

# *CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE*



July 2017 50p



**‘Cheers To That’**

**The ACC’s 2017  
Annual General Meeting Report**

# Hadleigh Conservative Club Thanks Ray Dale

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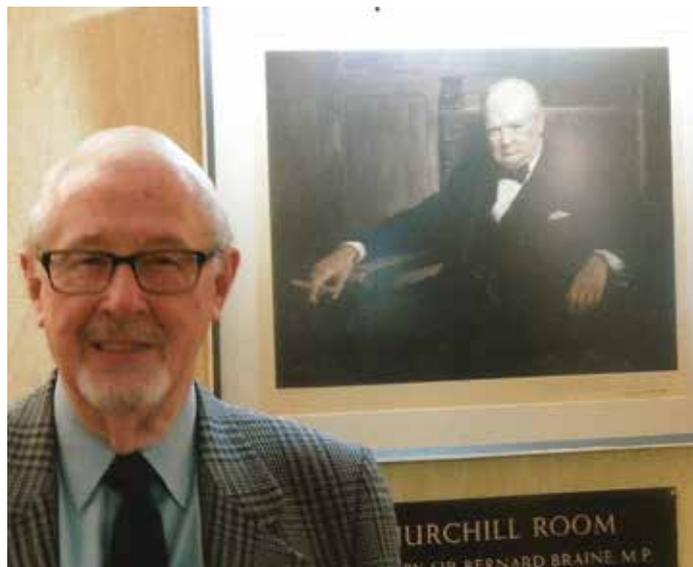
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The Hadleigh Conservative Club, Benfleet, has thanked their retiring Club President, Ray Dale.

The Club's Chairman, Pauline Mills, said that Ray had been a loyal Member of the Club for many years and had been a great ambassador for the Club. Ray worked tirelessly for the Club and recently acted as project manager for the Club overseeing the

Club's refurbishment. During his years at the Club, Ray went from Secretary to Treasurer and was finally elected as Club President.

Ray is stepping away from active roles with the Club to enjoy his well-earned retirement. The Committee and Members of the Hadleigh Conservative Club thank Ray for his commitment to the Club and wish him a happy retirement.



Ray Dale.

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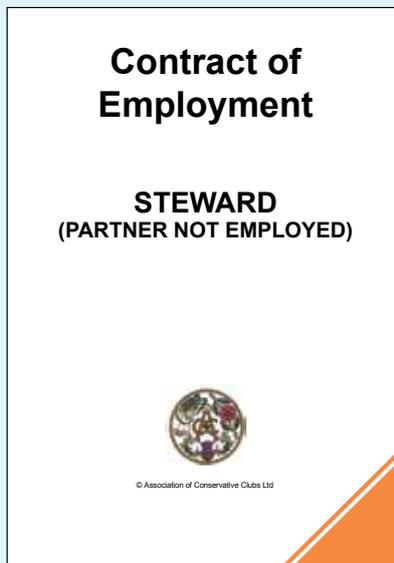
# ACC Contracts of Employment

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.

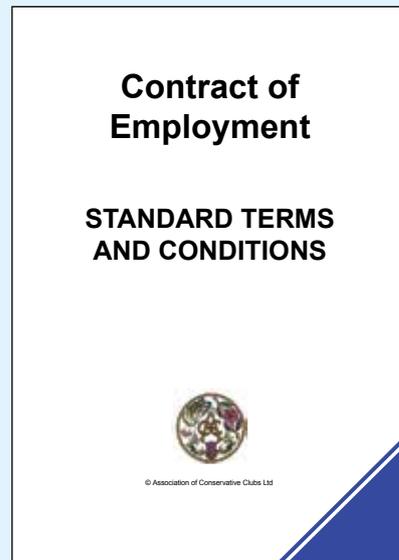
The contracts which are offered by the ACC are as follows:



## Steward Contract

Appropriate for a Club employing a Steward with or without accommodation included. Each contract pack costs £25 and includes:

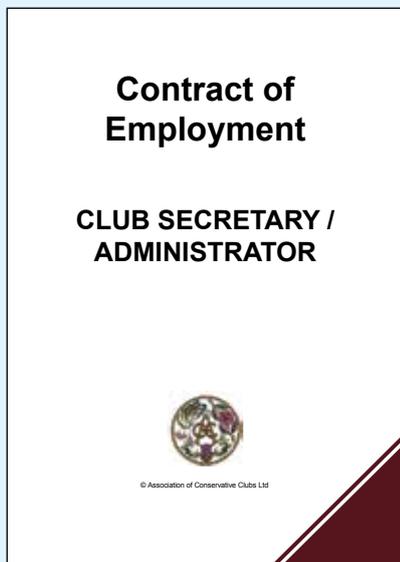
- 2 x Club Steward Contract
- 2 x Service Occupancy Agreement
- 2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



