CONSERVATIVE CLUBS' MAGAZINE





Shadow Chancellor Sir Mel Stride Visits Torquay Central An Outdoor Entertainment Survival Guide **Canvey Island Holds ConsFest 25**

September 2025 75p



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Burbage Toasts Another CAMRA Triumph

The Burbage and District Constitutional Club has once again raised a glass to success, proudly receiving the prestigious CAMRA award from the local branch. This latest accolade continues a remarkable run, with the club securing the honour for several consecutive years.

CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) is dedicated to championing quality beer and cider, and the award recognises venues that consistently deliver excellence in their drinks, service, and atmosphere.

Club members and staff alike were delighted to see their hard work recognised yet again, with the award serving as a testament to their commitment to providing a first-class experience for visitors.

Pictured are members of the team celebrating the win, a moment that reflects not only the club's dedication to quality but also its special place at the heart of the local community.



CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE

Published by The Association of Conservative Clubs, Ltd 1 Norfolk Row, London SE1 7JP Tel: 020 7222 0843 Sales: 020 7222 0868 assistance@toryclubs.co.uk www.toryclubs.co.uk

Chairman:

Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE Chief Executive: Charles Littlewood Printed by: Snell Print Ltd, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HP

All editorial and advertising enquiries should be addressed to the ACC. When replying to advertisers please mention Conservative Clubs Magazine

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

An outdoor entertainment survival guide by Karen Lush and Patrick Robson

The Licensing Act 2003 has now been in force for almost 20 years. In fact, its 20th anniversary is this November. Although the rules around entertainment were quite heavily relaxed about a decade ago, there is still plenty of understandable confusion among operators about what's actually permitted outdoors. Even where a licence directly says that live music is permitted indoors only, the reality is that it is quite likely allowed outdoors anyway.

Live or recorded music that is considered incidental does not require a licence under the Licensing Act, but how do we define when music actually counts as incidental? There are a few key questions to ask:

- 1. Is the music the main reason people are attending, or are they being charged because of it?
- 2. Is the music advertised as a main feature?
- 3. Is the volume so loud that it dominates the space, or is it genuinely background music?

Generally, background music is not licensable, which means that music played through speakers into a beer garden is perfectly lawful by standard.

So, what happens when the music is more than just background level and is in fact a huge draw for your customers, such as outdoor DJs or live bands? In some cases, your licence may already cover this and specify that certain outdoor areas are licensed for these activities. When it comes to live music, there is also a helpful deregulation that applies to areas defined as "workplaces".

This exemption may not appear on your licence at all, but as standard, it allows amplified live music to take place until 11pm, provided the audience does not exceed 500 people. In practice, most indoor spaces, beer gardens and patios will be classed as workplaces, so this rule often applies. Car parks, on the other hand, are more of a grey area, so using a temporary event notice is usually a safer option if you are planning to host a live band there.

Recorded music is treated differently. The workplace exemption does not apply, but there is another work around that allows both live and recorded music until 11pm in any area that is licensed for the sale of alcohol. This mirrors the

workplace rule and applies to audiences of up to 500 people. It is a helpful "two-birds-onestone solution" for the summer trading season as licensing your outdoor areas for alcohol sales can offer this double benefit. Not only can you serve drinks outside, but you also gain the ability to play live and recorded music in those same areas without needing additional permissions.

One of the lesser-known benefits and most confusing factors of deregulated music is that any licence conditions relating to music do not apply during the deregulated period. For example, if your licence says karaoke is not allowed at any time, that restriction does not legally apply before 11pm. The same goes for conditions that say all music must be played through a noise limiter. Up until 11pm, those conditions are essentially on pause, unless your audience goes over 500 people, exceeding the standard regulations. There is one important exception to be aware of, however. If any of your licence conditions were added as a result of a licence review, they can continue to apply even during the deregulated period. This means if there have been problems in the past, the licensing committee can take away the benefits of deregulation.

When it comes to outdoor televisions is, things are thankfully a bit more straightforward. Live television is not a licensable activity under the Licensing Act, so pubs and bars can show live sport outside to their heart's content without needing extra Licensing Act permission. Just make sure your licence does not include any conditions that ban outdoor televisions or speakers.

With extra footfall and atmosphere often comes a

familiar but unwanted sound – sadly not music or cheering, but complaints. Whether it's from local residents, neighbouring businesses or passers-by who didn't love your full-volume singalong, dealing with complaints is part and parcel of running a licensed premises. So, what can you do when the complaints start coming in, and more importantly, how do you stay one step ahead of any formal enforcement?

Take complaints seriously

It might be tempting to roll your eyes at yet another call from a neighbour who doesn't enjoy the sound of people having fun. It is therefore worth taking a moment to be reflective rather than dismissive. Every complaint, however small it seems, carries the potential to turn into something more serious if the local authority decides to get involved. Environmental health officers are usually the first point of contact for noise complaints. If they begin an investigation, the consequences can go well beyond a single busy evening. This is where a proactive approach really matters. Keeping a clear log of any complaints, how you responded and the steps you took shows that you're taking concerns seriously. It also helps demonstrate a proactive attitude if the situation ever escalates — which can be a valuable defence.

So, when can noise be classed as a statutory nuisance? Environmental health officers assess complaints based on context, not just volume. They consider how loud it is, how long it lasts, the time of day and the character of the surrounding area. Regular late-night noise in a quiet street is more likely to be seen as a nuisance than the same noise in a city centre.

