

Suffolk ACB Meeting Notes 1st June 2019

Venue – The Dove Street Inn, Ipswich

Attendees:- Nik Leng, Dave Beaton, Dave Caiels, Nick Davis, Guy Johnson, Colin Miller, Peter Burgess.

Apologies from James Pettifor and Ray ashworth.

1. There were 3 entries for the Mild Ale challenge which was won by Colin Miller with Guy Johnson in second place and Peter Burgess in third, or should I say last! One or two members commented that they thought Guy's entry was more true to style at about 3.6% ABV whereas the other two were a bit stronger.
2. The Lacons clone challenge and brewery trip is moving along and a request has been put in to have a cask delivered to The Dove and The Fat Cat in Ipswich so that we can sample the beer. Alternatively The Hop Shop in Chelmsford should be getting a delivery.
3. Nick Davis reported on the Inaugural ACB Homebrew Competition due to take place at Wivenhoe on Saturday 15th June. 95 entries have been received from 57 brewers (17 ACB members) including those from Scotland, Spain, France, Denmark, Belgium and Germany. This is quite impressive and congratulations to Steve Plampton and his team for all their efforts in the organisation. There will be 10 judges - 2 sessions with 7 style layers/categories.
4. The proposed talk on the Little Earth Project was mentioned (Sours and Saisons) but as James was not able to attend this will have to wait for another time. Ditto for a tie-up with the Craft Brewing Club in Bury St Edmunds.
5. On the subject of equipment, Brewtech and Thermowell SS fermentation vessels were discussed and a new manufacturer from Norway - "Brewtools" - are marketing a competitive system of brewing to Braumeister and Grainfather. The Hannah alkalinity checker was also mentioned but I cannot remember why? It was at this point that the chair asked if anyone would like to take on the role of secretary but there were no takers.
6. Next up was arguably the highlight of the meeting:- Any Other Beers for tasting. In order of strength:- Nik Leng- Innuendo APA @ 4.00%, Dave Beaton- Session bitter @ 4.00%, Dave Caiels- APA @ 4.40%. This was Dave's first ever all grain brew and a huge commendation for the quality of his beer. Dave Beaton- Ghostship clone @5.0%. Generally agreed that this was better than the commercial stuff. Nick Davis- English Summer Ale @ 4.8% using Southern Passion and Motueka hops. Colin Miller-Cascade APA @ 4.2 % using home grown hops. Peter Burgess- Altbier @ 5.5% using Fermentis w34/70 yeast. Nick Davis- Baltic Porter @ 6.7%. All of these were cracking beers and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.
7. The "pairing" brewing currently in progress was discussed and will be reported on in future meetings.
8. It was generally agreed that in future meetings, books should be brought along so that members can share views and opinions.