

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



November 2025 75p



North West Chairman John Hudson OBE Retires



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Message From Chief Executive

The Future of Our Club Diaries
Over many decades, the ACC's annual club diary has been a familiar sight in committee rooms, behind bars, and in the hands of secretaries and members across the country. Compact, practical, and recognisably ours, it has served as more than a simple calendar - it has been a small reminder of shared traditions and connection between clubs.

It is therefore with some regret that we have made the difficult decision to cease production of the diaries for the coming year. This decision was not taken lightly. We know how many clubs value them, not only for day-to-day use but as part of the routine of each new club year. However, as with many printed products, production costs have risen sharply. The minimum print order required by our long-standing supplier has also increased dramatically, from 300 copies to 1,000.

To proceed under the new conditions would mean producing far more diaries than we could realistically distribute, at a cost that could no longer be justified. The diaries have been loss making for several years but we know how

useful they are to Clubs and have been pleased to continue production but it is impossible with the current minimum order quantity.

This change reflects a broader challenge faced by many membership organisations: balancing long-standing traditions with the practical realities of cost and demand. Clubs are having to make similarly difficult decisions across a host of topics and we get it – we understand the difficult climate in which all businesses are operating in currently.

We recognise that this news will be disappointing to some clubs and individual members who have long relied on the diary. We share that disappointment. For that reason, this decision is not a permanent farewell but rather a pause. We will review the situation in the future and explore whether the diaries might return again in the future. For this year, the late news of the increase in minimum order quantities made it impossible to source them elsewhere in time to supply them to Clubs.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have supported and purchased the diaries over the years and I do hope they can make a return in the future.

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Preparing for a Busy Festive Season – Ten Top Tips

1. Keep on top of bookings

Regularly check your bookings to avoid surprises when things get busy. Knowing what's ahead helps you plan staffing and security so that only the festive spirit overflows.

2. Know your Club Premises Certificate
Managers and committee members should be familiar with the conditions, permitted hours, and licensable activities under the club's certificate. Understanding your authorisations helps prevent issues and ensures smooth, compliant operation during the busiest times of year.

3. Submit Temporary Event Notices (TENs) early

If your club is planning additional festive events, submit your TENs in good time. Early applications give you space to address any objections and confirm arrangements confidently. If you expect to reach your limit on TENs, consider applying for a variation to make those extra events part of your permanent permissions.

4. Avoid late TENs

Late TENs carry risk. If one is objected to, there is no right to a hearing and the event cannot go ahead. That can mean lost income and disappointed members. Advance planning avoids last-minute problems.

5. Keep training and records up to date

If something goes wrong, enforcement officers will look at overall management rather than one incident in isolation. Well-kept records show that your club operates responsibly and can make the difference between a warning and formal action.

6. Carry out risk assessments

Plan for big events and assess each occasion individually to make sure your security and logistically arrangements match the expected turnout.

7. Maintain your CCTV system

Ensure your CCTV equipment works correctly, records clearly, and is checked regularly. A functioning system reassures members and staff and provides vital evidence if an

incident occurs. Keeping maintenance logs, even if not required, demonstrates good management and compliance.

8. Engage locally

Being involved locally helps you align plans with community events, anticipate enforcement activity, and maintain good relationships with local authorities.

9. Manage noise proactively

With more live music and larger gatherings, now is the time to review your noise management plan. Regular perimeter checks, monitoring sound levels, and good communication with neighbours can prevent complaints and enforcement action.

10. Be consistent

Training records, refusals, incident and security logs, and complaints registers should all be up to date and aligned. Consistency shows that the club is well managed, compliant, and serious about its responsibilities—protecting both its reputation and its licence.

Renters Rights Bill

We know that some Clubs privately rent accommodation to private tenants (not employees under Service Occupancy provisions) and below is a summary of the upcoming changes.

The private rented sector in England is facing one of its most significant reforms in

decades with the introduction of the Renters' Rights Bill in 2024. The Bill has been hailed as the most comprehensive overhaul of the private rented sector in a generation. Yet behind the headlines and political language, there are growing concerns that the Bill may bring as many problems as

it aims to solve.

The most high-profile change is the abolition of the assured shorthold tenancy and the end of so-called "no-fault" evictions under Section 21. Instead, all tenancies will become open-ended and landlords will only be able to recover possession on specific grounds, such as serious rent arrears, anti-social behaviour, or if they plan to sell or move back into the property. On paper, this gives tenants much-needed stability. In practice, critics warn it could discourage landlords from renting at all, particularly smaller owners who rely on flexibility to manage their finances or regain control of a property if a tenancy breaks down.

The Bill also tightens rules around rent increases and advance payments, introduces a right for tenants to request a pet, and extends stricter property standards to address issues such as damp and mould.

Perhaps the biggest concern

is the gap between policy ambition and practical reality. The government insists that tenants will still be able to be evicted where there are legitimate reasons, but the existing court system is already overstretched and slow. Unless serious investment is made in speeding up possession cases, landlords could face long delays in regaining their properties even when there are clear breaches.

In summary:

1. End of Section 21 "no-fault" evictions. Landlords will no longer be able to end a tenancy without providing a reason. Eviction will only be possible on specific legal grounds, such as rent arrears, anti-social behaviour, or if the landlord intends to sell or move back into the property.

2. Replacement of fixed-term tenancies. Assured shorthold tenancies (ASTs) will be replaced with open-ended periodic tenancies. This means that tenancies



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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

will continue indefinitely until the tenant chooses to leave or the landlord ends the tenancy using one of the permitted grounds.

3. New possession grounds.

A revised list of possession grounds will be introduced. Some existing grounds will be strengthened, and new ones added to reflect genuine landlord needs, such as wishing to sell the property or accommodate family members.

