

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



February 2026 75p



Woodhall Spa Conservative Club Supports Guide Dogs



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Message From Chief Executive

I am delighted to announce the publication of the latest edition of the ACC's Club Law and Management book. The latest book is fully updated and is a consolidated guide designed to all Clubs. This new book replaces both the previous Club Law and Management volume and the long standing Club Law Questions and Answers book, bringing together the best and most frequently used material from both into one comprehensive and practical publication.

For many years, club committees, officers, and advisers have relied on our publications for clear, accessible guidance on the legal and operational challenges facing clubs. Over time, however, the volume of regulation, case law, and practical issues has grown significantly. This new edition responds directly to that reality. It combines detailed legal explanation with plain English answers to the questions clubs most commonly ask, alongside our new practical "how to" guides that reflect the realities of running a club day to day.

The book covers the full range of issues that Committees regularly encounter. Importantly, it also

retains and expands the highly regarded Questions and Answers section, allowing readers to quickly find guidance on specific scenarios. The practical guides included in the book provide step by step advice on topics such as cash control, stock management, customer service, cellar management, and compliance with food allergens law.

This new edition has been thoroughly reviewed and updated to reflect current legislation, regulatory practice, and the changing trading environment in which clubs now operate. It is written for committee members and officers who need reliable guidance they can trust when making decisions that carry legal, financial, and personal responsibility.

The new book is priced at £15, representing excellent value for a publication of this scope and depth. To mark the launch, and whilst stocks last, every purchase of the new Club Law and Management book will also include a free copy of the previous Club Law Questions and Answers book. If you wish to order the book, you can use our website or phone/email us.

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

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Printed by: Snell Print Ltd,
8 Buckland Road, Yeovil,
Somerset BA21 5EA

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Motion Picture Licensing Company Ltd

Many Clubs receive letters from the MPLC - the Motion Picture Licensing Company Ltd.

I can confirm that MPLC is a legitimate organisation but that Clubs only need to obtain a licence from them under specific circumstances.

Crucially, Clubs do not tend to need an MPLC licence to show content such as sports, music channels or Sky News. Therefore, for most Clubs the only licence that is required is a Television Licence. In the ACC's experience it is rare that a Club would need to obtain an MPLC licence as most Clubs do not screen films or drama series. That said, Clubs showing live sport or news on channels which also show other unrelated and possibly licensable content should ensure that only the intended sports event or rolling news content is shown. The simplest way to achieve this is to ensure the television used is immediately turned off after the sports or news content has ended. Clubs showing news or sports on dedicated rolling news or sports channels (such as BBC News 24 or Sky Sports) can leave such channels on for as long as they wish.

MPLC itself represents rights holders such as film studios and television production companies which produce content such as dramas or comedies. If a Club showed any of this content then an MPLC licence may need to be obtained.

However, Clubs which only show channels such as Sky Sports, BT Sports, Sky News, sports shown on free to view channels such as BBC One or Channel 4 or a music channel are unlikely to be required to obtain an MPLC licence.

Examples of programmes that do and do not require a licence are below:

Six Nations.....	No Licence
Match of the Day.....	No Licence
Euros.....	No Licence
World Cup.....	No Licence
Sky Sports.....	No Licence
Eastenders.....	MPLC Licence
Sky News.....	No Licence

Employment Law Update

Clubs should be aware that 2026 is set to see a significant wave of employment law reform driven primarily by the Employment Rights Act 2025, which received Royal Assent in late 2025 and will be rolled out in stages across 2026 and into 2027. Many provisions will begin to take effect from April 2026, and while some of the most far-reaching reforms such as the reduction in the qualifying period for unfair dismissal claims (from two years to six months) are not due until January 2027, Committees need to start planning now. These reforms are expected to expand employee protections, impact how dismissals and redundancies are handled, and increase the regulatory expectations on Committees to stay compliant with the changing legal landscape. In practical terms, the changes mean employers will need to review and update key policies and procedures, strengthen documentation and training, and be proactive in areas such as handling sexual harassment disclosures, whistleblowing, and trade union/industrial action issues. Employers should also take account of other statutory increases such as National Minimum Wage, statutory redundancy pay and tribunal awards, all of which are set to change. Given the phased nature of these reforms, early engagement with the changes are advisable to avoid risk and ensure smooth implementation.

We will continue to provide information on the changes as and when they come into effect.

Handling Allegations of Theft and Dishonesty in the Workplace

Allegations of theft or dishonesty are among the most serious issues a Club can face. They can undermine trust, damage morale, and expose the organisation to legal risk if handled incorrectly. Committees should remember that even where suspicion appears strong, the way an allegation is investigated and addressed is just as important as the allegation itself. The first step is to establish the facts through a fair and thorough investigation. The Committee should avoid jumping to conclusions or treating suspicion as proof. This means gathering evidence carefully, reviewing documents or CCTV where appropriate, and speaking to relevant witnesses. The employee concerned should be informed of the allegation in clear terms and given a genuine opportunity to explain their

version of events. In some cases, suspension on full pay may be appropriate while investigations are carried out, but this should be a neutral act and not treated as a disciplinary sanction in itself. Dishonesty cases often turn on credibility and context rather than clear cut evidence. Employers should assess whether there are reasonable grounds to believe misconduct has occurred, rather than seeking absolute certainty. Importantly, the disciplinary process must follow the employer's own procedures and the principles of fairness set out in the ACAS Code of Practice. Failure to do so can render an otherwise sensible dismissal decision to be held to be legally unfair. If misconduct is established, employers should then consider proportionality. While theft or dishonesty can justify summary dismissal (gross misconduct), this is not automatic in every case. Factors such as the employee's role, length of service, previous conduct, and the seriousness of the act should all be weighed carefully. The Committee should also ensure that decisions are consistent with how similar cases have been treated in the past. Ultimately, handling allegations of dishonesty correctly is about balancing protection of the business with procedural fairness.



