

## **Notes of Midland Craft Brewers Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Venue: The Canal House, 48-52 Canal Street, Nottingham, NG1 7EH

Chair: Tim L

Attendees: Malc N, John C, Lorna W, Karl H, Simon J, Allan G, Steve R, Ray C, James F, Bill G, David S, Scott P, Sharon P, Jody E, Alan Q, Fraser A, Steve H, Tom A, Steve S, Peter F, Ian R-B, Nico T, Mike C, Andy R, Paul T

1. Tim L welcomed members, including several new faces. Bar manager, Wayne, gave a brief background on the history of the Canal House.
2. Dominic Driscoll from Thornbridge Brewery, gave a very informative and well targeted presentation on water treatment for the home brewer. Detailed information is contained on our Brewing Topics page.

Tim L gave a presentation describing the challenges of his brewing water trial. Again detailed information is contained on our Brewing Topics Page

3. Allan G had conducted a survey of any treatments members employ on the water they use. (see Brewing Topics Page).
4. During lunch, new members had an opportunity to introduce themselves and Alan G showed a sparge arm and a chiller that had been made at Steve H's fabrication day, and a solar pump used for wort transfer. Some bottle swapping also occurred.
5. A discussion on Mashing and Sparging was led by Allan G who had conducted a survey of members' normal practice. (see Brewing Topics page).
6. Tasting of ten members' beers as follows:
  - John C – “Mysterios Sierra Nevada Brew” OG 1052 IPA.
  - Bill G - American IPA, OG 1060. Single hopped with Apollo (most in last 10 minutes)
  - Karl H - American IPA style, OG 1.063 hopped with Centennial and Chinook, dry hopped with Centennial.
  - Andy R – Pale Ale
  - Ian R-B – English Imperial IPA 9% mainly hopped with Fuggles
  - Alan Q – 1043 Porter, full bodied with Irish ale yeast.
  - Scott P - Hawne Lane Porter 7.4%
  - Simon J - American Barley Wine 8.5% Cluster flavour and aroma hop.
  - Steve S – Smoked Russian Imperial Stout 10.5%

- Lorna W – Chilli Stout 1056 hopped with challenger.
7. Members were reminded of future events:
    - 12<sup>th</sup> April – Saltaire competition
    - 10<sup>th</sup> May - MCB Birmingham meeting (Craven Arms)
    - 7<sup>th</sup> June – Two Towers Brewery,
    - 6<sup>th</sup> July – MCB Burton Meeting
    - September – MCB Derby meeting
    - 13<sup>th</sup> September – CBA National Contest
    - October – Steve H construction workshop
    - 1<sup>st</sup> November – MCB/NCB Sheffield joint meeting
  8. Requests were also made for ideas for future trials or comparisons that could form the focus of future meetings.
  9. Peter F gave the Treasurer's report which advised that MCB have a current balance of £220.57. Peter also advised that Steve R, who is an accountant, will be auditing the accounts.
  10. The meeting ended with a proposal for the alternative hosting of the MCB website, which will shortly face the cost impact of not being able to share hosting costs with a number of James F's websites. Malc N, as the new MCB Web Manager, presented a proposal for alternative low-cost web hosting, and a suggested use of relevant advertising to further reduce costs. A very large majority of members supported the move on the basis that current MCB funding arrangements could not support the continuation of the current web hosting.