

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



March 2025 75p



Middlesbrough Hits Sky High Charity Fundraising Target

**Top Tips For Maximising Revenue
ACC AGM Date Notice**

March 2025
75p



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Annual General Meeting 2025

The Annual General Meeting of the Association of Conservative Clubs Ltd shall be held on Saturday 17th May 2025 at the Carlton Club, London.

Formal notice of the Annual General Meeting and the ACC's 2024 Accounts will be circulated to Clubs with the April Magazine.

Clubs wishing to attend should ensure a prompt return of the invitation once received since space is limited.

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assistance@toryclubs.co.uk
www.toryclubs.co.uk

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Rt Hon Alistair Burt
Chief Executive:
Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE
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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Questions and Answers

Q The Committee are considering introducing the following as a Bye-Law: *'Acceptance to The Committee No member shall be allowed to stand for The Committee if they have business interest within the Club (e.g. Catering Franchise) and/or partner already serving on the Committee.'* Would this be an acceptable Bye-Law?

A We would suggest that this would properly be dealt with as a Rule change rather than a Bye-Law.

It essentially conflicts with the existing Rules which allow any Member to stand for election to the Committee as long as they have been a Member for a minimum period of time. In the event of a conflict between a Bye-Law and a Rule then the Rule will override the Bye-Law.

You would want to therefore incorporate this into the existing qualifying provisions for Committee elections and it will have to be approved by the Members

as a formal rule change.

Whether or not this can be accomplished prior to the AGM depends on how soon the SGM can be held and the date of the AGM.

You may also want to be sure of the wording of the rule and have in place a mechanism for dealing with a dispute over what constitutes a business interest or relationship – does a casual relationship count for example? It may sound frivolous invariably these type of fringe cases will occur at some point. The current wording also leaves open the question of what would happen if a Husband and Wife who were not already Committee Members both stood for election at the same time. What happens if the Members elect them both?

It sounds like you had a very specific instance of one couple being on the Committee and this couple also had business interests in the Club. The Committee may wish to ask themselves how often this scenario is likely to occur and if it really needs a Rule amendment to legislate for it. Arguably

it would be easier not to award contracts or business interests to Members in the first place and not to accept membership applications from persons with pre-existing business interests in the Club.

Husband and Wives, for example, may vote the same way but equally so may two good friends. Where do you draw the line and, indeed, is it even imperative to draw a line? Equally the idea that a Husband and Wife would always vote the same way is somewhat antiquated in any event.

In short, this would have to be done as a rule amendment but we do suggest that the Committee thinks very carefully before proceeding. A poorly worded rule amendment usually causes more problems than the original situation it was trying to solve.

Q We have been reading about the ACC's Sale and Leaseback service but wondered how long this usually takes if we wished to use it?

A Our Sale and Leaseback service is not instantaneous but can move at a steady pace if all parties work well to progress the typical questions that arise during any property transaction.

From a Club enquiring about the service to completion, if all goes well it will probably be around six months. First of all a valuation has to be obtained so that the ACC can put a firm offer to a Club's Committee for consideration. In some cases multiple valuations are

obtained if it is a particularly tricky site to value.

Once the ACC and Committee have come to an agreement on the offer in principle we recommend it is placed before the Members at an SGM for approval. Assuming the Members provide their approval the legal work is then commenced and this usually takes a few months but depends on some factors such as whether the Club is already registered with Land Registry and/or are the Deeds still in existence. If there are problems proving the title to the land then this will inevitably delay the completion of the Sale and Leaseback. That said, it is very unusual that we encounter a problem that we have not seen before so we are well equipped to deal with many of the usual issues which may crop up during the process.

There are some situations where matters can progress more quickly, particularly if the ACC are already acting as Trustees for the Club but a conservative estimate would be six months start to finish if everything is broadly template.

Q We are reviewing our membership structure and considering introducing a probationary period for new Members. Would this be possible?

A Whilst I think a probationary membership would be difficult to introduce, a temporary membership is possible and could be used to similar effect.

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

◀ From page 3

In theory, you could use a temporary membership option as a de facto probationary membership if you were so inclined. Elect persons for one month and when this automatically ends they can then apply for Full Membership.

You would obviously need to decide if you were going to make all new Members opt for temporary membership first before offering them permanent membership – this may be off-putting to some potential Members and therefore counter productive regarding the recruitment of new members.

Have you frequently had problems with new Members and disciplinary issues? It is important to establish the scale of the current problem which will dictate a sensible solution.

Obviously, being careful about who the Committee elect to Membership to start with is one way of trying to prevent future problems from emerging.

Clearly, Membership Recruitment is the primary objective of any successful Club so I think we have to be careful not to lose sight of this or make it too difficult for prospective Members to join.

Q When the Club has a Private Event we always let the Club Members use part of the Club. A Committee Member is saying that this is not correct that during a Private Event Club Members should not be allowed to use the Club. Who is correct?

A From a legal point of view, both scenarios presented are lawful.