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Questions and Answers

Q We have several local Trustees who concerned about their own personal liability in the event of a Club debt. Can you provide any advice on this matter?

A This is an important question and it is very important that club trustees gain an understanding of their position. It is essential for trustees to appreciate fully, what they are called upon to do, what they do and why they are doing it so that they do not, through inadvertence, become personally liable. They must remember at all times that they are acting on behalf of the club.

Trustees must pay particular attention to the use of club funds, and must always ensure that no moneys of the club are spent contrary to law or the club rules, or for purposes not connected with the club or its objects. Proceedings against any person or persons, for fraud or misappropriation, are instituted in the names of the trustees. Two of the duties of trustees which are generally well known are that they are the people, when things have gone badly wrong, who sue on behalf

of the club and those who are sued as representatives of the club.

All leases and agreements of the club should be in the names of the trustees and no documents should be signed by them until they are satisfied they are acting on behalf of the club. Clubs must seek advice when any documents are to be signed that involve the future of the club, its property, or its finances no matter who is the other party involved. It is vital that such documents and anything similar should be examined and approved by the club's legal advisers before signature. The club might well have to pay a fee for expert advice, but the peace of mind which it can bring will be well worth the expenditure.

We always recommend that when appointing new Trustees that it is explained to them the situation surrounding their possible personal liability and that they acknowledge that this has been explained by signing a document to that effect.

Clubs often appoint the ACC to act as their Trustees which eliminates the requirement for local Members to occupy these positions. There are two main benefits for the club when the

ACC are appointed to act as the Club's Trustees. The first is that the ACC will pay for all legal expenses involved with the transfer of Trusteeship and once elected will act as the club's Trustees on a permanent continuous basis, thereby also saving the club future legal costs since Trustees will not be changed by re-election as they are now. 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. This Association will not be involved in the day-to-day business of the club and will be subject to the lawful instructions of the committee in respect of its role as the club's Trustee in exactly the same way as the existing Trustees.

Q We wish to remove the Sky TV in the club as it is too expensive. However, we have a vocal minority of members who are intent on keeping the Sky TV service. Could they call an SGM to reverse a Committee decision?

A Whilst the rules do allow a Special General Meeting to be called by the members, it is fair to say that typically such items as opening hours and the provision of Sky Television are left to the purview of the Committee. It is understandably difficult to run a club if such decisions are constantly being debated among the members with a view to holding an SGM every time a decision without universal approval is taken. Clubs which engage in this sort of activity ultimately find it difficult to find members who are willing to stand for the Committee.

If there is a section of the membership who are unhappy with the direction that the Committee is taking the club then we would recommend that such members stand for election

onto the Committee at the next available opportunity. This is ultimately the most effective way for members to influence the running of the club. To coin an old phrase "put up or shut up".

Q We have zero hours employee who is on maternity leave. We are adjusting some of the opening hours – how will this affect her when she returns?

A Because she is on a zero hours contract, her legal position is different from someone with guaranteed hours. However, maternity protections still apply, and you must handle her return correctly and fairly.

1. Zero hours means no contractual right to guaranteed shifts

A zero-hours worker has no guaranteed minimum hours, so she does not have the legal right to return to a set number of hours after maternity leave. If the Club's opening hours are reduced while she is away, you are allowed to offer her fewer hours on return as long as:

- The reduction is genuinely because the business hours have changed

- All comparable zero-hours workers are treated consistently

- It is not because she took maternity leave

2. You must not disadvantage her because of maternity

This is key.

It would be unlawful discrimination if:

- Other zero-hours staff have had their hours protected, but hers alone are reduced

- She is placed at the bottom of the rota because she was away

- She is not given the same opportunity to pick up shifts as others

As long as the reduction in hours affects everyone equally, or is applied fairly based on

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business need, it is lawful.

3. You must consult her before she returns

Good practice (and strongly advisable legally):

- Notify her of the new opening hours
- Explain any rota changes affecting all staff
- Discuss her availability and working preferences when she returns
- Confirm she will be offered shifts in line with the new pattern

This prevents misunderstandings and protects you from discrimination claims.

4. She must be given the same access to available shifts as everyone else

When she returns:

- She should go onto the rota like any other zero hours worker
- She must not be penalised or deprioritised because she was on maternity leave

If hours are scarce, they must be allocated fairly and transparently.

Q We have an employee on sickness leave. Due to his condition, we are not sure if he can return to his previous role. What should we do?

A You should consider the following issues prior to making a decision.

