Ddraig, Two Trees Perry</i></p> <p>North of England: Manchester C&PF has been cancelled - due to over-run of building works. <i>Competition will now take place at Manchester B&CF (in Jan/Feb 2017).</i></p> <p>West Midlands Perry: will take place at Hereford (in July 2016).</p> <p>South West: planning on-going.</p> <p>East Midlands (Eastern Seaboard): will take place at Nottingham (in Oct 2016).</p> <p>East Anglia & London (Eastern Seaboard): will take place at Norwich (Oct 2016).</p>	

West Midlands Cider: will take place at Bromsgrove (June/July 2016).

Surrey & Sussex (part of South of England): planning on-going.

Kent (part of Eastern Seaboard): will take place at Kent Beer Festival (in July 2016).

Central Southern & Wessex (part of South of England): will take place at Reading (in May 2017)

Champion Cider of Scotland: will take place in Glasgow (not SRAF) (in June 2016).

- JL said the Welsh competition went off well. The site was better than last year but they are looking for another site for next year.

4d. National Cider Pub of the Year Update (for 2016)

- SN reported (via email before the meeting):
 - The deadline for regional winners passed on 22nd May. A couple of results were a little late, but the super-regional stage is now underway. However, for the second year running, there is no Scottish participant. Judges have been chosen, one of whom is an experienced RCC, but who has never judged at this stage before. The deadline for the super-regional round is 17th July; however, please send your result to me as soon as you know it, rather than waiting for the deadline.
 - Hopefully, all regional presentations will have already taken place by then. This is important, because if a pub progresses further in the competition, it is not ideal doing two presentations together. It should also mean more publicity for the pub.
 - At the last Apple meeting in April, I put forward a proposal to do away with public nominations. I know from feedback received, that this proposal was popular with many RCCs. A vote was duly taken, and the Committee unanimously agreed that the time had arrived where this round could be dropped. I'm sure most RCCs will be happy with this outcome! This should simplify the competition, bringing it more into line with Pub of the Year and hopefully will result in even more branches taking part.
 - I have dealt with a query from the West Pennines Regional Director.
 - Once again, many thanks for your time and the effort that you commit to judging and hopefully you enjoy it and find it rewarding.
- SN said she had thought that Scotland had no interest in the competition but it appears that a Scottish branch (Kingdom of Fife) do have a CPotY. She will seek further information.

4e. New Pomona Award

- ABr reported (via email before the meeting):

The following guidelines for a new Pomona Award were distributed to committee for feedback last month. Thanks to those who responded. I would like to ratify the conditions for the award at this month's meeting so that we are ready to inform branches ahead of our October promotion.

"Nominations"
Nominations can be from any CAMRA member, Branch or Region. Regional Cider Co-ordinators, RDs and NE members are also encouraged to submit suitable nominations.

Criteria
Any person, group of people, organisation or place is eligible for this award. This includes branches or groups of branches.
All forms of cider and perry campaigning will be considered.
When considering nominating a pub for this award the person nominating should be asked to consider whether the Cider Pub/Club of the Year competition might be more appropriate.
The recipient of the award will need to have shown an outstanding commitment or achieved something special in relation to cider and perry campaigning.
The award will be promoted as part of May and October campaigning months but nominations can be put forward at any time of year."
- ABr said that she had had a quick glance at some of the feedback from the Review of Cider Campaigning and there were a few things of concern. She will review them after the Strategy Exercise.

5. Members' Weekend and AGM

Members Weekend 2016

- GM explained about the background of the Revitalisation project. It was felt right and proper to question ourselves as the world has moved on. It is running in three phases. There was an initial steering group to define how it should be run as a process. The expanded group is in the middle of about 50 roadshows which they have arranged. This is phase 2, which concludes in October. No-one knows what the outcome will be but the answer will be something that some people won't like. There is concern in the south-west with producers who believe that CAMRA is trying to ditch cider and perry.
- It was agreed that we would have to be prepared and come to a quick decision after the next AGM whichever way the vote goes.
- CR said that we need to have something on the Agenda for the January meeting so we can start to prepare but we must not make assumptions.
- The current results of the survey are 66% of members want to retain cider and perry within CAMRA,

26% do not, 8% other.

6. Promoting & Campaigning Activities

6a. Key Campaign 3 Update

- IP had nothing to report, they have not had a meeting.

6b. Key Campaign 4 Update / WhatPub / Real Cider Sold Here

- Nothing to report.

6c. Cider Duty/Exemption Update

- ABr reported (via email before the meeting):
CAMRA met with Heather Jones from the European Commission in London to discuss the progress of the Directive. Heather confirmed that cider is a thematic case study that has been chosen for the Directive and that we will see a report out towards the end of June / beginning of July which outlines the key findings of the consultation. Once we have sight of this report, CAMRA will aim to set up meetings as relevant in Brussels after the summer recess.
- SN requested to be informed of meetings. ABr said that she will ask Katie McKelliget (HO) to copy in APPLE committee members when arranging meetings in future.

ABr (518)

6d. Future Activities and Strategic Plan

- ABr reported (via email before the meeting):
The questionnaire about APPLE activities was sent out to branches on the 18th May and to date 25 responses have been received. Thanks to Chris R for his help in putting together the electronic form and to Gill H for offering to compile the results for us.
- CR said that there have been 44 responses so far to the questionnaire. Feedback will be sent after this meeting.

6e. Any Other Promoting & Campaigning Business

- A) ABr reported (via email before the meeting):
Chris Lewis from HO has been in touch ahead of our meeting with the following information about GBBF marketing material:-
"We've reprinted the cider-led GBBF marketing material due to demand and have therefore included a cider and perry promotional poster as part of the out of home advertising programme in London and South East in July placing cider as one of the four key pillars of the festival offering (Real ale/beer, cider & perry, food and festival experience) so there will be materials produced for pub advertising and London Underground with a cider focus."
- B) SN voiced concerns about the two RCC vacancies and an RCC who had not been keeping the committee up to date on events in their region.
- ABr agreed to reinstate the review of RCCs through the Branches Committee.
- CR said the remit for this role is on the website.
- GM to ask RDs to inform ABr if there is any feedback they would like to pass on regarding the work of their RCC. The role description is available on the website. It was noted that the ultimate decision is with this committee for the RCC role. The Branch cider rep is not constitutionally required.
- SN will contact the RCC who is not keeping the committee updated and ABr will liaise with the RDs in the regions with the other two vacancies.