It is therefore for the Committee to decide how Private functions are

managed. You can hold private functions and also allow Members to use the Club or a specific part of the Club. Or you can hold a private function and close the Club entirely to Members.

It may be that these decisions have to be taken on a case by case basis since some private hire events may lend themselves to still allowing Members to use the Club whilst for other private hire events may require exclusive use of the Club and Members not to be able to use the Club for the duration of the function.

I suggest this topic of discussion is put on the agenda of the next Committee Meeting.

Q Can you tell me if someone is off sick are they allowed to carry their holiday forward. We have always said they can not but our Steward disagrees.

A There was an EU case (Stringer v H M Revenue & Customs) which declared that any employee who has accrued holiday time but has been unable to take it due to sickness shall be allowed to take it during the first period back at work. This means that employees who cannot take holiday due to illness will be able to carry it forward and should take it when as soon as possible upon their return to work.

Q Is there any requirement within the Association rules to post a job position through a public advertisement rather than offer the position directly to a member of the Club who would be ideal for the job?

A I confirm there is absolutely no requirement for the Club to publicly advertise any job

vacancy. The Club is not a public employer and is not publicly funded. If the Club has found an ideal candidate within the membership then why not offer the candidate a three month trial. The candidate must, of course, be prepared to give up their membership of the Club.

Q A member is questioning the refusal of the Committee to allow him to read the minutes of the meeting. Our AGM is this Sunday and certain members appear to want to propose that the club pass a ruling at the AGM to allow members to read the minutes of all and any meeting.

A I confirm that Committee Meetings are confidential and members do not have a right to inspect minutes of such meetings. May I suggest that any member who is desperate to read Committee Minutes to consider standing for election to Office. I can confirm that clubs registered as “Friendly Societies” are obliged under that particular Act to make minutes available. In practice, I am aware, that such clubs end up recording virtually no information in their minutes.

Q Could one of our bar staff be criminally liable if a Member purchased two drinks and passes one of these drinks onto a person who it turns out is intoxicated and had previously being refused a drink?

A Under the Licensing Act 2003 there is a requirement that bar staff have adequate supervision of the bar area. The specific offences under the 2003 Act are permitting disorderly conduct and selling alcohol

to a person who is drunk. The situation that you describe would constitute an offence in that the employee did not have sufficient supervision of the bar area to prevent an intoxicated customer obtaining a further drink. It has also been previously established that a sober customer ordering a drink for someone who is already intoxicated would not be a valid defence against a charge being made of making a supply to an intoxicated person. We suggest that bar staff are vigilant about making sure that persons who are intoxicated are not able to obtain further drinks and all at all times all reasonable steps are taken to prevent drunkenness in the Club’s premises. This is one of any Clubs key licensing responsibilities.

Q The club’s Chairman gave his verbal resignation to the Committee at our last Committee Meeting as, for personal reasons, he felt unable to carry on with the job. The Committee accepted the resignation and it was noted in the Minutes. The Chairman has now asked to withdraw his resignation as he has changed his mind. Is this allowed?

A If the Chairman has given his resignation to the Committee, and this has been accepted by the Committee, then it would be unlikely that he would be able to reverse that decision without reference to the Committee and without the permission of the Committee. I suggest that you raise this matter at the next Committee Meeting to firmly establish if the Committee did accept the Chairman’s resignation and, if so, if they wish to re-appoint him to the position using the club’s Casual Vacancies Rule.

Top Tips For Maximising Revenue

Broaden The Offer – Change the menu and run events that you never used to do, such as quiz nights, special events and coffee mornings. Think about having themed food nights with pizzas, curries and steaks – but you cannot do these too often as the novelty will wear off. You have to remain very mindful of what you are doing to maintain the basics whilst giving people a new reason to visit the Club.

Utilise Outdoor Space – Arguably the days of people just turning up and spending money are long gone. Clubs now need to stand out. If you have outdoor space make sure it is utilised, during Covid people even got use to sitting outside so it can even help all year round. Do not keep your garden space a secret – if you have it make sure it is advertised at the front of the Club. If you have live music inside on a Saturday evening, consider occasionally having it on a Sunday lunchtime in the garden.

Cocktail Madness – Clubs may be primarily wet led but given this is often the case make sure you do not discount what you can gain from a cocktail offering. It is great if you can mix cocktails to demand but if you cannot then cocktails now come in good quality in pre-made canned versions or you can easily pre-mix some cocktails like Negronis in advance. Think about having a themed night for a specific cocktail every now and then. Google Whitebox Freezer Martini for an idea of what you can offer straight from the fridge or freezer.

Be Creative – Clubs probably have a membership

database which may comprise just three items of information – name, date of birth and contact details. Offer Members a free drink if they pop in on their birthdays.

Bar Snacks – Go beyond crisps and nights with an offering such as Olives and Meze from the Real Olive Company. Or once a week on a Wednesday offer free cooked mini sausages to any Members to visit the Club. Cooked in bulk means it is inexpensive and gives people a reason to visit the Club.

