

Good Beer Guide (GBG) selection process

At CAMRA's 2025 Members' Weekend, members agreed that branches must use beer scores as a significant part of their GBG selection process.

Year-round activities: beer scoring and reporting

- Encourage members to submit a score for each different beer tried in a pub.
- Identify pubs to promote to members for scoring. For example: high-scoring pubs with consistently high or low scores from a small number of members; pubs with a change of licensee; GBG pubs with a wide variation of scores; rural pubs that are infrequently visited, or pubs that need one or two more scores or scorers to be considered as a GBG entry. The Beer Quality Accreditation ratings on the CAMRA website are a quick way of identifying pubs with insufficient scores or poor ratings, and we'll continue to automate a Target Pubs webpage, but showing more detail than just last scored date.
- Promote scoring through branch meetings, magazine articles, emails, posters, and scoring cards.
- Our existing Top Pubs webpage to be replaced by a Potential GBG Candidate Pubs webpage.

October: letting branch members know

- Let members know that a shortlist of GBG-eligible pubs will be presented at the November meeting. These will be selected based on the scores submitted in the previous 12 months. Scores from all CAMRA members should be used in the analysis.
- Encourage members to visit and score in those pubs that don't quite meet GBG eligibility criteria of not enough scores or not enough scorers.

November: GBG nomination meeting

- **Shortlisting:** A list of pubs ranked (by confidence, which is a calculation based on the pub's average score, the number of scores and the standard deviation, reflecting consistency, of the scores) will be presented, based on the previous 12 month's scores. The meeting may agree to remove pubs with disqualifying factors (e.g. unknown licensee, uncertain future) after discussion at the meeting.
 - The shortlist should consider the minimum average score, the minimum number of scores, the minimum number of scorers and the spread of scores across the year.

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- **Nominations:** Review the top scoring pubs, removing any that meet any of these criteria:
 - The pub is closed.
 - There has been a change of ownership, licensee, manager or cellar manager that has caused a decline in quality.
 - Scores have been manipulated.
 - Other concerns mentioned in the Good Beer Guidance and Survey Form issued by CAMRA each year.
- The top five sorted by confidence remaining on the list will be the candidates that go through to the Pub of the Year round of voting, which will continue as at present, with all pubs needing visiting before the February meeting.
- Encourage members to visit and score any or all of the GBG candidates in addition to the top five..

December - February: final GBG selection

- **Final GBG selection:** Update and present the list, ranked by confidence. Select pubs based on their ranking until the quota is filled or the minimum acceptable score threshold is reached. We will also select three reserve pubs as currently.
- Note, the top five at the November meeting might not still be the top five in February, but we need a cut off date for the POTY round that allows time to vote. The winner of the POTY round will automatically get a GBG place, though should their scores have been so bad since November that they drop out of the top nine pubs yet they still win, then there is something seriously wrong that needs investigating.

March: review and publish the branch's GBG selection process

- Review, if necessary, and approve the GBG selection process for the next year.
- Publish the selection process on your website.

To be considered for entry, a pub must:

1. Have received scores from at least two different scorers in the previous three months, and from at least four different scorers in the previous six months.
2. Have one of the highest average scores for the past six months that meets the minimum acceptable score threshold of 3 (Good).
3. Have been scored at least once in each of the last two quarters.
4. Not have changed owner or management during the previous six months, unless the owner/manager/cellar manager has a good reputation for keeping beer.
5. Have had its scores checked for inaccurate and/or suspicious scores.

