

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



July 2023 75p



ACC Annual General Meeting Report

Message From The Chief Executive



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I am delighted to report that the ACC's Annual General Meeting was well received by those who attended the meeting at the Carlton Club in May. It is always pleasing to see the efforts of the ACC appreciated and to chat to many club representatives on really the only time of the year where everyone is able to congregate in one place.

The summer is traditionally slightly quieter for the ACC with clubs largely settled after their own season of AGMs, which tend to run March to May. We are still being kept busy working though a large amount of Sale and Leaseback requests as well as providing regular loans and financial support to clubs in need of assistance. As I write this contribution, the official base rate has just risen to 5%. The ACC has resisted raising the interest charged on our loans beyond 6% and is not intending to change the interest charged to

clubs which agreed loans at our previous low rates. I think this is an example of the ACC 'putting our money where our mouth is' when it comes to supporting our clubs during difficult periods. To put this in perspective, as of the 22nd June, Barclays were offering business loans starting from 10.4%.

For clubs with outside space hopefully the Summer will prove to be busy and I am sure all clubs are pleased that the direction of travel with energy costs (by far the biggest concern raised by Clubs at our AGM) are heading in the right direction, although we appreciate they remain well above historic prices and are making life very difficult for all types of businesses, with clubs being no exception.

I hope those clubs which attended our AGM enjoyed the occasion and that it proved an interesting and worthwhile experience.

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Recruiting a Steward or Bar Manager

Before you place an advertisement to recruit a new steward, you need to look at one or two issues about why you have a vacancy at all and in particular why your last steward left. People sometimes leave their jobs for good reasons but a little detective work might reveal that your conditions of employment do not encourage people to give you long-term commitment.

You might even find that the way you recruited last time fell short of the mark and you lost the last steward because they were the wrong choice in the first place. If this is the case, regard the current vacancy as a chance to get the recruitment procedure right.

Examine in detail exactly what the job of steward entails. This might be a good time to restructure the job if necessary. Write a list of all the duties required. They will fall quite naturally into four or five main areas such as customer service, cleaning and maintenance, stock control or staff management. Finer detail can then be recorded under these headings.

When you have completed this job description, you can write down what knowledge and skills are required for someone to do the job well. Examples of this might be knowledge of bar stock control procedures or the skill of handling customers or members. What you will be creating is a list of the abilities you should be looking for in the ideal candidate. You might also add to this list some of the other things that you should be looking for which are more specific, such as availability

to work the hours required.

Devising a concise advertisement based on your specifications will make it clear what the job entails and can indicate the attributes which are considered essential for success in the post. Be careful not to fall foul of discrimination law. You cannot state that you do or do not want a particular sex or racial group for the job. Put a closing date on applications so that you can compare all your candidates and arrange to see the best ones.

Advertising by word of mouth and using personal recommendations can be very effective and it is certainly cheap. However, this approach does have its problems. It can be tempting to compromise for convenience sake when a reasonable candidate is introduced to you by a personal contact. It can also cause offence if you decide to reject someone recommended to you. Even worse, taking on someone's friend or relative, only to have to dismiss them later because they turned out to be unsuitable, can be damaging to staff or personal relationships.

When you have received application forms and CVs, compare what each of the candidates has to offer to the specification you had put together at the outset of this recruitment campaign. If you want customer relations skills, what evidence is there in the application of experience of this in previous employment? If you want a good organiser, where can evidence of this be seen in the type of work that the applicant has been doing?

Remember to look for obvious problems such as gaps in employment history or changes of job which seem hard to explain (for example, giving up a lucrative landlording or club steward position somewhere else).

Never leave the interview itself just to one person from a club. Convene an interviewing panel from the committee. Alternatively, have one person interview the applicants and then pass them on to a second stage interviewer. Two opinions will help to obviate personal bias and maximise the possibility of an objective decision.

The application or CV can only provide prompts for in depth investigation; it cannot give you a comprehensive picture on its own. Do not miss the opportunity to find out about what the candidate is capable of by enquiring thoroughly about the way they are doing their present job or their experience in any other employment. Every interviewee should be asked to demonstrate that they have the skills and abilities that you require and question how their past experience relates to your specific requirements. How, for example, have they dealt with running a profitable bar, handling difficult staff issues, building relationships with customers or members, and dealing with contractors? You should be able to find out in the interview if the applicant matches your requirements.

Check the provenance of any referees you are given. Former employers are best and you can check that they do in fact exist as bona fide sources of information. Personal referees have limited value as they would hardly have been offered if they were not expected to give glowing praise.

Ask the referee questions which help them tell you what you need to know about reliability, efficiency, customer relations and trustworthiness. Referees have a duty of care to give you truthful facts about your candidate. If they find it hard to give you constructive feedback, they might decline to write anything or keep to the barest of facts, such as dates of employment. Make sure you telephone all referees in order to validate their references. When you offer employment, remember to make it conditional on any checks you have to make. You may need to make such a conditional offer in order to approach a current employer. Never approach referees without the candidate's express permission.

The process comes full circle at the decision stage. Compare what your most promising candidate has to offer against what you say that you require in your specification. If you do not find that person this time around, you would be better to start again rather than make an appointment that is only second best.

Pubwatch or Similar Local Scheme

Clubs often ask the question: 'Is it lawful for a club to join a Pubwatch Scheme?' The simple answer to this question is, 'Yes it is.' However, the wider answer to this question is a little more complex.

Under the Licensed Premises (Exclusion of Certain Persons) Act 1980, courts have the power to deal with persons convicted of an offence on licensed premises in which violence was used or threatened. They may make an order excluding the convicted persons from licensed premises for a period of between three

months and two years. The order may apply to the premises where the offence was committed or to any other specified licensed premises. If a person breaks an order, a further penalty of a fine or imprisonment may be imposed. It should be noted that the order applies to licensed premises and, therefore, by definition is not extended to clubs.

In various parts of the country, police authorities have been active in setting up Pubwatch schemes. Where an individual is reported to have been violent on licensed

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Questions and Answers

premises, his name is circulated to all members of the scheme. He is then banned from all the premises of scheme members. It is possible, therefore, for a ban to be imposed, although there has been no actual conviction.

The significance of Pubwatch schemes for clubs is that in some areas where Private Members' Clubs have been invited to join and to observe the ban on named individuals. While this may be a contribution to discouraging violence among the drinking fraternity, membership of a Pubwatch scheme could produce problems for clubs.

The rules adopted by most clubs lay down their own course of action for the disciplinary treatment of club members and provide the committee with the authority to reprimand, suspend or expel any member who infringes the rules or any member whose conduct in or out of the club is prejudicial to the club's interest. Such rules will always provide that members shall not be disciplined without first being given a full opportunity to defend themselves before the committee.