## 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.



**Club Secretary/Administrator Contract**  
Appropriate for Clubs which employ, rather than elect, a Club Secretary. Each contract pack costs £20 and includes:

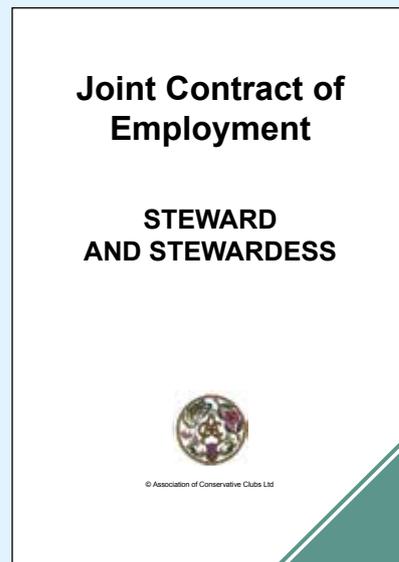
- 2 x Club Secretary Contract
- 2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



## 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.



## 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](http://www.toryclubs.co.uk), email [charles@toryclubs.co.uk](mailto:charles@toryclubs.co.uk) or phone 0207 222 0868.**

# CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

## STAYING LEGAL WHEN SHOWING TV SPORT IN YOUR CLUB

**What do clubs need to know about showing live sport?**

The only legal way to show Sky Sports broadcasts in pubs and clubs in mainland UK is through a commercial viewing agreement from Sky Business – no other way is legal.

The showing of Sky programming in licensed premises without a commercial viewing agreement is illegal and those who do so could face criminal prosecution. This may result in a substantial fine and costs. Those involved can also expect civil action for recovery of subscription revenue and legal expenses.

**A foreign satellite supplier has said they will cover any legal costs if you get prosecuted, should you believe them?**

We have heard of suppliers making promises to provide legal advice or to cover legal costs should action be taken against

**By: George Lawson, Head of Commercial Piracy at Sky**

businesses for showing content illegally, but any promises about legalities made by unauthorised providers are simply not true. We have encountered many cases where such promises by the supplier have faded away once the costs were actually incurred.

It is the licensee, staff member, club steward or whoever was responsible for the unauthorised screenings of football matches who ultimately faces legal action. If you choose to televise content illegally then you run the very real risk of being caught and face substantial penalties.

**Why aren't suppliers of illegal systems being prosecuted?**

Sky investigates suppliers selling systems allowing illegal access to Sky Sports programming and passes details onto the police to

consider criminal prosecution. We also share information with the Premier League when we find licensed venues or suppliers that we believe are infringing their copyright.

In December 2016 a supplier of illegal TV systems to pubs was jailed for 4 years.

In March 2017, a Hartlepool man was ordered to pay £250,000 plus given a suspended prison sentence after pleading guilty to selling illegal Kodi boxes to pubs and clubs.

**How does Sky plan to reduce the number of illegal cases?**

We take a full range of activities to help support those who legitimately invest in live sport. This includes providing pubs and clubs with the facts about illegal

screenings and educating them on the consequences of showing illegal sports broadcasts to help protect them against suppliers who attempt to mislead them.

Each season, we work with investigators to make hundreds of covert visits to licensed venues, to identify and bring action against those showing Sky content illegally. And, we continue to work with FACT and the Premier League to pursue action against those who use illegal broadcasts as well as investigating suppliers.

We encourage anyone approached by a supplier attempting to mislead them with illegal systems, or who believe they know of a business that is screening illegally to contact us in confidence so we can investigate and pass details onto the police to consider criminal prosecution. This can be done via <https://business.sky.com/fighting-fraud/>

## The Alcohol Wholesaler Registration Scheme (AWRS) – Can Clubs still purchase from Supermarkets?

Several Clubs have contacted the ACC to let us know that their wholesaler or primary alcohol provider has said that since the introduction of the AWRS Clubs can no longer purchase alcohol from Supermarkets. This is not true.

AWRS makes it an offence for an alcohol wholesaler (that is a business which primarily supplies alcohol to other businesses) to sell alcohol unless they have registered under the AWR Scheme. It is also an offence for a business to knowingly purchase alcohol from a supplier which is not part of the AWRS.

For whatever reason, some Wholesalers have been informing Clubs that because of this new system that it is now unlawful for them to purchase alcohol from Supermarkets. Such an allegation is not true since Supermarkets are exempt from registering under the AWR Scheme. Suppliers who inform you otherwise are either

mistaken in their understanding of the legislation or are deliberately trying to prevent the Club from purchasing alcohol from other sources.