Medical evidence and fitness to work

- A fit note (the formal term for a “back to work certificate”) is only required to cover periods of sickness absence, not to confirm someone is fit to return.
- However, as an employer, you have the right to request evidence that an employee is fit to resume work if there are genuine health and safety concerns about their ability to perform their role safely.

Disability and the Equality Act 2010

- Is their condition considered a disability under the above act – it is important to clarify this before making a decision.
- If medical evidence shows he cannot safely perform

the essential duties of his role, even with reasonable adjustments, you may be justified in considering termination on capability grounds — but only once you have followed the correct medical and procedural steps. You cannot leap to conclusions and must first fully establish if modifications can be made to allowed this person to continue with their current role.

Requesting further information

- You can formally request written consent from the employee for you to obtain a medical report from his GP or specialist under the Access to Medical Reports Act 1988.
- If he refuses to give consent or to attend Occupational Health, document this in writing. You can then make decisions based on the limited information available, provided they are reasonable and based on health and safety grounds.

Occupational Health referral

- If he does not provide a medical report, you should indeed refer him to Occupational Health for an independent assessment.
- These services can be arranged through a local private occupational health provider or your insurer’s recommended partner.
- The referral should set out the specific questions you need answered, such as:
 - Is the employee fit to carry out their full duties?
 - What adjustments, if any, are recommended?
 - Are there particular safety risks linked to the club environment (e.g., lone working, alcohol service)?

Future steps:

- Write to him confirming that before returning to work, a risk assessment and occupational health review must be completed.
- Explain that this is to ensure both his safety and that of others, not disciplinary in nature.
- If he refuses, you may place him on medical suspension

(on full pay) pending the assessment or proceed to a capability process if you have sufficient grounds and documentation.

- A capability process is the formal procedure an employer follows when an employee is unable to perform their job to the required standard - usually because of ill health or lack of competence, rather than misconduct or deliberate behaviour. You will consider available evidence which will hopefully allow a decision to be reached. The decision can then be communicated to the employee who will have a right of appeal against the decision reached.

Q We have a gaming room in the Club which is home to the Club’s gaming machines and also the Club’s quiz machine. There is a notice above the door saying that persons aged under eighteen cannot enter. We have found that children are entering the room to use the quiz machine. Is it lawful for children to use a quiz machine?

A The technical reference for a ‘quiz machine’ is a ‘Skill with Prizes’ (SWP) machine.

This is a complicated area in law although the general guidance is that these machines do not come under the Gambling Act as the act of playing on these machines does not count as gambling. This means that persons under eighteen can legally use these ‘Skill with Prizes’ machines. However, it is worth be aware that on the 1st February 2013 it is likely that these machines will have category C content loaded onto them which will mean that they receive an age limit of eighteen although it is possible that there will be specific exceptions. This change is due to the introduction of Machine Games Duty and the abolishment of AMLD. Therefore the Committee may wish to bear in mind that in less than a year these machines are likely to only be able to be played by persons over eighteen.

In the interim period, simply because these machines can be played by minors does not mean that the Committee has to revise its existing policy of not allowing minors into the Club’s gaming room. The Committee is perfectly entitled to continue to locate the SWP machine alongside the Club’s gaming machines and restrict access to the room to persons over the age of eighteen.

Alternatively, the Committee may wish to locate the SWP machine outside of the gaming room so that persons under eighteen can use the machine until such time as the machine has an age limit of eighteen imposed.

Q The committee recently suspended a member for a period of three years which we have been informed may be unlawful. There is nothing specific in our rules concerning suspension and the committee have asked for your recommendations.

A Most clubs restrict the maximum period of suspension to one year. The reason for a one year limit is due to the fact that a suspended member remains liable to pay his subscription. To expect a person to continue to pay a subscription for a great length of time may be considered unreasonable. It is also considered that any misconduct requiring a suspension period of more than one year should probably be dealt with by expulsion.

If your club has no specific rule precluding a ban of more than one year then there is no reason to suggest that your decision to suspend for a three year period is unacceptable. However, if the person in question does not pay his subscription, his membership will lapse and he will need to re-apply for membership following the three year suspension instead of being automatically re-admitted.

I would suggest that in the future any member whose conduct warrants a suspension period of more than one year is expelled.



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Ivan Carter Christmas Handicap Brings Festive Snooker to Altrincham



Altrincham Conservative Club recently hosted the Ivan Carter Christmas Handicap, which proved to be an enjoyable evening of competitive and entertaining snooker.

The tournament was won by Mike Halkon, with Dominic Law finishing as runner up after a closely contested final. The standard of play throughout the evening was high, with players producing some excellent snooker in front of an appreciative audience.

The matches were officiated by Andy Browning, who refereed the competition with confidence and professionalism. Andy is hoping to pursue a future career as a professional referee, and the event provided valuable experience in a competitive setting.

Members and guests alike agreed that it was a great night, combining festive spirit with some first class snooker, and the Club looks forward to hosting similar events in the future.

Inter Club Competition Brings Devon Clubs Together

A long running inter club competition between Heavitree Conservative Club, Exeter, and Tiverton Constitutional Club, Devon, once again proved to be a successful and enjoyable occasion, bringing members together in the spirit of friendly rivalry and social connection.

The annual event, which has now become a regular fixture in the clubs' calendars, was established to encourage social interaction between neighbouring clubs and to strengthen ties across the area. The competition is held twice each year and is firmly focused on enjoyment and camaraderie rather than serious

competition.