3



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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Stay ahead of enforcement

If you're planning outdoor entertainment, especially live music or DJs, carry out a proper soundcheck. Walk the boundary of your premises and listen carefully. If you can hear the bass halfway down the street, it's likely your neighbours can too. A noise limiter can help keep levels under control. If you have one, make sure it is set correctly and that staff are trained to use it. You must also be mindful of timings. Outdoor live and recorded music must stop by 11pm under deregulated entertainment rules. If it continues beyond that, you may be in breach of your licence, regardless of complaints. To avoid problems, start turning the volume down from around 10.30pm and make sure your team knows the stop time and sticks to it.

Speaking to your neighbours might feel awkward, but it can make a real difference. A quick, friendly heads-up about a one-

off event or a particularly busy match day can help manage prevent expectations and complaints before they start. Taking the time to show that you're listening and open to compromise can go a long way in keeping relationships positive avoiding unnecessary tension. It also helps to display polite signage at exits and in outdoor areas, reminding customers to be considerate of local residents and to leave quietly. Small prompts like these can make a big difference in how your venue is perceived in the neighbourhood.

Your staff also play a key role. Make sure the whole team knows what to do if someone raises a complaint on the night, and that they understand the terms of your premises licence and any pavement licence.

Four key points of protection If you're facing issues or anticipating trouble, here are key steps to take:

- 1. Review your Club Premises Certificate or Premises Licence. Know exactly what your licence allows and what it doesn't. If anything is unclear, speak to a licensing specialist. Even minor breaches can lead to serious consequences.
- 2. Consider a temporary event notice (TEN). If your licence doesn't cover what you're planning, such as live music after 11pm or a large one-off event, a TEN could provide a temporary solution. Notice periods are ten working days for a standard TEN and five working days for a late TEN. Late TENs have no right to a hearing if objected to by police or environmental health. Submit TENs early to allow time for negotiation or hearing if needed.
- 3. Document everything. If

- complaints come in, keep a clear written record of what was reported, how you responded and steps you took to address the issue. This could include turning down music, adjusting speaker placement or ending the event early.
- 4. Get professional advice early. If the council or police raise concerns, don't wait for escalation. licensing solicitor can help engage with authorities, recommend changes to avoid enforcement and represent you if a hearing becomes necessary. The team at John Gaunt and Partners is always happy to help.

Patrick Robson is a Partner and Karen Lush is an Associate at John Gaunt & Partners https://www.john-gaunt.co.uk/

Questions and Answers

Ols there a retirement age in the UK?

A No, there is no fixed retirement age in the UK. Employees can usually choose when they want to stop working. The law no longer allows employers to force someone to retire just because of their age, except in very limited circumstances where a compulsory retirement age can be objectively justified (for example, in certain safety-critical jobs).

However, while there is no set retirement age, the State Pension age still applies. This is the age at which you can start claiming your State Pension, and it depends on your date of birth. At present, it is 66, but it will gradually rise to 67 between 2026 and 2028, and is scheduled to reach 68 in the future.

In short: you can keep working for as long as you want, but your eligibility for the State Pension depends on your age. Ob casual or irregular employees get paid holiday?

Yes. All workers in the UK, including those on casual, zero-hours, or irregular contracts, are legally entitled to paid holiday. The statutory minimum is 5.6 weeks per year (28 days for someone working a 5-day week). For irregular hours, this entitlement is calculated based on the hours actually worked.

How is holiday entitlement worked out for irregular hours?

Asince 1 January 2024, holiday entitlement for irregular hours and partyear workers is calculated as 12.07% of hours worked. For example, if someone works 30 hours in a month, they accrue:

 $30 \times 12.07\% = 3.62$ hours' holiday.

Qan employers use rolled-up holiday pay?

A Yes, from 2024 employers can lawfully include holiday pay in each payslip for irregular/casual workers, provided it is shown clearly as a separate payment. This makes it easier to manage fluctuating hours.

What is Pension Automatic Enrolment for Employees?

Pension automatic Aenrolment government scheme designed to help more people save for retirement. It requires employers to put eligible staff into a workplace pension and make contributions. **Employees** will normally be enrolled automatically if they work in the UK, are aged between 22 and State Pension age, and earn at least £10,000 a year.

Under the rules, a minimum

of 8% of an employee's qualifying earnings must go into the pension, with at least 3% paid by the employer and the rest (5%) coming from the employee. Employers can choose to pay more, which reduces how much the employee needs to contribute.

If an employee does not meet the eligibility criteria, for example, they are under 22, over State Pension age, or earn less than £10,000 then they will not be automatically enrolled, but can still ask to join the pension scheme. If they earn at least £6,240 a year, the employer must also contribute.

Employees can opt out of automatic enrolment, but if they do, they will lose both the employee contribution and the employer contribution. Employers must re-enrol eligible staff every three years, although they can choose to opt out again if they wish.

CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

What are the minimum first aid provisions required for our Club?

A For most Clubs, which are considered low-risk environments, UK regulations stipulate the following minimum provisions:

- A suitably stocked first aid kit or box
- An appointed person responsible for first aid arrangements (no formal training required)
- Information for all employees about the first aid arrangements (e.g., who's responsible, where the kit is located)

Do we need a fully trained First Aider or just an appointed person?

A In most small, low-risk Clubs (e.g., under 25 employees), an appointed person is sufficient. However, if your risk assessment indicates greater hazards (machinery, large crowds, events, etc.), you may need one or more trained first aiders. The risk assessment must drive this decision.

What exactly should our first aid kit contain?