This is the relevant part of the AWRS guidance notes:

**4.2 If you unknowingly or unintentionally make an occasional wholesale sale.**

*AWRS is not designed to capture retailers who trade with the intention of making sales solely to the general public. An 'incidental sale', that is, a wholesale sale that is not made knowingly or intentionally by the retailer is excluded from the scheme.*

*Examples of incidental sales:*

- a supermarket that sells to another business through the checkout and would not know at the time of sale that they were selling to another business, this would be unintentional and therefore an incidental sale

**To page 6 ►**

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Supermarkets will be covered by the above section as any alcohol sales they make to businesses will be considered an 'incidental sale'. That means that their primary sales are to customers and any wholesale business sales are not their primary offering.

A Club is free to purchase from any supplier, with the only restriction being that the Club is prevented from completing a

purchase when it is aware that the seller is not compliant with AWRS. Since Supermarkets are not required to register under AWRS Clubs can continue to purchase alcohol from supermarkets.

Should any Club receive advice of this nature please ask for it to be put in writing and then forward it to us. We can then reply directly on behalf of the Club.

## Sky Sports Subscription Price Rise and Rateable Value Calculation

Sky Sports have announced a 5% price rise for Clubs receiving Sky TV from the 1st August. They have also modified the way they use a Club's rateable value which could see some Clubs receiving a reduced bill. **David Rey, Managing Director of Sky Business, provided the following comment:**

*"We know licensed premises are facing cost uncertainties and we want to help them manage that as well as ensure that Sky pays back for everyone. The government's changes in Rateable Values from 2010 to 2017 were no small part of this, and we want to put customers first so that they can depend on their investment in Sky. So from August 1 for existing customers, we will be using the lower of the*

*two RVs when calculating bills for the next 12 months.*

*"We continually invest in giving Sky customers an outstanding live sport experience that makes them money. We've got the best live sport content and unrivalled support to help clubs make money.*

*As we invest more and sports rights costs to Sky rise too, we must also review our pricing like all businesses do. But we absorb what we can. This year, no club's bill will rise by more than 5%, and many bills will go down as we commit to using the lower of the two RVs when calculating bills for the next 12 months. There's never been a better time to make money with Sky as we look ahead to a brilliant new season."*

### June Magazine

We are aware that some Clubs mistakenly received the May magazine instead of the June magazine. If your Club was affected by this please let us know and we shall ensure you are sent the correct June Magazine. Our apologies to any Clubs affected by this error.

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# Questions and Answers

**Q** We have a car park which is intended for Club Members only. We frequently have non-members using the car park. Is there anything we can do to prevent this behaviour?

**A** There are a number of ways to deal with cars which are parking without authorisation in the Club's car park.

One of the most effective ways is to simply install a physical barrier although I accept that this is not practical for every Club.

Alternatively, pursuing parking invoices through civil action can be very effective. If the correct documentation is affixed to the car park then a Parking Charge Notice can be affixed to cars parked in the car park without authorisation. These notices will inform users of the car park that a fee will be charged if the car does not have the authorisation to park in the car park. If the person, once issued with the notice, does not send payment then the Club can simply pursue this matter through the small claims court.

I suggest obtaining clear photographic evidence of the car parked and the signs which indicate that the charge notice will be issued and the level of which the charge has been set at. This documentation will assist with any resulting legal claim. You will need to place signs in the car park stating the cost of unauthorised parking and then attach a notice to any cars which use the car park without authorisation stating that they have

to now pay this cost to the Club otherwise legal action will be taken to enforce payment. Essentially, by parking in the Club's private car park it will be considered, if proper notices have been displayed in the car park, that they have entered into a contract with the Club and will therefore pay the agreed rate listed on the car park signs.

There are also third party companies, such as Flashpark.co.uk, which will deal with this type of enforcement on the behalf of the Club although we have no direct experience of these companies.

**Q** Is it worth placing a notice in the Club stating that visitors use the Club at their own risk? A Committee Member thinks that this would prevent the Club from being liable in the event of an accident.

**A** Whilst you can place such a notice there is not too much point. The Club cannot contract itself out of UK legislation so a sign would not prevent the Club from being liable in the event that an injury occurred which was preventable had the Committee taken proper precautions and preventative steps.

The best use of the Committee's time is therefore to undertake a risk assessment of any potential hazards on the Club's property. Once the Committee have identified any possible risks steps can then be taken to either resolve these risks or prevent as far as possible an accident occurring (e.g. in the event of a low ceiling

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# CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

a notice can be put up warning guests of this hazard).

It is good to perform routine risk assessments as a matter of course and to retain records indication when the last risk assessment was undertaken, what hazards were identified and what steps were taken to resolve these hazards.

**Q**For a number of years we have had difficulty attracting Committee Members. This year we are very short of Committee Members and we are not sure the Club can continue if we cannot find new Committee volunteers. Do you have any advice regarding this problem?