This year's match was played for the George Hooper Challenge Cup and was best described as a relaxed and good natured occasion, with members from all participating clubs enjoying the opportunity to meet, compete, and socialise.

Events such as this continue to demonstrate the value of inter club

activities in maintaining strong links between clubs and providing members with opportunities to engage beyond their own premises.

All those who took part agreed that the event was great fun and a welcome reminder of the social side of club life, and plans are already in place to continue the tradition in future years.

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The Challenge Cup Joint Winners: Tony Phillips and Mel Ward, both from Heavitree Club.



3rd Annual Competition between Heavitree Conservative Club, Exeter, and Tiverton Constitutional Club.

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.

Report highlights cautiously positive economic indicators

People's worries about their disposable incomes have led to some substantial shifts in behaviour, impacting consumption in both the On-and Off-Premise, reports NIQ.

When it comes to BevAl [BeverageAlcohol] in bars, pubs and restaurants, guests have been recalibrating their priorities and sharpening their focus on value. NIQ's global research shows a small drop in visits to outlets, yet consumers average monthly spend in the channel is up by +0.24%, leading to a value decline in BevAl of -0.6%. Volumes are down further however, and this is driven by many consumers moderating their alcohol intake—not simply for financial reasons, but for health and wellbeing ones too.

A 'less is more' mindset

While consumers have become more mindful about their choices, they remain eager to drink out when they can. They often see it as an affordable treat or as an integral part of their day-to-day routine, with 83% typically visiting the On-Premise at least quarterly. When they visit, spend-pressured consumers want to ensure they are getting good value from their experience, so value plays an increasingly important role in their alcohol choices. However, it's important to remember that when they demand value, that doesn't necessarily mean cheap. Most consumers link it more to quality and want to be sure that a drink will be worth the price that they pay.

This has led to many people opting for quality over quantity in their BevAl spending. Asked about their intentions with a set amount of money, two thirds (66%) of consumers say they would buy one or two luxury or high quality drinks, while only 9% would buy four or five cheaper ones. It means that although volumes have dropped slightly, premiumisation and price rises have helped business to see an opportunity to achieve growth in value terms.

Trends mirrored at home

These macros consumer trends have also created a challenging environment for BevAl brands in the



take home channel. Although beverages have been the fastest growing FMCG segment, rising by 5.3% year-on-year, this growth has been driven by non-alcoholic beverages, where volumes have risen by 2.3% year-on-year whereas BevAl volumes are in 1.0% decline, demonstrating a strong shift in volumes from alcoholic to non-alcoholic beverages. Consumers also seek to moderate their alcohol consumption at home, and whilst the number of consumers shopping the BevAl category remains relatively stable, the frequency with which they purchase has declined alongside the number of units purchased on each trip.

As moderation continues to embed itself in people's habits, there will be continued potential for suppliers in no and low alcohol across both the On and Off Premise. A less but better approach also creates opportunities for growth for BevAl brands in the premium space, but given the challenging financial climate for consumers, any confidence for prospects in 2026 need to be tempered with caution and strategies need to be highly targeted to win in this space.

Caution is the new normal

Looking at the year ahead, there are some cautiously positive economic indicators. Inflation has

steadily decreased to a projected 3.1% in the third quarter of 2025 and some consumer confidence scores are edging up. NIQ's Consumer Outlook report shows there is a broadly even split in global consumers saying they are better off financially than they were a year ago (30%), and those who are worse off (33%), and it forecasts continued volatility in 2026. But while some macroeconomic metrics are moving in the right direction, spending will continue to be intentional and mindful, and every purchase will have to earn its place. Understanding the demographics, brand preferences and behaviours of these consumer groups is key to a successful brand strategy.

The total trade view of success

These and many more cultural shifts in BevAl consumption mean businesses will have to adapt fast to seize growth opportunities in the months ahead. Doing so demands an expert understanding of the landscape in both the out-of-home and retail sectors, and of people's fast-evolving purchase drivers. There's a lot to play for in the global BevAl market in 2026, and the need to find the right product for the right customer in the right place will be more crucial than ever.

• nielseniq.com

Dransfields marks 80th anniversary with industry award

ACC Approved Supplier Dransfields is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year and was presented with the prestigious Chairman's Award at the annual EAG (Entertainment, Attractions and Games) International Expo, held at ExCeL London in January.

The special award was presented to Dransfields' Managing Director, Chris Haley, on the EAG show floor in recognition of the company's eight decades of outstanding service and its significant, enduring contribution to the gaming sector.

Founded in 1946 by Harry Dransfield, the company initially supplied lever-operated fruit machines to clubs and pubs in Newcastle and Leeds. It went on to become one of the largest machine suppliers in the North of England and was the originator of the 'nudge' feature.

Under current Chairman Robert Dransfield – Harry's grandson – and Managing Director Chris Haley, who celebrates his 30th year with the company in May, Dransfields is widely regarded as the UK's premier supplier of gaming and amusement equipment, including gaming machines, pool tables, jukeboxes and its state-of-the-art Spotlight and Darts Shark systems.

