

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



April 2025 75p



Don's 97, But What's He Celebrating?

ACC Change Of Officers

Altrincham Holds Race Night Event

April 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 have been enclosed with this edition of the Magazine.

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

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A Message to all ACC Clubs – A Change of ACC Officers



Last year, our Chairman the Rt Hon Alistair Burt, informed the ACC Board of his intention to stand down as Chairman of The Association of Conservative Clubs Ltd. On behalf of the ACC Council and the entire ACC Team, I would like to put on record our thanks to Alistair for his leadership, dedication, and invaluable contribution to the ACC over many years.

Following Alistair's decision, I also felt that it was the right time for me to step down from my position of Chief Executive, and I was both delighted and honoured to have been appointed as the new ACC Chairman. In taking on this new role and new challenge, I am mindful of the work that will still need to be undertaken in helping to shape the future of the ACC for the years ahead.

Becoming the Chairman is a particular honour for me, having joined the staff of the ACC in 1987 following a nerve wracking interview with the late Lord Kaberry of Adel, and being made Chief Executive in 1999.

I am equally delighted that Charles Littlewood, our Deputy CEO has been appointed as the ACC Chief Executive. Many Club Officers know Charles well from their day to day dealings with him and will share my wish to congratulate Charles and to offer him our full support in his new role. There is no doubt that Charles is the right person to take on this important position, ensuring that the ACC will continue to thrive and achieve its primary role of assisting our Member Clubs for many years to come.

The Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE
Chairman

Acomb Presents Charity Fundraising Cheque

The Acomb & District Conservative Club located on Front Street, Acomb in York chose Martin House Hospice as their nominated Charity for 2024. Throughout the year fund raising events were well supported by Club Members and their guests. Events held included a Pig Racing Night which alone raised £1650. A Games and Cabaret night with entertainment from Nigel Heap was also put on which was very well attended.

Martin House Hospice is in Boston Spa, Wetherby, and provides family led hospice care free of charge for children and young people with life-limiting illnesses. They offer support to the whole family, giving them the opportunity to spend quality time together.

The Final event and Presentation evening was held in December when representatives from Martin House attended and accepted

a cheque for £5423.17 from Chairman Mr David Lane. Thanks were expressed by the Committee to all who helped in any way to raise this incredible amount for such a worthwhile cause. The generosity of the members and friends is greatly appreciated. This year, the Club will be supporting a number of local charities and look forward to giving their support through club events which are currently being arranged for 2025.

The photograph shows Club Chairman David Lane, handing over a cheque to Representatives from Martin House Children's Hospice. Also in the photo are Committee members, club members and guests who attended the final presentation evening and were part of the fundraising events throughout the year.

The ACC sends our congratulations to the Club and all its Members for such incredible fundraising efforts during 2024.



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The Cheque Presentation Event.

CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates increase from 1 April 2025

Employers should be aware that all minimum wage rates increase on 1 April of each year. This includes all National Minimum Wage rates and the National Living Wage rate.

From 1 April 2025, the National Living Wage will be extended to include those aged 21 years old and over.

Minimum wage - increased rates from April 2025

See the table below that shows the current minimum wage rates and new rates from 1 April 2025:

	Current rate (since April 2024)	New rate from April 2025	Increase
National Living Wage (21 years old and over)	£11.44	£12.21	6.7%
National Minimum Wage (18-20 years old)	£8.60	£10.00	16.3%
National Minimum Wage (16-17 years old)	£6.40	£7.55	18%
National Minimum Wage (apprentice rate)	£6.40	£7.55	18%
Accommodation Offset	£9.99	£10.66	6.7%
Accommodation Offset	£9.10	£9.99	9.8%

Linneweber HMRC Claim Update

Clubs may recall previous articles referring to successful recovery of sums of VAT paid at HMRCs incorrect insistence from income generated from gaming machines operated by clubs in VAT periods prior to 6 December 2005 ('Linneweber1' claims) and after 5 December 2005 until 31 January 2013 ('Linneweber 2' claims).

It has recently come to our attention that some clubs remain unpaid as a result of a number of factors, all usually based around HMRC's requirements for requests for repayment to be made in a specified form and insisting upon clubs having valid claims and appeals, where certain further actions may be required.

The ACC has sought advice from Ian Spencer of Ian Spencer & Associates Limited who has advised that in most

instances there is the basis of a valid claim and with the correct actions being taken there is no reason why any club that took actions many years ago to submit a claim followed by an initial appeal to the VAT Tribunal should not receive the benefit of this windfall from HMRC.

Ian indicated he is happy to look at the specific circumstances of any club that considers it may be in such a position and if appropriate, take all necessary actions to allow repayment to be made. Ian has suggested agreement for a fixed fee of £350 + VAT for any club which instructs him to pursue such a claim, payable only upon the successful recovery of moneys from HMRC.

