



A & W CAMRA Calling

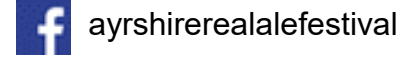
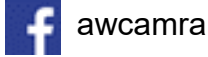


Issue 26 August 2019

Branch Web Sites/Social Media

www.awcamra.org.uk

www.ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk



Welcome

The main purpose of this edition of our members' newsletter is to make you aware of our annual flagship event, the Ayrshire Real Ale Festival in Troon, and to encourage you to volunteer to assist with staffing that event.

Lindsay Grant
Branch Chairman.

Branch Diary

15th Aug	North Ayrshire Social	Paddle Steamer, Largs; 8pm
17th Aug	Golden Ales Mini-festival	Village Inn, Fairlie; 1pm-10.30pm
24th Aug	Kinloch Hotel Festival (independent)	Blackwaterfoot
24th Aug	SNIB Meeting	MacGregor's Bar, Inverness; 1pm
24th Aug	Wigtownshire Social	Sulwath Brewery Beer Fest
28th Aug	East Ayrshire Social	Brass & Granite, Kilmarnock; 7:30pm
31st Aug	Beer Garden of the Year Presentation	McKays, Troon, 2pm
31st Aug	Beith Festival (independent)	Geilsland House, Beith; 1pm-9pm
2nd Sep	Committee Mtg	Wheatsheaf, Kilmarnock; 8pm
9th Sep	Beer Festival Planning Mtg	Merito, Dunlop; 8pm
14th Sep	Wigtownshire Social	Stranraer Oyster Festival
19th Sep	North Ayrshire Social	Village Inn, Fairlie; 8pm
25th Sep	East Ayrshire Social & Branch Mtg	Wheatsheaf, Kilmarnock; 7:30pm
1st/2nd Oct	Ayrshire Real Ale Festival Set Up	Concert/Walker Halls, Troon
3rd-5th Oct	Ayrshire Real Ale Festival	Concert/Walker Halls, Troon
6th/7th Oct	Ayrshire Real Ale Festival Take Down	Concert/Walker Halls, Troon
29th Oct	East Ayrshire Social	Mill House, Stewarton; 7:30
11th Nov	Beer Fest Wash Up Meeting	Abbotsford Hotel, Ayr; 8pm
27th Nov	East Ayrshire Social	First Edition, Kilmarnock; 7:30pm

20th Ayrshire Real Ale Festival

This year's Festival will run from 3rd-5th October in the usual venue of Troon Concert Hall with a second bar in the Walker Hall. Set-up is on 1st/2nd October with the main take-down on 6th October. This year we plan to have 150+ beers and the usual range of ciders and perries.

Whilst, of course, you are encouraged to come along and enjoy the festival as a customer (note the CAMRA members' preview session 12 noon to 2pm on the Thursday) we also need large numbers of you to volunteer to staff the event. Almost without exception members who work at beer festivals find it an enjoyable and rewarding experience and "new blood" is always welcome. Several of us who initiated the festival, 20 years ago, are no longer in our "prime" and so any assistance at all from younger members, particularly during set-up, would be welcomed. However, all offers of help, from young or old and for any time during the festival period, will be greatly appreciated. A volunteer staffing form is available from either of the branch websites listed above or you can complete one online via the festival website.

Additional information can be found on the next page.

20th Ayrshire Real Ale Festival Further Details

- We struggled to have sufficient staff last year at certain times, particularly during the later evening sessions. Members are encouraged to volunteer for at least some of these problematic times.
- We will arrange transport home (subject to logistics) for staff who volunteer to work for a minimum of 5 hours in any one day. This must include the 3 hours from 9 p.m. until close. However, this must be booked in advance by indicating your requirements on the volunteer staffing form.
- Although we appreciate all offers of help, the most valued staff are those who tick the “ANY” box when choosing which jobs they would prefer to do. As an incentive to choose this option, such staff will receive an additional 2 beer tokens, each day they volunteer, over and above their normal allocation, i.e. a pint on us!
- Again, this year stewarding and first aid cover will be provided by CAMRA’s Scottish Stewarding Team with a “top up” from festival volunteers. We will try not to assign such volunteers stewarding duties for longer than 2 hours in any day.
- Details of how to submit your form can be found on the form itself. Alternatively, you can apply online at www.ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk
- General enquiries should be addressed to Douglas Graham at festival@awcamra.org.uk and staffing enquiries to Lindsay Grant (07734 063712) staffing@ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk
- This year’s staff day out will again be to CAMRA Forth Valley Branch’s Octoberfest in Alloa Town Hall on Saturday 26th October.

Cask Sponsorship

Would you, or a business you know, like to sponsor a cask at the 20th Ayrshire Real Ale Festival?

Our major sponsors are a vital part of allowing us to put together our annual beer festival. However, we also offer the more affordable “cask sponsor” packages and these have proved an ideal arrangement to allow local businesses, individuals and groups to show their support.

You, as a branch member, or any business that you consider might be interested, are invited to support the event by sponsoring a cask of real ale in exchange for the following package:

- **Your organisation’s details displayed on the cask end label of the beer of your choice.**
- **Details of all sponsors will be displayed prominently on posters around the venue.**
- **A listing in the Festival Programme, which is issued free to all visitors on admission.**
- **Complimentary entry tickets (including festival glasses) for 2 persons.**
- **Beer tokens to the value of 4 pints.**

The cost is £70 and you should e-mail our Sponsorship Manager Bob Wallace at bobwallace.1869@yahoo.co.uk indicating that you would like to sponsor a cask. As soon as our beer list has been finalised he will then contact you to nominate the beer of your choice. Please note, if you were previously a cask sponsor you will already be on Bob’s contact list.

Branch Social Groups

These Groups, catering for the different geographical areas of the Branch, meet on a (roughly) monthly basis. The focus is very much on the social aspect of CAMRA with “official” campaigning business only being dealt with very occasionally. Further information can be obtained from the appropriate Group Organiser:

East Ayrshire Matt Miller east-ayrshire@awcamra.org.uk

North Ayrshire Ian Middleditch vicechair1@awcamra.org.uk

South Ayrshire Post vacant, interim contact Lindsay Grant chair@awcamra.org.uk

Wigtownshire Malcolm McNeill wigtownshire@awcamra.org.uk

Fairlie Golden Ales Mini-festival

As part of CAMRA’s Summer of Pub initiative, we are holding a mini-festival, featuring 8 golden ales, on Saturday 14th August. The venue will be the Village Inn, Fairlie and the opening times will be 1pm to 10.30pm. This is the first time we have tried such a small scale festival and your support would be much valued to make it a success.

Beer Garden of the Year

Again as part of CAMRA’s Summer of Pub initiative, we asked members to nominate the pub featuring their favourite beer garden. The pub which received the most nominations was McKays in Troon. The presentation will be on Saturday 31st August at 2pm. All are welcome, indeed encouraged, to attend. Hopefully the weather will be fair enough to allow us to actually have the presentation in the garden.