**A**The situation you have described is obviously concerning. The Club can only operate with an elected Committee which can make decisions on behalf of the Club. The Club's closure would be a very real possibility if new Committee Members cannot be found.

You should therefore try and find willing volunteers to stand for election prior to the nomination period closing. Assuming you do

not get more nominations prior to the close of the nomination period then you can ask for further nominations from the floor of the AGM to fill the vacant Committee positions.

I think you have to be honest with the Members and inform them that the Club will likely have to close if no one is willing to volunteer to help run the Club. The Club is a membership organisation and Members do need to be willing to volunteer their time to help run the Club and they cannot leave the running to the Club to an ever decreasing number of loyal volunteers. Members have to be willing to devote some of their time to the running of the Club and allow existing Committee Members and Officers a break from their obligations.

Hopefully if the Members are given the ultimatum between offering their time to assist the Club or seeing the Club close that this will be the spur to get some more volunteers for the Committee. The Members simply have to understand that the Club cannot continue to be run without new volunteers being found. Can I suggest that you take this approach

at the AGM and see what the response is.

**Q**Our Rules state that payments have to be authorised by two Club signatories. We would like to move to online banking and online payments and there does not seem to be the ability to have a payment authorised by a second individual before it is sent. What should we do to ensure we are acting within the Rules and also safeguard the finances of the Club?

**A**I can confirm that many, if not most, Clubs already use online banking and that this is a perfectly acceptable way for a Club to operate. Whilst there are some bank accounts that can be set up to require two individuals to approve a payment before it is made we accept that for many high street accounts this is not an option which is readily available.

Therefore if the Club's Rules are slightly out of date and do not permit the Treasurer to authorise online payments alone then I suggest you simply ask the Club's Members to authorise an amendment to this Rule at a Special General Meeting. This will enable the Treasurer to use online banking.

The Committee should then insist on bank statements being produced which the Committee can review and scrutinise. Online account access can also be provided to other Members of the Committee if you wish to have a day to day ability to ensure that correct Club payments are being made and to verify the accuracy of the bank statements handed to the Committee. This is not a reflection on the honesty of the Club's Treasurer, it simply ensures that there remains a check and balance

on the Club's accounts which was previously achieved by needing two signatories to authorise cheque payments.

**Q**We are considering moving to a new till system and there is a significant start-up cost involved. Do you think this is a good use of Club funds?

**A**I can confirm that more and more Clubs are moving to modern till systems. These types of till systems are able to provide a lot of data which can be useful for the Committee to examine. The tills can identify the most popular drink at specific times of day in the Club and the exact usage of the Club day by day, hour by hour. This can assist with future Committee decisions regarding product selections and opening times. You can also quickly see if a product is underperforming and look at ways to resolve this situation.

New till systems also easily enable initiatives like Club loyalty cards to be used which either provide a discount for Club Members or enable Members to loan money onto these cards which can then be used in the Club (often offering a slight 'bonus' when depositing funds onto a membership card as an incentive for Members to use this system).

You are right that the major downside to installing new till systems is the initial set up cost but I think the idea of a new till system is worth discussing within the Committee and considering whether it should be an objective for the Club to pursue in the future. The ACC are seeking to find a recommended till supplier and we shall update readers in the future if we are able to recommend a specific supplier.

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# ACC Services

## Loans

Loans can be arranged from as little as £1,000 to £500,000. We provide loans at competitive simple interest rates, currently 4.75%, 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.

## 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

## Deposit Scheme

Clubs may deposit surplus funds with the ACC and we are currently offering interest of 2.5% gross per annum on funds deposited. We are already holding in excess of £4,000,000 on behalf of Clubs and deposits range from £1,000 upwards. Funds can be returned in full or part at any time and our rate of interest will apply on a pro rata basis. There is no upper or lower limit of investment.

## 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.

## 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.

**To obtain any of the documentation packages please email [charles@toryclubs.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:assistance@toryclubs.co.uk) or phone 0207 222 0843.**

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## 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 for the past twelve months at his second Annual General Meeting as Chairman. The Chairman was delighted that a further significant surplus has been added to the net assets of the Association of Conservative Clubs showing that the ACC was in a position to help and invest in the continuation of so many Clubs.

The Chairman reported that currently several hundred Clubs were providing accommodation for Campaign Centres and Association Offices in all parts of the country and made reference to the big difference that this could make on the ground of any election campaign.

He made reference to the two recent By Elections in Copeland and Stoke –on- Trent Central and the fact that the three Clubs in Copeland were used as centres for the campaign had made a valuable contribution to the historic victory which took place. The Campaign Centre in the Wolstanton Conservative Club played an important part in securing the best result in Stoke since 1992.

