

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



May 2023 75p



Long Live The King

May 2023
75p



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Annual General Meeting 2023 Reminder

The Annual General Meeting of the Association of Conservative Clubs Ltd shall be held on Saturday 20th May 2023 at the Carlton Club, London.

Formal notice of the Annual General Meeting was enclosed with last month's edition of the Magazine.

Clubs wishing to attend should contact the ACC as only a few spaces remain.

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Member Disciplinary Procedure Guidance

If a Committee has cause to bring disciplinary action against a Club Member then the following procedure should be followed.

Once a Committee have considered a complaint which has been made against a Member they can summon the Member to attend a formal disciplinary meeting. The Committee could also decide not to take any further action once they have reviewed the complaint.

The Committee cannot suspend or expel a member from the Club without first inviting them to a disciplinary meeting. A suspension or permanent expulsion can only take place once a disciplinary meeting has been held. You can also only suspend a Member for a maximum of twelve months.

If the Committee are of the opinion that this individual's behaviour has either broken specific Club Rules/Bye-Laws or could be judged to be prejudicial to the Conservative cause or the interests of the Club then they can summon this member to appear before the Committee. The Committee should inform them of the specific allegations that have been made against when asking them to attend the disciplinary meeting and these reasons should be placed in writing along with the letter asking them to attend the disciplinary meeting.

If this is how the Committee wishes to proceed you should write to the member and inform them that due to their conduct he has been requested to appear in front of the Committee and include the precise details of the

complaint/alleged conduct and the date and time of the meeting. You must give at least seven days notice to the Member of the date of the disciplinary meeting.

The Committee can also decide to withdraw from the facilities of the Club from the Member until they have attended the disciplinary meeting. This means that the Member is unable to use the Club until they have attended the disciplinary meeting. It is normal that once the withdrawal takes place that a disciplinary meeting is held within two months and that at least seven days' notice of the meeting must be given to the member, in accordance with the Club's Rules.

When a member appears before a committee, the following procedure is suggested—

- The Secretary reads out details of the member's alleged offence
- Whoever is charged with conducting the case of the club gives the facts and indicates clearly the rules alleged to have been broken i.e. the grounds for the case
- Where witnesses are to be called, for the club or by the defending member, they remain outside the room until required to give their evidence; after then, they remain in the room
- The member remains in the room throughout the hearing; he must be allowed to cross-examine the club's witnesses
- When these witnesses have been heard, the member makes his own statement and calls

his own witnesses to speak in his defence.; both he and the committee may put questions to the witnesses

- After all the evidence has been heard, it is usual, but not essential, for the person presenting the club's case to sum up and to make any additional comments on the evidence given
- Similarly, the member accused must be allowed to make any further statement he wishes and this concludes the presentation of the case
- Then the committee retires to consider their decision; alternatively, the member and all the witnesses withdraw while they do so

The Committee should hold the disciplinary meeting and, after reviewing any points this Member has to make in their defence, the Committee will then ask the Member to leave the disciplinary meeting whilst the Committee make their decision. The Committee can allow witnesses to appear and give evidence which the Committee can consider before making their final decision. Should a Member decline to appear at a disciplinary meeting then the meeting can be held in their absence. It is good practice, however, to try and work with the Member to enable them to attend their disciplinary meeting if at all possible.

The Committee can decide to take no action against the Member, to issue a reprimand (effectively a warning), to suspend the Member for up to 12 months or to expel the Member.

A Suspension must be for a definite period and the date when it expires recorded in the minutes. For a member to be suspended 'until he appears before the committee' is improper. The suspension should not exceed one year. It is not open to the committee to suspend a member sine die, which means 'with no date fixed.' For the period of suspension a member is denied entry to the club premises and the enjoyment of its privileges. Nor should he be admitted to another club as an affiliated member.

A member is liable to pay

subscriptions, even if under suspension. He has no right to the return of any subscription paid in advance should he be expelled or resign. If the subscription is increased in accordance with the rules he is liable for the altered rate agreed upon, if the rules so provide. Any suspended member who has not paid when the time for paying subscriptions has elapsed will cease to be a member. A member under suspension remains liable for his subscription, but forfeits all privileges of membership while the suspension is in operation.

Should a committee member commits an offence then disciplinary treatment must be imposed in exactly the same way as any other club member. If a member of the committee is suspended, they are unable to attend meetings of the committee. The majority of club rules provide that a member of the committee who is suspended automatically vacates his seat as his absence does not constitute a 'reasonable excuse' for nonattendance. Accordingly, if he has been absent the stipulated number of times under the rule governing such matters, he vacates his seat. If accused though, a committee member has no right to be present when the remainder of the committee are considering the case.

Names of members suspended or expelled should not be posted in the club; it is sufficient to inform the steward and doorkeeper. All correspondence relating to expulsions and suspensions should be carefully filed, including the letter conveying the decision of the committee.

Most rules state that a committee's decision in all disciplinary matters is final, and therefore a disciplined member would have no right to seek a Special General Meeting in order to appeal to the general membership against a decision. Some rules however, include an appeal rule which provides arbitration facilities to aggrieved members.

