

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



June 2026 75p



Club Law and Management – Summer Special

June 2026
75p



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Message From Chief Executive

Last month the Association held its Annual General Meeting at the Carlton Club in London and I am delighted to report that the day was a great success.

It was particularly pleasing to see so many Clubs represented from across the country and there was a real sense of positivity and camaraderie throughout the event. One of the great strengths of the Association has always been the opportunity for Clubs to come together, exchange ideas and renew longstanding friendships and this year's AGM certainly reflected that spirit.

A full report of the proceedings will appear in the July edition of the magazine, however it would be impossible not to mention what was

widely considered to be the highlight of the day, namely our guest speaker, journalist and broadcaster Andrew Pierce.

Andrew delivered an extremely amusing and entertaining speech which was very well received by attendees. He then generously spent much of the afternoon chatting with members and signing copies of his new book, a complimentary copy of which had been presented to everyone attending the AGM.

On behalf of the Association, I would once again like to thank everybody who attended and helped make the day such an enjoyable occasion – it is always lovely to have a chance to catch up with our Member Clubs.



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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Summer Compliance Checklist

Before summer gets fully underway, Committees may wish to check:

- Licensing hours and TEN requirements;
- Outdoor event risk assessments;
- PAT testing for outdoor equipment;
- CCTV systems and lighting;
- First aid kits and defibrillators;
- Fire exits and smoking areas;
- Insurance cover for outdoor activities;
- Staff rotas and holiday cover;
- Cash handling procedures;
- Noise management arrangements;
- Safeguarding awareness;
- Beer garden furniture and trip hazards.

Counterfeit £20 Notes – A Reminder for Clubs

A number of Clubs have recently reported encountering counterfeit £20 notes being used behind the bar and during busy trading periods. One Member Club raised the issue at the ACC AGM, explaining that they had experienced sufficient problems that they had invested in a note-checking machine to help protect the Club against losses.

Whilst counterfeit notes are nothing new, Clubs can be particularly vulnerable during busy evenings, entertainment events and bingo sessions where staff may be handling cash quickly and under pressure.

Committees may therefore wish to remind staff and volunteers to remain vigilant when accepting cash payments, particularly higher denomination notes. Some practical steps include:

- Checking the feel and quality of the polymer note;
- Looking carefully at the transparent windows and holograms;
- Comparing any suspicious note against one known to be genuine;
- Considering the use of ultraviolet pens or electronic note-checking machines;
- Ensuring staff know what to do if they suspect a note may be counterfeit.

It is also sensible for Clubs to review cash handling procedures generally, particularly where large volumes of cash are handled during events.

Changes to Statutory Sick Pay – What Clubs Need to Know

Significant changes to Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) came into effect from 6 April 2026 and Clubs employing staff should ensure that

payroll systems, contracts and sickness procedures reflect the new rules.

Under the previous system, SSP was generally only payable from the fourth day of sickness absence, with the first three days treated as “waiting days”. However, under the new arrangements SSP is now payable from the first qualifying day of sickness absence.

The reforms also remove the Lower Earnings Limit for SSP entitlement. Previously, employees earning below a set weekly threshold did not qualify for statutory sick pay. The removal of this threshold means that many part-time, casual and lower-paid workers who were previously excluded may now qualify for SSP for the first time.

The method of calculating SSP has also changed. Rather than simply paying a flat weekly amount in every case, SSP is now calculated as the lower of:

- 80% of the employee’s average weekly earnings; or
- the statutory weekly SSP rate, currently £123.25 per week.

For Clubs, the practical impact is likely to be felt most noticeably with short-term absences, as SSP now becomes payable immediately rather than after three waiting days. Clubs which rely on part-time or casual staffing may also find that more employees qualify for SSP than previously.

Committees should therefore ensure that:

- payroll providers are aware of the changes;
- staff handbooks and sickness policies are updated;
- managers understand the revised rules; and
- sickness records are maintained accurately from day one of absence.

Whilst many Clubs already offer enhanced contractual sick pay arrangements, those relying solely upon statutory minimum entitlements should take particular care to ensure they remain compliant with the new legislation.

‘Vento’ Band Increases Highlight Rising Cost of Discrimination Claims

Clubs employing staff should be aware that the “Vento bands” used by Employment Tribunals to assess compensation for injury to feelings in discrimination cases increased again from 6 April 2026.

The Vento bands provide guideline compensation ranges for awards relating to hurt, distress and humiliation suffered by employees in successful discrimination and whistleblowing claims. These awards are separate from compensation for financial losses such as loss of earnings and can, in serious cases, be substantial.

The updated bands for claims presented on or after 6 April 2026 are now:

- Lower band: £1,300 to £12,600, generally for less serious or isolated incidents;
- Middle band: £12,600 to £37,700, for more serious or repeated conduct;
- Upper band: £37,700 to £62,900, for the most serious cases;
- Exceptional cases may exceed £62,900.

The annual increases are linked to inflation and follow guidance issued by the Presidents of the Employment Tribunals.

For Clubs, the increases serve as another reminder of the importance

CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

of maintaining proper employment procedures and dealing promptly and fairly with workplace concerns.