A The essentials include plasters, bandages, sterile dressings, gloves, and a basic guidance leaflet. For low-risk settings, BS 8599-1 suggests a small kit for under 25 people. Additional items (e.g., foil blankets, shears) can be included following the needs assessment.

What are our legal obligations regarding health and safety?

August The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, Clubs must take reasonably practicable steps to ensure the safety of staff, members, volunteers, and visitors. This includes carrying out risk assessments for general hazards and specifically for fire safety.

Should we carry out separate fire and general risk assessments?

A Yes, fire safety is a critical risk in Club environments. You should conduct both: a general risk assessment (covering slip, trip, and equipment hazards) and a fire risk assessment, using available templates or guides, including club-specific ones.

The Club has three new trustees who are taking a much more active part in the club's management than the previous trustees had done. In fact, they want to change everything so far as the management procedures are concerned and continuously remind the committee that they 'own the Club'. What are the Club trustees' duties?

A You will find the main reference to the Club trustees' duties within the club's rules. The trustees are officers of the club and as such may attend and vote at committee meetings. However, the Club is managed by the elective committee acting as a whole and each member's vote has the same value.

If the trustees are required to sign any document on behalf of the Club, then they can only do so on the instruction of the committee. Whilst the property of the Club is vested in the names of the trustees, this does not in any way mean that they 'own' the Club. They simply hold it on behalf of the Club.

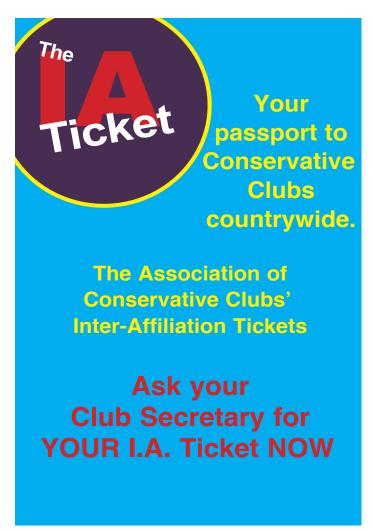
You will appreciate that the Club is an unincorporated association and as such has no legal identity. The club cannot hold property in the name of the Club but must do so in the names of trustees acting on behalf of the Club. Ultimately, the Club is managed by the Club's management committee. which is elected by the members. No single officer, or officers, has the authority under the rules to overturn decisions of the committee, or to amend club policy without the committee's agreement.

Our Club President recently died and the member who came second for this office at our last election in May has contacted me to say that he is now entitled to become Club President. Is this correct?

A This person has absolutely no automatic right to be appointed to the vacant President's position. The vacancy caused by the President's death is deemed to be a casual vacancy and as such can be filled by any person appointed by the committee. It may well be that the committee decide to appoint the member who was the unsuccessful candidate, but they have no obligation to do so.

A member of our club has been nominated for election to the committee. This person is, however, also a member of another club in the town and is an officer of that club. Is it in order for him to hold office in both clubs?

A member of two clubs is Anot debarred from holding office in one club due to the fact that he holds office in the other, unless the rules of either club expressly disallow such a right. A member of two clubs is entitled to the membership privileges of each, including the right to hold office. It must be left to the good sense of the members to elect suitable persons to office. member is successful in being elected to your committee, then it would be perfectly in order for the Chairman to remind him that information he receives as a member of the committee is confidential.



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Club Insure is the appointed insurance partner of the Association of Conservative clubs. We are the UK's leading insurance provider for social and political clubs, decorated with multiple award wins over 27 years of dedicated service.

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- Eccleshill Victoria Conservative Club

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- Totton Conservative Club



Meet Adam Lister, our ACC Club Specialist:

For almost 15 years, Adam has been supporting ACC clubs through their renewal process helping to make the process as simple as possible.

Talk to him to find out more about how we can support your club.

0344 488 9204 info@club-insure.co.uk club-insure.co.uk

Shadow Chancellor Sir Mel Stride Visits Torquay Central

The Torquay Central Conservative Club recently played host to an evening where politics met the pint glass, as Shadow Chancellor Sir Mel Stride MP joined local members and guests for a discussion on the economic challenges facing clubs and communities across the UK.

The event was organised as part of the Conservative Policy Forum and was facilitated by Kevin Foster, the former MP for Torbay. Although no longer in Parliament, Kevin remains a familiar face in the constituency and frequently appears on GB News, continuing to champion issues affecting his local area.

An attentive and engaged audience gathered at the club to hear Sir Mel speak candidly about the current political landscape. His focus was firmly on what he described as the "backfiring" of Labour's recent tax policies, particularly the increases in business rates and

national insurance contributions. These changes, he warned, are hitting the hospitality sector hard, with job losses mounting and many small businesses facing an uncertain future.

"The economy is already under pressure," Sir Mel said, "and Labour's approach is only deepening the strain on local employers, especially in sectors like hospitality and tourism that are so vital in places like Torbay."

During his visit, the Shadow Chancellor also met with the owners of a local family-run business struggling to cope with the financial implications of Labour's changes to inheritance tax. These face-to-face encounters, Sir Mel emphasised, help ground political debate in real-world consequences.

Kevin Foster echoed those sentiments. "The English Riviera depends on tourism," he said, "so our local businesses and clubs are particularly vulnerable to national



Shadow Chancellor Sir Mel Stride MP pulls a pint at Torquay Central, watched by Club Chairman Nigel Ford and former Torbay MP Kevin Foster.

insurance hikes and inflated business rates. It was great to have Sir Mel in Torquay to hear first-hand about the issues affecting us—and to discuss it all over a well-poured pint."