4. Rent increases.

Rent increases will be limited to once per year. Landlords will need to give at least two months' notice and justify any increase as being in line with market conditions. Tenants will have a right to challenge excessive increases through the First-tier Tribunal.

5. Pets in rented properties.

Tenants will have a new right to request permission to keep a pet. Landlords must consider requests reasonably and cannot impose a blanket ban, though they can require tenants to cover the cost of pet-related insurance or damage.

6. Property standards and safety.

The Bill extends health and safety obligations similar to those found in

social housing to the private rented sector. This includes a legal duty for landlords to remedy hazards such as damp and mould within defined time limits.

7. Rent bidding and advance payments.

Landlords and letting agents will be prohibited from encouraging rent bidding, where tenants compete by offering higher rents. There will also be limits on the amount of rent that can be requested in advance, generally no more than one month.

8. Notice periods.

Most notice periods for eviction will be standardised. In most cases, tenants will be required to give two months' notice to leave, and landlords will need to follow the statutory grounds and procedures set out in the new legislation.

9. Ombudsman and redress.

A new private rented sector ombudsman will be created to provide tenants and landlords with a simpler route to resolve disputes without going to court.

10. Digital property portal.

A national digital portal will be established to provide a single place where landlords must register their properties and demonstrate compliance with legal requirements.



Premier League

November Premier League Listings

Saturday 1 November
17:30 - Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea (Sky Sports)
20:00 - Liverpool v Aston Villa (TNT Sports)

Sunday 2 November
14:00 - West Ham United v Newcastle United (Sky Sports)
16:30 - Manchester City v AFC Bournemouth (Sky Sports)

Monday 3 November
20:00 - Sunderland v Everton (Sky Sports)

Saturday 8 November
12:30 - Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United (TNT Sports)
17:30 - Sunderland v Arsenal (Sky Sports)
20:00 - Chelsea v Wolves (Sky Sports)

Sunday 9 November
14:00 - Aston Villa v AFC Bournemouth (Sky Sports)
14:00 - Brentford v Newcastle (Sky Sports)
14:00 - Crystal Palace v Brighton (Sky Sports)
14:00 - Nottingham Forest v Leeds (Sky Sports)
16:30 - Manchester City v Liverpool (Sky Sports)

Saturday 22 November
12:30 - Burnley v Chelsea (TNT Sports)
17:30 - Newcastle v Manchester City (Sky Sports)

Sunday 23 November
14:00 - Leeds v Aston Villa (Sky Sports)
16:30 - Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur (Sky Sports)

Monday 24 November
20:00 - Manchester United v Everton (Sky Sports)

Saturday 29 November
17:30 - Everton v Newcastle (Sky Sports)
20:00 - Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham (Sky Sports)

Sunday 30 November
12:00 - Crystal Palace v Manchester United (TNT Sports)
14:05 - Aston Villa v Wolves (Sky Sports)
14:05 - Nottingham Forest v Brighton (Sky Sports)
14:05 - West Ham v Liverpool (Sky Sports)
16:30 - Chelsea v Arsenal (Sky Sports)



The IA Ticket

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Questions and Answers

QThe Club has a flat which we are considering providing to an employee. Could you give us some advice on the financial aspects of providing accommodation to an employee?

AAn employee who is provided with accommodation by their employer will generally be regarded as a service occupier where the occupation of that accommodation is necessary for the better performance of their duties, or where it is a condition of their employment that they live on the premises. In such cases, the employee's right to occupy the accommodation arises solely from their employment, and it is therefore tied to the continuation of that employment. When the employment ends, the right to occupy normally ends at the same time, and the employee is required to vacate the property. This is distinct from a service tenant, who has a separate tenancy agreement and greater security of tenure.

Where accommodation is provided to an employee as a service occupier, the responsibility for payment of utilities and council tax will depend on the specific terms agreed between the employer and employee.

In many cases, the employer retains liability for council tax and the main utility services (such as gas, electricity, and water), particularly where the accommodation forms part of the employer's premises and is directly linked to the employee's duties - for example, a steward's flat within a club or a caretaker's lodge. However, if the arrangement specifies that the employee must contribute towards these costs, this should be clearly set out in writing, usually by way of a deduction from wages or a separate contribution agreement.

If the employee is personally responsible for paying the bills, they will normally need to have the utility accounts in their own name and will be liable for council tax as the occupier. Conversely, where the employer pays these costs directly, the employee is not separately liable but the value of the benefit may, in some cases, be treated as a benefit in kind for tax purposes unless the accommodation qualifies for exemption (as is often the case with genuine service occupiers).

Where accommodation is provided as part of an employee's remuneration, the employer may apply the Accommodation Offset Allowance as set by the Government under the National Minimum Wage Regulations. This allowance sets the maximum daily amount that can be treated as a deduction (or offset) from an employee's pay in respect of accommodation provided. The offset does not represent the market rental value of the property but is simply the statutory limit that may be counted towards the employee's minimum wage calculation. If the employer charges more than the permitted rate, the excess is treated as reducing the employee's pay for minimum wage purposes. Conversely, if the accommodation is provided free of charge, the offset can be added to pay when calculating compliance with minimum wage rates. The current offset rate is reviewed annually by the Government and applies equally whether the employee is a service occupier or service tenant.

QThe club has a membership limited to 250 and the committee have tried many different ways of making more of the members use the club on a more frequent basis. Have you come across this problem in the past?

AI was surprised to learn that a club has a restriction on its number of members. I have seen this before, and it usually stems from a restriction on the number of people allowed on the club's premises at any one time. This limit is normally set following a recommendation from the local Fire Authority or Safety Officer and may even be included in the club's Operating Schedule. Such a restriction, however, has nothing to do with the total number of members on the club's register.

The actual size of a club's membership has little connection to how often the premises are used. Most clubs find that only about one third of their members use the club regularly, and a smaller proportion still make up the core of frequent visitors.