Sort Out Your Wine Offering – These days replying ‘white or red’ when people ask about your wine selection is not good enough. Have a selection of wine – it does not need to be extensive but it does need to cover a few basis. Wines can be obtained in bag in box versions which eliminate waste and also small 175ml bottles to avoid the need of opening a small bottle but still allowing you to offer a good range of wine to Members.

Encourage Future Visits – Clubs are often busiest in November and December. Why not give everyone who visits during these months a voucher for a half price drink in January and February to encourage them to keep visiting the Club during the quieter months.

Sorry, I’m Driving – Make sure you are invested in a non-alcohol alternative – diet coke will not cut it anymore. Ensure you have at least one or two good quality non-alcohol beers on offer and consider adult soft drinks – why not stock kombucha in a can for those

who want to go out but may not be drinking that night.

Know Your Regulars – All Clubs have a core membership component that are the hardcore. Make sure your employees greet these members by name and make a special effort in welcoming them each time they arrive. If you have just brought in a new beer or gin, make sure it is mentioned that it is something they might want to try.

Use Your Event Space – Have a great function room but no one knows? Publicise it to the local community, rent it out for weekend events to help your revenue and give the space away free for community groups that want to use it mid-week. The more people you can get through the door – for any reason – the more potential future members you have.

Promotions – Is the Club dead on a Tuesday night? Offer 10% off drinks for the entire evening. You are already paying for wages, heat and light – you may as well encourage Members to visit with a special drinks promotion.

Holding Beer Prices? – If you are holding beer prices do not keep it a secret – tell your Members what you are doing. If you have had to raise prices on some lines but not others, make a point of informing your Members that you are putting extra effort into keeping the prices on key beer lines as low as possible.

Free Prize Draw – Start a free prize draw on a quiet night. The only rules are it is drawn between 7pm-9pm, all Members are automatically entered and they need to present themselves within 60 seconds of their name being called. If they are not there in time add another £10 to the pot and it rolls over to the next week and someone else has a chance of winning the prize.

Keep the Momentum Going – Once you have done the above, do not stop. Keep thinking of ideas to motivate your Members. Put on a gin or wine tasting evening, host a local beer event. Having a Fawlty Towers themed quiz evening. Once you build the initial momentum you will find enthusiasm for many ideas going forwards.



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Middlesbrough Conservative Club Fundraises £6,000

The Middlesbrough Conservative Club has fundraised £6,000 for charities over the course of 2024.

Early in 2024 the Club's Members were asked to choose the charity for 2024 and the Neurological Day Unit of the James Cook South Cleveland Hospital was chosen.

Every year the Club chooses a different charity but the Members put particular effort into fundraising last year as the chosen charity had a personal connection to many Club Members.

The final cheque for £6,000 was handed over in January 2025.

Mr Raymond King-Lane was one of the Members who nominated the Neurology Day Unit and throughout the year in conjunction with Club officials Raymond organized raffles, B.B.Q.'s, inter club snooker and bowls matches, an Elvis entertainment evening and Quiz nights.

The Club Stewardess, Mrs Louise Hardman did a sky diving jump and her sponsorship for that alone contributed £1,040 to the



total figure.

The Unit's Sister said they were moving to a different wing at the hospital and the monies would be well spent on new equipment.



Louise Hardman (Stewardess), Marty Fowler (Club Manager), Catherine Brydon(Unit Sister), Raymond King-Lane (Charity Co-Ordinator), Amanda Roberts (Unit Nurse).



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.

Hospitality leaders lock on to Artificial Intelligence, says report

More than a third of leaders say Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be 'transformational' for the hospitality sector and the vast majority are in favour of adoption, but education and addressing skills gap is key, according to a new report from CGA by NIQ in collaboration with next-generation workforce management software experts Sona.

A new study reveals that the overwhelming majority of hospitality business leaders are in favour of implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI) across the sector, with more than a third believing it will have a 'transformational' impact on their businesses and organisations. At the same time, just 2% of individuals say they are unconvinced by the opportunities AI presents.

The report, which took the pulse of C-Suite executives from a wide range of hospitality businesses, also showed that:

- More than half of business leaders (59%) are curious about the prospects of AI, but admit to needing more education and information on how it will play out.
- A third (39%) are confident that AI will be transformational for the sector.
- 100% of operators think AI will be valuable to the running of their business, with 38% seeing it as extremely valuable and 62% as somewhat valuable.
- Only 17% of those polled claimed to be fully aware of how best to use it for their business, indicating there is a vast knowledge gap.

While there is enthusiasm for AI across the board, the research reveals there are nuances between large, multi-site operators and their smaller counterparts. Larger businesses are three-times more likely (22%) to have researched the benefits of AI for their business than those with less than 20 sites (7%), feeding into the narrative of an increasingly asymmetric market.