And pour a pint he did. In a lighthearted moment that captured the spirit of the evening, Sir Mel took to the bar to pull a pint under the watchful eye of Club Chairman Nigel Ford, with Kevin Foster looking on. It was a gesture that added a personal touch to a policyheavy evening, reminding everyone present that the decisions made in Westminster ripple out into communities like theirs.

For members of the Club, the visit was a chance to have their voices heard at a national level—and to take part in a conversation about the future of Britain's economy in a setting that felt both familiar and meaningful.



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.

Live sport proves the fastest-growing occasion for On Premise visits in Britain and Ireland

The Long Alcoholic Drinks (LAD) category has been a standout performer in the On Premise this year, and sport has been one of the key factors in its success, says research from CGA by NIQ.

AD has delivered solid growth in the 12 months to mid-June, with sales by value in Britain rising 3.7% year-on-year. In a flat-to-declining market, it has comfortably outperformed other big categories like wine (down 2.9%) and spirits (down 2.0%).

In all, LAD has accounted for more than half of all drinks revenue in Britain's On Premise. Its share of sales is even higher in channels like community pubs (67.3%) and sports and social clubs (60.8%) - venues that are closely associated with live sport.

As well as being widely available, LAD is very often the category of choice on sports-led occasions. More than 70% of what's sold during sport-led occasions comes from LAD, and its Rate of Sale (RoS) is rising in most channels too—a sign that when sporting events drive footfall, most consumers turn to beer and cider.

Live sport is the fastest-growing occasion for On Premise visits in both Britain and Ireland at the moment, with 25% of British consumers going out for this reason—which means LAD's opportunities are set to rise even further in the months ahead.

Here are five of the big opportunities that should be part of any suppliers' strategic reviews for sporting events in Britain and Ireland:

1 Target the right sports and demographics

The first step to growth in live sports is understanding who is watching what. Football is comfortably the most popular sport, and it's watched by 79% of those who go out for sporting occasions—and there are smaller but significant followings for boxing (21%), tennis (19%), Formula 1 (18%) and rugby union (15%). In Ireland, interest in rugby union is twice as high at 33%, and traditional sports like Gaelic Football (25%) and hurling (20%) have big followings too. Sport's audiences tend to be young, and around a quarter (24%) are aged 25 to 34. This figure has risen by 6 percentage points year-on-year, so it's crucial that brand activations engage this cohort.



2 Adapt to category trends

It's also vital to track the changing preferences of LAD consumers on sporting occasions, and flex strategies and portfolios accordingly. Lager is still the top choice, with 39% of British consumers drinking it—but this is down by 6 percentage points year-on-year, and interest in craft has dropped slightly too. While these two sub-categories dominate, numbers choosing stout and fruit cider have both risen by 3 percentage points. In Ireland, stout's long and close association with sport means it's the second top pick after lager.

3 Focus on atmosphere and price

Consumers are primarily attracted out to live sport in pubs by their atmosphere and sociable experience (45%). When it comes to factors in drinks choices, price is the top influence in both Britain and Ireland—but the quality of brands, availability of favourite brands and staff recommendations are all powerful too. This means it's crucial for suppliers and operators to work together to optimise ranging, pricing and promotions

4 Help drinkers experiment

Growing interest in these sub-categories high-

lights the scope to innovate—especially as sports fans are ready to experiment. OPUS shows 56% of consumers are more likely to try new drinks brands when out to watch live sport than on other occasions, while more than half of those in Britain (58%) and Ireland (56%) are more likely to pay extra for a better quality drink. Marketing campaigns that recruit customers like these will be essential for long term growth. There's a lot of spontaneity at play too, as 41% of consumers know what category they will drink before entering a venue for live sport, but not the specific brand. This makes the visibility of brands key—not just in venues but before match days too, especially on social media.

5 Plan for the big events

Nearly three quarters (72%) of consumers only focus on important sporting events, so it's important to develop compelling strategies for block-buster competitions like the Premier League, as well as major tournaments—not just in football but in sports like rugby, tennis and cricket. For many venues and LAD brands, the World Cup in the US will be the focal point of activity in 2026.

 ${\color{red}\bullet\, cgastrategy.com}$

TNT Sports – big competitions in one place

NT Sports will be showing every big competition with over 700 matches broadcast live from elite European club football to English domestic league and cup competitions this season.

After the FA Community Shield and UEFA European Super Cup kicked off the football season on TNT Sports, and before the first of 52 Premier League matches, the broadcaster announced that it will work closely with its member clubs throughout the season via a series of broadcast innovations to help bring fans closer to their teams.

Dressing room cameras (building on those employed by TNT Sports in some matchday broadcasts over the past two seasons), half-time interviews with players and managers and in-match interviews will become a staple of its live football coverage from this season.

Meanwhile, matchday one of UEFA's premier club competition – the UEFA Champions League – starts on the week of 16 September as 36 sides embark on the Road to Budapest, with the league phase of the UEFA Europa League and UEFA Conference League beginning a week later.



Alasdair Collis, Vice-President Commercial Premises TNT Sports, said: "This football season we are kicking off with more football than ever before with Premier League, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa Leage, UEFA Conference League and new this season the Emirates FA Cup and Adobe Women's FA Cup all in one place, an extraordinary line-up of trophies will be celebrated on TNT Sports."

Presenter line-up: In addition to regulars, the TNT Sports broadcasters will include five-time Champions League winner Gareth Bale; West Ham striker Michail Antonio; former Arsenal, Chelsea, Aston Villa and England defender Anita Asante; Arsenal and England midfielder Fara Williams and former Celtic and Scottish defender Jen Beattie.