The Chairman had been delighted when the Prime Minister had written to thank these four Clubs for all that they had done during the campaign, in her words:-

*'The space, warmth and refreshment each Conservative Club provided helped Conservative activists from all around the country to mount the strongest possible campaign, and fortified them before they headed out to campaign in often challenging weather. I was so pleased to see the Conservative family coming together in this way, and with such great results'*

The Chairman said that the reference to the Conservative family resonated with many Clubs when they had read this letter in our Magazine. ACC Clubs, with some 350,000 members in communities across the UK, were a powerful political force. The ACC had continued to provide generous financial assistance to the Party but it was important to point out that did not include the financial assistance given by Clubs to their own local campaigns. As previously reported, a total of 108



ACC Chairman Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP and ACC President Rt Hon Greg Clark MP.

Constituency Associations had their offices in Conservative Clubs.

The Chairman reported that this year we were not presenting the Sir Marcus Fox Awards for Club of the Year and Club Official of the Year. It was felt that these annual awards needed to be reviewed with perhaps the replacement of a simple 'ACC Club of the Year' Award. A final decision on this matter would be made by the Council at a meeting later in the year and we hoped to be able to publish details of the proposed new Award in the Magazine once the details were agreed.

The Chairman was pleased to see the continued commitment made by Clubs to fundraising and making donations to local and national charities and good causes. In every month's edition of the Conservative Clubs Magazine, there was always at least one story or report of a Club which had undertaken some form of community based fundraising activity. When an estimate was last made on the amount of charitable donations made by ACC Clubs each year, the 'conservative' total was £2 million.

The Chairman had always believed that Clubs were at their best when they were actively involved in local community projects and were seen as being open and engaged with a wide audience.

The Chairman placed on record his grateful thanks to all ACC Officers and Council Members

for spending so much time organising and attending meetings and Club events. In particular, he thanked David Buckley, former Vice Chairman of the North West Area Conservative Clubs who had stood down from the Council after completing many years of dedicated service both to the North

West Area and the ACC Council. The Chairman also mentioned Fred Moore, former Chairman of the East Midlands Area who had decided not to seek re-election this year and to Colin Hustler, Vice Chairman of the Yorkshire Region who would no longer be a representative to the ACC Council due to the number of representatives being reduced under the ACC's Constitution.

The Chairman thanked ACC national suppliers and recommended companies, Harris Brothers for their work with so many Clubs and continued sponsorship of Area and Regional events, Dransfields for the excellent service which they provide to all their ACC customers and Insurance Providers, 'Club Insure' whose continued professional approach to ACC Clubs was much appreciated. He also thanked all the ACC staff for their continued loyalty and commitment to the Association of Conservative Clubs.

The Chairman concluded his report by stating that the ACC had made many achievements in recent years, but the achievement of which he was most proud was that we continued to see ourselves as part of the Conservative family.

### Resolution to increase the ACC Annual Subscription

The Chairman read out the following statement concerning the proposed increase to the ACC's annual membership subscription:-

*'At a meeting of the ACC Council in March, the question of the ACC's annual membership subscription, which has not been increased from its current level of £100 for 17 years, was discussed and it was agreed that the question of whether to increase it would be the topic of a Resolution at the AGM, subject to the feedback received from members Clubs.'*

*Accordingly, a notice of the proposal to increase the subscriptions to £200 per annum but to include 100 Free IA Tickets was published in the April edition of our Magazine and was also contained in the notice of this Meeting. Clubs were asked to send their views on*

*the proposal and all these have been collated and reviewed.*

*On the basis of the submissions we have received, it is the opinion of the Officers of the ACC that this proposal should not be made to the meeting today and that a further discussion about future membership subscription rates should be held by the ACC Council with a view to recommend a more modest increase but still to include the provision of a number of free IA Tickets which, if sold to Club Members, would off-set the increase, thereby making the increase financially neutral for all Clubs.*

*I am sure the meeting today will recognise that these matters are not taken lightly by the ACC Council and that it is a priority that as many Clubs as possible are accommodated with any increase in fees.'*

## The Chief Executive's Report

In introducing the Chief Executive, the Chairman reminded the meeting that Philip was a Whip in the House of Lords and this year had served on the Licensing Act Select Committee which delivered its report to Parliament in March. Following his work on the Select Committee, Philip had been invited to take on the Chairmanship of Best Bar None, a National Award Scheme supported by the Home Office and the drinks industry aimed primarily at promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises. This voluntary role reflected the fact that the ACC CEO was recognised as a leading expert in the licensing industry.