The data indicates that a lack of technical skill within a business is the primary obstacle when it comes to AI adoption, as cited by 78% of survey respondents. This brings to light a skills gap that needs to be addressed and an opportunity for the sector to work more closely with data scientists and analysts, to develop thinking around AI strategies.



Conversely, concerns around privacy and data protection were only cited by 17% of respondents as being their main obstacle to implementing AI; and resistance from management (15%), frontline staff (7%) and customers (2%) are comparatively not seen as being problematic.

More than three quarters of respondents (76%) accept that hospitality is lagging behind other consumer-facing sectors when it comes to embracing AI, which reflects why the majority of business leaders (86%) are open to receiving third-party support and education on how AI can best be implemented into their day-to-day operations.

Ben Dixon, Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder of Sona, said: "While many businesses are already adopting AI, there are many more avenues that can be explored. Many have embraced enhanced scheduling and forecasting to drive team productivity and loyalty, but there's even more potential in these areas. Pooling or deploying frontline teams across sites, spotting and retaining high-performers, providing upselling suggestions and rewarding good work are the areas that are perhaps not getting the attention they deserve, which means missing out on potential consumer spend.

"Investing in AI should be a no-brainer at this

UK businesses look to innovative technology

Technology payments company Square has released findings from its annual Future of Commerce report, which analyses how business owners and consumers are considering the evolution of eating out.

This year's findings reveal that UK businesses are turning to innovative, tailored technology to navigate the challenges of 2025—including persistent inflation, reduced consumer spending, and the need to raise prices.

Square surveyed thousands of UK business owners and consumers, alongside gathering insights from the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Key UK findings include:

- **Consumers are cutting back:** 63% of consumers have reduced spending on restaurants—whether dining in, takeaway, or delivery—over the past year. With 71% of restaurant leaders planning price increases in 2025, this trend is likely to continue.
- **Investment in technology is on the rise:** 85% of restaurant leaders plan to adopt AI and automation tools to enhance operations, while 73% are dedicating more time to hiring, and 75% are investing additional effort into business operations.
- **Loyalty programmes remain a priority:** 71% of restaurant leaders plan to increase investment in customer loyalty and rewards programmes over the next 12 months, with 83% confirming these initiatives drive larger orders, repeat visits, and strong ROI.
- squareup.com

point, as it's about saving money and, more importantly, driving revenue at a time when businesses need all the support they can get."

• getsona.com; cgastrategy.com

Consumer food spend on the rise in 2025

A new study released by Out of Home media and infrastructure company, Clear Channel UK, indicates that over one in three people expect to increase their spending on food (36%) in 2025 compared to 2024, despite having money saving as their top New Year's resolution.

Other product categories consumers are expecting to increase spending on include entertainment (14%) and drinks (10%).

The study of 2,000 respondents, conducted via OnePoll, also showed that Gen Z (41%) and younger Millennials (27%) expect to increase their spending on clothing more than older age groups, while the latter expect to spend more money on food.

There are also generational disparities when it comes to New Year's resolutions. A high number of 18-24-year-olds (60%) and 25-34-year-olds (54%) cited money saving as their key goal for 2025. As the ages climb, saving money becomes less common among resolution-makers, with only 44% of 35-44-year-olds, 40% of 45-54-year-olds, 32% of 55-64-year-olds and 26% of 65 and over seeking to adopt frugal living.

When asked about openness to new brands, Gen Z spending habits suggest they are more likely to step out of their comfort zone and experiment with new brands than older generations. One in five (21%) of 18-24-year-olds and nearly a quarter of 25-34-year-olds (24%) claim to want to try new brands. That figure is almost three times higher than those aged 45 and over.

Food (47%), clothing (35%), household items (31%),

Products people expect to spend more on in 2025 compared to 2024



toiletries/cosmetics (28%) and drinks (24%) were revealed as the top product categories people are looking to try from a different brand.

Top reasons for trying new products are affordability, better product reviews, superior quality, brand reputation and dissatisfaction with a current product. Millennials and younger, those aged 18-24 (27%), 25-34 (31%), and 35-44 (25%) are more inclined to try a new brand after being repeatedly exposed to advertising. Overall, men (19%) are more likely to try new brands than women (10%).

Ben Hope, Marketing Director at Clear Channel, said: "Our study shows that while the younger generations are prioritising money saving for 2025, they are also more open to trying new brands after becoming aware through advertising - particularly Gen Z and Millennials. This suggests they are a perfect target for marketers who plan to expand their reach."

• clearchannel.co.uk

Hospitality Tech Trends 2025 report

Planday – shift scheduling software by Xero – has released its Tech Trends 2025 report which offers an in-depth analysis of how hospitality businesses can use up to date technology to benefit their business in 2025. The report explores five key areas where technology is set to play a pivotal role.

1. Artificial Intelligence – Artificial Intelligence is shaking up industries across the globe, and hospitality is no different. The report examines how AI can help, from increasing the customer experience and analysing POS data to forecasting staffing levels and streamlining recruitment processes.