Ian's contact details are ianspencer@vatproblemsolved.com or 07904 864209

Questions and Answers

Q Our Committee has dealt with a tricky situation but the Club's employees consider our disciplinary decision to have been too lenient and have requested that we expel the Member instead of suspending the Member. It has been suggested that some employees may resign if we do not alter our decision. What action should we take?

A Whilst employees should be consulted and their views heard, the Committee cannot be dictated to by employees or allow employees to start making Committee decisions. The Committee are elected to run the Club, not the employees and therefore the Committee must always make the final decision. If the Club operates

under a Club Premises Certificate it is also a condition of your licence that the Club is run in accordance with your Rules and with an elected Committee making decisions.

If the Committee felt that after hearing all of the evidence that a suspension was appropriate rather than an expulsion it would be unusual to then allow a third party to influence the Committee to then try to alter or change the decision. As you can imagine, the ACC are often asked for technical information on disciplinary matters but we need to be very careful not to stray over the line into actually influencing the decision that the Committee make. This is because the Rules specifically state that it is the Committee that make the disciplinary decision and it is therefore

inappropriate for any third party, be it employees or the ACC, to actually be found to be making that decision themselves, not least because it is unlikely they have heard all the evidence that the Committee has heard.

The Committee heard and reviewed the evidence and made their decision. Simply because a third party disagrees with that decision does not make it wrong or mean that the Committee needs to revise its decision.

Q We do not currently allow absent Committee Members to proxy vote at Committee Meetings. Is this something we should be allowing? A Committee Member who will be absent has sent in a letter about an Agenda item, should we read this out?

A Most Committees do not allow proxy voting at Committee Meetings although it is certainly something your Committee could introduce if you felt it would be helpful. Certainly the letter received can be read out and considered by the Committee Members at the meeting who will be voting.

If you do allow proxy voting you just need to establish the framework – how it will work in practice etc. Obviously one of the downsides of allowing proxy voting is that the person is allowed to vote on a agenda item where they have not participated in the discussion – this could make items concerning Club Memberships and employees particularly tricky.

Therefore think carefully before you allow proxy voting but you can certainly permit opinions from absence

CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Committee Members to be shared in an informal manner that does not constitute a vote.

Q Each year our club holds one or two events, the admissions to which have, in recent years, been by 'ticket only.' We have some members who question this and say that they must be allowed to enter the club, even if they do not wish to buy a ticket. We would appreciate your clarification of this matter.

A I confirm that it is in order for an event to be promoted at the club, the admission to which is by ticket only. A member of a club does not have an automatic legal right of entry to their club. Consequently, if a ticket only event is organised and promoted then members who do not wish to purchase a ticket may not enter a club at such an occasion. Ticket events are few and far between and in most clubs only take place on New Year's Eve. By selling tickets for such an event the committee will at least be able to manage the number of staff required and levels of entertainment and refreshments required etc., which otherwise they may not be able to do on what can be either a very busy or a very quiet night.

Q Our Committee made a disciplinary decision about a Member some months ago which resulted in a lengthy suspension. After our AGM, the Committee will be a different composition – can the new Committee rescind our disciplinary decision?

A Committees do have the right to rescind Committee decision – there does not necessarily need to be any new information provided. The principle is that Committees cannot bind future Committee decisions

which means that a previous decision can always be overturned if a Committee wishes to.

The vote to rescind should, however, be formally placed on the agenda so that the Committee can vote for or against it.

It is important to note that whilst you can rescind a decision there is no capacity to go back and alter a previous Committee disciplinary decision unless you start the entire disciplinary process from scratch. For instance, you cannot suspend a Member for six months and then five months later decide to increase that suspension to ten months. You can rescind the original decision so they can return immediately, you can implement brand new disciplinary proceedings against them (if new information has come to light) but you cannot actually alter the punishment handed out apart from rescinding it entirely.

Energy Q&As

Q We have been seeing a lot on the news lately about costs increasing but we have over a year left on our contracts, we think we will be better off just waiting until closer to the time.

A Whilst it is down to each committee's choice as they pay the bills, expert advice would be to look at things sooner rather than later, this is down to having readily available data at our disposal for the market in short-, medium- and long-term forecasts. Ultimately, when using a broker, you will find you have a very active broker who is constantly looking at further renewals which can have its place, however, they could be looking out for their best interest rather than the clubs themselves. On the other hand you may have a broker or have done things internally

and wait until 3 months before, a month before or even a week before your current contract ends to look for prices, again all have their place, but not always the wisest option and if a broker is leaving it that close, it is generally due to their commercial terms which could be a huge benefit to a club but equally could be a very costly mistake that ends up occurring, but utilising a broker/consultant is definitely a wise option as they will on the whole give a much broader picture and can be a lot less time consuming searching the market for you, especially in light of the current governments disastrous decisions surrounding the UK energy market.

