

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



August 2026 75p



Guide Conservative Club Celebrates 125th Anniversary



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Running a Club means never standing still. Committees must respond to Members' needs and changing expectations while also running a business and adapting to an ever-changing legal landscape. Over the years, Clubs have had to respond to changes in licensing, health and safety, GDPR and gambling legislation. Employment law is now the next area undergoing significant reform, and Committees should begin preparing.

The forthcoming changes, including reforms to zero-hours contracts and the introduction of a statutory probationary period, are likely to require Clubs to review their employment practices. This is probably the biggest shake-up of employment law in decades. While many Clubs employ only a handful of staff, their legal obligations are no less important and must still be properly considered and planned for.

It is easy to view each legislative change as another

administrative burden. However, the reality is that well-managed Clubs will already follow many of these principles. Clear contracts, proper records and fair procedures not only help to ensure compliance but also reduce the risk of costly disputes. Indeed, Clubs that stay on top of these issues will generally find that they have fewer employment problems to deal with. Clubs that allow issues to slide or fail to issue appropriate contracts and documentation are simply storing up bigger problems for the future.

We will continue to update Clubs through the magazine. As you will see across the page, this month's Club Law & Management section is largely devoted to the forthcoming legislative changes that Committees need to consider.

As always, our advice is simple: if you are unsure, seek guidance before making a decision rather than afterwards.

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Employment Law Changes: Is Your Club Ready?

From 1 January 2027, one of the most significant changes introduced by the Employment Rights Act 2025 will come into force.

At present, an employee normally needs two years' continuous service before being able to bring an ordinary unfair dismissal claim. From January, this qualifying period will be reduced to six months.

This means that Club Committees will have much less time to assess whether a new employee is suitable for their role and to address any concerns about conduct, capability or performance.

The growing importance of probationary periods

The growing importance of probationary periods

Many Clubs already include probationary periods in employment contracts, commonly lasting for three or six months. Until now, however, these periods have not always been actively managed.

Under the present rules, an employer will usually have greater flexibility to dismiss an employee with less than two years' service, although protection already exists from the first day of employment in cases involving discrimination and certain automatically unfair reasons for dismissal.

Once the qualifying period is reduced to six months, Clubs will need to make much better use of probationary periods. New employees should receive appropriate training, support and supervision, while any concerns should be identified and discussed at an early stage.

The change may encourage Clubs to address poor performance sooner. Often concerns are allowed to continue without being properly discussed or recorded, leaving an employee unaware that their performance is considered unsatisfactory or leaving the Club with no formal paper trail to rely on if a change needs to be made.

Clubs should not respond by making rushed dismissal decisions simply because an employee is approaching six months' service. Replacing employees is expensive and disruptive, and an employee should be given a reasonable opportunity to understand and address any concerns.

The aim should be to make informed decisions based on clear

evidence, rather than leaving matters until the end of the probationary period.

What should Clubs do now?

Clubs should ensure their recruitment yields the best possible results. Job descriptions should clearly explain the duties and responsibilities of the role. Applications and interviews should be dealt with consistently, references should be obtained where appropriate and any unexplained gaps in job history or concerns should be followed up.

A careful recruitment process cannot guarantee that every appointment will succeed, but it can reduce the likelihood of appointing someone who is unsuitable for the role.

Check employment contracts

Employment contracts should include a clear probationary period. In most cases, a period of three months, with the ability to extend it where necessary, may provide the Club with time to assess the employee before they acquire six months' service.

Committees should remember that an employee's effective termination date may not necessarily be their final working day. Notice provisions, including statutory minimum notice, can affect the calculation of continuous employment. Clubs should therefore not leave any decisions until the last possible moment.

Hold probationary reviews

A probationary period should not simply be included in the contract and then forgotten.

The employee should be told what is expected of them and should receive appropriate training and support. Regular review meetings should be held, with a written record kept of the employee's progress and any concerns raised.

Where improvement is needed, the employee should be told clearly:

- what the concern is;
- what improvement is expected;
- what support will be provided; and
- when their performance will be reviewed again.

A final probationary review should take place in sufficient time for the Committee to consider the outcome and take advice before the employee reaches six months' service.

Train those managing staff

Club officers, Committee members and managers involved in supervising employees should understand how probationary periods operate.

Responsibility for managing the employee should be clearly allocated. It should not be assumed that someone else is holding review meetings or recording concerns.

Where problems arise, they should be addressed promptly and fairly rather than being saved until the final week of probation.

Unfair dismissal compensation

A further important change taking effect from January 2027 is the removal of the existing cap on compensatory awards in ordinary unfair dismissal cases.

Although the amount awarded will continue to depend upon the employee's actual financial loss and the circumstances of the case, the potential financial consequences of an unfair dismissal claim may become greater, particularly where a senior or highly paid employee is involved.



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Trade Management Services

Start preparing now

The reduction of the qualifying period does not mean that every employee must be dismissed before reaching six months' service. Most new employees will successfully complete their probation and become valued members of the Club's team.

It does mean, however, that Committees can no longer afford to leave probationary periods unmanaged.

Clubs should now review their employment contracts, recruitment arrangements and probationary procedures. Where concerns arise about a new employee, these should be discussed, recorded and addressed promptly.