2. Data – The ability to transform and grow any service business lies in the power of data. In 2025, those in hospitality can use technology to automatically track and analyse data to then streamline operations and maximise profits, which will ultimately generate business growth.

3. Mental Health – 85% of workers say they have experienced symptoms of poor mental health in the last 12 months, and Planday's research shows that only 24% have access to some form of mental health support at work. Over half (51%) are planning to leave their current role in the near future, whilst 68% are considering leaving the industry altogether. The report highlights how businesses can use technology to

support mental health through both the use of digital tools such as wellbeing apps and mental health training platforms, as well as streamlining processes and workflows through smart scheduling tools and communication systems.

4. Sustainability – As the sector continues to target net-zero by 2040, green initiatives and sustainability are on the agenda for hospitality businesses in 2025. The report pulls out advances in waste management technology, forecasting technology, water conservation and smart energy systems, to help the industry use technology to support their sustainability initiatives.

5. Top tech tips to engage employees – Keeping teams happy and engaged at work is vital for a successful hospitality business. Happy teams lead to happy customers, a healthier business and lower staff turnover. The report showcases its 10 top tips on how to engage with employees using technology.

Dave Lee, CEO of Planday, said: "At Planday we're on a mission to make shift work more human. And ironically, as we look towards the year ahead, it's technology that will help us do just that. It should act as an agent, taking strenuous tasks out of your way so you can focus on what you love."

• planday.com



Deposit Return Scheme passed by UK parliament

A Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) has been approved by parliament and from October 2027 will see consumers required to pay deposits on plastic and metal drinks containers. They can reclaim their deposit when the empty containers are returned through collection points.

It is anticipated that clubs and licensed premises could opt in to become a DRS point.

The rationale behind the DRS is that it will increase the recycling rates of plastic and aluminium, reduce littering, and promote a circular economy.

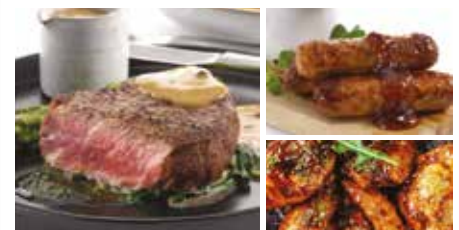
A spokesperson from waste management company Biffa said: "We are pleased to see the House of Commons approval of the regulations to establish a Deposit Return Scheme in England and Northern Ireland, a key step forward in the UK's journey towards a circular economy."

"Cross Government and industry collaboration will be vital as the focus now turns to implementation, supported by public awareness and education campaigns to drive participation and compliance. Lessons should be learnt from past experiences in Scotland, providing industry with certainty that commitments will be met. We look forward to working with authorities at a UK, devolved nation and local level, together with drinks producers, retailers and others, to develop and deliver DRS."

Scotland and Wales are set to develop their own schemes.

• biffa.co.uk

KFF introduces new meat range



KFF's beef range has expanded, and now includes Sirloin, Rump, Fillet and Ribeye steaks.

The poultry range offers fillets, diced, thighs and wings, including Halal and Red Tractor assured meats.

A new range of classic sausages, raw and cooked bacon and cuts of pork have also been added to the offering.

• kff.co.uk

Cairngorm's Black Gold is CAMRA's Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2025

Session stout Black Gold (4.4% ABV) from Scottish brewer Cairngorm has won the title of Champion Winter Beer of Britain at the Great British Beer Festival Winter 2025.

Reacting to the win, Cairngorm's Sales Director Merlin Sandbach said: "After winning Champion Beer of Scotland two years consecutively, and four years in total, the team is ecstatic. Our head brewer Liam, Gemma from Productions and I are absolutely over the moon!"

Runners up in the competition were Sarah Hughes's Snowflake (8% ABV), which took home Silver, and Grain's Slate (6% ABV) which claimed Bronze.



Gold winners in other categories were:

Brown Ales, Red Ales, Old Ales and Strong Milds
Tintagel – Caliburn

Session Stouts and Porters
Cairngorm – Black Gold

Strong Stouts and Porters
Grain – Slate

Barley Wines and Strong Ales
Sarah Hughes – Snowflake

Speciality, Differently Produced
Allendale – Adder Lager

Speciality, Differently Flavoured
Siren – Broken Dream Breakfast Stout

• camra.org.uk

Brakes introduces enhanced welfare standard for fresh chicken

Leading foodservice wholesaler Brakes has announced that it has become the first major wholesaler to introduce enhanced welfare standards for its own brand fresh primary chicken range.

The move, which was completed in January 2025, provides chicken with 20% more space to move around and perch, straw bales, perching areas, items to peck at and more natural light. The new standards reduce the stocking density from the industry standard 38kg/m to 30kg/m.

Brakes currently sells more than 40 own brand fresh British chicken lines which are produced under the Red Tractor scheme.