Q We have been made aware recently about some changes in the UK network which could have an impact on member clubs, are you aware of anything?

A Yes, there are some changes as early as April 2025 coming into play, which ties in with the disastrous decisions alluded to above. NCCS is the biggest that will have an impact on small and medium businesses. NCCS – Network Charging Compensation Scheme is what it stands for and was announced back in February of 2023, as part of the 'British

Energy Supercharger'. As most people are aware Energy Intensive Industries i.e. Nissan and so on are finding themselves between 40%-50% more expensive than their European counterparts on their energy costs and restrictions due to having to become Carbon Neutral for an unrealistic target, which is exacerbated by Labour having relaxed renewable energy generation, which in turns increases non-commodity (green levies) for end users. So, in essence, the government are now going to subsidise larger users in a bid to bring their costs in line with the rest of the continent by reducing their network costs, for example DUoS, TNUoS and BSUoS – the distribution, transmission and balancing of power, and unfortunately they are offsetting these reductions by increasing domestic and smaller businesses, which is why you will have seen recently that the domestic price cap is increasing yet again, and for relevant businesses, they will also be seeing increases as a result of this decision, this is also heavily weighted per supplier and their market share, so we may see the likes of SSE and EON to name a couple having larger increases than other suppliers.

There is additionally a provisional new Zonal

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The IA Ticket

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The Association of Conservative Clubs' Inter-Affiliation Tickets

◀ From page 5

Charging being looked into at present called REMA – Review of Electricity Market Arrangements, in short this would impact more rural businesses/clubs, or those further away from energy projects, I will elaborate on this more when more information becomes available.

Q We've had a bad experience with a broker before and are reluctant to use another, who is the best broker to use and why?

A It's down to personal opinion in reality, I'd always suggest looking at the likes of Trustpilot or similar and look for genuine good

and bad reviews, have a look at the good reviews and see what the problem solved was, then look at the bad and if it is due to an excessive number of calls, it doesn't necessarily mean the broker is bad, but rather they have had limited resources to obtain information etc. Brokers in general split opinion, some businesses would not look any further than using a broker who solved an issue for them and other people point blank refuse due to hearing other people's stories in most cases. I think the best way to assess is as simple as having a chat with a broker and you will gain an insight quickly on how they are wanting to work with you. I'm fortunate enough to have worked with some member

clubs who have got in touch through these Q&A's and have ended up helping those clubs out by both reducing costs on contracts or giving advice on how to reduce consumption with simple energy monitoring avenues.

Q Brokers make too much money; wouldn't it be cheaper going direct?

A Brokers can make a lot of money through contracts they procure; however, this is all relevant to supplier, length of contract and pre-loaded commission which has to be detailed on the contract, transparency is the best option regardless. Broker commissions are a supplier's way of payment to the third

party for obtaining business on their behalf, very similar to insurance, beer (brewery's) and pretty much any other business, and it doesn't mean without the broker you would have contracts 'X' amount cheaper as ultimately it is based on volume of energy sold and accuracy of contracted consumption. Additionally, having a good broker is more than contract procurement, they are your energy expert that you have readily available and can provide you with advice and an industry overview that your supplier is not obligated to provide.

Our thanks to Rob McCluskey from Independent Utility Advice (07950372504) for help with these Energy Q&As.

Duties of Club Officials

Many Clubs have just held their AGMs so there may be newly elected Committee Members and Officers. We hope this guide will assist anyone recently elected to a Club Committee.

The President

He should identify himself actively with the club and its affairs and be more than a figure-head. He should also preside ex officio over all meetings (other than committee meetings).

The Chairman

The Chairman presides ex officio over all committee meetings and, in the absence of the President, those of the club. He should be thoroughly familiar with the rules of the club and the procedures which govern club meetings. He must, at all times, endeavour to maintain the dignity of his office and, by precept and example, the reputation of the club. The Chairman should not be afraid to exercise his authority, quietly and tactfully, when occasion arises. He should work in the closest co-operation with the Secretary in assuring that all legal and other club obligations are

carried out.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for seeing that all moneys, whether received by himself, the Secretary, the steward or any other official or employee are duly banked. He is to ensure that all debts of the club are paid as directed by the committee and that cheques are signed by himself and one, or more, members of the Finance Committee, then countersigned by the Secretary. It is his duty to produce the Paying-in Book, Bank Statement, Daily Takings Book etc. at every meeting of the committee, or whenever required.

