

WIZARDS 2003 Octoberfest

Octoberfest was the theme of our October club meeting again this year. But this year's event could be called anything but typical. Between the homebrews and commercial beers, we had fifteen different Ofests to sample and rate.

Three flights were created from the entries and doled out to three different teams. The teams ranked the brews on a scale of 1-5 and the top two beers from each flight were submitted to a Best of Show round. With the entire club judging, Sam Adams Octoberfest was proclaimed the best of the best.

As a sad footnote, this is the first time in club history that a commercial beer has won the annual Octoberfest challenge over one of the club's homebrews. Hopefully this will not become a trend.

Complete results and tasting notes are shown in the table below.

Entry	Flight/Place	Brewer	Tasting Notes
A1	BOS/1st Place	Sam Adams	Heavy hop bitterness for Ofest; not much malt in aroma; hops dominate over malt
A1	Flight 1/2nd Place	Sam Adams	Copper color; nice head; sweet malt and fruity; hops low; roasted malt flavor with slight bitterness on tongue; slightly harsh
B2	BOS/2nd Place	Thomas Hooker	Malt over hop aroma; malt in nose; clean; good hop/malt balance; Munich malt character and sweetness
B2	Flight 2/2nd Place	Thomas Hooker	Slight malty aroma; lingering bitterness; malty palate; touch of harshness; bitterness over malt
B3	BOS/3rd Place (tie)	Harpoon	Good malt nose; little bitterness at the end; thin; bit too bitter for an Ofest
B3	Flight 2/1st Place	Harpoon	Nice malt aroma; no hop in nose; nice malt/aroma balance
C4	BOS/3rd Place (tie)	Spaten	Munich nose but could use more malt; good hop/malt balance; medium body
C4	Flight 3/2nd Place	Spaten	Tight head retention; good clarity; good beer; solid base malts; sweetness is right; good nose
A3	BOS/5th Place	Otter Creek	Good head; malty nose; Munich malt sweetness in taste
A3	Flight 1/1st Place	Otter Creek	Copper color; clear; nice head; malty aroma; body low; malty with a slight nutty finish
C3	BOS/6th Place	Brooklyn	Hop and malt aroma; caramel; very thin; metallic finish

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C3	Flight 3/1st Place	Brooklyn	Mild on malt; good clarity; no at robust; clean finish; good session beer
A2	Flight 1	Saranac	Copper color; ok head; malty nose; slight tang; vegetal flavor but not bad beer
A4	Flight 1	Hacker Pschorr	Copper color; clear; ok head; sour flavor
A5	Flight 1	Dave's Ofest	Dark Copper color; nice clarity; good head retention; oxidized; malty flavor; heavy handed on spice
B1	Flight 2	Berkshire	Butter aroma; diacetyl covers light maltiness
B4	Flight 2	Wurzburger Hofbrau	Golden in color - light for an Ofest; thin - very light in malt; not an Ofest
B5	Flight 2	Deja Brew	Little light in color; Light but dominating hop aroma; more hop than malt in taste; too thin
C1	Flight 3	Paper City	Sweet for an Ofest; too many chocolate malts; good balance - Chuck liked it; good clarity; nice head
C2	Flight 3	Wachusett	Cloudy; bitter finish; not enough Munich character; nice head; lingering aftertaste
C5	Flight 3	Jeremy's Ofest	Slight chill haze; nice head; too much chocolate malt - cloying sweetness; too dark