

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



November 2018 50p



**Kevin Foster MP and Neil Parish MP visit Preston
Conservative Club (Paignton)**

Employment problem – Have You Contacted Your Insurers?

Premier League – Christmas Fixtures Announced

Western Area Meeting Report

Llandudno Conservative Club Hosts the Horwich Community Choir

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The Llandudno Conservative Club has hosted the Horwich Community Choir during their visit to Llandudno in October. The Club has been exploring ways in which to use the Club's facilities to boost revenue and the Committee came up with the idea of hiring out the Club's premises when not in use by members. This has proved very popular for daytime community groups who can make use of the Club's premises. The Horwich Community Choir used the Club's Function Room in the morning to practice their

repertoire while they were on tour in North Wales.

Rachel, Director of the Group, thanked the Club and said: 'Thank you so much for your wonderful hospitality this weekend. We had a brilliant day of rehearsal at the Conservative Club and we are extremely grateful for the time, communication and organising you put into our visit. It was a perfect venue for us, 'home from home' and we all felt extremely humbled at how much time and effort you had taken to make sure everything was 'just right'.'



The Horwich Community Choir.

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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



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

Employment Problem – Have you contacted the Club's insurers?

The ACC is always here to assist Clubs with problems and employment problems are one of the most common topics we are asked about. Clubs should still continue to contact the ACC with any problems or questions which arise due to employment but it is important to also consult with the Club's insurers.

Currently, most Club insurance policies include some form of employment cover and protection, usually at very little extra cost to the policy. If you do not have insurance employment cover you may want to raise this with your insurers as it is a useful addition.

The problem is that whilst Clubs may have this cover included in their policy, it usually has small print which states that the insurers should be contacted as soon as any disciplinary action is taken – even inviting an employee to a meeting. The insurers should definitely be contacted if an employee resigns or is dismissed. Clubs often only inform their insurers when a legal challenge from an ex-employee is received and this is often too late. For the Club to be covered by a typical insurance policy, the insurers want to be notified as

soon as any action is being taken. They then require the Club to follow their preferred procedure. If the Club follows the procedure then the Club will usually receive free legal representation and also be covered for any costs or damages which the employee wins against the Club. Where a Club belatedly informs an insurer of a problem often they will not cover the situation which has occurred since the Club did not inform the insurers soon enough and as a result did not follow the required procedures.

Therefore, it is important for any Club with an employee situation to notify their insurers as soon as possible. It is not sufficient to wait until a legal action is taken against the Club by an employee. If the Club informs their insurance provider then can then ensure they follow the procedure outlined by the insurance policy which will then cover the Club for any subsequent loss.

The ACC are always available to assist Clubs with employee issues but it makes sense to establish if the Club is already covered by your insurance policy and, if so, to follow the procedure advised by the insurance provider.

Employee Holiday Entitlement

Christmas is a busy time for holiday requests. Clubs should be aware that you can designate specific periods of the year where no employees can take holiday time. In the hospitality industry December and, to a lesser extent, November are often declared times where employees cannot take holiday time.

All employees are entitled to 5.6 weeks of holiday per year. A holiday year can be the calendar year, the financial year or any other yearly timeframe the Club may wish to use. The 5.6 weeks of holiday time applies to all employees, full, part time and casual, although it is only applied to a typical week of work. Therefore a part time employee will still receive 5.6 weeks although if they only work 3 days a week then their 'holiday week' will only be for their usual 3 days of working.

If a member of staff works on a casual basis or very irregular hours then working out the accrued holiday entitlement can be more difficult than for full or part time employees on set hours. It is therefore often easiest to

calculate holiday entitlement that accrues as hours worked. The holiday entitlement of 5.6 weeks is equivalent to 12.07 per cent of hours worked over a year.

Therefore, if an employee works 10 hours, they are entitled to 72.6 minutes paid holiday ($12.07/100 \times 10 = 1.21$ hours = 72.63 minutes). You simply adapt this to include how many hours the employee has worked and you can calculate how much time they are due off.

When an employee requests holiday then you simply work out how many hours they have worked and see how much time they have accrued – replace the above figures with the hours that the employee has worked up to that point and it will calculate how much holiday they are entitled to at that moment.