The Secretary

It is the duty of the Secretary to keep the books, documents and papers of the club in proper order and carefully filed. He must summon and attend all meetings and take Minutes of the proceedings. Other responsibilities may be summarised–

- Keep the register of members up to date, with record of last payment of subscriptions
- See that the names,

addresses and occupations of candidates for membership are duly displayed on the club notice board for the period stipulated in the rules

- Issue notices of default to members in arrears and see that names are removed from the register if subscriptions are not paid within the period stated in the rules
- Post all notices in connection with General or Special General Meetings
- Check nominations of candidates for office and allow none to go forward which are not in order
- Comply with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003
- Comply with the requirements of the National Insurance Acts, Statutory Sick Pay and see that all paid employees are insured
- See that the club is insured against liability at Common Law, for accidents occurring to club employees, and also against fire and burglary

Larger clubs may consider that the demands placed on their Secretary are beyond the capacity of a voluntary officer. The appointment of a Secretary is not normally

made by members in general. The committee makes such appointments just as they appoint other employees of the club. Applicants may come from within the membership or from outside. Therefore, the rules customarily provide that where an appointed Secretary is to be preferred, the committee will carry out the appointment. In this position he is an officer without power, except as delegated by the committee.

Committee

It is the duty of the committee to attend their meetings regularly. Acting in a quasi judicial capacity they are empowered–subject to what the rules say–to suspend or expel offending members, having first given them an opportunity of being heard in self-defence. The appointment, control and dismissal of all club employees rest solely in the hands of the committee.

The committee is responsible for checking books kept by the Treasurer or Secretary and seeing that all takings have been duly paid into the bank. The committee, realising their position of trust and authority, should rigidly observe the rules of the club, thus setting an example to the members.

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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.

First 53 Place Expansion Partnerships announced by Sport England

Sport England has announced 53 new places it is expanding its work into, to address regional inequalities in activity levels across England.

Each of Sport England's 53 new places is in the top 10% of the country for inactivity, social need, deprivation and health inequality at a national level, according to the data from the latest Active Lives Adult survey and Place Needs Classification Tool.

The announcement builds upon a £250 million investment into the heart of communities across England, designed so those in greatest need are able to be active.

To tackle inactivity in the 53 new places, Sport England is taking a place-based approach, partnering with local organisations and leaders who understand both the specific needs of their communities and the local assets that are available to support people to play sport and get active.

This approach is being expanded predominantly with and through its network of Active Partnerships,



which are connected to local systems and stakeholders for each of these places.

With less than half of children meeting the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines for daily physical activity and women, people from lower socio-economic groups and Black and Asian people are still less likely to be active than other adults. Inequalities in activity levels could have a negative impact on the country in the long term, according to **Chair Chris Boardman**:

"Health inequalities have become embedded in our

communities, with rising inactivity amongst children a particular worry.

"Inactive kids are more likely to be inactive adults and more at risk of develop chronic illness that costs the NHS and our economy; it's a ticking timebomb for the long-term health and wealth of the country. We must address it urgently.

"Physical activity is rightly described by health experts as the 'miracle cure'. It's not only part of the solution for the physical, mental and social health problems facing our communities; it's also pivotal to getting the economy moving."

The latest Active Lives surveys show that affluence and activity levels are closely linked: over a third of adults (34%) are inactive in England's most deprived places, compared to 20% in the least deprived.

• sportengland.org

Surrey brewer acquires Ridgeway Brewery

Crafty Brewing has acquired Ridgeway Brewery, combining two businesses which create high quality beers while also being environmentally aware.

Ridgeway Brewery founder and Master Brewer Peter Scholey said: "Any business needs a succession plan but with brewing it is far more than just finding a new manager. You need someone who shares your vision of what "good beer" should be and I am pleased to have found that person in Luke Herman."

Luke Herman, Crafty Brewing founder, said: "Having grown Crafty Brewing since 2014 from a 100-litre kit in a lorry body to a 5,000-litre setup in a purpose-built facility, producing traditional beers with a modern twist, joining forces with Ridgeway was a natural next step.

"Peter brings a deep understanding of the industry, expert brewing skills, and a portfolio of world-class beers. I'm thrilled to be working alongside him, learning from his experience, and maintaining the Ridgeway brand he has built with such dedication.



Luke Herman of Crafty Brewing (Left) and Peter Scholey of Ridgeway Brewery (Right)

"I look forward to combining our expertise, creativity, enthusiasm and commitment to quality,

award-winning beer."

• craftybrewing.co.uk

Helping clubs to lift spirits with mixed drinks during 2025



Cocktails can help venues revive spirits sales at a challenging time for the category, according to the Mixed Drinks Report from CGA by NIQ, which reveals the strategies that are needed for success.

Data from CGA has shown year-on-year declines in spirits sales throughout 2024, as some consumers tightened their spending or switched to other drinks. Trends for moderation and drinking out earlier have also worked against the category.

However, there is plenty of potential to revive spirits sales in 2025, driven by the improving performance of cocktails as cost pressures ease. In mid-2024, a fifth (20%) of all consumers said they were severely impacted by rising costs, but this number had fallen to 16% by the end of the year. This growing financial confidence is fuelling renewed interest in cocktails, setting the stage for a strong recovery in spirits sales.

