

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



October 2025 75p



Burgess Hill Constitutional Club Fundraises For Cancer Aid

2026 IA Ticket Update

Daventry Restoration

October 2025
75p



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Message From Chief Executive

As I am sure many Club Committees will be acutely aware, the Hospitality Industry is having a tough time at the moment. In many ways this has been directly caused by our current Labour Government.

One of the most striking features of the Government is the lack of business experience within its Cabinet. At a time when the UK faces sluggish growth, high taxation and deep questions over competitiveness, it is reasonable to expect ministers to bring real-world commercial expertise to the table.

Yet the overwhelming majority of the Cabinet has spent their careers within politics, academia, or the public sector, with none having ever run a business or worked extensively in a private sector industry.

This matters. Decision-making on issues such as taxation requires an understanding of how businesses actually operate day-to-day. It is one thing to debate economic principles in

Westminster, it is quite another to sign pay cheques, balance budgets, and navigate global markets. Ministers without that lived experience risk designing policies that look fine on paper but cause real harm when applied in practice.

Governments cannot create wealth, only business can do that. The best they can do is create the regulatory environment for it and to support industries such as the hospitality industry which are massive UK employers and can drive growth if properly supported. The sector is resilient, innovative, and capable of expansion, but it needs stability, fairness, and recognition from those in power.

Britain needs a government that not only speaks the language of business but also understands it through experience. Unless Labour addresses this gap, its economic programme risks being detached from the realities faced by the very businesses it relies upon to drive growth.

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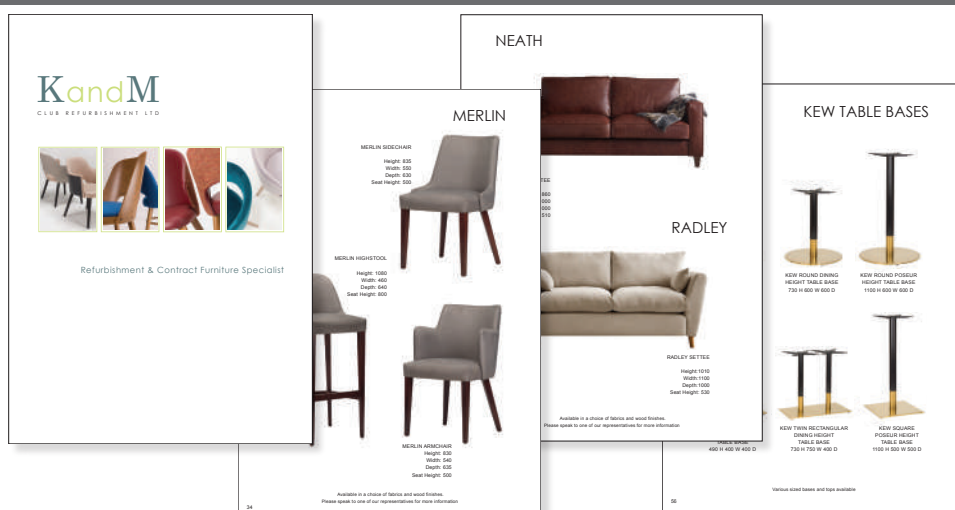
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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

IA Tickets Update

We are pleased to announce a trial of the 2026 IA Tickets, which now incorporate a QR code linking to an online Club Directory.

This feature will make it easier for IA Ticket holders to find nearby clubs where they can use their tickets when in the area – strengthening the overall IA Ticket system.

Every card will include the QR code, and we will be monitoring both the technology and the usability of the software by ticket holders. Our hope is that a successful trial will lead to the feature becoming permanent from 2027.

With that in mind, we welcome all feedback on the trial system – positive or negative – as this will help us resolve any issues that may arise with the introduction of this new Club Directory technology.

Guest Column: Securing a Licensing Act fit for the 21st century by Kate Nicholls

Two decades ago, I was part of the group that helped shape the Licensing Act 2003. I was the chair of the very first working group, focused on people. It was a landmark piece of legislation for its time, recognising that licensed businesses and the services they provide are important culturally, socially and economically, and central to creating places people want to live, work and visit.

For two decades, it has been the bedrock of our industry. But bedrocks, if left untended, can become millstones. In short, 20 years on, we are back trying to redress the same problems the original Act was trying to fix around the spirit of freedom, deregulation and reform. Our objective now should be to improve good operating practice, promote partnership, showcase proportionate and fair regulation and demonstrate firm but targeted enforcement.

That is why I am immensely proud, and frankly thrilled, to say that this week represents a watershed moment for our sector. After

a sustained, several-months-long ‘sprint’ (a new way of making policy and fast-tracking creative ideas to make a difference), whereby I have personally chaired two of three working groups, the government has not only listened to our calls for reform but has committed to actioning all ten of the proposals put forward by the industry-led Licensing Taskforce.

This is not a minor tweak or a cosmetic adjustment. This is a fundamental overhaul – a strategic victory that will unlock potential, drive investment and breathe new light and life into our high streets and town centres.