It must be appreciated that a club's rules provide members with certain rights. These rights cannot be taken away by the imposition of an automatic suspension or expulsion required by a club's membership of a Pubwatch scheme. If an attempt were made to do so, a member would almost certainly win an appeal to arbitration. Therefore, it is clear that membership of a Pubwatch scheme may raise some possible conflict with a club's rules.

There are certain benefits for clubs joining Pubwatch schemes but clubs must do so with the clear understanding that they cannot subscribe to every aspect of a scheme's requirements. For example, some schemes require participating pubs and clubs to permit police access to the premises at all times. Registered clubs are established as private places and in normal circumstances a police officer does not have access to a club's premises without a warrant. Such a condition in joining a Pubwatch scheme should therefore be rejected.

If a Pubwatch scheme is operating in your area, then find out whether there is any value in your club becoming involved but bear in mind the fact that clubs are, by their very nature, independent.

Q Are Club is going through a contentious period and has culminated with a Special General Meeting being called to vote on the removal of the Club's Committee. This is going to be a difficult meeting, do you have advice on the best way to run the meeting?

A There are a few ways to run an SGM of this nature with the final decision being down to the person who is chairing the meeting.

The most important part is for the vote to be undertaken fairly.

There are probably three ways a meeting like this can be held. Firstly, it could be that unlimited discussions and debate can occur from any interested member which can be time consuming and can risk the vote being disrupted if the people who have attended the meeting drift off as the meeting length goes on.

Alternatively, it could be decided that only the proposer and seconder can speak and then the vote taken although this can give rise to complaints that only one side has been allowed to speak. The only way to combat this is to allow a response from the other side (and it may be difficult to agree in advance who may be allowed to provide such a response) and this could also cause an issue if the response then requires a further response from the proposer and seconder – in short, allowing any discussion to take place can cause problems. This also ignores the fact that it may be difficult to agree who will be the proposer and seconder and therefore who has the right to speak on this important vote - if 30 people have signed a petition to remove the Committee it is possible that all 30 people have different reasons for wanting the Committee be removed and all 30 will wish to speak on the subject – who decides who is going to be the proposer and seconder and who are therefore permitted to put their point of view across?

The third option is to simply open the meeting, announce the vote which is to take place and then hold the vote quickly and efficiently. The benefits of this option is that the meeting is swiftly concluded with the will of

the members present carrying the motion.

The reasons why Members may want to remove a Committee from Office are largely irrelevant – the Members have the right to remove the Committee from Office and it does not matter if their reasoning is good or bad. Members do not need to pass any logical hurdle as to justify why they wish to remove the Committee.

Therefore, whilst it is for the person chairing the meeting to make the final decision on how the meeting is run, we are sympathetic to an approach which prioritises speed and allows the vote to be taken without delay. We also have to consider the view of the Members who have turned up at the meeting at the appointed time and whether they should be required to have to spend a possibly lengthy time attending a meeting before they can cast their vote.

The final point to consider is that in this situation the motion to remove a Committee is clear and does not need further explanation as to its purpose – if Members vote in favour the Committee is removed, if Members vote against the Committee is retained. Therefore, it does not need explaining to the members present what the vote is about and it should not be automatically assumed that the members attending the meeting have any wish to hear from their fellow members. This is in contrast to a potentially a more complicated motion which may require further explanation as to its purpose and the consequences if the motion is adopted (a rule change for example).

Q At the last Committee meeting it was decided by a narrow vote that we would not change from our normal opening hours over the August bank holiday. However, five Committee members then had an 'un-official' Committee Meeting and voted to open all day. Can they do this?

A I have to advise you that the action of these Committee members was completely out of order and unacceptable. The fact that the rules state that five members of the Committee (which includes officers) are required to form a quorum does not mean

that five Officers or Committee members meeting together at any time can implement policy. The quorum requirement is that five Officers or Committee members must be present at a convened Committee Meeting in order to qualify the meeting as being competent to transact business.

Any decision that may need to be made between the meetings is usually dealt with by the Officers, and is subsequently reported at the next Committee Meeting for ratification or otherwise. The fact that these five took upon themselves to act independently of the Committee at a Meeting that had not been called by the Secretary and arbitrarily overturned a previously agreed decision is one which should not be repeated.

Q We have a long standing Trustee with health problems who has not renewed his membership for the last year and with whom we have had no contact with for some time. We have written to him twice asking if he wishes to relinquish his post as Trustee but have had no reply. Can you advise what steps we are now able to take?

A The only way in which to remove the Trustee in question is to either seek his resignation, which is unlikely to be forthcoming, or to remove him from office at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose in accordance with your rules. At the same meeting the Committee could elect a new Trustee.

Q I currently hold the position of Secretary and my husband is considering standing for the role of Chairman. Is it acceptable for a husband and wife to hold two of the positions on the same Committee?

A Should your husband be elected to the position of Chairman than there would be no reason under the rules to prevent you continuing in your role as the Secretary of the club.

Ultimately the members decide who is on the Committee and we rely on their good judgement in electing the best candidate for the job.

CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Premier League 2023/2024 Dates

The 2023/24 Premier League fixtures have been released and the dates until the end of October are below.

Weekend and Bank Holiday matches are 15:00 BST and midweek matches are 19:45 unless otherwise stated. Fixtures will likely have timing changes nearer the time to account for picks by Sky Sports and TNT Sports (formerly BT Sports).

Stay up to date on all the fixtures with the Premier League's digital calendar - <https://pl.eclal.com/>

Friday 11 August 2023
20:00 Burnley v Man City (Sky Sports)

Saturday 12 August 2023
12:30 Arsenal v Nott'm Forest (TNT Sports)
AFC Bournemouth v West Ham
Brighton v Luton Town
Everton v Fulham
Sheff Utd v Crystal Palace
17:30 Newcastle v Aston Villa (Sky Sports)

Sunday 13 August 2023
14:00 Brentford v Spurs (Sky Sports)
16:30 Chelsea v Liverpool (Sky Sports)

Monday 14 August 2023
20:00 Man Utd v Wolves (Sky Sports)

Saturday 19 August 2023
Aston Villa v Everton
Crystal Palace v Arsenal
Fulham v Brentford
Liverpool v AFC Bournemouth
Luton Town v Burnley
Man City v Newcastle
Nott'm Forest v Sheff Utd
Spurs v Man Utd
West Ham v Chelsea
Wolves v Brighton

Saturday 26 August 2023
AFC Bournemouth v Spurs
Arsenal v Fulham
Brentford v Crystal Palace
Brighton v West Ham
Burnley v Aston Villa
Chelsea v Luton Town

Everton v Wolves
Man Utd v Nott'm Forest
Newcastle v Liverpool
Sheff Utd v Man City

