

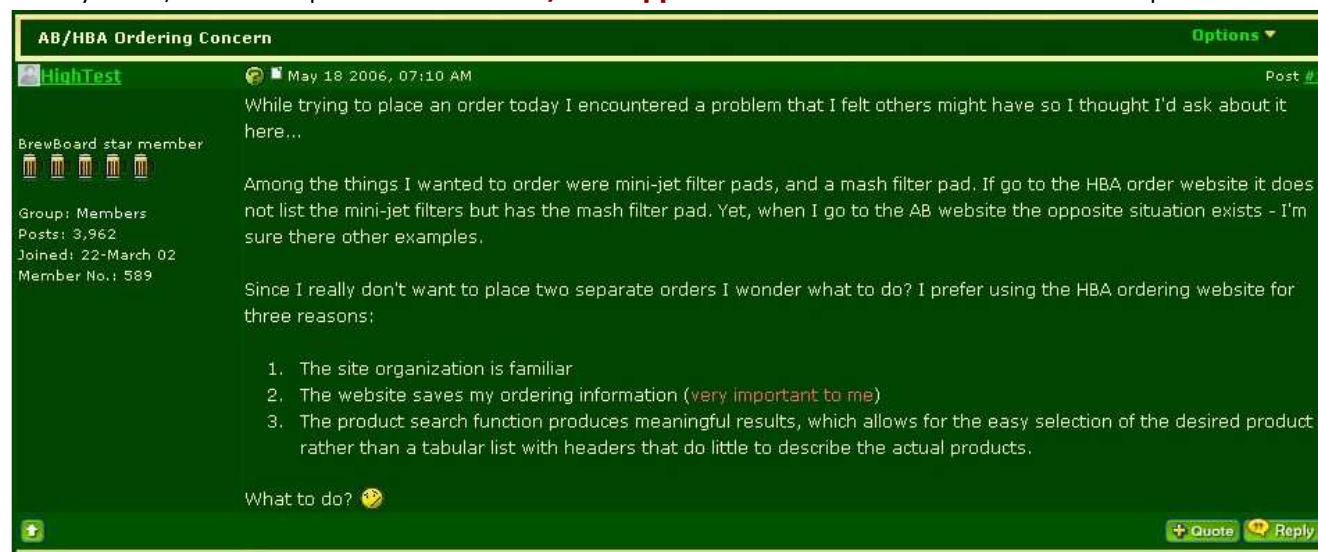
Why I Resigned...

While some people know (or think they know) why I left the Brewboard, others can only read the *Brewboard party line* privately via PM. This document was prepared to tell the factual (no spin) version of the events.

Early, in 2002, I was asked to become a HBA Brewboard (AKA Green Board) Guest Moderator. Accepting this invitation, I worked hard to develop the WM&C Forums into something where people could come with their questions and get comprehensive & meaningful answers.

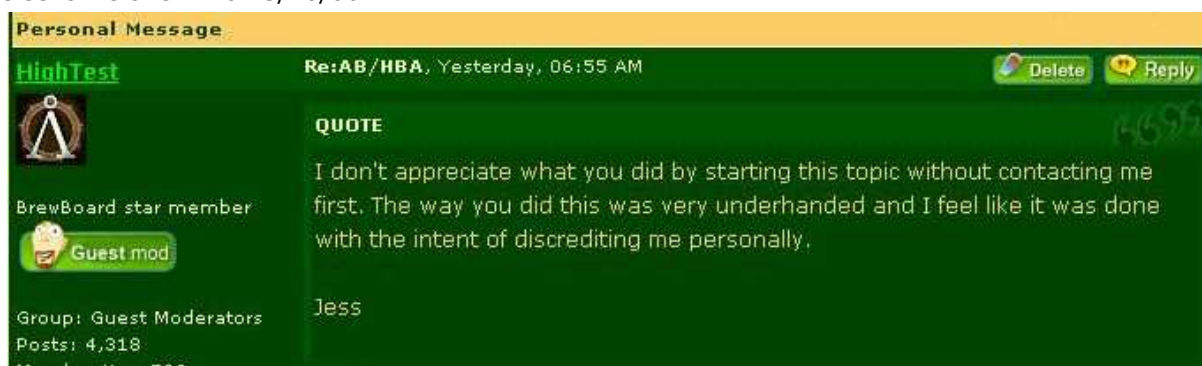
Everything was going quite well until AB (Jess) bought-out HBA in Feb 2006. For over 2 months after this acquisition, there was virtually no contact between the new owner and the HBA mods - we really didn't know where we stood with Jess.

