

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



July 2019 50p



**ACC's 125th Annual General Meeting
Carlton Club**

Tiverton Constitutional Club Remembers 75th Anniversary of D Day Landings

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Neil Parish, MP for Tiverton & Honiton, and Colin Slade, Mayor of Tiverton, joined members of the Tiverton Constitutional Club, The Riverside Club and the Royal British Legion Club to remember the brave soldiers from Tiverton. This event took place on the 75th anniversary of the D-D landings at the 2011 the Arizona Chapter of the American Veterans Association 6ft tall

granite monument in People Park, Tiverton. The American 4th Infantry had its HQ in Tiverton and units were scattered across the West Country.

As Mayor Colin Slade laid the wreath, he said "we stand by a memorial which that represents all those who were there on D Day be they American, British, Canadian, French and all other Allied & Commonwealth forces."



Left to right: Collin Earls, Neil Parish MP Tiverton & Honiton, Mayor Colin Slade, Colin Horne RBL, Mayoress, back is Peter Chidgy RBL Standard Bearer, Vic Garland, Sharon Saupe Bugler and Rev Andy Mumm.

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Club Cash Handling Best Practice Advice

Till systems & cash security

The types of till in operation range from a simple electronic till, a pre-set style of electronic till, to an EPOS (Electronic Point of Sale) system, which is a computerised till with keypad input. The EPOS systems usually provide extensive management information, which helps control all aspects of the club, including petty cash expenditure. It is important to use the right till system for your club. A good till system should:

- Help to prevent or overcome and deter fraud
- Give the management committee sufficient information to run the club efficiently
- Give the management committee information appropriate for the size and type of the club.

A basic electronic till will record records every transaction, total takings by session, day and week and is simply to operate and use and will safely secure cash. These types of tills are usually inexpensive to purchase.

A pre-set electronic till will additionally identify specific products and can assist in stock control and management. It will also often identify use between different Club employees.

A EPOS till system will have individual log ins for each Club employee and will monitor sales by time and include the following financial reporting options: records cash tendered, monitors product groups and controls stock, aid order production from stock and usage, can be linked to a centralised computer, can be remotely accessed from another site, staff payroll and scheduling, food ordering and kitchen management and records cash expenditure.

Till opening, operation and closing

Till opening, operation and closing procedures will vary in each club depending on the system in place. However, there are general guidelines which staff should follow.

Staff may be responsible for ensuring there is enough cash available in the till for each opening time. The cash in the till at the beginning of a session is known as the 'float'. It is common practice to ensure that staff check that at the beginning of each session there is change in the float, and a small selection of notes. Additionally, Clubs will likely have an identified amount in the till at the beginning of each day, and to require Club employees to check that this amount is in the till.

The till drawers may need to be emptied or rotated throughout the opening hours to keep cash secure, and levels of change will need to be checked periodically to avoid any disruption to service.

Till operating procedures should be in writing to make sure everyone is trained to follow the same procedure and is aware of their responsibilities. In a club, where several people may use the till over the course of a session,

there will be fewer mistakes and bad practice reduced or avoided.

Operating procedures should cover till handover. If staff handover to each other when changing shifts, they need to explain:

- Any known errors in processing payments or using the tills
- Whether any bills are 'open' in order to prevent non-payment by customers. Having standard operating procedures makes it more difficult for mistakes to be made.

Cash control and fraud prevention

There are occasionally fraudulent practices in respect of cash in licensed premises and these are broadly divided into three sections.

- 'Direct theft' of cash leaving a shortage in the till at the end of the session
- 'Over-charging' which enables the till reading and the cash-in-till to match and which isn't discovered by a stocktake
- 'Under-ringing' which enables the till reading and the cash-in-till to match, but which is discovered later as a result of a stocktake

'Direct theft' - taking money out of the till and passing it over the bar to an accomplice.

'Over-charging' - a bar person overcharging the customer and keeping the difference between the cash taken from the customer and the value of the sale that has been rung into the till. For example: the bar person rings-in the correct amount, say, £9.50 and asks the customer for £11.50. If the customer queries the amount the bar person pretends it is just a mistake and takes the correct money. Otherwise this is direct theft of £2.00 from the customer rather than the club. The till will be right at the end of the session and so will the stock.