There is also an excellent online Government calculator which can assist Clubs with all types of holiday questions and we recommend Clubs use it if it doubt of how much holiday an employee is due: <https://www.gov.uk/calculate-your-holiday-entitlement>

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Questions and Answers

Q We have recently met with our Licensing Officer who suggested that we should apply for a Premises Licence. Does the ACC have a view on this licence?

A A premises licence is the type of licence that a pub uses and allows alcohol to be sold to anyone. Most Clubs hold a Club Premises Certificate (CPC) although we have seen more Clubs recently move over to a Premises Licence. The ACC does not have a preference regarding a particular licence, only that it should suit the Clubs' needs. There are benefits and drawbacks to each type of licence.

A Club Premises Certificate allows a Club to sell alcohol to Members, Members' guests and IA Ticket Holders. The Club Premises Certificate also allows the Club to host unlimited private events which are held by a Member and up to 15 events per year which are held by a non-member but for which a Temporary Event Notice is obtained for. A Member who holds an event can invite an unlimited number of guests to attend the event and alcohol can be served to everyone.

The main advantage of a Premises Licence is the freedom to hold unlimited events held by non-members – we appreciate for Clubs who have the capability and demand for private functions this additional

freedom can be an important revenue driver for Clubs. It is therefore this point Clubs should focus on when considering a licence change – can the Club continue to host the profitable events it wants to hosts under the restrictions of the Club Premises Certificate (unlimited events held by Members, up to 15 events per year held by non-Members). It is also important to note that a new Member can host a Members' event – therefore if the Club has a CPC and a non-member wishes to host an event if they become a Member it does not count towards the limit of 15 TENs.

A requirement of a Premises Licence is that the Club would need the Club's Steward or Bar Manager to become a Designated Premises Supervisor. This is common and all Pubs have one (usually the Pub's Manager).

If the Club obtained a Premises Licence then two further drawbacks are that the Club could no longer have the high states gaming machines you may currently have (including the popular and tax free B3A machine) and could also face an increased corporation tax bill since you the Club could no longer reduce the bill due offsetting what is known as mutual trading.

There is also the possibility of a dual licence. This is a structure operated by some of our Clubs. Typically, these Clubs have separate function rooms which the Premises Licence would solely cover and then the Members areas could

still be covered by the CPC. To a certain extent it depends on the layout of the Club but it is not an option to be dismissed if the function room and members areas are able to be separated when required (i.e. non-members holding events can drink in the function room whilst the usual Club rules would still apply in the Members' areas.)

This is a complicated area so Clubs are welcome to contact the ACC for direct advice. We are not saying that there is a not sometimes a legitimate case to consider converting to a Premises Licence but it needs to be properly considered as there are some disadvantages and we want to ensure the Committee has the correct information before making a decision.

Q We have the problem of a large membership base but few 'core' users. The Committee have suggested we survey the Members and find out what we could do to increase their usage of the Club. Do you have any suggestions for how such a survey should work or what we should seek to establish?

A I think it is useful to look at this type of situation every so often. You are not unique in having the problem of many Members but not too much core usage.

Surveys will be helpful to an extent although they often rely on a Member who does not use the Club often being able to put into words or answers exactly

Festive Premier League Fixtures Announced

Christmas and the New Year period are huge opportunities to offer football coverage to the Club's Members and guests. To assist the Club in planning your festive events, please find the announced matches below:

Full rearranged festive TV fixtures
All times GMT

Friday, 21 December: Wolves v Liverpool (20:00) - live on Sky Sports

Saturday, 22 December: Arsenal v Burnley (12:30) - live on Sky Sports; Cardiff v Man Utd (17:30) - live on BT Sport

Sunday, 23 December: Everton v Tottenham (16:00) - live on Sky Sports

Wednesday, 26 December: Fulham v Wolves (12:30); Brighton v Arsenal (17:15); Watford v Chelsea (19:30) - all three matches live on Sky Sports

Thursday, 27 December: Southampton v West Ham (19:45) - live on Sky Sports

Saturday, 29 December: Liverpool v Arsenal (17:30) - live on BT Sport

Sunday, 30 December: Crystal Palace v Chelsea (12:00) live on Sky Sports; Burnley v West Ham (14:15); Southampton v Man City (14:15) - live on Sky Sports; Man Utd v Bournemouth (16:30) - live on Sky Sports