If a club chooses, as a matter of policy, to restrict or close its membership, that is perfectly acceptable. However, I do not believe this is what your committee or members intend. It seems more likely that they have been led to believe the club cannot have more than 250 members. I know of no legal restriction that limits your total membership. A local authority could only restrict the number of people allowed in the building at one time, not the total number of members on the books. For example, a club limited to 200 people in an upstairs function room could still have a membership of 2,000.

I would therefore recommend that the committee remove the current membership restriction and admit as many members as they wish, provided that new candidates meet the requirements set out in the club's rules.

QWe are considering reducing the hours of some of our employees but want to make sure we undertake this action correctly.

AIf your employees are on fixed-hours contracts, then the hours they work form part of their contractual terms and conditions. As such, you cannot unilaterally reduce their hours (and therefore their pay) without their agreement. Any change to working hours, for example reducing shifts by 5 hours per week due to shorter trading periods, would require consultation and consent from the affected employee, or a formal contractual variation process.

If agreement cannot be reached, you would either need to continue paying the contracted hours regardless of reduced business need, or consider more formal options. In some circumstances this could include redundancy, if the requirement for employees to work their contracted hours has diminished. For example, if the business only requires 30 hours of work but the employee is contracted for 35, and agreement on a reduction cannot be reached, redundancy may be the lawful route.

It is always preferable to consult and seek a voluntary agreement on amended hours, particularly if the changes are seasonal or temporary. Many employers resolve this through flexibility clauses (if included in the contract) or mutual variation. However, absent such clauses, changes must be negotiated.

In summary, without employee agreement, you remain obliged to pay contracted hours even if business need is lower. Where agreement cannot be reached and reduced hours are essential, redundancy may need to be considered as a last resort.

This also applies to increasing opening hours - in theory an employee could decline to work more than their agreed hours.

It is possible to negotiate seasonal hours and this will mean that an employee will work specific hours during specific months.



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North West Area Holds Annual General Meeting at Stalyward No. 2 Club

On 27th September 2025, the North West Area held its Advisory Council and Annual General Meeting at Stalyward No. 2 Club, Stalybridge, Cheshire. The event was well attended by officials from several clubs across the region, including representatives from Newton-le-Willows and Warrington.

Leon Tamcken, a long-standing member of Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, Ashton-under-Lyne, was elected North West Chairman. Leon has been a member for 27 years and currently serves as his Club's Chairman. Known for his enthusiasm and regular visits to association clubs across the country, Leon is a familiar face to many officials and members alike.

He is joined by a newly elected team comprising Lyndon Watkin as Secretary, Brian Higgins as Vice Treasurer, with Geoffrey Knowles OBE moving from Vice President

to President, and Jeffery Simpson JP continuing in his role as Treasurer.

Sincere thanks were extended to Stalyward No. 2 Club and its President of nearly 40 years, Ian Heap, for hosting the meeting and warmly welcoming the Association. Congratulations were also given to Jason Horan from Warrington Conservative Club, who was the lucky winner of the luxury hamper prize.

The newly elected team expressed their enthusiasm for the year ahead, aiming to strengthen connections across the family of 130 North West clubs, share best practice, promote good-news stories, and encourage closer partnership working. They are particularly looking forward to welcoming members to the North West 53rd Annual Gala Dinner, which will take place on 31st January 2026 at West Tower, Ormskirk.

Pictures From The Event



Tudor House Conservative Club Donates £10,000 to MND Charity

Tudor House Conservative Club is proud to have made a significant charitable contribution this year, presenting a cheque for £10,000 to support the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) charity.

Each year, the Club selects a nominated charity to support, and throughout the past year, members and guests have taken part in a range of fundraising events organised by the dedicated Entertainment Committee. Their

efforts culminated in a wonderful evening at the Club's Harvest Supper, where a representative from MND attended to receive the cheque in person.

The Club wishes to thank everyone who took part, donated, and supported the events that made this remarkable total possible - a true reflection of the community spirit within Tudor House Conservative Club.



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Industry Insights

Industry Insights aims to provide a whirlwind tour of who's doing what in the club sector, from latest launches and new products to business acquisitions and market research into the hospitality sector at large.

Live events and loyal customers – music takes centre stage

Live music events, concerts and festivals are key touchpoints for venues, brands and suppliers to influence behaviour, encourage trial, and build consumer loyalty, according to a new CGA by NIQ report.

Live events and versatile venues like music and event spaces are boosting experience-led visits to the On Premise and third space venues, creating strong opportunities to introduce new drinks and encourage repeat purchases. In the UK, for example, total consumer spend driven by live music hit a record £6.68bn*—a year-on-year increase of 9.5%.

Music events are high impact brand engagement zones

Music events are proving to be powerful brand engagement zones, consistently outperforming traditional venues when it comes to drink experimentation across global markets.

- **Australia** – 57% of consumers say they're more likely to try a new drink at a music event than during a regular night out, and nearly two-thirds go on to purchase that drink again.
- **Canada** – 59% of attendees agree that trying a new beverage at a music event leads to repeat orders.
- **South Korea** shows even stronger results, with 68% of consumers saying music events encourage them to try something new—and just as many following through with repeat purchases.
- **France, Germany, and Italy** – over 60% of music event attendees report being open to experimenting with new drink brands and categories.

This elevated rate of experimentation, paired with the high footfall typical of music events, positions them as a strategic opportunity for drinks brands and suppliers looking to drive trial and build long-term consumer loyalty.

What are they drinking?

For live music events, Beer continues to dominate, a global trend ongoing and stealing share from spirits. A fundamental reason for this is the better perception of value for money. In South Korea, Germany, France and Canada, it remains the top choice. However, there are clear signs of diversification in preferences,



especially among younger audiences.

