



The Abridged Hop & Grape

Officers:

- President-** George Bach
Vice Pres- Dave Towson
Treasurer- John Spangler
Secretary- Tony Vacek
Webmaster- Myke Blakeman

Attention! Our next meeting on April 14th will be held at our regular location- the Barn in Box Hill North.

Upcoming Beer Competitions:

- April-** Wheat Beer- all BJCP Category 17
May- Classic American Pilsner- BJCP Cat 1C
June- California Common (Steam)- Cat. 6C
July- Blonde Ale- BJCP Category 3A
August- American Pale Ale- BJCP Cat. 6A
September- Brown Ale- all BJCP Category 10
October- Oktoberfest/Marzen/Vienna- Cat. 9
November- Annual Wine & Mead Competition
December- No Competition Xmas Party
January 2005- Porter- BJCP Cat. 15A & 15B
February 2005- Old/Scotch Ale Cat 11A-11B
March 2005- Stout- All BJCP Cat.16

Point System: There are two classes that allow points to be awarded. These points are for bragging rights and to determine the Brewer of the Year. Each member is limited to only one beer per class. Team entries count as both members entry. The same beer may be entered over several months.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	Enter
Style	10	8	6	5	4	2
Open	7	5	4	3	2	2

Club Standings After March:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 st | Bob Spencer | 30 Points |
| 2 nd | George Bach | 10 Points |
| 3 rd | Dave Towson | 10 Points |
| 4 th | Myke Blakeman | 8 Points |
| 5 th | Bernie Spangler | 7 Points |
| 6 th | Rick Zaboroski | 7 Points |
| 7 th | Phil Adkins | 4 Points |

Meeting Notes From March 10th :

2 Officers were present- Pres. George Bach and V.P. Dave Towson. 14 members were present (including 4 guests)

George Bach recognized the generosity of Sean Bolen's Pub for hosting our meeting. Dave Towson thanked Bob Spencer for arranging the meeting at the Pub. We were well received.

Old Business

George gave a report and presented an agenda for the Guild meeting which was held on March 8th. They have plenty of "irons in the fire." A trip to Las Vegas, a holiday party on Dec. 4th, a picnic on July 10th, and a "Big Brew" on May 1st at MdHB. A national home brewer's convention will be held in Baltimore during June, 2005. Their next meeting is in May. They will also be doing a pub crawl on April 24th. If any of our members have an idea for a crawl, feel free to solicit interest.

Myke Blakeman has just about given up on placing an ad in the Pennysaver. It seems to be more trouble than it's worth.

Myke presented a Web Site report. Our club had 364 unique visitors in February. 27 visitors added us to their favorites. For the month of March, there were 194 visitors through March 9th. Myke also mentioned that anyone wishing to submit a recipe should send it in electronic form to him.

New Business

Bob Spencer suggested creating a club "Hall of Fame." There was mild interest.

Dave Towson made a motion to eliminate the Associate Membership category from our dues structure. Since our newsletter is available on our Web site. The motion passed easily.

Dave Towson solicited nominations for the style competition for March 2005. There were two nominees: Stout and Doppelbock. Stout (Cat. 16) was the winner.

Our style for the month was Stout (Cat. 16). We sampled 3 commercial examples: Guinness Draught Stout (in a can), Sam Adams Cream Stout, and Samuel Smith Oatmeal Stout. There were 2 entries plus a sleeper. Dave Towson's Oatmeal Stout placed first. The sleeper, Guinness Extra Stout was second. Bob Spencer's Sweet Stout finished third.

% of 20 Points **86.5%** **77.5%** **79.5%**

¹ Robust Porter

² Belgian Wit

³ Dry Stout

NOTE: The competition master strongly suspects that Bob Spencer accidentally switched his two entries in the Style and Open competitions. Both seemed out-of-style as entered, but both would have been right on target if switched.

**March 2004 Stout Competition
Grand Totals**

Brewer	Guinness Extra¹	Dave Towson²	Bob Spencer³
Pitcher	1	2	3
Appearance	48	46	46
Aroma	42	44	39
Flavor	45	46	36
Body	44	49	39
Total Score	179	185	160
No. of Raters	11	11	11
Average Score	16.27	16.82	14.55
% of 20 Points	81.4%	84.1%	72.7%

¹ Foreign Extra Stout

² Oatmeal Stout

³ Sweet Stout

Our meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM.

Don't forget to check our Web Site, or to pass the URL on to friends.

Next was the Open Competition. Rick Zaboroski's Robust Porter finished first. A Dry Stout from Bob Spencer placed second. Phil Adkins brewed a Belgian Wit which finished third.

**March 2004 Open Competition
Grand Totals**

Brewer	Rick Zaborowski¹	Phil Adkins²	Bob Spencer³
Pitcher	1	2	3
Appearance	41	44	44
Aroma	45	37	38
Flavor	43	35	38
Body	44	39	39
Total Score	173	155	159
No. of Raters	10	10	10
Average Score	17.30	15.50	15.90