'Under-ringing' - a bar person registering less money in the till than is actually taken off the customer. For example, a customer orders and pays for four pints of lager but the bar person only rings-in three pints. The value of the under-ring is placed in the tips jar or passed over the bar to an accomplice.

Use of an efficient cash control system will ensure that the Club's Committee and managing employee is quickly aware of any discrepancies between sales, stock and what is in the till. Ensure that all employees correctly ring in all sales and that they are aware of and follow workplace procedure for recording errors, to ensure accurate till readings.

Even the most sophisticated till systems are only as good as the information that is entered. It is, therefore, essential that every member of the Club's team understands the implications of the way they use the till.

Modern tills can identify the member of staff using the till for each transaction, which can help identify the source of any inaccuracy in the

till contents. Alternatively, it may be possible to allocate individuals to separate tills.

How to prevent theft:

Direct theft - this tends to happen in the first half of a long shift where there is a change of staff halfway through, but no till check - the second group of staff get the blame.

Counter-measure: put in a fresh till drawer and float at staff changeover and do a till reading and cash check. Any discrepancies can then be attributed to staff going off duty.

Over-charging & under-ringing - this can happen at any time. It doesn't show-up at the end of the session, but only as a deficit when the stock take is done.

Counter-measure: if you have stock deficits, put in a watcher to observe whether he is being charged correctly. Do regular 'spot checks' and till drawer changes during the course of the session.

Handling cash

General guidelines should be given to staff to ensure that they deal securely with cash. Clubs need to check that staff collect payment according to the guidelines:

- Staff should tell the customer the price they are expected to pay
- Check the amount that the customer tenders
- When putting the cash into the till, take care to put the right denomination of coin/note into the right section in the till drawer in order to avoid giving more, or less change than is needed
- If change is required, make sure the change is counted back to the customer
- Issue a receipt if required

Occasionally a customer may complain about payment, alleging they've been short-changed or overcharged. Each club should determine who has the authority to resolve these situations and the procedure for how they should be dealt with. Usually a senior member of staff deals with payment queries. Whatever choice is made, ensure that all team members are aware of the procedure and who can deal with payment queries.

The Club's Steward must ensure that all staff are aware of security, and of the importance of confidential information remaining confidential from anyone outside the business, including their friends and family. It should not be disclosed when and who does the banking run or information about cash held on the Club's premises.

By involving every member of the team in the financial controls and security of the club, and in regular business performance reviews, the management committee and club steward can ensure greater team ownership of payment control.

Questions and Answers

Q We are trying to set up an online bank account but our bank is saying that we cannot have multiple signatories on the account. Is this correct? Do we need to have multiple signatories on a Club account?

A Many ACC Clubs use online banking without any problems. You may need to speak to other banks if your current bank is not willing to offer you this service.

It is not impossible to have a business account with more than one signatory. You would simply set a limit of what one signatory can approve, if a payment goes over this limit the second signatory would need to log in and approve the transaction.

There are some Clubs which operate online accounts on a one signature basis. If this is what is eventually decided to do by the Committee then it is not an inherent problem but we would recommend that the Committee carefully scrutinises the monthly accounts at every Committee Meeting and that

also a secondary person has access to the accounts to verify that the statements provided are correct.

I think you may want to look at other banks to start with since there is no reason from a technology perspective an account cannot be set up with two online signatures attached.

Q We are looking into supplying alcohol to non-members who visit us for lunch. Our licensing Officer has said we cannot operate this under our current Club Premises Certificate and would need a Premises Licence. They have also said that we cannot supply alcohol to non-members who attend events at the Club. Is this correct?

A Your current licence allows you to serve alcohol to Members and Members' guests. There is no reason that a non-member cannot be served alcohol at a function assuming that they are a guest of a Member. An example

would be a wedding held by a Member with 100 of their guests in attendance who are all non-members. All of these people would be able to lawfully purchase alcohol from the Club's bar.

If you are looking to allow any person to pop into the Club and purchase alcohol without being a Member or a guest of a Member then you would require a new licence called a Premises Licence, this also has the condition of requiring Designated Premises Supervisor to be employed by the Club.