- **Cocktails** are gaining strong traction in France, Germany, Great Britain, the United States, and South Korea, with a growing curiosity around draught cocktails—65% of French eventgoers say they'd be interested in trying cocktails on tap, with Gen Z over-indexing by 8 percentage points. Italy and Germany also show similar enthusiasm, with 59% and 58% respectively expressing interest.
- **Soft drinks** are emerging as popular options in countries like Australia, Germany, France, Great Britain, and Italy, offering refreshment beyond alcohol.
- **Aperitifs and Energy drinks** are popular choices across European countries when at live music events, while Whiskey and vodka are also showing momentum in the US and Canada.

How to attract consumers at music events

Consumer expectations around drinks at music events are evolving, with brand perception increasingly shaped by immersive and thoughtful experi-

ences. Across several markets, the allure of free samples or tastings remains a powerful draw—more than half of consumers in Australia, Canada, Germany, and the UK say they're especially receptive to a well-timed freebie.

Consumers average category repertoires increase by 6% for event-driven visits compared to routine visits**. Drinks that are advertised in the venue see a benefit from this (+3pp). Brands can amplify their impact through additional activations like chillout zones, exclusive or limited-edition products, collaborations with music artists, branded merchandise, and interactive competitions or prize giveaways to further enhance the consumer experience and deepen brand connection. Together, these elements signal a shift toward more curated, experiential brand engagement at music events.

Looking ahead to 2026 opportunities

The key takeaway for drinks brands is clear: live music events are no longer just entertainment—they're dynamic environments where consumer curiosity thrives and brand engagement can flourish.

Across all regions, audiences are responding positively to activations that encourage trial and reward exploration, making events ideal platforms for launching new formats and driving visibility. But success hinges on relevance. To truly resonate, offerings must reflect each market's unique drivers—whether that's value, format, or frequency.

Graeme Loudon, Global Client Success Director for On Premise, said: "Music events are high-conversion spaces where discovery leads to experimentation, and experimentation builds loyalty. Brands that align with the energy, expectations, and emotional moments of music lovers stand to gain not just attention, but lasting impact across all channels. Brands need to be considering their 2026 music and events strategies now to drive real impact and growth."

• [cgastrategy.com](https://www.cgastrategy.com)

TNT Sports – ready for Ashes series

TNT Sports has announced its presentation team for the Ashes series between England and Australia which begins on 21-November.

On-the-ground coverage in Australia will be led by presenter Becky Ives, joined at each Test by a heavy-weight team of former England internationals – Sir Alastair Cook, Graeme Swann and Steven Finn – across the five Tests.

Together, the trio boasts 257 Test appearances and 10 Ashes series victories and were part of the last England squad to win an Ashes series on Australian soil.

All the action is available live and on-demand via TNT Sports and its streaming platform, discovery+, and highlights will be broadcast throughout the day-time on its linear channels and discovery+. The Edge will also be aired, a review programme in an evening prime-time slot hosted by Craig Doyle.

TNT Sports' coverage of the NRMA Ashes Series forms part of a busy winter of cricket that includes every England men's team fixture.

Sir Alastair Cook said: "The Ashes is always one of the tours you look forward to – it's one of the toughest challenges in cricket. Winning a Test series in Australia is incredibly rare for touring sides. I've experienced both the highs of victory and the disap-



pointment of falling short over there, but there's a real buzz around this England team. You get the sense they're capable of doing something special this time."

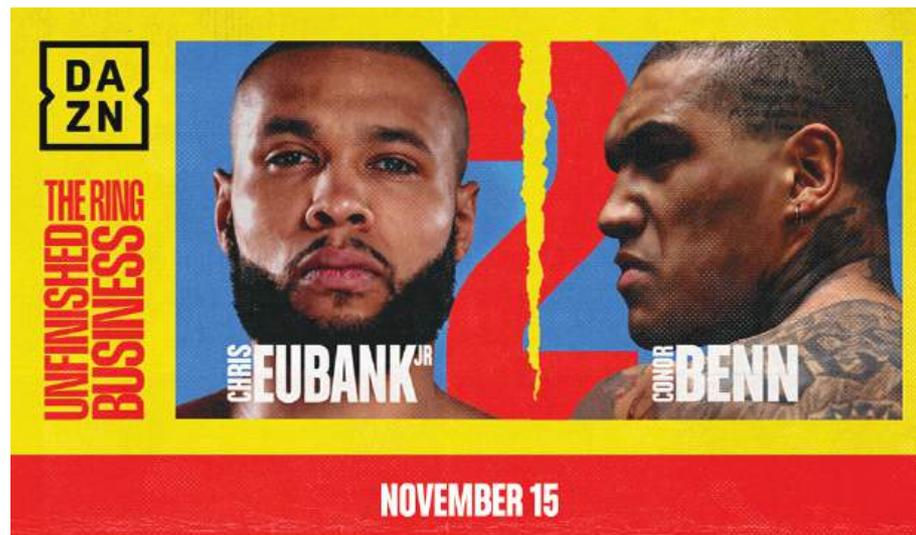
NRMA Insurance Men's Ashes schedule

- 21-25 November: West Test, Perth Stadium, Perth
- 4-8 December: Day-Night Test, The Gabba,

Brisbane

- 17-21 December: Christmas Test, Adelaide Oval, Adelaide
- 6-30 December: Boxing Day Test, MCG, Melbourne
- 4-8 January: Pink Test, SCG, Sydney
- [tntsportsbusiness.co.uk](https://www.tntsportsbusiness.co.uk)

'Unfinished Business' between Eubank Jr. and Benn on Sky Sports Box Office



Sky Sports Box Office, in partnership with DAZN Pay-Per-View, is bringing commercial venues an unmissable night of world-class boxing as Chris Eubank Jr. takes on Conor Benn in November.