Any Club considering dismissing an employee should obtain advice before taking action, particularly where the employee is approaching six months' service or there may be issues involving discrimination, whistleblowing, health and safety, family leave or another automatically unfair reason for dismissal.

Why Accurate Clubhouse Valuations Matter - Is your club property underinsured?

For many Conservative Clubs, the clubhouse is much more than a building. It is a members' space, a community hub, a social venue and often one of the club's most valuable assets. Making sure it is properly insured is one of the most important responsibilities for any club committee.

Industry estimates suggest that as many as 70% of properties are underinsured, often without the owner realising until they need to make a claim. By that point, it may be too late to correct the shortfall, leaving the club exposed to significant unexpected costs.

What is underinsurance?

Underinsurance happens when the level of cover in place is not enough to meet the true cost of a claim.

For clubhouses, this often relates to the buildings sum insured. This should reflect the full cost of rebuilding the property, not simply its market value. Rebuild costs can include materials, labour, demolition, debris removal, professional fees and any work required to meet current building regulations.

Underinsurance can happen gradually. Inflation, rising material costs, labour shortages and changes to the clubhouse can all increase the true cost of reinstating a building after a loss. If the sums insured are not reviewed regularly, the club may no longer have enough cover in place.

This can become particularly costly because of something known as the condition of average. If a clubhouse should be insured for £1 million, but is only insured for £500,000, the insurer may treat the club as being 50% underinsured. That means they may only pay 50% of a claim, even if the claim itself is much smaller than the full rebuild cost.

In practical terms, a club could face a sizeable shortfall at exactly the moment it needs financial support most.

Why are clubs underinsured?

The most common reason clubs are found to be underinsured is that they have not had an accurate valuation, or too much time has passed since the last one.

Club buildings can change over time. A refurbished bar, upgraded kitchen, new function room, cellar works, outbuildings, storage areas, heating systems, security improvements or general maintenance projects can all affect the level of cover required. Even where the building itself has not changed, the cost of rebuilding it may have increased significantly.

Many clubs have also faced financial pressure in recent years, from the impact of the pandemic to rising costs across materials, utilities and supply chains. In this environment, it is especially important that insurance arrangements are not allowed to fall behind the true value of the property.

Clubs should also be cautious of proposals from brokers that appear unusually cheap.

Not all insurance advice is equal. In some cases, sums insured may be set too low to reduce premiums and make a policy appear more competitive. While this can look attractive at renewal, it can leave the club significantly exposed when it comes to making a claim.

That is why it is so important to work with a specialist broker who understands Conservative Clubs and can help ensure the club is properly protected, rather than simply being sold the cheapest policy.

A professional valuation by a qualified surveyor is one of the best ways to understand whether the buildings sum insured is accurate. It gives the committee a clearer view of the club's position and helps reduce the risk of having to fund part of a claim from club reserves.

The dangers of underinsurance

The biggest danger of underinsurance is the unexpected bill that can follow a claim.

After a fire, flood or major damage, the cost of getting a club back open can be substantial. If the sums insured are too low, the club may have to contribute towards the cost of repairs or reinstatement itself. For many clubs, that kind of unexpected expense could put serious pressure on finances, future plans and day-to-day operations.

It is not only the building that needs to be considered. If a club is forced to close, income from the bar, memberships, room hire, events, functions and regular club activities may also be affected.

This is where business interruption insurance becomes important. It is designed to support the club while it recovers from an insured event. However, the level of cover and the length of the indemnity period need to be carefully considered. Many organisations require up to two years to return to normal trading after a serious incident, so this should form part of any insurance review.

How Club Insure can help

The good news is that underinsurance can often be avoided with the right advice, regular reviews and an accurate understanding of the club's property and operations.

If you are unsure when your club last had a valuation, or if you have made changes to the clubhouse recently, the best place to start is by speaking to your insurance broker.

A dedicated broker who understands Conservative Clubs knows where to look, what questions to ask and how to help ensure the club is not caught short. This is not about increasing cover unnecessarily. It is about making sure the committee has confidence that the club is properly protected.

At Club Insure, we work in partnership with Conservative Clubs to ensure valuations, cover levels and policy structures reflect the reality of today's rebuilding costs.

The aim is simple: to give committees confidence that, if the worst happens, the club has the protection it needs to recover and reopen without avoidable financial strain.

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

Zero-Hours Contracts: What Clubs Need to Know

The Employment Rights Act 2025 will introduce significant new rights for workers engaged under zero-hours and similar arrangements.

The Government is currently consulting on how these provisions will operate in practice. The consultation opened on 2 June 2026 and closes on 25 August 2026. Detailed regulations will follow before the new arrangements come into force in 2027.

Many of the important details have therefore not yet been finalised. However, Clubs that employ casual staff, use zero-hours contracts or obtain temporary workers through an employment agency can begin reviewing their arrangements now.

What is a zero-hours arrangement?

Broadly, a zero-hours arrangement is one under which the employer is not required to offer a minimum amount of work and the worker is not generally required to accept work when it is offered.

These arrangements are commonly used by Clubs where staffing requirements vary, particularly for bar work, functions, events, holiday cover and periods of increased demand.

The new rights will not be limited solely to contracts formally described as “zero-hours contracts”. They are also expected to apply to certain workers whose contracts guarantee only a low number of hours.