The Chairman then made reference to the many roles undertaken by the CEO within the Conservative Party. He continued to be a Party Treasurer, Chairman of the National Conservative Draws Society, a member of the Party's Audit and Finance Board and a Pension Trustee. In addition to this he had recently become a Trustee of the Party's Archive held at the Bodleian Library. He had also been re-elected as Chairman of CORCA, the Committee of Registered Club Associations.

The Chief Executive reported that one of the privileges of being a Peer was the opportunity to make a contribution on a subject that one may know a bit about and was delighted therefore to have served on the Lords Select Committee reviewing the Licensing Act 2003.

The process had taken evidence from across every part of the sector and the Committee's findings were published at the end of March and would be debated later this year.

The single recommendation made under the review which



**ACC Chief Executive Philip Smith with Alan Boniface, Chairman Greater London Area.**

related specifically to clubs was that the current requirement for there to be a minimum of a two day, or 48 hour, period between either nomination to membership and election, or election to membership and admission, should no longer apply. This would bring clubs into line with, for example, casinos and would be of great benefit to those clubs in holiday resorts where visitors and people staying for short periods could be quickly admitted to temporary membership.

The Chief Executive reported that one of the recurring themes throughout the process was concern about the increase of the stay at home culture which had been discussed at ACC AGM's and Regional Meetings over many years. Last year, for the first time, the quantity of beer consumed at home from the 'off trade' had exceeded sales of beer consumed from the 'on trade'. The amount of other alcoholic products consumed at home and purchased from the off trade had exceeded that of the 'on trade' for a number of years but this had been the first that the statistic had applied to beer. The overall

figure was that 70% of all alcohol was now consumed at home.

The Chief Executive reported that he had always believed that alcohol could play an important and beneficial role in the nation's life and the nation's health. A society which socialised together was a stronger society and clubs put that into practice every day. It was a recognised fact that people, who enjoy an active social life, avoid loneliness and the devastating effect which isolation could have on a person's health.

Pubs, Clubs and bars provided a significant part of most peoples' social lives. Pre-theatre drinks, restaurants and the latest gastro venue provided the basis of the social lives for others. Whether it was having a drink with family or friends; watching sport or celebrating a special occasion... often the common denominator of having a drink provided that cohesion.

The Chief Executive reported that it was important to recognise however that per capita alcohol consumption in the UK had fallen by over 17% during the last ten years and the number of young people consuming alcohol had also reduced by 38% since 2004. The UK today consumed less alcohol than 16 other European countries, according to the World Health Organisation. Alcohol-related hospital admissions for those under 40 years of age had declined by 11% since 2010 and alcohol related deaths had fallen by 10% according to the Office of National Statistics. However, alcohol related hospital admissions for those aged over 65 have increased by 135%.

The Chief Executive suggested that this statistic had much to do with an increasing trend of

'stay at home' consumption with large quantities of alcohol being purchased, often very cheaply, from supermarkets and off-licenses. When commentators spoke of the 'stay at home culture' it was often related to young people 'pre loading' before they went out but the statistic on hospital admissions might indicate that in fact older people are staying at home and drinking too much. The Chief Executive expressed concern that some of the deals on offer for beers and lager could be calculated down to the cost being as little as 63p for a pint. He was also concerned that recent statistics showed that as much as 40% of all alcohol purchased in the UK was purchased by only 10% of the adult population.

The Chief Executive said that he would be the first to say that there was still more to do to prevent people who were sensible responsible consumers of alcohol from becoming part of the minority who either became nuisance drinkers or who caused trouble in villages, towns and cities for both neighbours, residents and the leisure economy; or who harm themselves and their families by excessive drinking and alcoholism.

It was for this reason that the Chief Executive had accepted the invitation to take on the chairmanship of Best Bar None, working with the Alcohol Industry and Local Authorities, so that he could make a contribution to promoting responsible alcohol consumption and higher professional licencing standards, helping to tackle crime, disorder and under-age sales and to have a safer and more responsible alcohol related leisure culture that would encourage people of all ages feel safer to go out to socialise. People who drink with company consumed less alcohol than those who stayed at home.

Moving on to the ACC's activities, the Chief Executive commented on how the ACC was investing in property and helping to keep Clubs open. In recent years the ACC had removed several million pounds of brewery related debt and continued to actively encourage Clubs to both transfer any brewery debt to ACC and not to enter into continued financial arrangements with breweries.

There was no doubt that these two activities combined had helped a number of clubs to continue to trade. It was however essential that



**Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP and Cllr John Hudson.**

the ACC now moved on to the next phase of progressing these activities and the relationship between the ACC and those Clubs which wanted to prosper and do well.

As a buying group the ACC was approximately the same size as 'JD Wetherspoon's'. However instead of having one account ACC Clubs had 850 accounts. Over the next few months, the ACC would be exploring and working with different experts to see how a single account system could be established where Clubs would be able to purchase all their beer products through a single ACC account, benefitting massively from cost savings, and for the single account to be paid and underwritten by the ACC. Individual Clubs would then be invoiced individually by the ACC.

