

## CAMRA Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles 2021 Good Beer Guide Voting

Fellow branch member(s),

It's that time of year when we 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.

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 this case is defined as the interval between two GBG votes i.e. mid-February to mid-February. There is only one restriction - 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. 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.

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.

The voting deadline is **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020**. The vote results will be presented at the "GBG selection" meeting, which this year is being held on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February** at 14:00 in the snug at **Ma Cameron's, Little Belmont Street, Aberdeen**. Until the publication of the 2021 Good Beer Guide, the outcome of the vote will not be published, and must be treated as confidential.

In addition to the votes for the Good Beer Guide, we would also like your nominations for the "Pub of the Year" for the Branch. The branch selects a local "Pub of the Year" for each of the following geographical areas within our branch area:

- Aberdeen City - City
- Aberdeenshire and Moray - Shire
- Orkney and Shetland - Northern Isles

Please indicate at the bottom of the form which pubs you nominate for each of the three geographical areas. Once again, you must have been in the pub you nominate within the last year, i.e. you might not be able to vote for a pub in a certain area and in all cases, you may only nominate one pub within each area.

The branch selection for "Pub of the Year" (POTY) for each geographical area will also take place at the GBG selection meeting as mentioned above. The branch area "Pub of the Year" is selected among the three winning pubs, and will also be the branch nominee for the Scotland & Northern Ireland POTY and national POTY competitions. The results will be announced shortly after the voting is concluded.

The branch is also having a vote on the branch beer of the year (BOTY) and, new for this year, the branch brewery of the year (BROTY). The restriction here is that the BOTY must be cask conditioned and come from a Scottish brewery. Also the BROTY must be Scottish and does not need to be the brewery that your choice of BOTY came from. So plenty to choose from. Again indicate your nominations in the appropriate place on the voting form.

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 :  
**<http://aberdeencamra.org.uk/publications/good-beer-guide>**

### **Help save CAMRA money**

If you have received this notification in the post it is because CAMRA does not have a record of a current email address for you. This lack of an email address incurs an expense to CAMRA. These not insignificant expenses soon mount up. If you don't believe us then check out the annual accounts (available at a branch meeting usually around March) how much CAMRA spends each year on postage. If you are willing to supply an email address, which will only be used by CAMRA to communicate campaigning issues until you ask us to stop, then please log on to the national CAMRA website [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) using your membership number and password and use the link to My Membership to add your email address. If that is too difficult you could email your address to **membership@aberdeencamra.org.uk** and our membership secretary will update it on your behalf.

In anticipation of your votes, thanks & cheers,

Euan Fraser

Returning Officer for the 2021 Good Beer Guide,

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