

MIDLANDS CRAFT BREWERS MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION- UPSTAIRS IN THE SWAN IN THE RUSHES, LOUGHBOROUGH
SATURDAY 24TH OF JANUARY 2015

Attendees: Alan Q(Chairman) Allan G, Andy R, Chris T, Ian RB, James F, Jody E, John C, John P, Jon D, Karl H, Liz J, Martyn R, Matthew S, Mike C, Peter F, Robin P, Russell P, Shaun O'T, Steve H, Steve R, Steve S, Tim L

Apologies: Dave W, Lea W, Mike N

1. Welcome and Introductions completed and warm welcome to the first timers.
2. Beer of the Year (2014) Competition (see below)

The attendees were split into five teams each with their own score sheet judging clarity, condition, aroma and flavour. Comments on the beers were also to be provided. All the beers were coded but their even distribution was impacted by a number of late withdrawals. The tastings did not take too long and 15 beers were judged. The results were announced after lunch and the approach to the competition was discussed. It was agreed that it was an enjoyable event and the judging format seemed to work well. An improvement for next year would be that the style of beer should be provided to the judges. First place was taken by Dave W (in absentia) with 66 points out of 80, second was Sean O'T with 65 and third Allan G with 64 points. A completed Results Table will be supplied to all entrants by email by Allan G. Anyone wishing to see the various comments on their beer is asked to contact Alan Q directly.

3. Plans for 2015

1. March, Nottingham date and venue to be confirmed, theme Simmonds 1880 and recipe formulation (Peter F).
2. May, Nuneaton (Ray C.)
3. July, Burton water treatment (Tim L).
4. September, Derby (Malc. N)
5. November, Sheffield competition based on Durden Park Simmonds 1880 (Joint with Northern Group).
 - Other events for the year include LSE April 25th, HBF 12-14th June, National Bristol second week of September, International beer festival Burton 13-15th of February, Derby Beer Festival (11th -14th of Feb.). Dave S. will be involved in the Beer Bash in Birmingham again this year. Sponsorship by Elliswood brewery at Hinckley. All event details will be forwarded by Allan G.
 - Summer social in August further details nearer the time from Allan G.
 - Possible brewery visit to Slaters in Stafford (£15 including beer and food) - Andy R.
 - There are one or two spaces available for the visit to Peterborough (Oakham Ales). Contact AG for details.

- A formal Competition, organised by MCB, was not thought feasible for 2015 as so many other things occurring.
- Bulk buying was discussed and the purchase of a vacuum packer for hops was discussed but not resolved. Allan G is prepared to order in bulk from the Malt Miller so that cost of postage can be shared. Allan will ask for orders 2 weeks prior to each meeting. Allan also requested all orders to Malt Miller to be done via MCB website so MM was aware of the connection as they sponsor our website.

6. The Treasurer reported funds were £323.71 prior to the day's collection.

7. Any Other Business

- New visitors were informed that existing members were amenable to brew days where they could attend and ask questions.
- Would it be possible to get more feedback from first time attendees as in the past there have been meetings where first time attendees are never heard of again?
- The cost and quality of the buffet was discussed, would attendees be willing to pay higher prices?
- John C recommended a vote of thanks for Allan G and Peter F for all their work over the year.

Alan Q 27/1/15