



European Brewery Convention

'Promoting Brewing Excellence'

EBC BREWING SCIENCE GROUP

**Notes of the Business Meeting held on 18 September 2008 at 9:00-11:00
University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington campus, UK**

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1. Present

Ingrid Bohak, John Brauer, James Bryce, Alain Debourg, Rolando Della Sera, Jaromir Fiala, Luis Guido, Johannes Hinrichs, Hilary Jones, Jukka Kronlöf, Martin Krottenthaler, John Londesborough, Vladimir Maric, Frank-Jürgen Methner, Lene Molskov Bech, Alistair Pringle, David Quain, Jan Savel, Marc Schmitt (representing Patrick Boivin), Katherine Smart, Daniela Smogrovicova, Erna Storgårds (chairman), Behnam Taidi, Peter Wilde, Annika Wilhelmson, Carsten Zufall.

1.2. Apologies from:

Patrick Boivin, Sonia Collin, Charlie Bamforth, Alan Kennedy, Jaume Lluís I Tartera, Luigi Montanari, Tadhg O'Sullivan, Esko Pajunen, Inge Russell, Graham Stewart, Christoph Tenge, Ulf Stahl.

1.3. No news from:

Rafael Alvarez-Scholl, Werner Back, Freddy Delvaux, Agoston Hoschke, Paul Hughes, Martijn van Iersel, Claes-Göran Johansson, Frank Lynch, Jean-Yves Malpote, Alexandr Míkyška, Wouter Muller Kobold, Alfonso Navarro Marzal, Ludvig Niessen, Frank Nietzsche, Petar Paulik, David Ryder, Richard Sharpe, Vlado Sobota.

2. MINUTES FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING 8 MAY 2007

No written or oral comments were made on the minutes of the Business Meeting of 8 May 2007 (Venice).

3.1 SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were proposed:

- Jens Voigt, TU Munich, Germany
- Laurence Van Nederveelde, Institute Meurice, Belgium
- Rolando Della Sera, CERB, Italy
- Caroline Walker, BRI, UK

All these persons qualify well for members in the BSG according to paragraph 5.1 in the Terms of Reference (ToR). Consequently, it was decided to recommend the EBC Executive Committee to approve their membership in the BSG.

3.2 REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS CORRESPONDING TO THE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

As members are no longer selected based on country representation following the merge of the EBC with the Brewers of Europe and the resulting changes in EBC, activity within the group has become the prime argument for membership. According to paragraph 5.2 in the revised ToR, membership should be reviewed following non-attendance at 2 consecutive Technical Meetings. At present, approximately 20 % of the 52 BSG members could be classified as non-active.

It was decided that the new chairman should approach the BSG members asking them to confirm their interest in being members and contributing to the activities of the BSG, and that those not interested anymore should be excluded from the BSG.

4. REPORT FROM SUBGROUP ACTIVITIES

The mode of action of the BSG is based on Subgroups exploring specialist interests or executing well-defined task. The Subgroups, preferably of limited duration, are chaired by BSG members that report on activities at the business meetings (paragraph 4.3 in ToR).

Lately, some of the Subgroups of the BSG have not attracted the interest and involvement of members justifying their continuation. It was decided to close down those Subgroups that are not needed for the moment and to activate those Subgroups where a demand for action is identified. The general rule would be to reorganise those Subgroups that have not been active in the time frame of two consecutive Technical Meetings of the BSG.

After the meeting, the resigning chairman proposed that the Subgroups in the future rather would be called Working Groups to stress their active role within their field of research and also their limited duration.

4.1 Foam and Physical Stability

The chairman Peter Wilde reported as follows:

Unfortunately little progress has been made since the last technical meeting. Here it was proposed that the scope of the Subgroup be widened to include physical stability and, although I was not prepared to chair this entirely, I would be happy to co-chair with someone with more experience in this area. Unfortunately, to date no one has come forward or been found to take this position. The area of fundamental research into beer foam stability appears to be declining for various reasons with only a handful of papers by European groups focussed on beer foam stability in the past 3 years.

It was decided to close down the Foam and Physical Stability Subgroup as it is apparently not needed for the moment.

4.2 Emerging Yeast Systems (in future Yeast and Fermentation)

The chairman Frank Nitzsche did not attend the business meeting, and no news regarding the current activities was received. Last meeting of the Subgroup was arranged in September 2003. It was agreed that yeast and fermentation research is a key issue within brewing science and a strong will to revitalise this Subgroup was identified. It was decided that Katherine Smart will take over the responsibility for this Subgroup with the aim of activating it. The need for establishing co-operation with bio-ethanol research was recognised as one of the future tasks of the group. The Subgroup was renamed to the '*Yeast and Fermentation Subgroup*' to better comply with the topic of the group.

4.3 Microbial Contaminants

The chairman Tadhg O'Sullivan was unable to attend the meeting but he reported as follows:

As you are aware, I have been unable to devote the time I would have liked to my duties as chairman of the Microbial Contaminants subgroup for the last two years. This was because I was detached to the production arm of Heineken Nederland and was so busy in this capacity that I did not find time to organise EBC activities. As a result, the group has been inactive. For a variety of reasons, I was unable to organise subgroup meetings, but I expect that with my return to Research and Innovation in 2009 I will be better positioned to do this. The next subgroup meeting should be held early (around March/April) in 2010.

