



GOOD BEER GUIDE SELECTION POLICY

It is CAMRA policy for all CAMRA branches to “note and make use of NBSS data by any CAMRA member” (Internal Memorandum, 07/01/2007)

The branch objective is to choose the best 40 pubs for beer quality, plus 5 reserves.

POLICY

The qualification period is from the 1st January to 31st December, and is broken into 4 quarters, Jan, Feb, Mar; Apr, May Jun; Jul, Aug, Sep; Oct, Nov, Dec.

Pubs will be long listed in accordance with the following three criteria.

1. Pubs that have achieved an NBSS average score of 3.5 or above, have had more than 6 visits, by more than 6 people and have been visited at least once in each quarter.
2. GBG pubs in the current edition of the Guide that are not included in 1 above, providing the NBSS average score is not below 3, and is not significantly lower than the previous year: all other criteria should apply, but is flexible, as these pubs are current GBG entries.
3. Members’ nominations; these pubs to be considered on their merits.

A selection meeting, chaired by the Pubs Coordinator is to be held in early to mid-January, when a short list of 40 pubs plus 5 reserves (these to be given a 1 to 5 order status) will be chosen for surveying.

Likes or dislikes of a pub do not come into consideration, and no pub, however many times it has been in the Guide, or how many awards it has won, has a right to be included.

As the branch covers a large area, a good geographical spread should try and be achieved, with large towns, cities and rural areas being represented, providing the pubs are worthy of being in the Guide. If pubs in a certain area are not up to GBG standard, then that area will, unfortunately, not have a Guide entry.

Reviewed and update November 2018

Notes and guidance on the policy

The NBSS National Beer Scoring System, is the best tool that CAMRA currently have for determining beer quality in a pub. However, it is open to abuse with some individuals deliberately over marking in an attempt to get a pub included in the GBG or conversely under marking in an attempt to get a pub de-selected.

It is the role of the Branch NBSS co-ordinator to monitor NBSS scores and flag any attempts of manipulation to the committee.

A note on rule 3 above: *"Members' nominations; these pubs to be considered on their merits."*

Prior to or at the selection meeting, the branch NBSS co-ordinator shall provide a list taken from the NBSS spreadsheet that shows pubs that:

- a) Fully meet our exacting criteria and
- b) Fully meet 2 out of 3 of the criteria. This can be used by members consider their nominations.

Examples of nominations from past experience:

A pub opens in April, so no first quarter scores are possible. The scores and visits during the remainder of the year warranted inclusion in the GBG.

A rural pub is rarely visited. A new landlord, who has run a pub in a previous GBG takes over. The branch visits on a campaigning trip and several members recommend its inclusion in the GBG. NBSS score improve markedly over the remainder of the year and the pub is included in the GBG.

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Pubs 35-45 on the short list all have similar NBSS average scores. Eight are in large towns already represented, and the other two are in small rural / coastal communities. The two rural pubs are given preference.

After the short list selection meeting, nominated pubs are to be surveyed as soon as possible, and the results given to the GBG Submissions Coordinator as they are done; with all surveys to be in his or her hands by the end of the 3rd week of February. All pubs must fully comply with CAMRA Policy; any that don't should immediately be advised to the Pubs Coordinator.

The Pubs Coordinator will check entries to ensure they are in the correct editorial style before they are signed off, via WhatPub, to the Regional Director; deadline is the end of the first week of March.

During the year, if a GBG pub has a change of Licensee/Landlord, the committee will decide if it should be removed from the Guide.