Unfinished Business – Eubank Jr. vs Benn

Saturday, 15 November sees the rivalry between Chris Eubank Jr. and Conor Benn reignite as they return to the ring for their rematch, being screened live from Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Backed by their legendary fathers, Chris Eubank Sr. and Nigel Benn, this is their first encounter

since Eubank Jr.'s victory in front of a sell-out 70,000 crowd.

James Tweddle, Director of Hospitality at Sky Business, said: "We're proud to bring such events to commercial venues through Sky Sports Box Office, offering premium viewing experiences to attract customers, excite fans and match the intensity of the ring."

This Pay-Per-View event is exclusively available to licensed venues via Sky Business and is priced £299 / €349 (ex VAT). To book, call UK: 0330 8281 331 / ROI: 0818 001 482.

• [skyforbusiness.sky.com](https://www.skyforbusiness.sky.com)

Red Roses and Clinique team up for grassroots funding

After a landmark summer of women's rugby, and an exciting season as the Official Beauty Partner to the Red Roses, Clinique has announced it is bringing back its GameFace programme for the third year, to help build confidence in women and girls at every level of rugby.

Since 2022, GameFace has helped clubs across the country to champion their female players by provided essential funding, equipment and education, helping to tackle the confidence crisis facing young women in sport.

• [clinique.co.uk](https://www.clinique.co.uk)



How AI and the economy are driving consumer habits

Artificial Intelligence and economic challenges are transforming the way British consumers discover and review hospitality venues, according to new research from Reputation and CGA by NIQ.

The report is based on a sample of 755 UK consumers and shows that AI tools like ChatGPT have already become a mainstream source of information about hospitality venues. A quarter (26%) of consumers now use them to learn more about a venue.

AI is also transforming the way guests find and leave reviews. Three in five (60%) already trust AI-generated review summaries that distil sentiment from high volumes of feedback, and 13% trust these digests more than individual posts. Meanwhile, half (51%) say they would be likely to leave a review if an AI tool asked them in the right tone and at the right moment.

Anthony Gaskell, Managing Director, EMEA at Reputation, said: "AI isn't a future trend in hospitality: it's already here. AI-powered search is transforming the consumer decision-making process, making it deeply personal and emotionally driven."

Clubs and operators need to adapt quickly to this new age of personalisation, says Gaskell, and harness AI to understand what consumers need. Combined with economic pressures that impact consumer behaviours, AI needs to enable 'deeper, more personal interactions that make hospitality experiences so special'.

The research also sets out the seismic impacts of rising costs on Britain's eating and drinking out habits. More than a quarter (28%) of consumers say they are going out for drinks less often than they were a year ago – 8 percentage points more than those who are doing so more – but increased prices mean they are spending more when they do so.

The report has some encouraging forecasts for spending in 2026. More than a third (36%) of consumers expect to eat and drink out more often over the next year—significantly more than the 21% who think they will go out less.

Grete Ovaldaite, client business partner at CGA by NIQ, said: "It has been a turbulent year for hospitality businesses and consumers alike, and spending constraints are creating an ultra-competitive environment. We can be cautiously optimistic that consumer confidence will improve in 2026, but operators will need to stay laser-focused on delivering consistently good-value, high-quality experiences that don't just meet people's heightened expectations but beat them."

The survey also flags the value of:

- Responsive communications, with two-thirds (66%) of consumers expecting replies to their contact with venues within a few hours
- Compelling social media content, as nearly three in five (58%) consumers are more likely to visit a venue if their friends post about it on social media
- Recency in reviews, with nearly three quarters (73%) of consumers not trusting reviews that are older than three months to accurately describe a venue.

• [nielseniq.com](https://www.nielseniq.com)

ICB Distillers gains top marks in Food Standards safety

Independent spirits company ICB Distillers has been awarded a BRCGS AA+ rating following an unannounced audit.

The BRCGS Global Standard Food Safety has been adopted by over 22,000 sites in more than 130 countries. The standard is accepted by leading global brands and retailers.

"Achieving the highest score possible demonstrates our commitment to the very best standards in food safety, quality, and compliance," said a company spokesperson.

"For our customers, it means complete confidence that every product leaving our site is produced to the strictest international standards. For prospective partners, it underlines that we are a reliable, trusted choice for contract manufacturing and bottling.

"A huge thank you to our incredible team whose dedication, teamwork, and attention to detail made



this possible. This recognition is proof of the high standards our team strives to maintain every single day."

• icbrands.co.uk

Diageo Operations Italy S.p.A. sale finalised

Diageo has completed the sale of Diageo Operations Italy S.p.A., inclusive of the Santa Vittoria production facility, to NewPrinces S.p.A.

The sale includes continuity of employment at the site and a fixed term service agreement is in place, and is designed to align with Diageo's ongoing commitment to optimising its global production network to better serve its markets, according to a company statement.

Earlier this year Princes Limited completed the acquisition of its historic headquarters, Liverpool's iconic Royal Liver Building, marking a symbolic return to Princes' origins.

Founded in Liverpool in 1880 as a company specialising in the import of canned food, the company's name originates from Princes Dock, located close to the Royal Liver Building, where ships carrying food products from Canada and the United States once docked.

Simon Harrison, CEO of Princes Ltd, said: "Liverpool is an integral part of our heritage and future. Securing the Royal Liver Building reflects our commitment to this great city, our people, and sustainable success. The Royal Liver Building is an enduring symbol of Liverpool, and it's an honour for Princes to call it our home."

• www.diageo.com



Festive launch for Baileys and Terry's Chocolate Orange

With the festive season on the horizon, two well-known brands have teamed up to create a limited-edition Baileys x Terry's Chocolate Orange Irish Cream Liqueur. Last year, more than two bottles of Baileys[1] and two Terry's Chocolate Oranges[2] were sold every second during Christmas time. Terry's Chocolate Orange finds its way into one in four Christmas stockings[3].