Such rules differ from club to club and the extent to which

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

◀ From page 3

appeal rules apply will often depend on how the club is registered. For example, a club which is incorporated with the Financial Conduct Authority is obliged to include a disputes rule. However, such a rule cannot deal with an appeal against expulsion due to the fact that this subject has

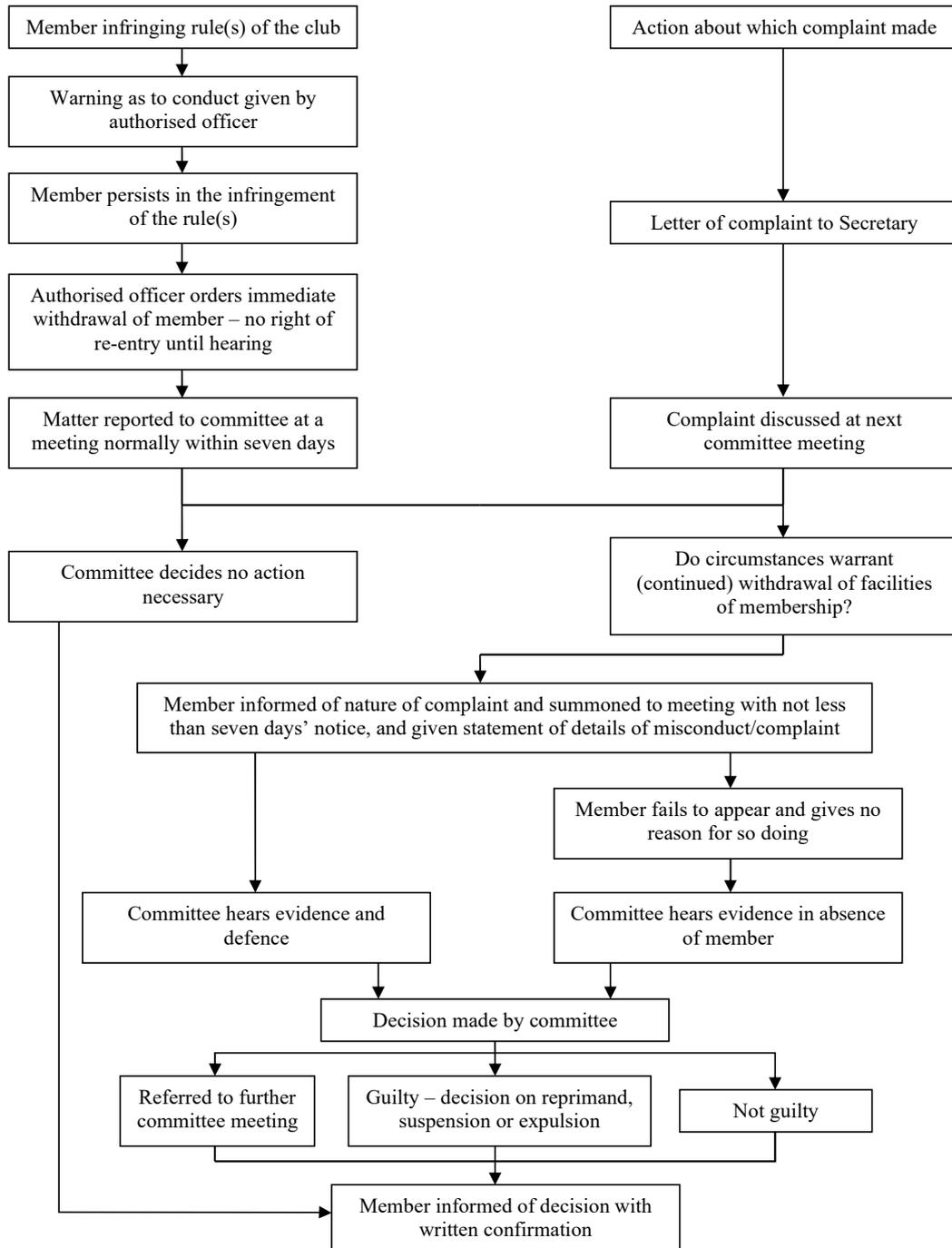
been excluded from the statutes. If an aggrieved member is unable to apply for arbitration under the rules, then he may seek the guidance of a solicitor and, if so advised, take proceedings against the club through the courts. A court will not interfere with the findings of a 'domestic tribunal' if it considers the tribunal, or in the

case of clubs the committee, has acted fairly and in accordance with its own rules. That confidence is most likely to be justified if the committee have paid full attention to their rules, and followed the procedures outlined above.

In summary therefore, a member cannot be expelled or suspended, unless he has been informed of

the charge against him and given due opportunity of being heard in self-defence by being summoned to appear before the committee. The rules governing suspension and expulsion must be carried out to the letter; then if the decision arrived at is bona fide (without malice) no court will be able to interfere with it.

Discipline and Misconduct Flowchart



This flow chart is for explanatory purposes only and is not a substitute for the rules.

For all formal purposes the rules should be consulted.

Questions and Answers

Q Whilst considering a membership applicant I have discussed the applicant with several Members of the Club and have reached a negative view of the applicant. A question has been raised over whether I should abstain from the Committee vote because of my discussions regarding the prospective candidate; it is claimed that I am now 'bias'.

A I see no reason why you should abstain simply because you have discussed this potential candidate with other Members and employees – this is the whole reason for the Membership application process so that potential candidates can be discussed to assist the Committee when they come to vote on the application. It would be very difficult for any Committee to reach a considered view on a membership application without discussing the applicant with other Members of the Club and Club employees.

Q We are currently redesigning our website. Is there any reason that we cannot place the membership application form on the website? We think this may aid the recruitment of new members.

A I do not think there is any reason the Club's Membership form cannot be accessed and submitted electronically and as such it could be placed on the website. I think that Clubs have to move with the times and that an electronic submission of a membership request is perfectly acceptable.

The Committee would then have to verify that the proposer and seconder listed on the form are willing to act in those roles.

The key point is that you are not advertising for new members and you are not saying that all new members are welcome. By placing the membership request form on the website you are simply allowing interested members to submit a request which will then be considered by the Committee. It is very similar to leaving membership application forms around the Club when a private event is being held at the Club. Ultimately, the Committee is still making the

final decision on whether or not a prospective member is granted membership.

Q The annual election for officers and committee members has been held and a dispute has arisen over the outcome of the ballot. The committee have been asked to declare the result of the ballot null and void by a group of members.

A By reference to your club's Rules, the ballot for officers and committee members is conducted under the direction of scrutineers. Therefore, it is for the scrutineers to declare a ballot null and void not the committee. Any member making an allegation concerning the ballot must do so to the scrutineers who will need to consider carefully whether a new ballot is required.