The Government has not yet confirmed the number of hours that will constitute a “low-hours contract”. Clubs should therefore avoid assuming that an arrangement will fall outside the legislation merely because some minimum hours are guaranteed.

The right to guaranteed hours

The central change will be a requirement to offer qualifying workers a guaranteed number of hours reflecting the hours they have regularly worked during a specified reference period.

The length of that reference period will be set by regulations. The Government has previously indicated that a period of approximately 12 weeks is being considered, but the final position has not yet been confirmed.

For example, where a casual employee is regularly working a similar number of hours each week, the Club may be required to offer a contract guaranteeing hours reflecting that working pattern.

The worker will not necessarily be required to accept the offer. Those who value the flexibility of a zero-hours arrangement may be permitted to remain on their existing terms.

Reasonable notice of shifts

Qualifying workers will also gain a right to reasonable notice of:

- the shifts they are required to work;
- the date and start and finish times of those shifts; and
- changes to, or cancellations of, previously notified shifts.

The legislation does not yet specify precisely how much notice will be regarded as reasonable.

Payments for cancelled or changed shifts

Workers will also have a right to payment where a shift is cancelled, moved or shortened at short notice.

The amount payable, the notice period and the circumstances in which payment will be required have not yet been finalised.

Seasonal and temporary work

Further regulations are expected to address work that is genuinely temporary or seasonal.

A Club may, for example, need additional employees for a particular function, sporting event, summer period or temporary increase in business. It may be possible to offer guaranteed hours for a limited period where there is a genuine temporary need.

However, Clubs should not assume that describing a contract as temporary or fixed-term will automatically remove it from the new requirements. The reason for using a limited-term arrangement should be genuine and clearly recorded.

What should Clubs do now?

The legislation establishes the broad framework, but many of the details that will determine how the rights operate remain under consultation.

We will provide Clubs with further guidance once the Government has published the final regulations.

Licensee Fined £19,000 for Illegal Sky Sports Screening

A licensee has been ordered to pay £19,000 after being found guilty of illegally showing Sky Sports football matches without an authorised commercial subscription.

John Peter Turner, designated premises supervisor of the Dolphin Inn in Llanymynech, Powys, was convicted in his absence at Mold Magistrates’ Court of two offences relating to the dishonest broadcast of Sky programming.

The prosecution followed an investigation by the Federation Against Copyright Theft. Sky Sports can only be shown in licensed premises through an appropriate commercial viewing agreement with Sky Business.

Clubs are reminded that personal or domestic television subscriptions must not be used to show sport or other subscription content on Club premises. Unauthorised screenings can lead to criminal proceedings, substantial fines and legal costs, and may also place a personal licence at risk.

Martyn’s Law: What Clubs Need to Know

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, commonly known as Martyn’s Law, is expected to come into force in spring 2027.

The legislation was introduced following the Manchester Arena terrorist attack and is named in memory of Martyn Hett, one of the 22 people killed. Its purpose is to improve preparedness at publicly accessible premises and help reduce the risk of physical harm if a terrorist attack occurs.

Some Clubs will fall outside the legislation, particularly if they often have fewer than 200 persons attending. A Club may fall within scope even if it normally has fewer than 200 people present, where planned functions or other regular occasions mean that the threshold can reasonably be expected to be exceeded from time to time. An unexpected and genuinely isolated attendance above 200 will not ordinarily bring premises within scope.

Standard tier legislation

Premises where it is reasonable to expect between 200 and 799 people to be present at the same time will normally fall within the standard tier.

The responsible person will need to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that appropriate procedures are in place for responding to a terrorist attack or a suspected attack.

Functions and special events

A Club that does not ordinarily meet the 200-person threshold may still need to consider whether a particularly large event falls separately within the legislation.

A qualifying event will generally be one at which:

- the event is accessible to members of the public;
- entry checks are carried out, including checks for tickets, passes, Club membership or guest status;
- 800 or more people may reasonably be expected to be present at the same time; and
- the premises are not already enhanced-tier premises.

This is unlikely to apply to most Club functions, but advice should be obtained before organising an event of this scale.

Further ACC guidance will be provided when the Government confirms the commencement date and the SIA opens its notification system.



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Our policies are specifically designed around the unique needs of Conservative Clubs — from clubhouse buildings and contents, to events, committees and volunteers. But what truly sets us apart is the way we work.

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We are proud to stand alongside the ACC and its members, providing protection, advice and long-term support to help clubs thrive.

If your renewal is approaching, or you would simply like a no-obligation review of your current cover, our team would be delighted to help.

East Arsley Raises More Than £7,000 for Little Hiccups

East Arsley has presented an impressive cheque for £7,245.32 to Little Hiccups, a local charity supporting disadvantaged children and their families.

Each year, the Club selects a different charity to support and organises a wide range of fundraising activities on its behalf. Events held during the past year included barbecues, race nights and harvest auction evenings.

The cheque was presented by Club representatives A. Kibler, Trustee; A. Briggs, Treasurer; L. Prendergast, Member; N. Cobbold, Trustee; and S. Parkes, President.

The Club would like to thank everyone who attended the events, donated prizes or otherwise supported the fundraising effort.

The presentation comes during a particularly special year for the Club, which will celebrate its 120th anniversary in July.



Marychurch and Babbacombe Raises £2,500 for Mayfield School

Members of St Marychurch and Babbacombe Conservative Club were delighted to recently present a cheque for £2,500 to Mayfield School, the Club's chosen charity for 2025/26.