Whilst many Clubs benefit from loyal and longstanding staff relationships, issues such as bullying allegations, inappropriate conduct, harassment, discriminatory remarks or poorly handled grievances can quickly escalate into costly disputes if not managed carefully.

Committees should therefore consider:

- reviewing equality and anti-harassment policies;
- ensuring managers and senior staff receive appropriate training;
- investigating complaints promptly and fairly;
- maintaining accurate written records of concerns and disciplinary matters; and
- seeking advice at an early stage where disputes arise.

Employment Tribunals will often look carefully at whether an employer took reasonable steps to prevent discriminatory conduct. Having clear policies and demonstrating that complaints are taken seriously can therefore be extremely important.

Although the increases this year are relatively modest, the continuing upward movement in awards highlights the potentially significant financial exposure employers can face where workplace disputes are not handled appropriately.

Seasonal Staffing

Summer is often one of the busiest periods for many Clubs, with increased demand for bar staff, cleaners, kitchen staff and casual event workers. Whilst temporary staffing arrangements can provide flexibility, Committees should ensure they remain compliant with employment law obligations.

One area which regularly causes confusion is holiday entitlement. Casual and part-time workers are still entitled to paid annual leave, even where hours vary from week to week. Clubs should ensure holiday pay is calculated correctly and properly recorded.

Committees employing younger workers during the summer should also remember that there are additional rules relating to under-18s, including restrictions on working hours and late-night working.

Recent changes to Statutory Sick Pay should also be noted. SSP is now payable from day one of sickness absence, with the previous “waiting days” removed. In addition, lower-paid and part-time workers who previously fell below the earnings threshold may now qualify.

Clubs should also ensure that:

- staff receive appropriate breaks during hot weather;
- kitchen and cellar ventilation is adequate;
- staffing levels remain safe during busy events; and
- written records are maintained regarding shifts, pay and sickness absence.

Many Clubs rely heavily upon goodwill and informal working arrangements, but employment disputes can become expensive if matters are not handled properly. Clear rotas, proper payslips and sensible management procedures remain essential.

Outdoor Entertainment and Beer Gardens – Summer Reminders for Clubs

With the arrival of warmer weather, many Clubs will once again be making greater use of outdoor spaces, beer gardens and patios for entertainment and social events. Outdoor music, barbecues, televised sport and family events can all provide valuable additional income and help attract new visitors to Clubs during the summer months.

However, Committees should remember that outdoor activities can also lead to complaints and licensing issues if not managed carefully.

One of the most common areas of concern during the summer is noise. Whilst live and recorded music may in some circumstances benefit from deregulation under licensing legislation, this does not prevent complaints being made by neighbouring residents if noise becomes excessive, particularly late in the evening.

Committees should therefore consider:

- keeping outdoor music at sensible levels;
- monitoring bass and speaker positioning;
- ensuring doors and windows are managed appropriately;
- supervising outdoor areas later in the evening; and
- maintaining good relationships with neighbouring properties.

Clubs screening outdoor sporting events should also ensure they remain within their permitted licensing hours. Where major matches extend beyond normal terminal hours, a Temporary Event Notice may be required.

Outdoor spaces should also be risk assessed properly. Common issues include trailing cables, inadequate lighting, overcrowding, blocked fire exits and insufficient supervision of children.

The summer months can provide an excellent opportunity for Clubs to showcase themselves to the wider community, but Committees should ensure events remain safe, well-managed and considerate to neighbours.

Social Media Disputes and Member Conduct

Committees increasingly find themselves dealing with disputes arising from Facebook posts, WhatsApp groups and online criticism of Clubs or fellow members.

Whilst members are entitled to express opinions, problems can arise where comments become abusive, defamatory, threatening or damaging to the Club’s reputation.

Committees should avoid reacting emotionally to criticism online. Any disciplinary action should be considered carefully and carried out strictly in accordance with the Club’s rules and normal disciplinary procedures.

It is also important to remember that private committee discussions, screenshots of WhatsApp conversations and members’ personal information should not be circulated improperly, as this can create both governance and data protection concerns.

Many disputes can often be resolved informally before positions become entrenched. Calm communication and consistent procedures remain key.

World Cup 2026 Group Stage

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Scotland vs Haiti
14 June 2.00am
Scotland vs Morocco
19 June 11.00pm
Scotland vs Brazil
24 June 11.00pm

England vs Croatia
17 June 9.00pm
England vs Ghana
23 June 9.00pm
England vs Panama
27 June 10.00pm

Questions and Answers: IA Tickets

Q Is it acceptable for Inter-Affiliation (IA) Ticket holders visiting our club to introduce guests?

A By joining the Inter-Affiliation (IA) Ticket Scheme, clubs undertake to extend the same rights and privileges as their own members enjoy to visiting IA Ticket holders, except the right to take part in the management affairs of the club.

IA Ticket holders are subject to the same rules and regulations applicable to the host club's members. Therefore, any attempt to place restrictions on IA Ticket holders is contrary to the whole concept of the reciprocity which is the foundation of the IA Ticket Scheme. IA Ticket holders are entitled to purchase drinks, play the gaming machines and introduce guests in accordance with the host club's rules; they are also entitled to participate in a host club's bingo or lottery activities, unless the club's committee have decided that such activities are 'members only.'