If a general meeting, at which the result of a ballot is declared, demands a scrutiny of the ballot box by a majority then arrangements should be made for a recount. However, a ballot, once it has been declared and accepted, stands no matter what discrepancies a subsequent examination of the papers may reveal. Therefore, before the result of a ballot is accepted, the members must be satisfied that the ballot was fairly conducted.

Q The Committee wish to implement a system where Members pay a lower price for drinks than their guests or other users of the Club (such as when a private event is being held). Can you confirm that such a pricing policy would be legal?

A We can confirm that such a policy would be entirely appropriate. With the introduction of modern tills this business model is becoming more popular in Private Members' Clubs and provides a clear reason for guests to become Members of the Club. Depending on the till system the Club is using there are a few days that this policy can be implemented, we have certainly seen cases where an employee simply chooses 'Member' or 'Non-Member' when serving and the till then calculates the correct price based on that information. To comply with licensing legislation

we would recommend that either two price lists are available or that the advertised price list is correct for Non-Members with Members being provided with a discount to the advertised prices.

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 The Club's President has taken it upon himself to authorise expenditure which has not been agreed by the Committee. Is he able to do this without a vote taking place at a Committee Meeting?

A Unless previously agreed, the Club President does not have the power to authorise Club expenditure. The Club's Rules clearly state that all decisions must, and can only, be made by the Committee. The Committee could delegate responsibility to a particular person (such as to the Steward in order to purchase products or authorise the Treasurer to simply pay routine bills) but unless this has happened then the Committee would have to approve any expenditure which takes place.

Any expenditure which has been undertaken without the authority of the Committee is, strictly speaking, not applicable to the Club and would have to be funded by the individual who gave consent.

I suggest that you remind the President that he must abide by Committee decisions and cannot take decisions in isolation from the Committee. The President is permitted one vote in Committee Meetings. The President therefore has no additional powers of decision making unless the

Committee has previously delegated such responsibility to the President.

Q In the past the Committee have had cause to expel certain members from the club due to their conduct. A question has been raised over whether an expelled member, which we refer to as a 'life ban', could ever reapply for membership?

A Under the rules of most clubs, a member who has been expelled from the club can only reapply for membership with the consent of the Committee and even if that consent is given, the Committee can still vote against the admission of a candidate.

Careful consideration should always be given to the request of previously expelled members to reapply for membership. A previous Committee would not have taken such a decision lightly. Also bear in mind that whilst a simple majority is required for a committee to agree that a previously expelled member can reapply for membership, the actual re-election to membership normally only needs two votes against to exclude a candidate. Therefore an agreement that an expelled member can reapply is certainly not a guarantee of re-election.

Q 12 months ago the Committee rejected a candidate for Membership of the Club. The person now intends to submit a new Membership request. It is unlikely that we will ever grant this person Membership of the Club. Is there any way we can prevent them from requesting Membership every 12 months?

A A rejected candidate for Membership can re-apply after a further 12 month period. In theory they could repeat this indefinitely although, after discussing this issue with the Club's Committee, you may wish to informally inform the candidate that a new Membership application is unlikely to be accepted, now or in the future.

Additionally, most Club Rules will prevent a failed candidate for Membership from using the Club as a guest.



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ACC Services

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Loans can be arranged from as little as £1,000 to £500,000. We provide loans at competitive simple interest rates and all loans commence with a three year period of fixed interest. Loans are repaid over a term to be agreed on an individual basis with each Club in order to create a manageable and sensible time frame for repayment.

Documentation Available Free Of Charge

ACC Room Hire Agreement - The room hire agreement is designed to be completed at the time a booking and includes space for a deposit to be taken to secure the room is applicable.

ACC Catering Franchise Pack - The ACC Catering Franchise pack can be used by Clubs which have a franchisee who uses the Club's facilities to prepare and serve food within the Club. The Franchisee Contract permits the Committee to decide if the franchisee shall pay a set fee per month to the Club for use of the Club's facilities, shall pay to the Club a percentage of the profits from the sale of food or that a combination of both methods of remuneration shall be utilised.

Health and Safety and Risk Assessment Documentation - The ACC has extensive documentation to assist a Club in creating a Health and Safety policy and conducting regular risk assessments. This documentation is available free of charge. Examples include template health and safety documentation, risk assessment forms and practical advice on completing a Club risk assessment and first aid information.

Candidates for Admission Sheets - The admission sheets can be posted on the Club's Notice Board to detail prospective new Members and have spaces for: Date, Candidate Name, Address, Occupation, Proposer, Seconder.

Sale and Leaseback

Since launching the ACC Sale and Leaseback service, over 70 Clubs have entered into this arrangement with the ACC.

Under what circumstances would a Sale and Leaseback be appropriate? The most successful examples of ACC Sale and Leasebacks are Clubs which have a dedicated Committee and Membership and want to secure their Club's future. By unlocking the Club's freehold, Clubs can be provided the means of repaying debt, often undertaking refurbishments and providing a significant cash sum. The rent payable to the ACC following the completion of a Sale and Leaseback can often be less than a Club was paying for servicing debt.

Trusteeship

The ACC Trusteeship Service is a free facility offered by the ACC. The transfer of Trusteeship to the ACC has increasingly become popular amongst unincorporated clubs and there are two main benefits for the Club. The first is that the ACC will pay for all legal expenses involved with the transfer of Trusteeship. The second is that the Association's financial and legal resources are such that the Club's position will be greatly strengthened when negotiating loans or defending itself against legal action taken by a third party.

The ACC do not become involved with the day to day business of any Club for which we act as Trustee. The Club will continue to be able to call upon the ACC for advice on any matter without needing to make reference to our Trusteeship. We will only act on behalf of the Club in accordance with the lawful instructions of the Committee and Members. The Club Committee will therefore continue to run the Club's affairs and will only refer matters to the ACC as and when they consider it appropriate to do so.

To obtain any of the documentation packages please email charles@toryclubs.co.uk or phone 0207 222 0843. To enquire about any of the ACC's financial assistance packages please email assistance@toryclubs.co.uk or phone 0207 222 0843.