• tntsportsbusiness.co.uk

Sky Sports to show 215 Premier League matches



four-year deal between Sky Sports and the Premier League means that clubs will have access to at least 215 Premier League matches – up from 128 on last season, as Sky Sports will show 80% of all televised Premier League fixtures this season. Sky also has the first pick of which games to broadcast at the weekend during this new, exciting season that may attract new customers week in, week out.

Additionally, there are 118 Women's Super League matches, and over 1,000 English Football League games following Sky's expanded investment into football rights and Sky Sports+.

The company says: "This is more than just football – it's a business opportunity. With fans thirstier than ever for live action, Sky Sports helps venues become the go-to destination for matchday excitement. And with the launch of Sky Sports+ last year, the new

channel and App that is designed to give fans more access to live sport, more flexibility, and more control, means venues can provide a more localised and personalised sports viewing experience to ensure your venue remains at the heart of your community."

James Tweddle, Director of Hospitality at Sky Business, said: "It's a new era for Sky Sports, with more games and more choice for both landlords and fans, we're bringing the joy of a better sporting experience.

"We're proud to offer hospitality venues the most comprehensive football coverage ever, and the ability to play it through our reliable Sky Business Broadband. This will help to keep customers staying longer and attracting more, ensuring live sport is all together better throughout the season."

• skyforbusiness.sky.com



Greene King achieves silver at World Beer Awards

The World Beer Awards recognise the best in internationally recognised beer styles, selecting both country and world winners, as well as awarding tiered medals in each category. Silver successes for Greene King went to Old Midnight Hen and Hazy Day Fruit IPA.

Old Midnight Hen – a 4.2% ABV English stout launched last year as part of the Old Speckled Hen family. With rich, complex flavours, this classic stout is packed with notes of chocolate and coffee, while carefully chosen hops provide the ideal balance of bitterness.

Hazy Day Fruity IPA – at 4.3% ABV, this is the newest addition to Greene King's craft range, a smooth, fruity IPA with orange, citrus, and tropical notes. It also secured a bronze medal at the International Beer Challenge, alongside Abbot Ale, Abbot Reserve, and Greene King Imperial IPA.

Matt Starbuck, Managing Director for Brewing and Brands at Greene King, said: "Brewing great beer is at the heart of what we do, and these accolades are a real credit to our talented brewers and dedicated teams who work tirelessly to craft the exceptional range we're proud to offer."

• greeneking.co.uk

No copyright shake-up without support of creative industries

Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy has said the Government will not embark on a copyright shakeup without the support of the creative industries. She made her commitment to the sector in a keynote speech at the UK Music Summer Party.

In her speech, the Culture Secretary addressed the ongoing debate around AI and copyright. Speaking to an audience of politicians and music industry leaders, she said the Government would not proceed with controversial changes to existing copyright laws if they did not work for the creative industries.

Lisa Nandy said: "I just want to be crystal clear with you that Peter Kyle [Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology] and I speak with one voice on this. We are determined to grip this issue with you, not to you. I'm kicking off a series of roundtables this week to work with you to find a



solution. Transparency and fair remuneration will be the core principles that will guide us. I want to be crystal clear on this point. If it doesn't work for the creative industries, it will not work for us, and we will not do it. That is my promise to you."

UK Music Chief Executive Tom Kiehl also

addressed the issue of copyright and AI in his speech at the event, while also hailing the cultural and economic power of the UK music industry.

Tom Kiehi said: "We are in the business of creating jobs and income for everyone working in the music industry. However, we are spending much of our energy trying to stop artificial intelligence firms getting a free ride. As I'm sure you all know, the Big Tech firms based in the States seem to think that they can steal the work of our amazing music creators and music businesses without paying for it and without their permission.

"Music is the ultimate form of human artistry. It's in our hearts and souls. We must stop AI from stealing music - and the many politicians here tonight must continue to play their part."

• ukmusic.org

Cornish Orchards introduces new cider variant



ornish Orchards has launched a new Peach & Apple cider, described as a 'light gold, gently sparkling cider made with traditional, bittersweet apples, complimented with the natural sweetness of ripe peach."

It is available in a 500ml bottle with an ABV of

Rob Hobart, Marketing Director at Asahi UK which owns the brand, said: "We've extended our range of Cornish Orchards flavoured packaged ciders with Peach & Apple to help customers tap into the lucrative opportunity in ciders made with 100% fresh pressed apple juice.

"Premium cider continues to be a hugely popular choice within the segment, accounting for 79% of total packaged cider. Packaged fruit cider is experiencing rapid growth, with sales up by +9.7% in volume for the last quarter."

The launch marks the third flavour extension in Cornish Orchards' range, joining Cherry & Blackberry and Raspberry & Elderflower, which launched in 2023.

cornishorchards.co.uk

Cask Ale Week – clubs encouraged to join in

Cask Ale Week, the annual celebration of Britain's national drink, takes place on Thursday 18th to Sunday 28th of September. Formed in the early 2000s by Cask Marque, Cask Ale Week is supported by The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), brewers and trade organisations.

Clubs can download resources from the Cask Ale Week website.

· caskaleweek.co.uk

New look with recycling in mind

ulti-award winning whiskies Glengoyne 18 Year Old and 21 Year Old Sherry Oak are sporting a new look, using fully recyclable, locally sourced materials.