• baileys.com

SOURCES: [1] Nielsen (Off Trade); CGA (On Trade). Data Asset - Retail Sales (based on Nov-December 2023 sales period); [2] 2 Balls per second: Nielsen | Terry's Chocolate Balls | All flavours | Oct-December 24; [3] Kantar, 20 w/e 24 Dec 23



Festive favourites from Butcombe Brewing

Butcombe Brewing is offering up Goram IPA Zero and Tall Tales Pale Ale Zero as tasty options for no/low Christmas and Dry January.

Goram IPA Zero has all the taste of Butcombe's Goram IPA but with none of the alcohol. It's one of the most highly awarded IPAs in the world having won Gold medals at the World Beer and World Alcohol Free Awards along with BBI, SIBA and Taste of the West Gold medals.

Based on Butcombe's Goram IPA recipe, Goram IPA Zero is a refreshing and easy to drink IPA made with a punchy blend of English, US and New Zealand hops, which balance aromatic stone fruit, citrus and bitter notes.

Tall Tales Pale Ale Zero, named after Bristol's crocodile – infamously spotted in the River Avon back in the 1980s – delivers the same bold, juicy hop flavours as its alcoholic counterpart with prominent grapefruit and pineapple notes taking the lead, with touches of mango and passionfruit.

Goram IPA Zero is available in 330ml bottles and



440ml cans and Tall Tales Pale Ale Zero is available in 330ml bottles from Amazon, retailers across the UK and online.

• butcombebrewing.co.uk

Booker refreshes own brand sauces

Wholesaler Booker is relaunching its range of catering-sized sauces and dressings as part of an ongoing own-brand transformation.

The bulk products will be offered across the newly created Chef's Essentials, Chef's Menu, and Chef's Premium brands.

In addition to the new lines, key recipes across the core Chef's Menu range have been reformulated and improved, with products such as Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Vegan Mayo, French Dressing and Caesar Dressing benchmarked against



market-leading brands.

Karen Poole, Head of Own Brand and Product at Booker, said: "We've listened carefully to our customers, and the result is a smarter, clearer, and more purposeful range of sauces and dressings - from the way they look to the way they perform. Whether it's front-of-house for self-serve or being used in the kitchen to elevate dishes, these products deliver."

Three new flavours have been launched. These are Korean BBQ,

Buttermilk Ranch and Coronation Mayo

• booker.co.uk

Just Desserts – the icing on the cake



Just Desserts is now offering a full range of quality ingredients to support baking and dessert innovation, from key baked goods to enhancing desserts with crumbs, spreads and frostings.

• justdesserts.co.uk



La Boulangerie Premium Bakery from Brakes

Brakes has launched La Boulangerie Premium Bakery, bringing together its award-winning premium range of breads, pastries and cakes under a new banner.

From rustic loaves to soft brioche and from flaky pastries to cakes, the range combines traditional methods and long fermentation with quality ingredients, hand-finishing, and authentic provenance, says Brakes.

Inspired by global flavours, evolving food trends, and creative formats, the range of 150 products are designed to enhance menus, with variety, quality, and added value.

Paul Nieduszynski, CEO of Sysco GB, said: "La Boulangerie Premium Bakery brings together the very best of our bakery range, with a range of flavours and formats that are inspired by global trends and flavours."

"The La Boulangerie Premium Bakery Range delivers quality, innovation and taste across a comprehensive range of premium products."

• brake.co.uk

Funnybones expands Mexican food range

Mexican food experts, Funnybones, has released two new flavours of taquitos to expand their range of appetisers.

Translating into "small taco", taquitos are miniature tortillas, rolled around a filling then fried to result in a crispy exterior. Typically made with corn tortillas, Funnybones' version uses flour tortillas for a higher quality.

Arriving in cases of 48 pieces, the taquitos can be cooked from frozen for speedy service, and maintain quality during hot-holding.

• funnybones.co.uk



Inside Rawdon and Guiseley Conservative Club

By Patrick Sheerin



I arranged to meet Jennifer Miller and David Harland at Rawdon and Guiseley Conservative Club to discuss its history and membership. Jennifer is a 20-year patron of the club; David a 44-year patron who spent many days playing snooker with the same five friends. Now they help orchestrate the range of services provided by the club, with an eye on the future, refurbishments and attracting a younger membership.

The History of Rawdon and Guiseley Conservative Club

The first iteration of Rawdon Conservative Club was established in 1886, with a total membership of thirty six gentlemen, each paying a subscription of 5 shillings.



Membership grew rapidly, and in 1911 the purpose-built clubhouse opened on Leeds Road – the exact site where it stands proudly to this day “The cost of building this in those days would have been huge,” says David. He’s right, the cost of the building was £1,512 in 1911, with the land an additional £365.

Much has been done to modernise the building in the past 100 years, including a new roof, additional rooms, and a large carpark paved over the vegetable garden and bowling green. However the same eight stones, laid at the front of the club, each inscribed with the names of the first honorary founders, are untouched.



The most significant change in the club’s history was when its neighbour, Guiseley Conservative Club closed its doors in 2005. There was an amalgamation, which is how the club gets its name: Rawdon and Guiseley Conservative Club.

Their efforts were recognised with a national award – The Sir Marcus Fox Award was presented to the club in 2008, pioneered by Jennifer Miller who accepted the honour in London’s Carlton Club.

Activities, Events and Competitions

Upon my tour of the three function rooms and exquisite billiard room, Jennifer says: “I think we’ve got to accept the fact that people will only come into this building if there’s an activity. They won’t come in for a quiet drink, those days are gone. Now they come to play snooker or dance or sing a song.”



