



The Midland Craft Brewers Association



Brewing crafted ales.....at home

Minutes of the MCBA Meeting The Swan in the Rushes (Loughborough 14/1/12).

Attendees: RA, JF, PF, AG, SH, RC, DW, PS, SR, SJ, BG, JS, JT, DS, PC, RP, JC and AQ (+MA and CQ).

Apologies: MC, GC, JN, SS and GP

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Status of the CBA

It was decided that whatever changes were occurring within the CBA this was not the meeting to discuss this topic. There was much debate on the MCBA. The majority of the attendees and those on the MCBA "mailing list" were CBA members and most became aware of the MCBA through the CBA. It was agreed that the MCBA should not be a CBA "members only group", however, RA agreed to draft a brief paragraph on the MCBA and what it should or should not represent and the relationship between the CBA and MCBA. This would be circulated to all MCBA members for comment prior to it being incorporated on the home page on the website.

3. The Diary section of the Website has recently been updated with the facility to include information on future events in narrative form. This should help to give advance information on forthcoming events at a very early stage when all details have not been finalised.

4. RA had previously circulated AG's report on the Organisation of the MCBA, detailing the areas in which we do well and identifying where improvements could be made. It was agreed that AG should take on the role of Events Coordinator, with a view to organising various events on a regular basis. In particular, it was decided a brewery visit should be organised and attendees were asked to let AG know which brewery they would like to visit in 2012. AG agreed to ensure that any events held are spaced out as much as possible to maximise attendance.

5. Questionnaire on Instrumentation and Analysis.

AQ stated that to date there had been a total of 12 responses to the questionnaire with a number of interesting areas that were discussed. It was agreed that the folk that responded would be sent a copy of the summary (and some accompanying text) and if anyone else wanted a copy please ask. Some of the points discussed on the day were:

- The use of temperature strips for fermentors and their accuracy
- The use of refractometers and correction factors
- No one used a microscope
- Mash and brewhouse efficiency
- Majority were metric users

6. Clinic

No beers were entered for this section and as time goes by it appears that this section has become redundant. Either the prowess of the group for brewing has improved or our taste buds have deteriorated.

7. Tasting of Samples

Attendees were reminded of the need to restrict beers bought for sampling, to the agreed number of 8 per meeting. Please contact the Chairman of the day or RA prior to bringing a beer. Only small samples were available due to the excellent turnout.

Brewer	Type	ABV/SG	Components	Comments
PF	Bitter	3.7 %, 32 IBU	PM/Munich and caramalt. Galaxy and Challenger hops	Well balanced session bitter.
SR	Bitter	1042	PM. Challenger and Goldings "Summer Lightning" alike	Slight burnt flavour, hops over extracted due to boiler issues.
JC	Bitter	4.3%	PM and First Gold (homegrown), Nottingham yeast.	Well conditioned good balanced beer
JS	Bitter	5%	PM and 10% flaked wheat. Northern Brewer	Strong cloves and some TCP? Brewed with cider yeast.
SJ	Wheat	40 IBU, 4%	PM:wheat (1:1) Sorachi Ace hops	Lemon grass flavour and aroma, intriguing brew.
AQ	Bitter	4.7%, 44 IBU	"Kipling" alike	Balanced flavour not strong hop flavour/aroma
BG	Bitter	5%, 44 IBU	"Kipling" alike	Taste and aroma unlike previous sample, cloudy as no Protofloc but pleasant drink.
RA	Porter	4.3%	Various malts and rauchmalt (25%). Mauribrew 514	Smooth flavour and aroma. Smoked malt did
RC	Xmas Ale	1062 IBU51	Mild malt and variey of others, spices and molasses. Target and Fuggles	Strong banana aroma but rich "Xmas pudding" flavour
SH	Bitter	5.2%	PM/RB/FB N. Brewer Nottingham yeast	Good flavour and good end

8. Saltaire Brewery Competition 31st March 2012. The MCBA has been invited by the Northern Group to join them for a social/ IPA competition at the end of March. The competition requires a British style IPA to be brewed and a number of attendees indicated they were intending to enter. Anyone unable to attend but would like to enter should contact AG who has agreed to take the beers up for them. AG has asked the organiser to let him know about local camping sites and accommodation and these will be circulated as soon as available.

9. AOB

a) PF stated that the May meeting (5th) will be at the Alexandra in Derby (Ralf Edge) and will be an opportunity to try the IPA beers entered for the joint meeting with the Northern group. The topic will be “dry-hopping”.

b) PF stated that the funds for the MCBA were at £245.77 and no spend had occurred since the last meeting.

c) The Website team (AG and JF) agreed to examine ways in which the MCBA's presence on the Web could be made more visible

10. Next meeting.

This will be on the 10th of March 2012 at the Crown Inn in Nuneaton close to the railway station and hosted by DS. The subject for discussion will be conditioning.

The room, the buffet lunch, the beer and the staff at the Swan in the Rushes in Loughborough were all good.