The packaging is described as a 'graceful evolution that celebrates the exceptional whisky within while caring for the world around us'.

glengovne.com





Iconic British brands announce partnership

ston Martin and Glenfiddich have announced European oak sherry cask hand-selected by Malt an exclusive global partnership, marking Glenfiddich's global debut as Aston Martin's official whisky partner, building on its existing relationship with the Aston Martin Formula One™ Team.

The collaboration aims to reflect 'a seamless alignment of purpose and ambition, where the pioneering spirit, craftsmanship and timeless design of both brands will unite, redefining excellence through shared experiences and Limited-Edition releases'.

To commemorate the partnership Glenfiddich unveiled a rare 1976 Single Malt, aged for 48 years with a finishing period in a specially coopered Master Brian Kinsman.

Glenfiddich also staged a curated pop-up whisky tasting experience at The House of Aston Martin at Monterey Car Week, where Valhalla, Aston Martin's first plug-in hybrid supercar, took centre stage.

Claudia Falcone, Global Brand Director at Glenfiddich, said: "Valhalla [pictured] embodies the same rarity, precision, and future-facing vision as the Glenfiddich 1976 Vintage. Together, they tell one story: two brands united by heritage and driven by innovation."

• glenfiddich.com



Birmingham 2026: £90,000 support for local delivery partners

Birmingham 2026's Impact programme 'Beyond' has been launched, setting out the vision for how the European Athletics Championships in Birmingham 2026 can act as a catalyst for positive, lasting change across Birmingham and the West Midlands.

While Birmingham 2026 will deliver a world-class athletics event — the first time the European Championships have ever been staged in the UK — the organisers are also working in close partnership with stakeholders to support wider city and regional benefits, guided by a shared Impact Plan.

As part of the launch, UK Sport and the London Marathon Foundation have announced a £90,000 investment to support local delivery partners to

expand opportunities for young people to get active and involved in community sport.

One such partner is Access Sport, which trains, equips and supports community sports clubs as well as upskilling community coaches and volunteers to deliver inclusive sports sessions

Chair of the Birmingham 2026 Stakeholder Board, Royston Hoggarth, said: "These Championships are much more than a single week of elite athletics. With the right focus and partnerships, we can help build momentum around projects that leave a legacy long after the final medal is won. Beyond is our shared commitment to making that difference — with the Championships as a platform for change."

• accesssport.org.uk

Medina Foodservice launches expanded range

sle of Wight-based Medina Foodservice has expanded its range with the launch of 250 new products, including a mix of locally-sourced products, own-label products and national brands.

Medina has been serving foodservice businesses on the Isle of Wight and across the south coast for more than 50 years. The business was purchased by Sysco in 2019.

Leading Medina's new range are a number of locally-sourced products, including the Isle of Wight's Homemade Brownie Company.

Neil Williams, Managing Director of Medina Foodservice, said: "Medina has always been known for its exceptional service, and we've now expanded our range by adding a market-leading own brand to our comprehensive product portfolio.



"Customers can now access the Sysco foodservice brand, which is recognised across the world, alongside products that were born on the Isle of Wight. It's this balance of national range and value and local pride that makes Medina unique"

• medinafoodservice.com

James Gin celebrates success

ames Gin is celebrating reaching an impressive 1 million followers across Social Media platforms. The Gin range, created by TV personality James May, has also gained interest in the US and



achieved a Waitrose listing for hero product, Asian Parsnip

Asian Parsnip is described as sweet and spicy, designed to 'celebrate both the homely flavour of that most English of root vegetables and the gastric stimulus of spices from India'. Building on its success, Asian Parsnip Navy Strength was launched.

"An American customer said that if we made a Navy Strength version of Asian Parsnip, 'the world of gin would never be the same'," **said May.** "So, obviously we did, and he was right."

London Drizzle and California Dreamgin' make up the rest of the range.

• jamesgin.com

Brakes launches Make More of Mutton campaign

Prakes has launched a new campaign to encourage venues to make more of mutton.

The campaign showcases the benefits of mutton, highlighting its rich flavour and tenderness, especially when slow-cooked. It includes details of like-for-like mutton cuts to match favourite lamb products, such as racks, joints, chops, mince, and diced. The range is 100% British farm-assured.



Neck of muttor

Paul Nieduszynski, CEO of Sysco GB, said: "We are committed to identifying, launching and promoting products that help customers save money. Mutton is a great example of this as it is a delicious, underused alternative to lamb."

The campaign is part of the Ways to Save initiative, which is designed to support Brakes' customers in light of increased operational costs, and offers a range of ways to save money, capitalise on cash-back and make the most of promotions.

Recipe inspiration as well as information on the products available can be found on the company's website.



Roasted mutton rack



Slow cooked neck of mutton rogan josh

• brake.co.uk

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ConsFest 25 – A Weekend to Remember at Canvey Island Conservative Club

When Lisa Meggeson was appointed manager of Canvey Island Conservative Club in September 2024, no one could have predicted just how quickly she would make her mark. In less than a year, Lisa has brought fresh energy and ideas to the club, ensuring it remains a vibrant hub for both long-standing members and new faces. Alongside her deputy, Sara, she set out to create something truly special for the summer of 2025 – and so ConsFest was born.

From Friday 15th to Sunday 16th August, the Club was transformed into a festival ground filled with music, laughter, and community spirit. Posters filled social media feeds in the lead-up to the weekend, and as the final touches of bunting, glow sticks, and wristbands were prepared, all eyes turned to the weather forecast – thankfully, the sun did not disappoint.

