



The Midland Craft Brewers Association



Brewing crafted ales.....at home

Minutes of Midlands CBA Meeting held on 3rd July 2010 at Bunkers Hill, Nottingham

The meeting commenced at 12:45 and the following members were present.

Peter F, (chair) Ron & Margaret A, Paul T, Ray C, Greg P, Rick H, Martin R, Simon J, Steve R, Steve S Allan G, Dave & Tracy H, Steve H, James F, Gary & Lynda C. Also present was guest member Paul C and the chairman had received apologies from Alan Q and Guy H.

The usual introductions were made and a welcome given to our two new members and our guest member.

The Midlands Pale Ale competition was represented by eight beers from members and one beer from guest member Paul C. After tasting was completed the meeting broke up for lunch whilst the score sheets were collated and on return the results were announced as follows.

1st place went to Allan G whose beer scored 348 points followed by Paul C with 323 points and Greg P with 301. So congratulations to Allan whose winning beer will now go forward to the CBA Inter-Regional Competition at Skipton in September and represent our group.

Any member wishing to know their own beer scores and placing may contact Peter by email who will reply to the request on an individual basis.

The main item on the agenda was "Water Treatment" and Paul T who is now the laboratory manager at Murphy's gave a fascinating Power-Point presentation on the subject. In advance of the meeting, four members had provided data sheets with details of their water mineral / alkalinity content, so Paul was able to use these as examples of different water supplies and had worked out suitable treatment for each member. There were many questions during the presentation which were professionally answered and the group expressed their appreciation to Paul at the end of the discussion.

The next item was a handout on "Hot Weather Brewing" which contained a few ideas from Peter which may be helpful in maintaining quality when brewing in the sort of temperatures we have been experiencing recently. Attention was brought to the very useful article "Tips and tricks" which is available free to download from the Fermentis website. (www.fermentis.com then go to "Craft Brewing") This comprehensive guide contains much useful information on their range of dried

yeasts (Safale / Safbrew) and how to get the best performance from them and covers individual strain characteristics, correct pitching rates and advice on how to determine the attenuation rate.

Peter mentioned that the Midlands Branch Funds stand at £274.64 and are available should the need arise and in particular if required to assist in the expansion and maintenance of our own website. (Midland Craft Brewers)

Ron proposed another Xmas Social following last years successful event in Derby, and after considering Leicester a tour of some Black Country pubs was decided on. The chosen date is Saturday 27th November and full details will be circulated later.

Ron reminded members that this years Craft Brewing Festival will be held at Skipton on Saturday 18th September and there is still plenty of time for entries.

Any Other Business.

Allan reminded members that he has organised a visit to Marstons Brewery in Burton on Friday 6th August and places are still available. The cost is £6 which includes two pints of beer.

James talked briefly on plans to expand the Midlands website and proposed a hidden members section which could be accessed by user chosen passwords.

Martin mentioned the trial of East Anglian Homebrew Forums.

The meeting closed at 16:30.