



## Frequently Asked Questions on The Guildford Beer Festival

**Q. When is the next Guildford Beer Festival?**

**A.** This is likely to be on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012. We will confirm once the first class cricket fixture dates are announced for next Summer and we know when the Guildford Cricket Week is. The Beer Festival uses the same infrastructure (marquees, etc). As soon as we know the date, we will announce it on [www.guildfordcc.com](http://www.guildfordcc.com).

**Q. Where will it be?**

**A.** At Guildford Cricket Club at The Sports Ground in Woodbridge Road, Guildford GU1 4RP. The Beer Festival takes place in large marquees at the Railway End of the ground. There is cover from the elements and quite a lot of seating.

**Q. What is the history of the Guildford Beer Festival?**

**A.** The inaugural Guildford Beer Festival was held in August 2010. It was organised by and hosted at Guildford Cricket Club. The event was a great success, attracting 1500 people and selling out. The Second Guildford Beer Festival was held on 15-16 July 2011, also at the Club. This attracted over 1700 visitors. The Club decided to launch a Beer Festival, having run a successful beer tent operation at the annual Guildford Cricket Week for many years. We have a superb venue and the Cricket Week infrastructure can be used. It also seemed to us that there was a gap in the market. There is the Farnham Beerex in late April and the Woking Beer Festival in November, but no large Summer event in Guildford.

**Q. What are the opening hours?**

**A.** The format for the first two GBF's was three timed sessions: Friday evening (6.30 – 9.30), Saturday afternoon (12.00 to 4.00) and Saturday evening (6.00 – 9.30). We are likely to do the same in 2012.

**Q. How much does it cost?**

**A.** Admission is by ticket purchased in advance. In 2011, tickets cost £7.00 (£4.00 for CAMRA members). You then use cash to purchase tokens at the entry gate, which you use to pay for your beer.

**Q. Why is there an entry charge when I then have to pay for my beer?**

**A.** The admission price includes a commemorative GBF tasting glass and a souvenir programme with the full beer list and tasting notes. We also have to cover quite large overheads - hire charges for the marquees, mobile toilets, lighting, fencing and the musical entertainment. There are also cleaning, insurance, security and administrative costs. We try and make the GBF an upmarket event with high quality facilities, so we do not skimp on the set up.

**Q. What is there to drink?**

**A.** At both the GBF's so far, our focus has been on sourcing cask ales from independent and micro breweries in Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Berkshire. Last time we offered more than 50 beers from around 25 brewers. There was a varied range of ABVs, colours and different styles of ale (milds, porters, blonde ales, strong ales). We also offered about 6 handcrafted ciders from small producers. Finally, in the second marquee, we have a bar selling wine and soft drinks.

**Q. Will I be able to get lager?**

**A.** No.

**Q. I came to the last GBF and not all the beers in the programme were available. Why?**

**A.** A couple of those listed did not arrive from the brewery, and we had a couple of substitutes (also unlisted). We will only serve beer if it is in perfect condition, so if a beer is cloudy and needs more time to settle, we will not start selling it until it is ready. As best we can, we operate a "rationing" system intended to ensure that popular beers do not sell out before that start of the final session.

However, we can't stop the public from drinking the beers they like indefinitely and several do sell out by the end. If you want the widest possible choice, come to the first session!

**Q. How much is a pint?**

**A.** Prices reflect average Guildford pub prices. Strong beers (i.e. higher ABV) generally cost more as they attract higher Beer Duty. Beer is sold in ½ pint measures. The typical visitor to a beer festival drinks around 4 pints, thus trying perhaps 8 different beers.

**Q. Is it easy to get to the venue?**

**A.** Guildford Cricket Club in Woodbridge Road is very close to the town centre. It is a short walk from Guildford Railway Station (look for directional signs so you take the shortest route) and from Guildford Bus Station. Most visitors come by public transport but there is also ample free parking in the ground (enter via the gate in Woodbridge Road at the Railway End, close to the Woodbridge Café).

**Q. How do I buy tickets?**

**A.** Tickets for the GBF 2012 will be available after Easter and can be purchased:

- On-line from the Guildford Cricket Club website **[www.guildfordcc.com](http://www.guildfordcc.com)**;
- In person from The Guildford Tourist Information Centre, Guildford House Gallery, 155 High Street, Guildford GU1 3AJ (Tel. 01483 444333, [www.visitguildford.com](http://www.visitguildford.com)).

Once the cricket season begins, you can also buy tickets in person from the Pavilion Bar at Guildford Cricket Club on match days. Note that when you buy a ticket online, you receive your ticket(s) in PDF format by email – no ticket is posted.

**Q. Will I be able to get food at the event?**

**A.** Yes – there will a high quality food concession offering a hog roast, gourmet burgers, chips, etc.

**Q. Will there be live music?**

**A.** Yes – we are proposing to re-book both the brass band and the jazz quartet, which played at the GBF 2011 and received a very favourable reception. The **Friary Guildford Brass Band** played on Saturday afternoon and “**Headgasket**”, a smooth jazz quartet comprising saxophone, guitar, double bass and drums, played at the two evening sessions.

**Q. Am I allowed to bring my dog?**

**A.** Sorry - guide dogs only. The event is very busy and not suitable for dogs.

**Q. Can I bring a baby?**

**A.** We get asked this every year! Of course the event is licensed strictly for persons over 18 years old (and proof of identity may be required at the entrance gate). The event is really not suitable for prams and babies, and certainly not toddlers.

**Q. Do you offer corporate packages?**

**A.** Yes – contact Chad Murrin on 07767 224632 for details.

**Q. Do you need bar staff?**

**A.** Most of our staff are volunteers, including expert assistance from the Guildford Lions and Surrey & Hants Branch of CAMRA. If you are interested in joining the team, email Chad Murrin at [chad\\_murrin@msn.com](mailto:chad_murrin@msn.com) or call him on 07767 224632.

**Any More Questions?**

Email us at [chad\\_murrin@msn.com](mailto:chad_murrin@msn.com).