Tuesday, 1 January: Everton v Leicester (12:30) - live on Sky Sports; Cardiff v Tottenham (17:30) - live on Sky Sports
Wednesday, 2 January: Bournemouth v Watford (19:45); Chelsea v Southampton (19:45); Huddersfield v Burnley (19:45); Newcastle v Man Utd (20:00) - live on Sky Sports; West Ham v Brighton (19:45); Wolves v Crystal Palace (19:45)

Thursday, 3 January: Man City v Liverpool (20:00) - live on Sky Sports

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why they do not use the Club too often. It could be the Club's fault for not ensuring that the services and facilities which are offered appeal to the wider membership instead of the core users but whether or not the Members concerned would be able to explain this is a question. For good reason Clubs are often geared to serve the members who use them most frequently – this approach may not always be the best approach to ensure that the widest proportion of member's possible use the Club regularly although ultimately putting off a frequent member to encourage a non-frequent member to attend more can be self-defeating. There is no easy answer on this point.

It is also difficult to get people to respond to surveys in large numbers – if you have email addresses then there are some online solutions which may assist or include the survey on the membership renewal form. A good way to do a survey would be to incentivise it, e.g. offer a free drink voucher for every Member who completes the survey for example.

Whilst there are some difficulties I do think the survey is worth pursuing. I would suggest that the following survey categories be looked into:

- Drinks– Beer, Wine, Sprits, Soft Drinks etc. – What do Members think of the Club's current selection. Do they want specific items added to the menu? Do they want specific groups of items to be investigated – more local beers, a greater variety of new world wines by the glass etc. Surveys can be useful to tell you the general area you can improve on but often Members themselves will not be able to name a specific product they want added but will be able to describe if they want more choice, or more products of a certain price point or from a local area (perhaps introducing rotating local beers).

- Food – Are they happy with what the Club offers. Do they want to see more of a certain type of food – bar snacks, meals etc. Are there times

when they want food or bar snacks but the Club does not serve food at those times? It may be that Members do not need a full catered service but are just happy with bar snacks such as homemade sausage rolls and sandwiches.

- Entertainment – Does the entertainment the Club offers bring them to the Club or does it put them off. Would they come into the Club if entertainment such as Bingo, Cards, Quizzes were offered? Equally, does the singer the Club hosts on Saturday night put some Members off from attending? The survey should be as much discovering what current activities need to be changed as to finding out what new items to introduce.

- The feel of the Club – Are they proud of the Club. Would they be proud to bring a friend to the Club. Do they feel welcome when they attend the Club, do they think the outside or the inside of the Club could use some improvements. What about the furniture and layout of the bar and communal areas.

- Finally, their general activities – do they eat and drink out a lot and only occasionally use the Club? If this is the case, then why only occasional usage. If they do not eat and drink out a lot is there something the Club could offer that would encourage them to use the Club more often. If a Member goes out a lot but only uses the Club infrequently, why is that?

These are the type of areas we would look at regarding the proposed survey.

Q We have recently been informed by the HMRC that our steward is liable for tax on the free heat and light which is provided with his accommodation. Our steward is not very happy about this situation. What is your advice?

A Some stewards have been shocked to discover that the supply of free lighting and heating they receive from the club is nevertheless regarded by

the HMRC as a taxable benefit. This has always been accepted practice but in recent years the HMRC have been pursuing such matters more rigorously.

The correct position is that the club should include a declaration–stating that it supplies free light and heat to the steward–in its annual HMRC return, while the steward should include the same information on his annual return.

Please note that the payment of Council Tax by the club on the steward's accommodation is also considered to be a taxable benefit and should be declared on Form P11D.

Q Following a recent VAT inspection, HMRC questioned our practice of not applying VAT on room hire to members or on income from the snooker table light meters. Can you please confirm your advice previously given on this subject?

A The club is correct in not applying VAT on these two specific sources of income. The hire of the club's rooms to members is exempt from VAT and Section 10 of Notice 701/5 Clubs and Associations refers to this particular matter. The use of snooker table light meters is also exempt from VAT and Section 3.5.7 of Notice 701/45 Sport refers to this matter. I support your reply to HMRC giving details of the above Notice references stating that the club is not in breach of any VAT payment requirements.