Q We wish to hold an event in the Club for purely Members. Are we able to prevent IA Ticket holders from coming into the Club for this specific event?

A I confirm that Regulation 8 of the Rules and Regulations

Governing the IA Ticket Scheme provides the Committee of any Club with the authority to make any Club event Member only.

Q We have IA Ticket Holders who are Members of a nearby Conservative Club increasingly frequenting our Club. This is not a problem but we are concerned that as the other Club's Membership Subscription is cheaper than our own that we may lose Members to that Club even though they will continue to use our Club via an IA Ticket. Is it possible to restrict the amount of visits an IA Ticket Holder can make to a specific Club?

A Whilst the majority of Clubs permit unlimited free access for visiting IA Ticket Holders, it is permissible within the Rules of the IA Ticket Scheme for Clubs to impose specific restrictions on either individuals or general restrictions on the number of visits an IA Ticket Holder can make to the Club.

It is also explicitly stated in the Rules of the IA Ticket Scheme that Clubs can refuse entry to any IA Ticket Holder who lives within a ten mile radius of the Club. In any areas which have a high number of Conservative Clubs such a Rule may be used to prevent Members in the area from all joining the Club with

the lowest Membership Fees and then obtaining an IA Ticket to frequently visit another Club in the area which has higher Membership fees. However, I have always advised Clubs not to use this provision unless it is absolutely necessary since the problem of an IA Ticket being over used is normally in connection with either an individual or a small number of visitors. To apply a restriction to Members of all local Clubs is, in my view, sometimes a step too far. The Rules can be used to restrict the number of times the Members who are perhaps overusing the scheme can be introduced thereby providing flexibility for other Members of local Clubs to enjoy the facility which the IA Ticket Scheme provides.

Q We have a nearby resident who is a very frequent visitor of our Club using his IA Ticket. We have no problems with this person but consider that if he is frequently visiting our Club then he should become a Member of the Club. Do you have any thoughts on this?

A I confirm that the admission of an IA ticket holder is a courtesy given by each Club which can be withdrawn at any time. It would therefore be perfectly in order for you to ask this particular person if he would like to apply for membership of the Club in view of his very frequent use.

I hope that the person will accept that the IA ticket scheme is not designed to enable a Member of one Club to visit another on a daily basis and that the correct way in which to use your Club to this extent would be to apply for membership. If however this person, for whatever reason, decides not to apply for membership of the Club then it would be in order for the Club to either place restrictions on the admission of this person or to request that he no longer uses the Club at all.

If the Committee do need to refuse the admission of this IA ticket holder, which I hope is not the case, then I think it would be sensible for you to have a quick word with the Secretary of this person's home Club in order to explain that your Club's decision is in no way a reflection of any particular policy towards their Club and that other Members continue to be welcome to visit.

Q Our Club occasionally holds events which are free to Members but Members' guests are charged a fee. Can you confirm if IA Ticket Holders should be admitted without charge to these events; some Members consider it is unfair to ask their guests to pay but not ask IA Ticket users.

A Under the terms of the IA Ticket Scheme, persons holding IA Cards should be treated the same as Club Members and be provided with free access, this includes events. We do, however, recognise that on occasion when events are held which are free to Members but are charged to Members' guests that difficulties can arise. The IA Ticket Scheme Rules permit Club Committees to create specific Rules regarding the admittance of IA Ticket Holders subject to the approval of the ACC. Therefore, if you are experiencing problems regarding IA Ticket holders being permitted free access to specific events then please discuss these issues with us and we will work with your Committee to ensure that the IA Ticket Scheme is working effectively for the Club.



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Stanley Ward Conservative Club Supports Lifesaving Community Defibrillator

Members of Stanley Ward Conservative Club recently came together for a successful fundraising evening to help provide a community defibrillator to be installed outside the Club premises.

The event proved to be a tremendous success, with members generously donating bottles for a tombola whilst live band "Defibril8" kept everyone entertained throughout the evening.

Funds were raised through ticket sales, raffles, donations and the tombola, with an impressive total of £1,508 collected. The money

raised will ensure that this vital piece of lifesaving equipment is available for the benefit of both Club members and the wider community should it ever be needed.

Club Chairman Jason Roberts expressed his gratitude to everyone who supported the event and made personal donations towards the appeal.

He commented that the generosity shown by members and supporters had helped secure an important community service for many years to come.



♥ Defibrillator ♥

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WE RAISED

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TOWARDS FUNDING
GOING FORWARD

TOMBOLA

RAFFLE

KIND DONATIONS

To all those who made personal donations, this made a big difference and secures the service for the years to come – thank you. ♥

Jason Roberts | CHAIRMAN
On behalf of the Officers, Committee and Members

Club Singer Becomes Online Sensation After Viral Performance

Singer, 63, goes viral performing Freed From Desire

BBC NEWS

Sheila Diamond loved performing and singing from an early age

A singer with more than 30 years' experience performing in pubs and clubs has become an unexpected online sensation after a video of her performance at the East Ward Conservative Club went viral on social media.

