

The Newsletter of
THE WEST RIDING BRANCH OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF BEERS FROM THE WOOD
(Issue 383 April 2021)



Welcome to the SPBW West Riding Branch Newsletter for April 2021.

Provided the conditions set by the UK Government are met, pubs are due to reopen in England on the 12th of April.

This will be for outdoor service only, and the rule of six will once again apply.

If all goes to plan, we may be able to have a monthly meeting on the 4th of July.

Things may change again before then, so we don't know for definite whether this will happen.

Hopefully, the effects of the vaccination programme will result in a positive outcome.

Thanks to John Dyson for his comprehensive review of the SPBW National Annual General Meeting.

Thanks to Malcolm, once again, for setting up the Monthly Zoom Meeting.

Thanks to Peter Phillips for letting us know about the Cross Keys, Siddal Beer Festival.

Thanks to Janet Dyson for pointing out the miniature version of the Swan in Addingham and the article on Nomadic Brewery.

Thanks to Roland for the Harrogate Update.

If you have any items for next month's newsletter, please e-mail me at:

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Charlie Cavaye

SPBW National AGM

The first weekend of March saw the National SPBW AGM take place on the Saturday and our monthly Zoom meeting on the Sunday.

The AGM was on Microsoft Teams, which I found to be less user-friendly as I couldn't find a 'Gallery' view.

It did list the Members present and fortunately I recognised most present.

I have copied a synopsis of the Meeting from the website which is at the end of my article along with details of Malcolm's April Meeting, which you're all most welcome to join. The synopsis is quite comprehensive but there were a few other snippets.

Apparently SPBW wooden casks have found their way to Moscow and Argentina.

The next National Weekend is being planned for Ambleside so, hopefully, I can arrange a coach trip.

The annual profit was £2k compared to £500 last year and a loss of £189 the year before.

However, there is a debtor in the accounts.

The bank account is held with Santander, although the Treasurer uses his local Post Office to bank cheques.

Despite having a stamped receipt, cheques totalling £410 have gone astray!

As the AGM date is no longer fixed there will be four months' notice.
All posts were uncontested except the Chair, held by Rob Shacklock and contested by Aidan Kerrigan.

Both temporarily left the Meeting whilst voting took place.

The Deputy Chair, Angela Aspin, took the reins and tried in vain to introduce some Northern friendliness as matters began to resemble the infamous Handforth Parish Council meeting in Cheshire.

Aidan is the Woodfest co-ordinator, and it is still the intention that this will finally be held at The Turk's Head pub in Twickenham.

The last Woodfest was held in North Shields and Rob now runs the Seven Stars pub in the town, with his Three Kings brewery nearby.

Among the Members present were Judith Norman and her partner Derek. Judith runs the wonderful Ye Olde Mitre pub in Holborn.

Despite now being owned by Fuller's there are guest ales, including from the wood.

The pub is 18th Century but the site dates to 1546.

It lies in an alley between Hatton Garden and Ely Place.

In the front bar, behind glass, is a tree trunk which marked the boundary of properties owned by the Bishop of Ely and Sir Christopher Hatton.

If you're in London, and have time, pay Judith a visit.

She's an enthusiastic SPBW Member.

Finally, many thanks to Rob, Aidan and Angela who all joined our March Zoom meeting. Go on, give April's a go!

John Dyson - Joint Social (still distancing) Secretary.

NEC 48TH AGM SYNOPSIS FOR MEETING HELD 6th March 2021

There were 27 attendees at the 'Virtual' AGM which started at 1.45 PM.
There were 7 apologies.

The Chair gave the annual chair report.

The year had been a difficult one for pubs and breweries.

The NEC had been having regular monthly 'Virtual' meetings.

The planned May 'Woodfest' had to be cancelled along with other events.

Our usual representation at beer festivals was also cancelled.

There had been a big increase in membership, mainly from the Manchester area.

He welcomed the new Webmaster, Andrew Woodcock, to the NEC.

He thanked Patrick Deller, who is standing down as products manager, for his efforts and also Roger Jacobson, who has been editor of the 'Pint In Hand' magazine for about 40 years, who is standing down in a year's time.

He also extended condolences for two members; Roger Owen and Steve Waters, who he had been notified had passed away recently and those present raised a glass in their memory.

The Treasurer gave a short report saying that the Society had increased its profit for the year, mainly due to the increased number of new members and a considerable number of renewals.

The online shop for Society products was now up and running on the website, and new members and renewals are also using the website facility to join the Society.

There were 2 amendments to the constitution put to the AGM and passed: Adding the 'Wood Liaison' and 'Events Coordinator' positions to the NEC.

The second one was to alter the date for the AGM from the second week in March to a date in March, to be determined by the NEC, so that it does not clash with the 'Six Nations' rugby tournament.

This will usually be on a Saturday so that out of London members can attend and the usual crawl(s) can follow the AGM.

