

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



September 2017 50p



Pupdate from West Bridgford Conservative Club

ACC Magazine Update

*CONSERVATIVE
CLUBS
MAGAZINE*

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We hope that all ACC Clubs continue to enjoy the Conservative Clubs Magazine. We encourage Clubs to let us know what events are being planned or to send updates regarding events which have been held. Articles concerning Club news and charitable fundraising events are of interest to other Clubs and often give different Clubs new ideas about what they might wish to do. We also hope that Club Officers and Committee Members continue to find the Club Law and Management pages useful. If your Club would like to see any particular topic covered in Club Law then please let us know. Additionally, let us know if you prefer single articles to be highlighted in Club Law, such as with the guide to correct disciplinary procedures which we

feature this month, or if you prefer our popular Question and Answer format. Above all, the Conservative Clubs magazine is your magazine so please keep in touch with any feedback that you have and any changes which you might want to see introduced.



Philip Smith, ACC Chief Executive.



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Tel: 020 7222 0843
Sales: 020 7222 0868
Fax: 020 7222 1622
assistance@toryclubs.co.uk
www.toryclubs.co.uk

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Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
Chief Executive:
Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE
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West Bridgford Raises Money for Guide Dogs UK

The West Bridgford Conservative Club, Nottinghamshire, have chosen Guide Dogs UK as their Charity for 2017 and have already raised nearly £1,000.

The bulk of this fundraising took place at the Club's Spring Fayre and donations are still being received with further events being scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Club Secretary, Peter Brunger, said 'The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is the charity we

are supporting throughout 2017. Raising this amount of money was a great result and will help a truly worthwhile cause. Guide dogs cost over £50,000 to train and support through to retirement so the association relies on continued charitable giving. The club would like to sincerely thank all those private individuals and businesses who so generously donated prizes for the stalls, tombolas and raffles or helped by displaying posters advertising the event.'



The West Bridgford Conservative Club



A guide dog puppy.

Photo: Mercury Press

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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 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.

CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

The New £1 Coin

The new £1 coin has now been fully rolled out and it is expected that currently it will be being used in over half of all transactions involving £1 coins.

The old £1 will cease to be legal tender on the 15th October and after this date can only be exchanged at Banks and the Post Office.

Clubs are advised to make sure any machines, such as gaming machines, pull tab lottery machines or snooker and pool tables that use £1 coins are now upgraded to

accept the new £1 coin.

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Andrew Jones MP, said:

“We are now reaching the point where there are more new 12-sided pound coins in circulation than round pounds. With less than 50 days before the old round pound ceases to be legal tender, the clock is ticking. We are urging businesses who are yet to do so, to update their systems and inform their customers ahead of the October 15 deadline.”



Sky Sports Update

Sky Sports' dedicated Premier League channel will show seven big head-to-heads between last season's top six in October and November, and 20 games in total. From now until the end of November, Sky Sports Premier League will show 45 matches from England's top tier, show every team, and visit every ground in the division.

First up, English football's two most successful sides meet at

Anfield, as Liverpool entertain Manchester United. Then the 5th of November will be one to remember on Sky Sports Premier League, as Super Sunday will showcase Chelsea v Manchester United and Manchester City v Arsenal. Elsewhere, Sky Sports will televise three key games involving Tottenham, including matches against Manchester United, Liverpool and the north London derby against Arsenal.

Premier League Fixtures

Sunday 1 October

14:15 Everton v Burnley (Sky Sports)
16:30 Newcastle United v Liverpool (Sky Sports)

Saturday 14 October

12:30 Liverpool v Man Utd (Sky Sports)
17:30 Watford v Arsenal (BT Sport)

Sunday 15 October

13:30 Brighton & Hove Albion v Everton (Sky Sports)
16:00 Southampton v Newcastle United (Sky Sports)

Monday 16 October

20:00 Leicester City v West Brom (Sky Sports)

Friday 20 October

20:00 West Ham v Brighton & Hove Albion (Sky Sports)

Saturday 21 October

17.30 Southampton v West Brom (BT Sport)

Sunday 22 October

13:30 Everton v Arsenal (Sky Sports)
16:00 Spurs v Liverpool (Sky Sports)

Monday 23 October

20:00 Chelsea v Watford (Sky Sports)

