



BEEREX 2023 Q & A

Updated 1st July 2023

I am new to BEEREX. What can I expect?

It's a great occasion to attend with family, friends and colleagues or to catch up with fellow beer and cider lovers, the only proviso being entry is only available to those aged 18 or over.

The Farnham BEEREX, first established in 1977, is one of the longest running Beer Festivals and the longest to be held at the same venue, at the atmospheric Farnham Maltings, which was previously a brewery. Many who attend have done so for many years, some for every year and others only recently or for the first time.

After entering you will be provided with a complimentary polycarbonate glass and programme which will detail all of the beers and ciders available. They can be purchased using tokens which can be purchased contactless or with cash although contactless is preferred, prior to entering the halls where the beers are all displayed. The tokens can be used to purchase either a pint (new in 2023) or half pint or a 1/3rd pint (again new in 2023).

Live music will be played at each session and a great range of food will be available for purchase from the Maltings catering team.

Is it only Beer?

There will be a diverse range of around 60 Real Ales carefully selected by the Chairman of the Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA branch with inputs from committee members, around 30 Ciders and a new CRAFT BAR offering another additional range of beers of beers, some quality pilsner style lagers and for the drivers amongst you, a some low alcohol beers in cans.

Which session should I attend?

If you like the buzz of a busy festival then Friday evening or one the Saturday sessions would probably suit you best but don't delay as there are only a few tickets left for Saturday night and the other two sessions are sold out. We lower the capacity on Thursday evening and Friday afternoon to afford a more leisurely pace for those that prefer it. Seating and quieter spaces are available at all sessions upstairs away from the bars where jugs are available as well to avoid too many trips to the bar.

You can get a flavour of the 2024 BEEREX by downloading the 2023 beer and cider lists from our website.

What are the opening times at BEEREX?

The opening times for each session are as follows:

Thursday 18th April : 6.00pm – 11.00pm

Friday 19th April : 11.00am – 3.00pm and 6.00pm – 11.00pm

Saturday 20th April : 11.00am – 3.00pm and 6.00pm – 11.00pm

Please note that both lunchtime sessions open early at around 10.45am to allow customers to get in, purchase their beer tokens and be ready to place first orders at 11.00am. We do not serve before 11.00am

How can I buy tickets for BEEREX?

Please visit www.farnhambeerex.org.uk and follow the instructions. Ticket sales will open in December 2023.

You can purchase by using most credit cards on PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account – just look for, and select, the button on PayPal to purchase without setting up an account.

Within seconds of you placing your order you will receive an email confirmation containing a pdf attachment with your tickets – each ticket has a unique QR code. Each ticket that you have purchased is specific to an individual session. If you're purchasing tickets for somebody who will not be with you when you attend then you need to send them that ticket .

If you have not received the confirmation and QR codes within a few minutes then please check your spam and junk folders and if still not found then please email your contact details including phone number to tickets@farnhambeerex.org.uk and we can resend them to you. On arrival at Beerex please show the individual QR codes on your mobile or as a paper copy. Please note admission will not be possible without your ticket or if that unique code has already been used.

What if Covid returns?

If the Government advice was not to proceed with events, then we would of course comply with that. In the event that it was a reduced capacity event then we would take the same actions that we did for 2019-22 to run a successful Covid Safe event, to provide a 'safe environment' not only in accordance with the Government public health guidelines and advice, CAMRA guidelines and the Farnham Maltings health and safety requirements but also those of the Farnham BEEREX organising committee.

We would in any event ask anyone with Covid when they were due to attend, not to attend the event, but to contact us for further information.

What will be the ticket price?

In 2018 we increased the entry price for the first time in over a decade. Since that time, through Covid and to today we like everybody else have experienced significant cost increases including beer prices, venue hire, scaffolding hire, security charges, insurance and more. Had we had the option to stay with glass it is questionable whether we could have found a supplier that manufactures in the UK or at an affordable price. At the time of writing no tankards were available from our suppliers.