The Chief Executive explained that different areas would require different products and so there could be no single deal which could be achieved with a single brewery. But like Weatherspoon's and other national pub companies there were ways to overcome this and the ACC wanted Clubs to be able to purchase the products their members enjoyed at a price where their profit margins would become

significant.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that what he had proposed would not be a simple task and that it may be some time before Clubs fully recognised the benefits of what was being proposed but that he believed that once the benefits could be established, the question would be not why we should join this purchasing group but rather, why have we not joined. He went on to say that he fully understood how Clubs jealously guarded their independence but the arrangements which he hoped to present to the ACC council would make clubs more in control of their own club affairs.

In conclusion the Chief Executive made reference to the new book, solely concentrating on Questions and Answers, which had been published earlier in the year, co-authored with Charles Littlewood and was selling well to Clubs of different flags and from every part of the UK. He hoped this handy compilation of the questions and answers published in recent additions of the magazine would become a useful assistant to the many hardworking people who run clubs more often than not on a voluntary basis.

## Presidential Address



Brian Tottle, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP and Ray Johnson.

The Chairman introduced The Rt. Hon Greg Clark, Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Tunbridge Wells and Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Chairman thanked Mr Clarke for keeping his long standing commitment with us and appreciated that his Cabinet position continued even during an election campaign.

In a wide ranging address, the President spoke of his own Club in Tunbridge Wells and the many happy occasions which he had enjoyed there. He also touched upon the important social side of political engagement and that

ACC Clubs played an important role as one of the cornerstones of the Party's structure.

Mr Clarke spoke of the forthcoming General Election and the campaign which had highlighted the many differences between the Parties, setting out the catastrophe that would befall Business should Labour get its hands anywhere near power. He urged clubs to give assistance to local campaigns and to play their part, as they always did, in securing a Conservative victory. The President concluded his address by again the Association of Conservative Clubs for its continued loyalty and support.



ACC President Rt Hon Greg Clark MP during his Presidential Address.



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## Statement Of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2016

In the absence of Philip Davies, the Chairman called upon Mr Eddie Ward, Chairman of the Yorkshire Region Conservative Clubs to propose that the Statement of Accounts was received. In calling upon Mr Ward the Chairman mentioned that Mr Ward was an Accountant by profession and Chairman of the Shipley Conservative Club.

Mr Ward had pleasure in reporting that the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2016 shows a surplus of just under £4.2 million.

This bottom line figure did not include the donation of £104,598 to the Conservative Party, which was made up of direct sponsorship of Party activities.

In addition to these figures, the amount of loans to ACC Member Clubs from Development Fund 'A' and from the ACC accounts during 2016 stood at just under £6 million a slight decrease on the total loan figure for 2015.

ACC Club Development Fund 'A' showed a surplus for the year £14,390. The 'B' Fund returned a deficit after tax but Mr Ward reminded the meeting that this fund was used to cover legal expenses involved with



**Eddie Ward, Yorkshire Region Chairman.**

Trusteeships and was therefore expected to be non-profit making.

Income from the sale of IA Tickets decreased, following a continual trend of falling sales, by some £6,000 from the previous year. This decline had been expected and a prediction of the estimated decrease was anticipated by the ACC Council.

Commission income showed a significantly higher receipt of £84,618 compared with 2015 due mainly to a late payment received after the year end of 2014 which had produced this higher receipt.

The accounts also show a deficit on the magazine of some £5,000 due to reduced income from advertising and increase production costs. The Magazine remained however an important communication link between Clubs and the ACC and was a widely read publication.

The Accounts showed rental income from the sale and leaseback of Club properties at £708,084, a significant increase on the previous year. Mr Ward reported that income from rent by the end of the current financial year was predicted to be in excess of £1 million. The ACC invested a further £7 million in property purchases during the year. Surpluses for Clubs were recorded at just under £3.7 million.

The ACC's Deposit Scheme rose by £5.5 million and interest payable to Clubs stood at £162,000. Total expenditure showed an increase of under £200,000 from the comparison with 2015 and again, was expected and within budget.

The year end result is that the total net assets of the Association of Conservative Clubs show an increase of £4,201,637 to £17,511,454, an increase of just over 32%.

Mr Ward thanked the ACC Accounts Manager, Lesley Dipopolo and the ACC's Accountant and Auditor Katy Dee, 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.