Saturday 28 October

12:30 Man Utd v Spurs (Sky Sports)
17:30 AFC Bournemouth v Chelsea (BT Sport)

Sunday 29 October

13:30 Brighton & Hove Albion v Southampton (Sky Sports)
16:00 Leicester City v Everton (Sky Sports)

Monday 30 October

20:00 Burnley v Newcastle United (Sky Sports)

Saturday 4 November

12:30 Stoke City v Leicester City (Sky Sports)
17:30 West Ham v Liverpool (BT Sport)

Sunday 5 November

12:00 Spurs v Crystal Palace (BT Sport)
14:15 Man City v Arsenal (Sky Sports)
16:30 Chelsea v Man Utd (Sky Sports)

Saturday 18 November

17:30 Man Utd v Newcastle United (BT Sport)

Sunday 19 November

13:30 Spurs v Arsenal (Sky Sports)
16:00 Watford v West Ham (Sky Sports)

Monday 20 November

20:00 Brighton & Hove Albion v Stoke City (Sky Sports)

Friday 24 November

20:00 West Ham v Leicester City (Sky Sports)

Saturday 25 November

12:30 Southampton v Everton (Sky Sports)
17:30 Liverpool v Chelsea (BT Sport)

Sunday 26 November

14:00 Burnley v Arsenal (Sky Sports)
16:00 Huddersfield v Man City (Sky Sports)

Tuesday 28 November

20:00 Watford v Man Utd (BT Sport)

Wednesday 29 November

20:00 Everton v West Ham (BT Sport)

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Disciplinary Procedure: Suspension and Expulsion

In every walk of life, there is occasionally a person whose actions cause offence and/or discomfort to others, and there are some whose conduct will be such that action has to be taken. Such action can appear distasteful, complex and difficult but club officers and committees must realise that some of the jobs they undertake are not easy.

It is essential to carry out this difficult task to ensure that the other members can enjoy the comfort and benefits of a well conducted club. It is right that before such proceedings are commenced club officers must be guided by what is best for the club and for other members.

For the purpose of inquiring into the conduct of a member, it is desirable to summon a special meeting of the committee or, at any rate, exercise great care to ensure that every member of it is definitely informed that the case is to be considered, so that all who desire to be present are afforded an opportunity of attending. When the conduct of more than one member is to be investigated in connection with the same incident, it is within the sole discretion of the committee how the inquiry shall be conducted, whether those summoned shall appear before them singly or together.

Anyone involved in disciplinary proceedings must follow, to the absolute letter, the correct

procedure. The golden rule which must always be remembered is 'consult the club's own authorised rule book.' It is essential that all club officers should have a basic understanding of what can and cannot be done when they are faced with the unpleasant task of dealing with a member whose behaviour has fallen well below what is expected in a club.

We hope that your committee will not have to resort to calling a meeting to discuss 'disciplinary action' but there are times when there is no alternative and taking action becomes a necessity. At all stages the alleged offender must be treated judicially and with a proper regard for natural justice.

In any disciplinary proceedings it is absolutely essential that the member complained about must be given full details of the complaint made against him. Also, he must be given the opportunity to: answer the complaints in person; hear the evidence against him from other persons; ask questions of those persons before the committee; and call his own witnesses.

If a member's behaviour inside the club is contrary to the rules, then most rules provide that either the Chairman or Secretary has the authority to order the member's withdrawal. Such a member cannot be excluded indefinitely. Any automatic withdrawal should be reported to the committee as

soon as possible. Most club rules provide that a committee meeting should be held within seven days of the alleged offence.

When the committee consider the complaint, they may decide that no further action is required. In such cases, the member is free to resume his membership facilities and should always be advised of this decision as soon as possible. However, if the committee decide that the initial withdrawal requires further investigation then a disciplinary hearing date should be fixed and the member in question notified that the facilities of his membership remain withdrawn until he is summoned to appear before the committee.

In any other case of misconduct, for example when a written complaint is made to the Secretary concerning a member's behaviour, the complaint should be dealt with at the next regular committee meeting. Again, if the committee consider that no further action is necessary, the complainant should be informed. If however, the complaint does warrant further investigation, the member in question should be informed that the facilities of membership are withdrawn until a disciplinary hearing is convened.