Cocktails are particularly well-positioned to capitalize on this momentum, having bucked the downward trend in the second half of 2024 with year-on-year sales growth of 1.6%. Availability rose as well, with a 3.3% jump in the number of outlets where cocktails are sold—the first increase since 2021.

This provides a good platform for 2025—especially as cocktails deliver the combination of quality and value that consumers want at the moment. They also play well to the demand for enjoyment, visual appeal and all-round experience.

The Mixed Drinks Report provides essential intelligence for venues and suppliers trying to recruit new consumers. Cocktails are a valuable gateway to spirits, as more than a quarter of consumers trial a category and brand for the first time through a mixed drink—a number that is rising year-on-year. Smart cocktail strategies, based on a deep understanding of emerging trends and people's preferences, are going to be pivotal to sustaining interest in spirits brands throughout 2025.

Innovation and excitement could be among the keys to success, as the Mixed Drinks Report highlights a growing demand for new types and ingredients. While nearly half (46%) of consumers say they prefer classic cocktails, this number has fallen by 6 percentage points year-on-year. Meanwhile, preferences for modern and new-to-the-market cocktails has risen steeply, by 6 percentage points to 17%. More than a quarter (27%) of consumers say they try a new drink category in their cocktail every or almost every time they drink out, and appetite for experimentation is particularly high in areas including tequila, spritzes and no and low alcohol alternatives.

The Mixed Drinks Report flags more top cocktail trends to track, including:

- The Pornstar Martini remains the country's favourite cocktail, with a 13.2% share of sales by volume
- Menus are the top influence on consumers' decision-making, with 64% saying they are typically a factor. Promotional deals and the atmosphere of a venue are the next most important drivers.
- An ongoing demand for value as well as quality, with a quarter (25%) of consumers more likely to buy cocktails if they were better value for money.

Violetta Njunina, CGA client director, said: "There's no escaping the fact that the trading environment for spirits is difficult at the moment, but cocktails provide an exciting chance to make up the lost ground in 2025. As our Mixed Drinks Report shows, quality is going to be key to winning the spend of engaged and experimental consumers—but it will also be crucial to cater for the substantial part of the market that is more focused on value. Our report is the ideal foundation on which to build an understanding of the latest needs of cocktail drinkers and collaborate with venues on ways to meet them."

• cgastrategy.com



Jawsome experience from Dransfields Dart Shark

Dart Shark state of the art darts experience is a new Dransfields offering for members to get their teeth into.

Chris Haley, Dransfields Managing Director, said: "Dart Shark makes a great addition to any club, particularly as we are seeing such a rise in popularity of Darts as a sport. It's a great, easy to use system with fun games that will provide great entertainment to your customers, and increased revenue for your club."

Dart Shark's attributes include:

- State of the art interactive darts unit with traditional board
- Great choice of exciting games
- Drive footfall and extend dwell time
- FREE installation
- New games added regularly
- Great revenue generator
- dransfields.com

Introducing the Old Perth Vintage 2009

Morrison's Distillery has released its Vintage Collection 2009, described as a bold and rich whisky that pays homage to the artistry of sherry cask maturation.

The exclusive Vintage Collection 2009 is a blend of three sherry cask types, each chosen for its ability to impart deep, complex flavours:

- First Fill Oloroso Sherry Cask – subtle richness and balance.
- Second Fill Oloroso Sherry Cask – bold dried fruit and spice notes.
- First Fill PX (Pedro Ximénez) Sherry Cask – sweet indulgence with raisin and sultana undertones.

These premium casks include Oloroso hogsheads sourced directly from Miguel in Jerez, Spain, and an ex-Vasyma second fill butt crafted from European oak.

Only 1,482 bottles have been produced, bottled at 53.6% ABV and are priced at £98.

• oldperthwhisky.co.uk



The History of Social Clubs in Yorkshire and the North of England

Phil Gregg, CAMRA National Club Coordinator, reflects on the history of social clubs in the North.

Social clubs have been an integral part of community life in the North of England, particularly in Yorkshire, where industrialisation and working-class solidarity shaped the cultural landscape.



These clubs offered more than recreation. They were hubs of mutual aid, political organisation and collective identity, and included the political influence of the Association of Conservative Clubs (ACC), Liberal and Labour clubs, as well as movements such as the Club and Institute Union (CIU).

Political clubs flourished throughout Yorkshire. The ACC and various Liberal and Labour clubs served as social spaces tied to party politics, where members could discuss policies, organise campaigns and socialise with like-minded individuals.

Despite political differences, all these clubs shared a common purpose: fostering a sense of belonging and mutual support. In Yorkshire, clubs would organise charity events, provide welfare funds for members in hardship, and host communal celebrations, reinforcing their role as cornerstones of community life.