Saturday 2 September 2023
Arsenal v Man Utd
Brentford v AFC Bournemouth
Brighton v Newcastle
Burnley v Spurs
Chelsea v Nott'm Forest
Crystal Palace v Wolves
Liverpool v Aston Villa
Luton Town v West Ham
Man City v Fulham
Sheff Utd v Everton

Saturday 16 September 2023
AFC Bournemouth v Chelsea
Aston Villa v Crystal Palace
Everton v Arsenal
Fulham v Luton Town
Man Utd v Brighton
Newcastle v Brentford
Nott'm Forest v Burnley
Spurs v Sheff Utd
West Ham v Man City
Wolves v Liverpool

Saturday 23 September 2023
Arsenal v Spurs
Brentford v Everton
Brighton v AFC Bournemouth
Burnley v Man Utd
Chelsea v Aston Villa
Crystal Palace v Fulham
Liverpool v West Ham
Luton Town v Wolves
Man City v Nott'm Forest
Sheff Utd v Newcastle

Saturday 30 September 2023
AFC Bournemouth v Arsenal

Aston Villa v Brighton
Everton v Luton Town
Fulham v Chelsea
Man Utd v Crystal Palace
Newcastle v Burnley
Nott'm Forest v Brentford
Spurs v Liverpool
West Ham v Sheff Utd
Wolves v Man City

Saturday 7 October 2023
Arsenal v Man City
Brighton v Liverpool
Burnley v Chelsea
Crystal Palace v Nott'm Forest
Everton v AFC Bournemouth
Fulham v Sheff Utd
Luton Town v Spurs
Man Utd v Brentford
West Ham v Newcastle
Wolves v Aston Villa

Saturday 21 October 2023
AFC Bournemouth v Wolves
Aston Villa v West Ham
Brentford v Burnley
Chelsea v Arsenal
Liverpool v Everton
Man City v Brighton
Newcastle v Crystal Palace
Nott'm Forest v Luton Town
Sheff Utd v Man Utd
Spurs v Fulham

Saturday 28 October 2023
AFC Bournemouth v Burnley
Arsenal v Sheff Utd
Aston Villa v Luton Town
Brighton v Fulham
Chelsea v Brentford
Crystal Palace v Spurs
Liverpool v Nott'm Forest

Man Utd v Man City
West Ham v Everton
Wolves v Newcastle

These are the announced festive fixtures:

Saturday 23 December 2023
Aston Villa v Sheff Utd
Crystal Palace v Brighton
Fulham v Burnley
Liverpool v Arsenal
Luton Town v Newcastle
Man City v Brentford
Nott'm Forest v AFC Bournemouth
Spurs v Everton
West Ham v Man Utd
Wolves v Chelsea

Tuesday 26 December 2023
AFC Bournemouth v Fulham
Arsenal v West Ham
Brentford v Wolves
Brighton v Spurs
Burnley v Liverpool
Chelsea v Crystal Palace
Everton v Man City
Man Utd v Aston Villa
Newcastle v Nott'm Forest
Sheff Utd v Luton Town

Saturday 30 December 2023
Aston Villa v Burnley
Crystal Palace v Brentford
Fulham v Arsenal
Liverpool v Newcastle
Luton Town v Chelsea
Man City v Sheff Utd
Nott'm Forest v Man Utd
Spurs v AFC Bournemouth
West Ham v Brighton
Wolves v Everton

CLUB STEWARD OPPORTUNITY

Swaffham and District Conservative Club is a large social club seeking applicants to take over the role of Club Steward on the retirement of the present post holder. The Club has some 800 members, and facilities include a bar, three different sized function rooms, a snooker room, small kitchen and private car park.

We have a lively social calendar, and several other local societies arrange to use the facilities from time to time.

The job involves the day-to-day management of the Club, under the general direction of the Committee, and includes bar, cellar and staffing management, stock taking and till reconciliation, managing private function bookings, and other routine tasks to ensure the smooth running of the Club.

The ideal candidate will have at least two years' experience in a similar role. In addition to the appropriate social skills, they should be energetic and ambitious, familiar with IT including Electronic Point of Sale systems. A valid UK Driver's Licence is required and a Personal Licence.

This is a full-time position. The successful candidate will be expected to work flexibly when necessary.

A competitive salary will be offered and will include occupancy of the private flat at the top of the building. There will be an opportunity to develop a limited bar food service.

Applications will close on 24th July 2023. Interviews will be offered during the week beginning 7th August, with some flexibility to allow for a promising candidate's availability. Employment will begin on a mutually agreeable date in early October. The current Steward will be available for a short period to assist with orientation and queries.

Applications and job descriptions are available by email: swaffhamcc@btconnect.com

Applications should be returned to the Club, and should include details of employment during the last five years, and any relevant qualifications.

Please note, the successful candidate will be subject to a DBS check, which will be funded by the Club.

Industry Insights

Industry Insights aims to provide a whirlwind tour of who's doing what in the club sector, from latest launches and new products to business acquisitions and market research into the hospitality sector at large.

Stella Artois partners with Hospitality Action with launch of Crisps Artois

Stella Artois, part of the Budweiser Brewing Group (BBG) has announced its latest campaign to support the UK's hospitality sector by partnering up with industry charity Hospitality Action and launching Crisps Artois.

From June 22, when consumers order two chalices of Stella Artois, they will receive a pack of the limited-edition Crisps Artois to share.

Consumers will be encouraged to scan the barcode on the back of each pack to donate to Hospitality Action. Stella Artois has committed to matching all donations up to £60,000.

The Stella Artois brewing masters broke down the flavour profile and brewing process of a pint of Stella Artois whilst looking at the heritage and tradition of the Belgian classic to build the flavour from the bottom up. The result is a balance of smoky, salty and sweet notes culminating in a Smoked Salt and Black Garlic flavour.

Jean-David Thumelaire, On-Trade Sales Director at BBG, said: "Launching exclusively in the



On-Trade, the only way consumers will be able to get their hands on Crisps Artois will be by purchasing two pints of Stella Artois from their local. In doing so, we

hope to drive consumers back into venues, encourage them to stay longer and boost rate of sale. We've worked tirelessly to create a packet of crisps that perfectly complements a chalice of Stella Artois and we're confident they will be flying off the back bar."

POS support includes ready-made social posts, displays, coasters, table toppers and font danglers to inform customers of the offer.

The campaign follows a series of efforts by Stella Artois and Budweiser Brewing Group to support the On-Trade. During the pandemic, Budweiser Brewing Group provided £1.5m of financial support to the On-Trade along with £500,000 financial support for bar staff.

• crisps-artois.hospitalityaction.org

Hogs Back Brewery adds 'beating the bounds' to Hop Blessing

Surrey-based Hogs Back Brewery welcomed 150 guests to the annual Hop Blessing at its brewery in Tongham, this year adding a shortened version of the ancient 'beating the bounds' tradition to the event.

