

Heart of Staffordshire CAMRA Good Beer Guide Selection



The Heart of Staffordshire branch use a blended approach based on:

- Beer Scores from the National Beer Scoring system (NBSS)
- Member nominations
- Geographical spread

Step 1 - Beer Scores

NBSS criteria for candidacy are:

- at least three different scorers, who visited on three different dates
- average score 3.5 or higher (as a guide)
- any zero (no real ale) scores or scores of 1.5 or below to be reviewed if other criteria met.

As some people tend to be more generous scorers than others we utilise former NBSS co-ordinator Brett Laniosh's 'score smoother' to produce more reliable averages.

Step 2 - Member Nominations

To increase member engagement, and acknowledging that not all members use NBSS, we invite members to nominate up to 5 pubs for inclusion in the GBG, via an on-line survey.

Step 3 – Shortlisting

First Selection Meeting

This meeting is used to shortlist pubs for entry into the next Good Beer Guide (GBG). CAMRA guidelines recommend that branches ensure a good geographical spread for its GBG entries.

The first step will be to analyse the pubs with qualifying NBSS scores and the results of the members votes, looking for pubs which do well on both counts. Then we look at the postcodes and potentially make adjustments to the shortlist to ensure good geographical spread.

A change of licensee in the three months before this meeting would trigger a discussion on whether or not to exclude the pub.

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Step 4 - Surveying

All shortlisted pubs to be surveyed, using CAMRA's survey form. If possible, use the opportunity to check all WhatPub data is up to date.

Step 5 – Finalising

Second Selection Meeting

Surveyors will report on their visits to the pubs – negative findings (or a change of licensee) may demote an entry or off the shortlist altogether. The final pubs to be included are agreed plus 3 reserves (and their order).

NBSS scores since the first selection meeting will not be taken into consideration.

Step 6 - Submission

The agreed pubs are submitted to CAMRA for inclusion in the next GBG.

Notes

- The number of allocated entries in the GBG may change year-on-year
- Our first shortlist will include 5 or 6 more pubs than our allocation of entries, to allow for pub closures, change of licensee, etc
- The geographical spread of pubs for inclusion is determined each year depending on the number of open pubs in each postcode area and our allocated entries for the GBG
- Geographical spread is used as a guide (not a rule) when shortlisting