The impressive sum was raised through a wide range of fundraising

activities held throughout the year, including barbecues, coffee mornings, raffles, tombolas and book sales.

Club members were joined for the presentation by Mayfield School's Head Teacher, Stuart Heron, and pupil Leo, who helped

celebrate the fantastic support shown by the Club and the wider local community.

The funds will help Mayfield School continue its invaluable work supporting children with complex special educational needs and disabilities, making a

real difference to pupils and their families.

The Club would like to thank everyone who supported its fundraising activities and helped make the donation possible.



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.

Hospitality and Leisure boosts investment in the economy despite rising costs

A new report from Barclays reveals that the Hospitality and Leisure (H&L) sector is continuing to invest and expand, despite rising costs and geopolitical uncertainty impacting consumer spending.

The Barclays H&L report was compiled using data from 73,000 UK H&L businesses, combined with research amongst 500 industry leaders and 2000 consumers. The results show that the sector is adapting quickly to harness customer demand amid a challenging operating environment.

Key findings include:

- 51 per cent of H&L businesses are planning to expand in the next three years
- Across all H&L businesses – 88 per cent are confident in their prospects over the next year (in comparison to 83 per cent of businesses across all sectors)
- 60 per cent expect the summer's sporting, cultural and entertainment events to have a positive impact on their business
- 56 per cent of consumers plan to spend the same or more on experiences and events this summer

Experience-led investment underpins growth strategy

Two in five (39 per cent) H&L businesses are focusing on improving the overall quality of the customer experience and are also investing in initiatives such as loyalty schemes or subscriptions (38 per cent). This reflects a broader shift in consumer prefer-

ences, as businesses look to capitalise on a packed summer of public events and sporting fixtures.

However, this proactive approach sits alongside a more cautious consumer and cost environment. Seven in 10 (72 per cent) consumers expect tensions in the Middle East to impact the cost of living throughout 2026, and 57 per cent are concerned the cost of experiences and events will climb this summer as a result.

While 45 per cent are responding by cutting discretionary spending or delaying major financial decisions (26 per cent), demand remains resilient. Many still plan to prioritise spending on experiences, with two thirds (66 per cent) reporting that events and experiences boost their mental wellbeing and happiness.

Cost pressures drive divergence in business strategy

Close to six in 10 (57 per cent) H&L leaders have changed their business outlook for 2026 in light of current geopolitical instability. Against this backdrop, a clear divergence is emerging in how businesses respond to cost pressures.

- 33 per cent report rising staff costs following increases in the National Living Wage and National Insurance contributions
- 31 per cent feel pressure to increase prices for

customers or to accept reduced profit margins as a result (30 per cent)

- SMEs are taking a more cautious stance, with borrowing down 12.7 per cent; while savings increased 1.9 per cent year-on-year in Q1 (rising to 4.3 per cent for travel agencies and 4.6 per cent for tour operators)
- Conversely, larger operators have increased borrowing by 3.2 per cent and drawn down savings - 8.7 per cent, potentially signalling they are operationalising capital, while a 9.1 per cent growth in loan volumes suggests confidence to invest

Rich Robinson, Head of Hospitality & Leisure at Barclays, said: "Hospitality and leisure businesses are showing real resilience as they navigate higher costs and ongoing uncertainty. Our research shows many are responding by investing in the customer experience, using technology to build loyalty, and adapting their offering to meet changing expectations.

"While consumers remain selective with their spending, the appetite for memorable, high-quality experiences is clearly holding up. That presents a strong opportunity for businesses that can combine value, personalisation and operational efficiency to stand out and grow."

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

HEINEKEN sponsors Pride Edinburgh

HEINEKEN UK recently sponsored Pride Edinburgh, with 100 colleagues marching under the banner 'Brewing with Love'

The sponsorship follows partnerships with Manchester in 2025 and Brighton in 2023 and 2024, designed to reinforce the company's commitment to inclusion, equity and diversity.

With roots in the city dating back to 1793 the partnership also aims to underline HEINEKEN's commitment to the city – home to HEINEKEN UK's HQ – and to Scotland as a whole.

Marta Martins Pinto, People Director for HEINEKEN UK, said: "Creating a culture where everyone feels they belong is hugely important to us at HEINEKEN UK. That's why we are proud to partner with Pride Edinburgh and celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community, along with the joy, visibility and togetherness that Pride represents. With our UK headquarters in Edinburgh, being part of this year's celebrations feels especially meaningful for our colleagues and business."

• heineken.co.uk



Portman Group reports high levels of compliance

A new study shows 'near universal levels of compliance' across the alcohol industry with the voluntary health labelling guidelines set by the Portman Group, the UK alcohol marketing self-regulator and social responsibility body.

The study sampled 500 alcohol products taken from the UK's top brands, who together roughly cover over 90% of the retail alcohol sold by volume across all major UK retailers.

The results show that UK consumers are now provided with more information than ever before on alcohol labels, enabling them to make an informed choice to support moderation and responsible drinking behaviour. The Portman Group believes that this also demonstrates that the industry has taken the initiative on responsibility in the absence of any Government-required mandate.