This success was not accidental. It is the direct result of a focused and relentless effort by UKHospitality, working collaboratively with our partners at Greene King, the British Beer & Pub Association and LIVE Music to demonstrate to government that the very laws designed to enable our sector were, in many cases, stifling its growth. We secured our seat at the table, chaired the working groups and articulated a clear, evidence-based vision for a modern licensing framework. We made the case not just for the good of hospitality, but for the good of the UK economy.

The result? The chancellor will have sight of these powerful, pro-growth recommendations before the autumn Budget. This is a testament to the influence our sector now wields in the corridors of power, and a clear signal of the vital role hospitality plays in the nation’s economic and social fabric. It showcases what we, as an organisation, can deliver for our members: real, tangible change that impacts your bottom line.

I am, personally, immensely proud of three key deliverables that we’ve been working on for some time. First and foremost, the introduction of a new National Licensing Policy Framework is a game-changer. For too long, businesses have been frustrated by the ‘postcode lottery’ of licensing decisions, where interpretations of the law vary wildly from one local authority to the next. This framework will provide clear, consistent direction, rebalancing the system and ensuring that decisions are made with a view to promoting growth and vibrancy, not simply managing risk.

Equally transformative is the commitment to a one-time licensing condition ‘amnesty’. We all know of venues shackled by archaic conditions imposed decades ago – no music on a Tuesday, no entry after 10:30pm, no moving of furniture etc. These relics of a bygone era act as a handbrake on innovation. The amnesty will provide a clean slate, allowing businesses to modernise their licences to reflect their current operating model, free from disproportionate and outdated restrictions.

Beyond these two pillars, the package of reforms addresses the practical, day-to-day frustrations that impede your ability to be agile. Increasing the allowance for temporary event notices (TENs) gives more flexibility to capitalise on national events and local celebrations. The commitment to removing regulatory barriers to using outdoor space – changing from a two-year maximum policy to a two-year minimum – will finally allow you to properly embrace and invest in al fresco hospitality, a proven driver of footfall. And finally, removing the costly and antiquated requirement to advertise in a local newspaper is a long-overdue step into the 21st century.

Collectively, these measures represent the most significant liberalisation of licensing law in a generation. They will cut red tape, reduce costs and empower businesses to innovate, invest and create jobs. Many lessons were learnt working in this accelerated fashion, and it will be interesting to see how the government implements further acts of policy fast-tracking to address issues of planning, high street regeneration and tackling red tape.

Of course, we are not naive. We understand that these reforms are



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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

an enabler, not a silver bullet for all the challenges our sector faces. The crushing burden of business rates, punitive employment costs and volatile energy prices remain at the very top of our agenda. This must be the start, not the end, of the government's support.

But let us be clear: this victory provides a crucial foundation for our recovery. By removing the regulatory straitjacket, the government is handing us the tools to grow. Our job now, at UKHospitality, is to use the momentum from this win to redouble our efforts on those other critical cost pressures. We have demonstrated our ability to effect change, and we will not rest.

For me, this moment feels like coming full circle. To have been there at the birth of the Act, and to now be leading the charge for its renewal, is a profound privilege. It has been a long road, but this week, we have secured a licensing framework that is once again fit for purpose. This is a testament to the power of a unified industry speaking with one powerful voice. Let's use this new-found freedom to do what we do best: innovate, invest and lead the revitalisation of our communities.

Despite the challenges that hospitality businesses continue to face, the future of the industry is bright, and together, we can ensure that we finally get the opportunity to thrive.

Kate Nicholls is chair of UKHospitality

Renters' Rights Bill: What Landlords Need to Know

Whilst not common, we know of several Clubs which hold property which is privately rented to tenants. The information below is for these tenancy situations – we do not believe it will affect Clubs that merely provide accommodation to employees under a Service Occupancy Agreement.

The Labour Government's proposed Renters' Rights Bill is set to transform the private rental sector, bringing in the most significant shake-up in decades. Landlords should be aware of how the rules will change, what new responsibilities they'll face, and how best to prepare.

Key Changes Affecting Landlords

End of "no-fault" evictions

Section 21 will be abolished. All tenancies will move to rolling periodic assured tenancies, meaning Landlords will need a valid reason (such as arrears, breach of tenancy, or plans to sell) to regain possession. Landlords should review tenancy agreements now and familiarise themselves with the Section 8 process.

Rent increases capped

Landlords will only be able to increase rent once a year, using a formal Section 13 notice. Tenants will be able to challenge increases at the First-tier Tribunal if they believe they're above market rate. This means careful documentation of comparable local rents will be essential.

Upfront rent restrictions

Landlords won't be able to demand more than one month's rent in advance. If you currently rely on larger upfront payments for higher-risk tenants, you may need to reconsider your approach or look at alternatives such as guarantors.

Ban on bidding wars

Landlords must advertise a set asking rent and cannot accept offers above this figure. This is designed to stop competitive bidding, but it also means you'll need to set rent levels carefully from the outset.