The club is home to Mercury Movie Makers on Thursdays, one of the longest-running amateur film making societies founded in 1958. Rawdon’s also known for its classic car club; every first Tuesday, the car park is filled with Minis, Morgans and Austin-Healeys. And each Saturday the main stage features a new entertainer, where patrons are encouraged to play bingo, sing and join in on some late-night dancing. Jennifer continues: “We had a karate club use our function room for a time. They had their black belt grading here last year. However we’re most often used for birthday parties and anniversaries – and we are doing a lot of baby showers at the moment.”



Recent refurbishments

The Crowtrees Suite, the newly refurbished section of the club which seats 80; adding to the 200 capacity of the clubhouse. With a Bluetooth speaker system, brand new projector and screen and separate modern bar, you wouldn't have thought to be within a 19th century building. David says: "We've spent £20,000 having the roof done, and then £30,000 on the most recent refurbishment. This suite is a long-term investment, sometimes you've got to spend money to accumulate money."

In July 2006, the Rawdon & Guiseley Conservative Club was victim to a large fire. Jennifer remembers: "The cause was the glass washer – it had just been serviced and went up in flames. The smoke completely ruined the member's lounge. The bar had to be completely rebuilt and a crucial

supporting beam was damaged by the fire." Considering the damages and the business interruption, Rawdon & Guiseley Conservative Club were able to claim on their insurance for around £90,000.

Rawdon & Guiseley's insurer is Club Insure, the UK's most popular insurance broker for sports and social clubs. From installing new actuation points to improving the hand-railing outside, the team at Rawdon & Guiseley have done everything to manage their risk. And the proof's in the pudding – the club have a clean 20-year claims history, lowering their total premium.



Discovering the Future

The club are in the process of further building out their events calendar for the year. "Do you remember Stars In Their Eyes?" Jennifer says to David. "A lot of

balding Elvis Presleys" laughs David. "Members used to make their own suits! And we had a compere just like on TV." The two agree that they'd like to restart something similar, reaching out to the local community and neighbouring clubs.

David then suggests, "I think we need to get different types of music. Jazz, blues, folk music. Plus, our snooker tables have been getting a lot more use in recent years. It's only 20p per 8 minutes; it can get very competitive."

He continues: "Any club; be it a football club, a cricket club, or a social club; they need somebody to actually run the activities. Clubs need a good volunteer on their shoulder. For instance, Jennifer gives hours and hours each week for this club. She's our club champion." Jennifer smiles, but remarks: "Our stewardess, Denise, is extremely good. She also helps manage the socials as she's very good with Facebook. We publish there and on the website our acts every Saturday night. And thanks to her, we've got a lot more people coming in, and a lot more income."



Article provided by Club Insure; the Appointed Insurance Broker to the Association of Conservative Clubs.

club-insure.co.uk

North West Chairman John Hudson OBE Retires After 26 Years of Service

After more than a quarter of a century of dedication, Councillor John Hudson OBE has retired from his role as North West Chairman for the Association of Conservative Clubs. Elected in June 1999, John, aged 86, of Greenfield, Saddleworth, has been a fixture of the Association and will be fondly remembered for his lively, outgoing, and friendly personality.

John's political journey began in 1971 when he stood as a Labour councillor, before taking a six-year break and later joining the Conservative Party. In 1977, he was elected as a Saddleworth Parish Councillor. During this time, he and his late wife Kathleen raised over £50,000 for local charities, showcasing a lifelong commitment to public service and philanthropy.

He went on to serve as a borough councillor in Saddleworth East from 2002 to 2006, returning to represent Saddleworth South in 2012. John reached the pinnacle of local politics as Mayor of Oldham from 2013 to

2014 and was awarded an OBE in the 2017 New Year Honours List for his services to charity and politics. In 2023, he retired from Saddleworth Parish Council, stepping back from his association duties shortly thereafter.

During his tenure with the Conservative Association, John was a familiar and welcoming face at conference banquets, including the prestigious 50th anniversary celebration at the Cumbria Grand Hotel in 2019. He chaired countless meetings, presented awards, and continued to raise thousands of pounds for charitable causes. His dedication has now been further recognised with the honour of becoming an honorary freeman of the borough of Oldham.

From everyone at the Association, we wish John Hudson a very happy and well-deserved retirement. His contribution to local politics, charity, and the Conservative movement will be remembered and celebrated for years to come.



Sir Geoffrey Cox KC MP catches up with the Chairman Cllr Doug Bushby and Committee at the Bideford Conservative Club



Where he met with Chairman Cllr Doug Bushby and members of the Committee. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss local issues affecting both the Club and the wider community, as well as to share views on national matters currently shaping the political landscape.

Sir Geoffrey praised the efforts of the Committee in maintaining the Club as an important social hub in Bideford and highlighted the role such institutions play in supporting

community spirit. The Chairman and Committee, in turn, welcomed the chance to raise concerns facing local businesses and organisations, particularly during challenging economic times.

The visit reinforced the strong links between the Club, its members, and their elected representatives, underlining the value of open dialogue in ensuring local voices are heard in Westminster.



Generations Apart, United by Torquay Central

Torquay Central Conservative Club is proud to celebrate two members at very different stages of life but equally part of the Club's story.

Pictured are the Club's newest and youngest member, Mr Alfie Murray, who turned 18 yesterday, and the Club's very own living legend,

Mr Stan Bowden, who recently celebrated his 101st birthday.

Their photo captures the remarkable span of generations that make up Torquay Central - from new beginnings to a century of experience - reminding us that the club spirit continues to thrive across all ages.

Pages From The Past

In this Month's Pages From The Past we go back to October 1985 where the Magazine celebrated Enfield Highway's 100th Centenary.