The offending member should be summoned, in writing, to appear before the committee. The notice must include the date and time of the meeting and a statement setting out full details of the complaint. It is not sufficient to simply ask the member to 'explain his conduct.' If a specific statement is not included with the summons to appear before the committee, there could be grounds for appeal against any disciplinary decision, since the member is unable to

prepare a defence. The summons should be sent by registered post. Usually, a week's notice is given. At the meeting he should be heard in self-defence and allowed to call witnesses should he desire to do so.

A committee is acting as a quasi-judicial body when it holds a disciplinary hearing and consequently the committee may not hand out a decision summarily without listening to any statement the accused member wishes to make or any witness he wishes to call. One is not expected to appear in court without being made fully aware of the allegations being made.

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

Regional Meetings:

The next meeting of the North Wales and Border Federation of Conservative Clubs will take place at Shrewsbury

Beaconsfield Club on Saturday 16th September. Lunch will be served at 1.15pm with the meeting commencing at 2.15pm.

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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

Should the member (or members) whose conduct is in question fail to appear before the committee at the stipulated time, or afford a bona fide excuse for non-attendance, he can either be written to again and summoned to attend the next meeting, or the case can be dealt with in his absence. Every reasonable opportunity should be given to the member to attend and answer the charge against him.

If the committee does not think it is sufficient to deal with any case by a reprimand, then most club rules provide for two-thirds of those present to vote for suspension or expulsion.

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.

Expulsion is a more serious affair. A person's reputation is at stake and, if expelled, he will suffer in the eyes of fellow members, and possibly the wider community. Again, close attention must be paid to the club's rule book. It is clear that committees occasionally make up their minds before the hearing, and as a consequence tend to overlook proceedings.

When voting, after the member has given his version and withdrawn, the proposal to expel

him must be put 'for' or 'against.' If an amendment is moved—say, that instead of being expelled he shall be suspended for a period—the amendment must first be voted on. If this is defeated, the resolution to expel must then be put. Once a member's case has been considered by the committee and the required majority of votes for expulsion or suspension have not been obtained, the matter is at an end and cannot be re-opened at any subsequent meeting.

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 appeal rules apply will often depend on how the club is registered. For example, a club which is incorporated under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 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.

Should a member be convicted in a court of law of an offence which, in the opinion of the committee, is of such a nature to render him unfit for continued membership of the club, he can be expelled, without being summoned before the committee, but only if it is specifically so stated in the club's rules.

However, a member may well have made a plea in mitigation before the court with which the court had great sympathy and of which the committee may be totally unaware. The member should invariably therefore be given the opportunity of appearing before the committee to make any plea in mitigation of the offence he wishes, or alternatively to submit them in writing to the committee. In all other cases, a normal disciplinary hearing should be held. This is considered desirable even if the club's rules provide otherwise.

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.