• brake.co.uk



Greene King celebrates record breaking £3.9m fundraising total

Greene King is celebrating a record-breaking fundraising year for its long-term charity partner, Macmillan Cancer Support, having raised £3.9m during 2024, its highest yearly fundraising total to date.

This follows the announcement last year that the business had reached £20 million, marking 12 years of dedicated fundraising efforts.

The company has also announced that 2025's first six months of fundraising will be specifically directed towards supporting Macmillan's Support Line, a lifeline for those living with cancer and their loved ones, offering confidential support by telephone, email, and webchat.

Trained professionals provide emotional sup-

port, practical information, and guidance on a wide range of issues, from understanding diagnosis and treatment options to managing finances and accessing local services. This invaluable service ensures that no one has to face cancer alone, providing comfort and advice at every step of the journey.

Nick Mackenzie, CEO of Greene King, said: "A massive thanks to all Greene King team members and customers who were involved, as this money will make a huge difference in helping us to ensure that everyone living with cancer in the UK gets the best care possible. I can't wait to see what we achieve by working together in 2025."

• greeneking.co.uk

Jennings Brewery goes back to brewing under new ownership

Jennings Brewery has been acquired by two local business owners, Kurt Canfield (CEO of specialist engineering business Delkia) and Rebecca Canfield (Proprietor of wine and spirits company Wine and the Wood).

The brewery was put up for sale in November 2022

by the then Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company.

Bottled beer under the Jennings brand will continue to be sold by Carlsberg Britvic until March 2025, following which beer production will transfer to the new company, Jennings Brewery Ltd.

• jenningsbrewery.co.uk



L to r: Rebecca Wilson, Chris France and Rebecca Canfield from the Wine & the Wood.

Sky to remain the home of darts until 2030

Sky and the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) have announced a five-year partnership extension keeping Sky Sports as the home of darts until 2030, marking nearly 40 years of collaboration.

The new deal will include over 60 days of exclusively live coverage from the biggest darts tournaments every year including the PDC World Darts Championship, Premier League, World Matchplay, Grand Slam of Darts, World Grand Prix and World Cup of Darts.

Sky has been the long-term broadcast partner of the PDC since 1993 and has played an integral role in the sport's growth and evolution over this time.

Latest data shows a dramatic rise in out-of-home viewing for darts, with a 96% increase in World Championship viewing, a 72% uptick for the Darts Premier League, and Sky's 2024 viewing figures reaching an all-time high over a 10 year period.

James Tweddle, Director of Hospitality at Sky



Business, commented: "The growing popularity of darts highlights its unique ability to bring people together. Clubs and pubs provide the perfect atmosphere to enjoy the excitement of live sport, and last year's record-breaking viewing figures show how much darts resonates with fans."

• skyforbusiness.sky.com

New drive to redistribute end-of-day food surplus

Sustainable waste management company Biffa has partnered with food redistribution organisation Olio to further encourage clubs and hospitality businesses across the UK to move surplus food up the waste hierarchy.

The first-of-its-kind collaboration will see businesses able to prevent same-day surplus food from becoming waste as part of Biffa and Olio's aligned mission to prevent food waste and enable the UK's circular economy.

Through Olio's platform, Biffa customers have been able to track the meals, water and emissions savings as a result of redistribution.

Olio's Food Waste Heroes will see the on-site sur-



plus get to the hands of those locally who need it, while hospitality businesses will benefit from consolidated surplus food and sustainable waste management services.

• biffa.co.uk

Nelson bespoke commercial kitchens and bars at HRC 2025

Nelson is exhibiting at the Hotel, Restaurant and Catering exhibition, taking place at London's Excel on 17 – 19 March.

The company is showing the latest additions to its superior Advantage range of glasswashers, dishwashers and potwashers and is also introducing its newly launched HydroMax Pro range of utensil washers. All these machines combine substantial water and energy-saving features, backed by Nelson's service support arm.

Nelson Bespoke Commercial Kitchens designs and installs kitchens across every sector of foodservice, and some examples of the latest equipment launches used within Nelson's designs will be on display. These include Blue Seal's modular Waldorf and



Evolution ranges and Williams' Meat Ageing Refrigerator, designed to store meat while it ages to achieve the best yield, texture and flavour.

• nelsonwash.co.uk



Parmigiano Reggiano Consortium present the Casello D'Oro Awards

Following the success of the first Casello d'Oro Awards event in 2024 at the Italian Embassy in Paris, the 2025 edition was held at the British Museum in February.

The Casello d'Oro Awards presented prizes to 13 winners of the Paliù 2024, and presented two Special Mentions for the Parmigiano Reggiano with the best structure and the best aromatic profile, both of which went to the 4 Madonne Caseificio dell'Emilia dairy in Varana di Serramazzoni (province of Modena).

The evening was hosted by Italian cuisine expert Valentina Harris, and in the presence of Inigo Lambertini, Italian ambassador to the UK.

