

# A&W CAMRA Calling February 2025

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## Branch Events in February

### **Saturday, 1 February Scottish Branches Meeting**

**Tennent's, 191 Byres Rd, Glasgow, G12 8TN; 13:30**

Quarterly business meeting to which anyone interested is encouraged to attend. The agenda will include the election of a Scottish Director (Stuart McMahon is the only nomination) and will be preceded by the presentation of the 50th Pub Trail awards.

### **Monday, 3 February Ayrshire Real Ale Festival (ARAF) Planning Meeting**

**Wheatsheaf Inn, 70 Portland St, Kilmarnock, KA1 1JG; 20:00**

Planning starts for our branch's flagship event, ARAF, scheduled for Troon's Concert and Walker Halls 2 -4 October. All those interested are encouraged to attend; in particular, any "new blood" will be most welcome.

### **Saturday, 15 February 2- Pub Social in Kilmarnock**

**Wheatsheaf Inn, 70 Portland St, KA1 1JG; 14:00 / First Edition, 50 Bank St, KA1 1HA; 15:30**

Our bimonthly 2-pub socials continue. All are encouraged to come along.

### **Tuesday, 18 February South Ayrshire Social**

**Number Forty-Seven, 47 Templehill, Troon, KA10 6BQ; 14:00**

Primarily targeted at members residing in South Ayrshire, but those from other areas of the branch will be made equally welcome.

### **Thursday, 20th February North Ayrshire Social**

**Salt Cot, 7 Hamilton St, Saltcoats, KA21 5DT; 19:30**

Again, primarily targeted at members residing in North Ayrshire, but those from other areas of the branch will be made equally welcome.

### **Monday, 24 February Good Beer Guide (GBG) Selection and Committee Meeting**

**Wheatsheaf Inn, 70 Portland St, Kilmarnock, KA1 1JG; 20:00**

That time of year again when we decide which pubs should be included in the next edition of the GBG. This is a members' only meeting to which all are encouraged to attend. This will be followed by a branch committee meeting.

### **Wednesday, 26 February East Ayrshire Social**

**Mill House, 4 Dean St, Stewarton, KA3 5EQ; 14:30**

Again, primarily targeted at members residing in East Ayrshire, but those from other areas of the branch will be made equally welcome.

## Good Beer Guide (GBG) Selection

All pubs in our branch area are currently being surveyed to confirm their details. Those to be included in the 2026 edition of the GBG will be decided upon at a meeting scheduled for the Wheatsheaf Inn, Kilmarnock on 24th February commencing at 20:00.. The main criterion for entry is beer scores, submitted throughout the year, but other issues are discussed at the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

## Full Pints Spring Edition

The copy deadline for the next edition of our award-winning magazine, Full Pints, is Friday, 14 February. The Editor, Stuart McMahon [fullpints@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:fullpints@awcamra.org.uk) would welcome any contributions. The online version will be available shortly after that with hard copies appearing in pubs from 28 February onwards.

## Branch AGM

This is advance notice that the Branch AGM will be held in the Reception Room of Troon's Walker Hall on Saturday, 22nd March with a 14:00 start. This will be followed by a crawl of Troon's 3 real ale pubs.

## Branch Campaigning Targets

At the AGM, we set three campaigning targets for the coming year. The targets for 2024-25 are

1. Investigate ways to encourage publicans to support CAMRA and continue selling real ale.
2. Encourage younger members to become more active.
3. Raise the branch profile within the local media.

We would welcome suggestions for targets for 2025-26. Suggestions to Andy Middleditch, [campaigns@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@awcamra.org.uk), preferably by the date of the next committee meeting on 24 February.

## 50 Years of CAMRA in Scotland Pub Trail Awards

Those branch members achieving Awards were:

Bronze (visit 50 real ale pubs) - Mick Lee and Ken Middleditch.

Silver (visit 50 Scottish GBG pubs) – Ian Middleditch.

Gold (visit 50 Scottish GBG pubs from 10 GBG areas) – Eric Johns.

Platinum (visit 50 Scottish GBG pubs, 5 from each of 10 GBG areas) – George Bryden, Lindsay Grant, Stuart McMahon, Graeme Perry, Ray Turpie.

Overall, 5 “trailers” achieved the Silver Award, 3 achieved Gold and 20 achieved Platinum. First to complete Platinum was Ron Elder (EDN), followed by George Bryden (AYR). Only 2, Mark Bethell and Pauline Paterson (DUM) reached the Northern Isles. A few extended their trail to avoid Wetherspoons and/or sample only Scottish beers. One trailer, Stuart McMahon, listed all the pubs he visited during 2024, 205 in total.

229 pubs were visited, the most popular being the Pot Still, Glasgow with 19 visits, followed by the Castle Tavern, Inverness with 18 and the Salmon Inn, Galashiels with 17.

399 different beers were sampled. The most popular was Fyne Jarl (sampled 78 times), followed by Timothy Taylor Landlord (48) and Cromarty Happy Chappy (37). Commonest brewery was Fyne with 123 sampled (probably due to the “Jarl effect”), followed by Orkney with 105 and Stewart with 95.

## Domain Name Change

The contract for our current domain name [awcamra.org.uk](http://awcamra.org.uk), for our website and branch officers' emails, expires soon and we are taking that opportunity to migrate to CAMRA's server, mainly because it is free! The new domain name will be [ayr.camra.org.uk](http://ayr.camra.org.uk). You will be notified when the change takes place.

## **Full Pints Advertising**

The viability of our multi award-winning magazine Full Pints is dependant in advertising income covering production and distribution costs. To this end, we are always on the lookout for new advertisers. If you are aware of any business, doesn't have to be real ale related, who might like to advertise in our magazine, please supply details to our Advertising Manager, Janis Wood, [advertising@awcamra.org.uk](mailto:advertising@awcamra.org.uk)

## **Branch Code of Conduct**

This applies to all events.

Our wish is for everyone to enjoy themselves and have fun on our trips and events. However please remember that organisers have only volunteered to arrange times and/or travel arrangements and to provide information about the venue(s). CAMRA promotes responsible drinking and so excessive drinking will not be tolerated on CAMRA outings. Members should not behave in any manner that may bring the Campaign into disrepute. Any member doing so may be barred from future events. You are responsible for your own safety and wellbeing. If you have an existing medical condition that requires support, you must bring your own backup/carer with you.