

Woking pubs and clubs sweep up all local CAMRA Awards for 2022



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Surrey Hampshire Borders Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, has announced the winners of the 2022 awards and despite the Branch's large area stretching across west Surrey north Hampshire, all the winners are in Woking.

The Branch Pub of the Year is Crown, Horsell with the runner up being Horse & Groom, Chobham. The winner of the Branch Club of the Year award is the Woking Railway Club. A presentation of the awards to the Crown and Horse & Groom will take place at the Crown **at 8pm on Thursday 7th July.**

This is the second time the Crown has won the top award, following success in 2019, when it also went on to scoop CAMRA's County and Regional awards, becoming one of the top 16 pubs in the country. Whilst the Crown is no stranger to CAMRA awards, it is a first time for the Horse & Groom, a former hairdressers that is the Branch's first micropub. The pub only opened in July 2020, having been delayed by the pandemic, but soon found a loyal following drawn by the three real ales, local traditional still cider and a range of wines and spirits including their own Lockdown Gin and Bear It.

Ian Johnson Chairman of Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA said, "With over 200 pubs to choose from, it has not been an easy task to pick a winner, but the Crown is a worthy winner and it's great to see the Horse & Groom pushing them all the way. The award isn't just about the excellent range of beers sold at the Crown but also about their high quality as well as the warm and friendly atmosphere at the pub. At a time when pubs are struggling to survive it's great to see pubs doing so well by concentrating on simple things such as great beer and supporting their local community."

Landlady, Antoinette Harvey and partner John Mintram said, "We are absolutely delighted to be awarded CAMRA's accolade in 2022 for the second time. Serving well-kept real ales and retaining a traditional pub atmosphere are our priorities and it is very encouraging that these aims are recognised. We would like to thank CAMRA members for their vote of confidence and for all their (unpaid) hard work. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Crown's brilliant bar team whom we value enormously and, of course, to our customers who keep coming back for more! We'll do our best to keep it that way."

As well as the pub award a presentation has been made to Woking Railway & Athletic Club, which scooped the Branch Club of the Year award for a remarkable 8th consecutive year. The club continues to serve a range of excellent beers and its future has recently been secured with a new club house to be provided as part of the Goldsworth Road development. **Club Secretary, Steve Laine said** "Our club caters for a wide variety of drinkers, but we are very enthusiastic about our beers. We like to drink good beer and would like others to join us. We have a varied range of beers, many of which are not available locally elsewhere."

Notes to Editors

Surrey Hants Borders is a branch of CAMRA covering an area encompassing Aldershot, Fleet, Farnborough, Camberley, Woking, Haslemere, Guildford, Farnham and Godalming

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