London was chosen as the venue as the UK is the fourth biggest foreign market for Parmigiano Reggiano with over 6,500 tonnes imported per year, up by +17% compared to the previous year.

• parmigianoreggiano.com

Quicker fry-times

Oil Chef has developed a pressure fryer device that can reduce hand-breaded, bone-in chicken fry times by up to three minutes.

Compatible with all brands of commercial pressure fryers, the Oil Chef OCPFL serves to slow down the natural oxidation process of oil, therefore maintaining the low viscosity of the oil and boosting its thermal conductivity. As a result, oil lasts up to twice as long, chicken texture and taste is enhanced, leaving the fryer minutes quicker too.

CEO Sean Farry said: "A three minute reduction in hand-breaded, bone-in chicken fry times truly is transformative, hence why we are so excited to be bringing the Oil Chef OCPFL to the booming fried chicken scene here in the UK.

"Our ecofriendly technology has been tried and tested by some of the world's favourite fried chicken chains, and now we are rolling it out to the wider market. With this device, chicken-shops and restaurants with a fried chicken menu will deliver crispier, juicier, and less oily chicken products in record times, while at least doubling the life of cooking oil in pressure fryers."

The OCPFL boasts a maintenance-free design and requires no wires and no power. The operator simply needs to slot the device into the well of the pressure fryer for it to begin working.

Constructed of food grade stainless steel, the device is backed by a three year warranty.

• www.oilchef.com

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Recommended supplier to the Association of Conservative Clubs

It's the Bullseye!

On Monday 17th February 2025, Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, Ashton-under-Lyne played host to the Tameside Darts, Dominoes and Crib Aggregate Cup Final.

The Club was up against the Foresters, Ashton-under-Lyne in the nail biting final, when Bob Dutton beat Olly Dodd in the final game of darts, leading to Waterloo and Taunton being

crowned the winners by 11 / 12. Club Chairman, Leon Tamcken said "Thank you to everyone who turned out to watch the teams battle it out to win the cup. A fantastic night that went right down to the wire".

The league is made up of Clubs and Public Houses across Tameside who battle it out every Monday.



Cheque Presented To Medical Detection Dogs Charity

In February, Members of Cheshunt and Waltham Cross Conservative Club presented Medical Detection Dogs with two cheques to the value of £1,700.00 The evening was a great success with the promise of more donations to come. The photo shows the evening's presentation event with brothers of the Earl Haig Lodge GEB RAOB who are all Members of the Club.

Medical Detection Dogs is a UK-based charity that trains dogs to detect a wide range of medical conditions using their extraordinary sense of smell. These specially trained dogs can identify illnesses like cancer, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, and bacterial infections, such as Clostridium difficile. They can even detect changes in a person's body before symptoms appear.

The dogs are trained to recognize specific odours that are associated with these medical conditions. For example, some cancers and infections emit unique scents that dogs can detect, and diabetic dogs can alert their owners to low or high blood sugar levels by identifying changes in scent. The dogs' ability to detect these conditions early can be life-saving.

Medical Detection Dogs said: We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who participated in our recent fundraising efforts. Your incredible generosity and dedication have made a significant impact, and we are truly grateful for your support. Your involvement has not only helped raise much-needed funds but also raised awareness for our cause. Thank you for making such a meaningful difference!





Benfleet Hosts Valentines Event



The Benfleet Conservative Club recently hosted a heartwarming Valentine's event that brought members together in the spirit of love and friendship. The event was filled with fun activities, including games, a delicious spread of treats, and opportunities to connect with fellow members in a fun atmosphere including music and entertainment by Sharaz. It was a wonderful celebration and showed the special bonds that make our club

such a vibrant and supportive place. The Club's Committee wanted to thank everyone who

participated and helped make the Valentine's event a huge success.

North West Darts Circuit Competition

Bredbury and Woodley Conservative Club, Stockport, has played host to the Amateur Darts Circuit (ADC) throughout January 2025.

The northwest circuit organised by Lee Holden, sees opportunities to play locally, regionally and nationally and is a pathway to the darts end of year majors.

On 20th January 2025, Adam Warner beat Michael Ahern, 4 nil, in the final held at Bredbury and Woodley Conservative Club with Adam only dropping 1 leg all day.

A total of £485.00 was paid out in prize money to the players. Lee Holden said "Well done to all the money winners"



OBITUARY

Paul Coates



Paul was involved with Fullede Conservative Club from an early age (1972) when his parents were Steward and Stewardess of the Club. He was part of the committee from the late 70s, and took on the role of Treasurer in the late 1980's. He remained an integral part of the Club, ensuring the smooth running with staff and members alike. Paul was a respected member and Officer of the Club throughout his almost 40 year involvement until unfortunately, the Club closed its doors in 2017. Paul was a hard working self-employed joiner by trade for over 30 years, a loving husband, father and granfather, who could never do enough for his family.

The photograph shows Paul in 2015 when he was discharged from ICU after being in an induced coma for 2 weeks.