While the latter half of the 20th century saw a decline in membership, driven by social changes and shifting leisure patterns, in recent years social clubs have seen a revival, evolving to meet contemporary needs while preserving their historical legacy.

The history of social clubs in Yorkshire is a testament to the power of collective identity and grassroots organisation. Today, social clubs are not just surviving, they are evolving and thriving.

• camra.org.uk

Bright and Bold Red Bitter launches

The Aperitivo Co has added Red Bitter to its portfolio, a bold new aperitivo which has been crafted to capture the spirit of classic Italian red bitters.



The recipe has taken over three years to create. The result, says the company, is an aperitivo which has the bitter depth needed for a classic Negroni, a soft sweetness from Orris root, Curacao oranges and Cherry stalks, with a bracing bitterness from a selection of Wormwoods, and a note of spice from Ginseng & Rosemary.

• theaperitivo.co



Club car parks a source of revenue

Club car parks are an extension of your club, says Gemini Parking Solutions: "A well-managed car park reflects positively on your operations, creating a welcoming and professional first impression for members and visitors alike. On the other hand, poor parking management can lead to frustration, complaints, and even lost memberships."

"By addressing your parking challenges, you'll not only create a better experience for your members but also unlock new opportunities to support your club's growth."

Properly managed parking can mean that:

- Members feel valued because they can park easily.
- Staff have less to worry about and more time to focus on their roles.
- The club benefits from additional income and improved reputation.
- There is incremental revenue on the bottom line.

A free 7-Step Guide to Perfect Parking is available from the company.

• geminiparkingsolutions.com

Johnnie Walker Vault – new era for Scotch whisky

Johnnie Walker has announced the global launch of Johnnie Walker Vault in the brand's most ambitious expression of blending artistry yet.

At the heart of the new platform is the artistry of Johnnie Walker Master Blender, Dr. Emma Walker, and her craft of telling personal stories from a curated selection of rare whiskies.

The Johnnie Walker Vault holds a selection of 500 whiskies from rare, aged and ghost casks, curated and rotated by Dr. Walker to showcase the very best of the 10 million casks of Scotch available to her as Master Blender.

Dr. Emma Walker, Johnnie Walker Master

Blender, said: "Johnnie Walker Vault is our treasure trove. It's where I can curate and share our rarest and most exceptional Scotch whiskies, and from these create unique blends which sing to my guest and showcase the blending artistry at the heart of Johnnie Walker. It is a very special place to me, but it's also much more than just a physical space – it's a platform through which I can take deeply personal stories and translate them into beautiful, one-of-a-kind blends. It's a real privilege to be a part of capturing and bottling these wonderful stories."

• johnniewalker.com



New draught format for Hooch

Hooch's Lemon RTD has launched its first draught option, rolling out to venues across the UK from May.

The new beverage format is expected to be well received, and the original recipe of vodka and real fruit juice with a 3.4% alcohol content will remain the same in the new draught offering.

As warmer months approach and beer gardens open, the company believes that the sessionable nature of the new Hooch draught provides an opportunity for driving larger serves and tapping into 'rounds of pints'. Group orders and pitcher serves will be encouraged with the new format, with the alcoholic lemonade acting as a high-volume summer serve for venues.

Jacob Barrett, Brand Manager at Hooch, said: "This is a major milestone in the history of Hooch and we're extremely proud to finally be unveiling the OG Lemon beverage as a draught option this year.

"We've pulled out all the stops to make 2025 one of our biggest years yet, and this latest launch embodies just how far we've come in recent years. And the fun doesn't stop here as we have plenty more exciting announcements in the pipeline for Hooch, particularly as it's our 30th anniversary this year!"



ly as it's our 30th anniversary this year!"
• globalbrands.co.uk

New on-trend sauces launched

Lion Sauces, from AAK Foodservice, has launched three new sauces, inspired by global cuisines and experimental trending flavours.

Caribbean-Style BBQ Sauce, Honeyracha Sauce and Burger Sauce join Lion's range of versatile, ready-to-use sauces.

With 76% of UK diners enjoying BBQ dishes*, the Caribbean-Style BBQ Sauce is designed to add a tropical twist to the menu, a balancing of smoky, sweet and spicy flavours. The multi-purpose tangy ribs can be used for a variety of dishes, from glazing ribs to marinating chicken wings and pulled pork.

Honeyracha Sauce, inspired by the hot honey trend, marries the sweetness of honey with the heat of chilli, recommended for a range of dishes, from savoury meats, vegetables and cheese boards to sweet applications such as ice cream and yoghurt.

The new Lion's Burger Sauce is described as a creamy, tangy sauce adding the perfect finishing touch to indulgent, premium burgers.