The study found near universal coverage of the Portman Group's minimum recommended guidelines:

- Over 99% of labels carry a pregnancy warning logo or message
- 96% carry alcohol unit content information

- 89% carry the UK Chief Medical Officers weekly low-risk drinking guidelines not to regularly drink more than 14 units per week
- 85% carry a reference to the independent education charity Drinkaware – and we recognise that this carries a license cost implication for producers

The research also revealed significant increases in many brands going above and beyond the guidelines with the following additional elements:

- Close to a third (62%) carry calorie information on label
- Just under half (48%) carry a warning against drink driving
- 41% carry an age restriction warning

Matt Lambert, CEO of the Portman Group, said: "We are proud to see our best practice guidance voluntarily adopted near universally across UK alcohol products, helping consumers to make an informed choice around alcohol and supporting moderation and responsible drinking behaviour."

England win drives 174% spike in sales

England's World Cup victory over DR Congo on July 1 delivered a major boost at the bar, driving sharp increases in spending, venue occupancy and draught beer sales across the country.

Analysis from The Oxford Partnership, Dojo and Vianet's BevMetrics platform shows that England's 5pm kick-off prompted fans to head to venues well before the first whistle, creating one of the strongest midweek trading performances of the year.

Using pubs as their yardstick, it was estimated that pubs served the equivalent of 6,552,490 pints of draught beer and cider during the fixture – almost 2.9 million more pints than a typical July Wednesday in 2025.

Card transactions were measured every 10 minutes throughout the day, showing that supporters began arriving well before kick-off. At 4pm, spending was 174% higher than at the same time the previous Wednesday before peaking at 4:50pm, just ten minutes before kick-off, when spending reached 274% above normal levels.

Compared with a typical Wednesday, venue occupancy increased by:

- 20.2% at 4pm
- 12.4% at 5pm
- 6.7% at 6pm
- 5.8% at 7pm
- 10.7% at 8pm

Winners at the bar

World Lager once again led celebrations, increasing 121.3%, followed by Total Lager (+96.7%),



Premium Lager (+96.5%), World Lager (+90.8%), Cider (+83.2%), Stout (+68.9%), Craft Beer (+55.5%) and Ale (+22.7%)

Alison Jordan, CEO of The Oxford Partnership, said: "A 5pm weekday kick-off could easily have limited trading, but instead it produced one of the strongest midweek performances we saw during the tournament. What's particularly compelling is that three independent datasets tell the same story. Supporters left work early, bars filled well before kick-off, spending surged throughout the afternoon, and that additional footfall translated into almost 2.9 million extra pints sold across the UK."

"Major sporting occasions continue to provide a significant boost for hospitality, but this demonstrates something even more powerful – fans are prepared to reshape their working day to experience these moments together in the bar. That's good news for operators, suppliers and the wider hospitality sector."

• Source: The Oxford Partnership Market Watch 2nd July 2026



Join the Celebration of Cask Ale Week

Clubs are invited to take part in this year's Cask Ale Week and help celebrate one of Britain's most distinctive and celebrated beer styles.

Taking place across thousands of pubs, clubs, bars and brewery taprooms nationwide, Cask Ale Week is an opportunity to showcase the quality, variety and value of cask ale while encouraging existing members and new visitors to discover everything it has to offer.

There are many ways to get involved, from featuring additional cask ales on the bar and offering complimentary tasters, to hosting brewery visits, beer tastings, food pairings or a cask-themed quiz.

Participating clubs can be included in Cask Ale Week promotions and benefit from increased visibility through the official events listings.

Cask Ale Week take place 17-27 September.

• caskaleweek.co.uk

LUSTRE Plant-based Cream Liqueur

Lustre is a vegan cream liqueur designed for shots, creating cocktails, or pouring over ice as a premium serve.

Coming in three flavours - Strawberry & tequila, Pineapple & Rum and Latte & Vodka – the plant-based liqueur is made with soya protein and coconut oil.

It is lactose free, vegan and provides a balance of sweetness with a creamy delivery.

• globalbrands.co.uk



Jack Daniel's unveils limited-edition F1 whiskey

Jack Daniel's has introduced a limited-edition whiskey created in partnership with the McLaren Formula 1 Team. The release combines the Tennessee whiskey brand's distilling heritage with design elements inspired by McLaren's Formula 1 engineering, including packaging that references the Halo cockpit safety device.

The whiskey is produced using Jack Daniel's signature charcoal mellowing process and is matured in handcrafted barrels that have been seasoned outdoors for an extended period. The distillery says the longer seasoning process helps soften the wood tannins, resulting in a deeper colour and a smoother flavour profile.

The whiskey offers aromas of sweet maple, fruit and toasted oak. On the palate, caramel and chocolate notes develop into pipe tobacco and baking spice, before finishing with lingering hints of barrel spice and brown sugar candy.

• jackdaniels.com



Innovative ice cream from Country Range

Country Range has introduced Salted Caramel and White Vanilla to its range.

Supplied in 4-litre tubs in cases of six, the new launches are designed for a wide range of hospitality and catering settings, whether served in cones or layered between wafers.

The flavour-packed duo are also ideal for creating premium milkshakes, says the company, an affordable indulgence continuing to grow in popularity across the hospitality and catering sectors all year round.

