



MEANTIME

Beers of impeccable taste

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Meantime Coffee Beer Wins Gold in Beer Olympics

Greenwich based brewers, the Meantime Brewing Co. have won a gold medal in the worlds largest and most prestigious brewing competition, the World Beer Cup, which took place in Seattle last week.

In 2004 Meantime were the only British brewery to win WBC medals with two bronzes for their Oktoberfest and Vienna style beers. Since then it has been the express aim of all at Meantime to win gold in 2006.

Meantime founder and brewmaster Alastair Hook said, "We are delighted to have won with our coffee beer, as this has been the beer we have worked hardest on over the past few years. I first came across coffee beer at the Great American Beer Festival (GABF) in 1998 and was inspired to brew an Espresso Stout for Mash and Air in Manchester. By 2002 there were around 20 coffee beers brewed for the Festival and by 2004 coffee beer had become a recognised style of its own.

"As innovative brewers of beers of great flavour, we at Meantime have long had our eye on the style. Our production manager, Rob Lovatt, judged coffee beers at that 2004 World Beer Cup, and I judged them again the same year at the GABF. Together we realised that the key to expressing the flavours and aromas of coffee was to create a diverse spectrum of roasted malts in the base beer to compliment the roasting of the coffee. As it happened we were also developing our 1750s style porter for export to the US which called for similar diverse profiles of roast and caramel maltiness to express the flavours of the original eighteenth century beers.

"Of the beers we had tried in 2004 we felt that instead of the softer tones of a porter they had the harsher astringencies associated with a stout and were consequently too bitter. The challenge was to match our porter with the right blend of coffee. Happily we discovered a like-minded bunch of guys at Union Coffee Roasters just across the River Thames from ourselves. After a series of extensive tastings with Union's Steve Macatonia we settled upon one particular variety; the Marraba Bourbon bean from the Abuhuzamugambi Co-operative in Rwanda, which had the added bonus of being a Fairtrade coffee. We know how much it will mean to the members of the Co-op to hear that their coffee helps make the best coffee beer in the world.

"Coffee Beer has been very good for us. It was Britain's first Fairtrade beer, and Oz Clarke helped us launch it. It won us an Award for Excellence from *Off Licence News* in 2004, and now it has helped us achieve our goal of gold at the Olympic Games of the brewing world."

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