Decent Homes Standard & repairs

The new Bill extends Awaab's Law to the private sector, requiring Landlords to fix serious hazards like mould or damp within a set timeframe. Expect tighter enforcement and possible penalties if repairs are delayed. Landlords with older stock should budget now for upgrades.

Anti-discrimination rules

Blanket bans such as "No DSS" or "No children" will no longer be acceptable.

Preparing for the Changes

Update your tenancy agreements to reflect periodic tenancies rather than fixed terms.

Keep detailed records of rent reviews and maintenance work — this will be invaluable if challenged.

Plan financially for limits on upfront rent and possible disputes around increases.

Check your properties against the proposed Decent Homes Standard and schedule any works early.

Train staff or agents in the new rules, especially regarding advertising and tenant selection.

The Renters' Rights Bill represents a cultural shift in the private rental sector. For Committees managing private rented property the best strategy is to get ahead: understand the new obligations, adapt business models, and view compliance as a way to protect your investment rather than threaten it.



Questions and Answers

Q We had two Committee Members who had not attended several meetings and no apologies were given. In keeping with our rules we wrote to them and asked them to resign. However, they then attended the next Committee Meeting and stayed for the duration of the meeting and voted. Are they still Committee Members and what happens to the motions they voted for at the last Committee Meeting?

A The Rule I understand you are referring to is below:

Any member of the Committee being absent from three consecutive meetings of the Committee shall, unless sending a written explanation which the Committee shall deem satisfactory, cease to be a Member of the Committee and shall also cease to be an Officer or Committee Member.

I would agree with your interpretation of this rule. The complication we have is that the Committee actually asked these persons to resign rather than just apply the rule as written. Asking them to resign provides an inference that they can choose not to resign if they wish.

The fact that they were then allowed to attend the next Committee Meeting suggests, at that point at least, that they were still considered Committee Members. Otherwise, I am sure they would have been declined entry as would happen if other non-Committee Members tried to join a Committee Meeting.

We therefore have two persons who were allowed to attend a Committee Meeting, participate in a Committee Meeting and propose and second a motion which went onto be agreed by the Committee.

The only reasonable conclusion is that at the time these events took place these two persons were active

Committee Members.

Therefore, based on the information you have provided to us we would conclude that the motions and subsequent decisions are still valid.

Regarding these two Committee Members, given that they attended a recent Committee Meeting the provisions of Rule 29 would seem to not presently apply. The conclusion here is arguably that the Committee misapplied Rule 29 at the relevant time but I think we now have to live with this misapplication. Obviously, if these Committee Members are absent for a further three Committee Meetings without sending a written explanation deemed satisfactory by the Committee then Rule 29 can be applied again, hopefully this time correctly.

Q We have two Members who have found it impossible to get along with each other – often ending up in public arguments within the Club. One of the Members regularly visits the Club for Bingo on Thursdays. Whilst the Committee seeks to try and resolve the situation we have told the other Member that they cannot use the Club on Thursdays. Was this correct?

A The Club has existing disciplinary rules which can be applied in situations where the behaviour of a Member falls below the standards expected.

If a Member of the Club behaves in an inappropriate manner then usually the procedure would be for the Committee to consider the complaint, decide to summon the Member concerned to a disciplinary meeting, review the information provided by the Member at the disciplinary meeting and at that point the Committee can reach a disciplinary decision which could involve suspending the

Member from the Club or expelling the Member.

Crucially, the disciplinary procedure as invoked clearly informs the Member what they are alleged to have done, provides the Member with a chance to consider the allegations and then address the Committee. The Committee then has all the relevant information to reach a disciplinary situation.

Assuming the disciplinary procedure is conducted successfully, the Committee will not be breaching the contract with the Member since when joining the Member agreed to abide by the disciplinary procedure as outlined in the Rules and the Committee have under the rules the clear ability to suspend or expel members at the conclusion of the disciplinary process. When a Member joins the Club they form a contract with the Club to abide by the Rules and this includes when they can use the Club and what steps the Committee can take to curtail their use of the Club.

The issue with the current decision of the Committee is the ability to selective prevent Members from using the Club on certain days or hours is questionable (no mention of this type of punishment is contained within the Rules) and I am not sure any formal procedure was enacted regarding the persons involved before such a decision was made.

It would be a slippery slope for a Committee to declare that it has the unfettered powers to decide when and what times specific Members can use the Club during its opening hours and particularly to exercise such a decision without any proper process first. Typically Members have the right to use the Club during opening hours unless they have been suspended from the Club. Expelled Members also lose the right to use the Club. We have entered an area here whereby a

Member has not been formally suspended but has seemingly had their access to the Club curtailed anyway.

Regarding this specific situation, I would therefore suggest that the Committee utilise the conventional disciplinary rules if a Member is behaving inappropriately.

Q We have a Chairman who has decided we no longer require the position of Vice President even though it is listed under the Rules. Can the Chairman make this decision?

A Your Club is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). As per the Club's Rules no rule amendment is considered valid until registered with the FCA which can only occur after the Members have approved the change at an SGM.