We have been requested to publish a belated obituary for Mr Paul Coates, a well-respected and long term Officer of the former Fullede Conservative Club. Whilst Paul passed away in 2023, his memory remains cherished by his family and friends.

Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back to April 1935 for a reproduced article from the London Evening Standard.

The article is a staunch defence of Clubs and the right of people to congregate in such a manner whilst taking advantage of relaxed licensing laws unavailable to Publicans. Fairly, the article makes the point that Clubs are not in the wrong but too much regulation of Pubs has hurt Pubs. The answer is not to further burden Clubs with regulation but to consider the plight of Pubs which may be suffering.

At the time Clubs were facing calls for increased licensing and as such it was important that voices came to the assistance of Clubs in securing their hard thought and legitimate status.

Given that the last major

piece of licensing legislation was the Licensing Act 2003 which consisted of 140 pages and 27,000 words there is an argument that that not much has changed in the intervening 90 years!

The author A. P. Herbert (Alan Patrick Herbert) was a popular British author, playwright, and humourist, best known for his satirical works and contributions to law reform. He was born in 1890 and gained fame for his wit and sharp commentary on social issues, politics, and the legal system. One of his most famous works is *The Secret Battle* (1919), which focuses on the struggles of soldiers during World War I. He had a long career and served as a Member of Parliament, where he was involved in various reform movements, particularly around the legal system.

HANDS OFF THE CLUBS!

By A. P. HERBERT.

The following striking article is from the pen of Mr. A. P. Herbert, famous alike as author and publicist, and appeared in the columns of the London "Evening Standard," by whose permission it is reproduced.

The clatter about the clubs makes me laugh. Only those who study closely the politics of Pussyfootery will have perceived the real fun of the situation. But all newspaper readers must have noticed the clatter: a debate in the House of Lords, instituted by the chairman of that comical body the late Licensing Commission: "strong" observations by justices and counsel at various Licensing Sessions: resolutions by societies, remarks by bishops: a converging assault from many quarters, the objective of which is the "tightening-up" of the laws relating to the registration and control of clubs.

* * *

A club, as we are being told *ad nauseam*, can be formed by any casual persons, on payment of a five shillings fee. These persons, by using their intelligence, can fix their "hours" so that, keeping strictly within the law, they can "supply intoxicating liquors" at hours forbidden to the publican in the same district.

And a very good thing too—say I! For thus, in a roundabout way, the ordinary citizen is snatching back a little of the liberty which Parliament thought it had altogether taken away!

If the ordinary public house had not been subjected to intolerable laws this mushroom growth of clubs would never have happened. It is one of the few cases where the old proverb about "hoist with his own petard" is really apt. And it was a grave defect in the House of Lords debate that, if the report I read is correct, not a single peer rose up to make this most important and unanswerable point.

Nevertheless, as a lover of equity and the rule of law, I should, at first glance, be ready to consider favourably a proposal that the law should be "tightened" at these two corners—(1) so as to level taxation in the publican's favour and (2) to put more effective checks on the creation by really irresponsible persons of the really "undesirable" club (if such do really exist).

That is, if Parliament could be trusted to go no further. And that is the snag.

* * *

I suspect, with good reason, that much of this talk about "bogus" and "undesirable" clubs is mere eye-wash compounded of cunning and hypocrisy. One cannot, after all, without suspicion, regard prominent "Temperance" people weeping sad tears over the cruel injustices inflicted on the publicans.

The truth is that "they" are out to ham-string not the "bogus" or "undesirable" clubs only, but *all* clubs. The clubs infuriate them, not because the crook does his business in a few of them, but because the ordinary citizen enjoys a little real liberty in all of them. Because the clubs are free of the petty tyrants on the Licensing benches, can fix their own hours, and shift a lavatory, put in a billiard-room, or play a piano without having to get hat in hand to the Licensing Justices.

And you can bet your boots that if Parliament is permitted to touch this question at all the end will be that *all* clubs will be handed over to the "discretion" of the Justices, who will fix uniform hours for clubs and pubs, harry the clubs as they do the pubs, and sweep away yet one more corner of liberty in the land.

People who talk as if it were only a matter of admitting the occasional visits of a police-officer and wonder why any respectable club should object to that, simply do not know what they are talking about. Not that that is a trifle. Consider, for example, what an engine of political oppression the "right of entry" into clubs might be in more troublous times.

* * *

My conclusion, then, is that the decent, law-abiding citizen (and his Member of Parliament) should refuse to be misled by all the chatter, and present a vigorous negative to any proposal to alter the club law—except as part of a general Licensing Bill relaxing restrictions on respectable people everywhere.

If there is noise, nuisance, drunkenness or dope-work, let these evils be dealt with by the ordinary laws "in that case made and provided," which are sufficient. But hands off the clubs!

* * *

In the name of all lovers of liberty and common-sense, then, I give the Government this very serious warning. They are to pay no attention whatever to Lord Amulree and the rest. Hands off the clubs!

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