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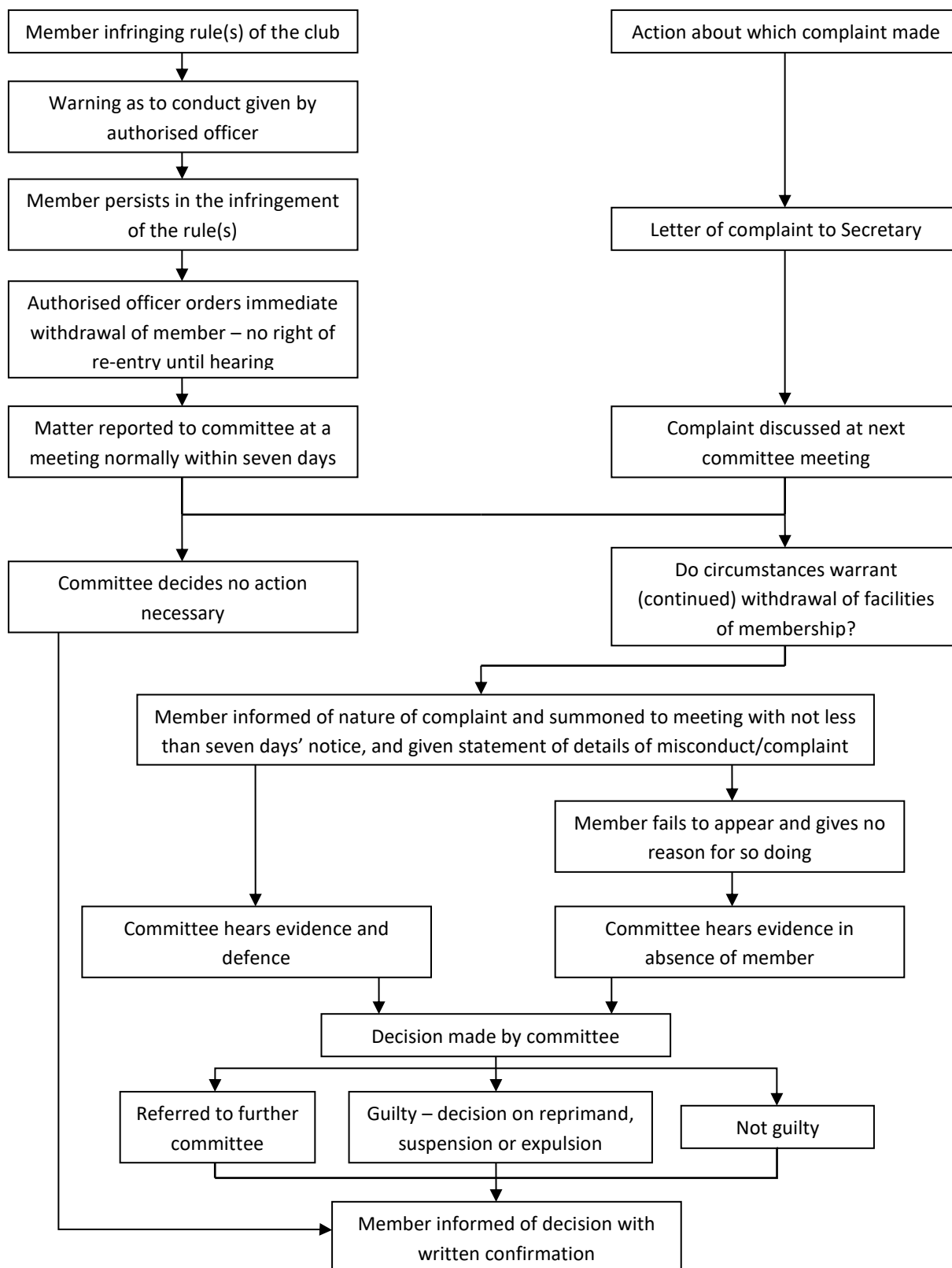
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Discipline and Misconduct Flowchart



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.

Splott Conservative Club Wins John Smiths Local Pub Award

The Splott Conservative Club, Cardiff, has been named the local winner in John Smith's 'Only Ordinary By Name' competition and will proceed to the national final to see if they have scooped the top prize.

The Club was judged to have been the hub of the local community and a much needed local meeting point for friends and families. The Club serves a range of real ales and craft beers and shows live sport on its big screen TVs. For years it has brought local families together with weekly events such as karaoke nights, live music and DJs, as well as Christmas and Halloween parties. The Club also has its own football team which plays in the Cardiff and District League.

The Club's Manager, James McCue, was surprised to find out that the Club had been crowned the local winners of the John Smith's competition and said: "It feels so good. Just to be nominated was great but to actually win is amazing. I



The Splott Conservative Club.

think we have our very loyal members to thank for getting so many votes. I just asked a few to spread the word and they drummed up incredible support. Every year we organise a day out for the Members which is

always an enjoyable occasion". The Club has recently undergone a £70,000 refurbishment and described the Club as just a cheery local place to spend time and that it has a great sense of community.

The Club has two resident dogs which always give the Club's Members and their guests a friendly welcome. The ACC congratulates the Splott Conservative Club on their success.



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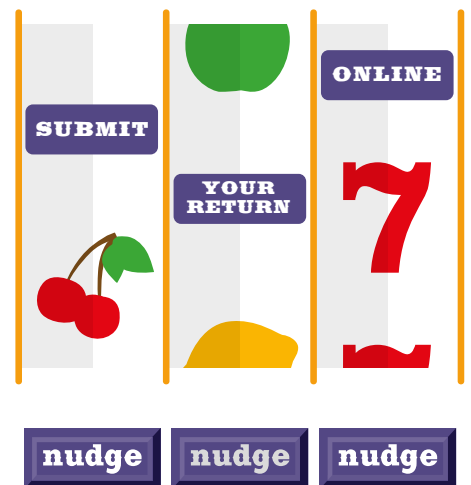
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Arsenal v West Brom
Monday 25 September
8.00pm