Jennifer Handley, Brand Manager, Lion, said: "We're thrilled to introduce our new sauces – Honeyracha Sauce, Caribbean-Style BBQ Sauce and Burger Sauce, which enable caterers to elevate their menus and deliver on the latest culinary trends.

"We recently conducted a survey to explore how appealing burgers with international flavours – such as Caribbean, Thai and Korean – are to consumers. The results were overwhelmingly positive, with 60% of respondents saying they 'love the idea.' This makes now the perfect time to expand your sauce offerings and tap into this growing trend.

"Burgers remain one of the UK's most beloved menu staples, offering endless possibilities for cre-



ativity. Our Burger Sauce is the ultimate upgrade, transforming any burger into an unforgettable taste experience and guaranteed to be a crowd-pleaser."

Lion's Caribbean-Style BBQ Sauce is available in a 2.7l format, with Honeyracha Sauce and Burger Sauce available in 1l bottles.

• aakfoodservice.com



* Survey of 200 diners from the UK via Survey Monkey.

Positive signs for Sports & Social Clubs

The UK's hospitality sector overcame widespread challenges to end 2024 with virtually the same number of premises as 12 months earlier, according to the new Hospitality Market Monitor from CGA by NIQ and global consulting firm AlixPartners.

The latest findings show encouraging trends for sports and social clubs, with total drink-led sites rising by 0.5%, while the number of food-led venues has fallen by 0.7% year-on-year.

The report also reveals a total of 99,120 outlets operating in December 2024, compared to 99,113 in December 2023. It represents a year of solid consolidation after contraction in both 2022 and 2023, when the licensed sector shrunk by 4.5% and 2.9% respectively.

Independently-run food-led sites have been particularly robust, with growth of 1.0% in 2024 compared to a 3.2% drop in the number of food-led venues run by multi-site groups.

• nielseniq.com



Greene King launches Spring cask ales

Golden Ale Spring Break, 4.4% ABV, returns this year. Created in collaboration with two apprentices studying at the University of Nottingham's brewing programme in 2022, the beer has doubled in volume since it first launched. The cask beer is described as having a "delicious aroma of peach, lychee, and tropical fruit and is bursting with flavours making it the perfect ale for springtime."

For clubs also looking to celebrate St. George's Day on April 23, a new pump clip branded 'George & the Flagon', is available for Spring Break.

The Fresh Cask Releases calendar aims to provide clubs with rotating styles and flavours to suit the time of year and generate excitement around key events. Greene King also offers its seasonal cask ales in pin units, 36-pint containers, as well as firkins for customers looking to order an additional seasonal cask for the bar with a lower throughput to complement the permanent range and add excitement.

The 2025 Fresh Cask Releases calendar includes 15 limited-edition beers available at special points throughout the year to celebrate the seasons, sporting occasions and collaborations with other brewers.

• greeneking.co.uk

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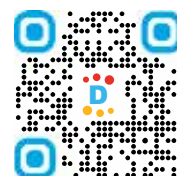


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Recommended supplier to the Association of Conservative Clubs

Forest Hall Members Featured on BBC's Football Focus

In advance of Newcastle's historic Carabao Cup final win over Liverpool at Wembley, two Members of the Forest Hall Constitutional and Unionist Club were interviewed by the BBC for their football focus programme. They were interviewed alongside Newcastle United legend Alan Shearer and shared their hopes for a win for Newcastle. On the 16th March Newcastle went onto win the final 2-1.

Prior to their victory, Newcastle United last won a major trophy in 1969, when they lifted the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup (now considered a precursor to the UEFA Cup/Europa League). Since then, they have not won any major trophies, although they have had some close calls, including reaching cup finals and competing in higher divisions.

The Members interviewed were Club President Alan Smith and Don Williamson. Alan suffered a heart attack at St James' Park in 2021. Don is 97 years of age and like Alan has been a great supporter of our club for many years, both are season ticket holders at Newcastle United and regularly attend home matches.

Don said on the programme, broadcast before the game took place, of his hopes for a Newcastle win: "I'm 97 years of age, what a way to go out. It would be really really great."

This article was written on the 19th March. Unconfirmed reports suggest that Alan and Don are still celebrating.



Picture Credit: BBC Football Focus and Sky News

Altrincham Holds Alternative Race Night Event

The Altrincham Conservative Club has held an alternative Race Night using hobby horses and a lot of audience participation. The commentary for the evening was run by two of the Club's younger members, Sophie and Josh. Everyone had a great time and the Club raised

over £400 on the night.

Joseph Holt Brewery also sponsored the Club's recent winter handicap which was won by Graham Clugston with the runner up being Chris Rawlings. The trophy was presented by Andrew Hope representing Joseph Holt Brewery



Pictures From The Events



Weston Super Mare Constitutional Club Celebrates 140th Anniversary

After being established in 1885, the Weston Super Mare Constitutional Club has recently celebrated its 140th Anniversary.