Officiating was Rev. Claire Holt, of St Paul's Church in Tongham, who blessed the crops and, with Hogs Back Brewery managing director Rupert Thompson, led the 'beating the bounds' walk around the 8.5-acre hop garden.

Blessing of crops was observed in rural communities as a way of encouraging a plentiful harvest, while beating the bounds – where a group of villagers led by the priest would walk round the parish boundaries – was a way of 'recording' vital information pre formal record-keeping.

Rev. Holt said: "Blessing the Hogs Back hop garden continues a tradition that would certainly have been part of the cycle of hop growing in Farnham for centuries. It gave me great joy to lead the prayers for the Hogs Back hop garden, the brewery, and all who work in them, for this year and long into the future."

Rupert Thompson, Hogs Back Brewery manag-



ing director, said: "Clearly there's no imperative today for most people to know their parish boundaries, but there is still a need to connect with the local community and a large part of what we're doing at Hogs Back is about creating those connections,

which is shown by the many local residents who are volunteering to 'twiddle' our hop plants up the strings now, or helping to bring in the harvest later in the year."

• hogsback.co.uk

Otter brewery develops a new 'fresh ale' category

Otter Brewery has launched a new category which the brewer believes bridges the gap between craft beer, cask ale and lager. Fresh Ale is a new form of ale that is brewed in exactly the same way as Otter's other cask beers, but rather than being filled into a cask, the beer is gently carbonated before being racked into a keg.

Otter Brewery's Fresh Ale is dispensed slightly cooler than traditional cask ale but not as cold as keg, with a light carbonation that allows the beer to remain true to its cask ale equivalent in taste and body. As the beer has been filtered, the ale remains in perfect condition for weeks rather than days, an important factor in the current environment.

Patrick McCaig, Managing Director at Otter Brewery, is confident that the cask ale sector has legs but it needs to modernise as well.

"Our Fresh Ale concept arrives at a time when customers are searching out drinks that are flavourful, gently carbonated and slightly cooler than traditional cask ale," he said. "Our first beer in this category, Amber Fresh, has been developed to help both revive and energise the ale sector (including cask) giving drinkers of all ages the confidence of quality when making their bar call. All too often a pint of cask ale can be disappointing and often this is largely due to the lack of throughput resulting from too many beers on the bar. Fresh Ale comes with a guar-



antee of flavour and condition.

"Amber Fresh can be found at the 'cask ale end of the bar' – we're not trying to disguise a cask ale as 'craft', we're presenting a beer that will stand the test of time with a modernist approach to the branding. We have created a contemporary new font that gives Amber Fresh its own identity, along with specially designed glasses that clearly identify the fresh nature of the drink."

• otterbrewery.com



Thatchers Cider signs up to new cricket partnership

Thatchers brand Thatchers Gold is sponsoring the cricket coverage on dedicated sports station talkSPORT.

Thatchers Gold will be featured on the Live England Cricket Updates on talkSPORT, with a 10' pre-recorded credit which will run on the live update every hour through to September.

"Live England Cricket Updates offer high frequency messaging to a sports mad audience during the day," said Philip McTeer, Head of Marketing at Thatchers Cider. "We're delighted to be working alongside talkSPORT this summer to deliver these all-important updates that we know cricket fans follow intently."

Thatchers is an enthusiastic supporter of sport in the UK, with sponsorships of Somerset County Cricket, Surrey County Cricket and Essex County Cricket; premier league football Southampton FC; as well as Bristol Bears and Bristol Bears Women; Bath Rugby, and Bristol City and Bristol City Women FC.

• thatcherscider.co.uk

ERDINGER Alkoholfrei launches trade promotion to support its sporting rituals campaign

ERDINGER's new 'Sporting Rituals' campaign focuses on the rituals that people observe before and after sport, with consumer activation supported by POS kits to enable operators to drive sales during the promotional period. The launch of the campaign follows the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon on May 14, for which ERDINGER Alkoholfrei was a proud sponsor, with the kits going into trade the following month.

Peter Gowans, ERDINGER UK Country Manager said: "The ERDINGER Alkoholfrei team noticed that whenever you do something regularly

you get into certain habits, which we see even more so at the active tour events that we support. Preparation for leisure or competitive sport takes on additional importance, as getting things right can put you in the best frame of mind or even give you a competitive edge. But whilst there are many rituals before sport – kissing a lucky charm, putting kit on in a particular order, listening to favourite music and so on – there really is only one ritual after sport.

"Thousands of professional and amateur athletes reach for a drink of ERDINGER Alkoholfrei, the sporty

thirst quencher, after they complete their competition event or training programme. ERDINGER Alkoholfrei's isotonic properties help to replace lost fluids quickly and it also contains valuable nutrients including the essential vitamins folic acid (B9) and B12, which help reduce tiredness and contribute to the normal function of the immune system."

Originally launched in Germany, 'Your Ritual After Sport' profiles the many rituals people have before taking part in sport and celebrates post exercise relaxation with an ERDINGER Alkoholfrei.

"As a healthy and active lifestyle becomes more commonplace the habits that people acquire in their leisure time and sporting activity is increasingly integrated into their everyday life" said Gowans. "Drinking a refreshing ERDINGER Alkoholfrei is transferring to many wider occasions through purchase to drink in bars and restaurants.

"With ERDINGER Alkoholfrei recognised as 'your ritual after sport' we are now asking consumers to think about their rituals before sport and share their images with us on social media. The POS kits include glassware, bar runners, drip mats and tent cards, and will raise awareness of the campaign and help drive rate of sale by encouraging drinkers to get involved."

• carlsbergmarstons.co.uk





CMBC announces plans to sell Ringwood Brewery

Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company (CMBC) is to sell its Ringwood Brewery, located on the edge of the New Forest in Hampshire.

Under the proposals, the Ringwood Brewery and the Ringwood ale brands – including Razorback, Old Thumper, Boondoggle and Fortyniner – will be put on the market for sale.

CMBC's logistics operation at Ringwood is proposed to close, with deliveries relocated to CMBC's depots at Tiverton and Farnborough, with support from the Cardiff depot.

Paul Davies, CEO of CMBC, said: "We are announcing our intention to put our Ringwood Brewery in Hampshire up for sale. This includes the rights for Ringwood's well-loved ale brands.

"This is not a decision we have taken lightly – we have incredible respect for the effort and dedication of the team at Ringwood."

Davies said that the brewery's location in a residential area makes expansion complicated, and that the investment required to bring its capacity and capability up to the level CMBC needs 'is too great to be a viable path'.

"To ensure our future growth and simplify the business, we are looking for a new owner for Ringwood in the brewing industry, including its excellent range of local ales," he said. "We are confident that, by taking these actions now, we can ensure we continue to grow, innovate and deliver great beers across the UK, putting us in the best possible position to achieve success now and in the future.

"We have informed colleagues affected by these proposals at the brewery and our priority now is to support them through this process, and to begin the search for the right buyer for Ringwood."