ACC Contracts of Employment

The ACC are pleased to supply a range of Employment Contracts. These contracts are designed specifically to comply with the needs of ACC Clubs and are produced to a high quality with a glossy finish. All Contracts were fully revised and updated in 2015, with minor revisions made in 2016, and are compliant with all current UK legislation. We recommend that all Clubs use our current contracts of employment for their employees.

All Contract Packs now include a high quality and durable employee disciplinary and grievance policy handbook which should assist both Clubs and employees when these issues arise. Contracts for use with employees who live on the Club's premises now come with a specifically drafted Service Occupancy Agreement for the employees, and their partners if applicable, to sign in relation to their accommodation.

Our newest introduction to our contracts range is a contract of employment for use by Clubs which employ Bar Managers. We know that many Clubs employ Bar Managers as opposed to Club Stewards and we are pleased to now supply a specific contract pack for Bar Managers. The contracts which are offered by the ACC are as follows:



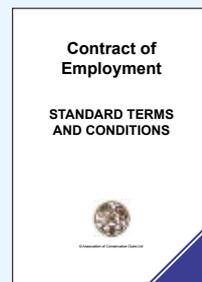
Club Secretary / Administrator Contract
Appropriate for Clubs which employ, rather than elect, a Club Secretary. Each contract pack costs £20 and includes:
2 x Club Secretary Contract
2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



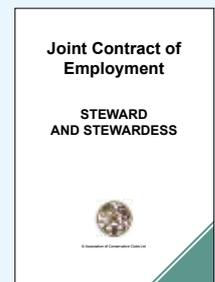
Steward Contract
Appropriate for a Club employing a Steward with or without accommodation included. Each contract pack costs £25 and includes:
2 x Club Steward Contract
2 x Service Occupancy Agreement
2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



Bar Manager Contract
Appropriate for a Club employing a Bar Manager without accommodation. Each contract pack costs £20 and includes:
2 x Bar Manager Contract
2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



Standard Terms and Conditions of Employment
Appropriate for a wide range of Club Employees (bar employees, cleaners, general part time employees etc.). Each contract pack costs £15 and includes:
2 x Standard Terms and Conditions of Employment Contract
2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



Steward and Stewardess Joint Contract
Appropriate for a Club employing a Steward and Stewardess on a joint contract of employment with or without accommodation included. Each contract pack costs £25 and includes:
2 x Club Steward and Stewardess Contract
2 x Service Occupancy Agreement
2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.

Please contact the ACC with any questions regarding the new contracts of employment.

To order any of the above contract packs please place an order online at www.toryclubs.co.uk, email charles@toryclubs.co.uk or phone 0207 222 0868.

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.

Are higher prices the trade-off for sustainable food supply?

Clubs may need to accept that paying higher prices for food and drink is the only sustainable way to secure supplies of fresh, seasonal produce from UK farmers, says hospitality buying specialist Lynx Purchasing.

Lynx Purchasing's Spring/Summer 2023 edition of its regular Market Forecast is warning that the problems caused by fresh produce shortages and price increases are unlikely to go away any time soon.

Rachel Dobson, Lynx Purchasing Managing Director, said: "The immediate issues with salad produce are now well understood, in terms of the impact of bad weather in southern Europe, and the unwillingness of UK growers to pay to heat glasshouses without support on energy costs.

"The current availability issue is hopefully a relatively short-term challenge, but new crops can't be grown overnight, so it is likely to be a significant issue for the next few months. Our advice is that hospitality operators should plan for both potential shortages of supplies of the produce affected, as well for further cost increases.

"In the longer term, we believe the trade-off for a more secure supply chain may have to include operators paying farmers and food producers a sustainable price that not only covers the true cost of production, but also enables them to continue to invest in their business."

Dobson acknowledges that paying more for food will be a far from welcome prospect to operators who are already paying dramatically more for core food and drink products after two years of high inflation.

She said: "As bodies such as the National Farmers Union [UK] have said, we need to become less reliant on food imports, and focus more on home-grown, seasonal produce. That should include a sensible debate on how farmers and food producers can be paid at a sustainable price.

"The race to the bottom in terms of food prices has been driven by the demands of retailers, but when meat, dairy and fresh producers suppliers are exiting the market because their business has become unsustainable, hospitality also suffers."

The Lynx Purchasing Market Forecast combines official inflation data with exclusive insight from the



range of specialist hospitality suppliers Lynx works with, providing detailed information on pricing trends over the coming months.

Along with the fresh produce shortage, product areas highlighted in the latest edition include:

Potatoes

The cold weather has had an impact on potatoes, both in the UK and in Europe, where many processed and frozen potato products are produced. This is likely to affect availability and price of new potatoes this spring, as well as frozen chips and other potato products as current supplies run out.

Beef and Lamb

Current prices are well above average, as higher energy and feed costs have combined with the labour shortage to reduce production of both beef and lamb here in the UK. With seasonal increases in demand for beef as the barbecue season starts, demand for the most popular cuts will be high.

Pork

Higher production costs have made it more of a challenge for pork producers to make a profit,

prompting a number to cut back or exit the market at the start of the year. This has seen upward price pressure on bacon initially, and is likely to make prime pork cuts more expensive as demand increases in the spring.

Salmon

An expected price increase in both fresh and smoked salmon has proved to be much sharper than suppliers were expecting, due to the impact of factors such as fish quality, high demand and the impact of bad weather on production.

Dobson urges: "Discuss options and availability with suppliers, and be prepared for a wider range of specification in terms of size and colour when buying fresh produce. It's also worth looking at accompaniments and garnishes across the menu, and deciding which genuinely add value for customers.

"Overall, by working closely with suppliers, focusing on seasonality and availability, and applying basic buying discipline, operators can manage food and drink costs more effectively and avoid unexpected bills. Best practice includes planning menus well in advance, and consolidating orders to meet free delivery and minimum value thresholds."