ABr (519)

GM (520)

SN/ABr (521)

7. Cider & Perry Promotional Months

7a. May Promotion Assessment

- ABr reported (via email before the meeting):
Unfortunately there was very little publicity letting branches know that they could submit May month events on to the national website so it is very difficult to establish how successful the promotion was but, from the evidence that I have been able to collect, not many branches held organised events. For next year we need to ensure that the message that events can be publicised on the national website is sent out in good time.
150 publicity packs were circulated for use in pubs, this was an increase on last year.
- JL distributed copies of the latest edition of the Shropshire guide to cider pubs, bigger in its 13th year.
- Many branches still see October as the main cider and perry month but problems with submitting events to the website in May didn't help.

7b. October Campaigning Update (Angle, Events, Articles, Presentations)

- Articles will be required in the next couple of weeks. Bill Wilkinson said that he may be able to forward an article.
- The promotional angle for October is customarily pub based.
- SN said that the CPotY presentation will be on Friday 30th September, as 1st October is not suitable for

ALL (522)

the press. Out of 15 regional winners 6 or 7 are micropubs but we need to be careful not to alienate other pubs.

- CR suggested a theme for October could be the quality of cider sold in pubs but this might need an article on what is expected of pubs.
- Simon Gibson said that as a cider producer a problem is that pubs put cider where they can squeeze it in and we need to encourage the pubs to look after it.
- Bill Wilkinson suggested they could put a smaller bag-in-box in the bar area but keep the main box in the cellar.
- Vanessa Gledhill suggested the theme be called "Love your Cider", which everyone seemed to like.
- ABr and IP will think of a marketing link and email the committee and RCCs.

ABr/IP (523)

7c. October National Cider & Perry Trip Update

- CR reported (via email before the meeting):
*Trip: Leave Ely Station at 11 am.
Visit Cam Valley (hope to drop off at the orchard, coach takes non-walkers to farm shop).
Visit Pickled Pig (lunch at 1.50pm on arrival).
Visit Spinney Abbey.
Return by 6pm.
For those who wish, visit Drayman's Son (Ely & District's CPotY) <http://whatpub.com/ELY/47>.*
- ABr reported (via email before the meeting):
Liz Wickham and Rob Ferguson, who looks after our bookings at HO, found it difficult to keep up with phone calls last year and they found that a number of people were frustrated that they couldn't get through. She has suggested that, if it is possible, it would be worth taking bookings on line rather than over the phone. Would the committee be happy to go ahead with this idea?
- It was agreed that bookings should be done via the CAMRA on-line shop as it is set up to do this. It was suggested that they open at 7pm (so that most people are not at work) 70% of bookings could be allocated this way. A reserve list will be prepared. People without internet access could phone up from 9am the next day and the HO staff will submit their booking to the on-line shop. Confirmations of whether people are 'on' or 'not on' the trip must be conveyed. ABr & CR to arrange with HO.
(Subsequent to the meeting, following a discussion with Liz Wickham, it was agreed that bookings would open on the morning of Tuesday 2nd August and HO staff would use the on-line booking system to take any phone bookings from those who cannot access the on-line form at that time.)

ABr/CR (524)

7d. Any Other May/October Business

- None.

8. Referrals

- None.

9. Correspondence (Digest)

- None.

10. National Matters Arising from RCC Reports

- ABr wished to thank the RCCs for their work in the regions and the Branch Cider Reps for theirs in the branches as she has seen that a lot of work is going on.

11. Date and Venue of Future Meetings

- Saturday 16th July 2016, noon, Strategy Exercise, Castle Tap, 120 Castle Street, Reading, RG1 7RJ.
- Friday 7th October 2016, 7pm, Pickled Pig's Wassail Barn, Stretham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3JQ.
- Saturday 7th January 2017, noon, Woodman, New Canal Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5LG.

12. Any Other Business

- A) Due to increased demand for cider cooling, CR is building 6 new cider kits for the warehouse, which will make 10 in total. Each has 32 probes.
- B) Cider Bar Training at GBBF has now been split into 3 separate courses (bar, cooling, taste).
- C) From Linda Harris: We are fighting to keep the MerseyAle magazine. This is one of the best CAMRA magazines we have and the cider & perry page is really important for cider & perry drinkers on Merseyside.
- The committee endorsed the importance of cider and perry campaigning in branch magazines.
- D) JL said there was a good attendance at the unveiling of Rhys Jones' plaque at the Ship & Castle, Aberystwyth. ABr and Sally Lavender went along. Rhys would have been pleased with the turnout.

