

Hello fellow beer judges!

My name is Ken Bazley, and I am standing for election as BJCP representative for EMEA. I have been thinking about this for some time, and it seems the natural next step after serving for three years as Assistant Representative for UK and Ireland under Marek Kaminski. As Marek stands down, I'd also like to offer hearty thanks to him for his service.

I am, of course a homebrewer - and a prolific one at that. At last count I was on batch number 427. I still occasionally pick up an award, although competition is much tougher these days!

I recently attained National rank having received my results just last month, but I am not new to the BJCP: I have judged 45 competitions and served in 10 BoS panels. I took my first tasting exam back in 2013, which was only the second tasting exam to have been held in the UK. I steadily built my judging experience on what was initially a meagre diet of just two competitions a year.

Since passing my first tasting exam I have been active in promoting beer judging and the BJCP - I have administered five tasting exams, with a sixth one pending, and have proctored six more. I also arranged for a written exam to take place in London last November (although I couldn't act as admin as I was sitting it!). And I've just taken on my first grading set as I look to continue to push standards and get more judges qualified. For many years I have been part of a London Amateur Brewers team that has helped establish new competitions, raise judging standards in the UK, and inspired other clubs to do the same. We now several competitions in the country run by various clubs, enabling judges to gain experience more quickly. These competitions regularly attract judges from mainland Europe and sometimes even further afield.

It is encouraging to see that the BJCP guidelines are becoming more widespread and adoption is taking place across Europe. There was another exam run in Ireland last year plus the first ever exam in Scotland, with a second planned for early next year). We are also now seeing a lot more interest away from central Europe with more competition entries from Finland, Czechia and Croatia for example; indeed Finland seems particularly fertile ground for homebrewing and I am very keen to have judges trained and examined there. I was also approached last year by a representative of the Dutch Beer Judges Association and helped to begin a collaborative process there. So, there is a lot of potential to expand across the region and I look forward to continuing to play a role in that.

Although my BJCP journey began as a vehicle to improve my own brewing, it has turned into a commitment to help improve everyone's brewing! I sincerely hope you will vote for me to represent EMEA on the board of the BJCP.

Thanks for your consideration.

Ken