• lynxpurchasing.co.uk

Call for entries – Club Awards 2023

Deadline for entries – Wednesday, August 16

The Club Awards are the only awards serving the club sector. Now in their 31st year, they celebrate all that's great about UK clubs, from the smallest community club through to political clubs, social clubs, sports clubs and everything in between.

MD Sean Ferris said: "I'd encourage all readers to enter. Winning a Club Award is a great accolade, and finalists joining us at the Awards Gala Dinner can look forward to a great evening with their fellow clubs. It's a wonderful event."

All finalists receive two complimentary tickets to the Club Awards, the Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner, taking place on November 22 in Leicester's listed Art Deco venue, Athena.

• clubawards.co.uk



MealTrak Results show increase in eating out occasions

Latest MealTrak results show the number of out-of-home eating occasions were +2% higher than the comparable period in 2022, on a 52 week/MAT basis.

Value sales are up +14% on a 52 week/MAT basis; with a more modest growth rate of +2% on a 12-week ending basis versus 2022.

Tom Fender, Development Director at TWC, said: "Whilst the out-of-home market continues to face many headwinds, we do see opportunities for those operators that really know their customer and are investing in relevant innovation that meets the needs of the post-pandemic, economically challenged consumer.

"For instance, we've seen a shift in spending into the back end of the week, which represents more leisure-driven occasions."

• mealtrak.com

Diageo drones set to drive farming efficiency

Diageo, producer of Don Julio and Casamigos tequilas, has introduced the use of drones on its agave farms in Jalisco, Mexico, after a successful pilot last year. The launch aims to upskill agave planters for the future of the tequila industry, integrating more efficient farming practices and drive environmental benefits.

Drones are able to identify which agave plants – agave being the key ingredient in making tequila – need a pesticide and fertilizer water mix and how much, to ensure precious water resources are used only where needed, whilst driving efficiency across agave farming.

The drones work in pairs: one identifies the plants that need attention and collect data on the growth of the agave plants, while the other dispenses the unique water fertilizer and pesticide mix where needed at night.

The data has also shown the best time of day to water the plants, resulting in water use dropping by



an expected two thirds.

Ewan Andrew, Chief Sustainability Officer, said: "As the demand for tequila continues to grow, we want to be able to increase our farming efficiency, but in a way that is also kind to the planet. This initiative is a perfect example of the two coming together. It's an exciting way in which we're using technological innovation to boost production, upskill our famers, and help us to meet our 2030 sustainability goals."

• diageo.com

Demand for UK hospitality workers continues to soar

Demand for UK hospitality workers has risen by 46% compared to pre-pandemic levels – with the number of online job adverts for staff in the North East more than doubling, according to an analysis of new ONS data by Indeed Flex, an online staffing platform for temporary work.

The biggest jump in demand for hospitality workers is in the North East, while Scotland saw a 61% increase in job adverts towards the end of 2022.

London had the highest total number of job vacancies, with 10,460 positions advertised online in December 2022, an increase of 26% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

It was recently anticipated that hospitality job roles might be added to the Government's shortage occupation list, which would make it easier for businesses to recruit from abroad. The Migration Advisory Committee only added roles in construction, however.



Recent research from Indeed Flex found 58% of businesses will be turning to temporary workers to support their permanent teams this year. A quarter

(28%) of HR professionals whose business already uses temporary workers expect to make increased use of temps during 2023.

Novo Constare, CEO and Co-founder of Indeed Flex, said: "The hospitality sector is not alone in its struggle to fill positions – it's a problem facing most sectors right now. But during the pandemic, hospitality was one of the sectors hit the hardest. Many businesses were forced to close for long periods and thousands of people were furloughed or made redundant.

"The uncertainty in the hospitality sector made many workers look for other employment. Unfortunately, not all staff have returned.

"On top of rising costs and stretched budgets, it's a difficult position for companies to be in and many businesses have come to see temporary staff as a vital resource."

• indeedflex.co.uk

Avoiding plastic waste could affect foot fall

Hospitality operators are under pressure to reduce hidden plastic waste, according to research from water dispenser brand BRITA VIVREAU.

Over half (53%) of consumers say reducing single use plastic is the most important sustainability initiative when choosing a hospitality business - more than carbon neutrality (17%) or providing plant-based menus (14%).

Consumers have made positive environmental changes in their everyday lives to reduce single use plastic, says the research. This includes using reusable bottles (60%), using a reusable cup for takeaway hot drinks (41%) and making hot drinks at home to take out with them (38%).

The research also flags up that these consumers now expect hospitality businesses to take similar measures to eliminate single use plastic bottled water. This includes the provision of water refill stations.



Chris Dagenais, GM AT Brita Vivreau UK, said: "The government ban on single use plastics coming into effect in October will mean eliminating single use plastic is front of mind for hospitality operators. By demonstrating a move towards reducing waste, operators can show they are aligned with their customer's values and forge stronger relationships with them."

The company has launched a mini toolkit providing actionable insight for businesses to reduce their single use plastic.

• brita.co.uk

Campari Group UK acquires Vermouth and gin range

Traditional Italian Vermouth di Torino G.I. and gin range, Del Professore, is the newest addition to the Campari Group UK's Rare portfolio and fuses the traditional Italian methods of spirit production with the creative, contemporary flair of one of America's most celebrated mixologists.

The acquisition builds on the company's super-premium portfolio, enhancing its range of much-loved and trusted vermouth and gins to offer customers more choice.

Inspired by mixologist pioneer Jerry Thomas, the Del Professore collection is available to customers across the On-Trade.

• Camparigroup.com

National BBQ Week, May 29 - June 4



The team at National BBQ Week, back for a record-breaking 27th year, offer up the following top tips to help make the club barbie a huge success.

A long soak – Marinated food tastes great and grills better, and apart from enhancing the flavour, it also helps protect food against high grill temperatures. A simple tip to cut marinating time is to place food in a sealed plastic bag, massage in marinade and place it in the fridge. This can cut marinating time by half.

Over the rainbow – Introduce some colour to your Barbi food, red, green or yellow bell peppers are great flame-roasted to enhance flavours.

