

BJCP *Reporter*

Issue Number 1

July, 1996

New Competition Director

Tom Fitzpatrick from Aurora, Illinois is the BJCP's new competition director. His first chore is to reorganize the forms sent out to the organizers. Until he gets this accomplished, hopefully within a few weeks, Russ will still register a competition for you. Tom should be able to start full duties in early July after he returns from his vacation. Let's give him some slack until he gets things rolling.

Where's My Pin?

The new National and Master pins should be shipped within a few weeks of this newsletter. If you're due to receive one, and you don't have it by the end of July, please contact Russ. A minor setback occurred when the initial deposit check for the work was misplaced in the chain for six weeks. Sorry for the delay.

Bad Judging? Let's See What We Can Do About It

In an effort to improve judge quality and improve feedback to entrants in BJCP Registered or AHA Sanctioned Competitions, the BJCP is accepting complaints from anyone who feels they received a poorly filled out score sheet. The concern is over the feedback given, not the score.

These complaints should be addressed directly to Dennis. He will review each and every score sheet and send feedback to the BJCP Judges involved. See the **Feedback** section on the next page for more insight on why this issue is a concern.

What he needs from you is a copy of the score sheet in question and a cover letter from you explaining what you feel is inappropriate, as well as what competition this score sheet came from.

These complaints can come from any competition held since the beginning of the year. This will be an ongoing project, and will help guide the Board of Directors as to a way we might install a system where repeated inferior judging could cause loss of experience points.

This isn't on our agenda yet, and we need to see how wide spread the feeling of poor feedback is. On the positive side, we would like you to compliment a judge on an excellent score sheet yourself for the time being. Eventually, Dennis says he could see yearly awards for this, and "Super Steward" awards as well.

We're Still Solvent!

Despite the urgent need for the board of directors to establish a BBBBJCP (Brazilian Beach Beer & Bikini Judge Certification Program) in Rio de Janeiro, they have so far resisted the temptation. The treasury stands at \$6,480 as of June 10th. This does not include money from the exam and competition program expected shortly, but does include the cost incurred for the National and Master pins.

From the Chairman:

I have an idea for a study in judging. This study would possibly show consistency of judges by serving judges the same beers in different serving orders in two or three judging sessions. If any club would like to take on this challenge please let me know. The club should have a good mix of Recognized, Certified, and National judges, and a Master or two wouldn't hurt.

The could be administered by anyone in the club so all judges could participate. Any clubs up for the challenge, leave me e-mail at ddavison@execpc.com.

Dennis Davison

What's This Rag?

Welcome to the first edition of the *BJCP Reporter*. It's the newsletter for beer judges. You'll receive every issue automatically as long as you remain current in the BJCP. We'll publish as often as necessary, but at first we think quarterly will be often enough. This issue is going out to 1,528 BJCP members.

We hope to make this a two-way street, so please take a moment to jot your questions, suggestions, or thoughts down on a piece of paper and send them in for the next issue. If you can send e-mail, that's great, too. See the addresses on page 3 for more detail on where to send your input.

Where are they now?

Please help us find the following missing judges. We have to pay the postal service for every piece of mail that can't be delivered, and we hate to lose a good beer judge.

If you know any of the people on this list, tell us their current address, or better yet, ask them to contact us directly.

Fal Allen Seattle WA
Oscar Almeida Fall River MA
Steve Biggs
Stephen Bohler
Erick Borbons
Christopher ... Bostwick Vancouver BC
Brad Brumit
Chris Cannon
Stephen Content
J. deMoor S Easton MA
Tom Dub Dobbs Ferry NY
Kirk Ellern Reno NV
Eric Emerson Las Vegas NV
Scott Eppelman
Steve Ernst Upland CA
David J. Evans. El Dorado Hills CA
Bill Fallon Weymouth MA
Nico Freccia Venice CA
Steve Gerdson Pasadena CA
Norman Grisewood Califon NY
Don Harms
James Haughey
Thomas Hawkins
Rodney Hitch
Ed Hitchcock Dartmouth NS
Paul Holman III Los Angeles CA
James F. Ingram Jr. Memphis TN
Aaron Jaben
Deron Kazmaier St. Louis MO
Kris Kellem Sacramento CA
Doug Kimmerly Weston ON

All information should be sent to:
BJCP Database Administrator
c/o Celebrator Beer News
P.O. Box 375
Hayward, CA 94543

You can also contact us by e-mail at:
rad_equipment@rad-mac1.ucsf.edu

Alan J.V. Knight
James Lueders Tualatin OR
James MacGuire Montreal PQ
Dan Marsh
Richard Maurer Portland OR
Robert McIntosh Oshawa ON
Ted Mina
Ray Mitchell North Hills CA
Richard Nilles Fargo ND
Jeff Palmer S. Milwaukee WI
Clement Pellani
David Pyle Fairfax VA
Eileen Reilly
Ken Rich Houston TX
Paul Ronning Metro Manila
David J. Rose
Thomas Rowland Burbank CA
Louise Scalleat Yardley PA
Mike Scanlon
Scott Stihler Fairbanks AK
Jeb Sturmer
Leo P. Trapp
Greg Troxel Cambridge MA
Glenn Van Graafeiland ... Rochester NY
Philip Watney
John Watt Milwaukee WI
Keith Wilbourn Louisville KY
Gilbert Scott . Wolfe Thousand Oaks CA
Paul Wood

Feedback

We want this publication to be a two-way street. If you have thoughts you feel should be shared with your fellow judges, drop a line to the editor. Subject to space (and normal editing) considerations, we'll be happy to print your ideas. This should be a good way to stimulate discussion on common judging concerns, and maybe even come up with a few good answers.

