

Midlands Craft Brewers – July 5th 2014

Minutes of meeting held at Burton Upon Trent

Attendees

Alan Q, Allan G, James F, Jim S, Jody E, Karl H, Lorna W, Malc N, Mark O, Mike C, Mike N, Nick W, Peter F, Ray C, Steve H, Tim L, Vic and Steve R (Chairman)

Brewery Tour

The meeting commenced with a talk and brewery tour by Bruce Wilkinson (joint owner and head brewer). Bruce gave a talk on the history of the brewery and its use of grain, hops, brewing water (liquor) and yeast in the brewing process. One comment which Bruce made that particularly stands out, is that he encourages publicans to purchase smaller rather than larger barrels so beers, once served, are consumed within 3 days.

The group then split into 2 for a tour of the brewery. Bruce's tour was very interesting, thought provoking and he was very happy to answer any resulting questions.

Fermentation Techniques

Peter F delivered a talk comparing 4 beer fermentation systems and their advantages and drawbacks when used by home brewers. Peter produced a paper which is included under brewing topics on our website.

Practical Fermentation Temperature Control

This talk by Allan G was postponed to a future meeting due to lack of time.

Election of Officers

Allan G and Peter F were reconfirmed in the posts of Coordinator and Treasurer respectively for another 12 months. Malc N, has only recently taken over as webmaster so therefore will remain in post until next year, when all 3 posts will be offered for re-election.

Treasurers Report

Peter F reported that the current bank balance is £220.10.

Beer Tasting

The following 8 beers were sampled and were all considered to be of a good standard.

James F	Harvest Pale Ale
Peter F	3.8% Bitter
Mike N	Golden Ale
Tim L	2 x Saisons
Alan Q	Black IPA

Nick W Stout
Steve R Stout

MCB Subscriptions

Members voted to increase the amount collected at future meetings to £2 per attendee (currently £1) in order to increase funds and to cope with any future commitments.

Future Events

2 nd August	Summer Social in Nottingham
13 th September	MCB Meeting at the Brunswick in Derby
13 th September	National Homebrew Competition at Bristol
October (date tba)	Practical Workshop – Steve H
1 st November	Joint meeting with Northern Craft Brewers in Sheffield. Members are asked to brew a Pale Ale (1045 – 1050) using British hops for a competition between the MCB and the NCB. Gold tops and tapered bottles would be appreciated but not essential.

A.O.B.

Allan G asked members to let him know if they had any suggestions for the venue for this year's Christmas Social.

A particular thank you to Steve H for arranging the venue and brewery tour for today's meeting.