Therefore, whilst you can serve alcohol to non-members at any function or event where they are a guest of a member you cannot serve alcohol to a non-member who just walks into the Club off the street who is not a guest of a Member.

A Premises Licence is the type of licence that a Pub has which means you can serve alcohol to everyone. A typical Club licence (Club Premises Certificate) only permits alcohol to be served to Members, Members' Guest and IA Ticket Holders.

Clubs can consider applying for a Premises Licence although there will be some drawbacks. Namely that Club Gaming Machines cannot be used, a personal licence holder will be required and there is a greater argument for Corporation Tax to be paid on Club surpluses/profits. Your current licence means you do not pay corporation tax on surplus from the Club's revenue which derives from Members.

Equally, if Clubs have strong demand for functions held by Non-Members and these are important sources of revenue for the Club then a Premises Licence may well be a logical idea to explore. Also, if you have a food led offering which would benefit from the addition of drinks sales and walk in business by non-members then this type of sales activities would benefit from a Premises Licence. Equally, if Clubs can get by with the 15 TENs per year for Non-Member events (there can be unlimited Member Events) then there is a less of an argument for a Premises Licence.

Depending on the layout of the Club it may be possible to have both licences in operating, a Club Premises Certificate for the Members' bar area and a Premises Licence for the function hall/area.

There is no right or wrong

answer, only what bets suits the Club but if you have the possibility of strong walk in business from non-members then a Premises Licence is worth considering, even if only used for part of the day – lunchtimes for examples with the Club's Member only policy retained in use at all other times.

Q Our Committee have recently had to invite a member to a disciplinary meeting after some poor behaviour. We are a small club and don't often have to officially deal with such problems, could you let us know how we should conduct a disciplinary procedure?

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

If the Committee are of the opinion that this individual's behaviour has either broken specific club rules/Bye-Laws or could be judged to be prejudicial to the Conservative cause or the interests of the club then they can summon this member to appear before the Committee. The Committee should inform them of the allegations that have been made against when asking them to attend the disciplinary meeting.

The Committee can also instruct this member to withdraw from the facilities of membership until he appears before the disciplinary meeting. It is normal that once the withdrawal takes place that a disciplinary meeting is held within two months and that at least seven days' notice of the meeting must be given to the member, in accordance with the club's rules. If this is how the Committee wishes to proceed you should write to the member and inform them that due to their conduct he has been requested to appear in front of the Committee. You should also include the precise details of the complaint and alleged conduct which has forced the Committee to summon the member to them.

You should then hold the disciplinary meeting and, after reviewing any points this member has to make in their defence, the Committee should decide if their

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

conduct requires a suspension of membership up to one year in length, permanent expulsion from the club or no action taken against them.

If you decide to withdraw the facilities of membership from the member until the Committee has heard the disciplinary meeting then this means that they will be unable to enter the club until the disciplinary meeting has been heard.

QA neighbouring ACC Club has recently entered into a sale and leaseback arrangement with the ACC and are very pleased with the outcome. Is this a service which is offered to all ACC Clubs?

AI can confirm that the ACC operates a sale and leaseback service which has proved popular with over 100 Clubs. We accept that whilst there are some Clubs that would benefit greatly from the scheme, in other cases it would not be the correct solution for a Club's particular situation. In most cases Clubs require assistance by way of a low interest loan from the ACC and such straight forward help will be more appropriate than a sale and leaseback. All ACC Clubs are, however, welcome to approach us regarding the sale and leaseback service.

Any Club wishing to know more information about the sale and leaseback service can email Philipsmith@toryclubs.co.uk or phone 0207 222 0843.

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Chairman's Report on the Work of the Association During 2018

The Chairman said it was a pleasure to report on the work of the Association of Conservative Clubs for the past year in his fourth year as your Chairman.

The Chairman said that each year his speech follows a financial report and this year, yet again, it showed that the ACC has strengthened its financial position and is investing in the continuation of Conservative, Constitutional and Unionist Clubs. The ACC has not returned a deficit since 1994, its centenary year.

The Chairman said that he had been advised by Philip that the ACC's first AGM was held in May 1895 at the Westminster Palace Hotel and a report was made on first ACC Athletics meeting which was 'successful' but which could have been better. In particular it was noted that no Club had entered the swimming competition and following a discussion it was agreed that 'such kind of sport was not present in the Conservative mind'! The following year this event was therefore held at Stamford Bridge. Apparently, it was also agreed that the meeting did not wish to discuss 'strict political matters' as the object of those early years was to develop the social side of club life.