Hot tip – A good guide to grill temperatures is the hand test. Hold your hand around 12" from the grill; if you can only keep it there for a few seconds, the temperature is too hot, 15-30 seconds is high and an ideal searing heat. At 30-60 seconds its a medium

temperature, ideal for normal grilling. Over a minute means its fairly warm and good for keeping food warm. Over that means the grill is not ready.

Low and slow – Don't grill too quickly or on too high a heat as food will burn on the outside whilst being under cooked in the middle. The trick is to 'sear on high' and then take it 'low and slow'.

Smoking – Enhancing that true smoky BBQ taste is best done on charcoal by throwing wet wood chips, herb branches on the coals. Try different types of wood, apple is good or vine clippings.

Become a grill star – Create Barbi-theatre, by 'fanning-the-flames'. Quickly press down on meats or poultry with a long-handled spatula; this releases natural fats, causing a brief 'flare-up'. Take great care when doing this and keep any clothing well clear. Do NOT attempt to enhance the effect by adding extra oil.

• nationalbbqweek.co.uk

Timothy Taylor brews up a storm in cans



Hopical Storm is Timothy Taylor's first canned beer. It is a 4% triple-hopped sessionable pale ale topped with flavours of mandarin, mango and passion fruit that unleashes a tropical cyclone of refreshment.

Hopical Storm was originally launched in cask and became Timothy Taylor's first keg beer in 2020.

Timothy Taylor's Chief Executive, Tim Dewey, said: "Having launched successfully in cask and keg, we recognised that Hopical Storm cans would be a logical extension to our range as they would suit the style and flavour profile.

"The decision to launch the can has been welcomed by operators who might not necessarily have the cellar space or throughput required for a draught beer but who see the potential for a refreshing triple-hopped pale ale that is more accessible than higher ABV beers in the category and we believe this is an exciting opportunity for club owners."

• timothytaylor.co.uk

Cider jumps to the top spot in the South-West as the best-selling draught pint

Thatchers Gold has overtaken draught beer and draught lagers to become the best-selling pint across the South-West, with 15.2m pints of Gold poured in 2022.

According to analyst CGA, until now no cider has ever sold enough to overtake a beer or lager into the number one position in any region in the UK.

The family run cider maker, Thatchers, has two of its best-selling ciders in the top 10 LAD (long alcoholic drinks) category in the South-West with its cloudy apple cider, Thatchers Haze, at number 8.

Fourth generation cider maker Martin Thatcher said: "Drinkers across the globe love Thatchers Gold – but there's absolutely no doubt that here in the West Country it's extra special! One in every two pints of apple cider poured in the West Country is a Gold."

Thatchers Gold was first produced at Myrtle Farm 20 years ago, and has seen consistent growth across the UK, with Thatchers now being the UK's second largest cider maker.

"The recipe hasn't changed at all over the years – when we first produced Gold we knew that we had struck on the perfect balance of fruitiness, tannin, sweetness and acidity," said Thatcher. "So our cider makers continue to make Gold in the same way as we did 20 years ago, and with a brilliant



team effort from everyone at Myrtle Farm, we continue to reach new audiences who love a beautifully refreshing pint.

• Thatcherscider.co.uk

Loch Lomond Whiskies introduces new single malt whiskies to celebrate The Open

Loch Lomond Whiskies, The Spirit of The Open, has introduced two new limited-edition expressions to its portfolio of award-winning whiskies.

Loch Lomond Open Special Edition and Loch Lomond Open Course Collection have been released to mark The 151st Open at Royal Liverpool. Billed as golf's most prestigious event and teeing off in July.

Loch Lomond Open Course Edition (£240) is an Organic 22 Years Old single malt whisky distilled in 2000 on the banks of Loch Lomond. A highly exclusive whisky, with only 4,500 bottles available globally, it is finely crafted in tribute to the people, players and courses at the heart of The Open.

Certified Organic and distilled in a combination of the remarkable Straight Neck Stills and more traditional Swan Neck Stills, it is a complex whisky which perfectly showcases Loch Lomond Whiskies' adeptness and ingenuity in whisky making. Over the course of 22 years' maturation the orchard fruit intensify, creating a whisky characterised by flavours of tropical fruit, pineapple, mango, grapefruit and vanilla with a hint of toasted oak, ginger and cinnamon on the finish.

Adding to this year's golf range is Loch Lomond Open Special Edition (£45). This exceptional single malt whisky was created in partnership with Loch Lomond Whiskies' long term golf ambassador, Colin Montgomerie – one of Scotland's most legendary golfing figures. The whisky was aged in American Oak casks before finishing its maturation journey in



the rich red wine Rioja Alta Reserva cask which brings out the whisky's unique notes of red berry, orchard fruit and creamy vanilla with dark chocolate which complement the soft smoke on the finish.

Michael Henry, Loch Lomond Whiskies Master Blender, said: "Our golf range is always incredibly popular, and these two new limited-edition single-malt whiskies will not disappoint. "The Open is one of the most prestigious events in the world of golf and we are proud to be a part of the journey."

• lochlomondwhiskies

Winning with wine at London's Wine Fair

The London Wine Fair, taking place at Olympia from 15 - 17 May, is set to welcome a host of first-time exhibitors for the 2023 event, with a significantly increased presence from key European countries.

From **France**, Wines of Roussillon, AOC Languedoc and IGP Méditerranée will exhibit for the first time in recent history.

Italy is to take six regional pavilions, an increase of 35% on last year and **Spain's** Catalonia will also be represented for the first time.

Greece will see a five-fold increase in space for 2023, with two regions exhibiting for the first time (Wines of Attica and Region of Central Greece).

Georgia is also taking additional space this year and will host daily on-stand activations, while the Portuguese region will double its space, and 20 producers from **Portugal** will be showing in the UK for the first time.

The Discovery Zone is fully booked, with Masterclasses and Industry Briefings all but sold out. Both Bergerac and Costières de Nimes will host Masterclass sessions for the first time.