Sheila Diamond, also known to many as "Little Miss Dynamite", captured the attention of hundreds of thousands online after footage of her singing "Freed From Desire" at East Ward Conservative Club was shared on Instagram.

The video quickly gathered huge attention online, with Sheila admitting she was left stunned when her phone "started going absolutely bonkers" after the clip amassed hundreds of thousands of likes.

The performance proved especially popular because of the enthusiastic reaction from club members, many of whom enthusiastically joined in with the impromptu "rave".

Sheila explained that towards the end of the evening she decided to liven things up by asking members if they fancied "having a rave", before launching into the well-known dance anthem.

The atmosphere inside the Club clearly struck a chord online, with viewers delighted to see older members enjoying themselves and dancing along to the music.

Despite her newfound online fame, Sheila is far from new to entertaining audiences and regularly performs several shows each week across the North West.

The viral clip has now opened up new opportunities for the singer, including bookings at major Pride events and an appearance at the popular Mighty Hoopla festival.

However, despite the sudden fame, Sheila says her plans remain simple, to continue doing what she loves most – entertaining people and singing.

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.

Government urged to provide hospitality energy support

UKHospitality sets out proposals for clear, targeted measures to support the sector through increased energy costs.

In a letter to the Chancellor, UKHospitality has outlined six clear measures that the Government could bring forward to provide targeted energy support for hospitality businesses.

UKHospitality is proposing:

1. Energy market stability

An obligation for energy suppliers to offer new contracts, a cap on deposits demanded by suppliers, and the avoidance of sector-specific profiling that has previously seen hospitality locked out of contracts.

2. Grants or market intervention

Fiscal support for businesses coming out of fixed-term contracts.

3. Relief on non-commodity charges

Government should keep additional costs included within energy bills, outside of unit cost of energy, to an absolute minimum.

4. No supplement to support other sectors

There should be no additional levies put on hospitality energy bills to fund support for other sectors. The current nuclear levy should be reconsidered.

5. CMA investigation

The Government should refer the business energy market to the CMA to redress already identified competition issues.

6. Cut red tape

Costly and burdensome new regulations currently under consultation should be postponed. This includes the Deposit Return Scheme, advertising restrictions and mandatory reporting requirements.

UKHospitality also reiterated its call for the need for the Government to bring down the sector's overall cost burden.



The sector, says UKHospitality, is unanimous that cutting VAT for hospitality to 10%, lowering business rates and stopping the holiday tax would be among the most effective measures to support hospitality businesses.

In the letter **UKHospitality Chief Executive, Allen Simpson**, wrote: "Businesses within the hospitality sector are increasingly concerned about the impact of the crisis in the Middle East and how this will affect our already strained sector.

"We have been clear that hospitality is facing three consecutive challenges: the direct costs incurred from higher energy prices, higher costs passed through the supply chain and a customer base that cannot sustain raised prices.

"Fixed-term contracts are providing some short-

term protection but this will fall away for many in the coming months. Rural venues are already seeing higher prices due to a doubling of the price of heating oil.

"We are urging Government to urgently pull together, in discussion with industry, targeted measures that support the hospitality sector.

"We hope that the situation will improve but Government needs to be in a position to urgently help the sector – due to the fragility of the sector, even before the crisis, caused by substantial cost increases.

"Timely intervention can reduce the risk that viable businesses are lost, preventing lasting consequences for communities across the country."

• ukhospitality.org

Whisky export tariffs to US removed after State Visit

The Scotch Whisky industry has welcomed the removal of tariffs on Scotch Whisky exports to the United States announced by President Trump.

Following the State Visit of King Charles and Queen Camilla to the United States, President Trump has announced that whisky export tariffs would be withdrawn in their honour.

Commenting on the news, **Chief Executive of the SWA Mark Kent, said:** "This deal is a significant boost for the Scotch Whisky industry in our most valuable export market. Distillers can breathe a little easier during a period of significant pressure on the sector.

"We are hugely grateful for the sustained efforts on both sides of the Atlantic. For months, many have worked tirelessly to return zero-for-zero tariff trade for whisky and bourbon. The special relationship



that the Scotch Whisky and American Whiskey industries share will be reinvigorated by this announcement.

"While challenges in our sector remain, we can now redouble our efforts to boost the benefits our two great industries bring to communities across Scotland and the US."

President Trump made the announcement on

Truth Social:

"In Honor of the King and Queen of the United Kingdom, who have just left the White House, soon headed back to their wonderful Country, I will be removing the Tariffs and Restrictions on Whiskey having to do with Scotland's ability to work with the Commonwealth of Kentucky on Whiskey and Bourbon, two very important Industries within Scotland and Kentucky.

"People have wanted to do this for a long time, in that there had been great Inter-Country Trade, especially having to do with the Wooden Barrels used. The King and Queen got me to do something that nobody else was able to do, without hardly even asking! A wonderful Honor to have them both in the U.S.A." **President Donald J. Trump**

• scotch-whisky.org.uk

Diageo opens Littleconnell Brewery

Diageo has officially opened its new Littleconnell Brewery in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, marking a significant milestone in the company's long-term commitment to brewing in Ireland.