Therefore, the Club still has a Vice President elected by the Members each year. The Chairman is not able to make this change without recourse to the Members – only the Club's Members can vote to change the Rules.

Q We have two Trustees at our club and recently the wife of one of the Trustees has been elected onto the Committee. A few members have approached me and asked if this is correct? Can a Trustee have a spouse on the Committee or is this a conflict of interest? I look forward to receiving your advice.

A There is nothing to prevent members from the same family being elected to serve on a club's Committee in any capacity. The law and rules regard members as being individual members in their own right. Members, when casting their votes, can decide on the pros and cons of each candidate.



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Restoring a Daventry Landmark - 140 Years of History Brought Back to Life



Before

In the heart of Daventry, the Grade II listed Conservative Club has long been a proud fixture of the High Street. This year marks a milestone, the Club's 140th anniversary, and with it, a sensitive restoration of its iconic frontage.

Over more than a century, the building's pale facade and intricate stonework have weathered time, the elements, and bustling town life. While its historic charm never faded, the signs of age were beginning to show. The Club asked Spectrum Specialist Support to breathe new life into the exterior while preserving every ounce of its heritage character.

From the outset, this was no ordinary facelift. The Club's combination of decorative render, stone detailing, and brickwork required a team well-versed in heritage protocols, conservation-grade materials, and meticulous craftsmanship.

The project began with a survey by Michael, Spectrum's technical consultant — and a Daventry local himself. His inspection revealed render delamination, stepped cracking above windows, flaking paint on stone sills, and spalled brickwork. The solution was a tailored programme that balanced traditional repair methods with modern conservation science.

Restoration in a busy town centre always requires creative thinking. The Club sits just five metres back from bollards that rule out mobile elevated work platforms. Rather than removing street furniture or obstructing traffic, a scaffold-and-

pole access solution was devised that kept disruption to a minimum.

Twice a week, the bustling Daventry market brings increased footfall right past the site. On these days, the design team scheduled quieter, low-impact works and ensured pavements stayed open and safe - a prime example of heritage craftsmanship meeting modern logistics.

Damaged render was removed by hand before new breathable mineral-based Keim Uniputz coats were applied, perfectly colour-matched to the original cream facade. Decorative stucco flourishes were restored in striking cerulean, echoing the building's Victorian-era detailing.

Stepped cracking above an arched window was stabilised with helibars discreetly integrated into the structure. Spalled bricks were repaired or replaced, then tinted for a seamless match. The building's original stone sills, once dulled by flaking paint, were gently cleaned with the DOFF system and recoated for a clean, durable finish. Every last detail, from scaffold 'bullet holes' to fine paint lines, received the same level of attention.

Today, Conservative Club once again commands attention on Daventry's High Street. The pale cream facade, bold cerulean accents, and carefully restored stonework reflect both its storied past and renewed future.

The project showcases what can be achieved when skilled hands, the right materials, and a deep respect for history come together. It stands



After

as a benchmark in listed building restoration and a reminder that preserving the past is not just about

maintenance, but about celebrating heritage for generations to come.



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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.

Gen Z beer drinkers hold the key to saving cask ale

A new study indicates that Gen Z beer drinkers hold the key to the survival of cask ale, as a new generation learns to appreciate Britain's national beer style.



Released in time for September's Cask Ale Week 2025, a new report shows that 25% of 18-24-year-old beer drinkers, the Generation Z demographic, regularly order cask ale at on-trade venues, an increase of more than 50% on the previous year. The statistic comes from a YouGov survey of 2,250 UK consumers, commissioned by the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA).

In addition to the SIBA figures, fears that younger consumers have been giving up drink altogether have been put into perspective by new statistics from drinks data and insight provider IWSR. The data shows that the number of Gen Z consumers in the UK aged 18+ who have had an alcoholic drink in the past six months is up from 66% to 76%.

Ash Corbett-Collins, National Chairman of CAMRA, said: "Younger drinkers, Generation Z, are already more likely to use pubs and clubs than

many older Brits. Many people got out of the pub/club-going habit during lockdown and, in tough times economically, too many have stayed away, causing real problems for many venues and brewers.

"For some, the initial appeal is undoubtedly the fact that cask ale is often the best value beer on the bars, but it's the freshness, flavour and variety of cask that keeps them coming back for more."

The SIBA figures also show that 22% of female beer drinkers regularly order cask ale, compared to 43% of men.

"It would be great to see even higher numbers, but the glass half full fact is that men and women of all ages are enjoying cask beer," said Corbett-Collins. "Hopefully, more people than ever will do so during Cask Ale Week. Thousands of venues are taking part, offering every style of cask ale, from light and hoppy pale ales via amber best bitters, to dark, smooth stouts."

Cask Ale fast facts

- Cask ale is enjoyed by all ages and genders, with a 50%+ increase in the numbers of 18-24-year-old beer drinkers ordering cask over the past year.
- Cask ales come in a range of strengths, with many at lower ABVs than other beers on the bar, supporting moderate drinking.
- Despite the urban myth, cask ale should never be served warm, but cool from the cellar, at between 11°- 13°C.
- Cask ale enthusiasts launched a petition which ran until 1 October, calling on the government to recognise the cask ale as having Intangible Cultural Heritage, overseen by UNESCO.