Rachel Porter, Own Brand Manager at the Country Range Group, said: "A poor ice cream offering during the height of summer can leave a lasting impression, so it's important for caterers to offer flavours that keep customers coming back for more. Our latest additions deliver on both taste and versatility, and we're confident they'll become firm favourites with caterers of all sizes – not just in cones during the summer months, but across a wide variety of desserts, shakes and sweet treats year round."

• countryrangegroup.com

Fresh Direct launches summer range with British produce



Microgreens are gaining momentum. Pictured: Micro Red Pak Choi

Fresh Direct has launched its Summer Picks 2026 range of peak-season British crops and chef-ready innovation, designed to help clubs build more seasonal, flavour-driven menus this summer.

The Summer Picks range brings together vertically farmed salad leaves, premium Isle of Wight tomatoes, Jersey Royals, summer berries and an expanded selection of microgreens, reinforcing the company's commitment to provenance, sustainability and consistent kitchen performance.

All Fresh Direct's contracted British produce come from LEAF Marque-accredited farms, with low-impact growing a major feature of this year's offer.

Tomatoes remain a key seasonal driver, says the

company, and microgreens continue to gain momentum, providing a simple way to premiumise dishes, with products such as Micro Broccoli Leaf, Micro Red Amaranth and the Shoot Mix used throughout the seasonal recipes to add aroma, texture and visual lift.

Andy Pembroke, Managing Director of Fresh Direct, said: "Our Summer Picks 2026 range is designed to empower chefs with the freshest, most sustainable British produce, helping them create menus that truly celebrate the season's best. We're proud to support operators in delivering exceptional quality and flavour while championing environmental responsibility."

• freshdirect.co.uk

Spritzing up summer with De Kuyper

De Kuyper Royal Distillers has expanded its spritz portfolio with the launch of Elderflower Spritz and Limoncello Spritz.

The new cocktails have been developed to help clubs meet growing demand for spritz serves while reducing pressure behind the bar.

The Elderflower Spritz (15% ABV) offers a light, floral flavour profile designed to appeal to consumers seeking refreshing, lower-ABV cocktails. The

Limoncello Spritz (18% ABV) taps into the popularity of citrus-led flavours and Mediterranean-inspired drinking occasions.

Both products are available in 100cl Batched Cocktail bottles and 20-litre KeyKegs, enabling venues to serve consistent, premium-quality spritz cocktails quickly without measuring ingredients.

• dekuyper.com



Club Awards entry deadline extends to August 14th



The deadline for this year's Club Awards has been extended to August 14th, following requests from clubs for more submission time.

The Club Awards showcase outstanding clubs, as well as the people who make them – from Bar Stewards, Club Managers and Committees, to Volunteers, Community Heroes, Young Ambassadors and Long Serving stalwarts.

How to enter

Request an entry form by emailing cindy@club-mirror.com or download the form by scanning the adjacent QR code.

There is also a useful Entry Guide for practical advice on completing your submission and to view the full list of award categories. If you're unsure



which category best fits your club, select 'Let the Judges Decide' and the team will put you through into categories which best suit your club.

• clubawards.co.uk



Sysco extends partnership with Natasha's Foundation

Sysco has renewed its longterm partnership with Natasha's Foundation, confirming a further three-year commitment to help drive greater awareness, education and research into food allergies across the UK.

The renewed partnership builds on three years of collaboration between Sysco and Natasha's Foundation, during which the organisations have worked together to strengthen allergen understanding across the foodservice sector, support the intent of Natasha's Law, and develop practical tools that help food operators keep consumers safe. This includes the development of colleague training resources and digital content designed to translate complex regulation into clear, actionable information for cafés, caterers, schools and hospitality businesses.

Food allergy remains one of the fastest growing health challenges in the UK. According to Natasha's Foundation, 2.4 million adults now live with a food allergy, 1 in 13 children are affected, and hospital admissions for severe allergic reactions have tripled in the past 20 years.

The Foundation continues to lead efforts to improve understanding, influence policy and fund

pioneering scientific research around food allergy. The landmark Natasha Clinical Trial, now running across nine NHS hospitals, is giving 300 children and young people with milk and peanut allergies oral immunotherapy (OIT) treatment using everyday foods. Natasha's Foundation has also just launched Natasha's Prize, a groundbreaking £10 million global research prize focused on food allergy prevention.

Paul Nieduszynski, CEO of Sysco GB, said: "Food allergy affects millions of people in the UK, and the responsibility to keep consumers safe is shared across the entire food industry. Natasha's Foundation has transformed national understanding of this issue – from the introduction of Natasha's Law to the groundbreaking clinical trial now underway in the NHS. We are proud to continue supporting their mission and to play our part in helping customers, colleagues and communities build the confidence, knowledge and systems needed to protect people living with food allergies."

Sysco will continue to integrate Natasha's Foundation expertise across its customer platforms, training programmes and communications, ensuring that allergen awareness remains a core part of how the business supports the UK foodservice sector.



Brakes supports growth of Compass' Junior Chef Academy

Foodservice wholesaler Brakes has confirmed its commitment to developing future culinary talent by continuing its partnership with Compass Group UK & Ireland for its Junior Chef Academy (JCA).

Aimed at children aged between 14 and 16 years old, the 10-week programme helps aspiring junior chefs embark on a transformative culinary journey, as well as helping to build confidence and foster creativity.