Meeting closed at 15:22

Actions From This Meeting

Action	Detail	Who	Origin
448	Approve the questionnaire for producers by the next meeting.	ABr/IP	3 (Jan 16)
452	Liaise regarding having the year on Real Cider Sold Here window sticker, then talk to Marketing and Abigail Newton.	ABr/IP	6b (Jan 16)
461	Report on how the strategy exercise went.	ABr/CR	6e (Jan 16)
475	Liaise and arrange an award for Richard Knibbs' 50 years at the Newton Abbot Cider Bar.	IP/ABr/BS	12 (Jan 16)
480	Split questionnaire into sections, details we are intending to publish and those we are not. Asterisk questions where answers are obligatory in order to attain conformance.	CR	3 (Apr 16)
482	Fix deadline for responses, depending on when the questionnaire is released.	CR	3 (Apr 16)
483	Contact Andy Shaw to request somewhere to host a web-based form, plus all the information gathered.	CR/ABr	3 (Apr 16)
487	Arrange for a memo to be sent to branches and RCCs to inform them that submissions for the combined Branch and Pomona award can now be submitted at any time and that the award may be granted more than once a year.	ABr	4e (Apr 16)
493	Process replies to the strategy questionnaire and finalise any suggestions.	GH	6e (Apr 16)
495	GH will feedback responses for the meeting in July..	GH	6e (Apr 16)
496	Make contact with the Three Counties and South West Associations.	ML	6e (Apr 16)
497	Establish formal contact with the Welsh Cider & Perry Society.	CC	6e (Apr 16)
498	Write a role description, based on experience, about making formal contact with cider societies / associations.	ML	6e (Apr 16)
500	Consider getting a chair for the strategy exercise.	ABr	6e (Apr 16)
506	Draft a joint memo from APPLE and TAG regarding cider cooling at festivals.	CR	8 (Apr 16)
510	Send the producers questionnaire to MRSG.	ABr	3
511	Request updates to the list of Cider Producers from RCCs as soon as possible.	IP	3
512	Update the producers list, and sort out where to send it and source HO resource if necessary.	IP	3
513	Collate the results of the producers questionnaire.	CR	3
514	Update procedures document to allow ranking as a calculation method for determine which products go forward to the next round.	CR	4a
515	Devise judging criteria, and form a suitable procedures document for a National Speciality Cider & Perry Competition.	CR	4b
516	Ask Branches Committee to see if there was enthusiasm for running speciality cider competitions and report back to the committee.	GM	4b
517	Ensure revitalisation is on the agenda for the January meeting.	ABr	5
518	Ask Katie McKelliget (HO) to copy in APPLE committee members when arranging meetings in future.	ABr	6c
519	Reinstate the review of RCCs through the Branches Committee.	ABr	6e
520	Ask RDs to inform ABr if there is any feedback they would like to pass on regarding the work of their RCC.	GM	6e
521	Manage the RCC reporting issue and the other two vacancies.	SN/ABr	6e
522	Submit articles in the next couple of weeks for the October promotion month.	ALL	7b
523	Devise a marketing link for October and email the committee and RCCs.	ABr/IP	7b
524	Liaise with HO regarding the October trip bookings via the CAMRA shop and ensuring confirmations of whether people are 'on' or 'not on' the trip are conveyed.	ABr/CR	7c

Regional Cider Coordinators Reports

Below is a summary of written reports.

NO RCC, Central Southern ()	
Chris Rouse, East Anglia (chrisrouse@yahoo.co.uk)	
Events	
The East Anglian Bottled Cider Competition 2016 took place at Cambridge Beer Festival on Tue 24 May. This year, I introduced a Speciality Cider category, which proved to be both popular, and informative. The results were:	
Cider:	Perry:
1st: Hardings , 3 Peace Sweet (Cambridgeshire)	1st: Simon's , Conference Peary (Cambridgeshire)
2nd: Simon's, Short Sterling (Cambridgeshire)	2nd: Bertie's, Panfield Perry (Essex)
3rd: S.O. Cider, Pigeon Scarer (Cambridgeshire)	3rd: Pickled Pig Cider, Apples & Pears (Cambridgeshire)

The other finalists were (in alphabetical order):
 Apple Cottage, FTJ (Hertfordshire)
 Apple Cottage, Special Branch (Hertfordshire)
 Downham Cider, Tickle (Norfolk)
 East Norfolk, Norfolk Hawker (Norfolk)
 Potton Press, Sweet Spot (Bedfordshire)
 Simon's, Annie Elizabeth (Cambridgeshire)

The other finalists were (in alphabetical order):
 Bertie's, Galanthus Perry (Essex)
 Harleston, Perry (Norfolk)
 Pickled Pig Cider, Pomfrit Perry (Cambridgeshire)
 Simon's, Barton Perry (Cambridgeshire)

Speciality:

1st: **Simon's**, It's Raspberry Honey! (Cambridgeshire)
 2nd: Apple Cottage, Elders (Hertfordshire)
 3rd: Potton Press, Jamaica Ginger Cake (Bedfordshire)

The other finalists were (in alphabetical order):
 Pickled Pig, Timmy's Mulberry (Cambridgeshire)
 Simon's, A Bee Flew By (Cambridgeshire)
 Spinney Abbey, Nun Bee-Having Badly (Cambridgeshire)

Presentations are being organised. Planning has started for the East Anglian Cider Competition 2016, which will be held at Norwich Beer Festival on Tue 25 October, at 2.30pm.

Cider Pub of the Year 2016

The East Anglian CPotY 2016 is the **Railway Arms, Railway Station, Downham Market**, Norfolk, PE38 9EN. There were 6 judges in total this year. A very close second was the Three Elms, Chignal St James, Essex, CM1 4TZ, with the Mermaid, 98 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3RL, coming third.

The results of the county round were as follows ...

Cambridgeshire: Letter B, 53-57 Church St, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, PE7 1DE (<http://whatpub.com/PET/384>)

Norfolk: Railway Arms, Railway Station, Downham Market, Norfolk, PE38 9EN (<http://whatpub.com/KLN/1288>)

Essex: Three Elms, Chignal St James, Essex, CM1 4TZ (<http://whatpub.com/CME/11064>)

Suffolk: Caxton Club, Gaol Lane, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9SJ (<http://whatpub.com/WAV/4050>)

Bedfordshire: Engineers Arms, 68 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, SG16 6AA (<http://whatpub.com/BEE/210>)

Hertfordshire: Mermaid, 98 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3RL (<http://whatpub.com/SHE/704>)

Producers

The presentations to **Hardings Cider** for becoming **National Gold** cider at National Cider and Perry Championships 2016, was presented by Andrea Briers to Lee Harding at Cambridge Beer Festival on Mon 23 May 2016.