Longer stays and premium choices

The UK hospitality sector delivered a mixed picture in August, according to the latest Oxford Market Watch from The Oxford Partnership.

The findings indicate that hospitality is now navigating a two-speed market, one where growth lies in catering to premium choices and new drinking occasions, while also tackling affordability challenges and the impact of ongoing closures.

The report highlights that while dwell times rose sharply – up +12.5% year-on-year in the latest four weeks that the report covered – occupancy slipped, suggesting that although people are making more of each occasion, fewer customers are coming through the doors.

London and the South East showed resilience, helped by tourism and a premium mix of venues, whereas Scotland endured the steepest outlet decline, down -3.0% year-to-date.

On spending, the South West led the way on drinks, with spend per head up +13.7% year-to-date, and the West Midlands saw a short-term surge of +7.3% in the last four weeks.

Scotland also outperformed on food, up +16.7% year-to-date. At the other end of the spectrum, Northern Ireland cut back sharply on drinks -5.7% MAT, while the North East recorded double-digit declines in food spend. Even London saw softness in food, down -2.3% in the most recent four weeks,



underlining the pressure on dining occasions.

Category performance continued to polarise. Premium Lager (+1.7pp) and World Lager (+3.9pp) both gained share in the latest four weeks, with Stout surging (+14.0pp). In contrast, Core Lager slipped (-6.4pp), alongside Ale and Craft. Cider was mixed, slightly down in the short term but broadly stable across longer timeframes.

The August Bank Holiday provided a lift for the trade, with sales up +3.4% on a typical summer weekend. No/Low alcohol (+15.9%) and Cider (+10.1%) were the standout winners, while Premium and World Lagers also enjoyed strong uplifts,

reflecting the willingness of consumers to spend more on key social occasions.

Alison Jordan, CEO of The Oxford Partnership, said: “August really underlined the polarisation in our sector. People are staying out longer and increasingly choosing premium options when they do, but that optimism is offset by a steady erosion of outlet numbers and uneven regional performance. The challenge for the trade is to balance value and premiumisation, keeping venues attractive for consumers under cost pressure, while capitalising on occasions where people are willing to spend more.”

• oxfordpartnership.com

Greene King and Thornbridge collaborate on cask ale

Greene King Brewery is launching its first collaboration cask brew with Derbyshire-based brewer, Thornbridge.

Genevieve is a 4.5% ABV West Coast IPA which combines “pineapple and citrus flavours to create a hop-forward cask beer with a clean, crisp body”.

Founded in 2005 in the grounds of historic Thornbridge Hall in the Peak District, Thornbridge Brewery has won more than 350 national and international awards and continues to push boundaries in beer styles while staying true to its cask ale roots.

The recipe for Genevieve was created together at the Thornbridge Brewery, with trial brews and then the final brews taking place at the Greene King Brewery in Bury St Edmunds. It is dry-hopped using two varieties that Greene King has not used together before in a brew, Bravo and Sultana, and is available for clubs to order throughout October.

Alan Fulcher, Technical Brewer at Greene King, said: “When Thornbridge came up as a potential collaboration partner, we instantly said yes. We’re huge fans of their beers, and they share our commitment to cask and exploring the styles it offers. Collaborating on a recipe that reflects the strengths of both breweries has been a fantastic experience, and I truly believe we’ve created a very special pint.”



The Greene King Fresh Cask Releases calendar includes 15 limited-edition beers available, at select times throughout the year celebrating seasons, sporting occasions, and collaborations with other brewers.

• valueforvenues.co.uk

UEFA Champions League underway

TNT Sports is showing more UEFA Champions League football than ever before for commercial customers.

The first round of matches began on September 16-18, with the final taking place in Budapest, Hungary on Saturday, May 30, 2026, with an earlier kick-off of 5pm UK time.

The top eight teams in the UEFA Champions League 36-team league phase qualify directly for the last 16 and those in ninth to 24th will contest a play-off round.

Coming up from this month (all matches live on TNT Sports and discovery+):

- Matchday three: October 21-22
- Matchday four: November 4-5
- Matchday five: November 25-26
- Matchday six: December 9-10
- Matchday seven: January 20-21
- Matchday eight: January 28

TNT Sports is also home to every live match from the UEFA Europa League and UEFA Conference League. There are more games across midweek throughout the season and subscription includes Prime’s exclusive Tuesday games at no extra cost.

• tntsportsbusiness.co.uk



Camden Town Brewery – supporting grassroots clubs

Camden Town Brewery is inviting local grassroots clubs to sign up for fresh equipment, fresh beer, and discounted TNT Sports.

The brewer recently became the sponsor of grassroots rugby club Rugby Football Club, also known as the Lions.

