

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



September 2026 75p



Tooting Conservative and Unionist Club Celebrates 140 Years



CONTENTS

Club Law and Management Summer Special	3, 4, 5
Club Insure	6
Club Updates	7
Industry Insights	8, 9, 10, 11
Tooting Celebrates 140 Years	12, 13
Dunscar and Patricroft Updates	14
Pages From The Past	15

September often feels like the point at which clubs return to their normal rhythm after the summer. It is also a useful opportunity for Committees to look ahead, review their arrangements and make sure that plans are in place for the busy final months of the year.

This month's magazine includes several practical Club Law and Management articles. We look at the records clubs must keep when calculating holiday pay for casual and irregular-hours staff, the forthcoming extension of Employment Tribunal claim limits, and the strengthened duty to protect employees from harassment, including inappropriate behaviour by members, guests and customers. There are also reminders about carer's leave, the rules governing bingo, poker and club draws, and some of the points Committees should consider before entering a new business energy contract.

These subjects may not always be the most exciting items on a Committee agenda, but getting them right can prevent considerable expense and difficulty later. A clear policy, an accurate written record or a properly reviewed contract is far easier to put in place before a problem arises than it is to reconstruct after the event.

Message From Chief Executive

September is also the right time to begin planning for Christmas. Although the festive season may still seem some distance away, members and local organisations will soon be deciding where to hold their parties, dinners and other celebrations.

Clubs should now be considering their programme of member events and confirming entertainment, catering and staffing arrangements. Christmas opening hours should be discussed with employees early, particularly where additional cover or changes to normal shifts will be required. It is also sensible to check licensing events and any need for Temporary Event Notices well in advance.

Where the Club has a function room, Christmas event hire packages should be agreed and advertised now. Social media, posters within the Club and direct contact with previous hirers can all be effective and inexpensive ways of promoting what the Club can offer this coming Christmas season.

As always, the ACC remains available to assist affiliated clubs with the legal, employment, property and general management issues they encounter. I hope you enjoy this issue and find its articles useful.

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

Chairman:
Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE
Chief Executive:
Charles Littlewood
Printed by: Snell Print Ltd,
8 Buckland Road, Yeovil,
Somerset BA21 5EA

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

Every effort is made to ensure
accuracy but neither the
publishers, nor their agents,
can accept responsibility for
any error or omission.

Special discounts for all ACC Members



The Sole ACC Recommended Interior Refurbishment Contractor & Furniture Supplier

FREE Design Consultation FREE Furniture Brochure

01454 299844 / 07718782749

info@kandmclubrefurbishment.co.uk www.kandmclubrefurbishment.co.uk

KandM
CLUB REFURBISHMENT LTD

CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Holiday Pay for Casual Club Staff: The Records That Could Prevent a Costly Dispute

Many clubs rely on casual or irregular-hours employees to cover busy evenings, functions, holidays and unexpected absences. These arrangements offer valuable flexibility, but holiday entitlement and holiday pay can easily be overlooked or calculated incorrectly.

Almost all workers, including casual and zero-hours workers, are entitled to paid annual leave. Describing someone as “casual”, or only offering them occasional shifts, does not remove that entitlement.

For qualifying irregular-hours and part-year workers, holiday generally accrues at 12.07 per cent of the hours worked during each pay period. Clubs may either allow the worker to take this accrued leave and pay them when it is taken, or use rolled-up holiday pay where the legal conditions are met. Rolled-up holiday pay means adding an amount for holiday pay to each wage payment, but it must be shown separately on the employee’s payslip. It should not simply be hidden within an apparently enhanced hourly rate.

Clubs should be careful before using rolled-up holiday pay. It is permitted only for workers who legally qualify as irregular-hours or part-year workers. It cannot ordinarily be used for employees who work regular hours throughout the year, even if they are part-time.

The amount paid during holiday must also be correct. For irregular-hours and part-year workers, holiday pay should reflect their normal remuneration. This can include regular overtime and certain other payments connected with the work. Where holiday is not rolled up, the calculation may require the employer to examine the worker’s previous 52 paid weeks.

Record-keeping is now particularly important. From 6 April 2026, must keep adequate records demonstrating that they have complied with the holiday entitlement and holiday pay rules. Those records must be retained for at least six years from the date they were made. Employers that cannot produce adequate records may face a financial penalty.