Oops, it looks like our first letter just poured in:

Dennis--

I see that things are progressing slowly buy smoothly in the BJCP. Keep up the good work despite what some jerks say about the Board.

Thanks, I needed that.

I have a question: I'm getting a little fed-up with some inferior judging that I've gotten for some of my beers. I know that you're very busy and that my complaints are probably more than you have time for right now. Perhaps you could set up a person or committee whose charter it would be to look over clearly terrible judging forms and send a letter of "wrist slapping" to the offending judge.

Furthermore, I had a beer that I entered in category A and the judges said "this would have been a good beer to enter in category A." Obviously, the beer was miscategorized or mislabeled. The organizer should get a slap on the wrist for that one, no?

If you don't have time to handle this now,

Continued on page 4 ...

Staying connected

If you have issues, concerns, suggestions, questions, comments, or just deep, philosophical musings that nobody else will read, send them to the appropriate person.

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The official BJCP home page on the World Wide Web:
<http://www.execpc.com/~ddavison/bjcp.html>

The BJCP now has a voice mail number:
414-299-9145

It gives information as to who the exam & competition directors are as well as a mailbox to leave messages to. If you don't select a mailbox it'll drop you into an area to voice concerns directly to the Board.

Upcoming Exams

The current exam schedule is listed below. There are several exams in the works, but the dates have not been firmly set. If you have any questions, please get in touch with either Scott Bickham or the contact person.

Scheduled

Date	Location	Contact Person	Phone Number
7/13	Wisconsin St. Fair	Dennis Davison	(414) 545-9246
7/28	St. Louis, MO	Scott Bickham	(410) 290-7721
8/10	Cincinnati, OH	Ed Westemeier	(513) 321-2023
8/17	Nashville, TN	Chuck Skypeck	(615) 385-0050
9/21	Boston, MA	Jay Hersh	(617) 641-0704
9/28	Denver (GABF)	Phil Fleming	(303) 469-9847
9/28	Las Vegas, NV	Sheldon Jackson	(702) 727-9285
11/9	Utica, NY	Peter Garofalo	(315) 428-0952
11/22	Toronto	Craig Pinhey	

In the works

Summer	Norwalk, CT	Jim Link
Fall	San Diego, CA	Dion Hollenbeck
Fall	Boston, MA	Jay Hersh
Fall	Pittsburgh, PA	Greg Walz
Fall	Washington, DC	Scott Bickham
Fall	Burlington, VT	Tom Ayres
Fall	Fairbanks, AK	Roger Penrod
?	Phoenix, AZ	Rick Drake
?	Albuquerque	Brad Kraus
?	El Paso/Alamogordo	Brad Kraus
?	Salem, OR	Eric Munger
1997	Ann Arbor, MI	Bill Pfeiffer

The exam schedule fills up fast, so be sure to get your requests in early.

Please pass the information in this newsletter on to your friends, fellow club members, local suppliers, and anyone else you think might be interested in taking the exam. If you're in a really good mood, you might even consider making a photocopy or two for your club's competition organizer.

It's always a little surprising how well we're doing, considering how many people don't know very much about the program. Let's all help spread the word.

perhaps you could put it on your list of things to do and post something to judgenet when the program is in place? Thanks.

Al Korzonas

No Thanks, I didn't need that :-). Shit happens. I was in KC recently. Alberta collapsed one set of categories as Lambic(1), Blended Gueuze(2), Fruit Lambic(2), Berliner Weisse(2), Biere de Garde(2). Guess how many entries I had in this one collapsed category? Four. One in each of them except for the de Garde. I can see where the other beers have similar characteristics with the lactic sourness, but Biere de Garde is better suited with the other Belgians. I should have had three ribbons, but only got two.

You should know all the variables involved in judging. Serving temperature, shipping changes, inconsistencies in bottles, the way the beers are served in the flight, etc, all play key roles, as well as the experience of judges. I dread some of these younger judges myself, those that judge just their local competition, or don't try new beers that are out

on the market. These judges are doing a disservice to the BJCP, and their fellow homebrewers.

But how do you police this with all the variables that are associated with judging? Do we start to turn off the membership to judging, and once that starts to happen, we lose other people that would have come into our fold.

The organizer should take great strides in assigning judges to flights. This gets harder for the younger organizers who might not know what some judges are better at than others. But when you can't draw experience from outside of your club, you start running into problems.

As far as mis-registering bottles, I've had similar experiences. If you get three different people checking in entries, all having a beer or two and talking away, you're bound to get a mistake here or there. Actually, I'm amazed that it doesn't happen more frequently.

Our best approach is a general approach, without singling any one individual out. Hopefully, some of these concerns will be brought up in future newsletters.

Dennis

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New Richmond OH 45157-0258**

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