Representing an investment of almost €300 million, the state-of-the-art brewery forms part of Diageo's near €1 billion capital investment programme across the island of Ireland between 2020 and 2029.

Officially opened by Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD, the landmark brewery was constructed in under 18 months on a 40-acre site and is powered by 100% renewable electricity. The project, supported by Enterprise Ireland, accommodated approximately 650 jobs during construction and has created more than 50 highly skilled permanent roles, underlining Diageo's contribution to regional development and skilled employment.

The Littleconnell Brewery will produce a range of ales and lagers, including Rockshore, Harp, Smithwick's and Kilkenny, alongside well-known licensed beers such as Carlsberg, supplying both Irish and international markets and strengthening Ireland's role within Diageo's global brewing network.

With planning permission secured, Diageo has also confirmed plans for an approximate €400 million investment for the development of a second brewery at Littleconnell over the next three years, with work due to begin in 2026. The new facility, known as Brewery 2, will be dedicated to the produc-



tion of Guinness and Guinness 0.0 and will more than double total site capacity, supporting the global growth of Guinness.

As part of the near €1 billion investment between 2020 and 2029, Diageo has already completed work at St James's Gate and its Belfast packaging site to increase capacity and support Guinness 0.0, and further work is planned to support the decarbonisation of St James's Gate.

Littleconnell incorporates advanced brewing and process technologies to reduce energy and water use. Its design is expected to avoid up to 15,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually compared with a similar-scale facility, supporting Diageo's Spirit of Progress sustainability commitments.

The announcement, says Diageo, reinforces confidence in Ireland as a strategic hub for brewing excellence, supporting exports, innovation, sustainability and long-term economic growth.

St Austell Brewery launches plantable beer mats

Cornish brewer St Austell Brewery has built on its sustainability credentials with the launch of biodegradable, plantable beer mats.

The brewer launched its first sustainability strategy – Crafting a Brighter Future – in 2025.



Emily Coon, Sustainability Manager, said: "The plantable beer mats are a small idea, but they represent a bigger mindset – thinking differently about waste, creating moments for conversation, and making sustainability feel part of everyday experiences rather than something distant or abstract."

The past year has marked a standout period of progress for St Austell Brewery, with its sustainability work receiving national recognition alongside operational improvements, across waste, energy and water efficiency.

The brewer is committed to reaching net zero ahead of the UK's 2050 target and will host its first Sustainability Week in October.

• staustellbrewery.co.uk

Matthew Clark and Bibendum merge

C&C has merged Matthew Clark and Bibendum, creating Matthew Clark Bibendum (MCB).

Through MCB, the drinks company expects to deliver:

- A broader, more compelling, integrated range
- A simpler, more effective customer experience
- Stronger, specialist expertise across all categories
- Greater reach and opportunity for our partners

Rob Sandall, C&C Sales Director for England & Wales, said: "Bringing Matthew Clark and Bibendum together is a confident step forward. By simpli-

fying how we operate, we're unlocking the full potential of our range, expertise and scale.

"At a time when hospitality is under real pressure, our focus is on delivering value, quality and service—while building a strong, sustainable business for the long term."

Matthew Clark and Bibendum customers will continue to be served through the separate route to market propositions until the summer, when the MCB proposition will be fully implemented.

• candegroupplc.com



Exmoor Brewery presents new look

Somerset's Exmoor Brewery is sporting a proud new look on the bar, marking a year since new investment in the business rescued brewing in its home town of Wiveliscombe.

The new branding is based on an old enamel sign found whilst clearing the brewery and now on display in the Exmoor Brewery tap.

Managing Director designate Simon French, said: "The new look reflects the heritage of our beers but is far more modern than the original image it's based on. It leaves Exmoor Brewery's existing loyal customers in no doubt they are ordering their favourite pint, while also having strong visual appeal to beer drinkers ordering an Exmoor cask ale for the first time."

• exmoorales.co.uk



Magners ready to share the craic this summer

Magners is getting ready for a summer of comedy and a new partnership with Underbelly at Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The partnership with Underbelly, one of the largest venues at the Fringe, builds on Magners' support of live comedy and will see the brand's Original Irish Cider and Dark Fruits poured across 13 venues during the festival as well as a dedicated Magners Bar in George Square.

Magners is also encouraging budding comedians to 'Share the Craic' for their chance to win a month-long, funded place at the Underbelly's Wee Co Stage during the festival.

The Share the Craic comedy search will support emerging grassroots talent, with the final being held at Underbelly Soho, London on 30 June.

Fronting the campaign is Irish comedian Emma Doran who has recently extended her smash hit sell-out UK & Ireland tour Emmaculate.

• magners.com

Greene King unveils football-fuelled seasonal beers



Greene King has launched its seasonal summer cask range alongside a programme of football-themed activations designed to support free trade customers through a busy summer of sport.

Returning for June is Hopping Special, a 4.2% ABV amber ale brewed with five malts and late and dry hopping. The beer delivers soft tropical fruit and citrus notes and is a returning seasonal favourite as the weather starts to get warmer.