The festivities began on Friday evening with a nostalgic celebration of 1940s music, courtesy of VJ Celebrations. The club was beautifully decorated by committee members, and many guests dressed for the occasion. The night was a resounding success, setting the tone for what would become an unforgettable weekend.

Saturday brought wall-to-wall sunshine and a packed programme of entertainment. Members and guests were treated to lively performances from A Right Charlie, Lee Stubbs as the incomparable Robbie Williams, the talented Lucy Leigh, and crowd-pleasers Double or Nothing. With music filling the air and the barbecue sizzling away, the dance floor remained full long into the evening.

If Saturday felt unbeatable, Sunday raised the bar once again. Local rising stars Southern Heights opened the day with an energetic set of indie anthems from the likes of Oasis, Blur, and The Killers, drawing rapturous applause from the crowd. The festival closed with Blast from the Past, whose eclectic mix of hits across the decades had everyone singing and dancing to the very last note.

Across the weekend, nearly 600 wristbands were issued, with families, friends, and guests all coming together to enjoy the club's warm hospitality. Children were kept entertained with games and toys, while adults soaked up the sun, the music, and the atmosphere of a true community celebration.

The success of ConsFest '25 has been overwhelming, with glowing feedback from members praising the organisation, entertainment, and family-friendly feel. For Lisa, Sara, and the Committee, the only question now is how to top it next year. Plans are already in motion for *ConsFest* '26, promising yet another weekend of fun, friendship, and unforgettable memories.









Sweet Success for a Worthy Cause

In August, the Royal Wootton Bassett Conservative Club hosted a delightful Tea and Cake Day in support of breast cancer awareness and research. The event brought together members, committee representatives, and generous local businesses, including the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes lodge, all rallying behind a cause that touches many lives.

Tables laden with homemade

cakes, delicate pastries, and steaming pots of tea created a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with every slice and sip helping to boost the fundraising total. Thanks to the kindness of all involved, the club proudly raised an impressive £1,300.

The day was a testament to the power of community spirit, with contributions coming not only in the form of donations but also time, effort, and heartfelt enthusiasm.



Pictured are Sid Clark (Secretary), Pat and Deb (Stewards), Pauline Clark, and Shirley Holder (members), whose hard work and dedication played a key role in the event's success.





Pages From The Past

In recognition of Lord Norman Tebbit we reproduce his Disraeli Lecture, given at the St Stephen's Club and featured in the December 1985 Magazine, across two pages.

Lord Tebbit who passed away peacefully on 7 July

2025 at the age of 94. Known for his eloquence, resilience, and unwavering conviction, he played a pivotal role in reshaping Britain's industrial relations during the 1980s as Employment Secretary and later as Trade Secretary.

Surviving serious injury in the 1984 Brighton bombing that also left his beloved wife paralyzed, Lord Tebbit's courage and devotion became a symbol of strength and compassion. Though his views were often robust and polarizing, many remember him as a man of principle—his sharp wit underpinned by a deep-rooted commitment to family, duty, and public service.

His legacy endures as one of personal fortitude and political tenacity - he left an indelible mark on modern British conservatism.

Conservative Clubs Magazine ©

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ASSOCIATIONOF CONSERVATIVE CLUBS LTD.

Editorial Offices: 32 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HH

DECEMBER, 1985

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

10p

LORD KABERRY, A.C.C. Chairman, Officers and Staff of the Association of Conservative Clubs wish members a very Happy Christmas and New Year, and would like to thank them all for their continued magnificent support, activities and enthusiasm over the past 12 months.

ROAD TO REALISM

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, M.P., Chairman of the Conservative Party, delivered a wide-ranging speech analysing Britain today, our society, and the way ahead. The occasion was the first Disraeli lecture at St. Stephen's Club in London.

His speech was widely acclaimed by those in the media, and the men and women in the street.

Paul Johnson, writing in the *Daily Mail*, perhaps summed up opinion when he wrote:

"Here for once is a politician's speech which the nation as a whole can applaud. For there is a silent majority in Britain today of industrious, law abiding, decent men and women, who know in their hearts there are absolute differences between right and wrong and who reject the permissive society with contempt."

The majority voice can be the most silent, but it is now time for the nation to speak out and be heard on how they want Britain to behave and be in the future.

In Mr. Tebbit's speech he said that "The most positive reason why Britain needs a continuing Conservative administration into the 1990s is that we offer a vision of

society in the next decade, profoundly more in keeping with the character of the British people.

"The Conservative Party shares the British people's attachment to freedom. It is to the free society that we are committed. That is a society in which the unavoidable derogations of individual liberty are minimised and take place only under the rule of law.

"Of course, many of our opponents also claim to be friends of freedom. But the freedom they offer is always at best highly qualified. They do not understand or acknowledge that political freedom will not long be maintained if divorced from economic freedom. They obstinately close their minds to the lesson that state controls are contagious, threatening to spread from sector to sector whenever given the chance. And, above all, they refuse to face their supporters with the awkward truth



that the moral and material benefits of freedom cannot be enjoyed free from the continued on page 7

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PAGES FROM THE PAST

ROAD TO REALISM . . . continued from page 1

risks and difficulties of freedom and burdens of personal responsibility.

SERFDOM

"Nor can the choices be fudged painlessly away. The path away from economic freedom is, as Hayek has long ago demonstrated, the road to serfdom. The road may be a long one: the pace may be swift or slow: but the destination cannot be changed. State ownership, state monopolies, state regulation and state planning, through the centralisation of economic power, inevitably lead to economic failure. They inevitably increase both the temptation and the scope for abuses of political power until freedom itself is threatened....