Q I am a Club Secretary and receive an honorarium. Do I have to pay tax on this?

A Some Secretaries, although not employed, do receive payments of honoraria in compensation for the time they spend on their voluntary duties. An honorarium is, by definition, a 'voluntary fee for a voluntary service.' It is accepted that an honorarium is not a salary and in the past recipients of honoraria have been left to declare the sums received on their personal

tax returns, which include their other earnings.

Since 1993, HMRC has taken the view that 'in general, honoraria are taxable and it is up to the payer to deduct tax under PAYE.' The 'payer' in such cases is the club and not, for example, the Treasurer who may pay his own honorarium to himself as a matter of practice. HMRC advises: 'If you are paying an honorarium for the first time, or if payments you have made before have not been taxed under PAYE, your Tax Office will tell you what to do.' The Tax Office referred to here is the one which covers the address of the club and may not be the same as the office-holder's own Tax Office.

Q Due to falling membership levels a new member of our Committee has suggested that we try to 'recruit' new members from several new housing complexes that have been built in and around our area. Another member of Committee has advised that our rule book states that any new member joining needs to be known by and proposed and seconded by two current members. Is there a way that we can work around this rule?

A Technically the member in question is correct in stating that Candidates for membership must be known to their proposers and seconders. However, if members are unwilling to recruit new members then the club will not survive in the long term. The club may promote the occasional Open Day during which members of the Public could be invited in to view the club and at such events could be meet members and in particular members of the Committee who may feel able to get to propose them as Candidates. I am sure that in most cases a bit of common sense is all that is required and if the occasional unsuitable member slips through the net, they can soon be dealt with under the rules. If an Open Day is arranged, it will need to have a Temporary Event Notice in place.

Ruthin Conservative Club Celebrates First Prize at Ruthin Flower Show



The Ruthin Conservative Club is celebrating being awarded the top prize at the local Ruthin Flower show for best display by a local business. Pictured is the Club's Chairman, Ursula Harrington, who planted up the pots along with Gary Coleman (Steward) and David Thomas (President) who kept them watered.

The Club has also reason to be pleased as during the August Bank Holiday the Club held a popular BBQ which was open to all Members and their guests. The BBQ was held to raise funds for the Club's chosen charity, the Ruthin Hospital League of Friends. Pictured are Club Chairman Ursula Harrington together with David Thomas, Club President, presenting a cheque for £650.00 to Dave McGeough and Sylvia Hughes from the Ruthin Hospital League of Friends.

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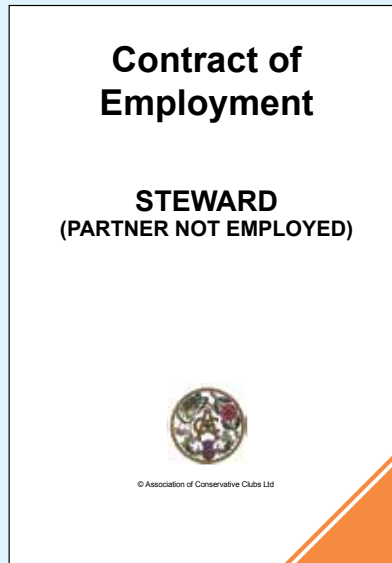
ACC Contracts of Employment

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.

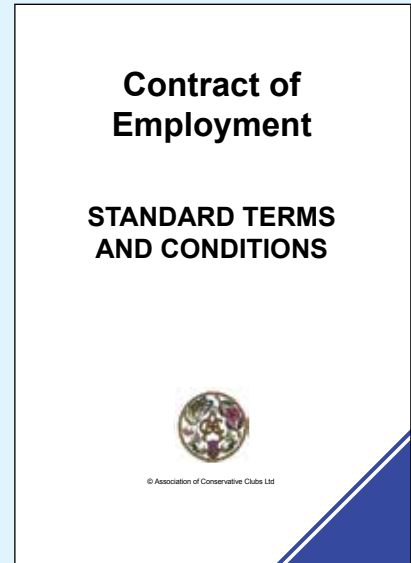
The contracts which are offered by the ACC are as follows:



Steward Contract

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

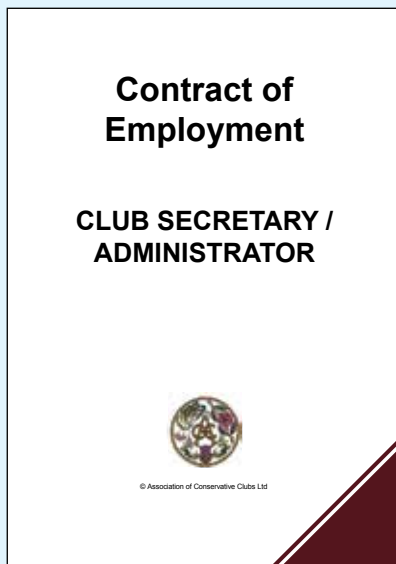
- 2 x Club Steward Contract
- 2 x Service Occupancy Agreement
- 2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



Standard Terms and Conditions of Employment

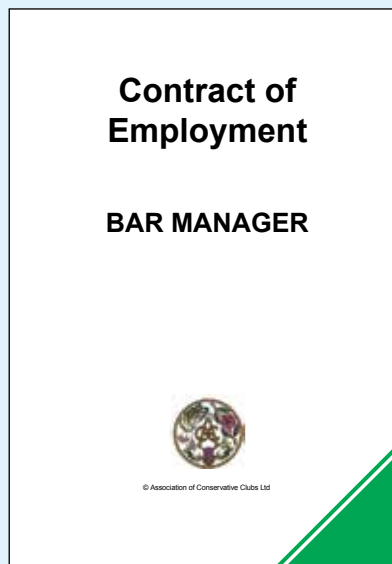
Appropriate for a wide range of Club Employees (bar employees, cleaners, general part time employees etc.). Each contract pack costs £15 and includes:

- 2 x Standard Terms and Conditions of Employment Contract
- 2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



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

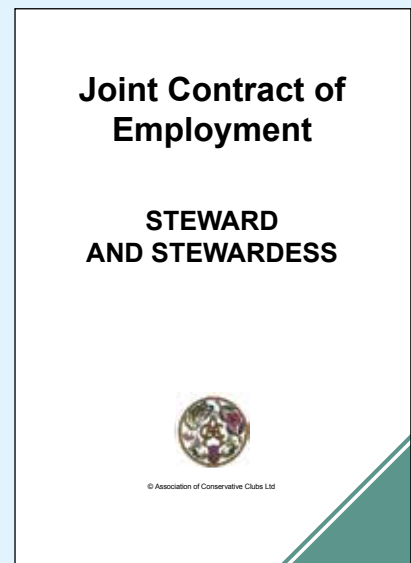
- 2 x Club Secretary Contract
- 2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



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, email charles@toryclubs.co.uk or phone 0207 222 0868.



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Cllr Ron Alcock Presented With ACC Badge of Honour



The Committee of the Chelmsford Conservative Club, Essex, have presented longstanding member Ron Alcock with a ACC Badge of Honour to recognise his longstanding service to the Club. Cllr Ron Alcock has been a member of Chelmsford Conservative Club since 1970 and has been a committee member for 17 years and President of the club for the last 3 years. He was the Club's Publicity Officer and interviewed prospective members for 10 years and has also served as

Welfare Officer & Political Officer for many years.

He is pictured at the Club's AGM with Geoff Swaine, the incoming President, receiving the Badge of Honour together with a framed photograph of Ron with Ann Steward, Chairman of Eastern Region Conservative Party when she presented his Prime Ministers Award, a framed letter and certificate, signed by the Prime Minister and Rt Hon Sir Patrick McLoughlin in December.

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Western Area Autumn Meeting Report

The Autumn meeting of The Western Area Conservative Clubs' Council was hosted by Preston, Torbay, Conservative Club and was very well attended. The Club's Committee made everyone very welcome and the bar staff were excellent and very welcoming. Following the meeting the Club served a fantastic buffet to all of the delegates.

Chairman Ray Johnson opened the meeting and gave everyone a warm welcome. He stated it would be his last meeting as Chairman because he has completed his time in the post. He drew attention to this and the fact we need to elect new officers at the AGM. Ray paid tribute to Brian and Jenny for filling in as Secretary/Treasurer to maintain the requirements of the Constitution. He also gave thanks to Margaret for her hard work organising next year's Conference.