Running until the end of August, Greene King Brewery will also offer a 4% ABV summer golden ale. Brewed for easy drinking, it features citrus and tropical fruit characters and is designed for summer sessions. Independent venues will receive the beer with three interchangeable pump clip designs to tailor presentation to their audience and calendar:

- 4-4-Brew – a football-themed design pump clip aligned to the big summer tournament
- On The Bounce – a pump clip inspired by the annual tennis championships and the wider sporting calendar
- Brightside – a pump clip designed with hot weather and gardens in mind.

Alongside the seasonal range, Greene King Brewery will roll out a series of football and matchday-focused activations for free trade customers, including decorations, fixture posters, branded point of sale and football-themed merchandise aimed at driving footfall and engagement.

• valueforvenues.co.uk

illy named Silverstone's official coffee partner

Premium coffee brand illy has secured a multi-year partnership with Silverstone, bringing its 100% Arabica blend to the home of British motorsport.

Sustainability is a shared priority for both brands. illy's commitment to responsibly sourced 100% Arabica beans, long-term grower partnerships, and ongoing innovation in sustainable packaging and production aligns with Silverstone's environmental ambitions, creating opportunities for collaboration across the site as both brands look toward a more sustainable future for sport and hospitality.

Marcello Canetti, Managing Director UK & IE at illy, said: "We are proud to partner with



Silverstone, a world-renowned venue that shares our commitment to quality, sustainability and delivering exceptional experiences."

• illy.com

UK distributor bowled over by Bols

Paragon Brands has secured UK distribution of the Bols-branded cocktail liqueurs, and aims to bring the Bols cocktail portfolios back into focus behind the bar with, says the company, high-quality liqueurs that 'elevate all types of drinks', along with supporting the development of the Galliano liqueur range, as well as Bols Genever in the UK.

Managing director of Paragon Brands, Chris Jones, said: "This partnership perfectly complements our existing portfolio. From the homegrown, scaling brands to the global icons, our team is built to ensure brands thrive in UK hospitality and beyond.

"Representing such an iconic and revered company is a real privilege. We look forward to a successful future together."

• paragonbrands.co.uk

RATIONAL celebrates two milestones

Equipment manufacturer RATIONAL has celebrated a double anniversary – 50 years of producing RATIONAL combi ovens and reaching 1.5 million units built.

The 1.5 millionth anniversary unit combi featured a golden dial and was subsequently donated to the St. Nikolaus Children's Hospice in Bad Grönenbach.

RATIONAL presented its first combi oven, the CD 101, in 1976. The combination of steam and convection enabled kitchens to use a variety of cooking methods, such as roasting, baking, and steaming, with just one appliance. Four years later

the CD 201 came out, the first floor-standing combi oven to meet the demands of large kitchens, laying the foundation for five decades of continuous development.

Markus Paschmann, Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, said: "Fifty years of RATIONAL combi ovens and 1.5 million units are not just figures, they are an expression of the high level of satisfaction and trust that our customers have placed in us worldwide for decades. We're proud of that. It motivates us to continue prioritizing customer benefit."

• rational-online.com



SKOPE Refrigeration joins Hubbard portfolio

Commercial foodservice equipment distributor Hubbard Systems has announced the addition of SKOPE Refrigeration to its growing brand portfolio.

Hubbard Systems now offers the SKOPE ReFlex and SKOPE ActiveCore ranges to the UK market through its nationwide network of distributors and reseller partners.

The SKOPE ReFlex series delivers a versatile and high-performance range of undercounter refrigeration solutions, designed to maximise storage capacity while maintaining a compact footprint – ideal for demanding commercial kitchen environments. Complementing this, the SKOPE ActiveCore series provides reliable, efficient refrigerated storage

designed to meet the everyday needs of foodservice operators across multiple sectors.

Pete Gray, managing director for Hubbard Systems, said: "We're delighted to welcome SKOPE to the Hubbard Systems portfolio. Their reputation for innovation and quality aligns perfectly with our commitment to delivering best-in-class equipment to the UK foodservice market."

"The introduction of the ReFlex and ActiveCore ranges gives our partners and customers access to highly efficient, dependable refrigeration solutions that meet the evolving needs of modern commercial kitchens."

• hubbardsystems.co.uk



LionHeart ale launches into bars

LionHeart arrived on the bar with a roar, in time for St George's Day on April 23. The beer is a collaboration, bringing together brand owner Brookfield Drinks and award-winning Norfolk brewer Woodforde's.

A well-balanced 4% ABV artisan premium ale, LionHeart is made with traditional English ingredients, and is backed by a £2 million investment.

Nigel McNally, Brookfield Drinks Managing Director, said: "Our aim with LionHeart is to restore the pride in England's signature beer style and give pubs, clubs and bars the support they need to stock cask ale with confidence. With the World Cup taking place this summer, the LionHeart brand is an opportunity to see football fans roaring with pride as they follow the England team's progress in their local."

LionHeart, positioned as England's beer, has a striking font in the red and white colours of King Richard the Lionheart himself, as well as POS support including drip mats, bar runners, and posters.

The brand will be supported with broadsheet advertising to communicate its unique brewing credentials with drinkers.