Newcastle v Liverpool
Sunday 1 October
4.30pm



Liverpool v Man United
Saturday 14 October
12.30pm



Everton v Arsenal
Sunday 22 October
1.30pm



Tottenham v Liverpool
Sunday 22 October
4.00pm



Man United v Tottenham
Saturday 28 October
12.30pm



Man City v Arsenal
Sunday 5 November
2.15pm



Chelsea v Man United
Sunday 5 November
4.30pm



Arsenal v Tottenham
Sunday 19 November
1.30pm



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Girlington Conservative Club Celebrates 130th Anniversary



The Girlington Conservative Club, Bradford, held a garden party to celebrate the Club's 130th Anniversary.

The party was opened by Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE, also present were The Lord and Lady Mayoress of Bradford. During

the afternoon the local scout band entertained the Club's Members and their guests.

The Club also put on a BBQ for everyone to enjoy and laid on games, stalls and a bouncy castle for children to enjoy.

Everyone enjoyed the day which

was accompanied by plentiful sunshine. The Committee would like to thank Lord Smith, the Lord

and Lady Mayoress of Bradford the local Scout Band for attending the event.



Ray White, Club Treasurer, Lord Smith of Hindhead, The Lord and Lady Mayoress of Bradford and Geoff Cullerton, Club Secretary.

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John Jenkins, Secretary – Aintree Conservative Club



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Ellesmere Port's Ted Lewis Awarded Legion D'Honneur

Mr Ted Lewis, Member of the Ellesmere Port Conservative Club, Cheshire, has been awarded the Legion D'Honneur, which is the highest award bestowed by the French Parliament, in recognition of his service during the liberation of France. The award was presented by the French Ambassador in Chester.

Ted was first introduced to a Conservative Club at the age of two years old when his mother took him to the Tuebrook Conservative Club. At that time, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons were given over to mothers and babies. The mothers played whist, lotto and beetle drives followed by dancing to HMV Gramophone. Ted was taught how to wind up the Gramophone to speed



Ted with other veterans who were similarly recognised by the French Ambassador in Chester.



Ted Lewis with Legion D'Honneur on his lapel above his service medals.

when it ran down. After leaving school Ted enlisted for war service in the Royal Navy and after training was enrolled to serve on HMS Fraserburgh. He was involved with escorting Atlantic convoys and sweeping shipping lanes and ports for mines. In 1944 his flotilla was involved in the preparations for the D Day Landings and they cleared the English channel of explosives.

The French government informed the UK Ministry of Defence last year that it wanted to recognise the selfless acts of heroism displayed by surviving veterans of the

Normandy landings. The travel arm of the Royal British Legion, Remembrance Travel, has also been on a mission to find every single surviving D Day veteran, as the Treasury is enabling a series of free-of-charge tours for D Day veterans to return to Normandy and pay their respects to their fallen comrades. The tours have given Normandy veterans – now mostly in their 90s - the chance to revisit the Normandy beaches, cemeteries and memorials. The tours will be accompanied by a medic and a guide from the Royal British Legion.



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North West Area AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting of the North West Area Conservative Clubs Advisory Council was held at the High Crompton Conservative Club, Oldham.

Delegates were welcomed by the Club's President. Following an excellent buffet lunch provided by the Club the Area Chairman, Cllr. John Hudson, formally opened the meeting. Following the recording of apologies for absence and the approval of the minutes of the previous AGM the Chairman invited the Treasurer, Mr Jeff Simpson JP, to present the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016.

The statement was seconded and approved. In his annual report the Chairman brought the delegates up to date on the year's activities and thanked his fellow Officers for their hard work throughout the year. The Chairman made special mention of his Vice- Chairman, David

Buckley, who has decided to stand down after nearly three decades representing the North West on the ACC Council. Arrangements are in place to present David with the ACC Badge of Honour in recognition of his long and valuable service.

No nominations had been received and the existing Officers, with the exception of David Buckley, will remain in place for a further year.

Jackie Foster MEP was duly elected President, Geoffrey Knowles OBE elected Vice President, Cllr John Hudson elected Chairman and Jeff Simpson JP elected Treasurer. The Chairman informed the meeting the meeting that Charles White assume the role of Vice-Chairman and Geoffrey Knowles would represent the North West on the ACC Council. After a vote of thanks to the host Club the meeting concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.



