

SPBW NI MEMBERSHIP LIST PROBLEM

For some years now the National Membership Secretary has not been fully recording branch member details.

As such it has been extremely difficult to keep in touch with members when the list is not being updated, nor being sent to the branch for internal use. However, after repeated official complaints I now have what I believe to be a fully valid SPBWNI branch listing.

The big problem was that when the branch, which was initially formed in 1994, was let lapse by the then Chairman in 1998, membership became national - that is, paid direct to the NEC National Membership Secretary hence no local branch record of membership.

I had been asked to consider restarting the NI branch in 2004, which I duly did. With family ill health I could only keep it ticking over so national membership was a great help at that time. Especially as it was hard to get active members who would volunteer to join a Committee.

The NEC Chairman has said that we are the only branch working like this, that membership subs are normally collected locally within the branch. Such money is then used to purchase Pint in Hand magazine which is distributed by the branch direct to its members rather than posted out by the Editor.

I now produce SPBWNI specific membership forms and these use my address as the contact point for new members to send money. At this stage it is still passed on to the NEC, so the member is still "national".

If I am to bring the branch into line with others then the branch will require a Membership Secretary and a Treasurer. We would need to hold an AGM to make sure it is all official and recorded.

I would ask you all to consider giving a bit of your time to helping out in the branch. The work itself (as single posts) is not strenuous but too much for one person. Please contact me for further details.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER

BRANCH AGM - SUNDAY 29th MARCH: 2.00PM
THE BRIDGE HOUSE, BELFAST
RSVP TO CONFIRM YOU WILL BE THERE



S.P.B.W. N.I. BRANCH

AN OCCASIONAL MAILOUT

FEB: 2015



SPBWNI POTY 2013/14

This year it goes to:
THE OLD COURTHOUSE
Coleraine

This is an annual award, run by the SPBWNI branch, which goes to the public premise serving the best cask ale during the year.

During 2014 notice was sent to branch members to recommend a premise for the award. The branch have organised several successful day trips to The Old Courthouse for lunch and a selection of ales. The refurbishment of the building has been tasteful, the staff have always been good to the SPBWNI who have always enjoyed their experience. *Visit & Presentation details on inside page.*



SPBWNI PRODUCTS

Don't forget, you can always purchase our own SPBW NI products locally:
Insignia Embroidery & Printing
23 Bruce Street, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT2 7JD
028 9023 5115

T-shirts (printed) - £10:
Rugby style (embroidered) - £25: Sweatshirt (embroidered) - £18
Alternatively, bring along your own clothing and pay for the stitching/printing.

<http://spbwni.co.uk/products.html>

The branch has opened up a twitter page - this has been gaining quite a few followers and has been of value with publicising the branch and its endeavours. If you are on Twitter make sure you "follow", but especially, please tweet to us!



<https://twitter.com/SPBWNI>



GREAT NEWS!

We are now at 18 members. However, we do need more members as it is important to be active and for the public and licensed trade to be aware that we are still supporting good cask ales.

MAILOUTS:

This is another of the occasional postal mailouts to members (as well as email) to make sure all members get a view of what is happening. I know a couple of members do not have email and thus would seem to be a bit isolated otherwise.

For those who do not have email, if you would like notification by mobile text please get in touch with me - initially by TEXT please - at 07791762823. I can then keep you up to date about any forthcoming events or meetings. Or write to me at

Mark Hutchinson
1 Hollymount
Finaghy
Belfast
BT10 0GL

INFORMATION:

SPBW NI information can be found as follows:

- On the SPBW Forum - www.spbw.com/bb/ - in the branches section - please logon!
- On the website - spbwni.co.uk
- On Twitter - #spbwni - get Tweeting now!
- In Pint in Hand magazine (quarterly).

MEMBERSHIP:

We really do need to increase our membership more. With extra members to attend events we can look towards achieving the goal of having beers from a wooden barrel served in the province. So, please, make an effort to recruit some new members. Membership forms are available online - or just contact me.

BENEFITS:

Members using their SPBWNI card can get 5-10% off certain items like food & cask ale and home brew supplies & kit from participating premises.

PLUS! A one time offer of a £10 voucher from the Horatio Group for food/drink in any of their establishments. All offers are listed on the website, or contact me for more information.

HELP & ASSISTANCE:

People join the SPBW for their own reasons. I would hope that it is both social and some campaigning. I do a lot of the background housework & campaigning and this takes up a lot of my time. I am hoping that there would be some people who would have the time to volunteer to assist me in some of the work.

It is all very simple: leave membership forms into pubs and off-licences, talk to people, Tweet, generally spread the word.

PLEASE HELP!

COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

N.B.

All events are shown on: <http://www.http://spbwni.co.uk/events.html>

FEBRUARY EVENTS

TUESDAY, 3rd:

SPBWNI POTY PRESENTATION

The Old Courthouse, Coleraine.

Meet at Europa train station at 10am. Train leaves at 10:10 and arrives in Coleraine at 11:40, then a short walk to the Old Courthouse for lunch and ales.

The POTY presentation will be from 1:30.

Return trains: 15:19 - 16:53: 16:19 - 17:53: 17:19 - 18:53: 18:19 - 19:53 and later.

FRIDAY, 13th:

UNLUCKY MEMBERS NIGHT?

Members meet at the JDW Bridge Bar from 7pm for general chat.

WEDNESDAY, 25th:

JDW's THE THREE TUNS TAVERN VISIT

1-5 Temple Road, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock

Meet at the Europa Bus Station by 08:50

X2 bus: 09:00 - 11:13

Dublin/Connolly: DART train approx every 15 minutes & 15 min trip.

Return bus: 17:00 - 19:25: 18:00 - 20:25 and later.

DATES NOT SUIT? TELL ME DAYS/TIMES WHEN YOU CAN ATTEND.

MARCH EVENTS

SATURDAY, 7th:

BELFAST PUB CRAWL

Meet at John Hewitt, 12:30.

If anyone wants to meet later than text the Chairman on the day to find out where we are.

FRIDAY, 13th:

UNLUCKY MEMBERS NIGHT? (part two)

Members meet at the JDW Bridge Bar from 7pm for general chat.

SUNDAY, 28th:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Bridge Bar, Belfast, 2pm start.

It is very important that members make an effort to be here, on time, to discuss the future of the branch and to participate in decisions. Confirm in advance so I have some notice to get things organised.

If you only attend one event please, make it this one.

If members have ideas or requests do get in touch via EMAIL please.