Ringwood Brewery was founded in 1978, and after outgrowing its original premises, moved to its current site in 1986.

• carlsbergmarstons.co.uk

Funnybones expands to include three new fruity additions

Funnybones is helping operators keep customers cool and refreshed this summer, with the help of its new range of Island Sodas. These soft, carbonated drinks are available in three tropical flavours; Cream Soda, Pineapple, and non-alcoholic Kola Champagne.

Inspired by the flavours of the Caribbean, the drinks have been designed to pair perfectly with a range of Afro-Caribbean dishes, such as Funnybones' Irie Eats range, including vegan-friendly Callaloo Stew; a dark, leafy, kale-like veg, mixed with tomatoes, peppers, onions, and coconut milk for a hearty, creamy, feel-good stew. Sweet, spicy, and sticky Rice 'n' Peas – a classic combination of red kidney beans, rice, and coconut milk, with thyme and aromatic spices, served with almost every Caribbean meal.

Curried Mutton, combining lean, diced, mutton with potatoes and carrots in a medium spiced sauce. And finally, traditional Jerk comprised of scotch bonnet, pimento and traditional herbs and spices, available with Chicken or Pork. Easily Britain's favourite Caribbean flavour, both Jerk Chicken and Jerk Pork are classed as a medium heat, and leave a tingling more-ish impression that'll have customers eager to return for more. This heat can be instantly offset with a cool glass of the new Island Sodas to wash it all down.

Funnybones Development Chef, Tom Styman-Heighton, explains the thought process behind introducing the new drinks;

"As experts in all things Americana, Mexican, and Caribbean, we're consistently making sure we have



enough offerings in all these cuisine types, and that includes drinks. While American food pairs well with all your typical pops like Coca-Cola, and our Jarritos sell particularly well to Mexican food specialists, we felt like we needed to expand our offering on the Caribbean side of things. The new Island Sodas are a premium alternative to our existing Jamaican-made Bigga Soda range, to give operators more choices."

The Island Soda drinks are best served chilled in a glass with ice, though operators could add alcohol to create sparkling, Caribbean themed cocktails. For example; fill a tall glass with ice, and add 1oz of Caribbean rum, the juice of half a lime, a pinch of salt, and top with Island Soda Kola Champagne. For a fruitier alternative, mix 1.5oz of coconut rum with the Island Soda Pineapple, and garnish with a cherry.

• funnybones.co.uk

Saudi oilfield 'Moonshine' inspires new rum brand from Penderyn Distillery

Saudi Arabia isn't a country that jumps to mind when considering the world's great spirits producers, but it does have an association with a new rum brand.

Siddiqui is inspired by the moonshine produced by Texan and Californian oil workers during their time in Saudi Arabia. Highly illegal, as Saudi has prohibited alcohol since the 1950s, it was allegedly secretly distilled and enjoyed for decades, and code-named 'siddiqui' – Arabic for 'my friend' – to avoid detection.



The new Siddiqui rums, both brown and white, are being produced more openly by Penderyn Distillery in Wales, but are said to have been inspired by the original illicit recipes from the 'Blue Flame' instruction book that circulated amongst the oil industry workforce.

"Siddiqui was the gift of relaxation the oil workers all made for themselves," according to **Nigel Brown, CEO and Co-founder of Siddiqui Rum.**

"There are so many stories, some more illicit than others. They kept the workers going making the 'best damn moonshine this world has seen'. Work hard, play hard is the oil drillers' motto, deep in the bad ass desert of exotic Arabia pulling the black gold," said Nigel.

"This story is about pioneers, oilmen and their strong women, that made it happen, living in a constrained world, we made better for ourselves and the world around us, the lives they led, the parties like no other, everyone on the same boat blazing new trails. This is their story!"

• siddiquirums.com

Theakston brewing for further growth with new starters

T&R Theakston is continuing its growth story in 2023 with new additions at the family-run brewery.

The Masham-based business has added two to its head count: Cameron Bell and Zak Spence have joined the business as sales development managers, focused on key northern cities and the brewery's North Yorkshire heartland respectively.

Cameron brings a wealth of experience in the hospitality and drinks industries, having spent time as the general manager of a cocktail bar in central Manchester, as well as having worked in a variety of sales and ambassador roles for both an independent gin brand and a rum company. This experience on both sides of the bar will see Cameron work with key city centre venues to raise awareness of the brewery's range of cask and keg beers, especially amongst a younger demographic.

Zak joins the business following almost a decade with the police, working for both Northumbria Police and the North Yorkshire Police force. He takes over as the Theakston representative for the North Yorkshire, Yorkshire Dales, Harrogate and Ripon area from Barry Gibb, who recently retired. He will be responsible for continuing to work with existing and new customers in the area where the brewery already enjoys a strong presence.

The appointments mark the second expansion of the T&R Theakston's sales team this year, with the brewery announcing in January that it had recruited a new national account executive and sales development manager.

Joint managing director, Simon Theakston, said: "We started 2023 with the announcement of growth within our team and, following a busy first quarter, we're pleased to be further expanding as we look to deliver on our growth ambitions for this year



and beyond. It's wonderful to welcome both Cameron and Zak to our T&R Theakston family at such an exciting time for the business, as we prepare to launch more seasonal beers, announce new partnerships and continue to look toward to our bicentennial celebrations in 2027."

Zak said: "As a proud North Yorkshireman, I'm delighted to be working for such a well-known business which combines a strong heritage with exciting future focused plans. Taking over from Barry means I have some big shoes to fill but I am definitely looking forward to working with our customers to continue to deepen the strong relationships that he fostered."

Cameron said: "I'm looking forward to be working for Theakston and helping to drive forward its growth plans. There are plenty of exciting developments in the pipeline this year, which provide the perfect opportunity to increase awareness and availability of the brewery's beer range across Northern cities and introduce our diverse range of products to new consumers."

• theakstons.co.uk

San Miguel launches 'Here's to the Seekers' campaign

International Spanish lager San Miguel has rolled out a new TV campaign, 'Here's to the Seekers'.

The new ad, supported by a heavyweight multi-million-pound investment, celebrates adventure and those who value experiences and are thirsty for life.

Showcasing the Spanish lifestyle, it aims to inspire sociable moments and new experiences.

Dharmesh Rana, Director of Marketing, World Beer at Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company, said: "Here's to the Seekers perfectly encompasses the Spanish seeking spirit of adventure. We know our audience value experiences more than ever, with 59% of UK adults stating they enjoy escaping reality in their leisure time.

"The Spanish way of life; living with passion and spontaneity resonates with consumers and Spain was voted the most popular holiday destination in 2022. The ad tested well with World Beer drinkers, giving



us confidence that our new campaign will have a positive impact to drive the rate of sale of San Miguel for our stockists."