Mal Malik, Chairman of Rugby Football Club, said: “It’s amazing to have the support of Camden Town Brewery, and we’re so grateful for the sponsorship that is promising to bring a smile to the club and community. We’re one of many grassroots clubs that has felt the squeeze in the past decade, and to have a vehicle to create a change to the sport up and down the country is a refreshing notion for the future.”

• camdentownbrewery.com

Sport England announces new board appointments



Three new members have been appointed to Sport England's Board. Tom Gribbin, Vaughan Lindsay (pictured above) and Sarah Massey (pictured right) have each been appointed for terms of three years.



They join the team led by new chair, Chris Boardman, and under a new chief executive, Simon Hayes, responsible for:

- Setting and agreeing strategy and policy
 - Overseeing the development and implementation of major projects
 - Approving all grant awards which exceed £10 million
 - Approving Sport England's Annual Report and Financial Statements
 - Overseeing performance management.
- sportengland.org

Cash4Clubs community fund

Flutter UKI has launched Cash4Clubs 2026, offering £500,000 to sports clubs across the UK and Ireland. Two hundred and fifty clubs will be able to bid for grants of £2,000 a time to help buy new equipment, hire coaches, run training programmes or simply boost their marketing to bring in new members.

Former England and Liverpool striker and Paddy Power ambassador Peter Crouch, said: “An additional £2,000 can make all the difference to local clubs – it can keep the lights on, keep facilities open and accessible and provide much needed funds to invest in equipment or training volunteers. These clubs aren’t just about sport – they’re giving people a place to belong, to build confidence and stay active.

It’s why Cash4Clubs is so important, and I would urge people to apply.”

Cash4Clubs was launched in 2008, and since then Flutter UKI has invested nearly £7 million into community sports.

Dame Caroline Dineage MP, Conservative MP for Gosport and Chair of the CMS Select Committee, said: “I hope that grassroots clubs will make the most of the opportunity to apply for a Cash4Clubs grant. These clubs do great work in our communities, bringing people together, getting them active and developing new skills and passions. This money will make a huge difference.”

Closing date for applications is 8 December, 2025.

• cash-4-clubs.com

New rugby season gets underway on TNT Sports



The new rugby season is here and TNT Sports will be showing 146 live matches from across four competitions – all 93 matches of the Gallagher PREM, Premiership Women's Rugby, Quilter Nations Series and PREM Rugby Cup.

Scott Young, EVP Warner Bros. Discovery Sports Europe, said: “With new multi-year agree-

ments for both the Gallagher PREM and Premiership Women's Rugby, we are proud to strengthen our long-term commitment to showcasing the very best of domestic men's and women's rugby.”

Full details, dates and how to view matches at the TNT Sports website.

• tntsportsbusiness.co.uk

Stout a standout performer with major potential

Latest research from CGA by NIQ points to stout as a standout category in the On Premise in Britain and Ireland this year. While it's dominated by one brand, there is major growth potential for brands and venues with the right strategies.

Stout has outpaced all other segments in the LAD category in 2025, with stellar year-on-year sales growth of 10.6%. Stout now has a 9.5% share of all beer volumes – 0.6 percentage points more than in the previous 12 months.

Distribution has steadily risen too, and it is stocked in 70,775 clubs, pubs, bars, restaurants and other licensed premises in Britain. In Northern Ireland, sales are up nearly as much at 11.6%.

Seasonality – Stout has long been associated with colder months of the year, but it's a year-round choice

now. A quarter (25%) of its drinkers say they are most likely to buy it winter, which is well ahead of Spring (13%) and Summer (14%). But with 57% choosing stout through all seasons, it has a broader appeal than some might think.

Discovery – What leads consumers to choose stout? The quality of the drink, value for money and the reputation of the brand are the top three factors. However, with 16% of drinkers actively seeking new and interesting brands, and the same number basing choices on recommendations, there is a clear curiosity for discovery, especially when prompted by social influence. On top of that there's potential to recruit drinkers from other categories, as 74% of beer drinkers are open to trying new styles.

• cgastrategy.com



CAMRA Regional Club of the Year Winners 2025 announced

CAMRA and Club Mirror have announced the 15 clubs going through as Regional Winners in 2025's CAMRA Club of the Year.

The Award, run in conjunction with Club Mirror since 2014, sees 15 Regional Winners invited to Club Mirror's Club Awards, where four Super Regional Finalists will be announced. The clubs will then be mystery judged for the ultimate accolade – the CAMRA Club of the Year.

The Regional Winners are:

SUPER REGION 1

- *North West* – Gregson Community & Arts Centre, Lunesdale
- *West Midlands* – Coombs Wood Sports & Social Club, Stourbridge & Halesowen
- *Merseyside & Cheshire* – Appleton Thorn Village Hall, North Cheshire

SUPER REGION 2

- *Scotland* – Ravenswood RBL Club, Aberdeen, Grampian & Northern Isles

- *North East* – Billingham Catholic Club, Cleveland
- *Yorkshire* – Wortley Men's Club, Barnsley
- *East Midlands* – Parwich RBL, Ashbourne & District Sub Branch

SUPER REGION 3

- *East Anglia* – Carleton Rode Social Club, Mid Anglia
- *South East* – Marden Village Club, Maidstone & Mid Kent
- *Greater London* – Orpington Liberal Club, Orpington
- *East Central* – Midland Band Club, Kettering, Northamptonshire

SUPER REGION 4

- *Wales* – Earl Haig Club, Cardiff
- *South West* – G W Railway Club, Exmouth, Exeter & East Devon
- *South Central* – Corfe Castle, East Dorset
- *West Central* – Cheltenham Motor Club, Cheltenham

• clubawards.co.uk

Brakes launches Bubble Waffles

Foodservice wholesaler Brakes is launching a new range of on-trend Bubble Waffles.