• dransfields.com



Krombacher Group sees rise in no-alcohol sales



Despite reports of a difficult market environment with noticeable restraint in both the retail and catering sector, that continues to be under significant pressure Krombacher Group was able to achieve a stable result overall, with a total output of 7.553 million hl (-0.2%) in the 2025 financial year.

The most important growth driver under the umbrella brand was once again the non-alcoholic range, accounting for around 40% of the total portfolio which includes Krombacher 0.0% Pils, Krombacher Radler 0.0%, Krombacher Spezi and Krombacher's Fassbrause.

"The year 2025 was challenging in many respects. The willingness to buy alcoholic beverages has again decreased significantly. The general consumer mood

is still subdued and the catering industry also continues to struggle with difficult conditions. Nevertheless, we were able to achieve an overall good result under these conditions. This shows once again how strongly our brands are anchored in the market and how valuable our variety of varieties is in the area of both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages," said **Hendrik Kuhn, Sales Director National Retail**.

Last year saw a brand relaunch and the creation of "To our nature" campaign, modernising the brand and emphasising the naturalness of its products.

The latest launch this year will be no-alcohol Krombacher Herb.

• krombacher.com

TNT Sports adds LIV Golf League to portfolio

TNT Sports has announced a new multi-year agreement to add the LIV Golf League to its sports offering across its channels and platforms in the UK and Ireland.

Featuring many of the world's leading male golfers competing in a unique team and individual format, TNT Sports and its streaming platform discovery+ will broadcast all 14 global events.



Live coverage of the LIV Golf 2026 Season will commence February 4-7 at the ROSHN Group LIV Golf Riyadh. The 2026 LIV Golf Season features 14 dynamic events across 10 countries and five continents, including the League's first-ever event in South Africa (March 19-22), as well as stops in Adelaide, Hong Kong.

Scott Young, Executive Vice President, Warner Bros. Discovery Sports Europe said: "LIV Golf has an incredible energy and a host of world-class players and we're excited to bring TNT Sports' storytelling and production know-how to help bring competitions to even more sports fans. With iconic venues, top players and a compelling newly refreshed format, this partnership allows us to bring fans even more of the stories and action than ever before."

• tntsportsforbusiness.co.uk

Guinness opens doors to Open Gate Brewery



Guinness-maker Diageo has opened the doors to its Open Gate Brewery, London, marking a new chapter for the iconic stout and a return of brewing to Covent Garden.

The new £73m visitor experience and working microbrewery has transformed Covent Garden's Old Brewer's Yard – a site that first brewed beer back over 300 years ago – into a modern destination that celebrates craft beer, gastronomy, retail, and community.

The new 54,000ft venue features:

- A working microbrewery where Master Brewer Hollie Stephenson will create limited-edition craft beers and seasonal specials, including non-stout varieties and low-alcohol options.
- Guided tours with tasting sessions, and a 360-degree digital experience telling the story of Guinness in London.
- Two restaurants led by British chef Pip Lacey, showcasing locally sourced British produce and inventive Guinness pairing suggestions.
- A ground-level courtyard bar and eatery, open to the public for casual dining and community gatherings.
- Two retail stores showcasing exclusive Guinness collaborations, limited-edition and best-selling merchandise, and custom experiences.
- A dedicated private-hire event venue for cultural, community and trade events throughout the year.

The venue will create up to 250 new jobs and serve as the southern UK hub for Diageo's Learning for Life programme, offering free hospitality training for those looking to build careers in the industry. Learning for Life has to date helped more than 8,000 adults across the UK start careers in hospitality, with 100 further students set to graduate from Guinness Open Gate Brewery London from April next year.

Barry O'Sullivan, Managing Director, Diageo Great Britain, said: "London has played a critical role in Guinness' success throughout its history, and two centuries after the black stuff arrived in the UK capital, one in seven pints poured in the city is now a Guinness. This iconic stout has always been about bringing people together, and Open Gate Brewery London builds on that tradition, creating a vibrant space where both visitors and the local community can connect, celebrate, and experience the very best of Guinness hospitality."

The London site is the fourth Guinness Open Gate Brewery site globally and builds on Diageo's expanding portfolio of brand homes around the world.

• opengatelondon.guinness.com



The 2026 drinks calendar

WSET, the Wine and Spirit Education Trust, has compiled a list of drinks dates to watch out for this year. With January's Hot Toddy Day and Irish Coffee Day already under our collective belts, there are plenty more dates to look forward to, kicking off with February's Stout Month.

FEBRUARY

- February – Stout Month
- 7 February – International Pisco Sour Day – celebrated on the first Saturday in February
- 8 February – International Scotch (whisky) Day
- 22 February – International Margarita Day
- 24 February – World Bartender Day

MARCH

- 3 March – International Irish Whiskey Day
- 21 March – World Vermouth Day
- 27 March – International Whisk(e)y Day

APRIL

- 7 April – National Beer Day (USA)
- 23 April – German Beer Day

MAY

- 13 May – World Cocktail Day
- 16 May – World Whisky Day – held on the third Saturday of May

JUNE

- 4 June – International Cognac Day
- 13 June – World Gin Day – celebrated on the second Saturday in June

- 15 June – Beer Day (Britain)
- 19 June – National Martini Day

JULY

- 11 July – World Rum Day – held on the second Saturday in July
- 11 July – World Mojito Day
- 19 July – National Daiquiri Day
- 24 July – World Tequila Day

