



## Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Minutes of Meeting

Venue: The Pretty Bricks, 5 John St, Walsall WS2 8AF

### **Attendees**

Chairman – Nick W, John C, Tom A, Matt H, Granville D, Mike C, Allen B, Steve H, Andy R, Sean O'T, James F, Vassos A, Jon A, Fred B, Brian T, Jon D

#### 1. Introductions

A good attendance of 16 members and 2 new members Vassos & Fred were welcomed to the group and introductions were carried out.

#### 2. Brewing Quiz

The attendees were split into 4 groups and completed the quiz. Papers were swapped and answers given with all 4 teams doing well and scores of 19, 20, 21 and 23. The honour of the winning score goes to Fred B, Andy R, Sean O'T!

#### 3. Beer Tastings

A tasting of members beers was carried out and the BJCP Beer Scoresheet used to provide comments at the end of each tasting. Beers were not scored, however the feedback sheets were provided to the brewers at the end of the tasting session. The quality of the beers was once again excellent all round!

The following beers were tasted –

John C – Wheat Beer

Matt H – IPA

Fred B – American IPA

Brian T – American IPA

Tom A – Christmas Spiced Ale

Lunch was then provided, which was noted as excellent and very good value. The remaining beers were then tasted.

Allen B – Belgian Porter

Vassos A – Chocolate Stout

Matt H – Stout

#### 4. Brut IPA's

Sean talked about Brut IPAs, a relatively new style of beer.

Brut IPAs are a pale, bone dry, light in body, fizzy beer with plenty of hop aromatics, but not as much bitterness as a typical American IPA and was first brewed in San Francisco late 2017.

The dryness is achieved by the addition of an enzyme during fermentation which breaks the remaining unfermentable sugars releasing free glucose molecules which are then fermenting. This results in an FG of around, or even below 1.000

Sean had also brewed his own Brut IPA and brought samples for tasting. All agreed that the quality of Sean's version was excellent and really demonstrated the qualities that the commercial samples represented.

Sean's presentation can be found on the website at <https://bit.ly/2G6p5pz>

Finally, if any member has an interest in a particular beer style, perhaps they could do something similar at future meetings. Please contact Tom A or John C if interested.

#### 5. TILT Device

Matt H gave a demonstration of the TILT device and passed the device around the group. The device is a wireless hydrometer and thermometer that lets you read your brew's specific gravity and temperature from a compatible Bluetooth device.

Matt presented the graphs that are produced as output from the tilt software and generally reported that it was a great device.

## 6. Competitions

MCB members have over the year's regularly had success at competitions around the country.

Over the last year, members have had success at

- 2018 Homebrew Festival Competition.
- 2018 Birmingham Beer Week Homebrew Competition
- 2018 Moseley Craft Beer Festival Homebrew Competition
- 2018 Welsh National Homebrew Competition
- 2018 London BrewCon World Series II

and only last week, Matt H got a Silver for his American IPA at the Scottish Craft Brewers Annual.

Sean spoke about the different types of competitions, BJCP / non-BJCP and discussed various tips. His notes can be found at <https://bit.ly/2G6l9p2>

## 7. Treasurer Report & Announcements

The final number of members for 2019 was yet to be confirmed, however it was expected that the number would be approximately 30.

The online banking activation was due to be completed imminently, however the current balance stood at around £1350.

It was discussed that the next meeting would be held at the Vat & Fiddle in Nottingham on 16<sup>th</sup> March. It was also discussed that the off-tasting kits that we would be sampling were relatively expensive so it was requested that all members respond fairly early regarding attendance. It was also discussed that any non-members would need to pay £6 for attendance.

## 8. Close

Everyone was thanked for their excellent contributions and Jon A once again thanked the new members Vassos and Fred.