

Tasting panels taste beers and produce tasting notes and nominations for Champion Beer of Britain (CBoB) competitions. Only tasting notes produced by tasting panels appear in the Good Beer Guide (GBG) and they are also used for beer festival programmes and other publications. They describe each beer for its appearance, aroma, flavour and aftertaste. The Panel Chair leads the panel team, arranges and chairs tasting meetings, compiles composite tasting notes and makes nominations for CBoB competitions from the tasting panel tastings.

Panel Chairs are appointed by the Regional Tasting Panels Co-ordinator (RTPC) and panels may be regional, county/metropolitan or branch based.

### Activities and guidance

- Ensure that all panel members have access to the current beer styles guidelines and tasting card.
- Encourage panel members to independently taste beers at any pub or venue serving reliable good quality beers, record their tastings and upload them or enter them directly online (see 'Information and support', below).
- Encourage new panel members to participate in group tasting sessions so that they learn and experience what is involved. From time to time, hold sessions to standardise the scoring of the panel members.
- Encourage panel members to upload their tasting cards from group tasting sessions.
- Encourage participation in CAMRA beer tasting training by new panel members and existing members (to update their knowledge and skills).
- Tasting training is arranged and delivered either by the Panel Chair, the RTPC, or one of CAMRA's volunteer tasting trainers. Refer to the Tasting Panels Guide and the tasting training page of the CAMRA website full details (see below for the current links).
- Use completed online and paper tasting cards to compile composite tasting notes for beers in the panel area, and update using the Brewery Information System (BIS). Tasting notes for the GBG are compiled from beers sampled at least three times.
- Check that beer styles recorded in the BIS for each beer in the panel area are appropriate and correct them, if necessary, in good time before the annual selection of CBoB entrants.
- Submit panel nominations for the Champion Beer of Britain competition (CBoB) to the CBoB Area Coordinator.
- Participate in Tasting Panels Advisory Group meetings if requested or desired.
- At some point seek and mentor your potential successor.

### Useful skills and knowledge

- Ability to taste and describe beer.
- Accredited CAMRA trainer training and tasting training for tasting panels.
- Experience on a tasting panel.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills.
- The ability to motivate people.
- Access to a computer and the internet.

### Time Commitment

- The role can take as much time as you are prepared to give. Much depends upon the number of breweries and beers in the panel area, the number of missing tasting notes and the size of



the area. Tasting sessions usually take less than two hours to taste up to six beers along with travel and socialising time.

- Many activities can be done as part of normal visits to the pub or beer festivals. About two hours a month is probably typical except at key times such as updating beer descriptions in the BIS for the GBG and submitting entries for the CBoB competition.
- Attendance at local Branch and Regional Meetings is useful.

### Code of conduct

- Adhere to CAMRA's [Code of Conduct](#) and [Volunteers' Charter](#) and, in particular, refrain from putting forward any personal points of view that are against CAMRA's policies or that might bring the Campaign into disrepute.
- Refrain from personal bias in describing beers or when entering beers for the CBoB competition.
- Refrain from telling a brewer which of their beers have been put forward for the CBoB competition.

### Information and support

- Resources, information and guidance for tasting panels, beer styles and CBOB is [here](#).
- Tasting Panels Guide is at <https://www1-camra.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/22131137/Tasting-Panels-Guide.pdf> and the tasting training page of the CAMRA website at <https://camra.org.uk/volunteers-area/training-for-volunteers/taste-training-and-beer-judging/>.
- Tasting card entry is via [WhatPub](#), below 'Submit Beer Scores' in every pub listing, and <https://tasting.camra.org.uk>
- Brewery Information System is at <https://bis.camra.org.uk>
- For more information on this role please contact your [Regional Tasting Panels Co-ordinator](#) or [Regional Director](#).

For any other volunteering enquiry contact [volunteer.services@camra.org.uk](mailto:volunteer.services@camra.org.uk)