Here's to the Seekers aims to bring to life the Spanish spirit of adventure, and positions San Miguel as the beer for those who seek a more enriching life.

• sanmiguel.com

Hoshizaki Compact range gets a clear face lift

Global ice maker and refrigeration expert Hoshizaki is excited to announce the launch of its Compact glass door freezer range, which is now in stock and available for immediate delivery.

The Compact FG 220 and FG 420, with capacities of 77 litres and 265 litres respectively, are part of the new Compact range, designed to help venues with limited space. The FG 220 has the ability to fit under, as well as above the counter, whilst the FG420 boasts a width of just 595mm making it the perfect solution for all those with space constrictions.

Simon Frost, Managing Director of Hoshizaki UK & Ireland, said: "They say good things come in small packages, and this is certainly true of the newly updated Compact range. High-quality freezers should be available to any business, regardless of their venue size. The space-saving and modular design of the Compact freezer range offers exactly that, with the added benefit of glass doors, and has all the features you would expect of our larger Hoshizaki equipment."

• hoshizaki-europe.com

Smaller options for bottle storage

Williams Refrigeration has added a new low height option to its range of bottle coolers, providing flexibility for creating the perfect refrigerated storage solution for bottled drinks.

Standard models are 900mm high, but the new low height option reduces this to just 850mm. This allows it to be installed under custom-built bespoke bars. While the external height is reduced, they retain generous capacity and all the features of the standard version.

"Many businesses struggle to fit appropriate bottle storage in their limited back-bar space," says **Malcolm Harling, sales and marketing director for Williams.** "The new low height option provides greater flexibility for creating the perfect bottle cooling solution without having to compromise on the quality of storage."

The range includes one, two and three door models. With double glazed glass doors and efficient, low energy consumption LED lighting for attractive backbar display and adjustable shelving means they can be adapted to hold non-standard sized bottles or cans.

List prices start at £1,400.

Williams Refrigeration offers a range of commercial refrigeration including gastronomic cabinets and counters, specialist bakery equipment, coldrooms, multidecks and blast chillers.

• williams-refrigeration.co.uk





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The Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman, The Rt Hon Alistair Burt, welcomed representatives to the 129th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Conservative Clubs. He commented that a great deal of work had been undertaken during the previous twelve months from the ACC's head office in Norfolk Row.

The Chairman asked the meeting to stand for a moment's silence in memory of all colleagues who had passed away during the past year and paid particular tribute to Charles White, North West Area Vice-Chairman.



The Rt Hon Alistair Burt.

Chairman's Report on the work of the Association

The Chairman said it was a pleasure to report on the work of the Association of Conservative Clubs in his eighth year as Chairman. The ACC had strengthened its financial position and was investing in the continuation of Conservative, Constitutional and Unionist Clubs. He made reference to the ACC not having returned a deficit since 1994, the ACC's centenary year, almost 30 years ago.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the primary object of the ACC remained as it was 129 years ago, 'To assist and encourage the formation of Clubs throughout Great Britain with similar objects and the management of such Clubs'. He commented that there was no doubt that in recent years, the ACC had prevented many clubs

from closing and the management advice and support provided would be beyond anything which the twelve founding clubs could have imagined.

Members of the ACC Council knew from the meetings held during the year, of the vast amount of issues which were dealt with including assisting clubs with registering under the new Trusteeship Registration Service and the savings those clubs had made as a result; taking on over 40 new Trusteeships for member clubs and purchasing a record number of clubs under our Sale & Leaseback Scheme.

The Chairman said he would like to see more club members becoming members of the Party and for more party members to join our clubs. Conservative Clubs were a powerful political

force but they were also vital community hubs and there are many good news stories from across the country covering charitable donations and other activities which are published in our monthly magazine. He went on to make the point that none of this could be achieved unless clubs were themselves in a strong and healthy position and, as reported, the ACC had been making sure that Committees were receiving the best advice and support.

The Chairman placed on record his grateful thanks to all ACC Officers and Council Members. Weekend Conferences and social occasions held by the ACC Areas had been back in full swing

since the ending of pandemic restrictions with events held in both the North West, Western and Northern Areas. These were important occasions within the ACC calendar and long may they continue.

The Chairman also thanked the ACC's national suppliers and recommended companies; Dransfields, 'Club Insure' and K&M Club Refurbishment, all of whom the ACC were pleased to endorse. The Chairman thanked all the ACC staff for their continued loyalty and commitment to the Association of Conservative Clubs and in conclusion said he continued to be proud that the ACC were part of the Conservative family.

Guest Speaker Nickie Aiken MP, Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party

In introducing Nickie Aiken, Member of Parliament for Cities of London and Westminster and Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party, the Chairman informed the meeting that Nickie was first elected to Parliament serving the Cities of London and Westminster in December 2019. Prior to her parliamentary career, Nickie had a successful career in public relations and communications and was elected to Westminster City Council representing Warwick Ward, Pimlico in 2006 and became Leader of Westminster City Council in 2017.

In September 2022, Nickie was promoted to Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party.

Ms Aiken thanked the Chairman for his warm introduction and in a wide ranging address spoke

about her own early background in politics and the Conservative Clubs which she had enjoyed visiting in Cardiff. Since becoming involved in Local Government, she had been all too aware of the importance of the Hospitality Sector and having been Leader of Westminster City Council, understood the challenges which the sector faced and the important role which it played.

Ms Aiken went on to outline the Government's priorities over the coming months leading up to the General Election next year and thanked all ACC member clubs for everything they had achieved and continued to do in support of the Party.

The Chairman thanked Ms Aiken for addressing the meeting and for taking the time to attend.



The Chief Executive's Report



Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE.

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that the recent pace of change in the economic climate had been so rapid that Covid almost seemed like a distant memory but that 'economic long-covid' was still affecting the Hospitality Industry; the Industry in which clubs operated within and therefore the one which the ACC needed to measure our activities against.

Many constraints had been placed on what the Conservative Government could do in the short-term to ease cost of living issues, arising largely from Russia's illegal invasion of the Ukraine and subsequent war.

A period of high inflation had followed the Government's efforts to maintain peoples' living standards while much of the economy was locked down or operating under conditions that restricted trading. Adjustments of course had been and continued to be painful.

People often compared the social club sector to the local pub, and they have much in common. Despite the usual industry predictions of impending doom, there had not been the widespread pub closure carnage that many had predicted. Some 51 pubs per month had closed since the start of 2023, with high energy costs and food price rises being the major factors, but this should be seen in the context of a long-term decline in the pub sector, which had shrunk by about a quarter since 2000, with some 13,000 pubs closing overall.

As the ACC surveyed the hospitality industry landscape, a great deal of market adjustment and consolidation was taking place. Mergers and acquisitions activity had picked up, which was a sure sign that big operators saw opportunities and that consumer confidence was resilient. New winners and losers emerged, and we have seen the top end of the market and the value end prospering, but the mid-market food-led pubs and restaurants being squeezed. People were going out less, but when they did go out, they wanted a memorable experience.