The Club held an event attended by Mr Tim Eggar MP, Mrs Eggar, Mr Andrew Young, and representatives from the Association of Conservative Clubs including Mr Gordon Waterman OBE and Miss E. M. Dupont. Chairman David Simpson reflected on the Club's proud 100-year history and long-standing association with the A.C.C. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a framed letter signed by four former Prime Ministers - the Earl of Stockton, Lord Alec Douglas-Home, Edward Heath, and Margaret Thatcher which congratulated the Club on its milestone.

Memorabilia and photographs tracing the Club's growth since 1885 were also displayed, offering a glimpse into its rich history. We are pleased that the Club continues and is still going strong today.



ENFIELD HIGHWAY Conservative Club. Mr. Tim Eggar, M.P. for Enfield North (centre) with framed letter of congratulations to Club signed by four Prime Ministers (Earl of Stockton, Lord Alec Douglas-Home, Mr. Edward Heath, M.P., and Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.). Seen admiring the letter are Mr. L. G. Waterman, O.B.E., A.C.C. Secretary, Mr. K. W. Shepherd, Club President, Mr. E. M. Coffell, Secretary, Mr. T. H. Williamson, Treasurer and Mr. D. Simpson, Chairman, with other Committee members.

ENFIELD HIGHWAY CONSERVATIVE CLUB CENTENARY

MR. GORDON WATERMAN, O.B.E., Secretary, and Miss E. M. Dupont of the A.C.C., together with Mr. Tim Eggar, M.P., and Mrs Eggar, Mr. Andrew Young, the Agent, and Mrs Young, joined the officers, Committee and members of Enfield Highway Conservative Club at a 'Gala Night' which rounded off a week of celebration of the Club's Centenary.

The proceedings got off to a good start with dancing to the Carlton Band in the McLeod Lounge, and entertainers in the other lounge. The members and guests in each lounge were served a first-class buffet.

The Chairman, Mr. David Simpson, welcomed guests and members, and expressed his pleasure at their presence to celebrate so important an event in the Club which had been formed in 1885. He then introduced the President, Mr. Ken Shepherd, who recalled the history of the Club, and some of the highlights of the past hundred years. In particular, he mentioned the close ties they had always maintained with the local Association. He then introduced Mr. Waterman, and in doing so, expressed the gratitude of the Club to the A.C.C. for all the help the Association had given the Club over many years, particularly by Mr. Waterman and Miss Dupont whom they were so pleased were able to join them.

Mr Waterman recalled that the Club had actually been formed in 1880 by some local working men with no political affiliation, but they had decided to give their allegiance to the Conservative Party and became a Conservative Club in 1885. They were as such, among the first of these Conservative Clubs up and down the country who first formed a loose association with each other before finally coming into formal membership in 1894 when the A.C.C. was formed.

★

LIAISON

Thus, it was the Clubs who were the Association of Conservative Clubs, and each of them were social centres for Conservatives in support of the Conservative Party. It was they who had made the Association what it is today. The A.C.C.'s function was to encourage political liaison and to protect them in relation to any

legislation which affected them, and to assist in the success of individual Clubs with help and advice.

It was, Mr. Waterman concluded, for all those reasons that Miss Dupont and himself were proud to be with them and to bring the greeting and best wishes for the next hundred years from Lord Kaberry, the A.C.C. Chairman.

Mr. Tim Eggar, M.P., spoke of the Club's assistance at Election times and of his close association with the Club which he so greatly valued. They had always been generous to him, and to the Conservative Party for which he was most grateful.

He then presented a unique framed letter of good wishes to the Club bearing the signatures of four Conservative Prime Ministers, past and present: The Earl of Stockton, Lord Alec Douglas-Home, Mr. Edward Heath and Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

Mr. Vic Moore, the Festival Subcommittee Chairman, thanked all those who had worked towards the success of the week's activities and presented bouquets to Miss Dupont, Mrs Eggar and Mrs Shepherd.

Mr. Waterman and Miss Dupont officiated at the grand draw, and the first ticket drawn by Miss Dupont for the first prize was that of Tim Eggar. He and his wife now have a complete bedroom suite for the price of a raffle ticket!

Memorabilia Stands were set up around the Club which recorded the 20th June, 1885, edition of the Myers 'Observer' containing a report of the inaugural meeting of the Club, original plans of the Club's present building which was built in 1903, Ordnance maps showing the growth of the area between 1886 and 1914, old annual reports from the Club records, photographs of the Club and the immediate locality from 1880 onwards, and photographs of the Club activities over the past years. The exhibition was also complemented by 36

artists' drawings of street traders in the late 1800s.

Other events promoted by Mr. Moore and his Committee during the Centenary week had been a 'Fun Nite' starting with a 'Happy Hour' with drinks at half-price, and continuing with a quiz and games with prizes for the winners.

On the second night there was a light-hearted game of mixed doubles darts, and a buffet. On the third night, the Club entertained their friends from other local Clubs. A tournament took place which included crib, darts and dominoes, and the winners took the Centenary Trophy, retaining it until the next Centenary.

On the subsequent evening there was yet another 'Happy Hour', and the finals of the Snooker and Billiards Club Championship. The last evening, prior to the 'Gala Night', was devoted to the enjoyment of the younger members who had a Disco Night with Steve Baker. One was only barred if over 90!

★

Clubs Development Fund Donations

LORD KABERRY, A.C.C. Chairman, extends his grateful thanks to the members of the Old Swan Conservative Club, Liverpool, for their most generous gift of £250 to the Fund, and for their good wishes for the future success of the Association.

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Obituary

WE REGRET to report the death of **Mr. Bill Martin**, Chairman of Woodside Conservative Club, South Norwood, London.

Bill Martin had been a member of the Club for over 35 years, and for the last six as Chairman. His long experience contributed greatly to the success of the Club and he will be sadly missed by all the members.

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