

**Scotland and Northern Ireland Pub of the Year
Judging Criteria**

Award 0, 0.5 or 1 mark for each statement (unless otherwise stated).

Note, where used, the terms "beer(s)" or "real ale(s)" also refer to cider and perry.

1 Quality of Beers		
1.1	NBSS X 4	<p>Score poorest beer using NBSS criteria and multiply it by 4 to give a score out of 20. Remember that 1/2 marks can be awarded.</p> <p>0 - no cask ale available</p> <p>1 - poor: beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4 - very good: excellent beer in excellent condition.</p> <p>5 - excellent: probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.</p>
2 Style/Décor/Comfort and Cleanliness		
2.1	Exterior appearance	Does the pub have a welcoming appearance which is sympathetic with its surroundings?
2.2	Exterior clean/tidy	This includes any patio, beer garden, etc. Clutter e.g. beer casks, overflowing ashtrays, fag ends on the ground, etc would negate this mark.
2.3	Comfort	Is the seating, etc comfortable? Is the pub a comfortable place to spend some time in?
2.4	Interior décor	Is the pub in good decorative repair or is it "tired"?
2.5	Cleanliness	Are the tables, bar, floor, etc clean and tidy? Are the glasses clean?
2.6	Safety	Do you feel the pub provides a safe environment during your visit?
2.7	Atmosphere	Does the pub have a friendly atmosphere?
2.8	Appropriate	Is the décor and furnishing appropriate to the style of pub? Does it suit what it is setting out to be?
2.9	Toilets	<p>Award up to 2 marks for this. Are the toilets hygienic and clean with no off-putting smells? Is the floor dry? Is there an adequate supply of toilet roll? Are hot water, soap and adequate hand drying facilities available? Are they in good decorative repair, without damage or graffiti?</p>
2.10		

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3 Service, Welcome and Offering		
3.1	Welcome	Is there any barrier that would put you off visiting this pub or make access difficult? (Examples encountered include entry door difficult to find, having to ask smokers at the front door to move to gain access, "wait here to be seated" sign at the entrance, etc). Staff should be welcoming, friendly and polite.
3.2	Served promptly	Are you served promptly? Could there be more staff on duty? If the pub is busy your presence should be acknowledged.
3.3	Valued customer	Are you treated like a valued customer and made to feel at ease?
3.4	Staff knowledge	Do the staff offer information on the beers or respond knowledgeably when asked?
3.5	Promoting real ales	Are real ales actively, rather than passively, promoted?
3.6	Staff competent/efficient	This includes being able to pick up and hold a customer's glass correctly. One would hope that all POTY contenders would gain this mark but lack of training is sometimes all too evident.
3.7	Food orientation	Do you feel welcome to have a drink without having a meal?
3.8	Local beers	Real ales from local producers should be included in the beer range.
3.9	Other products/services	Does the pub offer other products/services which may enhance a visit to the pub, good quality soft drinks, food, wifi, etc.?
3.10	Value	Taking into account the of the style of pub and its location do you feel that you received reasonable value for money?
4 Community Focus and Atmosphere		
4.1	Community aspects	Award up to 4 marks for this. Does the pub have a community focus, eg. supporting local groups, sports teams, etc? Look out for notice boards, listings of local events, sports teams linked with the pub, etc.
4.2		
4.3		
4.4		
4.5	Local Information	Does the pub have information on the local area which may be of use to locals and visitors?
4.6	Inclusiveness/No entry restrictions	The pub must be inclusive and feel welcoming to all age groups and sectors of the community. Nothing about the pub should cause discomfort to any groups. For example, a pub with allegiance to one particular football team should not be credited. No restrictions on grounds of dress, shape, size, gender, sexuality, colour, ethnic origin, religion, etc. For example, a pub with a dress code should not be credited.
4.7	No swearing	No swearing policy or, at least, staff do not ignore customers swearing.
4.8	Disabled accessible	Is the pub fully accessible to disabled customers? If in any doubt do not award this mark.
4.9	Disabled toilets	Pub has a separate disabled toilet or main toilets have disabled access.
4.10	Busy	Considering the time and day of the week, is the pub busy enough to create a good atmosphere?

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5 Alignment with CAMRA Principles		
5.1	Price list/opening hours	Prices and opening hours should be clearly displayed.
5.2	Full measure	Is a full pint served or topped up without having to ask?
5.3	Real ale obvious	Real ale dispense prominent on the bar, e.g. not relegated to a corner in favour of keg dispense.
5.4	Commitment	Obvious commitment to real ale. This could be display of pump clips from previous beers, brewery posters, etc.
5.5	CAMRA Issues	Does the pub try to stimulate interest in the issues we are concerned about? This could be posters, beer mats, etc promoting campaigns or CAMRA in general.
5.6	No misleading dispense	Non-real beer should not be dispensed using hand pumps or traditional Scottish founts (real or fake).
5.7	House brands/tight sparkler	Where applicable it should be clear who has brewed "house branded" beers. Beers should not be served through a tight sparkler if not brewed to be dispensed in that manner.
5.8	No sound intrusiveness	Do not award this mark if there is any intrusiveness from <u>loud</u> background music, TVs, gaming machines, etc. However, multi-roomed pubs with a "quiet" room should be credited.
5.9	Beer range	Range of beers, from a range of breweries, offered.
5.10	ABV spread	Good spread of ABVs.
6 Overall Impression (this is the "catch all" category and so includes some criteria that don't fit in elsewhere)		
6.1	CAMRA presence	Local branch newsletter and/or membership forms prominent.
6.2	Awards/GBG stickers	CAMRA awards (usually POTY certificates) and/or GBG stickers displayed.
6.3	Correct or unbranded glasses	Beer served in correctly branded glass or, if not available, an unbranded glass.
6.4	Accurate "blackboard"	Is there some form of display notifying customers of the beers available (this is often a blackboard)? Is it accurate?
6.5	Visit duration	Did you spend more time than you had anticipated at the pub or wish you had been able to stay longer?
6.6	Return	Would you make a point of going out of your way to return to this pub in the future?
6.7	Overall impression	How much did you enjoy your visit? Award up to 4 marks for your overall impression of the pub.
6.8		
6.9		
6.10		