In addressing the ACC's President, the Chairman said that the ACC and its member Clubs know a thing or two about membership recruitment and membership retention with some 325,000 members in communities across the UK. And whilst Conservative Clubs are a powerful political force, it is known that the best way to encourage a 'conservative minded' person to become more involved is to make them welcome and then to simply ask them to become more involved - but that ACC Clubs learned a long time ago never to offer anyone 'swimming'. The Chairman expressed his sincere wish to see more club members becoming members of the Party and for more party members to join our clubs.

The Chairman reported that over 100 Constituency Associations have their offices in Conservative Clubs, including his own Constituency Office in the Biggleswade Conservative Club, and that he continues to see this a positive way in which to bring different sides of the Conservative family together.



ACC President Rt. Hon Brandon Lewis MP alongside ACC Chairman Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP.

He went on to say that none of this can be achieved unless our Clubs are themselves in a strong and healthy position and the ACC is making sure that Clubs are receiving the best advice and support. The work carried out last year and which continues today provides the stability and confidence for Clubs to thrive. The Chairman mentioned that last year he reported on the Devizes & District Conservative Club, in Wiltshire. In 2017 it had undertaken a fairly modest refurbishment at the start of 2017 and following this, under the leadership of their President, Jerry Willmott, the Club and its members became more engaged with community activities. Last year it was announced that the Club recruited 179 new members in one year and the Chairman was pleased to report at the AGM that since the Club's AGM in 2018 it has recruited a further 181 new members. The Chairman offered his congratulations to Jerry who was present at ACC's AGM.

The Chairman mentioned that Devizes is only one of several Clubs with positive stories to tell and that these were often covered by the ACC's monthly magazine which also publicised the great charity work that ACC Clubs undertake as a matter of routine.

The Chairman wished to thank all the ACC's Officers and Council Members for spending so much time organising and attending meetings and Club events. He draw particular attention to Ray

Johnson, former Chairman of the Western Area Conservative Clubs who stood down from the Council after completing many years of dedicated service and mentioned that Ray will continue to serve the Western Area as the Vice Chairman. He also mentioned Noel Manns, former Chairman of the National Conservative Property Advisory Committee, who has stepped down from the ACC Council having served for many years.

The Chairman mentioned the Weekend Conferences and social occasions which are held by the North West, Wales, Yorkshire, Northern and Western Areas and

are important occasions within the ACC Calendar and are enjoyed by an increasing number of Club representatives. Particular congratulations were made to the North West Area which held their 50th Weekend conference in February.

The Chairman thanked all the ACC's national suppliers and recommended companies; Dransfields for the excellent service which they provide to their many ACC customers, our insurance providers, 'Club Insure' whose continued professional approach to ACC Clubs is much appreciated. The Chairman also reflected on the sad death of Dave Harris of Harris Brothers, the ACC's recommended refurbishment contractor. Following Dave's passing, his widow made the decision to wind-up the company but two long serving former employees, Mike Godfrey and Kelly Woodward have started a new venture which the ACC has been pleased to endorse.

Finally he thanked all the ACC staff for their continued loyalty and commitment to the Association of Conservative Clubs.

The Chairman concluded by addressing the delegates saying that as a group of Clubs we have achieved much in recent years and that he continues to be proud that we are part of the Conservative family, in both good times and times which are more challenging. He said it is a privilege to serve as the ACC's Chairman that he was looking forward to the year ahead.



Kelly Woodward from K and M Club Refurbishments.

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 Seaside Town Regeneration Select Committee which had delivered its report to Parliament in April and that he had just been appointed to a new Select Committee looking at the social and economic effects of the Gambling Industry.

He commented that Philip continued to act as Chairman of Best Bar None, a scheme supported by the Home Office and the drinks industry, aimed primarily at promoting responsible alcohol consumption and higher professional licensing standards and last year was again the guest speaker at the Institute of Licensing's Annual Conference. These voluntary roles reflected the fact that the Chief Executive was widely recognised as a leading expert in the licensing industry.

The Chairman went on to mention that Philip also undertook many roles within the Conservative Party. He continued to be a Party Treasurer, Chairman of the National Conservative Draws Society and a Trustee of the Party's Archive but had stood down from the Party's Audit and Finance Board, as one of the Party's Pension Trustees and as a Trustee of the Agents' benevolent Fund due to pressures of time.

The Chief Executive spoke of his memory of the ACC's centenary year in 1994 and the AGM held in Blackpool. In that year, the ACC's financial position was precarious but in the following year, under the late Ken Hargreaves, a small surplus was recorded and three years later when Ken retired, we had celebrated the fact that we had made a surplus of £20,000 for the year and the total net assets stood at just under £400,000.

The Chief Executive said that he hoped the meeting would understand why he was so pleased that Alan Boniface had just reported a total net asset value of over £30 million. An achievement which everyone involved with the ACC could be proud.

The Chief Executive was delighted that the ACC continued to provide so many clubs with financial assistance. With £6 million currently on loan to clubs there were many positive stories to be heard of how the ACC had been able to give some club



Lord Smith of Hinehead.

committee's breathing space in order to change the direction of membership usage and sales; to review expenditure and staffing and to get back to a profitable trading position. He mentioned that whilst the ACC could help, it could not do everything and without a dedicated core of officers and staff and without members making the choice to either support their club or not, any club's future would be uncertain.

The Chief Executive referred to the sale and leaseback arrangement for clubs which continued to be a popular option for releasing assets tied up in property to either invest in the facilities being offered to members, repay historic debt or to provide significant working capital. With a further seventeen clubs having adopted this scheme last year alone, the meeting would appreciate that this was an area which had further potential for growth.

At the previous AGM, a discussion on the way in which clubs operated in an autonomous way when purchasing brewery products had taken place. Following the meeting, the ACC had announced a special deal with Mathew Clark, the UK's leading drinks wholesaler, which supplies some 23,000 pubs, bars and restaurants, as the recommended ACC drinks supplier. This deal included club accounts continuing to be processed individually but for any debts that might arise through trading being underwritten by the ACC.

The deal also offered the removal of existing brewery loans from clubs that wished to join the scheme, at preferential rates. Each club would receive £1,000 worth of free stock and importantly any club joining the scheme to benefit from one-third of their Sky Sports subscription being paid by the ACC.

The Chief Executive acknowledged at the previous meeting that this would not be easy to achieve since he appreciated how much clubs jealously guarded their independence and in fairness, the take up of this scheme had not been as successful as he would have hoped. However, undeterred, the ACC would continue to promote the benefits of group purchasing.

The Chief Executive reminded the meeting how much the drinks industry had changed in recent years. 70% of alcohol today was now consumed at home; as a nation we were drinking 14% less alcohol than we were 10 years ago, young people were less likely to drink alcohol than at any other recorded time (almost a third of under 25s abstained from alcohol) and 40% of all alcohol purchased was purchased by only 10% of the adult population. Almost 1,000 pubs closed in 2018. About 76 pubs vanished each month from the communities they serve. Between 2010 and 2017, the number of pubs slumped from more than 54,000 to 42,000.

The Chief Executive was sad to report that the ACC saw ten clubs close during 2018. Like the rest of the hospitality industry, the ACC was not immune from changing social habits. Therefore, all Conservative, Constitutional and Unionist Clubs had to continue to do what they did best, providing safe, comfortable, attractive venues, which were friendly and welcoming to people who had the same outlook on life and who shared the same values.

The Chief Executive made reference to the copyright collection service Phonographic

Performance Ltd (PPL) which had released details of its new specially featured entertainment tariff which would apply to clubs, bars, cafes, restaurants and hotels. It was estimated that the increase in cost to the hospitality sector would be in the region of £49 million. The Chief Executive said this was an unwelcome additional cost for venues which often struggled to pay their business rates, and when the DCMS had asked the music industry to step in and support venues where music is played.

He went on to point out that the Hospitality Industry was the third largest private sector employer. Three million jobs were directly supported through Hospitality UK. That was 9% of all UK employees. In fact, 1 in 3 of all new jobs created last year was created by the eating and drinking industry. Additional forms of taxation such as the PPL proposed increase were unhelpful to say the least.

The Chief Executive hoped that his report demonstrated that much could be achieved in the future and he thanked the excellent and loyal team at the ACC; Charles Littlewood, Lesley DiPopolo, Daniel Todd and Sarah Fletcher. Josephine Willoughby the ACC's Solicitor, and Katy Dee the ACC's Accountant for all that they did throughout the year.

He also thanked the ACC Council for their support and all ACC clubs for everything which they did in order to maintain the high standards and reputation of private members' social clubs, which play such a vital part to so many communities throughout Great Britain.



Presidential Address

The Chairman introduced The Rt. Hon Brandon Lewis MP, Conservative Party Chairman, and spoke of his professional business background and political career.

The President spoke of his own club in Gorleston and the important social side of political engagement that ACC Clubs played an important role in their communities reaching out to those people who were perhaps not as politically engaged as most party members.

He touched on the upcoming party leadership election and said

that he wanted club members to be engaged as much as possible with that process. The President recognised the need to encourage more club members to become party members and measures were in place to announce a special membership subscription discount to be available to club members.

The President concluded his address by again thanking the Association of Conservative Clubs for its continued loyalty and support.



Vote Of Thanks to the Hon President and Chairman

A vote of thanks to the ACC Officers was proposed by Cllr John Hudson OBE, Chairman of the North West Area Conservative Clubs. Cllr Hudson paid tribute

to both the Hon President and the Chairman in his trademark entertaining and common sense style. The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.



Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December, 2018

In the absence of Philip Davies, the Chairman called upon Mr Alan Boniface, Chairman of the Greater London Conservative Clubs Region to propose that the Statement of Accounts was received.

Mr Boniface had the pleasure in reporting that the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2018 showed a surplus of just under £1.8 million, which was another strong result for the ACC. This result allows the ACC to continue its work in supporting Clubs.

In addition to this figure, Mr Boniface drew the delegates attention to the fact that the amount of loans to ACC Member Clubs from Development Fund 'A' and from the ACC accounts during 2018 stood at £6 million – a slight increase on the total loan figure for 2017.

The ACC Club Development Fund 'A' also showed a small deficit for the year of £1,800. The 'B' Fund showed a deficit but Mr Boniface reminded the meeting that the Development 'B' Fund is used to cover legal expenses involved with Trusteeships and is therefore expected to be loss making.

Income from the sale of IA Tickets decreased, following a continual trend of falling sales, by some £5,500 from the previous year. This decline was expected and a prediction of the estimated decrease was anticipated by the ACC Council.

Commission income showed a slightly higher receipt of £63,000 compared with 2017.

The accounts also show a deficit on the magazine of some £5,600 but this is expected to be reversed in the current year due to increased income from advertising. The Magazine remains an important communication link between Clubs and the ACC and is a widely read publication.

The Accounts also show rental income from the sale and leaseback of Club properties. The amount of rent recorded for 2018 is in excess of £1.25 million compared with £1million in the previous year and £708,084 for the year prior to that, a significant increase.

Mr Boniface reported that the ACC purchased seventeen new Clubs during the year and six Clubs were sold. The ACC's Deposit Fund which pays Clubs 2.5% gross interest per annum increased to £14million.

Total expenditure showed an increase of £125,000 from the comparison with 2017 and this increase, due mainly to the increase in interest payable on Club Deposits and 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 £1,792,977 to £30,945,762.

Mr Boniface concluded by saying that the fact that the ACC's total net assets are in such a strong position speaks well for the work carried out by the ACC and that it was true to say that it has only been possible to achieve such a result due to the support and the loyalty of the ACC's Member Clubs.

Mr Boniface also thanked the ACC Accounts Manager, Lesley Dipopolo and our Accountant and Auditor Katy Dee of Begbies Chartered Accountants. In concluding his speech, Mr Boniface said that it is clear from the Accounts, that the ACC is in a healthy financial state, and it gives him great pleasure to propose that the Accounts, as set out, be received by this Annual General Meeting. The proposal to receive the Accounts was seconded and carried unanimously.



The Resolution to the Prime Minister Rt Hon Theresa May MP

“That this Annual General Meeting of The Association of Conservative Clubs recognises the hard work and efforts made by the Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party, in addressing the unprecedented challenges of Brexit”.