North West Area Officers Geoffrey Knowles OBE, Jeff Simpson, Cllr John Hudson and Charles White.

OBITUARY

Barry Drew



the Club's Treasurer for 25 years and had been a Club Member for many years prior to taking office. During his career Barry had served with the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry Regiment and had been deployed in both Palestine and Cyprus.

During his day Barry was a very good darts player but his passion was always bowls and he became a county player. Barry was known to many other Clubs in Cornwall as a regular attender of the Cornwall Federation of Conservative Clubs events. In his Club, Barry set up a monthly luncheon club which is still going strong.

It is with sadness that the Liskeard Conservative Club, Cornwall, has announced the death of Club Member Barry Drew.

Barry Drew had served as

Pages From The Past

In this month's Page From The Past, we go back to the late 1920's to show the winners of the ACC's Political Challenge Banner. We have covered this subject in the past but this month's extract has a particularly fine picture of the Committee of the Clayton Conservative Club, Manchester, in the then garden belonging to the Club. The Political Challenge Banner ran for several decades and was a keenly contested prize for

Clubs from every part of the UK who undertook to demonstrate how their Club had combined the social activities of the Club whilst at the same time advancing Conservatism and Unionism in their area or, more often than not, their branch or ward.

The Clayton Conservative Club continues to be a very popular and well managed Club which boasts a strong and loyal membership from its local community.

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A.C.C. POLITICAL CHALLENGE BANNER WINNERS.

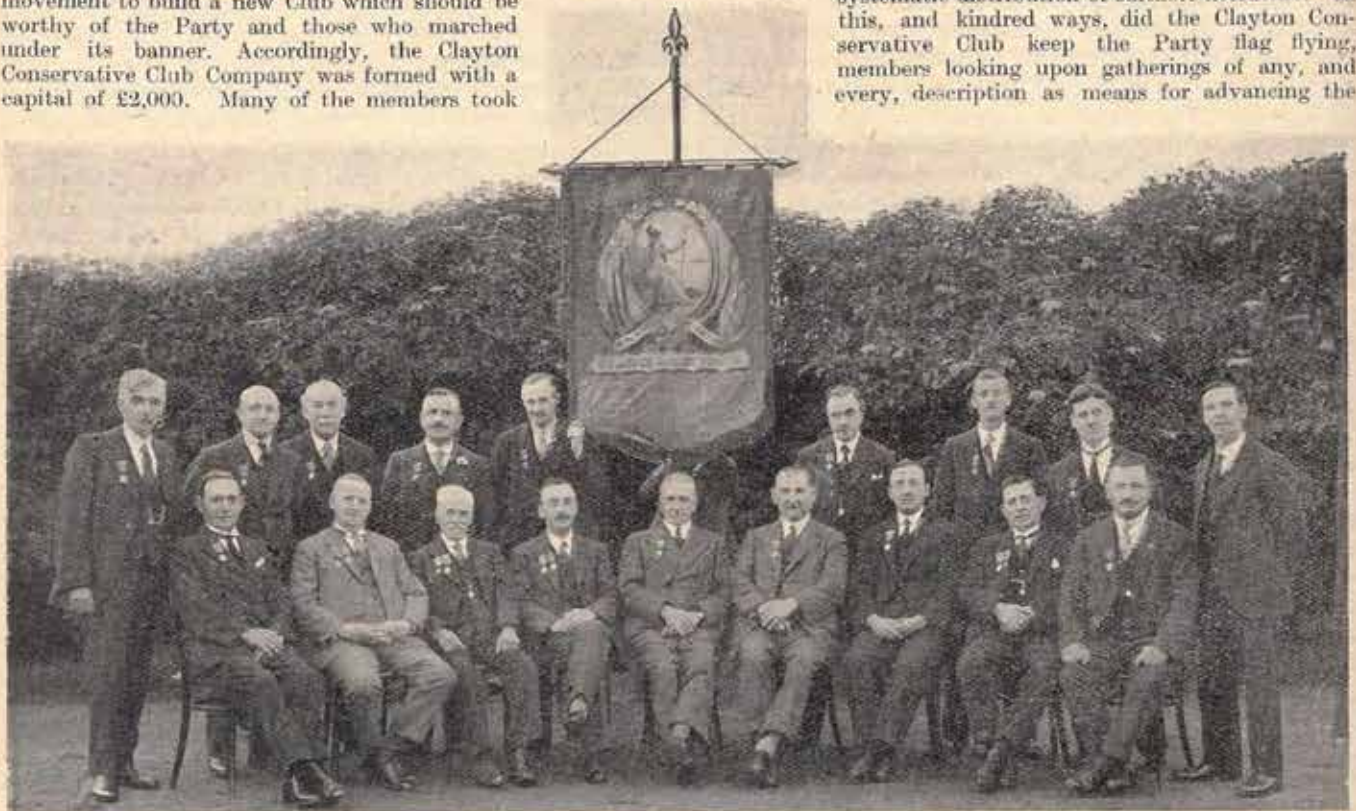
How Clayton Conservative Club has gone from Strength to Strength.

