

South East London CAMRA – Good Beer Guide Selection Process

- Beer scores submitted by CAMRA members are a core component of the branch selection process;
- Unless agreed otherwise by the Branch Committee, the beer scoring year runs from 1 Jan to 31 Dec;
- Shortly after the end of each scoring year, the beer scores for that year are downloaded, tabulated, and analysed;
- Normally in order to be considered for GBG selection, a pub requires at least 4 different scorers and a minimum average score that may vary slightly from year to year but is generally around 3.2;
- A new pub would normally only be considered for GBG entry after at least 6 months of opening;
- An initial shortlisting meeting is held in Jan, which any branch member is welcome to attend, to select the branch's allocated quota of entries plus a handful of reserves;
- In general, if a pub meets the above core selection criteria it is deemed worthy of GBG entry unless there is a majority consensus otherwise at the selection meeting, such as recent feedback regarding deterioration in beer quality, change of cellar staff, etc;
- Branch members are also free to highlight any pub(s) not meeting the above core selection criteria that they nonetheless feel warrant consideration for entry. If a majority of meeting attendees agree, such pub(s) can be included as potential GBG candidates subject to further visits by members to assess beer quality;
- Whilst brewery taprooms are eligible for entry, due to the limited number of branch GBG entries available, in practice only those open 5 or more days per week would be considered;
- A sense check is also undertaken at the meeting to ensure there is an adequate/desirable geographical spread of entries across the branch area to avoid over-concentrations and under-representations to the extent possible, whilst maintaining overall GBG entry quality;
- If needed, a follow-up final selection meeting is scheduled in Feb to report back on any follow-up pub visits and agree the final GBG entries and reserves.
- The branch's allocation of GBG entries represents broadly 10% of our real ale pubs and so it is inevitable that each year there will be pubs worthy of GBG entry that have to be left out. It is also desirable to have a certain degree of entry churn each year.