• london-wine-fair-2023.reg.buzz

Mexican seasoning to spice up the menu

Funnybones has expanded its extensive range of sensational spices with two authentic Mexican seasonings, Al Pastor and Cochinita.

Al Pastor seasoning, popular in the Puebla region of central Mexico, brings notes of chilli, pineapple and achiote for an earthy, smoky taste.

Cochinita seasoning, from Mexico's Yucatan province, also offers smokiness, punctuated with sweet orange juice, achiote, charred garlic and a particularly vibrant colour.

Funnybones Development Chef, Tom Styman-Heighton, said: "With everyone feeling the pinch of rising food and living costs, we're seeing a lot of venues scaling their menus back. Sauces, condiments, and seasonings can instantly diversify a simple menu, and is an extremely cost-effective way to do so, so we want to make sure we're supporting our customers by offering a wide range to suit all styles."



• gkco.com

Waterloo and Taunton Celebrate Double Anniversary

Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, Ashton-under-Lyne, celebrated 2 Club members reaching 50 years of membership, both becoming Honorary Members.

Jeffery Carter and Gary Tunstall, joined in 1973, the same year as 'Tie a yellow ribbon round the old ole tree' was number one in the charts, and the 'Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle' was the number one Christmas toy.

Both were presented with a certificate and a brandy presentation box by the club Chairman, Leon Tamcken and club Secretary, Lyndon Watkin.

The presentation evening also saw Gary Tunstall being awarded the Association of Conservative Clubs Ltd, 'Badge of Honour award' for his services to the club. The award was presented by North West Chairman, John Hudson OBE and North West Treasurer Jeffery Simpson JP. Gary had previously served on the club committee for 14 years,



11 as the club President.

Club members were treated to a night of live entertainment and hot pie supper.



Photos from the event.

Tiverton Awarded Festival of Clubs Award

Thousands of Clubs take part in the “Festival of Clubs, National Club of the Year Awards” and the Tiverton Constitutional Club has been a finalist every year since 2013 and has 10 categories awards. Most recently the Club was a finalist in three categories, “Best Business Innovation, Refurbished Club of the Year and Marketing

Club of the Year”.

At the November 2022 Festival of Club Awards Evening, The Tiverton Constitutional Club was awarded the “Marketing Club of the Year”.

Richard Jones Chairman was also recognised for his long service to The Tiverton Constitutional Club both as Committee member and Chairman.



Marketing Awards left to right, Chairman Richard Jones, Secretary Sylvia Read, Marketing & Media Phil Gibbs & Mike McGoldrick, and Vice President Dave Dolbey.



Long Service Recognition, left to right Richard Jones, Phil Gibbs, Sylvia Read, Mike McGoldrick, and Dave Dolbey.



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Obituary

Charles White

It is with great sadness to report that Charles 'Charlie' White, Vice Chairman of the North West Area Conservative Clubs Advisory Committee, passed away last month. Charlie was a long serving member of the ACC Council and had been actively involved as an Officer of the Wallasey Central Conservative Club for several decades.

Accompanied by his wife Sheila, Charlie was a regular attendee of Conservative Club Weekend Conferences, Meetings and Dinners both in the North West and throughout the UK. Together they made many friends and Charlie became a well-known and respected member of the ACC's management team, assiduously attending Council Meetings in London.

Our deepest condolences are offered to Sheila and her family, who were with Charlie at the end. The photograph published

with this obituary shows Charlie with Sheila at the ACC's Annual General Meeting at the Carlton Club in 2022.



Betty Agaphonoff

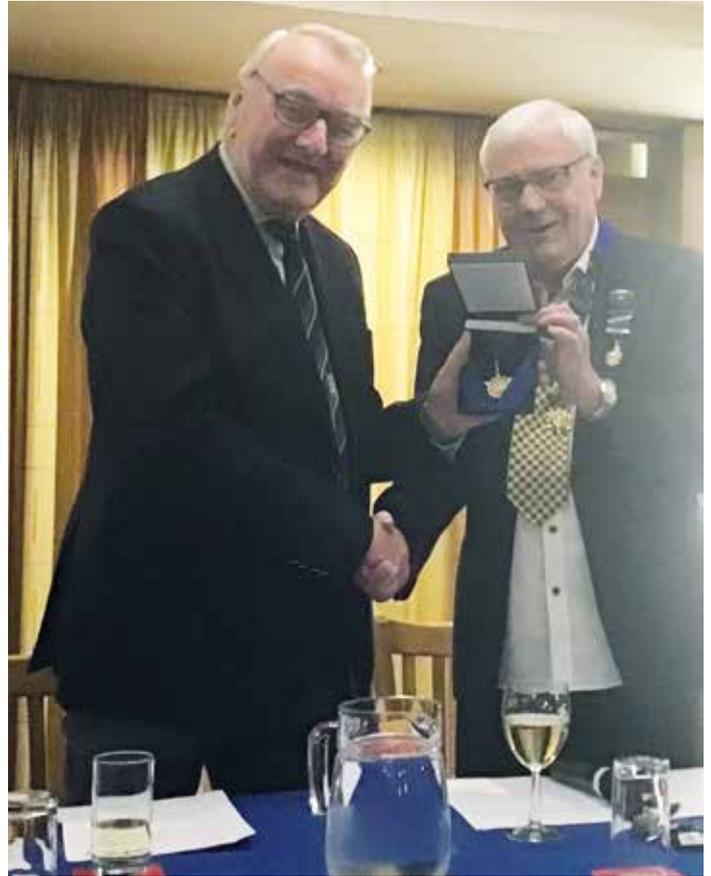
The ACC is sad to report the death of Betty Agaphonoff. Betty's late husband David became involved with the ACC over twenty years ago in his capacity of Chairman of the Wales Conservative Clubs Council and was well known to many Clubs throughout the

Principality. Betty continued to support Conservative Club events following her husband's passing, normally attending with her daughters Angela and Nicola, to whom we express our sincere condolences.

