



UK GREAT NORTHERN SECTION

Minutes of the 24th AGM of the UK Great Northern Section of the Chartered Institute of Brewers & Distillers held on 3rd April 2025 at The Old Fire Station, Salford University. Start 18.30

1. Apologies: Simon Knox, Rob Percival, Adam Darnes, Jeff Collins and Peter Riddell.

Member attendees: Margaret Holland, Iain Kenny, Alan Cawkill, Jayne Hewitt, Graeme Hall, Ian Bearpark, Marilyn Seedhouse, Derek Leatham, Ian Burn, Beth Eaton, Bob Flear, David Smith, Paddy Johnson, James Ford, Tom Edgley, Lydia Cummins (16+ 3 guests).

2. Minutes of 2024 AGM: It was agreed that the Minutes of 2024 meeting were an accurate record. The last minutes were signed by Iain Kenny
Proposed by Margaret Holland
Seconded by Ian Bearpark

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence: The Secretary gave the following summary:

Over the last year or so since our last AGM the role of the secretary continues to be important to the success of CIBD membership at grass roots level. The CIBD staff seem to now be focussing more on what events sections can run and recognise the importance of these events to our members and their place in encouraging new ones. As membership numbers continue to fall across most sections, we all face the challenges of how to turn this around and we all have our part to play.

As ever the section relies on it's contacts and offers of support from local brewers, distillers and others to host our events. It seems to be coming more challenging as time goes on as people's time and the cost of events take their toll. I hope you enjoy the selection of events we host but always encourage feedback as well as input into future events.

The CIBD HQ are very supportive of the secretary role, and we continue to have monthly meetings with staff. Alice from marketing is great at turning a few words into a living and breathing event which are then shared not just with members but to all those who follow the CIBD on social media platforms. These have become part of our lives now and very much instrumental in the way forward.

If I can share a few statistics with you to demonstrate their reach; CIBD LinkedIn has 29,000 members, Facebook 5,000 followers. So plenty of people know about us, we just need to keep encouraging engagement whether it is attending events, taking exams or short courses. If you don't already, please do follow the CIBD on these platforms and share with colleagues.

Finally, a few words of thanks from me. To Iain for his time as our chair, showing great leadership and a steady hand even through a period of ill health, and to Ian for keeping a tight rein on the purse strings and helping organise events such as the Liverpool dinner.

5. Chairman's Report

2024/25 has been a year of transition for the CIBD. Much of the effort from head office has been focussed on achieving Chartership and the changes this has dictated around marketing, structure of finances and the team as well of tackling the new requirements of CPD.

Many of the exams are or have undergone revision and there is a greater effort expanding the educational offer around short courses. The biggest challenge at the moment is around membership and growth of our ranks worldwide. To combat this the CIBD has a members group and my thanks go to Mike Benson for representing our section on this committee and the past few months there has been renewed efforts to update the committee of our section and also look at how we can reach out and engage our members more with mentoring and initiatives to encourage greater attendance for events.

In the past few months one of my key battles I have taken up with head office has been clarification of the roles of office bearers across the sections, claimable expenses and tools and resources available to sections to help reach out to more members and encourage new members to. This becomes even more important in the light of the amalgamation of the accounts of each section. Personally, I have really loved being a part of the council of the CIBD and loved working with fellow section chairs and I do believe the future is bright for our organisation.

The biggest strength of the GNS is the fabulous and varied programme of events which offers amazing learning and networking opportunities. Highlights have included pre SIBA Beer X social, Biotransformation webinar, Carbon literacy workshops, Walking tour, tour of Hip Pop and Balance Brewing, our annual dinner in Liverpool featuring beers from the mature members brew days and younger members brew days and also thanks to the team from Salford University for today.

There is a fabulous programme planned for the coming year starting this month with our joint event with the midland section 24th April at Welbeck Abbey and Dropworks Distillery and we have been supporting and stand ready to support the up-and-coming Sustainability in Brewing Conference coming in early July in Nottingham,

None of this would be possible without the committee who give up their time free of charge to organise the programme. It is an honour to be part of a group of people who really care about helping brewers and distillers across our region who promote our producers with great pride.

I would like to take the chance to thank everyone on the committee for their efforts in the past year without the committee there would not be a section.

Special thanks on record go to Jayne Hewitt as secretary I owe a great debt for keeping me on track in the past year. Ian Bearpark has shown great patience and tenacity to keep track of the section finance whilst nursing through the finance changes. Also, a big thanks to Tom Edgley for his efforts with the younger members group.