During his address Brian Tottle gave praise to Sami, a young dynamic Manager from Culmpton Conservative Club. Her new modern ideas have attracted younger members to the Club. He also mentioned Okehampton Conservative Club who, having completed a sale and

leaseback, had the foresight to invest sufficient funds to ensure the rent for the next ten years would be covered. This has allowed the Club to focus on the future with financial security in place. Brian also commented that it was very encouraging to be able to welcome a number of Clubs to the meeting who had not attended in some time.

The Club delegate reports were varied and interesting and it was encouraging to hear a lot of positive comments with many Clubs experiencing an increase in takings over the past few months.

Jenny Povey, acting Area Secretary and Treasurer, gave reports for both of her roles. She said that with Brian had made courtesy calls to twelve Clubs in the Western Area who were all very welcoming, and mostly there was a lot of positive attitude.

The area accounts are keeping in the black thanks to our sponsors and The ACC. She said that as a result the Area are intending to spend a considerable sum to make the 25th Area Conference something very special.

Margaret Henderson gave a further update for the 2019 Area Conference to be held at The

Livermead House Hotel, Torquay on April 5th - 7th, and said that plans are well under way. She encouraged everyone to book now as many rooms are already taken. This is always very popular event not to be missed.

Speeches were given by the two MPs present, Neil Parish and Kevin Foster, bringing everyone up to date on what is happening in Westminster. Both speeches were very enlightening and both of the MPs then took questions from the room.

Martyn Pincombe from Dransfields was also present to give an update on a new gaming machine which is going to be introduced shortly and took

questions from the floor.

The Meeting were very pleased to welcome Alan Dawson, Director of sales from Mathew Clark, who explained the new drinks deal with The ACC, and was also available to answer any queries from the Delegates both from the floor and later in private after the formal business of the meeting concluded. The delegates commented that the new offer from ACC and Matthew Clark looks to be very exciting and that the prices appear to be very competitive, in addition to the initial welcome offer of £1,000 of fire stock and a 33% Sky Sports discount.

Ray Johnson then closed the meeting.



Kevin Foster MP serving Brian Tottle a beer after training from Club Steward Lulu.





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Pages From The Past

This month we go back to December 1918 to recognise the centenary of the end of the First World War. The Magazine reflected the end of the war with the words 'The arms of the Allies have been crowned with complete victory and the brutal and bloody fighting is, thank God, over – let us hope for ever.' Sadly those words did not turn out to be true and the message still has resonance today, perhaps more than at any time in recent history. On the 11th November there will be a series of events to mark the centenary of the Armistice, including a commemorative service at St Symphorien Cemetery near Mons, Belgium, where the war began in 1914 and where

the first and last casualties of the battle lie. The National Service of Remembrance at London's Cenotaph will follow traditional lines, as it remembers the fallen of all conflicts, but the march-past which follows will be expanded. During the day, church and other bells will ring out as they did at the end of the First World War, and government funding is supporting the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers to recruit 1,400 ringers – the number lost during the war. The day will end with a service at Westminster Abbey, London, along with others in Glasgow, Cardiff and Belfast, to give thanks for peace and those who returned.

THE CONSERVATIVE CLUBS GAZETTE.

The Official Organ of the Association of Conservative Clubs, to which there are affiliated 1,400 Conservative and Unionist Clubs, with a total estimated membership of over half a million.

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DECEMBER, 1918.

PRICE 2d.

Why Clubmen should Support the Coalition Candidates—See page 51.

CLUB NOTES

"I should like to say that I find the 'Gazette' very useful and interesting, especially at the present time." The Secretary, Maghull and District Conservative Club.

"Peace with Honour."

There have been tremendous happenings since the publication of the last issue of the "C.C.G." The arms of the Allies have been crowned with complete victory, and the brutal and bloody fighting is, thank God, over—let us hope for ever. The outstanding part played by Britain in securing the ultimate triumph of Right over Might has already passed into history, and Conservative and Unionist clubmen have every reason to be proud of their share in the resounding triumph. We can look back with pride on our record. We have only to recall how, at the outbreak of hostilities, members of our clubs flocked to colours; how magnificently they responded to Lord Kitchener's call: how, up to the very end, they all "fought the good fight," to show that the A.C.C. motto "For King and Country" was enshrined in the hearts of our clubmen and was to them the embodiment of the highest form of patriotism. Now that it is all over our joy would be complete were it not saddened by the knowledge that many of our very best will never return to us. But though they have made the supreme sacrifice their spirit lives, and we who have been spared will honour their memories and must seek to profit by their example.