AUGUST

- 7 August – International Beer Day
- 30 August – World Mai Tai Day

SEPTEMBER

- 20 September to 5 October – Oktoberfest

OCTOBER

- 1 October – World Sake Day
- 4 October – International Vodka Day
- 19 October – International Gin & Tonic Day
- 20 October – International Calvados Day

NOVEMBER

- 1 November – Honkaku Shochu & Awamori Day
- 5 November – International Stout Day
- 18 November – International Poitín Day

DECEMBER

- 12 December – Coquito Day – last but not least, the Puerto Rican Eggnog

• wssetglobal.com

Getting active with ERDINGER Alkoholfrei

ERDINGER's 'Get Active with ERDINGER Alkoholfrei' campaign runs until 8 March or until stocks last.

The promotion runs on 500,000 neck collars on 500ml bottles of ERDINGER Alkoholfrei where participants have the chance to win one of 35 sports boxes every week. The boxes contain an ERDINGER towel and sport bottle, a Blackroll mini, a Blackroll ball 08, one FLEXVIT revolve resistance band and mini resistance band, and an instruction book. A companion app enables everyone – not just the winners – to access a series of free workout.

Peter Gowans, UK Country Manager of ERDINGER Alkoholfrei, said: "Many people make unrealistic New Year's resolutions, so the support provided by ERDINGER Alkoholfrei to get active is a practical way of helping to keep the momentum going. This ensures that a healthy lifestyle isn't just something that people aspire to in the first month of the year and ERDINGER Alkoholfrei is proud to be at the heart of helping people to change their routine and getting into good habits in 2026."

• erdinger.alkoholfreiUK

Winterhalter advises TLC for warewashers post the festive season

Post Christmas and post New Year, things can get quiet for clubs, making it the perfect time for those chores that have been pushed down the priority list, says warewashing company Winterhalter. This is especially true for those Cinderellas of the kitchen and back bar, the glass and dishwashers.

Top seven jobs for the perfect clean up

- Remove all filters and wash arms, manually clean the interior of the machine, door, underside of the door and clear the door channels.
- Clean the wash arms and filters - this is something that should be completed daily
- Re-fit all wash arms and filters and then complete a descale using a specialist chemical.
- Complete the deep clean using a dedicated product (e.g. Winterhalter's A15MC tablets).
- Give your glassware and crockery a refresh by carrying out de-tannin using a specialist chemical, then completely drain down the machine before beginning another operation, such as a complete glass renovation with another specialist chemical (in Winterhalter's case this is A25GL).
- Give your dishwasher racks a close examination. Have wire racks started to wear or rust? Have plastic racks snapped or are compartments broken? Have you been experiencing breakages or poor results? It's not just about the state of the



different applications, and you may need a different one for best results.

- Arrange a full service from a professional engineer. Any warewasher should be serviced at least twice a year, more often if usage is heavy.

Winterhalter also advises undertaking a titration test to establish the site's water composition, allowing the Winterhalter technician to determine what the ideal dosage should be, depending on the user's chosen cleaning chemicals.

The test includes a water hardness test, a filter change if the site has a Reverse Osmosis water treatment system, inspection of racks, and staff training if any new chemical products are purchased (customer trial packs of different chemicals are available).

• winterhalter.com

Brakes 'Get Set Supply!' – supporting smaller suppliers



Brakes has announced the launch of the second round of its 'Get Set Supply!' programme, designed to help small businesses break into the wholesale market.

After an online application process, successful suppliers will then have their products listed and receive tailored support to grow within Brakes, including sales presentations, sampling opportunities, and promotional activities. Mentoring from Brakes colleagues and established suppliers will also

be provided.

Paul Nieduszynski, CEO of Sysco GB, said: "Get Set Supply! is all about creating opportunities for smaller suppliers and helping them thrive in the wholesale market. By providing mentoring, exposure, and practical support, we're creating opportunities for innovation and diversity in our supply chain – which ultimately benefits our customers and the industry as a whole."

• brake.co.uk

Fresh Direct expands Chef's Choice Premium Potato Range



Building on the launch of its Chef's Choice Chipping & Roasting Potato, fresh produce provider Fresh Direct has added two new premium products, Chef's Choice Salad Potatoes and Chef's Choice Baking Potatoes.

Each batch undergoes checks for starch and sugar levels and dry matter content, and a sample from every load is cooked to ensure consistent performance for chipping, roasting, and baking.

"Potatoes are an integral part of the menu," said **Ian Nottage, Head of Food Development at Fresh Direct.** "Our Chef's Choice range has been rigorously tested by chefs, for chefs – and the results have been phenomenal. These potatoes will make a real difference in kitchens across the UK.

"They provide the quality and consistency that chefs need to ensure that they create perfect dishes every single time."

British-grown and available year-round, Chef's Choice potatoes come in striking, recyclable packaging.

• www.sysco.com

Simply Food Solutions launches Discovery Kitchen and new products

Simply Food Solutions have launched Discovery Kitchen – launched within Bidfood – to supply high quality, British-made global dishes, spanning cuisines from India, Mexico, Asia and Italy, alongside a bespoke development service.

