

Our boys really know their brew

By Amanda Durry

It takes many years and a keen tongue to perfect the art of beer tasting but eight Mid Canterbury residents think they've got the formula right.

The two teams have recently returned from a Canterbury-wide blind beer tasting competition in Christchurch, where they came in first and second.

The Christchurch event was run through DB Breweries and saw 11 teams face off for the title.

To get to the finals, preliminaries were held at several bars throughout Canterbury with the top two teams from each attending, as well as a team of publicans and another from DB.

The A team and the Four Gravediggers were representing Braided Rivers and had to taste 12 beers on the final night to identify which beer it was, as well as answer questions including where in the world the beer came from.

The A Team took top honours, with team members Symon Restieaux, Marc Gibson, Paul Sparrow and Sarah Davidson pleased with their efforts, especially after taking out the Ashburton round earlier this month.

The gravediggers team was made up of Chris Robertson, Roger Hart, Bruce Day and Geoff Kean, who admitted it was enthusiasm of youth that won on the night.

And while it was a friendly, yet fierce, rivalry between the two Ashburton teams, they were more than happy to drink away the competition despite a few sore heads the next day.



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Cheers to Ashburton being a fine place to refine beer tasting: Mid Canterbury's top blind beer tasters (front, from left) Symon Restieaux, Marc Gibson, Geoff Kean and (back, from left) Bruce Day, Chris Robertson and Paul Sparrow.