Like many other A.C.C. Clubs, Clayton Conservative, Manchester, which this year won the A.C.C. Political Challenge Banner, had a very modest origin. It started in June, 1890, in a single room and with a membership of about 50. Steadily the number grew and, within a year, it became necessary to extend the premises.

As the neighbourhood developed, so too did the Club increase in influence and strength. Amongst its members were men of vision and enthusiasm who set on foot a movement to build a new Club which should be worthy of the Party and those who marched under its banner. Accordingly, the Clayton Conservative Club Company was formed with a capital of £2,000. Many of the members took

ing at the door for accommodation; the card room was needed for Committees, and so on. It was therefore decided to launch out once again and extend the premises. This work was put in hand and completed in 1912, since when yet further improvements have been made in many directions. To-day the Club is, from every angle, a credit to the industrial neighbourhood in which it is situated.

It is, however, in the political side even more than the structure that the members are especially interested, and no opportunity is lost in keeping it well to the fore. Prior to the General Election the Club made itself responsible for the canvass, each street in its neighbourhood being placed under the control of a man and woman captain. So numerous were the workers, that only sections of streets came under the supervision of each individual. The captains met frequently in the Club to "report progress" and arrange for the systematic distribution of suitable literature. In this, and kindred ways, did the Clayton Conservative Club keep the Party flag flying, members looking upon gatherings of any, and every, description as means for advancing the



OFFICERS OF THE CLAYTON CONSERVATIVE CLUB, MANCHESTER, WEARING THEIR VICTORY MEDALS.

BACK ROW (left to right)—W. J. Longton, E. Stansfield, J. Wallwork, E. Russell, H. Meadowcroft, D. Foote, F. Riley, A. Tait, G. E. Charlesworth.

FRONT ROW (left to right)—S. Jones, A. Day (Treasurer), L. J. Wood (Political Chairman), F. J. Riley (Chairman), W. H. Flanagan, J.P. (President), D. Stoddard (Vice-Chairman), D. MacKay (Secretary), F. Whitehead, S. Morris.

up £1 shares, and prominent Manchester Conservatives also interested themselves in the venture. It was a bold step, but one which subsequent events fully justified.

It was not long before a suitable site was obtained and the work of building put in hand. The premises, when completed, comprised a large entrance hall; a billiard room, large enough to hold three tables; card and reading rooms; a hall for meetings and "socials," and the usual offices.

At the time the building was opened in 1900, it was anticipated it would afford ample accommodation for many years to come. Events, however, proved otherwise. From the outset Clayton Conservative Club regarded itself as, primarily, a political institution, and, as it became more and more the centre of Party activity, increasing demands were made on its rooms. The billiard room was frequently wanted for political meetings; the Juniors and the Ladies were knock-

cause they had at heart. The spirit which prompted these splendid endeavours exists to-day and preparations are already in hand to renew the fight with redoubled energy. The "will to win" is there: may it be duly crowned with a richly-deserved victory.

A KENT CLUB'S JUBILEE.

In commemoration of its Jubilee, Bromley Constitutional Club has issued an illustrated brochure in which are set forth its history and present day activities. "It is our mission," says the Chairman, Mr. Percy Luck, "to cater for the Clubbable man in all phases of Club life." Right well has it succeeded in this laudable endeavour. With splendid premises and excellent officers the Bromley Constitutional plays no mean part in the political life of the division. Long may its banner wave!

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