

NEIL PLAYFOOT

Wuxi, China

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I am a brewer with 20+ years international experience in the brewing industry.

I've worked within large multinational companies such as ABI coordinating and leading teams. I've acquired the ability to hit deadlines under pressure when launch dates for finished products have been pre-set.

In my brewing career I've devised SOP's to streamline operations and trained staff whilst taking health and safety seriously. I understand preparation, planning plus good written verbal communications are the keys to success in any role.

WORK HISTORY

Self-Employed, China (December 2019 – Present)

Brewing Consultant

- Working with breweries to help them set-up new operations or source equipment for current operations.

Dargett Brewery - Yerevan, Armenia (July 2018 - November 2019)

Head Brewer

- Bought on-board as head brewer for a brand new 35HL automated brewery to grow operations from their previous 500L brewpub.
- I trained staff, developed systems, formulized SOP's and implemented health and safety policies for the new production brewery.
- I coordinated with the brewery installation technicians to establish best brewing practices to streamline operations for packaging (bottle and kegging machine), an SPX centrifuge and Braukon HopGun.
- I calculated recipes scaling up from 5HL to 35HL to be consistent with previous brews in the brewpub but instituted improvements to stabilize shelf life as beer was now being packaged.
- My role developed with increasing sales to production manager; I built new Google shareable documents for monthly schedules as well as stock for raw materials and packaged goods so all people in the brewery had the information, they needed to fulfil their role successfully.

July 2017 - June 2018

After leaving my last job at ABI-DGO I took a break for some family time together and assess our options before my daughter was of school age.

ABI-DGO — BUDWEISER (CHINA) – SHANGHAI (March - June 2017)

Craft Beer Specialist

- My task was to coordinate between head-quarters in Shanghai and brewing operations in Wuhan as the sole full-time ABI-DGO employee based in Wuhan.
- The carried out a diverse set of tasks from visiting label suppliers to approve designs, authorize label print runs, making sure supplies were in spec to overseeing dry hopping of 1200,000 liters batches of beer.
- Tasked with helping ABI get their first craft brewery in China operational I had to quickly make connections and liaise with key employees in a plant of over 700 employees and contractors in Wuhan to understand their roles and communicate that to headquarters in Shanghai.
- I was also tasked with writing capability reports for the ABI Wuhan's main brew houses, fermentation and 25 + packaging lines. These reports were used as a point of reference so the craft brewing and large brew house teams could work sharing resources to reach targets and KPI's (Key Performance Indicators).

MR OK BAR – WUXI, CHINA (January 2016 - February 2017)

Head Brewer

- I have overall control of the brewing operations from grain to glass for Mr. OK Bar brewpub.

BAD MONKEY BREWERY– Dali, China (July 2010 - May 2013 + June - Dec 2015)

Head Brewer

- Went to China initially as a brewery consultant and was then taken on as the full-time head brewer in charge of their 3,000HL brewery and packaging facility.
- I took an 18-month sabbatical to have a family and then the Bad Monkey asked me to help out after their latest head brewer left suddenly.

DOCKYARD BREWING – BERMUDA (Jan 2005 - Dec 2006 + Jan 2008 - May 2010)

Head Brewer

- In charge of the brewery creating 5 beers to be sold island wide.
- Worked with the public and media to build brewery awareness on the island which involved tours and outside bars to cater for travelers visiting the island.,
- The job involved a lot of preventative maintenance as I was on a small island 500 nautical miles from the nearest landmass so could not afford any mechanical issues.

PARIS REAL ALE BREWERY – PARIS, FRANCE (Oct 2002 - Dec 2005 + Jan - Oct 2007)

Brewer

- Brewed as part of a three-man brewing team running four brewpubs in Paris was solely in charge of their facility on Lisbon, Portugal traveling when needed to oversee brewing operations.

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE – LONDON UK (June 1998 - July 2002)

Head Brewer

- Ran the brewing concerns of two brewpubs in the center of London (I was the youngest unit manager for Scottish and Newcastle at the time).

FREEDOM BREWING COMPANY – LONDON, UK (June 1995 - May 1998)

Assistant Brewer

- Involved in the day-to-day running of the brewery as part of a three-man brewing team on a 26 HL lager brewery.
- Left the company as an assistant brewer as offered a role as head brewer with my next employer.

EDUCATION

1988 - 1995

BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

- 10 GCSE's – Grades A - C
- 4 A-Levels – Graded A - C

I have also done management training in my time from SMART training (at Paris Real Ale Brewing). Also working for ABI-DGO they had their own internal training incising safety 5S training.

REFERENCES

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