Bubble waffles, which originated in Asia, have been setting social media alight, according to the company, and now, Brakes is making them available

to Britain's foodservice sector, without the need for any specialist equipment.

Traditionally served sweet with ice-cream, fruit or sauces, Sysco Classic Bubble Waffles are a fast and fun menu addition. For a savoury twist, bubble waffles are great for fillings including chicken, cheese and bacon and can add a twist to breakfast menus.

Paul Nieduszynski, CEO of Sysco GB, said: "Bubble waffles are the latest must-have for menus, but, until now, chefs have needed specialist equipment to make them. The new range of Sysco Classic Bubble Waffles gives food businesses the opportunity to capitalise on the hype, without the capital investment. A no-prep, hassle-free solution for chefs looking to update their menus and appeal to a new range of consumers."

• brake.co.uk

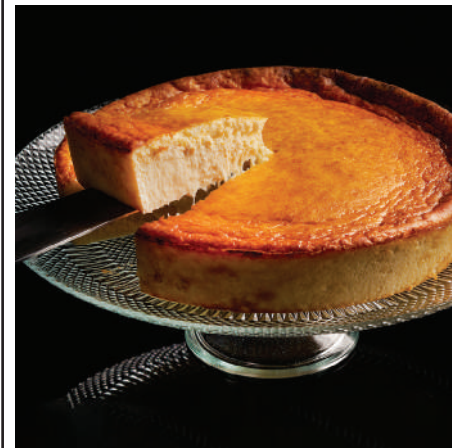


Mevalco brings flavours of Spain to the UK

Fine Spanish foods company Mevalco has unveiled a trio of new products - Carabineros Prawns, Iberico Tapilla and Manchego Basque-Style Cheesecake.

Carabineros Prawns are described as 'the scarlet jewels of Spain's deep seas', known for their striking red colour, sweetness and intensely flavoured heads. Wild-caught at great depths, Carabineros are best enjoyed lightly grilled or pan-fried. Available in a range of formats, the prawns are sourced in partnership with Congelados Basilio, experts in harvesting sustainable seafoods.

Iberico Tapilla is a tender cut of meat from the Iberico pig. Naturally rich and buttery, Tapilla is a versatile cut that comes from the top part of the rump or cap of the collar. The meat is prized for its marbling that delivers excellent results whether seared, grilled, or cooked sous-vide. The fat caramelises when cooked at high temperatures, creating a crispy finish.



The **Manchego Basque-Style Cheesecake** is a made with authentic Manchego sheep's milk cheese. This gently-sweet burnt Basque cheesecake combines a caramelised, almost blackened crust with a smooth, custard-like centre and rich, nutty flavours.

David Menéndez, Managing Director of Mevalco, said: "At Mevalco we have always championed the spirit and soul of Spanish food – honest ingredients, lovingly produced and full of flavour. With these new products, we want to give chefs the tools to create unforgettable dishes that capture the magic of Spain."

• mevalco.com

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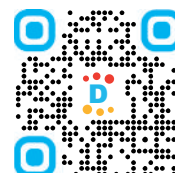
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Martial Arts Meet Community Spirit at Waltham Cross



Pictured (with the Lee Castle seated at the centre in his wheelchair) are the proud medal and belt recipients, celebrating their achievements and the thriving spirit of community at Waltham Cross Conservative Club.

The Waltham Cross Conservative Club has become the proud new home of the local Kung Fu Club, which now trains on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The sessions bring together talented young martial artists from across the area,

fostering discipline, confidence, and camaraderie.

At a recent awards evening, Lee Castle the Club's Chairman had the honour of presenting medals and new grade belts to these dedicated youngsters - a moment made even

more special by the pride and excitement shining on their faces. "What a privilege," Lee reflected, describing the event as one of the most rewarding parts of community life.

This partnership is about more

than martial arts. It's part of the club's wider effort to welcome new faces, encouraging parents to become members while supporting activities that benefit the younger generation.

Burgess Hill Constitutional Club Raises Over £5,600 for Cancer Aid



L-R: Becci Instell, Julie Sadler, Pam Carey (Chairman), Jane Higham, Dan Green (Treasurer) and Mike Stewart (Manager)

During the Summer, the Burgess Hill Constitutional Club played host to a fantastic community effort as members, residents, and local businesses came together for a special Cancer Aid Day.