• brookfielddrinks.co.uk

PepsiCo invests £3.6m in solar power project

PepsiCo has announced a multi-million-pound investment in a new solar power project at its Southern Region Distribution Centre (SRDC) in Leicester.



Working together with energy infrastructure specialist Ineco Energy, the project will see solar panels installed across 30,000 square metres of roof space – equivalent to around four football pitches. Once complete, the panels are expected to generate 100% of the energy needed to power the logistics centre over the course of a year, reducing demand on the national electricity grid.

The 3.56 MWp solar power system is expected to generate around 2.84 GWh of renewable electricity each year – enough to power approximately 1000 UK homes for a year. Any surplus electricity will go towards powering the company's Walkers crisps site, one of the world's largest crisp factories, located next door to the distribution centre.

• pepsico.co.uk

Visit to Pemberton Conservative Club

Leon Tamcken and Lyndon Watkin visited Pemberton Conservative Club in April.

Founded in 1885 as the Pemberton Conservative Working Men's Club, the Club relocated to its current premises on Park Road in 1905 and continues to play an important role in the local community.

During the visit, Leon and Lyndon met with Club Chairman Les Fairhurst, who provided a

tour of the premises, including the Club's impressive function room.

The Committee is currently focused on growing membership and has also diversified its offering by hosting weekly "Baby Boom" classes, helping to broaden the Club's appeal within the community.

Leon and Lyndon thanked Les and his team for their warm welcome and for hosting a very enjoyable visit.



Cullingworth Conservative Club Supports Major Fundraising Campaign for Hospice

Members of Cullingworth Conservative Club have been playing a central role in an impressive fundraising campaign in support of Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice.

The campaign has been led by Club member Danny Helstrip, who recently completed a gruelling walk across the Arctic Circle as part of his efforts to raise money for the hospice.

The fundraising campaign has special personal significance for Danny and his family, following the support provided by Manorlands to his wife Louise, who continues to battle cancer after initially being diagnosed with breast cancer which later spread to her bones and brain.

Despite undergoing numerous operations and ongoing chemotherapy treatment every three weeks, Louise has continued to face her illness with remarkable determination and courage.

Danny explained that the family's experience had inspired him to support the hospice as

much as possible, describing the assistance provided by Manorlands as "incredible".

Prior to the Arctic challenge, Danny also completed a sponsored Mont Blanc walk, whilst a series of successful fundraising events have been organised locally.

A charity evening held at the Club, featuring raffles, entertainment and even sponsored chest waxing, raised an impressive £2,351. A further race night generated £1,038, whilst an additional raffle at The George Hotel raised £767.

Alongside these events, Danny has also established an online fundraising page which has already attracted several thousand pounds in donations.

The fundraising efforts are set to continue later this year with a planned "Bradford to Benidorm" charity challenge, which will see participants travelling to Spain in old "banger" cars costing no more than £750.

The campaign has demonstrated

the tremendous community spirit that exists within Conservative Clubs and highlights the important role clubs continue to play in supporting local charities and families during difficult times.

All services provided by Manorlands Hospice are free to patients and their loved ones, although the hospice reportedly costs more than £10,000 per day to operate.



Les Shaw Memorial Cup Returns to Pemberton Conservative Club

Members of Pemberton Conservative Club recently enjoyed another successful day of crown green bowling as the Club hosted the annual Les Shaw Memorial Cup.

The competition, which has been played since 2024 in memory of the late Les Shaw, has quickly become a popular fixture in the Club calendar and once again attracted

strong support from members.

This year's event saw Aprille White and Paul Culley finish as runners-up, whilst Lynn Bennett and Mike Hampson were crowned this year's winning pair.

The day was enjoyed in glorious weather and provided another excellent social occasion for members, reflecting the strong community spirit within the Club.

The Club has continued to go from strength to strength in recent years and was recently visited by Leon Tamcken. Events such as the Les Shaw Memorial Cup continue to prove extremely popular with members and demonstrate the important role clubs play in bringing local communities together.

The Committee also expressed

its sincere thanks to Susan and her family for providing a wonderful buffet for those attending.

Members commented that the sunshine once again shone on the occasion and that Les would have been immensely proud to see the event continuing to thrive in his memory.



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Fresh Talent Takes Centre Stage in the North West

Guide Bridge Conservative Club in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire has found a winning formula for live entertainment, thanks to a new partnership with Gig Link that is already making waves across the North West.

The Club now hosts a monthly talent booking event that brings together emerging performers and club officials in a lively, professional showcase setting. Organised and hosted by Gig Link founder Angie Wild, the event provides a platform for new artists to audition live on stage in front of an audience that includes Concert Secretaries, booking agents and representatives from local clubs.

The concept is simple but highly effective, giving clubs the chance to discover fresh talent first-hand while offering performers valuable exposure and the opportunity to secure bookings. The result has been a vibrant and varied evening

of entertainment, with each event featuring a wide range of acts that reflect the diversity and quality of the region's talent.

The initiative has quickly gained a strong following. Leon Tamcken, Chairman of the North West Area, praised the idea, describing it as "a fantastic way of showcasing new performing artists." He added that the variety of acts at each event has been particularly impressive and encouraged as many clubs as possible to attend.