John White, the Club's bar steward, said: "We are delighted to still be serving the local community. We have a friendly bar, two snooker tables, a pool table, and a great skittle alley. We are looking for a resident pool team.

The Club is located in St Kew Lodge and the building was designed by Hans Fowler Price who designed many prominent buildings in the area. The building was granted Grade II status in 1981.



The ACC sends our congratulations to the Club in achieving this remarkable milestone.

Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past, in recognition of Lord Smith of Hindhead's appointment as ACC Chairman we go back to September 1987 which was when Lord Smith first became employed by the ACC.

Rather than a full front page devoted to this news, we find instead information dedicated to the ACC's 1987 Annual General Meeting. We are told that the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Cllr Elizabeth Russell opened the Conference and in recognition of her efforts she was presented with an ACC headscarf. In recognition of Lord Smith's over 37 years of service to the ACC, we

are similarly attempting to locate an ACC Tie to present to him.

During the Conference the meeting is informed that there had been a profit recorded of £35,103 which in today's money converts to £113,003. Also announced at the meeting was the introduction of the new format IA Ticket, the revised form of which largely continues to this day.

In subsequent pages, perhaps subconsciously knowing the importance of their recent hire, the report on the AGM stated that the ACC Board were confident that the ACC would move forward 'from strength to strength'.

Conservative Clubs Magazine



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SEPTEMBER, 1987

Editor: L. G. Waterman, O.B.E.
Manager: E. M. Dupont, M.B.E.

10p

A.C.C. ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE, 1987

THE LORD KABERRY of Adel, T.D., D.L., Chairman of the Association took the Chair and welcomed the delegates to the Meeting. He then introduced The Worshipful Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Mrs. Elizabeth Russell.

ITEM 2. Civic Welcome

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Elizabeth Russell, in welcoming the Conference to the Borough, said that although they did not have a Conservative Club in Kensington there was a flourishing one in Chelsea. She expressed the hope that the Association would have a good Conference and thanked the Meeting for coming to Kensington.

The Chairman took leave of the Mayor, and presented her with a number of A.C.C. souvenirs including a headscarf. In extending his personal welcome to the delegates, Lord Kaberry drew their attention to the stands in the hall which were worthy of their attention, and in particular, to the new I.A. Ticket.

ITEM 3. Statement of Accounts

Proposer: Mr. A. Favell, M.P. for Stock-

port, Treasurer. Referring to the Income and Expenditure Account, Mr. Favell said there was revealed a profit of £35,103 as opposed to £39,854 the previous year, and that whilst there had been an improvement in Income from most of our activities, there had been a fall of 5.3% in the I.A. Ticket income.

The Council had given full consideration to this fall and were going to introduce a new ticket in credit card form which would fit neatly into the average wallet. It would cost a little more, in consequence of which the price for the next year would be £1.15 (including VAT).

As the Ticket would be smaller, it was not possible to print the Rules and Regulations on the card. Therefore, those Rules and Regulations were to be printed on a laminated card which would be supplied in the first instance free to each Club. This card would require to be posted up at the

entrance of the premises.

Mr. Favell recognised that the cost would be immediately felt, but he said the Council had decided that for those Clubs which took 100% supply of Inter-Affiliation Tickets, there would be a discount of 20%, for three years – 1988, 1989 and 1990.

They would take another look at the question at that time, but for those three years they would get one-fifth off if every member took an I.A. Ticket. However, in view of the enormous administrative cost, it had been decided to discontinue giving credit for unused Tickets. It was therefore important that Clubs which did not take 100% should order carefully. The object of this course was to reduce costs for Clubs in the future.

Continuing his review of the Accounts, Mr. Favell referred to the extraordinary item of £36,517 which related to the move of the office back to Smith Square. They had hoped to dispose of the property they had occupied quite quickly, but there had been considerable delays because the landlords had not accepted the successors proposed to them.

Thus, whilst politically, and in every other way, it was a good move to return to Smith Square, the Headquarters of the Party Organisation where we could maintain close liaison, it had proved costly. Fortunately, we had the foresight to provide for such a "rainy day", and were able to meet this extraordinary item from our Reserves so that our Association's finances were not affected.



PLATFORM TABLE – Left to right, Mr. J. B. Beaumont, Chairman, London Conservative Clubs; Mr. A. Favell, M.P., Hon. Treasurer, A.C.C.; Mr. G. Dickens, M.P., Vice-Chairman, A.C.C.; Lord Kaberry of Adel, T.D., D.L., A.C.C. Chairman; Miss Margaret Dupont, M.B.E.; Mr. Peter Perry, A.C.C. Secretary; Mr. Gordon Waterman, O.B.E., past A.C.C. Secretary; and Mr. A. Greenway, M.P., A.C.C. Vice-Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT
CONTINUES
ON PAGE 2

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.