

# CAMRA's Definitions of Pubs, Clubs, and other licensed premises

## Introduction

The aim of these definitions is to identify, in an objective and evidence-based manner, the essential features of what differentiates '**pubs**' and '**clubs**' from other on-trade licensed premises where alcohol is sold.

WhatPub is the dynamic online guide by which CAMRA campaigns to support pubs and clubs and encourage the public to use them. The definitions given here are used within the database systems that populate WhatPub to provide a consistent statistical base for analysing pub gains and losses etc. for CAMRA's bi-annual pub closure analysis, and for all pub closures to be recorded.

It is CAMRA policy that Branches should maintain details of every **pub** and **club** in their Branch area, as defined in this document, using a mechanism that enables the WhatPub database to be updated. The objective of this policy is to enable CAMRA to maintain statistics on the total number of pubs and clubs as well as statistics on pub and club closures. Minimal detail is needed for each pub and club so that such statistics can be maintained: essentially the name and full address. CAMRA recognises that, while ensuring that these limited details of all pubs and clubs are recorded, Branches are unlikely to document much more about those that do not sell real ale apart from updating the record if they have closed. Branches may choose to do so, but this is neither expected nor required.

## Definition of a Pub

The licensed premises must:

- (1) be open to and welcome the general public without requiring membership or residency and without charging for admission (a);
- (2) allow drinking on the premises without requiring food to be consumed.
  - (a) except when entertainment is provided on limited occasions when an entry charge may apply.

Notes:

- The term 'pub', as defined, is intended to be as inclusive as possible while ensuring that the essential features of what constitutes a pub are present. The on-trade is enjoying a healthy level of diversification. Different styles of licensed premises may be branded as micropubs, pub/kitchens, gastro-pubs, bar/restaurants, and café/bars but, as long as the defining criteria are satisfied, many kinds of premises can be considered to be pubs.
- Premises primarily trading as restaurants or cafés with an area specifically for drinkers and non-diners and that meet the other 'pub' criteria would qualify as pubs.
- Hotel bars would qualify provided they are open to and welcome non-residents. Often a separate entrance from the street indicates access for the public, while liveried staff at the doors of hotels barring free entry generally indicate the opposite.
- Premises primarily trading as off-licences and bottle shops that also have an on-licence to allow beer or cider to be sampled and consumed on the premises, and that meet the other 'pub' criteria, would also qualify.
- Bars attached, for example, to sports and leisure centres, cinemas, theatres, bowling alleys etc., would qualify provided they are open to the public and not restricted to users of the facilities for which an entrance fee had been charged, and they fulfil the other criteria.
- Pubs or bars that charge entry fees when entertainment is provided would qualify, provided they are freely open to the public for at least part of every trading day.
- CAMRA's Definition of a Pub is considered to be functionally the same as the definition in the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Houses and Petrol Filling Stations)(England) Order 2001: *public house means premises that satisfy the following conditions: (a) a premises licence authorising the sale by retail of alcohol for consumption on the premises has effect; (b) the*

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*premises are used principally for such sales to members of the public for consumption on the premises; and (c) the sales are not made subject to the condition that buyers reside at or consume food on the premises.*

- Guidance and judgement on the interpretation of this definition is provided by Regional Pub Data Coordinators.

## Definition of a Club

For the purposes of CAMRA's definition:

- Clubs are private members' clubs.
- **Clubs are operated and governed for the benefit of their members**
- **Any surpluses are reinvested for the benefit of the membership.**

Some other key points that branches should note are:

- Members may or may not have to pay a membership fee to join.
- Most Clubs allow guest members (an entry fee may be charged.).
- Clubs may operate under a full premises licence, or a clubs premises certificate or, in some cases, both types of licence.

Main categories of Clubs include:

- Social Clubs
- Working Men's Clubs
- Ex Servicemen's Clubs
- Political Clubs
- Sports Clubs (e.g. Cricket, Rugby, Football, Golf, Bowling, Sailing, Tennis, Sports Supporters Clubs.)
- Religious Clubs
- Student Unions

Notes:

- Licensed premises that might have the word 'club' in their name, but which are not governed by a membership and whose profits are not used for the members' benefit, are not clubs.
- Clubs are private members' clubs, operated for the benefit of their members, while the premises may not be owned by the members. **'Operated' means that the operations of the club are governed by its members, typically a committee**, although the actual running of the club may be performed by salaried staff, e.g. a club steward and a team of bar staff.
- Commercial sports centres such as leisure centres should be considered as such rather than as private members' clubs.
- Proprietary clubs owned by an individual or business with a view to making a profit, rather than existing for the benefit of their members, fall within the category of 'Other Drinking Establishments'.

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## Other Licensed Premises

Details of other categories of licensed premises that do not qualify as 'pubs' or 'clubs' under those definitions can also be recorded in CAMRA's database systems. For clarity and completeness, these other categories are defined here:

**Restaurants:** licensed restaurants and cafes where drinking alcohol, including draught and bottled beer, is only allowed when food is being consumed.

**Hotel Bars:** licensed bars in hotels where purchase of alcoholic drinks, including draught and bottled beers, requires residency (payment for room) or where non-residents not accompanied by hotel guests are not welcome.

**Off Licences:** establishments with licences restricting them to selling alcohol, including draught and bottled beers, for consumption off the premises.

**Other Drinking Establishments:** premises operating under a full premises licence that always charge for admission and/or that are open only to members, for example night clubs, music clubs, and bars in sports centres, theatres, cinemas etc.