This highlighted the importance to the social club sector in maintaining high standards while continuing to offer good value. The appeal of our clubs was not as vulnerable as pubs and restaurants to the vagaries of fashion or the latest entertainment fad. Nor were clubs affected to the same degree by events like train strikes since most clubs catered for members and guests who lived locally.

One sign that a post-covid normality was setting in had been the resurgence of demands from the UK's unelected Temperance Movement that the government introduce a new Alcohol Strategy to tackle alcohol-related harms; the majority of which already being in decline.

The Chief Executive referred to a speech he had made recently in the House of Lords, when he said that per capita alcohol consumption had fallen, alcohol-related crime was down, whilst the number of young people consuming alcohol was down significantly and had been falling since 2004. The UK today drank less alcohol than 16 other European nations, according to the World Health Organization. He the view that licensing legislation should remain concerned solely with licensing management and should never become an attempt at social engineering.

Social engineering measures, such as the introduction of minimum-unit pricing in Scotland and Wales, had proved to have no discernible beneficial effect on problem drinking, but instead had the effect of making alcohol more expensive to those on low incomes. Lord Smith hoped this experiment would dissuade any plans for similar schemes

to be introduced elsewhere. In moderation, alcohol played an important and beneficial role in the nation's life. For many people, drinking provided, and has always provided, social cohesion.

Well run social clubs provided safe, well controlled spaces for members and guests, which was particularly important for older people, for those who lived alone and for those who may be medically vulnerable.

The Chief Executive was pleased that the ACC has continued to provide many clubs with financial assistance. With new loans being made to clubs, and sale and leaseback arrangements being agreed releasing assets tied up in property to either invest in the facilities being offered to members, repay historic debt, or to provide significant working capital, the ACC had been able to give a number of Committees breathing space and even more clubs a second chance.

Club representatives here today would be well aware of the wide range of advice and guidance which the ACC had been providing to clubs over many years, including over the period of the pandemic. The ACC website had received over 30,000 visits during the past 12 months and the email update service had 642 subscribers. In addition to the ACC's website and to those Clubs which had joined the email

distribution list, the ACC had been providing assistance through the ACC monthly magazine, in continued publication since 1894.

The Trust Registration Service (TRS), first set up in 2017 by HM Revenue & Customs, came into effect just over a year ago and to date over 150 member clubs had taken advantage of that service. Its set-up and implementation had taken up a considerable amount of administrative resource over the past year not to mention the fees incurred as part of the process which the ACC had covered in full.

In conclusion, the Chief Executive said he believed the ACC had achieved a great deal over the last few years in very difficult circumstances and hoped his report demonstrated that much could be achieved in the future. He made reference to the excellent and loyal team at the ACC and in particular to thanked Lesley DiPopolo, Josephine Willoughby, Daniel Todd, Allison Reay and Sarah Fletcher, for all that they did throughout the year. He also paid tribute to Charles Littlewood for all that he did in his role as Deputy CEO, and to club committees for everything which they did in order for clubs to play such a vital part in so many communities, a large part in British culture and in the social life of hundreds of thousands of people.



Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2022



Mr Thomas Leeming.

The Chairman called upon Mr Thomas Leeming, Hon Treasurer of the ACC and Hon Secretary of the Conservative National Property Advisory Committee, to propose that the Statement of Accounts be received.

Mr Leeming had pleasure in reporting that the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2022

showed a surplus of just over £2.6 million, another strong result for the ACC, enabling the continued work in supporting Clubs.

During the year £1.24 million of new loans were made available to support clubs, with £1.14 million being repaid from the total loan book. The amount of loans to Member Clubs from Development Fund 'A' and from the ACC at the year-end stood at just over £4.9 million – on parity with the total loan figure for 2021.

Following the pandemic, the ACC had successfully encouraged a number of clubs to recommence regular loan repayments. This had resulted in an increase in interest income from £189,000 in 2021 to £217,000 in 2022.

The Accounts also showed rental income from the sale and leaseback of Club properties had increased by some 14% from £1.2 million in 2021 to £1.37 million in 2022.

The ACC held investment property, the majority of

which were sale and leaseback investments, with a carrying value of £33 million, comprised of over one hundred club properties and some ancillary land and property. Due to a change in accounting standards, the ACC was no longer able to include these properties at cost, less any impairment, but was required to move to a fair value basis and the fair value continued to be adopted.

The ACC acquired 1 Norfolk Row as the new head office premises in 2020, and this was shown as a tangible asset in the balance sheet. The ACC had subsequently acquired the two long leased residential properties and now owned the entire unencumbered freehold site. It was expected that this would give rise to a marriage value.

Income from the sale of IA Tickets showed a significant increase in 2022 following poor

pandemic performances. The level of IA Ticket sales for the current year were expected to remain stable.

Commission income showed a higher receipt of £67,000. The ACC's Deposit Fund which paid Clubs 2.25% gross interest per annum stood at £8.29 million. At the year end the ACC had a bank balance of just under £7.8 million.

The year end result is that the total net assets of the Association of Conservative Clubs stood at £34,847,335.

Mr Leeming thanked the Accountant and Auditor Andrew Brooker of Begbies Chartered Accountants and concluded by saying that it gave him great pleasure to propose that the accounts as set out be received by the Annual General Meeting. The proposal to receive the Accounts was seconded and carried unanimously.

Appointment of Auditors

The Meeting approved the appointment of Begbies Chartered Accountants as Auditors for

2023/2024 and that the Council be authorised to fix their remuneration.

Date and Place of the AGM for 2024

The Chairman announced that the provisional date of the AGM was Saturday 18th May

2024 and that the Carlton Club had been booked to host the meeting.



Resolution to the Prime Minister

That this Annual General Meeting of The Association of Conservative Clubs congratulates the Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon Rishi Sunak MP, on his careful stewardship of the nation since becoming Leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister on 25th October.

In proposing the Resolution, the Chairman made reference to the immediate action that was taken by the Prime Minister to steady the economy and restore confidence overseas. He had set out a programme to deal with the issues most affecting the people of this country in a clear and transparent way. Inflation had run away in a manner unseen for a generation, from the consequences of the Ukrainian situation and its dramatic impact on energy prices, not forgetting the impact of long Covid on the economy.

He went to say that as a Conservative, the Prime Minister knew that the answer was not to spend other people's money to solve problems, so he had tasked his Government to grow the economy, and reduce the national debt.

An older population had extra need for the NHS, so it was good to know our Prime Minister valued those people who had contributed over a lifetime, and recognised the need to cut NHS waiting lists urgently, again tackling the legacy of damage which Covid had inflicted on our health services.

