

# Leeds Beer Festival Collaboration Project

This year we thought we'd try something new. We wanted to celebrate all that is good about beer-making in Leeds by organising a series of collaborative beers made by our city's brewers working together. For many of them, collaboration is nothing new (indeed, you can drink the results of the Ridgeside x Meanwood x Hungry Bear collaboration here at the Festival, planned before our project), but for others, this was the first time they had collaborated with another brewery.

All 23 Leeds-area breweries (at the time of organising - this is a number that changes frequently!) were invited to participate. Some were too busy with their existing production schedule (which is great - we love to see our breweries thriving) or would have wanted to participate, but needed more notice (sorry - we will try to be more organised next time), but eleven breweries went out of their way to fit our project into their business. We are truly very grateful for all their hard work in making this happen.

Breweries were free to select their own pairings/ groupings or to participate in a random draw. The majority went for the latter and so we had a very well-attended and enjoyable evening up-stairs at Wapentake on 11<sup>th</sup> April for the draw (with pingpong balls and everything!) matching up hosting breweries with prospective visiting brewers. There was a bit of mixing of groups after the draw and we ended up with five collaborative brew days, two of them producing two beers instead of one, giving us a total of seven beers. All of the Leeds Beer Festival Collaboration Project beers are available, for the first time anywhere, here at Leeds Beer Festival from Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June, highlighted blue in the Cask and Key Keg beer lists.



(Brian Dickson of Northern Monk Brew Co. and Aaron Getliffe of Quirky Ales collaborating on "EQ-What??" at Quirky Ales' brewery in Garforth)

We are in the dark as much as you, and are excited to see (and drink) what the breweries have come up with!