For each casual employee, a club should therefore retain:

- the employee’s contract and agreed holiday year;
- details of every shift and the hours worked;
- holiday accrued during each pay period;
- holiday requested, approved and taken;
- the method used to calculate holiday pay;
- the payments made and corresponding payslips; and
- any holiday paid when the employee leaves.

Keeping only the final payroll figure may not be enough. The Club should be able to demonstrate how that figure was reached.

The risk will increase further when the Fair Work Agency begins enforcing statutory holiday pay, which is expected during 2027. At present, disputes are generally pursued by workers through the Employment Tribunal system. State enforcement will make it easier for possible underpayments to be investigated, with arrears and potentially financial penalties being pursued.

Club Committees should not wait for a complaint. A sensible step now would be to review every casual worker, confirm how their holiday is calculated and check that payroll, rota and leave

records can be reconciled. Where holiday pay has simply been absorbed into an hourly rate, or where no clear records exist, advice should be obtained promptly.

A small administrative error repeated across several employees and several years can become a substantial liability. Clear calculations, transparent payslips and properly retained records remain a club’s best protection.

Carer’s Leave Obligations

Clubs often operate with small teams, which means the unexpected absence of even one employee can be difficult to manage. It is therefore important that Committees understand the existing right to carer’s leave and are prepared for possible changes.

Employees in England, Scotland and Wales currently have a right, from their first day of employment, to take up to one week of unpaid carer’s leave during each 12-month period. The leave can be used to provide or arrange care for a dependant with a long-term care need, including a partner, child, parent, someone living in the same household or another person who reasonably relies on the employee for care.

The leave may be taken as a whole week, individual days or half-days. A part-time employee’s entitlement is based on the length of their normal working week. An employee who usually works three days each week would therefore be entitled to three days of carer’s leave.

A club cannot simply refuse a valid request. It may postpone the leave if the absence would cause serious disruption, but it must explain the reason and arrange for the employee to take the leave at another time within one month. Employees are not required to provide medical evidence of their dependant’s condition.

Increased Workplace Harassment Protections Due

Important changes to employment law take effect in October, including stronger protection against workplace harassment and more time for employees to bring Employment Tribunal claims.

From 30 October 2026, employers must take “all reasonable steps” to prevent sexual harassment of their employees. Employers will also have a legal obligation not to permit employees to be harassed by third parties.

For a club, a third party could be a member, guest, customer, entertainer, contractor or visiting sports team. The Club’s



Discover an easier way to manage your club with **YDP**
Bookkeeping, Accounts and Payroll

- Supplier Payments, Banking and Cash Flow Management
- HMRC Returns and Detailed Financial Reporting
- Annual Accounts, FCA Returns and AGM
- Hospitality and Club Management Support

The help you need to **manage your club**
effectively for the benefit of your members

For more information:

call **01933 358 080** or email **info@ydp.co.uk** Trade Management Services



CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

responsibility does not end simply because the person accused of harassment is not an employee.

Sexual harassment can include unwanted touching, sexual comments, suggestive jokes, intrusive questions, displaying sexual material or repeated unwanted invitations. Conduct which some members regard as friendly banter may still amount to harassment if it violates an employee's dignity or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

A policy stored in a Committee file will not, by itself, demonstrate that the Club has taken all reasonable steps. Committees should consider the particular risks within their premises and take practical preventative action. Relevant steps may include:

- adopting and communicating a clear anti-harassment policy;
- training staff, managers and Committee members;
- providing a safe and confidential way for employees to report concerns;
- making clear to members and guests that harassment will not be tolerated;
- keeping proper written records of complaints and the action taken; and
- using the Club's disciplinary procedure where a member behaves inappropriately.

Any complaint should be taken seriously and investigated promptly. A Committee should avoid dismissing behaviour as "banter" or suggesting that bar staff should simply expect difficult comments from customers. If an employee has previously complained about a particular member, allowing the behaviour to continue would leave the Club in a particularly weak position.

The Committee may need to consider temporary measures while a complaint is investigated, such as instructing the member not to approach the employee or withdrawing the member's use of the Club. Any action against a member should also comply with the Club's own disciplinary rules.

Committees should review their policies, train the people responsible for handling complaints and make sure members understand that unacceptable treatment of staff can result in disciplinary action.

Employment Tribunal Claims: Clubs Face a Longer Period of Uncertainty

From 1 October 2026, the normal time limit for bringing most Employment Tribunal claims will increase from three months to six months. The change will apply where the problem giving rise to the claim occurs on or after that date.