Chris Gascoyne, East Midlands (ciderchris82@gmail.com)

Ian White, Greater London (whiteik@talk21.com)

Events and past Festivals

Marvelous May Cider festival

Only sole Cider and Perry festival in London, held on Sat 21st May, run by Bromley branch. I gave assistance with budgets, arranging art work, publicity and set up. I couldn't be there on the day but reports were of a good festival and selling about 90%. 28 ciders and perries on offer. Show what a one day event that take not a huge amount of work to organize and set up can do for campaigning.

Blythe Hill Tavern cider festival

Pub in SE London held a very successful cider festival offering 12 ciders, landlord very pleased,. Having the offer of three 1/3 pint tasters glasses worked really well.

Kidbrook Beer and cider Festival

26th to 28th May – my branches local festival, Smallish Festival 820 attendees, but had 20 ciders and 5 perries on offer.

May Cider Month

I held 2 events:

Tue 3rd May Social (7.30pm) Crystal Palace investigation. Meet Grape & Grain SE19 2AA, then on to Weston House, Postal Order, Beer Rebellion.

Wed 18 May Social (6.15pm) The Rising Sun, Berkhamstead HP4 2EG. Regional Cider pub winner, situated on canal setting, Good mix of people came along

The Shoreditch Arts Club for a one day Hungarian-Italian fiesta celebrating the arrival of Spring. There was free tasting session of refreshing Italian ciders. Was Saturday 2 April: 3-11PM The Shoreditch Arts Club, 94 Leonard st, London EC2A 4RH Event link:

<http://bit.ly/SDTCHBLOOM>

Sadly, I couldn't go but good to hear of Italian cider making a presence.

Future Events and festivals

27th Ealing Beer Festival

Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, W5 5BG. 6-9 July 2016 with very decent range of ciders

Producers

London Glider

Peter and Rochelle have reluctantly made the difficult decision to leave London Glider. Their main business, has become so busy that they are no longer able to dedicate our time to cider making and will not be involved past the summer, However, John will be continuing with others.



Pubs

Cider Tap Euston Closing –

London's only sole Cider bar (Serving Real and non real) is closing (may well have closed by now) as owners wish to concentrate on beer range, despite them saying it was making money. Very sad, however demonstrates there is a market for a dedicated cider bar in London. Reported to be closing last meeting but still open!

Stable Pizza and cider bar – Whitechapel East London

First one in London of the West Country chain, in a 2 roomed building that is of an industrial chic feel. Large wall of cider 30 plus, some usual ones such as Weston's old Rosie, but newer makers like Ham Hill. More planned in London, next one is Kew Gardens. Good Pizzas and excellent chocolate Brownies. Customers can go and just drink cider it isn't a formal restaurant. Manager reports doing very well in the few weeks it has been open.
www.stablepizza.com

Other News

London Cider pub of the year

Judging under taken and the Queens Head Acton Street nr Kings Cross was judged a worthy winner, presentation in September.

Presentation of SE London Cider pub of the year

Done on Mon June 6th to Blythe Hill Tavern has been increasing their range of cider over the last few years, remarkable for a small 3 roomed corner street pub not in a main center.



Mike Gilroy, Greater Manchester (mikegilroy17@yahoo.co.uk)

Pubs that sell cider/perry

As of 18/06/2016 we have 179 pubs that sell cider/perry according to What Pub.

Festivals

We have 10 CAMRA or associated festivals in the region.

Manchester Beer & Cider Festival, Bent & Bongs, Wigan, New Mills, Oldham, Bolton, Stockport Beer & Cider Festival, Greater Manchester Cider & Perry Festival, Chorlton, Rochdale, and this year Left Bank, so 11 festivals.

We are trying to keep a record of all the cider and perry sold at our festivals so we might see some trends or see if sales are going up or down.

Meetings

We have regional cider meetings with most of the cider reps and interested people (the RD has been!) every three months. Eight of the nine branches in Greater Manchester are represented. These will become every two months because of the length of the meetings. Minutes are sent out (via the RD) to all branch chairs and contacts in Greater Manchester in an effort to achieve 100% attendance from branches.

Cider reps in the region;

Bolton; Alison Whitaker

High Peak & North East Cheshire; Phil Moss.

Manchester City Centre; Laurent Fernandez-Moreno.

North Manchester; Laurent Fernandez-Moreno.

Rochdale, Oldham & Bury; Mike Robinson.

South East Lancashire; vacant.

Stockport & South Manchester; Mike Gilroy.

Trafford & Hulme; Ellie Bickie.

Wigan; Carol Worthington.

Regional Cider Pub of the Year

Wigan branch: Wigan Central, Arch No 1, Queen Street, WN3 4DY.

Cider & Perry Sold in Greater Manchester

We have produced a leaflet with all the pubs that sell cider and perry in our region and will be bringing out a new one via What Pub in 2016.

Linda Thompson, Kent (linda_a_thompson@yahoo.co.uk)

Future Events

8th Kent & East Sussex Railway Real Ale & Cider Festival: Friday 17th (eve) & Saturday 18th June 2016

Tenterden Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6HE. <http://www.camra-afrm.org.uk/festivals/camra-kesr-beer-festival>

42nd Kent Beer Festival: Thursday 21st (eve) to Saturday 23rd July 2016. Tickets in advance are essential for Friday night.

Merton Farm, Merton Lane, Canterbury CT4 7BA. With over 70 ciders and perries. Volunteers welcome. <http://www.kentbeerfestival.com>

Pubs

As suggested by Gill Hough at the last APPLE meeting I did send an article to What's Brewing for the Cider & Perry promotional month of May about the first cider micropub, the Thirsty Scarecrow, Dover. Unfortunately they didn't publish it, hopefully local magazine Channel Draught might.

I would like to suggest a pub in Maidstone for a future APPLE meeting, the Cellars Alehouse, which has a great selection of Kent ciders.

