

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



December 2023 75p



Happy Christmas To All Our Readers



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Message From The Chief Executive

As the year is drawing to a close, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the past twelve months, which has been a challenging time for the hospitality trade. The first truly post pandemic year and the status quo is edging back to normal. Those clubs which were struggling in 2019 are once again struggling in 2023, without the placebo of forced closure and covid grants masking the fact that difficult decisions can no longer be put off.

But those clubs which have the 'concept' right are doing well. We provide an update on Freshwater Conservative Club in this issue and one of the changes they have made is the creation of a children's play area – a reflection of the declining business model of purely wet led establishments, and an acknowledgement that there are other ways to generate profit and spur membership applications.

What is clear is that for many clubs the status quo is no longer viable. Tailoring business practices

and decisions towards a minority, albeit vocal subset of members, who are resistant to change is not going to create profitability or attract new members. The ACC therefore gently suggested to a club recently that in order to increase revenue, their very large snooker room be converted into a very large function room for private events. Even though this club was loss making, such an idea was a non-starter since it would 'upset the snooker players'. The irony is that if the club remains loss making, then the snooker facilities, along with the entire Club, will soon be gone for everyone.

Sleepwalking into unforced closure due to an inability to make difficult decisions is not effective management. 2023 has been difficult for many clubs, but the definition of madness is doing the same thing again and expecting a different result. I hope we can all take lessons from 2023 which will inform decisions that may need to be made in 2024.

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Holiday Pay Update

In recent legislation the Government has confirmed holiday payment calculation methods for casual and irregular workers.

For workers where calculating holiday may be more difficult than for permanent workers on set hours, the Government has confirmed the 12.07% calculation should be used.

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

The 12.07 per cent figure is 5.6 weeks' holiday, divided by 46.4 weeks (being 52 weeks – 5.6 weeks). The 5.6 weeks are excluded from the calculation as the worker would not be at work during those 5.6 weeks in order to accrue annual leave.

So 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). Clubs can simply adapt this to include how many hours the employee has worked and you can calculate how much time they are due off.

Rolled-up holiday pay

Rolled-up holiday pay involves paying an employee an additional sum on top of their normal hourly rate to cover holiday pay. This practice had been deemed unlawful by the courts in most circumstances, due to the risk of disincentivising workers from taking holiday and therefore undermining the health and safety

considerations that underpin the European leave entitlement. However, the government noted that rolled-up holiday is, in reality, still widely used by businesses as a simpler way to calculate holiday pay for workers on irregular hours or zero-hours contracts and has decided that the ability to do so should be written into law.

Whilst the government acknowledged the health and safety concerns, it considered on balance that there were existing “proportionate” safeguards in place, for example, in the duty on employers to provide an opportunity for workers to take leave and in the 48-hour limit on average weekly working time.

The Regulations, therefore, allow employers the choice to pay rolled-up holiday pay, but only to irregular hours workers and part-year workers; it is not an option available to all workers. Workers will not be able to insist an employer provides the rolled-up payment, the decision will rest with the employer. As with the 12.07% accrual method noted above, the ability to pay rolled-up holiday pay will apply to holiday years commencing on or after 1 April 2024.

To be compliant, the Regulations require employers to pay holiday pay at a rate of 12.07% of the workers earnings in the relevant pay period for the full holiday entitlement and do not distinguish between EU leave and Additional leave periods. As a result, it may

mean that more holiday pay is payable than under the ‘standard’ regime. The rolled-up holiday pay must also be paid at the same pay intervals and clearly marked on the worker’s payslips.

Again, this is likely to be a welcome step for employers and indeed workers, who prefer the simplicity of this approach, and

employers will no longer need to worry about the possibility of their practice being challenged as unlawful. However, employers will remain responsible for the health and safety of their workers and will need to ensure that this practice does not result in employees working excessive hours and not taking their holiday entitlement.

Confidentiality of Committee Meetings

The confidentiality of committee meetings is paramount to the effective management of a club. Discussion in committee should remain confidential between committee members.

The Minutes of committee meetings should merely record the motions and amendments and decisions which are agreed and, again, remain confidential. This does not mean that there are never circumstances in which the membership ought to be informed of what takes place during committee meetings.

In all clubs there are issues which are of immediate concern to all the membership. The committee may have discussed some matter referred to it by a general meeting for consideration. In such cases, the Secretary should arrange for a suitable notice to be posted on the club notice board.

The general membership does not have a right to inspect the committee’s Minutes.

However, a club’s auditors will have a right to inspect the committee’s Minutes in order to confirm that certain transactions have been authorised.

In addition, clubs registered under the Friendly Societies Act are obliged to permit members to examine all books, including all Minute books, at any reasonable time. This is a good reason why the Minutes should read like a telegram and not like a social history.

There are, however, few clubs registered as Friendly Societies. Such clubs are different from those registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act.

No member of the committee is entitled to inform anyone of the proceedings and deliberations of the committee. If a club is to

be served well, then it is essential that the committee should be free to conduct their affairs in a frank and open way. Surely, few people would serve on committees if they knew that their views were repeated outside the confines of the committee room and, as is so often the case, misinterpreted by being taken out of context and made to appear contrary to the original intentions.

Committees are therefore entitled to insist on the confidentiality of their proceedings and the right of quasi privilege in the conduct of the affairs of the club while, at the same time, keeping the members informed of matters that affect them generally, but not in respect to individual members.

Proceedings in committee are not privileged, but qualified privilege may apply where the person who makes the communication has an interest or duty, legal or moral or social, to make it to a person, or persons, having a corresponding interest or duty to receive such a communication. On the whole, the spirit of this principle has been upheld by the courts. It appears that the courts will not usually intervene in respect of domestic decisions, and cannot demand explanations. If reasons are given, however, the courts reserve the right to consider their sufficiency. It may be said that normally decisions of a committee made in accordance with the rules, and made fairly, cannot be overturned.

In conclusion, therefore, what is said in committee should not be repeated outside the confines of a committee meeting, and committee Minutes should remain confidential.

What is an Inter Affiliation Ticket?

The ACC’s Inter Affiliation Ticket (IA Ticket) allows any ACC Club Member to visit any other ACC Club throughout the whole of the UK and use their facilities. A person holding an IA Ticket can also bring guests with them to the ACC Club which they are visiting.

IA Tickets can be purchased from the ACC for £2 per ticket. Clubs typically sell these onto their Members at the cost price of £2 although a small mark-up is also permitted. Some Clubs choose to automatically provide Members with an IA Ticket upon payment of their Membership subscription.

IA Tickets are valid for one calendar year and Club employees should be trained to be aware of the IA Ticket Scheme. IA Tickets can be purchased from the ACC in the usual way.

2024 IA Tickets are now available for ordering.

Lotteries

A Lottery is defined as a scheme for distributing prizes by lot or chance. All raffles, draws, sweepstakes, totes, or other lotteries by any other name, are declared illegal with the exception of Small Lotteries (incidental to exempt entertainments), Private Society Lotteries, Small

Society Lotteries and the National Lottery.

Small Lotteries such as raffles, tombolas:

To promote such lotteries the following conditions must be observed—

- The entertainments concerned are bazaars, sales of work, fetes, dinners, dances, sporting or athletic events and other entertainments of a similar character
- The whole proceeds of the entertainment (including the proceeds of the lottery) shall be devoted to purposes other than private gain, however, the following may be deducted—
 - The expenses of the entertainment, excluding expenses incurred in connection with the lottery
 - The expenses incurred in printing tickets in the lottery
 - A sum not exceeding £250 that the promoters of the lottery think fit to spend in purchasing prizes in the lottery
- None of the prizes in the lottery shall be money prizes
- Tickets or chances in the lottery shall not be sold or issued, nor shall the result of the lottery be declared, except on the premises on which the entertainment takes place and during the progress of the entertainment
- The facilities afforded for participating in lotteries shall not be the only inducement to persons to attend the entertainment

Private Society Lotteries – Usually lotteries which cash prizes

To promote such lotteries the following conditions must be observed—

- The sale of tickets or chances must be confined to members of one society established and conducted for purposes not connected with gaming, betting or lotteries
- The expression ‘society’ includes a club, institution, organisation or other association of persons by whatever name called and each society is regarded as separate and distinct; thus two or more clubs cannot combine to hold a joint lottery, which would preclude a federation of clubs from running such a lottery
- The word ‘ticket’ includes any document issued which entitles the holder to participate in the lottery
- The lottery must be promoted for the club, and the sale of tickets or chances must be confined solely to its members, and to any other persons on the club’s premises i.e. members’ guests, visitors admitted in accordance with the approved rules, and affiliation ticket holders
- The lottery must be authorised in writing by the club committee, and duly recorded in the Minute book
- The committee must appoint the Secretary or a member of the club to act as ‘promoter’
- After deducting only expenses for printing and stationary, the whole of the proceeds must be devoted to either the provision of prizes or to the purposes of the club, or both
- The only notice or advertisement of the lottery is permitted—
 - On the club premises
 - On the face of the tickets
- The price of every ticket or chance must be the same and if tickets are used the price must be stated on the ticket
- It is illegal to allot free tickets to sellers or to purchasers of complete books of tickets
- The full price of the ticket must be paid on purchase, and no money is returnable to the purchaser
- No ticket in the lottery may be sent through the post
- Prizes in the lottery may be in cash or kind
- ‘Printing’ includes writing or other modes of reproducing words in visible form; thus a rubber stamp could be utilised to stamp on the tickets the particulars required by the Act
- Each ticket must have printed on it—
 - The name and address of the promoter
 - To whom it may be sold i.e. members of the club only
 - A statement that no prize will be paid or delivered except to the purchaser of winning tickets

Sales of Drink to Non-Members

The subject of non-member activities within Registered Private Members’ Clubs is one which has become increasingly important, since almost all clubs now rely to a greater or lesser extent, on income generated from the sales of drink at private functions promoted by either individual members or outside organisations.

The most interesting change introduced by the 2003 Act is that members’ guests introduced on a normal day-to-day basis will be permitted to purchase drinks. Whilst in ‘the real world’ such a practice has been accepted in many clubs, strictly speaking the previous rules of almost all clubs prevented such sales.

Consequently, drink may be supplied lawfully to a non-member attending any event promoted by a member, provided the non-member is a bona fide guest of the member and has been properly admitted to the club in accordance with the club’s rules. Any member wishing to hold a private function or party in their club will be able to do so and the number of functions is not restricted in number. Naturally, if a person who is not a member approaches a club with a request to hire a room in order to hold a private function, then the club could legitimately ask if the person would like to become a

member. Provided such persons met the membership requirements of the club’s rules, their election to membership would automatically make the event a members’ private function at which his or her guests could be lawfully supplied with drink.

The rules of almost every club put no restriction on the number of guests a member may introduce at any one time but do, rightly, restrict the number of occasions the same guest may be introduced in any one month.

The Act contains no reference to the way in which clubs should manage the introduction of guests and no reference to the number of members’ functions or parties which could be held. Such functions would, of course, have to be booked and the committee would retain ultimate discretion on whether to agree to a booking, or not.

Therefore, do not accept any criticism or suggested rule amendments concerning this matter from either Licensing Authorities or Police Licensing Officers, and refer any such matters to your affiliated organisation. I have seen some examples of ridiculous suggested rule amendments being passed off as ‘legal requirements’ by Licensing Authority Officials; all these suggestions have been withdrawn on being challenged.

Fit Notes New Guidance

The Department for Work and Pensions updated its guidance for employers and line managers on ‘getting the most out of the fit note’ on 6 October 2023. With long-term sickness at an all-time high, finding ways to help employees stay or return to work is critical.

The Government therefore updated its guidance “Getting the most out of the fit note: guidance for employers and line managers”.

A checklist has been provided detailing key points to note in discussions with employees following them being issued with a fit note.

That checklist includes:

- Check if your employee ‘may be fit for work’, discuss their fit note with them and see if you can agree any changes, including workplace modifications or reasonable adjustment to support them to stay in, or return to, work.
- You can make referrals to support your employee to stay in, or return to, work.
- The fit note should cover the duration that the employee is likely to require adaptation or unable to work. A review date may be set by the healthcare professional. Check how long your employee’s fit note applies for.
- Maintain regular contact with your employee throughout the period and get a sense of if/when the employee feels ready to review any workplace modifications or return to work. ACAS provides advice on keeping in touch during absence.
- The name of the issuer, the profession and the address of the medical practice should be completed to make it a valid form. If you receive an old template, then the fit note must be signed in ink by the healthcare professional.

FCA Annual Return Reminder

The FCA is becoming stricter with Clubs which have fallen behind on their Annual Returns. Several ACC Clubs have already been cancelled by the FCA and this is a real and serious problem when it occurs.

Clubs registered with the Financial Conduct Authority under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act, the Friendly Societies Acts or the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act must submit an Annual

Return to the Financial Conduct Authority no later than the date required under the terms of the Club's particular Rules. Failure to comply may result in prosecution. Such Clubs must also ensure the annual fee is paid, the amount of which depends upon the Club's assets.

Unincorporated Members' Clubs (those which have trustees) are not required to submit annual returns or to file Accounts with any outside body.

Ticket Only Events

We can confirm that it is in order for an event to be promoted at the club, the admission to which is by ticket only. A member of a club does not have an automatic legal right of entry to their club and there can therefore be occasions where Club Members do not have access to either all or part of the Club's building. Consequently, if a ticket only event is organised and promoted then members who do not wish to purchase a ticket may not enter a club at such an occasion. A typical example would be New

Year's Eve which is often ticket only or when there are live bands or entertainment being provided by the Club. By selling tickets for such an event the committee will at least be able to manage the number of staff required and levels of entertainment and refreshments required etc., which otherwise they may not be able to do on what can be either a very busy or a very quiet night. Ticket Only Events can also assist in covering the cost of putting on entertainment and specific event nights.

Questions and Answers

Q The Committee has been informed that wine has to be sold in 125ml quantities, in addition to the commonly sold 187ml and 250ml quantities. I assume that this relates to sales by the glass as some wines are only sold by the bottle.

A As long as the Club chooses to purely sell wine in pre-sealed bottles then you will not have to make the wine available in different measures.

The Club must ensure that the following drinks are available in the following measures, in addition to any measures already in use:

- beer or cider - half pint
 - gin, rum, vodka or whisky - 25ml or 35ml
 - still wine in a glass - 125ml
- As well as making the drinks available in the above measures, the Club must also make customers aware of the availability of these measures – for example, by making their availability clear on menus and price lists, and ensuring that these are displayed in a prominent place in the relevant premises (e.g. at the bar).

However, the above condition does not apply if the drinks in question are sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container. For example, if beer is only available in pre-sealed bottles the condition to make it available in ½ pints does not apply.

Should at any point in the future the Club wishes to make some of wines available by the glass then these would have to be provided in the above measure in addition to the customary measures of 175ml

and 250ml. This requirement would only apply to the specific wines sold by the glass, the Club can continue to sell certain wines by the bottle only.

Q We have recently started running a 'Member on the Spot' competition every Wednesday. At some point during the evening a number is drawn which correlates to a Member's membership number. If the Member is in the Club at the time then they win the prize pot. If the Member is not in the Club at the time then the prize pot rolls over to the next week and £10 is added. It is currently around £250. A 'winning' Member who was not in the Club at the time has told us that this game is unlawful. We do not charge the Members for this game and the only requirement for winning is to be in the Club at the time their number is drawn. We find this is a good way to get Members into the Club on an otherwise quiet evening. Are we acting unlawfully?

A This is a completely lawful and appropriate game and one which many Clubs use to increase Membership attendance on quiet evenings. I suggest you just make sure that the rules of the game are clear (that the draw will be conducted at some point on Wednesday evening and that to win the prize the selected Member must be in the Club at the time of the draw) and that you allow any Members to 'opt out' if they do not wish to have a chance of winning the game. Otherwise, I hope that the game continues to encourage Members to make use

of the Club on the evenings of the draw.

Q We have a Member who wishes to hire our function room to hold an event to raise money for charity. There will be entertainment provided and alcohol will be for sale. In order to raise charitable funds, the persons he is inviting to the event are being asked to purchase a ticket in order to attend. We have told the Member that he is responsible for the people who attend the event and he must be present during the entire event. Should we also obtain a Temporary Event Notice for this event?

A The best test for this kind of question is an honest answer to this question:

Would you describe the persons attending the event as guests of the Club Member?

If they are legitimate guests of the Club Member, and the fact that they are purchasing a ticket does not mean that they are not legitimate guests, then the event can be held as a Member event and a TEN will not be required.

To further protect the Club I would suggest that the Member supplies you with a list of names in advance or ensures that he signs his guests into the Members' guest signing in book upon their arrival.

Be careful to ensure that random people cannot turn up on the door and purchase tickets for entry. It is likely that it would be more difficult to prove that persons attending the event in this way could be classed as the Member's guest. To a certain extent, this also applies to any advertising which the Member is undertaking in regard to this event. For instance, if he places a newspaper advert stating that anyone is welcome to attend an event and purchase tickets on the door then this once again makes the classification of these persons as his guests arguably more difficult.

Editor's Note: A Temporary Event Notice allows Clubs to hold events which are open to the public such as Open Days and Beer Festivals or simply private events which are not held by Members. A Member holding a private event and inviting their guests will not normally require a TEN to be obtained.

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Flixton Conservative Club Hosts Charity Funday

Flixton Conservative Club held a Charity Fun Day in aid of Maggie's Centre Manchester based at The Robert Parfett Building, The Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, 15 Kinnaird Rd, Manchester M20 4QL.

Thanks to the excellent hard work and support from the Club's

members and their guests a magnificent sum of £7,500 pound was raised for this excellent cause. One of the highlights being the Club's Assistant Steward who gamely had his head shaved and donated the hair to "Little Princess Trust" and raised £1,600 towards the final total.



The Cheque Presentation (L-R Carole Shaw, Janet Beattie, Andrea Doherty, Pat Tordoff, Helen Hancock).

Longridge and District Conservative Club Remembrance Weekend

Our thanks to Club Chairman Barry Wilson from Longridge & District Conservative Club who has sent us these pictures of the Club, taken over the remembrance weekend. Barry mentions that the photo of the main building generated nearly 1000 likes on the Club's Facebook page along with many positive comments.

The Committee and Members were rightly very proud of how the Club looked over that weekend.



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Fairwater Follow Up

After last month's article highlighting the refurbishment taking place at Fairwater Conservative Club, Cardiff, the Club have provided further information about the success this venture has brought them.

From Club Secretary, Mike Newberry:

"Over the past 18 months, with the assistance of the ACC, the progress the Club has made has been remarkable. This has been aided by a great working Committee who have really put their all into making this project a success.

During this project the roof of our listed building has been made watertight and we have fully refurbished our four-table snooker hall. In addition we have created a superb patio area alongside an

outdoor children's play areas with swings, climbing frames, football with nets and basketball stands.

We now have a brand new function room alongside a refurbished kitchen which can now cater for everything, from everyday meals to busy private events. And, of course, our thanks to K&M for completely revamping our Members Lounge. Our turnover has rocketed, our membership is for the first time over 1000 Members and our function bookings nicely filling and boking us crucial revenue for our forthcoming 2024 financial year.

My huge thanks to the ACC, our Committee, Management & Staff as well as our loyal and steadfast Members."

Photos of the Club.



Industry Insights

Industry Insights aims to provide a whirlwind tour of who's doing what in the club sector, from latest launches and new products to business acquisitions and market research into the hospitality sector at large.

Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club is crowned 'Charity Club of the Year' at the 2023 Club Awards

Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire receives industry-wide accolade.

Members of Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club were celebrating in November when their club was named joint 'Charity Club of the Year' at the 2023 Club Awards held in Leicester.

The Club Awards recognise the hard work which goes on at clubs of all types across the UK and throw a spotlight on the vital role that clubs play in their communities.

The Judging Panel was impressed by the large number of fundraising events which have been held at the club over the past year in support of various charities and good causes.

The highlights of their mighty charitable efforts include a charity auction hosted by Leanne Nuttall, Manchester's Miss UK Finalist, in aid of Motor Neurone Disease; a snooker '6 ball knockout' tournament for Cancer Research UK; the club's sponsorship of a member who took part in a White Collar boxing event for Blood Cancer UK; a snooker tournament and other fundraising activities for men's mental health charity Mentell along with various raffles and events in aid of the Northwest Paediatric Critical Care Ambulance, Blind Veterans UK and the Royal British Legion.

Meanwhile, in April the club staged the Christopher Radcliffe Memorial Trophy Crown Green Bowls Cup tournament in memory of a club



Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club was named as joint Charity Club of the Year at the Club Awards held on November 22 in Leicester

member who sadly passed away from a heart attack at the age of 36.

A team of volunteers spent hours getting the club gardens ready, organising a raffle, hot food, and entertainment with all the proceeds from the day donated to the Willow Wood Cancer Hospice in memory of Christopher.

Club Chairman Leon Tamcken said: "We were absolutely delighted to win this Award because raising money for charity is something which is deeply embedded in the club's DNA and remains a major focus of our activities all year round.

"We are not going to rest on our laurels and I think being named as 'Charity Club of the Year' will actually spur on our members to organise more events and raise even more funds for good causes over the next 12 months."

Another accolade for Conservative clubs came from Swanage Conservative Club, named one of two Innovative Clubs of the Year for its staff welfare programme. While it was unable to attend the ceremony, the club linked into the live streaming so members could join in the celebrations.

• clubmirror.com

Exports Minister Lord Offord visits Welsh Distillery

The Penderyn Distillery took centre stage as Minister for Exports Lord Offord embarked on a journey to South Wales to engage with a group of businesses and gain insights into their exporting experiences.

Among the distinguished businesses visited during this tour was Penderyn Swansea Copperworks Distillery, an exemplar of export triumph.

Lord Offord expressed his enthusiasm for the remarkable achievements of Welsh businesses, stating: "Wales exported almost £24 billion-

worth of goods and services in 2021. Welsh businesses are doing fantastic work selling their products to the world, and we want to see more businesses get onto the exporting ladder and take advantage of the opportunities available.

"It is always a pleasure to meet with businesses to find out what export challenges they face and how additional government support can help them take the next step in their journeys."

The Penderyn Swansea Copperworks Distillery marked a significant milestone in the summer by becoming Penderyn's third site in Wales. They

already operate distillery and visitor centres in Penderyn and Llandudno.

Over the past five years, Penderyn Distillery has experienced exceptional growth, both within the UK and abroad. They have introduced new whisky lines for the UK market and witnessed Siddiqui Rum achieving substantial sales in the USA.

A total of 30% of their business sales come from exports, with key whisky export markets including the USA, Europe, China, and Japan.

• penderyn.wales

The Rolling Stones unveil new rum brand Crossfire Hurricane

The Rolling Stones are producing their own rum brand – Crossfire Hurricane – in a partnership between the band, Universal Music Group and Socio Ventures.

The rum's name is inspired by the opening lyric of the band's song, 'Jumpin' Jack Flash'.

The Rolling Stones said of the new venture: "We're very excited to be teaming up with Universal Music Group and Socio Ventures to create our first-ever premium spirits brand and look forward to sharing it with the world."

The product launch follows the release of the band's first studio album in 18 years, Hackney Diamonds.

The blended expression includes a rum aged for up to five years in charred oak barrels.

The band said that their interest in rum was first sparked in the 1970s, when they recorded an album in Kingston, Jamaica.

"It is an absolute privilege to create this



Crossfire Hurricane is a new rum brand produced by the Rolling Stones and their partners

product alongside some of the greatest artists of our time," said John Fincher, Socio Ventures Partner and Crossfire Hurricane Co-Founder.

"The band's vision and enthusiasm for Crossfire Hurricane set us apart and positions us to redefine the rum category. And you're all invited to the show."

• rollingstones.com

Carlsberg Marston's invests £10m in UK brewery upgrade



New machines will see an estimated reduction of around 10% in water usage, around 18 million litres every year – equivalent to almost 32 million pints

Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company (CMBC) has invested more than £10m into its Northampton brewery to boost sustainability.

The investment will go towards reducing water storage and producing plastic-free Snap Pack technology to reduce the beer manufacturer's plastic usage by up to 76%.

Carlsberg's can filler will be attached to new seamers and can coders will reduce water by 18 million litres every year – equivalent to more than seven Olympic-size swimming pools or almost 32 million pints.

As part of Carlsberg's Together Towards ZERO and Beyond ESG programme, the company has targets for making progress on a range of sustainability measures. These include halving its use of virgin fossil-based plastics by 2030 under the ZERO Packaging Waste ambition and achieving water usage efficiency of 2.0hl per hl of beer at every brewery by 2030 to

achieve ZERO Water Waste.

In addition, CMBC's flagship Carlsberg brand has been working with the WWF since 2021 to support projects and engage consumers in the UK on environmental and sustainability issues.

CMBC CEO Paul Davies said: "We take our responsibility as a brewer very seriously and ensuring we reduce our impact on the planet is a hugely important part of this."

"This major investment of more than £10 million in Northampton demonstrates our clear commitments to eliminating packaging waste, reducing water waste, and improving efficiency at our breweries."

"By taking ambitious action now, we can deliver on our sustainability goals and enable even more of our innovative Snap Pack multipacks to make their way to consumers."

• carlsbergmarstons.co.uk



Timothy Taylor's set for £9m brewery expansion

Timothy Taylor's Brewery has been granted permission to increase the brewing capacity at its Knowle Spring Brewery site in Keighley, West Yorkshire, where it has been based for 160 years.

The company behind award-winning beers such as Landlord and Boltmaker said the £9m plan would support the brewery's growth and allow it to remain in Keighley.

The plans submitted to the Council were to remove and replace the roof of a tired section of one of the existing buildings, with the building then reconfigured to allow the installation of new brewing equipment.

Describing the need for the works, the application said: "The Knowle Spring Brewery opened in 1863. The move allowed for the expansion of the brewery and malting process and the natural spring it was sat over played a key role to the unique flavours in the brewing process."



"In 1894 a deep well was sunk to allow for a constant supply of the pure Pennine spring water and is still used today. The site's location and access to Spring Water is key to the consistency in the production of beers the company is well known for."

"Timothy Taylor's ongoing success has resulted in the natural growth of their manufacturing facilities at The Knowle Spring Brewery over time."

"There is a business requirement to increase the brewing capacity at Timothy Taylor's to meet current market demands."

"The expansion works will ensure the brewery remains rooted in Keighley. It is hoped that by increasing the longevity of the site it will in turn improve job security and increase employment opportunities for local people."

• timothytaylor.co.uk

Introducing Potato Halos and Crunchies

Country Range has expanded its portfolio with a new pair of potato products – Potato Halos and Potato Crunchies.

This latest product launch follows a brand refresh across the award-winning Country Range own brand including a fresh new look, vibrant new packaging and eye-catching photography.



Country Range Potato Halos (4 x Pack size 2.5kg)

“Combining everything that we love about onion rings and hash browns, these crispy coated rings of goodness are filled with potato and onion. Allergen-free and suitable for vegans, they’re the perfect shape to enhance burgers, breakfast sandwiches and brunch dishes. Or why not stack with cheese and gravy for the ultimate dirty side?”



Country Range Potato Crunchies (4 x Pack size 2.5kg)

“The immense joy of a hash brown in miniature form, these versatile, crunchy coated potato bites can be baked as well as fried, making them a great option for children’s menus. Allergen-free and suitable for vegans, their uniform size also makes portion control that bit easier.

“Load them up with Country Range salsa, sliced gherkins and jalapenos or as we’re in the season for winter comfort food, try creating a striking topping for your favourite casserole or pie recipe.”

Commenting on the new launches, **Country Range Group Marketing Manager Rachel Porter, said:** “The spud is so often the sidekick on the plate and is a vital tool for chefs across the far reaches of foodservice.

“At Country Range we pride ourselves on the versatility of our potato portfolio and offering creative, taste and texture-forward solutions for every kitchen, menu and dish across all day parts.

“This latest duo is created for the makers providing further choice for caterers to impress and be inventive.”

• countryrange.co.uk

Coca-Cola and Pernod Ricard launch Absolut Vodka & Sprite RTD

The Coca-Cola Company and Pernod Ricard have announced the launch of an Absolut Vodka & Sprite ready-to-drink (RTD) pre-mixed cocktail next year.

Absolut & Sprite will be made with Absolut, the international premium vodka, and Sprite, the lemon-lime sparkling soft drink.

The pre-mixed cocktail will be available in versions with Sprite and Sprite Zero Sugar, with the initial UK launch planned for early 2024.

Vodka is one of the most popular bases for alcohol ready-to-drink products, and lemon-lime soft drinks are one of the most popular mixers in pre-mixed cocktails.

The new RTD will feature two of the world’s most recognizable global trademarks. Absolut was established in 1879 in Sweden. Since then, it has become a world-renowned premium vodka brand, crafted using the finest Swedish winter wheat. Sprite was established in 1959 in Germany and has grown to be one of the biggest brands in The Coca-Cola Company’s global portfolio.

James Quincey, Chairman and CEO of The



Coca-Cola Company, said: “We are expanding in the alcohol RTD space, including products that use select brands from our core portfolio.

“We are excited about our new relationship with Pernod Ricard and look forward to the introduction of Absolut & Sprite.”

The packaging for the new 5% ABV RTD will feature both Absolut and Sprite’s trademarks.

• cocacolaep.com

Clubs brace for a big night of boxing on February 17

Boxing fans are anticipating a major showdown at the beginning of next year as one of the biggest fights in recent memory takes place in the Middle East.

The undisputed heavyweight battle between Britain’s Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk of Ukraine – both undefeated in their lengthy professional careers – will take place in Saudi Arabia on Saturday,

February 17 with the WBC, WBA, WBO and IBF championship belts on the line.

Fury was last in action in late October when he won against former UFC fighter Francis Ngannou in a split decision, while Usyk beat Daniel Dubois in August.

Fury had been expected to cruise past boxing debutant Ngannou in the non-title fight given the huge gulf in experience between the two fighters but only managed to narrowly edge the contest in controversial circumstances.

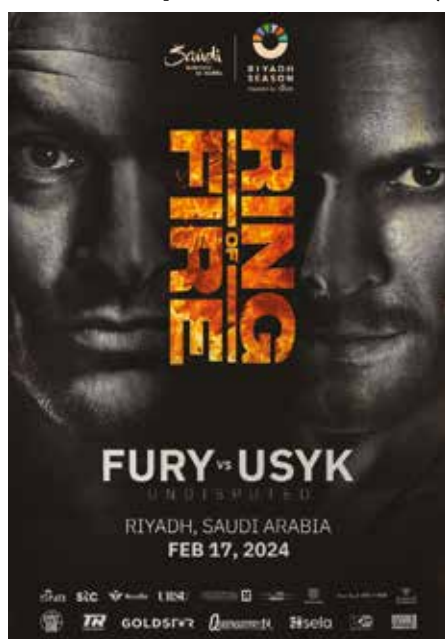
This bout is certainly likely to be a major draw for clubs given that the last undisputed heavyweight champion was Britain’s Lennox Lewis who beat Evander Holyfield in Las Vegas back in 1999 to defend the WBA, WBC and IBF titles.

The hype surrounding the fight is sure to reach fever pitch before the night itself with the London press conference in November to confirm the date of the fight turning into a dramatic event in itself with Fury hurling insults at his opponent and security guards having to intervene between the two boxers as they squared up to each other.

There was even a surprise guest appearance by Hollywood actor Sylvester Stallone of *Rocky* fame to garner some extra publicity for the announcement.

The latest fight will be available as a ‘Pay-per-View’ event with details to be announced closer to the date of the fight.

• tntsports.com



Thatchers extends fruit cider range with Apple & Blackcurrant

Somerset-based Thatchers Cider is extending its range of fruit ciders with a new Apple and Blackcurrant variant.

The new cider will be available for the On-Trade in a 500ml glass bottle and as an infused fruit flavour for the Thatchers Fusion Font.

Thatchers has already served a Dark Berry cider in the On-Trade as part of its trio of draught Fusion Flavours for the past two years and the new Apple and Blackcurrant variant will replace Dark Berry within the Fusion Font.

The 4% ABV Apple and Blackcurrant will also sit in the Thatchers cider bottle range alongside Blood Orange, Katy, Zero and Ros.

Jonathan Nixon, Thatchers Commercial Director, said: "We know the category needs reviving and that there is huge potential ahead for a fresh approach in the category due to the continuing popularity of the flavour, particularly in Scotland and the North of England where fruit cider is so popular.

"Our new Apple and Blackcurrant flavour is different to any other dark fruit or berry ciders and provides a clear opportunity for operators to benefit from the strong rate of sale that ciders from Thatchers generate, thanks to our total dedication to quality and great taste.

"Consumers like to be excited and enthused by new flavours, and we know based on our feedback from the trade that consumers love this



The new Thatchers Apple and Blackcurrant Cider

type of flavour on draught. Launching in 500ml bottle which is the most popular On-Trade packaged format for cider, allows more customers to sell from the fridge without the commitment of a draught install."

Thatchers Apple and Blackcurrant was launched in limited distribution from November with extended distribution into Spring 2024.

• thatcherscider.co.uk

Wine & Spirit Education Trust to offer two new beer qualifications

The Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) is launching two new beer qualifications, the Level 1 Award in Beer and Level 2 Award in Beer, from February 2024.

The new beer courses have been created by the organisation's Product Development team, led by Sara Hobday, Head of Product Development – Beer Qualifications.

The team has been supported by Mirella Amato, Senior Business Development Manager, Beer, WSET Americas and Stuart Howe, Technical Development Manager, Institute of Brewing & Distilling.

Beer will be the fourth qualification area offered by the WSET following wine, spirits and sake and the first new subject stream since 2014 when sake was introduced.

Michelle Brampton, WSET CEO, said: "Extending our qualifications to encompass beer is an exciting time for WSET and a natural fit for us as leaders in global drinks education.

"Bringing over 50 years of educational experience to the beer category, our new Level 1 and 2 Awards in Beer will bring a unique and interactive approach to tasting and learning.

"We hope people will be inspired to pursue their passion for beer whether for career or personal devel-



opment using our courses to build their knowledge."

Sara Hobday, Head of Product Development – Beer Qualifications, added: "Helping students to develop their beer knowledge, skills and confidence, with a focus on teaching through to tasting, has been at the centre of every step in the product development process.

"This applies to both our online and in-person courses which will soon be accessible to students through WSET's global network of course providers."

• wsetglobal.com



Whisky breaks auction record

A bottle of whisky has been sold at auction for a record £2.1m.

The bottle of The Macallan 1926, described by Sotheby's auction house as the "most valuable whisky in the world", went under the hammer in November and had been expected to raise between £750,000 and £1.2m but far exceeded estimates to fetch £2,187,500.

The sale set a "new record for any bottle of spirit or wine sold at auction", according to Sotheby's.

Just 40 bottles of The Macallan 1926 were bottled in 1986 after being aged in sherry casks for 60 years.

Twelve of the bottles, including the record-breaking bottle, had labels designed by Italian painter Valerio Adami (pictured above).

One of the Macallan 1926 bottles had set a previous record for the most expensive bottle ever sold in 2019, when it was sold for £1.5m by the same auctioneers.

This bottle was the first to have undergone reconditioning by the Macallan distillery, involving the replacement of the capsule and the cork – and a 1ml liquid sample being taken to test against another 1926 bottle at the brand owner's offices in Glasgow.

Sotheby's Global Head of Whisky Jonny Fowle revealed that he had been allowed to sample the whisky ahead of the auction.

"I tasted a tiny drop," he said. "It's very rich, it's got a lot of dried fruit as you would expect, a lot of spice, a lot of wood."

He added: "The Macallan 1926 is the one whisky that every auctioneer wants to sell and every collector wants to own."

The huge sum paid for the bottle means that, in the unlikely scenario that it ended up behind a club bar, a single 25ml shot of the whisky would cost £70,000.

• macallan.com

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Benfleet Conservative Club Halloween Event



Our thanks to Club Secretary Sara Stirling for sending us these pictures of the Benfleet Conservative Club taken during their Halloween party.

Cow'd Feet Launches Rock and Roll Bingo

The Cow'd Feet Conservative Club, Stalybridge, Cheshire has launched a new fun night for club members - 'Rock n Roll Bingo'.

A mix of quiz questions, Bingo, and rock and roll music.

Members had their bingo

dabbers ready and a fantastic night was had by all at the October event. So popular another is planned for December!

We hope this event provides inspiration to other ACC Clubs looking to try new event types.



Stanley Square Raises Funds For Breast Cancer

The Stanley Square Conservative Club, Stalybridge, Cheshire, held a pink themed night in aid of Breast Cancer.

An amazing night was had by club members, with a terrific atmosphere and fabulous entertainment from Maddison, Tracy-Jay and Cheryl Anne.

A grand total of £1,100 raised for Breast Cancer Now, who fund research to give people more time to live their lives to the fullest.

The committee wish to thank everyone who joined the event and who helped raise so much for this good cause.



Photos from the event.

Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back to December 1937 to review the Christmas edition of the Conservative Clubs Gazette.

Like ourselves this month, the Editor in 1937 correctly identified that there is nothing more Christmassy than an update to readers over the latest Christmas Draws legislation.

What is interesting is how much of the legislation surrounding draws/raffles is still in place today, clearly even Parliament knows a good piece

of legislation when it sees it. The Betting and Lotteries Act 1934 went through several incarnations before the last big update which occurred when the Gambling Act 2005 came into force.

Elsewhere in the 1937 December edition was a shameless full page advert for IA Tickets along with an article on how the crew of the HMS Sheffield were entertained by Immingham Clubmen which may well be the subject of a future Pages From The Past...

CHRISTMAS "DRAWS."

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY CAN LAWFULLY BE RUN IN CLUBS.

The Christmas season is upon us and many Clubs will doubtless be promoting "draws" of various descriptions. Such promotions cannot be interfered with by the police in any way, provided the conditions set forth in the Betting and Lotteries Act, 1934, are complied with. What those conditions are is fully, and simply, explained in what follows.

Committee Must Authorise the "Sweep."

If a Club desires to run a draw, the Committee must pass a resolution authorising it and nominate, in writing, some official(s) or member(s) to act as "promoters." This should be recorded in the Minutes.

The Act says that only members of the Club can act as promoters. This restriction was imposed to prevent outsiders coming along and offering to run a "draw" in return for a "rake-off" the proceeds. To prevent any member, or members, of the Club running a "draw" on their own account, the Act says the promoter (or promoters) must be authorised, in writing, by the Committee to do so and that they alone can sell tickets, or chances, for the "draw."

Proceeds of the "Draw."

The only expenses which it is lawful to deduct from the proceeds of the "draw" are those incurred for printing—where tickets are used—and stationery. The residue can be devoted either

- Wholly to the provision of prizes,
- Wholly to the purposes of the Club, or
- Part to prizes and part to the funds of the Club.

It is, therefore, not permissible to recompense the promoters, or anyone else, out of the proceeds of the "draw." They must not be allowed a commission on any tickets disposed of or given free tickets.

No Outside Advertising.

A Club which, by resolution of its Committee, decides to run a "draw," can only advertise it in two ways:

- By a notice exhibited on the Club premises.
- On the tickets issued in connection with the "draw."

An offence would be committed if an advertisement were inserted in a newspaper, or attention drawn to it, in any way in its columns. The Act says:

"There shall not be exhibited, published, or distributed, any written notice or advertisement of the lottery other than (1) a notice exhibited on the premises of the society for whose members it is promoted, (2) such announcement, or advertisement, as is contained in the tickets."

Information on the Tickets.

Where tickets are issued the Act enjoins that the following information must appear on the face of each:

- The names and address of each of the promoters.
- The price of the ticket (which must be uniform).
- A statement showing the persons to whom the sale of tickets by the promoters is restricted (i.e., members of the Club).
- A statement that no prize will be paid, or delivered, to any person other than the member to whom the winning ticket was sold by the promoters.

What a member does with his ticket after it becomes his own property is his concern and that of nobody else. But, if he disposed of it and it proved to be the winning ticket he alone could receive the prize for, as shown

above, the promoters are prohibited from paying, or delivering a prize to any person "other than the person to whom the winning ticket, or chance, was sold by them."

Payment in Full for Tickets.

The circulation of tickets on sale or return is prohibited; every ticket must be paid for in full at the time of issue. Here is what the Act says:—

"No ticket shall be issued, or allotted, by the promoters except by way of sale and upon receipt of full price thereof, and no money or valuable thing so received by a promoter shall, in any circumstances, be returned."

Finally, no tickets must be sent through the post, nor any circulars concerning it for, as already stated, the only advertisement permitted is confined to notices on the Club premises and the tickets themselves.

"Chances" Instead of Tickets.

The Act provides for the purchase of "chances" as well as tickets. In view of the many obligations with regard to the issue of tickets and the cost incurred in printing them, the majority of Clubs which promote "draws" dispense with them and have, instead, numbered sheets, each number on which represents a "chance." The names of those participating in the "draw" are placed against the numbers. The "draw" takes place in the usual way and those whose names appear against the winning numbers get the prizes. All "draws" promoted by a Club must be conducted from its premises.

[For full particulars of the law relating to Private Lotteries, etc., see A.C.C. Pocket Book for 1938 (1/-). Copies obtainable through Club Secretaries or direct from the A.C.C., Palace Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1.]

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Wages Book PAYE	£13.00		
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Appointment of Steward(ess) Alone, Contract Pack, 2 Copies	£25.00		
Appointment of Steward and Stewardess, Contract Pack, 2 Copies	£25.00		
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The logo consists of a dark purple circle with a thick yellow border. Inside the circle, the word "The" is in white, "IA" is in large red letters, and "Ticket" is in white. The text is slightly tilted to the right.

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