

## Scope

Detail of the GBG selection process for the South Devon branch of CAMRA over the year (Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – Jan 31<sup>st</sup>). This document confirms the PRIMARY use of beer scores from CAMRA members via a meticulous and unique beer scoring system (NBSS), with the quality of beers in each one being checked. Every pub that appears in the guide has been visited frequently, sometimes weekly. It is therefore down to the Branch Membership, that the information published in the 'guide' is an accurate portrayal of that pub and its beer quality.

## How does a Pub get into the Good Beer Guide?

To be eligible for automatic entry, the pub must meet all the following criteria:

1. Average Score of  $\geq 3.5$
2. No. of visits  $\geq 12$
3. No. of scorers  $\geq 5$
4. Must have been visited in each quarter
5. Was not deselected by a majority vote of CAMRA members who have visited the pub in the previous CAMRA year.

**If any of the top scoring pubs are deselected, then additional pubs may be selected up to the maximum of 29, plus 3 reserves.**

### A Note on Selection Rules From HQ

The only mandatory rule is that beer scores via the NBSS are used PRIMARILY to generate the nominations and selections. All other criteria are discretionary at branch level however, the average score of  $\geq 3.5$  is advised. The remaining criteria are suggested by head office to aid in shortlist generation. This was minuted at a national meeting in 2013 'GBG Selection Process Seminar' in Birmingham where our previous NBSS coordinator (R.Matthews) attended with (P.Morrison). These details have been re-established (2015 Q4) with HQ, no change to date.

## Throughout the Year

### Highlighting

GBG standard pubs or pubs that are receiving wide variations of scores should be highlighted at meetings and/or via the branch mailing list. Also, any change of circumstances or new pubs should also be raised.

## Quarterly Beer Scores

The NBSS Coordinator is to highlight GBG standard pubs that meet the agreed criteria or are very close. This information is to be provided to the committee in the agreed 'Year-to-Date' (YTD) format.

NB Under a system of continuous maintenance, pubzilla is updated with pub information throughout the year.

## January branch meeting

The NBSS Coordinator is to take an early look at scores for anomalies and remind everyone to get their scores in by the agreed date (published in branch News and Brews) ready for the final years download and draft shortlist.

Take note of any input from the committee or branch regarding potential GBG selected pubs.

Remind everyone of the scoring criteria.

### De-selection:

Any member may nominate in writing any possible GBG entry pub for de-selection. A nomination must include: name, membership number, pub, location and reason. Nominations for deselection must be received before the start of the selection meeting in February to enable branch officers to investigate properly.

Reasons for deselection: Pub closure, change of ownership leading to poor beer quality, **evidence and proof** of score manipulation, etc.

NB the old rule for automatic de-selection due to one of the following; new licensee within 12 months of date of submission to RD, future uncertain, etc, is now discretionary as advised by HQ 2015 Q4.

## February branch meeting – GBG selection.

### Draft Shortlist:

Prepare a shortlist of pubs in rank order of the following criteria for the CAMRA year to date (YTD):

- 1) PRIMARY FILTER – All of the following
  - a. Average Score of  $\geq 3.0$
  - b. No. of visits  $\geq 10$
  - c. No. of scorers  $\geq 3$
- 2) SECONDARY FILTER - Previous GBG entry going back to 2010
- 3) TERTIARY - Visited in each quarter

### De-selection

De-selection nominations are read out if any exist. A period of discussion of up to 3 minutes per pub may take place after which the vote is put to members as above.

Potential automatic entries are highlighted, and any anomalies highlighted for discussion that have not already been resolved. If there are not enough automatic entries, then suggested entries, as agreed by the committee, are considered and voted upon by members present at the meeting. A period of discussion of up to 3 minutes per pub may take place after which the vote is put to members who have visited the pub at least once since Jan 31<sup>st</sup> of the preceding year.

*The vote:*

- The pub is GBG standard – is put onto a shortlist
- The pub is not GBG standard – is removed from the shortlist
- This continues until the allocation of 29 entries and 3 reserves are fulfilled
- In the event of a tie, the chair will have the casting vote

If there are too many automatic entries, the list will have to be cut down in a reverse fashion.

### Final Selection:

An agreed list of pubs from Feb 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year to Jan 31<sup>st</sup> is given to the meeting.

Starting at the top of the list, the pubs are selected in order until the allocation of 29 is filled.

Up to 3 pubs per branch may be selected as reserve entries again using the ranking as presented.

Final selections to be submitted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Entries to be completed and uploaded to the GBG National Online Submissions System from WhatPub.

## Supporting Notes

In the Good Beer Guide (GBG) under the section 'About the Good Beer Guide' there is a sub-section 'Town & Country Pubs' which reminds us of the following: -

“Users want a good spread of pubs. Unlike some guides that concentrate on rural pubs, we recognise that most people live in towns and cities and expect a good selection of pubs in those areas. But we don't neglect suburban and country pubs: on the contrary, CAMRA campaigns for the survival of rural pubs that are often vital hubs of their isolated communities.”

A reminder on the scoring criteria: -

### What do the scores mean?

0. No cask ale available.
1. **Poor**  
Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
2. **Average**  
Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
3. **Good**  
Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.
4. **Very Good**  
Excellent beer in excellent condition.
5. **Perfect**  
Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.