National Cider Pub of the Year 2016: Kent round

The winner of the Kent round is the Berry, 23 Canada Road, Walmer, nr Deal CT14 7EQ. The presentation is planned for Saturday, 25th June, at Chris's GlastonBerry Festival.

The runner-up is the Past & Present, 2 Skinner Street, Gillingham ME7 1HD. The presentation took place at their Cider Festival over the end of May Bank Holiday.

Cider Producers

The Canterbury Brewery at the Foundry pub, Canterbury, is now producing its own cider. There are usually 3 ciders on sale. The range varies because they are still experimenting.

Pembury Real Cider recently held a launch of their new season ciders at a local club. I managed to go along and it was very enjoyable. Gibbet

Oak are holding a similar launch at a local pub this Thursday 9th June.

In case it hasn't been reported before, I have it on good authority that sadly Mark Town of Swallowfield's cider, Herefordshire, passed away last November.

Linda Harris, Merseyside and Cheshire (ciderandperry@gmail.com)

Wirral Branch

Gareth Owen cider officer (Linda Harris on his behalf)
Wirral are in the middle of their cider and beer festival now
Their first in five years at Tranmere Rovers football ground
I have ordered all the cider for the event
Their pub of the year Gallagers has won the regional cider pub award
I will be presenting the certificate on June 30th

Chester Branch

Chester have announced that Harkers are their cider pub of the year
A certificate will be presented to them
We are in the start of planning the beer festival at Chester racecourse this November
I will be managing the bar and ordering all the cider and Perry
I gave a talk about cider and Perry awareness at the revitalisation meeting in Chester
Early this month
After the members weekend and the Liverpool beer festival
I completed regional judging
I am giving my award to Gallagers on the Wirral this year
Linda Harris

Halton

Cider and Perry in Halton continues to be in short supply. The Grapes in Widnes continues to keep a changing guest cider available - a beacon in a desert!
David Grey

Macclesfield & East Cheshire

Our branch cider pub of the year is The Park Tavern, Macclesfield.
The branch will be presenting a certificate to the team at the Park Tavern 4th August at 8:00pm.
Barbara Icke

St Helens

Since the first May Bank Holiday, Cider sales in all our pubs have been buoyant. This, because many customers associate "summer" and better weather with cider as a drink of choice.
Congratulations to Gallagers for being chosen Regional Cider Pub of the Year.
Whilst the Cricketers continues to perform well (admittedly mainly with Lilly's Mango cider and Lilley the Pink, most encouraging from my perspective are the plans for ciders from Gary, co-licensee of the Talbot (previously "The Sportsmans" in the Town Centre. Following the success of the 2 ciders they have currently on handpump, Gary informs me there are plans to stock a further SIX ciders, bag in box, stored at cellar temperatures in a dedicated cabinet in the bar. At this stage, not necessarily what CAMRA would describe as "real", but I have the philosophy, as CAMRA Cider Rep, that this must be a move in the right direction. I plan to work in close liaison with the Management of The Talbot.
Best Wishes to Linda Harris on her exotic holiday - I have to settle for Greece.
Sandy Gavin

Bill Wilkinson, North East (williamhwilkinson@hotmail.com)

North East Regional Cider POTY.
The 2016 winner is the Black Lion in Wolsingham, County Durham. This Durham branch pub previously took the title in 2013. I have yet to agree a date for the presentation but is likely to be late July/early August. The option of running a regional coach trip to the presentation to raise the profile of the award and to allow as many members as possible to visit this rural pub was agreed upon at the North East regional meeting held on 21st May and I am in communication with the social secretaries of the region's branches to see if this is feasible.
A very close runner-up was a new entrant from Darlington branch, the Strathmore Arms in Holwick, Teesdale. Once again, every branch in my region participated in the competition.

Alistair Boyd, Scotland & N Ireland (hibeernian@sky.com)

Chris Charters, Wales (chris@outdoor-sport.u-net.com)

It has been a very busy time, particularly over the last few weeks, with the growth of the Beer & Cider Festivals. It seems that every pub is looking to arrange a festival. Fortunately most of these do contact CAMRA to get advice about real ales and cider first, this does take up quite a bit of time, but is an excellent way to promote the value of CAMRA membership. I have been to several, with a colleague from Radnor branch to assist with setting up these events, and I have been very surprised by the lack of knowledge of cider, and why real cider is not fizzy!!!!

Three new cider outlets

There was an increase in the nominations by the Welsh branches for CPOTY. Of which there were three new cider pubs which I revued for COPTY for Wales

The Hopbunker, Kingsway, Cardiff CF10 5AF

The Hopbunker took over the bar in June 2015 it is in a prominent position on the corner of Queens Street opposite Cardiff Castle It is a small cellar bar with 10 real ciders, reasonable priced. This was a lunch time visit, there were two other customers but unfortunately there wasn't any one serving. Finally having waited longer than I normally would, a guy did turn up, but obviously not very happy, on asking him about the ciders, was somewhat coarsely told it's all on the board, and after quickly serving disappeared again. I don't know what his problem was, but he was not doing the PR for the bar any favours.

Little Penybont Arms, 11 Penybont Road, Pencoed, CF35 5PY

The Little Penybont Arms is a micro pub refurbished from a former cafe. Opened in April 8 2015. Serves 16 ciders, and. Perry, all very reasonable priced, it also specialises in Whisky & home-made pork pies. As with most micro pubs it does not have any machines. It's a proper ale & cider house for the quiet enjoyment of beer, and cider with no extraneous attractions; a quiet pub. As you enter against the left hand wall there is a stillage holding casks of ale, and shelving holding bag in boxes of cider and perry. A very helpful girl was serving, who described the ciders, perries, and the pork pies in great detail. I had a pint and a pork pie, which was very good, and I put The Little Penybont Arms in my top Three.