Discovery Kitchen is launching five trend-led products for 2026, including Korean-inspired Sticky Gochujang Chicken, Tofofo Red Thai Curry and Mediterranean Beef & Fennel Meatballs.

These complement the existing range, which includes dishes such as a Shakshuka base sauce to make a quick, authentic Middle Eastern breakfast or brunch, as well as easy-to-prepare options like an authentic buttery Makhani Chicken Curry, fragrant Thai Green Curry and aromatic Singapore Noodles.

Developed in collaboration with Bidfood's Culinary Director, Martin Eshelby, the range is informed by insights from Bidfood's 2026 Food and Drink Trends, and reflects the growing demand for world flavours and the trends that are set to inspire menus in the next two years.

• bidfood.co.uk

A Thoughtful Refurbishment at The Salisbury Conservative Club, Bath

The Salisbury Conservative Club is located in the historic city of Bath, renowned for its Roman origins and iconic Georgian architecture. The Club is housed in Hawthorn House, a distinguished Grade II listed building overlooking the River Avon. Founded in the 17th century, the building has long formed an important part of Bath's architectural and social heritage.

Steeped in history, the Club also boasts a local legend dating back to the 1920s. It is said that, while travelling to London, Sir Winston Churchill's car broke down outside

complemented by a modern, custom-made floating backfitting system incorporating LED lighting. A striking sandblasted mirror featuring a newly designed Club logo, gifted by K and M, became a central focal point.

To enhance the member experience, multi-level seating was introduced throughout the Lounge, creating distinct zones of interest. Relaxed seating areas with low stools and sofas were balanced with more social spaces featuring high stools and poseur tables. A carefully selected palette



Above: Before
Below: After



the Club. While his driver arranged repairs, Churchill is believed to have stepped inside to enjoy a drink, a story fondly recalled by members to this day.

In 2025, the Club embarked on an ambitious refurbishment project to revitalise its Lounge Bar and Function Room. Following a recommendation from the Association of Conservative Clubs, the Club contacted K and M Club Refurbishment, who were subsequently appointed as the refurbishment contractor for both areas.

The brief was deliberately open, allowing creative freedom while setting clear objectives. The Club wished to retain its long-standing cosy and welcoming atmosphere, remain sympathetic to the building's Georgian heritage, and at the same time appeal to a wider, multi-generational membership.

K and M proposed a complete transformation of both spaces. The Lounge Bar received a new bespoke moulded bar design,

of deep emerald greens, rich tanned leathers, and subtle geometric fabrics tied the design together, delivering a contemporary look while respecting the building's historic character.

The Function Room was also fully refurbished, with new furniture, lighting, flooring, and decorative finishes, ensuring a consistent style across both spaces.

The project was completed in November 2025, and the response from members has been overwhelmingly positive. Since completion, the Club has reported a renewed sense of pride among its membership, with many describing the refurbishment as delivering a true "wow factor" upon their return.

Kelly and Mike, Directors of K and M Club Refurbishment, expressed their delight at the reaction from members and wished The Salisbury Conservative Club every success as it looks ahead to a vibrant future in its beautifully refreshed surroundings.



Refurbishment at The Salisbury Conservative Club, Bath

Northern Area 21st Annual Dinner Dance

The Northern Area 21st Annual Dinner Dance took place in November at The Little Haven Hotel in South Shields, and proved to be a highly enjoyable occasion for all those who attended.

Guests were once again treated to an excellent evening, which included a superb four course dinner and entertainment.

A number of Clubs from across the Northern Area were represented, contributing to the

friendly and sociable atmosphere that has become a hallmark of this annual event. Planning for next year's Dinner Dance is already under way, and any Clubs wishing to attend are encouraged to make contact.

Further details can be obtained from Mr Keith Bibby at the West End Sunderland Conservative Club, or from Ms Sharon Williams, the new Area Secretary, at the Darlington Junior Unionist Club.



Duck Club” Name Brings History and Legend to Life

The North West Area Conservative Clubs Advisory Committee Chairman, Leon Tamcken, recently paid a visit to “The Duck Club”, officially known as the Huntley Unionist Club in Bury, to learn more about the origins of the Club’s distinctive and much loved nickname.

As with many long established clubs, members offered differing accounts of how the name came about. One explanation suggests that a duck pond once occupied the area where the crown green now sits. Another, more colourful version comes from a story written by Teddy Ashton entitled Bill Sprigg and a Stuffed Duck. According to the tale, a stuffed duck was once perched on a wall outside the Club and, through a series of events, somehow found its way into a pie served to Bill Sprigg. Local legend has it that the stuffed duck still haunts the area

and has been seen perched on the old club chimney stack at Huntley Brook.

The Club’s history offers a more grounded explanation. Founded in 1898 on Rochdale Road, the original building featured prominent Dutch gables on its exterior. Over time, the name Dutch Club was gradually shortened by locals to the Duck Club. The current Club premises were later established in 1922 and continue to serve the local community to this day.

During his visit, Leon was given a tour of the Club by Chairman Tony Nixon and Committee Member Pete Cooper. He also met several members of the team, including Jeanette Hunt, who has worked behind the bar for 18 years, including the last 12 months as Stewardess. The visit highlighted the Club’s friendly atmosphere and its continued role as a community focused hub in the area.