As I step down, I would like to thank my employer Murphy and Son for supporting me over the past 2 years and I look forward to supporting the section for many years to come as we help our regions brewers and distillers in the challenges of the future. I believe with the team we have the section will go from strength to strength.

6. Treasurer's Report: Ian Bearpark provided the following summary.

The main event of the year was the final transfer of all section accounts into the central HQ bank account and finance system XERO. The reason for the consolidation was the award of Chartered status and the requirements for more transparent and rigorous audit procedures. Previously suppliers were paid directly from our bank account but now they are entered on the XERO system and submitted to HQ for approval who carry out bank checks and usually pay within 2 weeks so suppliers are not disadvantaged. Invoices are raised as before but now coded to us on the main system.

Lat year's dinner was a big learning curve for coding correctly (almost 100% correct) to our section within the main IBD account and the facility to make a credit card payments via a link on the new invoices worked well and was very popular

In July, £13,183.94 was transferred from our old bank account in Mold (now closed) and at the end of December 2024 at the transfer from IBD to CIBD, the balance stood at £14, 275 21. The balance at the end of February was £9602.41 and that confusingly allows for the future 2 payments for this year's dinner which is an accounting technique rather than actual cash. Incidental section expenses: event buffets/drinks etc. are paid using a business PLEO debit card which tracks through to the Xero system

We were asked to hold a reserve of around £5000 and produce a budget for the year which was done and is broadly cash neutral to allow for section expenses and everyday business. At some point this year, there is to be a proposed Treasurers get together to pull together common procedures for operation. One outstanding item for us is how to allow for our raffle surplus cash which will need HQ advice

Andrea at HQ has been very helpful through the process and does a lot of the work to keep things on track so if in a couple of years, anyone wants to take on the Treasurer's job, it is actually easier than it was.

7. Election of Officers for 2025-26. Section rules require that we hold an annual election for Chairman and Officers. **IK proposes Beth Eaton as the next Chair of the CIBD Great Northern Section.**

Proposed: Graeme Hall

Seconded: Margaret Holland

IK handed over his chairman's medal to Beth who thanked Iain for his service and took over the remainder of meeting.

BE would like to propose Tom Edgley as vice-chair to support her in her role. This was accepted by Tom and unopposed.

BE stated that Jayne has indicated she is happy to continue in her role and ask for someone to propose and second.

Secretary: Jayne Hewitt

Proposed: Iain Kenny

Seconded: Marilyn Seedhouse

BE stated that Ian Bearpark is happy to continue in his role and ask for someone to propose and second.

Treasurer: Ian Bearpark

Proposed: Iain Kenny

Seconded: Graeme Hall

8. Election of committee new committee members.

BE: Alistair Dickson and Wim van der Spek have both stepped back from the committee. Please join me to thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment during their time on the Committee, in particular Alistair who joined the North-West committee in 1993 and has served it well ever since.

BE to ask the members attending by show of hands to accept the re-election the remaining committee of:

Margaret Holland, David Smith, Graeme Hall, Marilyn Seedhouse, Alan Cawkhill, Mike Benson, Tom Evans, Thomas Edgley, Iain Kenny and Rob Percival.

9. Council Representative: **BE** to ask for support, that with in the bylaws of the CIBD either the Chair or a nominated alternative represent the section at Council meetings.

Proposed: Margaret Holland
Seconded: Tom Evans

AOB- **BE** to ask the attendees for any AOB.
None were noted.

BE then outline plans for future events:

- **Thursday 24th April joint event with the Midland section at Welbeck Abbey visiting a brewery and rum distillery on site.**
- **Weds May 14th Cooper King distillery near York 4pm start**
- **Thursday June 5th Seniors lunch in Mytholmroyd (but all welcome and great opportunity for younger members too)**
- **Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd June walking around Middleton Gt Manchester, with a visit on Saturday evening to JW Lees brewery. You can join with all or some of the weekend.**
- **Dinner at Cedar Court hotel Harrogate 17th October, with a possible brew day at Roosters on 18th September confirmed, and a potential East vs West brew day at a brewery in Lancashire, yet to be confirmed.**

All of these events can be found on the CIBD website. Please make sure you are signed up to receive emails and follow the CIBD on Facebook, LinkedIn and X!

Date of next AGM: TBC

Meeting closed at 7.00pm

Signed:

Chairman Date

Secretary