The Queen's Head, Moor Street Chepstow NP16 5DD

This is the first micro pub in Chepstow. It is run by Eddie who used to operate "Rotter's Brewery" at the Tower Hotel in Talgarth. It is part of a former Whitbread pub that ceased trading decades ago. Today it's a lot smaller with only one room, it has a small selection of real ciders. A blackboard lists the ales, and ciders, with thirds of a pint available. It keeps the pattern of the micropub, with no TV, no gaming machines, and no juke boxes. Just good ale and cider and the buzz of conversation.

Mayday Weekend

Regrettably our May Day Beer and Cider Weekend had to be cancelled. We were informed that the pavilion in Llandrindod Wells, where we have held a successful festival for the past two years had been rescued by the Llandrindod Wells Chamber of Commerce. This unfortunately was a very premature announcement caused by a total lack of organisation, and ignorance by the chamber of commerce in negotiating the lease, a limited company, licencing of premise, etc.

We will look for a new venue for 2017 May Day Weekend

Royal Welsh Showground Spring Fair

This was the first event organised by Cressida from the "Welsh Perry Cider Society" for "Drinks Wales" which is the umbrella organisation set up by the Welsh Assembly to cover all the alcoholic beverage producers in Wales. We were running the bar in conjunction with the WPCS, and had a very successful two day event. With four of us serving we had 35 ciders and perries, and sold out of all but six which did not have much left in them.



Welsh Perry & Cider Society

We are again assisting the WPCS with their annual Cider Festival at Caldicot Castle which takes place over the Spring Bank Holiday. The weather was hot and sunny ideal for drinking lots of cider, with several of the cider producers having to return to collect more stock. The event was the most successful to date



Welsh Cider & Perry Competition 2016

The RWAS spring fair was also the venue for the Welsh Cider & Perry competition, there were 20 ciders and only 6 perries, unfortunately there is a shortage of perry this year due to a poor harvest last season, but all went well, with the following results.

Cider:-

- 1st Gold - Llanblethian Orchards, Orchard Blend
- 2nd Silver - Hallet's, Blindfold
- 3rd Bronze - Dee Cider, Richard's medium

Perry:-

- 1st Gold - Raglan Cider Mill, Snowy Owl
- 2nd Silver - Hallet's, Perry
- 3rd Bronze - Gwynt-Y-Ddraig, Two Tree Perry

The next event: "Beer on the Wye"

Organised by Hereford branch of CAMRA, over Friday 8th – Sunday 10th July is "Beer on the Wye held on the field at the back of Hereford Rowing Club we shall again be assisting with setting up and organising the cider bar. With this year I have been asked to supply a selection of Welsh Ciders and Perries.

Bob Southwell, South West (ecosochistoryman@hotmail.co.uk)

Future Events

A number of **presentations** need to be organised

- 1) To the **Orchard Inn at Bristol** as **South West Cider Pub of the Year**, but still awaiting certificate from HQ

- 2) **National Awards** for cider and perry

Perry: Hartlands as champion perry; **Hecks** as bronze winner

Cider: Green Valley

I am attempting to get the local branches to become involved which slows things down somewhat and I will also be away in July.

NO RCC, Surrey & Sussex ()

Nigel Firth, Wessex & Channel Isles (nigelfirth@yahoo.co.uk)

Festivals

The following pub and non-CAMRA festivals are/were due to sell cider:-

7th Big Bournemouth Beer Festival, Purbeck Hall, Bournemouth International Centre, Exeter Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH2 5BH. 25-27 March

Junction Tavern, 1 Leesland Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 3ND. 25-28 March

Second Southsea Beerex, Wedgewood Rooms, 147b Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO4 0JW. 1-2 April. A collaboration with the Leopold Tavern, 2016 Portsmouth Branch CPOTY

3rd Annual Festival Southampton Amateur Rowing Club, 26A Hazel Road, Woolston, Southampton, Hampshire SO19 7GA. 2 April

16th Wickham Charity Beer Festival, The Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, Nr. Fareham, Hampshire PO17 5AL. 8-9 April

14th Portchester Beer Festival, Portchester Community Centre, Westlands Grove, Portchester, Hampshire PO16 9AD. 9 April

Red Shoot Inn, Tom's Lane, Linwood, Hampshire BH24 3QT (in the New Forest). 22-24 April

2nd Bournemouth Cider Festival, Shelley Theatre (part of the original Shelley Manor, home of Mary Shelley, the author of Frankenstein), Beechwood Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset BH5 1LX. 29 April

IOW Steam Railway Beer Festival, The Railway Station, Havenstreet. Isle of Wight PO33 4DS. Apr 31-May 2

25th Mayfayre, St. Mary's Church May Fayre, Fratton Road, Fratton, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 5PA. 2 May

Hatch Warren Cider Festival, Hatch Warren Community Centre, Longcross Lane, Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG22 4XF. 7 May

Portsmouth Beer Festival, Portsmouth Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2AB. 20-21 May

Locomotive Engineers' Club, 18 Southampton Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9FJ.

27-30 May

Watership Down Inn, Priory Lane, Freefolk, nr Whitchurch, Hampshire RG28 7NJ. 27-30 May