Changing to a polycarbonate glass helped us to temper the scale of the cost increase in 2023 from £12.00 to £13.50 and to hold our current price with an early bird offer price of £12.00 through until midnight on January 31st 2023. No decision has yet been finalised for 2024 prices.

I collect BEEREX Beer glasses. Will I be able to order a special one this year?

Further to discussions with representatives at the Maltings and for the reasons as outlined above BEEREX will be as all other events at the Maltings - a glass free event. In 2023 each ticket purchaser was welcomed to retain their complimentary PG and to add it to their collection. We did our very best to make it special – and you will be able to drink a pint now if you wish! For 2024 we are looking at options to offer a special commemorative vessel so watch this space for details.

What are you doing to speed entry to Beerex if there is a queue?

Please help us to help you - have your ticket with the QR code ready either printed out, or on your phone with the brightness turned up to enable us to scan it quickly for you.

Why are you no longer using glass tankards?

The Farnham Maltings 'No Glass' policy along with the current total lack of availability of any glass tankard supply and our own desire to reduce waste led the Beerex Committee to review alternative options to glass that are already common place at beer festivals and other outdoor events.

The benefits of Polycarbonate Glasses are that they are safe to use, less expensive to produce, are readily available from UK manufacturers thus incurring less air miles and less transportation weight and unlike other plastics, when recycled, polycarbonate melts to a liquid form which can be shaped into a new object. Polycarbonate Glasses comply with the environmental maxim of Reduce – Reuse - Recycle.

Based on all of the above the decision was taken to move to a one pint vessel with options of a half pint or third pint thus offering more individual choice as well.

Can I bring my own glass?

No, The Farnham Maltings 'No Glass' policy forbids this. Please be aware that the following will also not be allowed and if found at security they will be placed in a locked amnesty bin and cannot be returned to you, so please if you don't want to lose it, don't bring it:

Knives,

Corkscrews,

Bottles or Glass in any form,

Food – unless to cater for a specific allergy (see below)

Alcohol,

Drugs of any form unless prescription.

Are Wines or Spirits available to purchase at Beerex?

No they are not. All of our tickets are sold on the basis of 'Beerex' being a Beer & Cider festival. The tickets for most sessions are usually sold out.

Our objective as the organisers of Beerex is to offer as wide a range of beers and ciders as possible throughout all five sessions over the three days whilst also minimising waste. In

2023 we increased the number of beers with the introduction of our craft bar including alcohol free beers, lagers and canned alternatives and fully utilised all the space available to us to do so, but even this meant that some beers were almost unavailable at the last session, and certainly sold out by 10pm. It's important to understand that if even 10% of the customers wished to drink other alcohol rather than cider and beer, we would have to significantly lower the choice of beers available which would be contrary to our objectives and the wishes of the vast majority of attendees.

As you are probably aware the provision of food from the BBQ and Kiosk areas is undertaken by the Maltings staff and the proceeds of which are retained by the Maltings. Our agreement exempts the sale of any alcohol from those areas as doing so would add unwanted complexity and congestion in those areas.

It would be wrong to say "never" but the plans for 2024 do not include the introduction of wines or spirits.

The ticket says you don't allow food to be brought into the event. I have special dietary / allergy requirements – will you cater for me at the event?

We can not guarantee to cater for every individuals specific dietary requirements, and will allow any attendee with special dietary requirements to bring in their own food.

What if I no longer want to attend, or have spare tickets?

All tickets are sold on a non-refundable basis. Reselling privately is of course your choice. You may like to post availability on the BEEREX Facebook page to connect with potential buyers.

Can I purchase more tickets?

Subject to availability, Yes.

If you have questions that have not been answered by this document, then please email your question to: enquiries@farnhambeerex.org.uk

Please continue to check the BEEREX website and Facebook page for updates.

Thanks, and we so look forward to seeing you in 2024.

We thank our 2023 BEEREX Sponsors who were:

