

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



June 2024 75p



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4th July**

June 2024
75p



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Buxton Memorial Award

The Buxton Conservative Club has presented George Mason Memorial Trophy to Dominoes singles winner Simon Kitchen.

The trophy was presented by Julie Bayman and the trophy itself is in memory of her late father.



*CONSERVATIVE
CLUBS
MAGAZINE*

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Recruiting a Steward

Before you place an advertisement to recruit a new steward, you need to look at one or two issues about why you have a vacancy at all and in particular why your last steward left. People sometimes leave their jobs for good reasons but a little detective work might reveal that your conditions of employment do not encourage people to give you long-term commitment.

You might even find that the way you recruited last time fell short of the mark and you lost the last steward because they were the wrong choice in the first place. If this is the case, regard the current vacancy as a chance to get the recruitment procedure right.

Examine in detail exactly what the job of steward entails. This might be a good time to restructure the job if necessary. Write a list of all the duties required. They will fall quite naturally into four or five main areas such as customer service, cleaning and maintenance, stock control or staff management. Finer detail can then be recorded under these headings.

When you have completed this job description, you can write down what knowledge and skills are required for someone to do the job well.

Examples of this might be knowledge of bar stock control procedures or the skill of handling customers or members. What you will be creating is a list of the abilities you should be looking for in the ideal candidate. You might also add to this list some of the other things that you should be looking for which are more specific, such as availability to work the hours required.

Devising a concise advertisement based on your specifications will make it clear what the job entails and can indicate the attributes which are considered essential for success in the post. Be careful not to fall foul of discrimination law. You cannot state that you do or do not want a particular sex or racial group for the job. Put a closing date on applications so that you can compare all your candidates and arrange to see the best ones.

Advertising by word of mouth and using personal recommendations can be very effective and it is certainly cheap. However, this approach does have its problems. It can be tempting to compromise for convenience sake when a reasonable candidate is introduced to you by a

personal contact. It can also cause offence if you decide to reject someone recommended to you. Even worse, taking on someone's friend or relative, only to have to dismiss them later because they turned out to be unsuitable, can be damaging to staff or personal relationships.

When you have received application forms and CVs, compare what each of the candidates has to offer to the specification you had put together at the outset of this recruitment campaign. If you want customer relations skills, what evidence is there in the application of experience of this in previous employment? If you want a good organiser, where can evidence of this be seen in the type of work that the applicant has been doing?

Remember to look for obvious problems such as gaps in employment history or changes of job which seem hard to explain (for example, giving up a lucrative landlording or club steward position somewhere else).

Never leave the interview itself just to one person from a club. Convene an interviewing panel from the committee. Alternatively, have one person interview the applicants and then pass them on to a second stage interviewer. Two opinions will help to obviate personal bias and maximise the possibility of an objective decision.

The application or CV can only provide prompts for in depth investigation; it cannot give you a comprehensive picture on its own. Do not miss the opportunity to find out about what the candidate is capable of by enquiring thoroughly about the way they are doing their present job or their experience in any other employment. Every interviewee should be asked to demonstrate that they have the skills and abilities that you require and question how


their past experience relates to your specific requirements. How, for example, have they dealt with running a profitable bar, handling difficult staff issues, building relationships with customers or members, and dealing with contractors? You should be able to find out in the interview if the applicant matches your requirements.

Check the provenance of any referees you are given. Former employers are best and you can check that they do in fact exist as bona fide sources of information. Personal referees have limited value as they would hardly have been offered if they were not expected to give glowing praise.

Ask the referee questions which help them tell you what you need to know about reliability, efficiency, customer relations and trustworthiness. Referees have a duty of care to give you truthful facts about your candidate. If they find it hard to give you constructive feedback, they might decline to write anything or keep to the barest of facts, such as dates of employment. Make sure you telephone all referees in order to validate their references. When you offer employment, remember to make it conditional on any checks you have to make. You may need to make such a conditional offer in order to approach a current employer. Never approach referees without the candidate's express permission.

The process comes full circle at the decision stage. Compare what your most promising candidate has to offer against what you say that you require in your specification. If you do not find that person this time around, you would be better to start again rather than make an appointment that is only second best.

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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.

Euros 2024 Television Coverage

The BBC will show England's first two group games and ITV will broadcast the opening match between Germany and Scotland. All games will be free to air.

Scotland's other Group A matches - against Switzerland and Hungary - will be shown on the BBC.

The BBC will have first choice for the quarter-finals, while ITV will have the first pick of the last-16 ties and semi-finals. Both broadcasters will show the final.

All times BST:

14 June: Germany v Scotland (20:00) - ITV

15 June: Hungary v Switzerland (14:00) - ITV

15 June: Spain v Croatia (17:00) - ITV

15 June: Italy v Albania (20:00) - BBC

16 June: Poland v Netherlands (14:00) - BBC

16 June: Slovenia v Denmark (17:00) - ITV

16 June: Serbia v England (20:00) - BBC

17 June: Romania v Ukraine (14:00) - BBC

17 June: Belgium v Slovakia (17:00) - ITV

17 June: Austria v France (20:00) - ITV

18 June: Turkey v Georgia (17:00) - BBC

18 June: Portugal v Czech Republic (20:00) - BBC

19 June: Croatia v Albania (14:00) - ITV

19 June: Germany v Hungary (17:00) - BBC

19 June: Scotland v Switzerland (20:00) - BBC

20 June: Slovenia v Serbia (14:00) - ITV

20 June: Denmark v England (17:00) - BBC

20 June: Spain v Italy (20:00) - ITV

21 June: Slovakia v Ukraine (14:00) - BBC

21 June: Poland v Austria (17:00) - ITV

21 June: Netherlands v France (20:00) - BBC

22 June: Georgia v Czech Republic (14:00) - BBC

22 June: Turkey v Portugal (17:00) - ITV

22 June: Belgium v Romania (20:00) - ITV

23 June: Switzerland v Germany (20:00) - BBC

23 June: Scotland v Hungary (20:00) - BBC

24 June: Albania v Spain (20:00) - BBC

24 June: Croatia v Italy (20:00) - BBC

25 June: Netherlands v Austria (17:00) - BBC

25 June: France v Poland (17:00) - BBC

25 June: England v Slovenia (20:00) - ITV

25 June: Denmark v Serbia (20:00) - ITV

26 June: Slovakia v Romania (17:00) - BBC

26 June: Ukraine v Belgium (17:00) - BBC

26 June: Georgia v Portugal (20:00) - ITV

26 June: Czech Republic v Turkey (20:00) - ITV

Round of 16

Saturday June 29

37 1A vs 2C (Dortmund, kick-off 8pm UK time)

38 2A vs 2B (Berlin, kick-off 5pm UK time)

Sunday June 30

39 1B vs 3A/D/E/F (Cologne, kick-off 8pm UK time)

40 1C vs 3D/E/F (Gelsenkirchen, kick-off 5pm UK time)

Monday July 1

41 1F vs 3A/B/C (Frankfurt, kick-off 8pm UK time)

42 2D vs 2E (Düsseldorf, kick-off 5pm UK time)

Tuesday July 2

43 1E vs 3A/B/C/D (Munich, kick-off 5pm UK time)

44 1D vs 2F (Leipzig, kick-off 8pm UK time)

Quarter-finals

Friday July 5

45 W39 vs W37 (Stuttgart, kick-off 5pm UK time)

46 W41 vs W42 (Hamburg, kick-off 8pm UK time)

Saturday July 6

47 W43 vs W44 (Berlin, kick-off 8pm UK time)

48 W40 vs W38 (Düsseldorf, kick-off 5pm UK time)

Semi-finals

Tuesday July 9

49 W45 vs W46 (Munich, kick-off 8pm UK time)

Wednesday July 10

50 W47 vs W48 (Dortmund, kick-off 8pm UK time)

Euro 2024 final

Sunday July 14

W49 vs W50 (Berlin, kick-off 8pm UK time)

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Recommended supplier to the Association of Conservative Clubs

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.

Alcoholic slushies set to be the hottest trending drink this summer

As summer 2024 arrives, it's frozen cocktails that are poised to dominate the alcoholic beverage scene, according to a study by alcohol importer-distributor Paragon Brands, with alcoholic slushies set to be the nation's hottest trending drink this summer.

One in four respondents (24%) named this twist on classic cocktails as their number one alcoholic beverage for the coming months, while one-third of the nation (34%) would now opt for a frozen cocktail over a traditional alternative and 61% deemed a frozen alternative as more refreshing than a normal cocktail.

The trend has grown significantly in the past few years, with 28% of UK consumers saying they are more likely to drink a frozen cocktail now than they were two years ago.

According to Paragon Brands, drinkers are attracted to the fun and refreshing nature of the serve, with the fruity flavours and ice-cold temperature making it the perfect option on a hot summer's day.

The younger generations in particular are behind the sudden surge in popularity, with nearly half of Gen Zers (47%) saying alcoholic slushies are their favourite summer drink and three quarters (74%) preferring this style of cocktail over a traditional one.

Nationwide, no one enjoys a frozen cocktail as much as drinkers in Brighton, with nearly eight in



ten (79%) residents there saying they'll drink an alcoholic slushie this summer.

Paragon Brands are offering a free slushie machine and free mix each month for licensed establishments across the UK and have launched three new frozen cocktails in partnership with Halos Cocktails, which they expect to take the market by storm this summer.

June Peach Punch is made with the June Wild

Peach while Pusser's Frozen Painkiller is a blend of Pusser's Rum, pineapple juice, orange juice, and cream of coconut. The June Watermelon Crush is launched on the back of a surging interest in Watermelon flavoured drinks.

Clubs can claim a free on-hire machine, free mix each month and additional support by visiting paragonbrands.co.uk/slushie

• paragonbrands.co.uk

Campari announces completion of Courvoisier Cognac acquisition

Campari Group has announced the successful completion of the acquisition of 100% of Beam Holdings France S.A.S. (now renamed Courvoisier Holding France S.A.S.), which in turn owns 100% of Courvoisier S.A.S., the owner of the Courvoisier brand.

The purchase price paid amounted to US\$1.17 billion (corresponding to €1.08 billion at the hedged currency rate). At closing, the book value of maturing inventory estimated at April 30, 2024 and included in the price paid was US\$410 million.

In addition to the price paid, an estimated amount of c. US\$30 million (c. €28 million at the closing date currency rate) related to finished goods in the Seller's in-market companies will be paid to Seller by Campari Group according to a stock transfer agreement.

The transaction was financed in cash using the Group's available resources resulting from the combined offering of newly issued shares (€650 million) and convertible bond offer (€550 million) directed to qualified investors on January 10, 2024.

• camparigroup.com





Greene King announces new £40m state-of-the-art brewery

Greene King has announced that it will invest £40m in developing a new state-of-the-art brewery in Bury St Edmunds, as part of its commitment to the company's production of cask ale, alongside newer premium craft beer brands.

The company has been brewing in Bury St Edmunds since its founding in 1799 and its brewing operation will continue at the Westgate Brewery during construction of the new site, due for completion in 2027.

The brewery will be located next to a new distribution centre and will significantly improve the sustainability of the company's brewing operations, says Greene King. Per pint, water usage in the brewing process will be reduced by more than 50%, alongside significant improvements in energy efficiency, driv-

ing Greene King's progression towards its science-based environmental targets. The brewer aims to become carbon net zero by 2040 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.

Nick Mackenzie, Chief Executive officer at Greene King, said: "Brewing in Bury St Edmunds is a core part of Greene King's DNA. This investment represents a further and significant ongoing commitment to our brewing operations in a town which has such a rich and storied connection with our business and with brewing. As we seek to make our operations more sustainable, our new brewery will future proof our ability to brew our much-loved brands, as we create a thriving modern hospitality business."

• greeneking.co.uk

Fuller's raises £28.5k for Special Olympics GB on 2024 bridge walk

One hundred and forty team members from Fuller's and Special Olympics GB, walked 20 miles between two Fuller's pubs – The Bell & Crown in Chiswick and The Conductor, Farringdon – raising money for its charity partner, Special Olympics GB.

The Bridge Walk raised £28,500 to help fund regular sporting opportunities that can transform the lives of children and adults with intellectual disabilities across England, Scotland and Wales.

The walkers set off from The Bell & Crown by Kew Bridge and crossed 15 bridges before reaching the final destination in the City, The Conductor, after eight hours and over 20 miles.

Simon Emeny, Fuller's Chief Executive, said: "It was great to see so many of our colleagues out, fundraising for Special Olympics GB which has been our charity partner since 2018. This was our third Bridge Walk and it was the biggest one yet. It was an honour to have some of the Special Olympics GB athletes join us on the day – including Lloyd Martin who recently set a new record as the youngest person with Down's Syndrome to complete the London Marathon. Days like this are a fantastic way for our



team members to meet some of the people their fundraising supports."

Laura Baxter MBE, CEO of Special Olympics GB, said: "Thank you, once again, to Fuller's for organising another fantastic day. The Bridge Walk is not only about raising vital funds for Special Olympics GB – but about strengthening our partnership. I know the nine athletes present today really enjoyed getting to know our friends at Fuller's and spirits were high all day – down to the last mile of the walk. We are all looking forward to next year's event."

• fullers.co.uk

August Sky Sports+ launch to include EFL long-term partnership



Sky Sports+ is designed to make it easy for venues to show the sport that matters to members. Venues with a connected Sky Q box will be able to choose up to 100 live events via concurrent streams, showcasing a selection of the best live sport.

The launch comes at the start of a new long-term and landmark partnership with the EFL, with over 1,000 EFL games a season featuring every team more than 20 times and every Championship club on at least 24 occasions. The opening weekend of the 2024/25 season will see every game from the Championship, League One and League Two streamed live.

Jonathan Licht, Managing Director at Sky Sports, said: "Exceptional sport, covered in an innovative and compelling way, has been a big part of our history. With the introduction of Sky Sports+, we are now able to offer sport fans more choice and an even better experience when watching the live action.

"For the first time, we will broadcast every game live from across the EFL on the opening weekend. It's going to be a huge moment for football fans up and down the country and is a fitting way to kick off our ground-breaking new partnership with the EFL. And this is just the beginning; Sky Sports+ unlocks the potential for us to keep evolving and finding new ways to deliver brilliant sport to our customers."

Damian Saunders, Managing Director at Sky Business Hospitality, said: "The launch of Sky Sports+ is great news for our hospitality customers. Venues with Sky Q will have more freedom to choose which match they show, meaning they can select the games that matters most to their customers.

"With all 72 teams from across the EFL shown at least 20 times throughout the season – plus every game from the entirety of the Carabao Cup and EFL Trophy – venues can now offer a more localised, personalised sports viewing experience to help boost trade throughout the week."

Sky Business customers with Sky Sports will receive the new dedicated Sky Sports+ TV channel. To access the full Sky Sports+ live streaming experience, Sky Business customers will need a connected Sky Q box.

• skyforbusiness.sky.com



Wildfarmed Bread Range and Wildfarmed Flour

Brakes has launched a new range of products made using Wildfarmed flour, supporting a growing interest in natural, regenerative agriculture, says the company.

Brakes' new breads are made with wheat flour blend which includes Wildfarmed flour, which is produced using low input farming, with no pesticides, fungicides or herbicides used in growing the wheat.

The range, which is the result of a collaboration between Brakes, The Bread Factory, Speciality Breads and Wildfarmed, includes La Boulangerie burger buns, doughballs and bread rolls, as well as Wildfarmed branded artisan sourdough loaves, rolls, and burger buns, each offering a unique, rustic crust with richly complex flavours.

Brakes has also introduced a complementary range of Wildfarmed flour.

Biodiversity is at the heart of the Wildfarmed proposition, with varieties selected to suit companion planting with other crops. These can provide a secondary crop in the same field; increase natural habitats; protect or restore depleted soils; and also includes millions of pollinator flowers, which support a wide selection of wildlife, including bees. Wildfarmed is also helping to bring birds back into the countryside including partridge and woodcocks.

The Wildfarmed model produces less carbon, with the reduction of chemicals plus the Wildfarmed biology based-cropping techniques, meaning that it produces 2.8kg less CO₂ per kg than conventional flour.

Paul Nieduszynski, CEO at Sysco GB, said: "At the heart of this partnership is a shared commitment to deliver sustainable, healthy, and flavoursome food production. Regenerative agriculture will be key for foodservice operators to cut the emissions of the food they serve, so we're pleased to be leading the way with this fantastic range."

"Our partnership introduces an exclusive range of artisanal bread products, combining The Bread Factory's baking expertise with Wildfarmed's responsibly grown flours, and bringing it within the reach of thousands of chefs through the Brakes' network."

• brake.co.uk

Greene King partners with Wolfpack to debut Golden Session IPA



Greene King has launched a new seasonal cask beer, Wolfpack Sesh IPA, in partnership with the London-based brewery.

The 3.8% IPA is described as 'a refreshing golden ale with the perfect balance of flavours and aromas that capture the essence of those warm summer evenings to come'.

The use of rye and crystal malts lead to toffee and spice flavours, while the addition of the pale and carapils malts add sweetness and body to deliver a sessionable beer.

As part of an ongoing distribution relationship with the brewer, Wolfpack Sesh IPA is a new addition to Greene King's Fresh Cask Releases calendar and is available to order in cask throughout June.

Wolfpack Brewery was co-founded by interna-

tional rugby players on a mission to create dangerously good craft beer for 'Social Animals'.

Alistair Hargreaves, co-founder of Wolfpack and a former Saracens and South African international rugby player, said: "We have been working with Greene King for a number of years and it's brilliant to be able to create a bespoke cask beer that forms part of a wider limited-edition collection. Our Sesh IPA is a truly refreshing golden beer and ideal as we head into summer, with sporting occasions drawing in consumers looking to enjoy a lighter, sessionable pint with their pack members."

To order from the Cask Fresh Releases Calendar contact your Greene King sales representative or call 0345 600 1799.

• greeneking.co.uk

Enjoy summer with new Tropical Rhythms drinks

Grace Foods has expanded its extensive drinks range to include 1 litre versions of their Tropical Rhythms juice drinks.

Available in cases of 12, the range includes four Caribbean flavours; Mango Carrot, Pineapple Ginger, Fruit Punch and Sorrel Ginger. The convenient, resealable Prisma packaged drinks are ready to drink, or can be used in cocktails and mocktails.

For example, operators could take inspiration from Grace Foods' Tropical Oasis mocktail recipe. Simply rim a glass with salt and pour 200ml of Grace Tropical Rhythms Fruit Punch over ice. Add a dash of lime soda and a shot of grenadine, then garnish with pineapple and cherry. For an alcoholic option, simply add a measure of white rum.

The 1 litre bottles each have a shelf life of 12 months. The flavours are also available in 475ml screw-cap glass bottles for individual portions.

• gkco.com





Thatchers Cider and Aardman collaborate on new campaign

Thatchers Cider headed back to the studio with multi-Academy Award* winning studio Aardman for the next chapter of their pint-sized perfection advertising campaign.

The new series of commercials celebrate the nation's passion for sport, with the pint-sized models adapting their cider-making skills to try their hand at football and cricket.

The adverts, which went live on sports channels in May, use stop motion animation to bring viewers 'through the barn doors' of Thatchers' Myrtle Farm in Somerset.

The first in the series sees Thatchers' Head Cider Maker, Richard Johnson, reacting to a perfectly ripe apple falling from the tree, requiring football skills to match his cider-making expertise. To make the models lifelike, Aardman animators based his movements on that of football legends.

The adverts will run across the FA Cup Final and

UEFA Euro 2024 tournament as well as the women's Euro 2025 qualifiers.

Fun facts from behind the scenes

- There are different sizes of apple ranging from tangerine size to chickpea size, depending on the scale of set or the perspective.
 - Aardman used approximately 12 pairs of hands to keep the puppets looking good on set and had to replace them after each time they hold an apple as the glue would remove the paint.
 - 585 storyboard panels were drawn to script out the adverts.
 - 302 hand painted apples were made for the shoot, with three different sizes needed to match the scale.
 - The upturned collar of Head Cider Maker Richard is a nod to footballing legend, Eric Cantona.
- thatcherscider.co.uk

JM Posner client runs London Marathon in MD's memory

Roger Bolton, a long-term client of catering supplier JM Posner, completed April's London Marathon on Sunday in memory of his friend, the late Justin Posner.

Justin lost his life in 2023 whilst training for the marathon, and following his passing, Roger approached the Posner family to ask if he could take up the baton to raise money for Justin's chosen charity, The National Deaf Children's Society.

Roger, owner of The Works Buckinghamshire, said: "Justin was very passionate about supporting lesser-known charities. After hearing his family speak about his legacy I was very moved and inspired to complete his goal. I feel extremely privileged to have



received the blessing of Justin's family to do this. I'm delighted that we've managed to raise over £4,000 so far and will be leaving the fundraising campaign open for a few more days to see if we can reach that £5K mark."

Having completed the London Marathon twice before, Roger finished the route in a very respectable 4 hours 35 minutes whilst sporting a picture of Justin on his vest. He remarked on what a positive atmosphere the experience had created.

"It's just amazing to see everyone doing something for someone else. Everyone who was running to raise money for charities, the volunteers, the people cleaning up in the aftermath, all of it. That's what it all comes down to," he said.

• jmposner.co.uk



Brakes 2024 live food events

Brakes third live food event in 2024 takes place in southern England on September 25 (venue to be announced), following last month's events in Scotland and Birmingham.

Paul Nieduszynski, Sysco GB CEO, said: "Last year, we launched our first major live events since the pandemic and the feedback was excellent. There's nothing like being able to see, smell and taste food to help make decisions on menus. This year we've expanded the Foodie Expo to include live demonstrations so that we can provide practical examples of how products can be used in kitchens."

Brakes online event showcases 45 virtual stands, and features helpful resources including recipes, insights and solutions to save money, time and labour.

• brake.co.uk

Conservative Clubs invited to enter 2024 Club Awards

Deadline For Entries: July 31, 2024



The Club Awards celebrate clubs of all types and sizes, from Conservative Clubs and Working Men's Clubs to Golf Clubs and Sports Clubs and everything in between.

Conservative clubs can be rightly proud of their success at these Awards, representing their clubs, committees and members in the best possible light. Waterloo & Taunton Conservative Club is just one example, winning 2023's prestigious Charity Club of the Year.

As well as recognising the collective commitment of clubs to their members, the Awards also applaud the professionalism of individuals, as well as the dedication of long-serving club officials and young ambassadors.

To nominate, your club, your colleagues or to enter yourself, visit clubawards.co.uk or scan this QR code.



• **The 2024 Awards ceremony takes place on Wednesday, 27 November at the Athena in Leicester, UK.**

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The Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman, The Rt Hon Alistair Burt, welcomed representatives to the 130th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Conservative Clubs. He commented that a great deal of work had been undertaken during the previous twelve months from the ACC's head office in Norfolk Row.

The Chairman asked the meeting to stand for a moment's silence in memory of all colleagues who had passed away during the past year and paid particular tribute to John Phillips, former Wales Area Chairman.



The Rt. Hon Alistair Burt.

Chairman's Report on the work of the Association

The Chairman said it was a great pleasure to report on the work of the Association of Conservative Clubs for the past year.

It was always satisfying to follow a financial report showing that the ACC has strengthened its financial position and is investing in the continuation of our Conservative, Constitutional and Unionist Clubs.

130 years on from the year in which the ACC was founded, it was useful to remind ourselves that today we had no bank finance, no mortgages on our extensive property portfolio and were therefore relatively unaffected by interest rate fluctuations. We had sizable cash reserves and importantly, the ACC had a plan.

The plan was not too distant from the primary object that the ACC was formed to promote; 'To assist and encourage the formation of Clubs throughout Great Britain with similar objects and the management of such Clubs'.

It was true that there had not been new Clubs formed for very many years, but the ACC had prevented many, many Clubs from closing and the management advice and support provided was beyond anything which was available elsewhere in our private members' club sector.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the ACC was a

company limited by guarantee, there were no shareholders, there were the member clubs we served, represented by those here at our AGM. We were truly a family of common interests and shared values.

Conservative Clubs had always been a powerful political force but they were also vital community hubs and we had many good news stories from across the country covering charitable donations and other community activities which were published in the monthly magazine.

The Chairman thanked 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 was much appreciated and to K&M Club Refurbishment, all of whom the ACC were pleased to continue to endorse.

Finally, the Chairman wished to put on record his grateful thanks to the ACC Officers and Council Members and all the ACC staff for their loyalty and commitment to the Association of Conservative Clubs. He ended his report by saying, he was confident that our clubs would continue to fulfil the Conservative objects for which they were established maintaining our position as a corner stone of the Conservative family.

Guest Speaker The Rt Hon Richard Holden MP, Chairman of the Conservative Party

In introducing The Party Chairman, Member of Parliament for North West Durham and Chairman of the Conservative Party, the Chairman informed the meeting that Richard was first elected to Parliament in December 2019. He was appointed Minister without Portfolio in the Cabinet Office in November 2023 and was previously Parliamentary under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport.

Prior to becoming a Minister, he had actively led on the campaign for lower duty on draught beer, being awarded 'Parliamentarian of the Year' by the All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) on pubs.

The Party Chairman said, it was an honour to be at the Annual General Meeting, as Conservative Clubs right across the country held a profound significance for the Party. Clubs served as a robust embodiment of the Party's core values, often standing as the strongest representatives. He mentioned that his father had been a member of the Oswaldtwistle Conservative Club in the early 1980s and that he himself had attended some of his first meetings as a young Conservative in Clitheroe Conservative Club. Remarkably, he commented, some of your clubs which boast the highest memberships, are situated in constituencies held by our political opponents; which is testament to the community spirited nature of the clubs, the club members and of our party more broadly. While it's true that not every individual joining a club may always fully align with our mission and values, the existence of these spaces provided a crucial platform for us all.

He went on to comment that within clubs, members formed friendships, engaged in networking opportunities, participated in social activities and contributed hugely to charitable causes up and down the country. In facilitating such spaces and opportunities Conservative Clubs epitomised our values of community, support and compassion, and he extended his heartfelt gratitude to each and

every one of those involved with the Conservative club movement.

He said that whilst club members might not always be pounding the pavements, or distributing leaflets, although some of them did, clubs served as vital beacons of our shared values, and that unwavering support was immensely valued and deeply appreciated. He said the Party was going to need the support and talent of clubs when the General Election came, and beyond it too. He went on to say that the greatest honour of his life was to be the Party's Chairman; since he was at heart a member, very much a member of the Conservative Party first, a party he joined as a teenager, and he knew how hard so many of our members up and down the country had worked recently.

The Party Chairman said the Conservatives had a proud record to point to and which we should not be ashamed of talking about. We had grown the economy, increased employment across the board to record levels, put extra police on our streets, overseen remarkable improvements in our education system, from two thirds of kids going to good or outstanding schools in 2010, to over 90% today. Shooting up above the international league tables for reading, writing, and literacy, above Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria and The Netherlands. We had invested in the NHS, even though it had been a very difficult time, and we were starting to see some of those waiting lists falling, and we had delivered a huge expansion in free childcare, but crucially, one of the things we had also done is protect those who had worked hard all their lives, with triple lock for pensions.

The Conservative Party had significantly changed the nation for the better, and it would be only under Conservative leadership that this could continue. We all needed to keep hammering that message home, rather than losing heart, for now was the time for us to double down on our efforts to come together as that Conservative family and get our message out there.

The Chief Executive's Report



Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE.

In introducing Philip, Lord Smith of Hindhead, to present his report, the Chairman reminded the meeting that Philip continued to be a Party Whip in the Lords and had continued his Chairmanship of Best Bar None, a Scheme supported by the Home Office and the drinks industry which was aimed at promoting responsible alcohol consumption and higher professional licensing standards. He also continued his role as a Party Treasurer, having held that position for over twenty years, and was the Chairman of the National Conservative Draws Society.

Lord Smith was currently serving on the Lords Select Committee reviewing the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and had recently completed his duties on the Arbitration Bill Committee.

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that in his speech to last year's Meeting, he talked



about how we seemed to have moved from the frying pan to the fire, in terms of our economic recovery from the acute phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. The cost of supporting businesses and households during lockdowns, and various forms of restricted trading, followed by global supply chain problems, created a form of economic long-Covid.

There had recently been some better news for businesses and households, and he believed that we had turned a corner, and hopefully this would be recognised soon by a cut in the Bank of England's base rate – with any luck before the general election.

The club sector did not exist in an economic or social vacuum. It was an integral part of the hospitality industry and subject to many of the pressures that pubs, nightclubs, bars, and restaurants had experienced. Whilst the government had provided much needed assistance to the hospitality industry during the pandemic, we were ultimately responsible for our own success or failure.

It had therefore been disheartening over the past year to read in the trade press the politically tone-deaf criticism of government coming from less enlightened sectors of the trade. Those critics failed to appreciate that government had constantly to balance the numerous demands for support that it received with the limited resource of taxpayers' money. The ill-conceived campaign to get government to reduce VAT for hospitality to ten per cent was an example of the futility of making demands government simply could not concede. Put simply, in a democracy one had to accept that no one got everything they wanted. Other sectors needed support too.

What we were seeing, as we surveyed the hospitality industry landscape, was a great deal of market adjustment and consolidation going on. Mergers and acquisitions activity was picking up, and well-run chains were expanding. As new winners and losers emerged, we had seen the top end of the market and the value end prospering, but the mid-market food-led pubs and restaurants were the ones being

squeezed. People's habits had changed. They are going out less, but when they do go out, they want good value or a memorable experience.

Lord Smith went on to say that as a result, at least in part, of making his own views known, that he was beginning to see some recognition in the industry of the need to present the trade in a more positive light and to stop the constant doom-mongering. Our industry has much to recommend itself as a career choice to young people. A recent survey revealed that sixteen per cent of hospitality workers earned in excess of £60,000 a year with the average salary across the entire industry being £39,000. The people skills and the management skills one can learn in hospitality were also transferable and a good preparation for other industries.

No other sector could deliver growth and investment as quickly as the hospitality industry. It brought town and city centres to life, acting as a beacon for investment and creating places in which people wanted to live and work. Our industry was growing six times faster than the national economy, adding £30bn to it annually. It created and provided one in every six new jobs, invested £10bn a year in high street development, and generated £54bn a year in tax to fund vital public services.

Lord Smith said he was proud of the work that had been achieved, and continued to achieve, to support our clubs. Some two hundred ACC clubs would open their doors that lunchtime as a direct result of ACC financial intervention and support. The ACC had continued to provide

many clubs with financial assistance. With new loans being made to our clubs, and sale and leaseback arrangements being agreed, releasing assets tied up in property to either invest in the facilities being offered to members; to repay historic debt, or to provide significant working capital, we had been able to give a number of Committees breathing space.

Despite the continuing economic headwinds, the ACC had, as had been reported, enjoyed another successful year, making a surplus of some £1.1 million after taxation. The ACC's asset base remained strong. It was worthy to note that it had grown from around a £250,000 thirty years ago to closer to £36 million today.

Well-run social clubs continued to provide safe and welcoming spaces and the ACC had weathered the difficulties of the Covid years, the economic long-covid that followed, and we were well placed to move forward with confidence into the future.

Lord Smith placed on record his thanks to the excellent and loyal team at the ACC who had played an intrinsic part in the recent successes and in particular thanked Charles Littlewood, the ACC's deputy CEO, Lesley DiPopolo, Accounts Manager, Josephine Willoughby, Solicitor, Daniel Todd, Allison Ray and Sarah Fletcher for all that they did throughout the year. He went on to thank the ACC Council for their support and to all Club Officers and Committees for everything which they did in order for clubs to continue to play such a vital part in so many communities and a large part in British culture and in the social life of hundreds of thousands of people.



Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

The Chairman called upon Mr Thomas Leeming, Hon Treasurer of the ACC and Hon Secretary of the Conservative National Property Advisory Committee, to propose that the Statement of Accounts be received.

Mr Leeming had pleasure in reporting that the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2023 showed a surplus of just over £1 million, another strong result for the ACC, enabling the continued work in supporting Clubs.

During the year £1.3 million of new loans were made available to support clubs, with £867,000 being repaid from the total loan book and a further £554,000 being recouped by purchases within the Sale & Leaseback programme. The amount of loans to Member Clubs at the year-end stood at just over £5 million. Interest on loans increased from £217,000 to £249,000.

The Accounts also showed rental income from the sale and leaseback of Club properties had increased by some 11.17% from £1.37 million in 2022 to £1.53 million in 2023.

The ACC held investment property, the majority of which were sale and leaseback investments, with a carrying value of £37 million, comprised of over one hundred and twenty club properties and some ancillary land, commercial and residential property.

Purchases of new clubs in 2023 created an outlay of £4.73m on the purchase of thirteen clubs and one commercial property. This was the principal reason for the fall in cash at bank during the year, which was down from some £7.8 million to £2.8 million. This was to some extent a product of timing

differences between purchases and sales.

There were a number of sales forecast for 2024 which were expected to realise material sale proceeds and increase liquidity.

The company had carried out its annual exercise of reviewing the valuation of its property portfolio, including commissioning a sample of reports from its surveyors. Following this review, no material valuation adjustments had been made. It continued to be the company's policy not to revalue upwards in anticipation of potential 'development' gains that could be crystallised in the event of the ACC obtaining vacant possession of the properties.

Income from the sale of IA Tickets showed a reduction in 2023 to £37,500. Commission income showed a higher receipt of £76,000. Legal and professional fees decreased sharply from £102,000 to £39,000. This was in line with expectations.

Interest paid to depositors increased sharply from £186,000 to £276,000. The total Club deposits held remained steady during the year, but the interest rate payable increased from 1st January 2023.

The year end result is that the total net assets of the Association of Conservative Clubs stood at £35,954,869.

Mr Leeming thanked the Accountant and Auditor Andrew Brooker of Begbies Chartered Accountants and concluded by saying that it gave him great pleasure to, once again, propose that the accounts as set out be received by the Annual General Meeting. The proposal to receive the Accounts was seconded and carried unanimously.

Appointment of Auditors

The Meeting approved the 2024/2025 and that the Council appointment of Begbies Chartered be authorised to fix their Accountants as Auditors for remuneration.

Date and Place of the AGM for 2025

The Chairman announced that 2025 and that the Carlton Club the provisional date of the had been booked to host the AGM was Saturday 17th May meeting.



Resolution to the Prime Minister

“That this Annual General Meeting of The Association of Conservative Clubs sends The Rt. Hon Rishi Sunak MP, the Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party, its renewed support and pledges the Association’s ongoing assistance to the Conservative Party.”

The Chairman informed the meeting that he would recommend this Resolution based on three things. Firstly, he thought the Prime Minister had met the challenge of government itself, after a very turbulent period. When he became Prime Minister, we were only just coming to the end of COVID and his own performance during that time to keep businesses alive, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, was quite profound. We also had the war which had begun in Ukraine. Those were significant challenges for any Prime Minister to deal with, and then, in all honesty, we had the crisis of governance, which the Conservative Party had been responsible for, but which had also a profound effect on the nation, and he took government on, in those circumstances, and he met that challenge. I believe that deserves admiration and support.

Secondly, I think he focused on the right challenges. At home, the focus on the importance of the economy. Stabilising the economy. Picking out inflation as the key driver of pain, and the need to reduce inflation. Now, there are a lot of people growing up today who have not really experienced what high inflation was like over a lengthy period of time. Many people in this room have. We have seen governments fail to control inflation and interest rates, and know what that did, but he tackled that and made sure recognising the impact on the cost of living was really important for him. He knew how important it was for the stability of public services. These things are beginning to pay off and bear fruit.

Thirdly, the challenge abroad. This week, the Prime Minister made a speech, reminding us, as if we needed reminding, that the world was ever-more dangerous, and recognised that the need for defence spending to go up, and warning of the dangers abroad. Russia, China, the Middle East.

The point of deterrents is that it stops wars, and so you have to invest in deterrents, and again, we have a society that has been rather comfortable; the post-war years have been good, and the end of the Cold War was good, but life has a nasty habit of creating people who want to disturb that for their own reasons, and we are meeting them, around the world, as we meet here today. Deterrence is important and it works. Margaret Thatcher made the decision to accept American cruise missiles being based in the United Kingdom, for the very reason that it would tell the Soviet Union that there was nothing they could do that would outmatch both our economic ability and our determination to defend ourselves.

So, as well as meeting those three challenges, the Prime Minister, in a tough speech this week, looked at what the prospects for new technology were, not fearfully, but of all the advantages they can bring. He concluded his speech by saying this,

‘True British dynamism won’t come from the State alone. It will come from you. It will come from the ingenuity and creativity of the British people, given the support, opportunities, and rewards to have, pursue and realise big ambitions. So, if you have brilliant new ideas, I want you to build it. If you’re passionate about solving a problem, I want you to pursue it. If you want to set up on your own, I want you to get out there and do it, because you won’t find the future written in Whitehall. You will find it out there, in the country.’

The Chairman reminded the meeting that in the democratic process, you win and you lose, that was the process of democracy, but it was not the job of the Conservative Party to hand government over to somebody else. It is for the opposition to win it and it is for us to defend it, and therefore, in meeting the challenges that the Prime Minister has, he was the right person, in the right place, and accordingly, the Chairman asked the Meeting to support the Resolution, pledging renewed support and the ACC’s ongoing assistance to the Conservative Party and to Rishi Sunak, The Prime Minister.

The Resolution was carried by acclamation.



Pages From The Past

In this month’s Pages From The Past we go back one hundred years to June 1924 where the Magazine featured an update on the ACC London Conference due to be held later that month. Delegates are forewarned that they must expect a very strenuous eight hours since the programme was exceptionally heavy. We assume this advance warning

would have been helpful to allow delegates to mentally fortify themselves in advance of the meeting.

Elsewhere in the page were updates to the ACC Political Challenge Banner as well as to the Provincial Conferences. It is unknown if the Provincial Conferences were also an endurance test of eight hours as well.

THE CONSERVATIVE CLUBS GAZETTE.

The Official Organ of the Association of Conservative Clubs, to which there are affiliated 1,495 Conservative and Unionist Clubs, with a membership exceeding half a million

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A.C.C. LONDON RALLY, FRIDAY, JUNE 13th: See Page 83.

CLUB NOTES.

The A.C.C. London Conference.

The one thing I am asked to stress in connection with the A.C.C. London Conference—to be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on Friday, June 13th—is that the proceedings will commence punctually at 2 p.m. In view of the length and importance of the Agenda to be negotiated—particulars of which appear on another page—an early start is essential. This, coupled with a judicious curtailment of “top-table” speeches, should allow time for all delegates desirous of voicing their views to do so. On this occasion, departing from usual custom, the presentation of the A.C.C. Distinguished Service Awards will take place at the commencement instead of the end of the meeting. Recipients are therefore asked to be in their places by 2 p.m. at the latest. I am glad to hear that a record number purpose being present to receive their well-earned Medals, etc., personally at the hands of the Chairman and in the presence of fellow Club officials.

“Some” Programme!

Delegates attending the Conference must be prepared to face a very strenuous eight hours, for the programme this year is exceptionally heavy. At the afternoon session many matters of moment to Clubs are “down for discussion” and we are counting on helpful and encouraging addresses from Col. the Hon. F. S. Jackson, Chairman of the Party Organisation, and Mr. H. E. Blain, the new Principal Agent, in addition to virile and inspiring counsel from the Chairman of the A.C.C. At the evening meeting it looks as though the Great Hall, which is capable of holding close on 1,000, will be taxed to its utmost capacity, so great is the desire of our Clubmen to hear, and do honour to, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, the revered leader of the Party, who, in addition to addressing the delegates, will present the A.C.C. Political Challenge Banner and commemoration Medals to representatives of the Poole Conservative Club. This over, we shall be able to settle down and enjoy a “top-hole” programme of vocal and instrumental music. It should be a “night of nights,” and, in all, a red-letter day in the annals of the A.C.C. I am asked by the Secretary to state that although the Conference, Meeting, and Concert are primarily intended for delegates from Clubs in London, the Home Counties and South and West of England, accredited officials of affiliated Clubs in any part of Great Britain will be cordially welcomed. To prevent disappointment there should be no delay in securing tickets, application for which should be made to the Secretary, A.C.C., Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

The Provincial Conferences.

Sir Herbert Nield tells me he is much gratified at the success which has attended this year's Provincial Conferences. The three held last month at Birmingham, Newport and Manchester, like the two which preceded them at Bradford and Cardiff, were all attended by a record number of delegates, indicative of

the vitality of the Conservative Club movement in various parts of the country. At each, abundant evidence was forthcoming of a real revival of interest in the political side, and most encouraging signs were exhibited of a genuine desire to assist in Party work. This is the right spirit, and one which must be fostered in every possible way, if our Party is to be returned to power at the next general election. Mr. Baldwin has recently outlined a progressive and thoroughly democratic policy which only requires to be made known to receive wide acceptance amongst the electorate. Let our Clubmen organise on the lines suggested in the A.C.C. Handbook, “The Political Side of Club Life: How to Develop it,” and let each and every one undertake to do something for the Cause. The issue then will no longer be in doubt and our Clubs will have justified their existence as political institutions.



The Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P.
Who will address the Delegates at the London Conference.

A.C.C. Political Challenge Banner.

Cordial congratulations to Poole Conservative Club, Dorset, on being adjudged the winners of the A.C.C. Political Challenge Banner! Though, I understand, only a very narrow margin of marks separated the victors from the “runners up”—who receive “highly commended” certificates—the victory of the West country clubmen was thoroughly well deserved, as reference to their splendid record, detailed on another page of this issue, will prove. That over 70 per cent. of the members identified themselves actively with political work last year, is a magnificent example to other Clubs seeing that it resulted in a 5,000 majority for the Conservative candidate in what was, until recently, a Liberal seat. The judges, I learn, were greatly impressed with the records submitted by several Clubs in the North of England, two of which have been awarded special certificates of merit, whilst a Scottish and Welsh Club share a like honour. The competition, which will now again be an annual event, should prove a valuable incentive to Clubs to interest themselves actively in political work. The Banner, and accompanying Medals to all who held office in the Poole Conservative Club last year, will be presented by Mr. Stanley Baldwin, M.P., at the A.C.C. London Conference.

Home Secretary and Sweepstakes.

The chaotic state of the law with regard to sweepstakes was the subject of an interesting discussion in the House of Commons last month. Mr. W. Bridgman, who was Home Secretary in the Conservative Government, made the eminently practical suggestion that a Committee should be set up to inquire into the whole subject of lotteries, and this course Mr. Henderson appeared to favour, with certain reservations. The main point of his speech, however, was his declaration that the existing law would be “resolutely administered.” I trust it will also be impartially administered and that Conservative Clubs which promote sweepstakes will not be singled out for prosecution whilst Socialist organisations are allowed to “carry on” with impunity. Certain notable cases being *sub judice*, I am precluded from referring to them here until they have been disposed of. This, however, I can say that the

HELP THE A.C.C. TO MAINTAIN THE RIGHTS OF CLUBS BY SUBSCRIBING TO ITS FUNDS.

ACC Services

Loans

Loans can be arranged from as little as £1,000 to £500,000. We provide loans at competitive simple interest rates, currently 6.75%, and all loans commence with a three year period of fixed interest. Loans are repaid over a term to be agreed on an individual basis with each Club in order to create a manageable and sensible time frame for repayment.

Trusteeship

The ACC Trusteeship Service is a free facility offered by the ACC. The transfer of Trusteeship to the ACC has increasingly become popular amongst unincorporated clubs and there are two main benefits for the Club. The first is that the ACC will pay for all legal expenses involved with the transfer of Trusteeship. The second is that the Association's financial and legal resources are such that the Club's position will be greatly strengthened when negotiating loans or defending itself against legal action taken by a third party.

The ACC do not become involved with the day to day business of any Club for which we act as Trustee. The Club will continue to be able to call upon the ACC for advice on any matter without needing to make reference to our Trusteeship. We will only act on behalf of the Club in accordance with the lawful instructions of the Committee and Members. The Club Committee will therefore continue to run the Club's affairs and will only refer matters to the ACC as and when they consider it appropriate to do so



Sale and Leaseback

Since launching the ACC Sale and Leaseback service, over 150 Clubs have entered into this arrangement with the ACC.

Under what circumstances would a Sale and Leaseback be appropriate? The most successful examples of ACC Sale and Leasebacks are Clubs which have a dedicated Committee and Membership and want to secure their Club's future. By unlocking the Club's freehold, Clubs can be provided the means of repaying debt, often undertaking refurbishments and providing a significant cash sum. The rent payable to the ACC following the completion of a Sale and Leaseback can often be less than a Club was paying for servicing debt.

Documentation Available Free Of Charge

ACC Room Hire Agreement - The room hire agreement is designed to be completed at the time a booking and includes space for a deposit to be taken to secure the room is applicable.

ACC Catering Franchise Pack - The ACC Catering Franchise pack can be used by Clubs which have a franchisee who uses the Club's facilities to prepare and serve food within the Club. The Franchisee Contract permits the Committee to decide if the franchisee shall pay a set fee per month to the Club for use of the Club's facilities, shall pay to the Club a percentage of the profits from the sale of food or that a combination of both methods of remuneration shall be utilised.

Health and Safety and Risk Assessment Documentation - The ACC has extensive documentation to assist a Club in creating a Health and Safety policy and conducting regular risk assessments. This documentation is available free of charge. Examples include template health and safety documentation, risk assessment forms and practical advice on completing a Club risk assessment and first aid information.

Candidates for Admission Sheets - The admission sheets can be posted on the Club's Notice Board to detail prospective new Members and have spaces for: Date, Candidate Name, Address, Occupation, Proposer, Seconder.

To obtain any of the documentation packages please email charles@toryclubs.co.uk or phone 0207 222 0843. To enquire about any of the ACC's financial assistance packages please email assistance@toryclubs.co.uk or phone 0207 222 0843.