The new limit will cover the majority of claims, including unfair dismissal, discrimination and unlawful deductions from wages. Claims relating to statutory redundancy payments and equal pay already have longer limits.

Employees will still normally have to notify Acas before commencing Tribunal proceedings. Acas Early Conciliation

provides an opportunity to resolve the dispute without a hearing and can affect the final deadline for presenting a claim. The process itself is not changing.

For clubs, the practical consequence is that an employment dispute may remain live for twice as long. A former employee who initially makes no further contact could still begin proceedings several months after leaving. By that time, memories may have faded, Committee members may have changed and relevant documents or CCTV recordings may no longer be available.

Therefore, any important conversations with an employee should be followed by a dated written note. Notes should identify who attended, what was discussed and any explanation given by the employee. A Tribunal is more likely to place weight on a record made at the time than on someone's recollection many months later.

Bingo, Poker and Club Lotteries: A Simple Reminder

Bingo nights, poker games and raffles are familiar activities in many clubs, but they remain subject to gambling law. Committees should identify which rules apply before advertising an event or selling tickets.

Private society lotteries

A private society lottery can be used for a regular members' draw. Tickets may be sold to members and to non-members who are on the Club's premises. They cannot be sold to the general public elsewhere.

Every ticket must cost the same amount and rollovers are not permitted. After reasonable expenses and prizes have been paid, the proceeds must be used for the Club's purposes or another good cause.

Incidental lotteries

An incidental lottery is a raffle or tombola held alongside another event, such as a music evening, dinner or fête. The lottery must not be the main reason for holding the event.

Tickets may only be sold at the event, although the draw can take place during or after it. Rollovers are prohibited. No more than £100 may be deducted for organising expenses and no more than £500 may be used to purchase prizes, although donated prizes can be worth more. The remaining proceeds must go to the Club or another good cause.

Small society lotteries

A larger or publicly promoted Club lottery may need to be registered with the local licensing authority. A small society lottery must raise no more than £20,000 in a single draw and no more than £250,000 across a calendar year.

Tickets must contain the prescribed information and all entries must cost the same. At least 20 per cent of the proceeds must be applied to the purposes of the Club. The maximum single prize is £25,000. Rollovers are permitted, provided the statutory limits are observed.



Your passport to Conservative Clubs countrywide.

The Association of Conservative Clubs' Inter-Affiliation Tickets

CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Bingo

A members' club can provide bingo under a Club Gaming Permit. The combined stakes or prizes must not exceed £2,000 in any seven-day period.

A participation fee of up to £3 per person per day may be charged under the permit. This must be kept clearly separate from the money staked on the bingo, as all stakes must be returned to players as prizes. For example, if a Club charges £7, it could identify £3 as the participation fee and £4 as the bingo stake. The £4 stake must be returned through the prize fund.

Poker

A Club Gaming Permit allows poker with a participation fee of up to £3 per person per day. Although there are no statutory stakes or prize limits under this particular permit, that does not allow a Club to operate a commercial poker venue.

The Club must be established wholly or mainly for purposes other than gaming. Games must take place on the Club premises, must not be linked to games elsewhere, and must be limited to genuine members and their guests. The Club must not deduct money from the stakes or winnings.

The above rules will differ where a Club has no Club Gaming Permit or holds only a Club Machine Permit, including much lower limits for poker.

Choosing a Utility Supplier: Check Before the Club Commits

Finding a utility company that can be recommended consistently has proved something of a holy grail for the ACC. We receive regular complaints from clubs about suppliers, brokers and contracts which were not properly understood when they were agreed.

Unlike most domestic energy arrangements, a business energy contract will not normally include a cooling-off period. An agreement made over the telephone can be legally binding, so the Committee should not commit until it has received and reviewed the complete terms in writing.

Do not compare quotations using the unit price alone. The Committee should establish:

- the charge for each unit of gas or electricity;
- the daily standing charge;
- any metering, administration or broker fees;
- whether prices are genuinely fixed;
- the length of the contract;
- the proposed supply commencement date;
- what happens when the fixed term ends;
- how much notice is required to prevent renewal; and
- whether there are penalties for leaving early.

The most useful comparison is the estimated total annual cost, calculated using the Club's actual consumption from recent bills. A low unit price can be outweighed by a high standing charge, particularly for a Club with modest or seasonal usage.

