



Midlands Craft Brewers Meeting

Saturday 13th May 2017

Venue

The White Swan, Saint Mary's Gate, Chesterfield S41 7TJ

Present

Mike C (Chair), Allan G, Ian R-B, Sean O'T, Alan Q, John C, Steve R, Andy R, Nick W, Tom A, Brian T, Karl H, Jim S, Steve H, Matt S, James F, Karol K, Matthew H, Jon A, Jon D.

Guest

Rich Caller

Apologies

Peter F, Chris W, Des M, Adam B, Colin F, Richard B, Ray C.

Introduction

The White Swan is a Raw Brewery freehouse offering a range of Raw beers, several guest ales, craft keg and an impressive world beer selection.

Members met in the bar at 12.00 and then moved upstairs for the meeting at 12.15.

Following the usual brief introductions Mike announced that due to the large number of entries (16) for the second leg of our Brewer of the Year competition there would be time for only two agenda items to be addressed.

Members were divided into four groups. So that beers could be judged to BJCP standards each table had printed BJCP guidelines for each style of beer and a supply of official Beer Scoresheets.

Talk by Rich Caller - beer judge and home-brewer

"An introduction to beer judging focusing on BJCP competitions"

Rich is not only a beer judge but also the Chair of the Manchester club. He is regarded as one of the best homebrewers in the UK having won many awards in competition over the last few years. He has also won the SJPORR Challenge 2015, making him one of the best homebrewers in the World!

Rich delivered his talk in a relaxed and informal manner which made for very easy listening. His knowledge of beer styles is exceptional. He outlined the processes involved in getting a beer to competition and how that beer would be judged against BJCP style categories.

Rich invited members to ask questions whenever they wished and many of us took advantage of his rich knowledge.

To illustrate the judging process each table had a go at judging a selection of beers in the BJCP category "*American and Speciality IPAs*".

Three beers were "judged" with expert guidance from Rich. Two were commercial IPA's and an APA from Allan G who intended it to be in the beer clinic at the end of the meeting.

Lunch

A fine and generous hot & cold buffet was served by staff at the White Swan and everyone appeared satisfied!

Brewer of the Year competition round two

The second round of our Brewer of the Year competition was to brew a pale beer that is not a specialty beer to any specified BJCP style. Sixteen beers were entered.

- Three in the *11. British Bitter* style (Allan G, Steve H, Brian T)
- Five in the *12. Pale Commonwealth Beer* style (Sean O'T, Matthew H, Adam B, Colin F, Ian R-B)
- Eight in the *21. IPA* style (Andy R, Nick W, Chris W, Richard B, John C, Tom A, Jon A, Karol K)

Each table tasted all the beers and recorded their scores on official BJCP scoresheets.

The scores were collated as the tastings progressed and the results were announced at the end of the tasting session.

1st place - Jon A (9.0% DIPA)

2nd place - Sean O'T (4.3% Golden Ale) and Andy R (4.2% APA)

3rd place - Allan G (5.4% Bitter)

Close of meeting

Mike thanked everyone for attending this busy and enjoyable session and especially thanked Rich Caller for his excellent presentation and sharing his expertise with us all. Members acknowledged Rich's contribution with a warm round of applause.

Meeting closed at 16.15.