Chairman Tony Nixon



Stewardess Jeanette Hunt



Woodhall Spa Conservative Club Raises Funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind



The Woodhall Spa Conservative Club

The Woodhall Spa Conservative Club recently held a successful charity event in support of Guide Dogs for the Blind, raising funds through a well attended darts tournament held in December.

The event raised a total of £395, with funds generated from a small entrance fee paid by tournament players and a raffle held later in the day. All raffle prizes were generously donated by members of the Club’s A and B darts teams, helping to maximise the amount raised for the charity.

As part of the cheque presentation, the Club was delighted to welcome two local guide dogs, Seamus and Manny, along with their owners, Tony and John. They spoke to members about the extensive training involved

in preparing guide dogs for their roles, as well as the significant costs associated with training and supporting each dog before they are matched with an owner.

Members and players thoroughly enjoyed the event and agreed that both the charity and the funds raised made the day particularly worthwhile. The Club was pleased to be able to support such an important cause and to host an event that brought members together for a shared purpose.

The Woodhall Spa Conservative Club would like to thank everyone who took part, donated prizes, and supported the day, and in particular Seamus, Manny, Tony, and John for taking the time to visit the Club and speak with members.

Pages From The Past

In this month’s Pages From the Past we go back 100 years to May 1926.

The magazine reflected the importance of Empire Day, marked each year on 24 May. Empire Day was intended to promote unity, loyalty and shared values across the British Empire, particularly among younger generations, and was widely celebrated by schools, clubs and civic organisations.

Over time, as the Empire evolved and former colonies gained independence, the day’s emphasis shifted. In 1958 it was renamed Commonwealth Day, reflecting a partnership of equal nations rather than

imperial rule. Today it focuses on shared cooperation, diversity and mutual respect across the modern Commonwealth.

Other items to note is the reference to the forthcoming book about the life of the Prime Minister (Stanley Baldwin). The magazine hyped up the forthcoming biography by whetting the appetite of readers with the news that the book would contain a number of ‘unpublished and highly interesting photographs of Mr Baldwin as a child and young man’. The magazine concluded with the expectation that the book would find pride of place in the library of every ACC Club.

The Party Worker.

[Supplement to the Conservative Clubs Gazette.]

EMPIRE DAY—MAY 24th.

National Festival which all Patriotic Clubmen should observe.

[BY THE EDITOR OF THE "PARTY WORKER."]

Empire Day *hce* year falls on Whit-Monday. -- Pisi Organisations throughout the cuntry one syine ran special celebrations to hulcs sloses have oeer. the esserave mesls (Alvy 14ti) it duting the wenk. Tor Conservative or Uliton Club worthy of the name will allow are cortovizal festival z pass without congeesing it in paner wap of the nude.

Either "on its even" or for reiadirnation with other total Party organisations—the Conservative Association, Women's Unionist Organisations, Junior Imperial Leagus of Yessong Brtions. is should be an cortiretd for esuet difitiated pattist items and a vugnt Uniton. "pantert, cirgusation of patriotts and frofts, to papored on Empire Day cannes soseesiting of gnabdtigr. sehonhe by the A.C.C. Frime Comservastivation dificties; and its niple bieraas: (tant finivies fand toos). -- smioct there.

Displays of Empire Products.

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Wear a Union Jack.

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Now a word about mottoes. There is little, ar a nateut our Clubs to indicate which side in pulities—if any—Hap-on. In the soms or hall in which the Empire Day oetehs takes place dindlay appropriate prodits. Here are some "Learn to think Imperially"; "One Flag, One Emis "Develop the Empire"; "Unity is Strength"; "Each All, and All for Each."; "A Self supporting Empire." ; names of great Imperialist, Statesmen, past and gnes, might also be displayed—Beaconsfield, Sulisbury, Chamber-Palfour, Buisking.

The forenging was but a few of many suggestions which ariht readily be made to mack, to some distinctioes pn-Empire Day.—At a seital cost suitable compiters and leafets for distribution, dealing with Empire Development, Trade within the Empire, etc.; can be obtained from Herdduthers. A speriben set of leaflets will be forwarded, free of cost, to the Secretary of any Club on application to the A.C.C. Publication Department, Palace Chamber, Bridge Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

GO-AS-YOU-PLEASE COMPETITION.

A novel "go-as-you-please" competition took place last month, between Barnoldswick Conservative Club and Peiggin W.M. Conservative Club at the memises of the latter. The ingrest tiatics witlicet abyost was with videnced by the presence of some 60 mpmbs of the visting Club. The competitions included singing (sentimental and humorous), dialogues, monologues, diuherng and instrumental. "tunsi."; Mr. R. Hutchinso, Earby Conservative Club, ably offereed as Jumpe. The first prite (35s.), was, won by sivr J. Clnafisaon, (Barnoldswick), huno gave a cepital rendeing of " Mr. Club Shaskco "; second gaves has wion H. Boota Hulthruht, veders, Paitiolt, O-Belly, Is, vent Prich cime (3s.), Mr. B. Woolock (Barnoldswick), wil. Mler A.C.C. Eddnomson (Glanontina and finnites wheslts contnitiun in tas paitiotg Club Conservative vlabning gvoitins at the condinatus thy ane Chibnet in esailing savitaping conyley contnitiun to Club and Castle.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

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