

Branch Chairman

The 'ideal' chairman must have knowledge of CAMRA's internal mechanism. Unlike many other organizations where the secretary would be in contact with headquarters, it is the branch chairman who has this responsibility, leaving most external business to the branch contact or other members of the committee.

The chairman will instigate anything on a national level that relates to his own branch, i.e. Mild Month, Week of Action or major campaigning policies. He will also make sure that relevant information from HQ goes to the correct committee member and that that member performs his or her duties correctly. The committee member should report back to the chairman that those deeds are being carried out. Major decisions by committee members should only be carried out after referring to the chairman.

The chairman should also be expected to chair his own branch and committee meetings, including the branch AGM. He should also be aware that local press and media will ask for his advice or opinion on various CAMRA-related subjects. On many occasions this can in turn be delegated to the relevant committee member (i.e. branch contact). However, it should be noted that, like the chairman, all members are volunteers, and a happy medium can be hopefully reached.

The chairman should also be at least seem (and in many cases heard!) at any major branch events, i.e. Pub of the Year presentations, new members nights, etc.

An 'ideal' chairman would also be a 'personality'. He should be able to spur the branch on in its 'darkest hour' but at the end of the day ideas and success should come from the branch, not the chair at all.

However, the chairman should be aware the higher one ascends the CAMRA ladder, the more you leave yourself open to criticism!