



## CAMRA's National Beer Scoring System

The National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) allows CAMRA members to submit information about the quality of the real ale they have been drinking in a pub.

The system is based on a simple 'points out of 5' scoring system (see opposite).

There are significant benefits to our branch using the NBSS. It helps us:

- Monitor the quality of real ale being served in our pubs.
- Identify those pubs to appear on our **Best Of...** web page.
- Select those pubs that will be invited to join CAMRA's LocAle Accreditation Scheme.
- Select those pubs that will feature in the next Good Beer Guide.
- Identify which pubs will be entered into CAMRA's Pub of the Year competition.

### Why do we need you?

We have around 140 pubs in our branch of which around 120 pubs serve real ale. Only one third of these pubs receive sufficient beer scores to be considered for an entry in the Good Beer Guide.

This means that two thirds of our pubs are not being properly represented.

### So why not submit some beer scores?

It takes around one beer score per month for a pub to be considered for an entry in the GBG.

## Otherwise, good real ale pubs may miss out!

### What if I am a publican?

Get to know which of your locals are CAMRA members. Then pester, persuade and coax them into submitting some beer scores.

### So, how do I send in my scores?

The simplest way to submit a beer score is through CAMRA's WhatPub website (<http://whatpub.com/>):

1. Logon to the Whatpub website using your CAMRA membership number and password.
2. Search for and select the pub you visited.
3. Submit your beer score.

## How do I score a beer?

See overleaf for more advice.

#	Definition
0	No real ale available
0.5	Undrinkable. Cask ale is so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it. <i>"Disgusting"; "Appalling"; "Revolting"; "Off"</i>
1	Poor. Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment. <i>"Unpleasant"; "Inferior"</i>
1.5	<i>"Indifferent"; "Second-rate"</i>
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. <i>"Mediocre"; "Run of the mill"; "A little tired"</i>
2.5	<i>"Ordinary"; "Acceptable"; "Passable"</i>
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. <i>"Quite good"; "Enjoyable"; "Nice"; "Decent"</i>
3.5	<i>"Good"; "Lovely"</i>
4	Very Good. Excellent beer in excellent condition. You will not move to another pub. <i>"Very good"; "First-class"; "Great"</i>
4.5	<i>"Excellent"; "Superior"; "Outstanding"</i>
5	Perfect. Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely. <i>"Nectar of the Gods"; "Perfect"; "Superlative"; "Stunning"</i>

## Still not too sure how to score a beer?

Scoring a beer can be a bit daunting the first time you try it, so here's a few tips to help:

1. You should score the real ale based on its quality and condition, which can be difficult if you don't like a particular style of beer.
2. Try describing the condition and quality of the beer. Then use these words to pick a score.
3. Don't forget to score bad quality beer as well as good quality beer, so we have a good and fair picture of the quality of real ale at a pub.
4. If you score a zero (No Real Ale) please enter the reason in the Comments field.
5. Every pub occasionally serves a pint near the end of the barrel. So to be fair to the landlord, you should only score a "0.5" ("Undrinkable") if you take the ale back and it was not replaced or refunded with a good grace. Indicate whether this was done when you submit your score.
6. The majority of scores for a pub well known for its real ale quality will be between 3 & 4. For a GBG-quality pub the majority of scores will be over 3.5.
7. Scoring a 4.5 is a rare event.
8. Scoring a 5 is a very, very, very rare event. So, you shouldn't expect to score a 5 more than a couple of times a year.

**Note:** If you have problems logging on to WhatPub or searching for a pub please email Tony Wells, our Pubs Officer at [pubs.officer@camra-dds.org.uk](mailto:pubs.officer@camra-dds.org.uk)

### Finally

Don't forget to have fun. Beer scoring shouldn't be seen as a chore and certainly shouldn't stop you enjoying your ale!

The following provides some additional advice and assistance about using the scoring system.

NBSS Score	Descriptive Words	Reaction
0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No real ale available.</li> <li>When submitting your score please indicate why real ale wasn't available in the Comments field.</li> </ul>
0.5	"Undrinkable" "Disgusting" "Appalling" "Revoltng" "Off"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Surely the barman should have smelt the state of this beer as he poured it."</li> <li>You should return this beer to the bar for a replacement or refund.</li> <li>You should add a comment to your report.</li> </ul>
1	"Poor" "Unpleasant" "Inferior"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"You'd have to pay me to drink this beer."</li> <li>You should return this beer to the bar for a replacement or refund.</li> <li>You should add a comment to your report.</li> </ul>
1.5	"Indifferent" "Second-rate"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
2	"Average" "Mediocre" "Run of the mill" "A little tired"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"It was OK but nothing to write home about and I'm looking forward to finishing the pint so I can try a different beer or move onto another pub."</li> <li>You wouldn't recommend this beer to your friends.</li> </ul>
2.5	"Ordinary" "Acceptable" "Passable"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
3	"Quite Good" "Enjoyable" "Nice" "Decent" "Not bad"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"I'd be reasonably happy to drink this beer all night."</li> <li>You would consider recommending this beer to your friends.</li> </ul>
3.5	"Good" "Lovely"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
4	"Very Good" "First-class" "Great"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Hmmm, I wonder if I have time for another pint or two?"</li> <li>You'd strongly encourage your friends to try this beer.</li> </ul>
4.5	"Excellent" "Superior" "Outstanding"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
5	"Perfect" "Superlative" "Stunning"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"This beer is the nectar of the Gods! Wild horses wouldn't be able to drag me away from this beer."</li> <li>You practically force your friends to have a pint.</li> <li>The beer was so good you just might have to pop back to the pub for some more.</li> </ul>

#### Examples:

- If you were to describe a beer as "enjoyable" then you would probably want to score it as a "3"
- If you found yourself in a situation where you had intended moving onto another pub but decided to stay because the beer was so good then you might want to consider scoring the beer as a "4" or perhaps a "4.5".

#### Additional Notes

Here are some notes about using the NBSS to score the quality of beer:

- If you can't decide between two scores, say a 2 and a 3, don't forget you can mark in halves as well. If you can't decide between a 3 and a 3.5 then use the lower score.
- If you do score a beer as 0.5 or 1 you should take the beer back to the bar and ask for a replacement, which the landlord should do without any quibble. Please indicate whether this happened in the Comments field of your report. All pubs and landlords have the occasional undrinkable pint and shouldn't be penalised as long as they took appropriate steps to correct it.
- If you score 0, to indicate that the pub had no real ale, please enter the reason in the Comments field. Perhaps the pub no longer serves real ale or perhaps the beer in the cellar is not ready to be served.
- I would expect to see the majority of scores hovering between 3.0 and 4 for a pub that is well known for the quality of its beer. So, a GBG-quality pub should be scoring well above 3.5.
- How to award a 5. Simple. Before you have even finished swallowing your first sip you're already holding the pint out to the rest of the pub as a shining example of the perfect beer. You've also started to wonder whether you can squeeze in another couple of pints of this "nectar of the gods" before you have to go home. If you are with friends you are strongly advising that they have a pint. **Note:** You should expect to award just one or two 5's each year.