The election of NEC officers took place.

Apart from the Chair position for which there were two nominations, all existing officers apart from the Products Manager were re-elected, including the Honorary Auditor.

Jim Woodcock, our long-standing ex Treasurer, has taken over the Products position.

The vote for the Chair resulted in the incumbent being re-elected.

The meeting closed at 2.30 PM.

April Zoom Meeting

Malcolm Townend's **Zoom Meeting**: -
Time: **April 4th, 2021 12:30 PM**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78284981429?pwd=SzM4dWZxLy9DMWI4bTNXdHBENm5xZz09>

Meeting ID: [782 8498 1429](#)
Passcode: jZZ8fN

Malcolm Townend

Cross Keys, Siddal, Halifax Beer Festival

I've just seen information on t'interweb which says that the Cross Keys at Siddal is holding a Beer Festival on 13 to 15 August 2021.

There will be 18 beers in the garden and 6 more on the bar.

There are likely to be lots of things going on in August, I hope that this doesn't clash with anything else which is being planned.

Peter Phillips

Swan at Addingham

The landlady of the Swan in Addingham has spent lockdown creating a miniature version of the pub in the style of a dolls house.

The attention to detail is amazing, and it is well worth having a look online.

I found some good pictures on the Telegraph & Argus website.

Being used to working long hours, this gave her something to do whilst the pub is closed.

She already had a dolls house that needed decorating and was inspired to do something different with it.

Harrogate pubs opening April

The following pubs in Harrogate town centre have so far indicated their intention to open outside areas from 12th April.

Space is limited at many venues, so table booking is advised.

A few will accept walk-ins but may therefore fill quickly at busy times!

Best to check venues' websites or social media for opening hours, and either telephone ahead to book a table, or book online.

- Blues Café Bar – outside space on Montpellier Gardens
- Christies Bar, Kings Road – outside tables, partially covered
- Cold Bath Brewing, Kings Road – large south facing terrace
- Disappearing Chin – tables/chairs on Beulah street (opens 13th April, 4pm)
- Fat Badger – large terrace with heaters
- Harrogate Tap – tables/chairs in front of pub
- Major Tom's Social – tables/chairs on street, plus cask ale take-outs
- North Bar – wide pavement area with tables/chairs
- Starling Bar – newly opened enclosed yard at back of pub
- Three's A Crowd (formerly Muckles) – small yard at rear, and a few tables at front
- Winter Gardens (Wetherspoons) – large patio area, partially covered, walk-ins only

Additionally, the two brewery taprooms are opening: -

- Harrogate Brewing, Hookstone Chase – covered area with heaters, opens Monday 12th April 4-9pm then Thursday to Sunday thereafter
- Rooster's Brewing, Hornbeam Park – garden with bench seating at back of brewery, open seven days a week

Roland Wadden

Nomadic Brewery, Sheepscar, Leeds

The effects of Covid 19 which resulted in the beer being poured down the drain

From LeedsLive website

A Leeds brewery has released footage of staff pouring beer down the drain in a desperate bid for help.

Nomadic Beers joined a number of independent breweries in this week's social media protest as brewers hit out at the lack of support from the government throughout what has been a 'devastating' year.

In Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, support has been given to small breweries in the form of £30,000 grants to keep them afloat through the current crisis.

However, no such funds have been allocated to breweries in England, leaving thousands of businesses struggling.

On Tuesday independent breweries staged a demonstration with the hashtag #BrewersDownTheDrain, pleading for grants to be awarded to small breweries.

Around 80 per cent of the beer made by small producers, like Nomadic Beers at Sheepscar, Leeds, is sold in pubs.

Katie Marriott, from Nomadic Beers, said they have had no financial help since March last year.

Speaking to **LeedsLive**, Katie said: "The protest is calling on the government to help save local breweries by introducing a Brewers Support Fund, similar to what's been seen in Scotland, which provides direct grants of up to £30,000 per small brewery.

We have received nothing.

So many breweries across the country have struggled throughout the past 12 months, it has been devastating.

"Our wholesale contracts send back what they have not sold.

We had to refund it and pour it down the drain. So that's what we'll do."

The Sheepscar brewery supplies beer to pubs in Leeds, other parts of West Yorkshire, Manchester and Newcastle.

This makes up 99 per cent of the brewery's business, Katie told **LeedsLive**.

The brewery would usually produce two brews a week - last summer after the first lockdown was lifted, it became two a month.

There has not been a brew since November.

Now they're preparing for their first of 2021 on Friday, with pubs set to open on 12th April.

Katie said: "When pubs closed last March, we basically lost all of our business.

"We have to furlough staff, write a new business plan within hours so we could continue trading, and surviving.

"Last year staff did come back from furlough for a month before we had to close again.

"We're desperate to re-open once again, small businesses like ourselves cannot continue to operate this way.

"The lack of funding has been devastating, and we're lucky that we've got through it."