Old House At Home, 2 South Street, Havant, Hampshire PO9 1DA

Waterloo Arms, 101 Waterloo Road, Freemantle, Southampton, Hampshire SO15 3BS. 16–19 June
Chaplin's Solstice Beer, Sausage and Cider Festival, Chaplin's & The Cellar Bar, 529 Christchurch Rd, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH1 4AG. 16-20 June
Hyde Tavern Beer Festival, 57 Hyde Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 7DY. 17–19 June
Ashcroft Summer Ale Festival, Ashcroft Arts Centre, Osborn Road, Fareham PO16 7DX. 24-25 June
Vibrant Forest Beer Festival, Brockenhurst Village Hall, Highwood Road, Brockenhurst SO42 7RY. 25 June
Hedge End Club, 4 Bursledon Road, Hedge End, Hampshire SO30 0BR. 24–26 June
Rose in June, 102 Milton Road, Copnor, Portsmouth PO3 6AR. 24-26 June
Blissfields Hobgoblin Beer Festival, Vicarage Farm, Woodmancott, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 3BL. 1–2 July
Lowde Fest 16, Mulberry House, Hazeley Bottom, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire RG27 8LU. 2 July
New Forest Inn, Emery Down, Lyndhurst SO43 7DY. 8-9 July
1st Southsea Cider Festival, Wedgewood Rooms, 147b Albert Road, Southsea PO4 0JW. 9 July. A collaboration with the Leopold Tavern, 2016 Portsmouth Branch CPOTY
Weyhill Fair, Weyhill Road, Weyhill, Andover, SP11 0PP. 15-16 July
Pennington Sports & Social Club, 17 Lodge Road, Pennington, Hampshire, SO41 8HH. 15-17 July
Poole Beer and Bluegrass Festival, St Aldhelms Centre, Poole Road, Branksome, Dorset BH12 1AD. 22–23 July
Hampshire Bowman Beer and Cider Festival, Hampshire Bowman, Dundridge Lane, Dundridge, Hampshire, SO32 1GD. 29-31 July
Fleet Lions Beer Festival, The Harlington, 236 Fleet Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 4BY. 6 August
Colden Common Beer Festival, Community Centre, St. Vigor Way, Colden Common, Hampshire SO50 7HH. 16-17 September.
Sherfield on Loddon Beer Festival, Sherfield Village Hall, Reading Road, Sherfield on Loddon, Hampshire, RG27 0EZ. 24 September.

The following CAMRA Festivals are/were due to sell cider:-

Winchester Real Ale & Cider Festival, Guildhall, The Broadway, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9GH. 18-19 March.
Southampton Beer Festival, O2 Guildhall, Southampton, Hampshire SO14 7LP. 2-4 June
36th Salisbury Beerex, Salisbury Arts Centre, Bedwin Street, Salisbury SP1 3UT. 17-18 June
17th Devizes Beer Festival, The Wharf, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1EB. 2 July

Winchester CAMRA Real Ale & Cider Festival, Cider of the Festival results:-

1. Farmer Jim's, Copper Top
2. Gwatkin Cider, Pyder
3. Double Vision, Impaired Vision

Pub News

Wessex and CI Branches CPOTY:-
 Unicorn, Bayford - Heart Of Wessex
 Ilchester Arms, Abbotsbury - West Dorset
 Castle, West Lulworth - East Dorset (Former National CPOTY)
 Leopold Tavern, Portsmouth - Portsmouth and SE Hants
 Nomination from the public vote:-
 Firkin Shed, Bournemouth - East Dorset Branch

Wessex and CI CPOTY 2016 - Unicorn, Bayford - Heart Of Wessex

Admiral Drake, Portsmouth now selling real cider.

Branch News

The 22nd Portsmouth Cider Crawl (9th Summer Crawl) will take place on Saturday 9th July commencing midday at the 1st Southsea Cider Festival, Wedgewood Rooms, 147b Albert Road, Southsea PO4 0JW, followed by a crawl round cider pubs in the city.
 On the 21 Portsmouth cider crawls we have visited 32 different real cider pubs - IKB, Tap, King Street Tavern, Hole In The Wall, Barley Mow, Florence Arms, Apsley House, Sir Loin of Beef, Eastney Cellars, Old Oyster House, Cider House, Taswell Arms, Eastfield Hotel, Artillery Arms, Leopold, White Swan, Eldon Arms, Wine Vaults, Lord Palmerston, Goose At The V&A, Lawrence, Old House At Home, Eastney Tavern, Globe Inn (ex-Fat Fox), Fawcett Inn, Jean Jacques, Nell Gwynne, Phoenix, Froddington Arms, Trafalgar, Wave Maiden and Northcote, plus the Portsea Island Beer Festival and Portsmouth University Students Union Bar, and a lot of these still sell real cider.

Branch Cider Reps:-

Diane Burke/Kathy Gammon, Salisbury and South Wiltshire.
 Jez Howat, professional cidemaker, proprietor of 146 Cider Company, South Hampshire.

Wessex Region Database of cider producers, as below:-

Hampshire

Mr Whiteheads Cider Company, Colemore, Alton, Hampshire
New Forest Cider, Burley, Hampshire
146 Cider Company, Hedge End, Hampshire
Meon Valley Cider, West Meon, Hampshire
Chalkdown Cider, Andover Down, Hampshire
Shiny Barrel, Aldershot, Hampshire

Isle of Wight

Brickfield Equestrian Centre, Binstead, Isle of Wight – Not sure if still producing

Dorset

Castle Cider (Dorset Honey and Cider Co), Whitchurch Canonieum, Bridport, Dorset.
Cider By Rosie, Winterborne Houghton, Dorset
Kingcombe Valley Cider, Dorset
Lulworth Skipper, Wareham, Dorset
Dorset Piddle Brewery, Piddlehinton, Dorchester, Dorset – Do not produce their own cider, obtained from Mark Rogers of Muckleford, Dorset and re-badged.
Dorset Brewing Company, Dorchester, Dorset – Same arrangement as for Dorset Piddle Brewery.
Dorset Nectar, Waytown, Bridport, Dorset
Marshwood Vale Cider, Bettiscombe, Bridport, Dorset

Twisted Cider, Longburton, Dorset
Bo Bridles Cider, Stour Row, Shaftesbury, Dorset – Also produce a perry.
West Milton Cider Co, West Milton, Bridport, Dorset
Purbeck Cider Company, Kingston, Wareham, Dorset
Lawrence's Cider, Corton Denham, Sherborne, Dorset
Dorset Orchards, Bridport, Dorset – Owned by Palmers Brewery in association with Sheppy's
Copse House Cider, Sandley, Dorset
Cranborne Chase Cider, Blandford Forum, Dorset
Talbot Harris Cider, Burton Bradstock, Bridport, Dorset
Twinways Cyder/Rogers' Cider, Melplash, Bridport, Dorset

I believe Godshill Cider, Isle of Wight, filter their cider.

