

CAMRA Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles 2022 Good Beer Guide Voting

Fellow branch member(s),

In the anticipation that by the time of publication, later this year, hospitality will be allowed to operate at post-covid, near-normal conditions e.g. inside drinking and without the requirement for the accompanying "substantial meal" the decision has been made nationally to go ahead with the 2022 Good Beer Guide; albeit at a later schedule than normal (on sale late October or early November) and with a reduced number of pub entries (about 80% relative to previous years).

In order to get the best representation of our finest outlets we are once again asking all branch members to vote for our local entries for the next edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide (GBG). Our branch nominates the entries for the **Aberdeen & Grampian** (Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire & Moray) and the **Northern Isles** (Orkney and Shetland) sections in the GBG.

In previous years we have stated you can vote for (or against) as many pubs as you like, as long as you've been there within the last year. A year in that case was defined as the interval between two GBG votes i.e. mid-February to mid-February. Given how infrequently pubs have been allowed to operate since March 2020 and that travel restrictions have been in place a lot of the time this would probably mean that not many people would be able to vote and probably not for many pubs either.

So this time we will be combining votes received with all those received from the previous annual vote to determine our top pubs. On a pub by pub basis if you voted for (or against) a pub last time and you vote on the pub again this time then only your most recent vote will count. If you didn't get to a certain pub in 2020 then leave the vote line blank and your vote from last year will be carried forward. If you were lucky enough to visit a pub in 2020 that you didn't get to and vote on in 2019 then you should cast your vote this time. For votes based on visits in 2020 please do not be swayed by the constrained operating conditions imposed due to the covid regulations on pubs. When voting, please remember that the main criterion for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide is the quality of the real ale served in the pub so think more about beer quality and less about the pub having a reduced beer range.

There is of course the usual restriction that you can't vote for (or for that matter against) any pub where you have a financial interest e.g. you are the owner, manager or licensee. Votes are limited to current branch members, so you **must include your membership number** on the voting form. **Joint members each get a vote - please use a separate voting form.**

We have a weighted voting system, in that you can vote according to your strength of conviction regarding each pub.

For each pub, you can vote as follows:

- Blank:** I have not been in this pub within the last year
- 2 :** Strongly against, "over my dead body" (not literally, please)
- 1 :** Against inclusion in the Good Beer Guide, but not absolutely
- 0 :** I have been there, but I can't make up my mind
- +1 :** I am generally in favour of this pub being in the Good Beer Guide
- +2 :** This pub should definitely be in the Good Beer Guide

The votes will be weighted arithmetically, i.e. a plus or minus 2 vote will count twice as much as an equivalent plus or minus 1 vote.

The reason why we want to differentiate between "blank" and "zero" votes is to have an idea of how many of our voting members visit each pub, even if they do not necessarily feel strongly enough about it to vote one way or another, and how many of our outlets are not being visited.

In an attempt to make things equitable we have a geographical weighting in favour of pubs outside the Aberdeen city area. This comes in the shape of a multiplicative factor:

1x Pubs in central Aberdeen, defined as the area formed by the river Dee, the river Don and the A90. In addition, there is an additional restriction of no more than 10 entries for this area.

2x Pubs in the rest of Aberdeen City, and the near commuter area - including the public transport corridors as far as and including Stonehaven, Banchory, Westhill, Inverurie, Oldmeldrum and Ellon, but not pubs inside this area with poor or non-existent public transport links.

3x Pubs that are anywhere else in the branch area.

Pubs in the Northern Isles, which have their own quota in the *Good Beer Guide*, are only ranked against each other so do not need a weighting factor.

Even though the list of pubs is as accurate as we can make it, there may be mistakes in the list. Please indicate if you think we may have missed a real ale outlet, or if any of the listed outlets no longer sell real ale. Also indicate if a pub has permanently ceased trading i.e. will not re-open when covid restrictions are lifted.

The voting deadline is **23:59 on Monday 15th March 2021**. The vote results will be presented at the "GBG selection" meeting, which will be held virtually using Zoom. The meeting time and date will be advertised on the branch calendar on our new website. Until the publication of the 2022 *Good Beer Guide*, the outcome of the vote will not be published, and must be treated as confidential. www.aberdeencamra.org.uk/branch-calendar

The voting form (Excel & pdf formats) are located here. www.aberdeencamra.org.uk/publications/good-beer-guide/good-beer-guide-selection

A copy of this cover letter/instruction guide is located here. www.aberdeencamra.org.uk/publications/good-beer-guide/good-beer-guide-selection

If you have any questions please use the contacts listed here www.aberdeencamra.org.uk/friends/contact-us

You can vote in three ways:

- Return a paper version of the form to the returning officer
Euan Fraser
39 Denwood
Aberdeen AB15 6JE
- Send an electronic version of the voting form to the returning officer
fraser_euan@hotmail.com
- Vote using the form found on the branch website : www.aberdeencamra.org.uk/publications/good-beer-guide/good-beer-guide-selection

In anticipation of your votes, thanks & cheers,

Euan Fraser

Returning Officer for the 2022 *Good Beer Guide*,

Campaign For Real Ale - Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles Branch