Longer fixed contracts provide protection if wholesale prices rise, but they also remove the opportunity to benefit if prices fall. Business energy contracts can last for several years and suppliers will not usually allow a Club to leave before the end. Committees should therefore be cautious about accepting a lengthy agreement simply because the salesperson describes the current offer as urgent.

Energy brokers can help obtain and compare quotations, but they are not necessarily independent advisers. They normally receive a fee or commission, which may be paid directly or incorporated into the Club's energy bill. Ask the broker to disclose the amount,

explain how it is calculated and identify which suppliers were included in the comparison.

Established suppliers with dedicated business services, including British Gas and Octopus Energy, can be approached directly. Their quotations should be considered alongside those obtained from brokers and smaller suppliers. Price is important, but billing accuracy, customer service and the ability to resolve problems also deserve consideration.

Particular care should be taken with any letter of authority. A Committee may wish to authorise a broker to obtain consumption information or quotations, but that is very different from authorising the broker to enter a supply contract on the Club's behalf. The document should be read closely and any wider contracting authority removed. Ideally, the final contract should require express approval from properly authorised Club officers.

Before changing supplier, record the meter numbers and take dated photographs of the readings. Keep the quotation, contract, terms and conditions, broker correspondence and evidence of the Committee's approval. The contract-end date and notice deadline should then be entered in the Club diary well in advance.

Allowing a contract to expire without action can place the Club on expensive out-of-contract or deemed rates. Some contracts automatically renew. Ensure when entering into any contract that the Committee is clearly aware of how long the contract is for and does the contract automatically renew. If it does renew, how much notice is required to end the renewal – in many cases such notice will be required several months before the end of the contract.

The safest approach is simple: compare the complete cost, understand precisely what is being agreed and never allow pressure from a salesperson or broker to rush the Committee's decision.

WANT TO WIN £1,000 AND HELP US FIGHT ELECTIONS?

Make every week a potential winner with the Conservative Lottery.

It pays to support the Conservative Party. Sometimes literally. The Conservative Lottery lets you support the party and win cash prizes at the same time. Our lottery has raised millions for our campaigns. It's got a cash prize of £1,000 every single week. And it costs just £1 a week to enter. So why not take part?

Sign up at lottery.conservatives.com

How does the lottery work?	How much can I win?	How does the lottery support the party?
It couldn't be simpler. All you have to do is visit the website and buy your entries!	There's £1,000 up for grabs every single week. And if that's not enough, there's also £5,000 up for grabs in our regular superdraws.	Your entry fee supports our campaigns. So by taking part in our lottery, you're helping us win elections and build back better.

Ready to play? Just visit lottery.conservatives.com

National Conservative Draws Society is licensed and regulated in Great Britain by the Gambling Commission under Account No. 5027. www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk. Must be 18 or over to play. Underage gambling is an offence. £1 per entry. Promoter: The National Conservative Draws Society (NCDS), 1 Norfolk Row, London, SE1 7JP. Responsible Person: Philip Dumville. Full terms & conditions, how proceeds are used and the likelihood of winning a prize can be found at: lottery.conservatives.com. Winners will be notified by post. All proceeds from the Conservative Lottery go to the National Conservative Draws Society (NCDS), which although being independent of the Conservative Party, donates all profits to the Party or Conservative candidates.



THE UK'S LEADING INSURANCE BROKER FOR ACC CLUBS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



The Trusted Insurance Partner to ACC Affiliated Clubs Since 2013

For over a decade, hundreds of ACC member clubs have chosen Club Insure to protect what matters most — their clubhouse, their members and their community.

As the official insurance partner to the Association of Conservative Clubs, we understand that your club is more than a building. It's a meeting place, a hub for local life, and often a cornerstone of the community.

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.

We believe in traditional service values. Real people. Real conversations. Clear advice. No call centres. No jargon. Just experienced professionals who understand your sector and take the time to get things right.

When you work with Club Insure, you benefit from:

- Club-specific insurance cover designed for ACC affiliated clubs
- A dedicated in-house claims team focused on fast, fair settlements
- Access to discounted HR, Health & Safety and Risk Management support
- Competitive premium finance options to help manage cashflow
- Ongoing guidance from specialists who understand club governance and operations

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.