The Chairman said the crime of illegally trafficking the vulnerable over the Channel, undermining the needs of those seeking sanctuary legitimately, also needed challenge and action. These tasks were at the heart of Rishi Sunak's offer to the British people, all of which we understood and wanted to see successful.

In conclusion, the Chairman said that the Prime Minister was doing a difficult job with determination, foresight, and no small courage, all with a popular personal style. He asked for the meeting's strong support for the resolution which recognised the Prime Minister's careful stewardship of the nation since he had taken office.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

Annual General Meeting Report

Resolution to HM The King

The Chairman proposed the following resolution to HM The King and in so doing expressed both thanks and admiration for her unprecedented service to the Nation and the Commonwealth.

That this Annual General

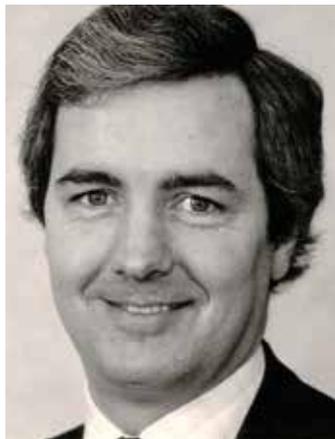
Meeting, in humble duty, offers loyal greetings and sincere congratulations to His Majesty The King on the occasion of his Coronation.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.



Obituary

Stuart Moran



It with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of the Secretary of the Upper Gillingham Conservative Club.

Stuart was a wonderful gentleman and friend to all who knew him, he joined the Upper Gillingham Conservative Club in January 1980 and was elected to the committee in February 1983. He was a very active member of the committee, excelling in many roles including Chairman and finally Secretary since 2011.

Our heartfelt condolences go to his wife Heather & family at this sad time.

Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back 120 years to July 1903.

Aside from a quest to find out which hooligan was responsible for highlighting an article in a magazine which is now 120 years old, it is interesting to note the technically correct advice regarding IA Tickets although it is also noted the magazine also honestly observes how such advice would be workable from a practical point of view.

We then have a self-congratulatory boast that the 'Club Advisory Department' is steadily increasing its sphere of operations (world domination was surely on the cards at some point) and that it has not once failed to make a non-successful Club successful. They must have had greater powers than we possess today! The magazine goes to confirm that the 'Club Advisory

Department' never interferes with Committee functions although this modest claim is slightly undermined by the next sentence which states that, the Committee must comply with 'certain recommendations'. Well, you don't keep your 100% track record by letting others make the final decision!

We then end with the aforementioned highlighted/vandalised article about how to dismiss a Steward. Clearly, there was someone reading this magazine who had a great interest in this particular question. The article ends with reference to several clubs that have recently being agitated by the dismissal of Club Stewards. I daresay that perhaps these clubs could be ably assisted by the 'Club Advisory Department', which reading between the lines, seems to have a very strong track record dealing with unruly Clubs....

Clubs

Conservative



Gazette

The Official Organ of the Association of Conservative Clubs.

Vol. VII. No. 100.

JULY, 1903.

PRICE 1d.

A.C.C. Notes.

THESE seems to be a misunderstanding as regards the validity of the A.C.C. inter-affiliation tickets. An inter-affiliation ticket can only be used if issued by the club of which the holder is a member at the time of his using it. For instance, Mr. Brown has been a member of the Coventry Conservative Club, and has paid up his subscription to June 30 and taken up his inter-affiliation ticket. In July he leaves Coventry and goes to reside in Peterborough, where he joins the club there and pays his subscription to the end of the year. Will his inter-affiliation ticket issued by the Coventry club, of which he is no longer a member, be valid? The answer is in the negative. If he wishes to enjoy the privileges of inter-affiliation he will have to obtain another inter-affiliation ticket from the secretary of the Peterborough club, as the Coventry inter-affiliation ticket is *ipso facto* cancelled by his ceasing to be a member of that club. This point is dealt with in our inter-affiliation rules; but as many of our ticket-holders appear to be in doubt on the subject, this note will, I hope, set the matter at rest.

BY-THE-WAY, there are as yet no Conservative clubs in either of the two towns mentioned, although I understand there is a movement on foot in Coventry to start one. In my next notes I propose to give a list of all the important towns where Conservative clubs do not exist, and it will be interesting to see if the list is a long one.

OUR Club Advisory Department is steadily increasing its sphere of operations. It is, however, astonishing that more clubs do not avail themselves of its services, for to my knowledge there are a large number of clubs whose systems of management could be strengthened. The Club Advisory Department forms, undoubtedly, the most useful branch of the Association's work, for it can in almost every case—and *if we get our facts*—make a non-successful club successful. Think of what this means to the Conservative Club movement. The A.C.C. has already saved its clubs thousands of pounds, and placed the clubs which were before in a state of bankruptcy on a sound financial basis. This is a great achievement, but the work is only in its infancy. One point I should like to make clear, and that is that there is no interference with the legitimate functions of the committees. Certain recommendations are made which the committees must carry out, and if they see that they are carried out the club is made. In every case our advice has been followed, with the results above mentioned. Club Committees please note!

I HAVE received a great many enquiries lately from clubs as to whether the club steward should be appointed and dismissed by the committee or the members as a whole. The practically universal custom in all well regulated clubs is for the appointment and dismissal of stewards to rest in the hands of the committee and them alone. To allow the members as a whole to deal with such a question would be preposterous and unpractical, and as a matter of fact in nearly every club the rules provide for the matter quite unequivocally. In our model rules, which have been adopted by about fifty per cent. of the clubs affiliated to the Association, it is clearly laid down that the internal management of the Club lies in the hands of the committee and not of the members.

SOME of my correspondents point out, however, that in our rules it is stated that the club officers are to be elected by the members in general meeting assembled. Quite true; but the steward is not an officer, but the *servant* of the club. But if the members call a general meeting to rescind the action of the committee in dismissing a steward, what then? My answer is that such a meeting would be *ultra vires* and quite illegal, as in order to effect their purpose the members would first have to alter the club rules and place that portion of internal management at any rate, *via*, the appointment and dismissal of the steward, in the hands of the members specifically. But to alter any rule, not only must due notice be given, but the alteration must be carried by a three-fourths majority of those present at the meeting.

IN the interests of efficient club management it is essential that the internal management of the club should in every case be left entirely in the hands of the committee, who are elected for that purpose. The members would be quite outside their functions in attempting to do this work, and in no well managed club would such a thing be thought of.

SEVERAL clubs of late have been agitated by the dismissal of the stewards by the committees, and meetings have been called to consider their action. This discloses a most unsatisfactory state of affairs, and the spirit shown will spell ultimate ruin to the clubs concerned if persevered in. It illustrates also the danger to the stability of a club that some stewards can become. The cause lies in the fact that the steward has not been kept in his place as the servant of the club, but has probably been allowed to become a member and has gathered around him a

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