The General Election.

Decks are now cleared for the General Election, and it is up to clubmen to see that we reap the full fruits of the victory our comrades have won for us on the sea and battle-field. On another page will be found reasoned appeals specially addressed to members of our clubs by those whose word carries great weight, and on whose counsel we can safely rely. Earl Curzon, our President, points out that the Coalition Government succeeded, through our fighting forces, in winning the war, and pertinently asks—

Is there any other body, or party, or group to whom you can, with greater confidence, assign the work of reconstruction?

The answer is that there is no other party, and that being so, our support must go out wholeheartedly to those who have successfully pulled us through the great conflict. In short, we must continue to "back the winner." Sir Herbert Praed, our Chairman, who is in close touch with leaders of every phase of thought—including representatives of Labour—likewise urges his fellow-clubmen to record their votes for the Coalition Government "and thus reap the fullest fruits of our glorious victory."

Clubs Which Weathered the Storm.

It will be noted in the letters on page 51 that the officers and members of clubs come in for well-merited praise from our chiefs for keeping the club flag flying during the war. Considering the many difficulties with which we were faced, it is astonishing that more clubs did not go under. This is a tribute to the sure foundations on which they rest, and the skill with which their affairs have been handled. In some places—munition areas, etc.—our clubs reaped a good harvest, but in the majority of cases stern economies

had to be effected, and every possible penny saved. The shortage of refreshments was our greatest bugbear, and the difficulty of obtaining even the supplies to which we were justly entitled was—and still is—nothing short of a scandal. It was only after the A.C.C. had put up a strenuous fight that we obtained anything approaching fair play with respect to charges for spirits, and it is to be regretted that sinister influences have prevented a larger release from bond. Of late we have specially directed our efforts to getting more beer, and of a higher gravity, for our clubs, and there are grounds for hoping that between now and Christmas they will be crowned with some measure of success. I have received a sheaf of resolutions of protest passed by clubs against the continued refreshment famine, and these have all been forwarded to the proper quarter and will, I hope, assist in attaining the desired result.

A.C.C. STOCKTAKING DEPARTMENT.

The A.C.C. takes stock in every part of the country. Clubs can ensure efficient management of the Bar by arranging for the periodical visits of A.C.C. Stocktakers. Full particulars and terms will be forwarded on application to the Manager, A.C.C. Club Advisory Department, 1, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Candidates and the Future of Clubs.

The General Election affords clubmen an excellent opportunity of ensuring the future freedom of our clubs. Every candidate should be questioned with regard to the removal of existing restrictions and a definite pledge must be obtained that, if returned, he will vote for the immediate repeal of all Orders made under the Defence of the Realm Act so far as they affect clubs, and for the resumption of complete Parliamentary control. What we want, and what we are out to obtain is the removal of the Liquor Control Board shackles, which, if allowed to continue, will kill the club movement. We must be under the direct control of Parliament as we were in pre-war days.

The Liquor Control Board.

I am convinced that we shall have a tremendous fight to rid ourselves of the Liquor Control Board which, in some shape or form, our opponents will seek to perpetuate. Under the Defence of the Realm Act, 1915, the Board is to continue during the war (which, by the way, is not officially over though the fighting has terminated).

And such period, not exceeding 12 months thereafter as may be declared by Order in Council to be necessary in view of the conditions connected with the termination of the war.

Early in the coming year a campaign to rid ourselves of this "old man of the sea" will have to be seriously considered, for the "Wowsers" are determined to keep clubs enchained and, if possible, kill them. Parliament has yet to decide the exact date when the war legally ends, and then we shall know where we stand with respect to other legislation which affects us. Thus, the "Output of Beer Act" continues "for the present war," and the Intoxicating Liquor (Temporary Restriction) Act, 1914, "for the present war and one month after." This Act, it will be recalled, gave Licensing Justices the power to order the supply and consumption of intoxicating liquor in any registered club to be suspended at a specified hour. Another measure, the "Clubs (Temporary Provisions)

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