To date, 23 Junior Chef Academy programmes have been delivered across 10 regions, supporting supported over 300 young people with hands-on culinary training, mentoring from Compass chefs, and a structured pathway into further education and apprenticeships.

Chris Pringle, Corporate Account Director at Brakes, said: "Supporting the Junior Chef Academy is something we are incredibly proud of. Food has the power to change lives, and this programme gives young people the chance to discover their talent, build confidence and see a future for themselves in our industry. We've seen first-hand how the Academy opens doors—whether that's progressing into an apprenticeship, gaining work experience or simply developing skills that will stay with them for life."

• brake.co.uk

New products join KFF range

Latest launches from KFF include Chicken, Ham Hock & Leek Shortcrust Pie (24 x 280g), Cheddar, Potato & Onion Shortcrust Pie (24 x 280g) and a British Wagyu Beef Burger (24 x 170g).

• kff.co.uk



Cheddar, Potato & Onion Shortcrust Pie



British Wagyu Beef Burger



Chicken, Ham Hock & Leek Shortcrust Pie

Whittlesey Conservative Club Unveils Upgraded Limelite Lounge

Whittlesey Conservative Club has completed an extensive upgrade of its Limelite Lounge, creating a more modern, flexible and welcoming space for members and guests.

The project was made possible following the sale of part of the Club's car park last year. This enabled the Committee to consider a number of improvements, including enlarging the bar area, which had previously been too restricted for two members of staff to serve comfortably.

The original fitted seating and

radiators along both sides of the room were removed and replaced with a new air-conditioning and heating system. The stage at the end of the lounge was also taken out and replaced with five-metre bi-folding doors, opening onto the newly created beer garden.

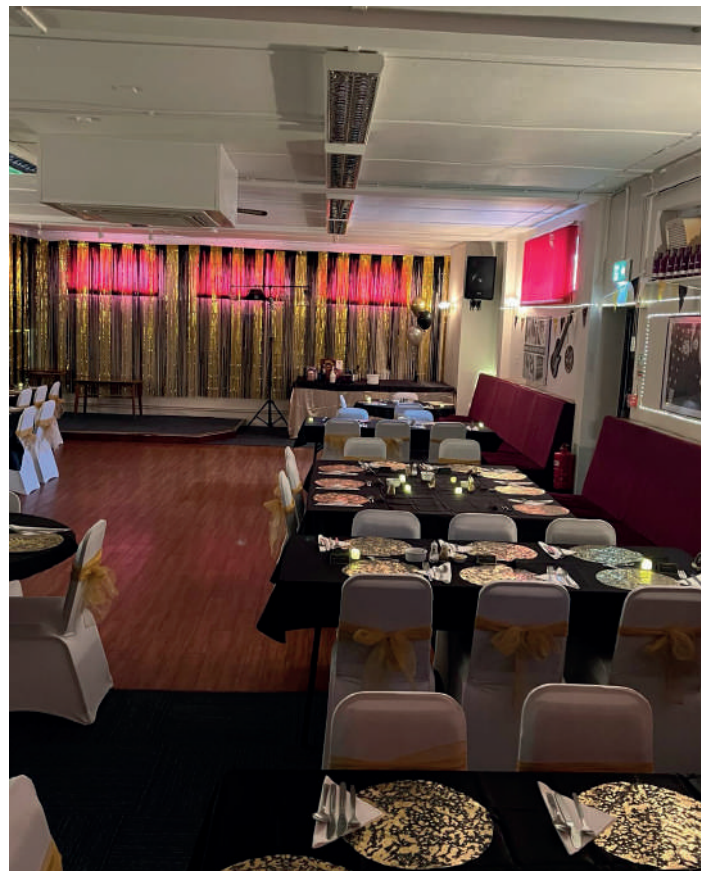
Further improvements included replacing the carpet tiles and fixed dance-floor area with wall-to-wall flooring, allowing the dance floor to be positioned anywhere within the lounge. A suspended ceiling and new lighting system were also installed.

Much of the bar extension and ceiling work was carried out at weekends by Committee members Chris Black and Paul Tierney, helping to keep the cost of the project down. The Club expressed its gratitude to them both, as well as to all Committee members who assisted with removing old fittings and furniture.

Special thanks were also given to Club Secretary Claire Woodcock for managing the project, together with the Steward and bar staff for their involvement throughout the work.

The refurbished lounge was officially unveiled at a members' party on 16 May, attended by 80 people. Outgoing President Wally Newman cut the ribbon and also provided the prizes for an extensive raffle, following his and Wendy's attendance at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party earlier that week.

The new-look Limelite Lounge was warmly received and marked a successful conclusion to an important improvement project for the Club.



Guide Conservative Club Celebrates 125th Anniversary

Guide Conservative Club in Blackburn has celebrated its 125th anniversary with a special birthday event held over the weekend.

The long-standing village hub was established in 1901, a significant year which also saw the birth of American actor Clark Gable and English novelist Barbara Cartland, the death of Queen Victoria and the awarding of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

Among those attending the celebrations were Leon Tamcken, Chairman of the North West Area Conservative Clubs Advisory Committee, together with representatives Caroline Thistleton and Leanne Nuttall.

Leon said: "It was great to be

able to join the Club's Chairman, Dave, to celebrate such a huge milestone and to see that the sense of community remains as strong today as ever."