Beyond the performances themselves, the evenings also provide a valuable networking opportunity. Club officials are able to meet one another, share contacts and ideas, and strengthen links across the area, something that is increasingly important in supporting the long-term success of private members' clubs.

Held on the last Thursday of every month, the Gig Link



showcase is free to attend and continues to grow in popularity. Clubs interested in attending or finding out more can follow Gig Link on Facebook or make contact via email.

With its combination of entertainment, opportunity and collaboration, this initiative is a strong example of how clubs can work together with external partners to keep their entertainment offering fresh, engaging and relevant.



Timperley Club Back on Its Feet

The Chairman of the North West Area Conservative Club Advisory Committee, Leon Tamcken, visited Timperley Conservative and Social Club in March 2026.

During the visit, Leon met with the Club Secretary, Mark, and member Barry, who provided a tour of the premises and showcased the extensive refurbishment works carried out following the devastating flood previously featured in the January 2026 edition of the magazine.

The damage caused by the flooding was significant, forcing

the Club to close for nine months before successfully reopening in September 2025. The transformation since then has been remarkable.

Commenting on the visit, Leon said, "The transformation is amazing and the dedication and hard work of all those involved is clear to see. It's great to know that Timperley is back on its feet again."

Photographs accompanying this article include images of both the flood damage from January 2025 and the impressive refurbishment that has followed.



Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back to October 1958 which highlights a Labour Party in crisis, unable to adequately appeal to its various supporter bases. Sound familiar...?

Under the wonderfully subtle headline "Socialists Are Gloomy", the magazine's readers were reassured that Labour was apparently in complete disarray and that the nation was enthusiastically rejecting socialism after "six years" of nationalisation and restrictions.

The article confidently predicted that Labour's internal divisions and fear

of commitment would keep them far from power, whilst also warning readers of the terrifying prospect of Aneurin Bevan becoming Foreign Secretary.

Accompanying the piece is a cartoon suggesting that the Tory membership campaign was being greatly assisted by Mr Gaitskell's programme, proving perhaps that political point-scoring and cheerful optimism have always been important ingredients of Club Life.

Nearly seventy years later, some readers may feel that political environment has not changed very much at all!



SOCIALISTS ARE GLOOMY

BY

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SOCIALISTS and the Left-wing press have changed from the height of confidence about the next election to the depths of gloom. Conservatives should not be complacent as a result of the enemy's discomfort, but should use the occasion for a resolute and united advance.

I guess Herbert Morrison must be having a good laugh. The gay extremists and "progressives" were delighted when they "got rid of Herbert" (as one of them put it in my hearing), they thought that having dropped the pilot, the Socialist ship would sail into the Victory berth without any trouble. Instead it has gone on to the rocks. They are dissatisfied with Mr. Gaitskell, disappointed with Mr. Bevan and they don't quite know where to turn for a leader.

What's wrong?

THE two "popular" and "ginger" weeklies *Tribune* and *Forward* are full of misery on this topic, and, of course, of attacks on other people. Dr. Soper, that great Christian gentleman, has joined in the attack on the Party, but like the rest of them he cannot see that what is really wrong is Socialist policy. The public has no enthusiasm for more nationalisation and more restrictions. It had six years of it, and that was enough. *Forward* thinks the nine policy statements are "damn dull" and wants them presented more brightly. I think this is a capital idea, the more the public know about Labour intentions, the less likely they are to vote Labour.

Dr. Soper in his Christian-like way, writes of Mr. Macmillan's criminal irresponsibility in foreign affairs. Has it ever occurred to Dr. Soper that Mr. Macmillan is as good a Christian as he? Maybe a better one, as Mr. Macmillan is habitually more courteous to opponents than the reverend Dr. Soper.

Unkindest cut

THE unkindest blow of all, however, has been delivered by the *New Statesman*, the Left-wing organ of the intellectuals, which says bluntly "Something has gone badly wrong for the Labour Party. It is no use saying that Mr. Macmillan has been lucky, or that he has made a success of television. Short of some catastrophe in foreign affairs, or a bad slump, the Labour Party cannot expect a more favourable run of circumstances than it has enjoyed in the last 18 months. The

plain fact is that it has proved unable to take advantage of them. What is wrong? The most obvious defect of the Labour leadership is its patent fear of commitment. On one problem after another it has fudged the issue."

The leaders are trying to please both wings of the Party, and it just can't be done. Mr. Crossman got involved in an odd controversy with the Peace Society of all people. Mr. Crossman is not quite sure it is wise for the Government to end National Service. He is terribly afraid that if the present Government abolish National Service and there is trouble in the future, a Labour Government might have to bring it in again, and that would be just terrible!

That is what is worrying poor Mr. C. One has only to add that if a future Labour Government were to make Mr. Bevan Foreign Secretary we should blunder into war as certainly as the sun rises, and then Mr. C.'s worst fears would be realised. But if we Tories and National Liberals work hard, the fear of a Labour Government and the tragedy of Mr. Bevan at the Foreign Office will never materialise.



"Mark my words! we Socialists feel that Mr Gaitskell's programme will ensure the success of the Tory Campaign."

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