In an understanding and thoughtful address, the Chairman set out the many reasons for both thanking the Prime Minister for her dedicated work and for continuing to give the Conservative Party both loyalty and support.

The Resolution was carried by acclamation.



ACC COUNCIL 2019/20

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Hon. President: | To be confirmed |
| Chairman: | The Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP |
| Vice-Chairmen: | To be confirmed |
| Treasurer: | Philip Davies MP |
| Additional Members: | Thomas Leeming |
| London: | Alan Boniface |
| Northern: | Bill Newall |
| North Western: | John Hudson OBE Geoffrey Knowles OBE Jeff Simpson Charles White |
| South Eastern: | Chris Smith |
| Yorkshire: | Eddie Ward |
| East Midlands: | To be confirmed |
| West Midlands: | Mike Robinson |
| Eastern: | Derek Rain |
| Wessex: | Jim Gauld |
| Western: | Brian Tottle |
| Wales: | David Thomas |
| Solicitor: | Josephine Willoughby |
| Auditor/Accountant: | Katy Dee |

Clubs Development Fund Committee

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| The Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP | Mr. E. Ward |
| Philip Davies MP | Mr. W. Newall |
| ClI. J. Hudson OBE | Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE |
| | Mr A. Boniface |



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Annual General Meeting Report



Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past feature we go back to May 1985 which chronicled the ACC's first Annual General Meeting. As the ACC's Chairman mentioned in his 2019 ACC AGM speech, our first AGM was held at Westminster Palace Hotel which was 'successful' but which could have been better. It was noted that no Club had entered the swimming competition and following a discussion it was agreed that

'such kind of sport was not present in the Conservative mind'! The following year this event was therefore held at Stamford Bridge. Apparently, it was also agreed that the meeting did not wish to discuss 'strict political matters' as the object of those early years was to develop the social side of club life. Magazine readers will be pleased to know that swimming remains off the agenda for our planned 2020 AGM. 2021 though....



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Out of the 265 Clubs which were asked to fill in the annual returns for 1894 only 189 did so. This is not very satisfactory and can only be accounted for by the supposition that the Secretaries who refused to give the information did not quite comprehend the reason for being so asked. The object of these returns is to enable the Governing Body to be in possession of all the facts and figures relating to its Clubs. When tabulated and analysed they will form most valuable material for the guidance of those who seek to start new Clubs.

The information sought is, it perhaps hardly need be stated, for the use of the Governing Body alone and is kept absolutely private. It is hoped therefore that when the information is again asked for the response will be general and that all the Clubs will assist the Association in this important matter of statistics.

It has been suggested that with the idea of encouraging and arresting the interest of Club Members in political questions, a separate Political Notice Board should be placed in some prominent place in every Club. On this would be posted the most important of the current leaflets issued by the Conservative Central Office and the National Union of Conservative Associations. These can be supplied through the Association. Committees desiring to carry out this idea are invited to communicate with the Secretary.

THE Monthly List of Affiliated and Inter-affiliated Clubs for May is now ready and can be obtained through Club Secretaries. No further Lists of Clubs in poster form will be issued, as the number of such Clubs is so great that they would need to be of impossible dimensions.

THE Secretary will be much obliged if Club Secretaries, Entertainment Secretaries and others would send him any forms, lists of fixtures, rules of their subsidiary Clubs, Slate Clubs, etc., for reference and comparison.

First Annual Meeting.

THE First Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 24th, at the Westminster Palace Hotel. Mr. R. W. E. Middleton took the chair at 8 p.m., and was supported by Mr. Braunstein (St. Stephen's), Lt. Col. Colville (Constitutional), Mr. Charles Fox (Jnr. Constitutional), Mr. Herbert Praed (Carlton), Mr. Arnold Statham (St. Stephen's), members of the Governing Body. There was a large attendance of delegates, including representatives from Glamorgan-shire, Pembroke-shire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Gloucestershire and Cornwall. Letters of apology and regret at inability to attend were read from the Earl of Limerick, Mr. Guy Pym, Mr. Lionel Alexander, Mr. Martin Tilby, members of the Governing Body, and from the Secretaries of the following Clubs:—Sidmouth Constitutional, Oxton Conservative (Cheshire), Wavertree Conservative, Sowerby Conservative, Roath (Cardiff), Bromley Conservative, Cheltenham, Crewe Conservative, Thorverton and Cadbury

(Devon), Sheffield (Park Conservative), Corsham Conservative, Nevin, Gosport and Alverstoke; Ashborne (Derby), Healy (Lancs.), Hanley Conservative (Staffs), Read and Simonstone (Blackburn).

