

Members Charter

This charter sets out the policy statements, mutual agreements and respective undertakings that constitute SIBA membership.

SIBA is the Society of Independent Brewers.

- The acronym “SIBA” is retained in recognition of the Society’s foundation as the Small independent Brewers’ Association in 1980.

SIBA is recognised by its members as the campaigning, political and representative voice of the independent quality brewing industry.

- An independent brewer is defined in SIBA’s Rules and By-Laws. *
- Quality brewing is defined in SIBA’s Manual of Good Brewing Practice. *

The SIBA membership reflects the restructuring of the independent brewing industry since the 1970s, in particular the growth of the micro and local brewing sectors.

- SIBA and its members – micro, local and regional – embody the heart of independent quality brewing.

SIBA guarantees an equal voice for each independent brewing member, regardless of company size, through its democratic constitution* and its strict adherence to the maxim of “one member, one vote.”

SIBA asserts its commitment to campaign and lobby for an alcohol taxation system that is just and equitable in its treatment of the independent brewing industry.

- All members acknowledge the achievement of SIBA in securing the introduction of Progressive Beer Duty as a measure of fiscal support for smaller brewers.
- All members offer their support for the principle of PBD and pledge their commitment to its continuation.
- Any members who wish to see a revision of the terms of PBD undertake to pursue their objectives and argue their case through the internal and democratic processes of SIBA, recognising the Society’s role as their trade representative to government and the wider industry.

SIBA asserts categorically its faith in the socially responsible integrity of its members’ products, as distinctive beers within the premium sector of alcohol beverages, intended for consumption in moderation by discerning adults.

- Members accept their responsibility to promote this image of their beers, in accordance with SIBA’s Responsible Business Guidelines. *

SIBA will strive to ensure that all independent brewers have the best and fairest possible opportunity to bring their goods to market.

- All members acknowledge this commitment and undertake to conduct their businesses without compromising the spirit of its intent and with regard to the Responsible Business Guidelines*, including fair consideration by pub-owning brewers to allow the sale of Guest Beers (through SIBA’s Direct Delivery Scheme or otherwise) within their pub estates.

SIBA affirms localism and sustainability as embodiments of the ethos of independent brewing.

- SIBA members declare their intention to conduct their businesses, as far as possible, in harmony with the principles of localism and sustainability, as set out in the Responsible Business Guidelines. *

SIBA undertakes to provide technical support and audit and training programmes, and to encourage competition and reward achievement, in its drive to ensure both product quality and its universal appreciation.

- All members endorse this commitment to quality, and confirm their intention at all times to brew their beers in accordance with SIBA’s Manual of Good Brewing Practice. *

* Indicates reference to details contained within the Members’ Handbook