The overlapping of this Subgroup with the Hygiene Subgroup was discussed, and it was agreed to merge these two groups into one. The microbiology of dispense was identified as one important issue this group should be working on. A link to the Microbiology subcommittee of the Analysis Committee is established by Tore Hage, chairman of the Microbiology subcommittee, being a member in both groups.

Last meeting of this Subgroup was arranged in May 2004. It was agreed that this Subgroup urgently needed to be activated to respond to the demand from the industry for sound expertise on microbiological issues. Therefore, David Quain was asked to take over the responsibility to chair this Subgroup and to arrange a meeting at earliest convenience.

4.4 Malting Barley Genetics and Physiology

The chairman Annika Wilhelmson reported as follows:

Since the subgroup meeting in Lleida 2006, the subgroup has revised its list of members, with focus on active members from both industry and universities/research institutes. Old members have been asked whether they want to stay in the group, and new potential members have been contacted. Several new members joined the subgroup in relation to the business meeting arranged at the previous EBC Congress in Venice. The group has 23 members today. Some of these are "on the mailing list only", and therefore not necessarily active members.

The subgroup members were invited as guests to participate in the BSG meeting in Nottingham with the aim of improving the discussion between barley research and industry. Five members (including BSG members James Bryce and Annika Wilhelmson) participated in the meeting, all contributing with presentations and active participation in the discussions.

In Venice 2007, the subgroup discussed the need for a web-site for communication between meetings. David Cook came up with a plan that was forwarded to John Brauer and Dave Cuttriss, who were just setting up the new EBC web site and discussion forum. The subgroup members present in Nottingham will start testing the discussion forum as soon as possible after the meeting.

It was agreed that this Subgroup has lately found new ways for communication and activities and its contribution to the scientific programme of the Nottingham meeting was appreciated.

4.5. Flavour and Flavour Stability

The chairman Patrick Boivin was unable to attend the meeting but he reported as follows:

At the last BSG business meeting in May 2007, Patrick BOIVIN, who asked not to chair the Flavour and Flavour stability subgroup anymore proposed to organise a one day meeting to propose a new chairman and to discuss activity orientation. Registration forms were sent out in September 2007 to more than 50 people to organise a meeting in Paris on 30th November. The meeting was cancelled because only two people had been registered.

It was decided to close down the Flavour and Flavour Stability Subgroup as the research in this area has declined and the Subgroup is apparently not needed for the moment.

4.6. Beer Safety

The chairman Patrick Boivin reported as follows:

Stéphane Dupire suggested at the last meeting that EBC Beer Safety Subgroup should be the scientific arm of Beer Safety Issue Management Team. Due to the retirement of Stéphane who was the link between BOE and EBC, new relation should be done.

IFBM organised a congress in May 2008 on "PREVENTION POLICIES FOR FOOD SAFETY - A major opportunity for beer chain". At this meeting, Malting and Brewing Institutes involved in contaminants, Euromalt and Brewers of Europe were invited to present a paper or a poster.

EBC and Euromalt organised a one day meeting in June 2008 on Gushing with the participation of Malting and Brewing Institutes.

An European project on T2/HT2 mycotoxins in beer chain, managed by IFBM with several European institutes (VTT, BRI, Wheitenphan, ...), was filed. This project, supported by BOE and noted 12/15 although priority was not retained for financing by EU.

Future:

Safety is a major issue for the brewers and maltsters. This subgroup should be the scientific arm of the Brewers of Europe and Euromalt.

What should be done:

a close relation between BOE and Euromalt on safety issues

a close relation between institutes involved on contaminants.

It was agreed that the Beer Safety Subgroup continues to be of utmost importance for the industry and that it should carry on its activities as stated above.

4.7. Hygiene

The chairman Frank-Jürgen Methner reported that no interest to participate in the activities of this Subgroup had been identified.

It was agreed to merge this Subgroup with the Microbial Contaminants Subgroup and at the same time focus some attention on the hygiene of dispensing systems (see item 4.3).

4.8. Modelling

The chairman Paul Hughes did not attend the business meeting, and no news regarding the current activities was received prior to the meeting. It was decided that the chairman should try to activate the group within the next few months. If this would not be successful, the Subgroup will be closed down at next BSG business meeting at the EBC Congress in Hamburg 2009.

5. REVIEW OF EXISTING SUBGROUPS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW ONES

Please see item 4 for a detailed update and decisions regarding the Subgroups of BSG.

The need for rapid response in emerging scientific questions important for the brewing industry and for BoE was discussed. It was decided to form a Steering Group that could react fast on incoming issues with as wide a contact network as possible.

The BSG Steering Group will be composed of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of BSG, the Subgroup Chairmen and the EBC Executive Officer.

6. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN

The following 3 candidates were proposed for the chairmanship of the BSG in succession to Erna Storgårds: Tadhg O'Sullivan, Behnam Taidi and Carsten Zufall. The election was performed by secret ballot with the assistance of John Brauer. Behnam Taidi was elected with the majority of votes.

7. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting was not discussed at the business meeting due to time limitation.

17 October 2008
Erna Storgårds

Appendix: Final revised BSG Terms of Reference from 2007