Place of Interest

Mill House Cider and Clock Museum, Owermoigne, near Dorchester, Dorset.

Many thanks to Dickie Hambridge, Alex Bardswell, Jam Well, Andy Brown, Tony Egerton, Paul Smith, Graeme Hilton, Jez Howat, Martyn Constable and Southern Hampshire CAMRA branch for information, and Mike Ward and Paul Smith for cider pub surveys.

Event

The 22nd Portsmouth Cider Crawl (9th Summer Crawl) will take place on Saturday 9th July at the 1st Southsea Cider Festival, Wedgewood Rooms, 147b Albert Road, Southsea PO4 0JW. This is being held in conjunction with the 2016 Portsmouth and SE Hants CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year, the Leopold Tavern, which is across the road from the venue. We'll attend the afternoon session from 12 noon to 5pm, tickets cost £6.00 and are on sale now.

After that, if anyone's still standing after five hours at a Cider Festival, we'll head for the Leopold Tavern for 5.30 pm, and then wherever people want to go.

Sally Lavender & Jules Evans, West Midlands (sally.lavender@virgin.net and jeffandjules@aol.com)

Regional News

The West Midlands Cider Pub of the year is the King's Ditch in Tamworth. This is a micropub with a large range and strong commitment to cider. Silver will be awarded to Beer in Hand in Hereford, and Bronze to the Post Office Vaults in Birmingham. Our CPOTY will have an additional County Round next year owing to the number of entries.

The Silver Certificate for Dunkerton's will be presented at Beer on the Wye on Friday July 8th.

The West Midlands Cider and Perry Competitions will both be taking place over the next few weeks at Bromsgrove (Cider) and Hereford (Perry). Results will be advised in due course.

Cider in May

I am not aware of many events within the region during May.

I held a cider tasting at Kidderminster Beer Festival. This was a successful event, and the attendees reliably identified a range of flavours. (note to Chris – apple peel works!) The attendance was reasonable, but I was disappointed with the low number of non-cider drinkers. Possibly most importantly, the branch were delighted, found that their cider sales increased after the tasting, and would like to repeat the event, and feed back the results to the region.

Wolverhampton Branch held a cider crawl. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend due to a birthday celebration. I attended the same event last year.

Shropshire branches are again organizing a cider trail for the month of July. This is a really excellent event.

Good Food Show

The NEC Good Food Show will be held from 24th-27th November. I will be there most days and will be offering a cider tasting alongside the beer tastings. This is all I can communicate at the moment as Nik Antona is still working on the details.

January Apple Meeting

I was actioned to organize the January Apple Meeting in Birmingham. I have booked the upstairs room at the Woodman in the City Centre. Well-priced food is available although early ordering is desirable to ensure a quickish lunch break. I would be very happy to lead a tour to some of our better pubs within reach of New Street after the meeting if people would be interested.

Vanessa Gledhill, West Pennines (vanessa.gledhill@yahoo.co.uk)

Events

IOM – The 5th IoM Beer & Cider Festival went very well, from a cider point-of-view, with 41 ciders and 11 perries on offer.

Blackpool Fylde and Wyre – The Fleetwood Beer and Cider Festival was held on February 10-13. 11 ciders and 4 perries were on offer and 85% of the stock was sold.

East Lancs - The 11th Clitheroe Beer Festival was held 13th – 14th May at St Michael & St John's Parish Centre, also known as the Catholic Club, with 14 ciders and perries on offer, all from different counties.

Future Events

Solway Branch – The 2016 Carlisle Beer Festival will be held 3 – 5 November at The Venue, Portland Place, Carlisle, where a good range of ciders and perries are expected to be available

Furness Branch – Ulverston Beer and Cider Festival 1 – 3 September

Pubs

Westmorland Branch - The Bridge Inn in held a small Cider Festival, with 7 real ciders featured on 1st May to 5th June 2016

IOM – 2 pubs that used to stock real cider, have started stocking again.

Central Lancs – The Shepherds Hall Ale house in Chorley are having a *Love Cider* Festival during the first 2 weeks of July, with at least 7 ciders available from a range of orchards.

Producers

IOM Branch - Benn Quirk, of the Manx Cider Company, has quit his job and is moving into cider production full-time, so we can expect more from him in the future.

Distributors

Nothing to report

Other News

Lunesdale – nothing to report

East Lancs – the CPOTY award was presented to the Commercial, in Accrington, in April. This JD Wetherspoon house is very proactive in cider promotion.

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre – The CPotY award was presented to the Pump and Truncheon and Blackpool
Furness - Dave Stubbins presented Chris Heck of Heck's Cider, Somerset, with the Cider of the Festival Award for the Ulverston Beer Festival.

Regional Cider Pub of the Year Competition 2016

The following branches have given a Branch Cider Pub of the Year award:

Central Lancs - *Market Ale House*, Leyland

East Lancs - *The Commercial*, Accrington

Furness - *The Prince of Wales*, Foxfield

Westmorland - *The Mortal Man*, Troutbeck

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre - *The Pump and Truncheon*, Blackpool

The Regional Cider Pub of the Year is *The Mortal Man*, Troutbeck, **Westmorland branch**. Discussions are ongoing with regard to a presentation date.

Unfortunately the Isle of Man Branch did not submit a candidate in good time although they did make an award. There was some confusion about the timing of the competition, and possibly some communication failure at branch level. This came to light at our last Regional meeting, during which Regional Director Angela Aspin asked why the Cider Pub of the Year competition did not run to the same timings as the Club of the Year and Pub of the Year award procedures. I explained the system as best I could and suggested that she speak to APPLE for further clarification.

David Litten, Yorkshire (littendavid@littendavid.karoo.co.uk)

Yorkshire Cider Pub of the Year

Winner - Rat and Ratchet in Huddersfield

Runner up - Doncaster Brewery & Tap