

# Magnificent seven tempt the judges

## The Intervarsity Beer Competition

**The Intervarsity Beer Competition was started in 2008 as an initiative by SAB Ltd in its Trade Brewer programme to educate students in the attributes of beer and to demonstrate the benefits of joining the brewing industry as a career opportunity. This year the competition was contested by seven universities.**

by **John Cluett**  
and **Malcolm du Toit**

Also in 2008 the IBD Africa Section and FoodBev SETA had developed an education and training programme for university students based on the SAQA accredited National Diploma in Brewing Process qualification which in turn uses the IBD Diploma in Brewing syllabus. The decision to join both initiatives has resulted in this event being held very successfully for the past four years. Universities in South Africa and one university from the USA (2009) have competed for the best beer trophy judged from three beer styles.

The key objectives of the competition are to:

- Promote knowledge, skills and culture of beer in the university environment, and prepare students for their life long learning pathway.
- Develop a passion in the minds of university students of the Y-Generation to brew different beers, for the purpose of the competition and for internal analysis and tasting.

- Promote a relationship between the universities and their own faculties and departments to cross pollinate knowledge and skills to design, build and operate the micro brewery installations that are part of the formal research experimental environments. Some of the students are also incorporating the brewing experience into their post graduate project, where the Institute's JIB website has been accessed for scientific literature.
- Build on the relationships established with SAB Ltd Trade Brewers who have each 'adopted' a university to help them in a number of ways, including the supply of materials for brewing.
- Continue the collaborative interaction with

IBD and FoodBev SETA to facilitate students to study for examinations and qualify for IBD and SAQA qualifications.

- Facilitate interaction between SAB HR personal and students. A presentation was carried out by SAB as a prospective employer

In 2011 we have seen representatives of the two main stream brewers in South Africa, namely SAB Ltd and Sedibeng – Heineken Brewery, as well as Wort Hog Brewers and the student brewers and staff from all the universities. SAB Ltd can be well proud of hosting such a historic and prestigious event that took place, at their invitation, at the SAB Training Institute in Kyalami, Johannesburg.

**Table 1 Competing Universities 2008 to 2011**

2008	UKZN*	Pretoria	Wits**	Stellenbosch	Cape Town	North West		
2009	UKZN	Pretoria	Wits	Stellenbosch	Cape Town	North West	Dallas, USA	
2010	UKZN	Pretoria	Wits	Stellenbosch	Cape Town	North West	Rhodes	Limpopo
2011	UKZN	Pretoria	Wits	Stellenbosch	Cape Town	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan	Rhodes	Limpopo Johannesburg

\*UKZN – Pietermaritzburg and Westville campus of University of Kwa Zulu Natal

\*\* Wits – Witwaterstrand in Johannesburg

**Table 2 Beer Competition:**

**Best of each of three beers styles and defined by BJCP Guidelines and Winners of Best Beer and Best Label trophies**

**The annual award winners**

	Lager	Ale	Speciality	Best Beer*	Best Label
2008	Pretoria	Pretoria	Pretoria	Pretoria	North West
2009	UKZN	Stellenbosch	UKZN	Stellenbosch	North West
2010	Limpopo	Pretoria	Pretoria	Pretoria	UKZN
2011	Pretoria	Pretoria	Rhodes	Pretoria	Rhodes

The beer styles were as defined by BJCP guidelines.

\* Ben Lamaletie – IBD Award



Preparing for tasting: a quick sniff and a count to check they are all there.



Laying out the tables for sampling.

**Summary of competitors and results**

Table 1 indicates the universities that have competed over the last four years. Table 2 shows the winners of best beer in each of the beer styles, the winners of the FoodBev Best Label Trophy and the winners of the Ben Lamaletie – IBD Best Beer Trophy.