Kinson Conservative Club Presents Badge of Honour

The Kinson Conservative Club, Bournemouth, has presented a Badge of Honour to Peter Jolliffe. The award was presented by Club President Gerry Jeff to mark 50 years service as a Trustee of the Club.

Peter first became a Club Trustee when it was in its previous location and stayed with the Club when it moved to its present location. He has obviously seen big changes in the Club during those 50 years.



Pictured left to right: Peter Jolliffe and Gerry Jeff

Pages From The Past

In this month's 'Pages from the Past', we have travelled back to 1911 for the coronation of King George V, our present King's Great Grandfather.

Interestingly, the ACC Magazine did not feature, other than a few lines, the coronation of King Edward VII in 1901 but the coronation of King George V seemed to have encouraged a more active coverage and in particular the chance of a lucky entrant being offered a seat at Devonshire House to view the Coronation Procession as it passed through Piccadilly. This special prize was offered by His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, who at the time was the President of the ACC.

In order to win this prize, entrants were expected to have increased the sales of the Conservative Clubs Magazine to individual members and it seems that this created significant interest with a number of applications being made. Frustratingly, later editions of the magazine do not reveal who the lucky winner was but no doubt such a trip (with travel costs covered by the ACC), would have been a memorable experience.

Devonshire House, with its three acres of gardens, was abandoned by the 9th Duke in 1919. He was the first Duke to face Death Duties and a sale was finalised in 1920 at a price of £750,000.

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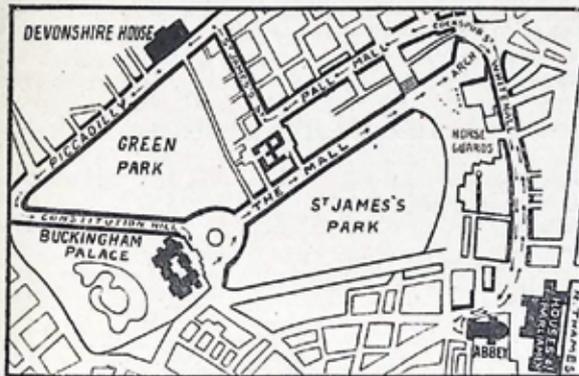
A Free Seat at Devonshire House to Witness the Historic Pageant on Thursday, June 22nd.

Railway Fare of Winner to and from London to be Paid by the A.C.C.

Our offer to provide a free seat to enable a member of an affiliated Club to witness the Royal Procession on Coronation Day has aroused considerable interest in political circles. As announced in last month's issue the place is to be allotted to the Secretary or member of an A.C.C. Club who obtains the largest number of additional annual subscribers to this paper by *Friday, May 26th*.

His Grace the Duke of Devonshire has generously placed a seat at Devonshire House, Piccadilly, at our disposal, and, in addition, the A.C.C. undertakes to pay the railway fare of the winner of the competition to and from London. This further inducement should cause Secretaries and others to redouble their efforts.

Why are these liberal offers made? To induce Conservative and Unionist workers generally, and members of our Clubs in particular, to take a greater interest in Party



Route of the Royal Procession on June 22nd.

Showing Devonshire House, where a seat has been placed at the disposal of the A.C.C. through the kindness of the Duke of Devonshire.

publications. This paper, for example, contains each month a wealth of useful political and other information. It is no good printing it if nobody reads it. We are confident, however, that many more *would* read it if only they knew of its existence, and that is why we want to increase the circulation of the C.C. GAZETTE.

Although the competition closes on the 26th of this month—Queen Mary's Birthday—there is plenty of time between now and then for the Secretary or member of any A.C.C. Club to win the seat at Devonshire House, and also a free railway trip to the Metropolis. He should, without delay, approach political or other friends as well as his fellow-Clubmen, point out to them the general excellence of this Journal—the number of interesting features it contains, etc.—and ask them to take it for twelve months.

This will cost them only a shilling which, then and there, he will collect. At the same time he should give each subscriber his undertaking that he shall receive his copy of the GAZETTE through him punctually each month.

A systematic canvass will probably result in your getting 30 or 40 new annual subscribers, perhaps more, perchance less. But whether the number be small or great do not

hesitate to accept such subscriptions, for each one means a profit to your Club. The GAZETTE is supplied to Clubs at the rate of 9d. for 13 copies, post free. As the Club thus receives thirteen pence for every 9d. expended, a useful surplus is realised. Secure, therefore, every annual subscriber you can and benefit the funds of your Club, even if you do not win the Coronation seat.

Many letters have been received at Headquarters from Clubmen, expressing deep appreciation of the kindness of the Duke of Devonshire in placing the seat at the disposal of the A.C.C. A glance at the accompanying plan is sufficient to show what a superb view will be obtained of the Royal Procession. The fortunate winner of the competition will have no tedious wait: no jostling: no crushing. He will be able to witness in perfect comfort, and as the guest of His Grace, the superb pageant as it passes on its way from Westminster Abbey to the Palace.

As pointed out last month, there is no reason why a Club as a whole should not compete. If it proved successful, the members themselves would draw lots to ascertain who is to represent them at Devonshire House. In any case the winner must be approved by the Chairman and Committee of his Club.

No entry will be considered which is not accompanied by a remittance—ninepence for each subscriber, from whom the Club will have received one shilling. There is no occasion to forward the names of subscribers; the total is sufficient. In the event of two or more Clubs obtaining the same number of subscribers, the winner will be determined by ballot, and in the matter of the award the decision of the Editor of the "C.C.G." will be final.

Remember that the Competition closes on Friday, May 26th. In order to make the necessary arrangements concerning the printing, etc., of the additional copies of the paper which will be required, it has been decided that the annual subscription (1s.) shall cover the twelve months from July, 1911, to July, 1912. Who, we wonder will win this novel contest? There are plenty of Clubs with a membership of several hundreds, where, at present, only a few copies of the paper are disposed of each month. What a chance for the Secretary of one of these to visit Devonshire House and witness therefrom the never-to-be-forgotten Royal Procession on Coronation Day!

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