The evening also saw the Club's long-serving Secretary, John, presented with a special commemorative glass in recognition of his dedicated service.

The Club would like to thank children's entertainer Mick Falcon, DJ Jenny and vocalist Just George for providing the anniversary entertainment. Special thanks were also given to Paul, the Club's social events planner, for bringing everything together.

A fantastic day was enjoyed by all who attended.



Edgeley Conservative Club Raises £1,500 for Cancer Charity

Edgeley Conservative Club in Stockport has raised an impressive £1,500 for Beechwood Cancer Care following a packed fundraising event held in June 2026.

Members turned out in large

numbers for a Stars in Their Eyes-themed evening, arriving in fancy dress and taking to the stage to perform their favourite songs. A fantastic evening was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

The money was raised through

the event itself, together with an auction of signed football memorabilia, and has been donated to the Stockport-based charity.

Beechwood Cancer Care provides free emotional and practical support to people living

with cancer, as well as their families and carers.

Event organiser Paul Murray thanked Club members for their generous support and for doing what the Club does best, raising funds for those in need.



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Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back 100 years to August 1926 where there was a feature on the Hollins Grove Conservative Club regarding its forthcoming Jubilee.

The article celebrates Hollins Grove Conservative Club, Darwen, after it won the ACC Political Challenge Banner. The piece praises the Club's "steady, persistent team-work" and records its remarkable growth from around 90 founding members in 1877 to one of the area's leading Conservative clubs. A century later, Hollins Grove Conservative Club is still thriving from its Blackburn Road premises, continuing the tradition of community, sport and social events that its predecessors would instantly recognise. Few clubs can claim such a direct link between their proud history and their present-day success.

Pictured is the Club in the present day.



THE CLUB THAT WON THE A.C.C. BANNER.

HISTORY OF THE HOLLINS GROVE CONSERVATIVE, DARWEN; IT'S SPLENDID RECORD OF POLITICAL ENDEAVOUR: OFFICIALS WHO "WORKED TO WIN"—AND SUCCEEDED.

The following article is compiled from notes supplied by Mr. E. Crompton, Secretary of the Hollins Grove Conservative Club.

Next May the Hollins Grove Conservative Club, Darwen, will celebrate its Jubilee. What more fitting than, at such a time, there should be displayed within its walls the A.C.C. Political Challenge Banner, the hall-mark of fulfilment of the primary object for which the Club was founded in the high and far-off days when Lord Beaconsfield was Prime Minister?

Fifty years on! So many, so varied and so tremendous have been the changes in the political world during that period, that it seems almost an eternity of time. Yet there is to be found in the Club one who can boast unbroken membership from the day it first opened its doors—Mr. E. C. Crompton, father of the present Secretary, who has lived to see the institution he has so loyally and consistently supported achieve the highest honour of Conservative Clubland.

Like the majority of Conservative Clubs the Hollins Grove, Darwen, started in a small way, and has steadily gone "from strength to strength." At the outset, about 90 "good men and true" agreed to subscribe £1 apiece to found it, the money being called up in 5s. instalments. Suitable premises were leased and the Club, in May, 1877, was duly launched on its career, having as first officials Mr. J. W. Gillibrand, J.P. (President), Mr. George Whalley (Secretary) and Mr. Lawrence Longworth (Treasurer). Some 10 years later a growing membership necessitated the enlargement of the premises, the extension being opened by Lord Cranbourne who, then at the threshold of his political career, after a Homeric fight, captured the Darwen division of Lancashire for the Conservatives by a majority of 5. To him—now Lord Salisbury—by a curious

and happy coincidence, fell the pleasing task of handing the A.C.C. Political Challenge Banner to the self-same Club, after an interval of wellnigh 40 years.

To what may be attributed the success of the Hollins Grove Conservative Club? Primarily to the excellence of its officials—past and present. In its annals stands forth prominently the name of Mr. J. W. Hopkinson, J.P., who, for 21 years, was President and also Ward Chairman, filling both positions, until his death in 1912, with infinite credit to himself and the Cause he served.

His keenness, sincerity and high ideals provided solid foundations on which the Club has been built. Another, of excellent record, is Mr. T. Whalley, the late Chairman, who for 30 years has been an office-holder in the Club and is now an Hon. Vice-President.

Outgrowing its original home, the present premises of the Club were built in 1902 at a cost of over £2,000, and, with an ever-increasing membership, a like sum was expended some six years ago in enlarging them. Nor are members yet content, for they are now busily engaged in making a bowling green, which will cost approximately £2,000. To lessen the expense much of the work is being done, after the day's toil, with their own hands. The money needed for essential expenditure is being raised by special subscriptions, "Jumble sales" and the like, and already over £400 has been thus obtained.

Political Activities.

So much for the history of the Club and its structural side. Now for the political. How, and by what means, did the Hollins Grove Conservative win the Banner? The answer is—by steady, persistent "team-work" for the Party, and having at hand an Agent who, appreciating the value of a "live"



THE HOLLINS GROVE CONSERVATIVE CLUB, DARWEN.



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Leading Officials of the Hollins Grove Conservative Club, Darwen.

1. J. TURNER (President).

2. J. W. ECCLES (Chairman).

3. J. UNSWORTH (Chairman, Political Committee).

4. E. CROMPTON (Secretary).

5. J. YATES, J.P. (Treasurer).

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