In May 2006, I asked a question in the **HBA/AB Support Forum** about how to order certain products:



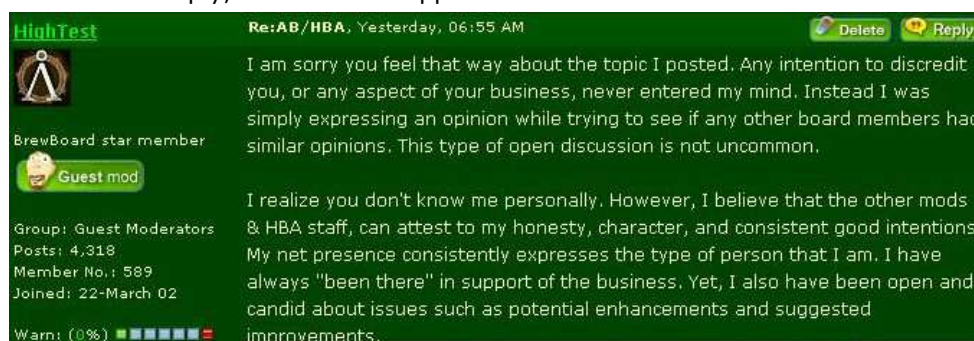
The screenshot shows a forum post by user HighTest, dated May 18, 2006, at 07:10 AM. The post is titled "AB/HBA Ordering Concern" and is marked as Post #1. HighTest is a BrewBoard star member with 3,962 posts and joined on March 22, 2002. The post content reads: "While trying to place an order today I encountered a problem that I felt others might have so I thought I'd ask about it here... Among the things I wanted to order were mini-jet filter pads, and a mash filter pad. If go to the HBA order website it does not list the mini-jet filters but has the mash filter pad. Yet, when I go to the AB website the opposite situation exists - I'm sure there other examples. Since I really don't want to place two separate orders I wonder what to do? I prefer using the HBA ordering website for three reasons: 1. The site organization is familiar 2. The website saves my ordering information (very important to me) 3. The product search function produces meaningful results, which allows for the easy selection of the desired product rather than a tabular list with headers that do little to describe the actual products. What to do? 😊". The post has "Quote" and "Reply" buttons at the bottom right.

You see there were 2 websites, and not all the products were on listed on both sites. Seeing as I didn't want to make two separate orders, and an earlier (identical) question I had asked Jess privately went unanswered, I asked my questions via the forum as it was common practice. This apparently infuriated Jess as he sent me this PM on 5/20/06:



The screenshot shows a personal message from user Jess to HighTest, dated Yesterday at 06:55 AM. The message is titled "Re:AB/HBA" and has "Delete" and "Reply" buttons. Jess is a BrewBoard star member and a Guest mod with 4,318 posts and joined on March 22, 2002. The message content reads: "QUOTE I don't appreciate what you did by starting this topic without contacting me first. The way you did this was very underhanded and I feel like it was done with the intent of discrediting me personally. Jess".

Although I was shocked by Jess' accusatory PM, I tried to diffuse his anger by sending him the reply shown below. Jess said he would reply, but it never happened.



The screenshot shows a personal message reply from HighTest to Jess, dated Yesterday at 06:55 AM. The message is titled "Re:AB/HBA" and has "Delete" and "Reply" buttons. HighTest is a BrewBoard star member and a Guest mod with 4,318 posts and joined on March 22, 2002. The message content reads: "I am sorry you feel that way about the topic I posted. Any intention to discredit you, or any aspect of your business, never entered my mind. Instead I was simply expressing an opinion while trying to see if any other board members had similar opinions. This type of open discussion is not uncommon. I realize you don't know me personally. However, I believe that the other mods & HBA staff, can attest to my honesty, character, and consistent good intentions. My net presence consistently expresses the type of person that I am. I have always 'been there' in support of the business. Yet, I also have been open and candid about issues such as potential enhancements and suggested improvements."