## The Resolution to the Prime Minister – Rt Hon Theresa May

**“That this Annual General Meeting of The Association of Conservative Clubs sends the Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party, its renewed support for victory at the General Election on 8th June and pledges the Association’s ongoing assistance to the Conservative Party”.**

In calling upon Cllr John Hudson, Chairman North West Area Conservative Clubs and Member of the ACC Council, the Chairman mentioned Cllr Hudson's record of 40 years' service on Saddleworth Council which had recently been

marked by the naming of part of the Saddleworth Civic Hall, the 'Hudson Suite'.

In proposing the Resolution to the Prime Minister, Cllr Hudson first made reference to his recent illness and that the Prime Minister, with all her responsibilities of office, had written to him to wish him well. In an inspiring address, Cllr Hudson set out the many reasons for voting Conservative at this particular election and why it was so important to get the Conservative vote out on 8th June. The Resolution was seconded and carried by acclamation.



**Cllr John Hudson, North West Area Chairman.**

## Vote Of Thanks to the Hon President and Chairman

A vote of thanks to the ACC Officers was proposed by Mr Ray Johnson, Chairman of the Western Area Conservative Clubs and was carried by acclamation.



**Ray Johnson, Western Area Chairman.**

# 2017, AT THE CARLTON CLUB, LONDON

## PICTURES FROM THE 2017 AGM



### ACC COUNCIL 2017/18

<b>Hon. President:</b>	To be announced
<b>Chairman:</b>	The Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
<b>Vice-Chairmen:</b>	Gareth Johnson, MP To be announced
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Philip Davies MP
<b>Additional Member:</b>	Noel Manns
<b>London:</b>	Alan Boniface
<b>Northern:</b>	Bill Newall
<b>North Western:</b>	John Hudson Jeff Simpson, JP Charles White
<b>South Eastern:</b>	Chris Smith
<b>Yorkshire:</b>	Eddie Ward
<b>East Midlands:</b>	Robert Denton
<b>West Midlands:</b>	Mike Robinson
<b>Eastern:</b>	Jeff Springford
<b>Wessex:</b>	Jim Gauld
<b>Western:</b>	Ray Johnson Brian Tottle
<b>Wales:</b>	David Thomas
<b>Solicitor:</b>	Josephine Willoughby
<b>Auditor/Accountant:</b>	Katy Dee

### Clubs Development Fund Committee

The Rt Hon Alistair Burt M.P.	Mr. E. Ward
Philip Davies M.P.	Mr. W. Newall
Cllr. J. Hudson	Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE
	Mr R. Johnson



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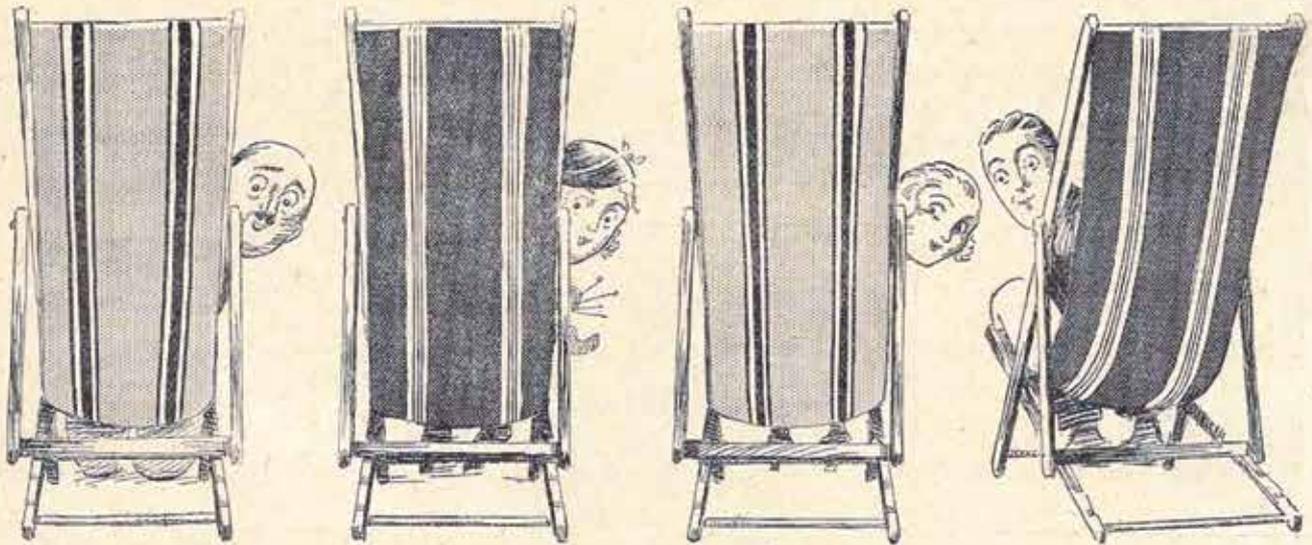
John Jenkins, Secretary – Aintree Conservative Club



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