With the support of Burgess Hill Town Council and generous backing from nearby businesses, a makeshift stage was set up on the green space next to the club. From midday until late, the crowd was treated to a packed programme of entertainment from eight local bands and music groups, who performed everything from lively covers to original numbers, creating a festival-like atmosphere throughout the day.

The fundraising spirit didn't stop at the music. A bustling tombola and raffle kept the excitement going, while the Burgess Hill Bonfire Society provided an all-day barbecue that proved hugely popular in the hot summer weather. Families, friends, and supporters enjoyed good food, great music, and a shared sense of purpose.

In total, the event raised an incredible £5,680.79 for Cancer Aid, with the Constitutional Club itself contributing £1,066 of that amount.

It was, in every sense, a true community celebration, blending fun, fundraising, and friendship and one that will make a real difference to a cause close to many hearts.

Guest Article Shining a Light on Sustainability: How One Club Took Control of Its Energy Future by Mark O'Brien



When I first stepped into the role of Secretary at our club, the Sunbury Conservative Club, I was struck by just how much we were spending on electricity. The monthly bills were eye-watering, and it was clear something needed to change. With nearly 30 years in the energy industry, 25 of those spent at British Gas, I've seen the sector shift dramatically. One thing I've learned is that renewable energy is no longer just a buzzword, it's a practical, reliable solution for long-term sustainability and energy security.

Initially, we started small. We introduced timers on plug sockets for fridges and cellar equipment, cutting out unnecessary usage during off-hours. But it soon became clear that incremental savings wouldn't be enough. We needed a more fundamental shift.

Having built a strong network of professional contacts over the years, I reached out to my contacts in the renewable energy space to explore the potential of Solar PV. That is when I connected with Andy Powell, Director at Greencap Energy. Andy conducted a full

evaluation of our site and presented us with a comprehensive proposal, including the benefits of pairing solar panels with battery storage. He also walked us through the available financing options, which was a key consideration for the Committee.

Andy's approach was refreshingly transparent. He spent time answering questions from the Committee, breaking down the numbers, and laying out the short and long-term benefits. It didn't take long for the Committee to vote in favour of the project. The installation was completed in January of this year and has already exceeded our expectations.

In just a few months, we've saved over £4,500 on our electricity bills. Not only are we generating and storing our own electricity, but we also take advantage of cheaper overnight tariffs to charge our batteries. When we generate surplus energy, we sell it back to the grid—creating a new revenue stream for the Club.

The installation itself went off without a hitch. Andy even arranged drone photography of the completed setup, which we have proudly

displayed for our members. An intuitive app on my mobile lets us monitor our energy production and savings in real time, offering a level of visibility and control that's been truly empowering.

Our partnership with Greencap Energy has been one of the most impactful initiatives we've undertaken. Their expertise in both commercial and domestic Solar PV installations, gained through years of work with breweries and charities, gave us confidence from day one. Importantly, their support did not stop after the panels were installed. They continue to offer

guidance and assistance whenever we need it.

If your Club is grappling with rising energy costs or looking for ways to reduce its environmental footprint, I can wholeheartedly recommend Greencap Energy. For us, the move to solar has not only delivered immediate financial benefits, it has also positioned us firmly on the path to a more sustainable future.

Clubs wishing to contact the company used by Sunbury – Greencap – can do so by emailing andy@greencapenergy.co.uk

Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back to April 1950 for an article on Flying the Flag.

Included in the article is a list of important dates, at the time, for when Clubs should be flying their flags.

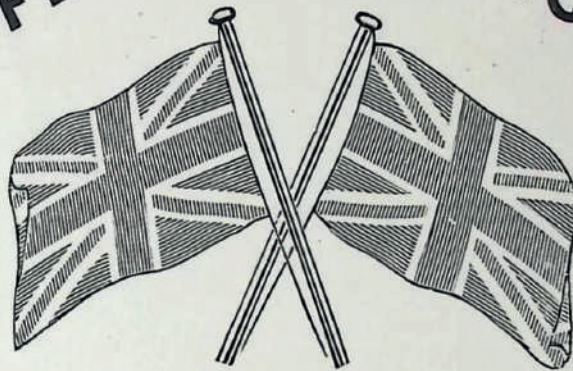
The reference to sales is that the ACC was a supplier of flags

to Clubs which continued for many years post 1950 until a third-party supplier stepped in to fill this need.

An important item to note whenever ordering a flag is that the length is twice the width.

These are the Days

FLY THE FLAG



MAR. 1st—ST. DAVID'S
APR 19th—PRIMROSE
" 21st—PRINCESS ELIZABETH'S BIRTHDAY
" 23rd—ST. GEORGE'S
MAY 12th—CORONATION
" 24th—COMMONWEALTH
" 26th—QUEEN MARY'S BIRTHDAY

AUG 4th—THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY
" 21st—PRINCESS MARGARET'S BIRTHDAY
OCT 21st—TRAFALGAR
NOV. 11th—ARMISTICE
" 30th—ST. ANDREW'S
DEC 11th—KING'S ACCESSION
" 14th—THE KING'S BIRTHDAY

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