The Report, which had been placed in the hands of the delegates, was, on the resolution of the Meeting, taken as read. It pointed out the objects of the Association and the means by which, through its agency, the principal West End Clubs sought to accomplish them. The Most Hon. The Marquis of Salisbury had readily acceded to the wish of the Association to act as its President. Reference was made to the inaugural Meeting in April of last year and to the valuable suggestions advanced, especially to that of Inter-affiliation, which had been so warmly advocated. The Governing Body had arranged a scheme which seemed to meet the hearty approval of all the Clubs, 2,000 inter-affiliation tickets being, at this early stage of the work, in circulation. At the end of 1894 265 Clubs, representing a total Membership of 69,932, had joined the Association (the numbers at the date of Meeting being referred to in a footnote as standing at 358 and 92,999 respectively). Note was further made of the work of the Association in assisting new Clubs, those of Upton, Hoxton, Manor Park, Westminster, and Knightsbridge having availed themselves of the services placed at their disposal. The questions of the Distribution of Literature, the supply of Lecturers and Speakers and the work of the Publication Department, as well as the details of the first Athletic Sports meeting were also touched on. A valuable appendix, which will serve as a guide to those proposing to start new Clubs, is one of the features of the Report. This gives details of subscriptions, entrance fees, libraries, etc. From the returns given by 112 Clubs, it appears that the average amount of excisable liquors consumed by each member is, in the Provinces, £1 18. 2d. per annum, and in the Metropolitan District £1 14s. 8d. This should be a useful guidance to those starting new clubs as to the probable amount of receipts from the Refreshment department.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Report, said they did not want to discuss strict political matters, as the object of the Association was to develop the social side of club life rather than the political. So numerous had become the members that they could, if they wished, organise a very imposing demonstration in Hyde Park. In the Kingdom there were 1,500 Clubs, with a membership of about 375,000, and as the Secretary had set his heart to gather these all into the fold, there was plenty of scope for work to get these affiliated to the main body. He pointed out the reason that the first Athletic sports meeting, though successful, had not come up to the standard which they hoped to arrive at at the next Meeting to be held at Stamford Bridge on July 20th. As far as swimming was concerned no club had applied, so that such kind of exercise or sport was not present in the Conservative mind. There would be Billiard and other Tournaments, Lectures, Saturday Afternoon Visits to various places of interest, and he trusted that the future would fully justify the existence of the Association. The proposition was seconded by Major Woods (of the Chelsea Conservative Club), and unanimously adopted.

After a brief interval discussion ensued and various suggestions were made and points raised.

One Delegate from Bermondsey suggested that the Association should make arrangements for securing grounds available for Affiliated Clubs in the Metropolis, as many Clubs had found the greatest possible difficulty in hiring suitable places for their matches. He thought the Association might obtain grounds and organise a plan. This suggestion was heartily approved.

The Sheerness Delegate enquired if his Club could go on with its local system of Inter-affiliation or Associateship, simultaneously with the scheme adopted by the Association. The Chairman stated that although the Association could not and would not try to prevent any club participating in a local scheme it would rather discourage such, and urge the hearty adoption of the larger scheme, which was for the benefit of all the Clubs, an advantage to which no local one could lay claim.

A Wimbledon Delegate urged the necessity of ascertaining the names of Club Members willing to help at elections.

The Victoria Park Club representative advised that articles relating to Club management and questions relating to Clubs should appear in the MONTHLY CIRCULAR, as well as reports of Club proceedings, and that the inclusion of Advertisements would be a valuable source of revenue.

With a view to interesting the fair sex in Clubs and Politics, the Loughborough Delegate suggested an Annual Association Garden Party, which he prophesied would be a great success. He cordially approved of the facilities offered by the Association for supplying Clubs with Lecturers.



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