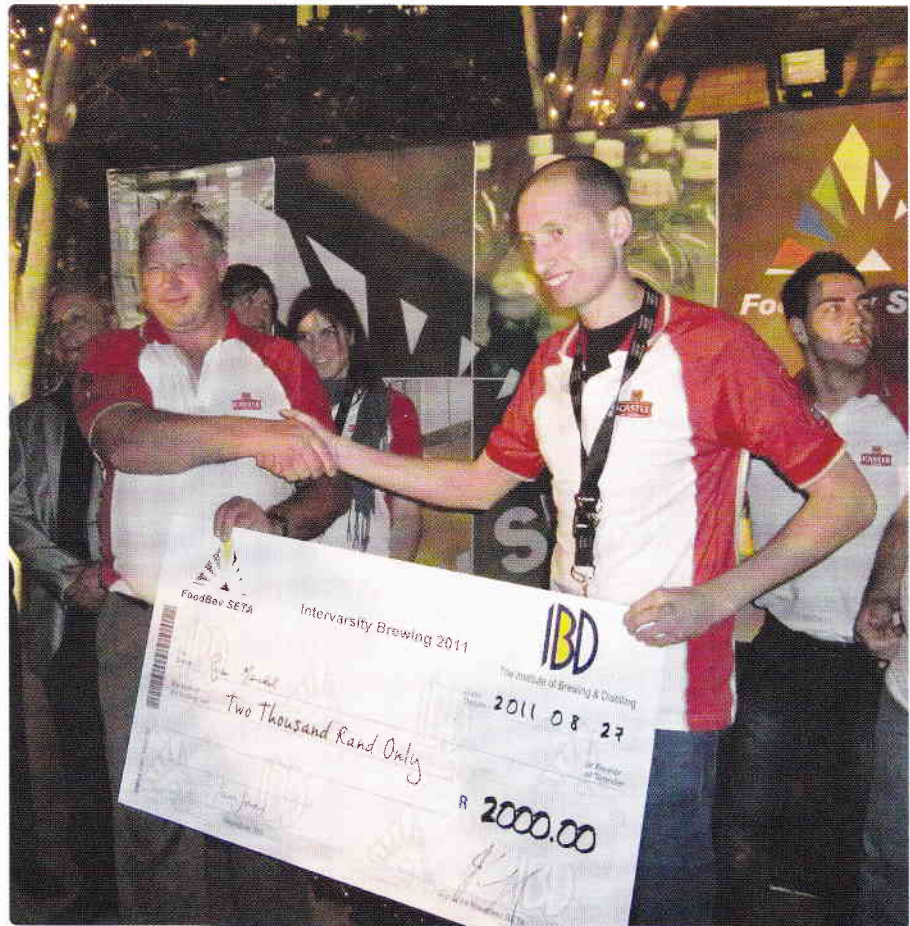
**Investment and contributions**

The financial investment has been in the order of R2 million over the last four years. This includes SAB Ltd financing all travel and accommodation of the students at the Durban (2008), Pretoria (2009), Stellenbosch (2010) and Johannesburg (2011) events, as well as bursaries granted by FoodBev SETA and the IBD Africa Section.

IBD as an ISOE (Institute of Sectoral and Occupational Excellence) of FoodBev SETA, receives ISOE bursaries granted to students for scientific research projects. These research projects pertain to brewing and related industries and have as goal to ensure the development and growth of knowledge and skills, and promote the passion for brewing and the brewing culture.

**Bursaries 2008**

- FoodBev SETA: 20 ISOE bursaries, R400,000, and special prize to winners of Best Beer and Label
- IBD: R25,000 bursaries



Krappie Eloff from FoodBev SETA presents a prize winners cheque to Ryan Merckel from the University of Pretoria.



Krappie Eloff, Ben Lamaletie, Ian Jones, Anton Erasmus with University of Pretoria, winners of the Ben Lamaletie – IBD Best Beer Trophy.



Winners of the FoodBev SETA Best Label competition – Rhodes University from Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape.

### 2009 and 2010

- FoodBev SETA: 10 ISOE bursaries, value R225,000, plus special prize to winners of Best Beer and Label and Best Bursary Project;
- IBD: R25,000 bursaries

### 2011

- FoodBev SETA: 10 ISOE bursaries value R250,000 plus special prize to winners of Best Beer and Label and Best Bursary Project
- IBD: R25,000 bursaries

### The 2011 Event

The Intersarsity brewing competition was contested by seven universities this year. The event was held at SAB's Training Institute in Kyalami which proved to be a very good venue as all the students were accommodated on site. On the evening preceding the event the students were given an opportunity to market their own university's brewing prowess in a short presentation to the judges. The following day was spent at the University of the Witwatersrand's Origins Center, where the origin of mankind out of Africa was explained, after which they left for the SAB World of Beer which took them through a

whirlwind tour of the history of beer from ancient Sumaria to modern day brewing practices. Whilst on this tour, the Worthogs, a dedicated fraternity of craft brewers, were busy adjudicating the submissions in order to select the best overall beverage for the evening.

The students had brewed a variety of different beer styles to tempt the judges, ranging from lagers, dark ales to IPAs and bitters. All beers were bottled and presentation was a key factor in determining the overall winner. Each entrant designed an appropriate label with interesting examples from 'Toxic Nun' to 'Ailing Ale' to 'Robust Porter', to 'Normandy Nudes Dark Lager'!

The overall winners for the best label were from the University of Rhodes in Grahamstown for their 'Tsar Imperial Stout'. The Overall Winner for the best beer on show was won by the University of Pretoria for an India Pale Ale called 'Punjab Punishment' which was clean, had wonderful hoppy character and finished well. This is the third time that this University has won this competition in the four years it has been held and with new teams competing every year. This says something about the passion that the University of Pretoria has approached this competition with – well done to them.

After the prize giving, the samples were available for all to taste and discuss the relevant merits and demerits of each entry. The student brewers were on hand to tell anyone who cared to listen to the problems they had with each batch. They explained how they had overcome them, as well as discussed the successes of each brew which came together as designed. In some brews, how nothing had worked but that they had learned a lot and were determined to make amends next year if given the opportunity. The students swapped stories, recipes and tasted each other contributions to the competition but in the end there was only one winner.

The stakes were high, bursaries were on offer for the successful University, cash prizes for some, but at the end there was an overwhelming satisfaction of a job well done, some friendships made between universities, some knowledge gained, and a determination to be back next year to compete and win the coveted Ben Lamaletie – IBD Best Beer trophy. We are all looking forward to it! ■

### ■ The authors

John Cluett is a former Chairman of the IBD Africa Section and Malcolm du Toit is on the IBD Africa Section Committee.