"Those who value freedom will always pursue it for its own sake; but, not least because it is in accord with the needs of the human spirit, it has one other inestimable advantage – it works."

OBJECTNESS

Mr. Tebbit continued by suggesting eight Key objectives – ones which are designed to bring about a prosperous, secure and harmonious society – in the 1990s.

"First, we should aid for broad price stability – an end to inflation and to inflationary expectations. Inflation is the cruellest, most arbitrary and destructive tax of all.

"Second, we must secure business success – and by 'business' I mean both manufacturing and service industries.

"Third, we must see much fuller employment.

Fourth, we must have cut personal taxation so as to increase personal freedom and incentives, to reward success and foster enterprise, and so to promote emloyment prospects.

"Fifth, through a better balance of public and private provision, we should in the 'nineties have achieved better care for those who need it.

"Sixth, we must fulfil our goal of a property owning democracy through wider personal ownership of property, especially pensions, homes and shares.

"Seventh, we must have widened customer choice and gone further towards sweeping away anti-competitive practices, not least that of indiscriminate subsidy.

"And eighth, we must have helped create the conditions in which the whole of society works to being back safety to our streets and homes.

"The list is not comprehensive. It does not include defence, or Europe or Local Government, on all of which we have much to offer. But these eight objectives show where we want to be: and there is good reason to believe on the basis of current experience and given the thrust of current policies that we can get there.

On Law and Order, Mr. Tebbit included his speech with some fundamental truths,

applauded and supported by, as he said earlier, both media and the 'silent' majority. He said:

"Society today is more violent and criminal and corrupt than it was. Only the experts would challenge that: and the experts are, as usual, wrong. Why?

"In the past, lack of police where they were most required – on the streets – was certainly one reason. But not today. For we have increased police manpower by almost 13,000, putting more officers back on the beat. We are providing the pay, equipment, technology and moral support to do their difficult, dangerous task. We shall continue to do so.

"Nor has criminal behaviour increased because of poverty or unemployment: the 1930s was a time of very high unemployment but not of crime on today's scale. California is richer and more criminal than Britain.

"Nor can the blame reside solely with Mr Bernie Grant. Or with Mr Kinnock's other would-be Parliamentary colleagues who exploit violence for their own political ends.

"No: the trigger of today's outburst of crime and violence is deeper. It lies in the era and attitudes of post-War funk which gave birth to the 'Permissive Society' which, in turn generated today's violent society.

STANDARDS SCORNED

"The permissives scorned traditional standards. Bad art was as good as good art. Grammar and spelling were no longer important. To be clean was no better than to be filthy. Good manners were no better than bad. Family life was derided as an outdated bourgeois concept. Criminals deserved as much sympathy as their victims. Many homes and classrooms became disorderly – if there was neither right nor wrong there could be no basis for punishment or reward. Violence and soft pornography became accepted in the media. Thus was sown the wind; and we are now reaping the whirlwind.

"What can we do?
"We can try to put right what has gone wrong. Keith Joseph's plans to make schools places of useful learning where achievement by teachers and pupils is assessed according to accepted criteria will help. Leon Brittan introduced important changes relating to the sentencing of violent criminals. And successive Conservative Home Secretaries have built the prisons to house those who threaten society. The action promised in the Queen's Speech to curb the activities of drug traffickers will take this one stage further.

"But, above all, I believe that by the 1990s we shall see the effects of a revulsion against the valueless values of the Permissive Society. The public are demanding stiffer sentences for criminals – and in the end they will get them. They will demand that television producers think about the effects of what they broadcast upon

impressionable people – and in the end it will happen. They will insist upon traditional style in schools – and more parental influence, strengthened by the measures in our Queen's Speech, will help secure that objective.

"I know that at the front of that campaign for a return to traditional values of decency and order will be the Conservative Party: for we understand as does no other Party that the defence of freedom involves a defence of the values which make freedom possible without its degeneration into licence.

PRICE OF FREEDOM

"So these, then, are eight key areas in which we have the approach which best suits what most peole themselves want of Britain in the 1990s. But the British people have to go on choosing to be free if they are to enjoy the benefits of freedom. And the prize of freedom has its price.

"No, not just eternal vigilance, but the acceptance of responsibility – not least of responsibility for the consequences of one's own actions. The same choice which had to be made in 1979 and 1983 will be

required of them in 1987 or 1988.
"The choice is still essentially whether they prefer the path of freedom to the road of serfdom. Not serfdom today or even tomorrow – but little by little drifting almost imperceptibly into the no-man's land of the semi-collective State and then into poverty and decline under successively more centralist Government.

"Governments that would first destroy the fruits of Freedom, then attack the very roots of the tree of liberty.

"The choice has not changed," he concluded. "It is not a soft option. We Conservatives have not changed. We are not soft touches. We do not offer prosperity without effort, nor security without cost, nor even the freedom of ownership of property without the responsibilities which go with them.

"Those who pretend that these indivisibles can be split – offering something for nothing – are inevitably found out, sometimes tragically when it is too late.

"It is my firm belief that the British people have not changed their views nor have they become so gullible as to see the soft options - without seeing the strings attached."

ANNUAL LEEK CLUB SHOW AT DENTON HOLME

Among some of the magnificent leeks on show at the Denton Holme Conservative Club's Leek Club Annual Show were those exhibited by Richard Dowell, Harold Hind and Ian Howson. The air and soil of Carlisle is obviously good for them.

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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.