A Lifetime of Service: Mike Costall Steps Down as Chairman

After an extraordinary 29 years at the helm, Mike Costall is stepping down as Chairman of his Club, bringing to a close a remarkable chapter of service and leadership.

Mike first joined the Club in 1974 and, in his own words, immediately “fell in love with the place”. He soon became involved with the Club’s crown green bowls team, progressing through the ranks to captain the A team and helping to secure numerous trophies along the way. A formidable competitor, Mike became particularly well known for his skill on the “long marks” and his ability as a corner-corner bowler.

His involvement with the Club extended far beyond the bowling green. Mike joined the Committee in 1988 before becoming Chairman in 1997, a position he has held ever since. During that time he also served as Chairman of the Club’s

bowls section and, for many years, Chairman of the Wallasey Bowls Association.

Much of Mike’s contribution has taken place quietly behind the scenes. Over the years he has helped prepare and maintain the bowling green in all weathers, supplied the flagstones surrounding the green at no cost to the Club, helped construct the shelter and its roof, assisted with new fencing and even helped install an external toilet for members. It is a record of practical, unpaid service carried out simply for the benefit of the Club and its members.

Mike and his wife Sylvia have also been familiar faces at the Club’s many social events over the years, from functions in the former ballroom to the Saturday night entertainment enjoyed today, as well as joining fellow members on the Club’s annual holidays around the UK.



Club President Cal Forber paid tribute to Mike’s contribution, saying his leadership, vision and dedication had helped shape the Club and inspired those who served alongside him.

Under Mike’s stewardship, the Club has continued to develop and improve its facilities while retaining the strong community spirit which first attracted him more than 50 years ago.

Mike now hands over the

Chairman’s role to Brian McKeown, but thankfully he will not be disappearing from Club life. He will remain as a general Committee member, continuing to offer the benefit of his considerable experience and advice.

The Committee and members extend their warmest thanks to Mike for his exceptional service and wish him every happiness as he begins this new chapter.

Phil Wood Memorial Golf Day Raises Funds for Air Ambulance

A fantastic charity golf day held in memory of Phil Wood has raised valuable funds for the Air Ambulance, thanks to the generosity of golfers, local businesses and everyone who supported the event.

The Phil Wood Memorial Charity Golf Day brought together golfers,

friends, families and supporters for an enjoyable day of sport, fundraising and remembrance, all in aid of the vital lifesaving work carried out by the Air Ambulance.

The event received tremendous backing from the local community, with businesses generously donating prizes for the raffle as

well as a number of impressive auction items, including a holiday. Their support helped make the fundraising element of the day a great success.

All money raised will go towards supporting the Air Ambulance and the essential emergency service it provides to communities across the

region.

The accompanying photograph shows the golfers alongside staff and Committee members of Downham & Clackclose Conservative Club, who helped make the day such a memorable and successful occasion.



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.

Consumer behaviour and industry trends – global perspectives

A report from REACH has highlighted the challenges for On-Premise suppliers in 2026. It also confirms, however, the enduring global passion for eating and drinking out. The study is based on a survey of 34,500 On-Premise consumers in 46 countries.

Total premises visits are down by 5.0% year-on-year, and NIQ's On-Premise Measurement solution indicates similar drops in the volumes of beer and spirits in key territories. Nevertheless, around three in five (59%) consumers still go out weekly, and 57% say they would feel lost or disappointed if they couldn't go out. And crucially, fewer visits don't mean lower spend.

While volumes dropped in the 12 months to April 2026, the value of sales actually rose. Consumers might be visiting less, but they are maximising their spend when they do go out, and it is creating higher-value and more intentional occasions.

Consumers' future plans provide more reasons for optimism. More than a fifth (22%) plan to visit venues more often in the next three months – notably more than the 14% who will go out less. Gen Z are a particularly attractive audience, because they are 11 percentage points more likely than average to visit the On-Premise weekly.

Football in June and July was boosted by the FIFA World Cup. This has shown that when consumers are given compelling reasons to go out, they will respond; not just for big sporting events but for live music, festivals, food halls and other experience-led occasions. People want to prioritise moments that feel special, create memories and make their trip worthwhile. Suppliers and operators who reach beyond traditional On-Premise settings into these high-engagement occasions can drive reach, and volume.

The moderation movement

Major changes in consumers' needs include moderation. More than three in five (62%) consumers are now moderating their alcohol consumption, while three quarters (76%) of operators say they are changing their offer to accommodate these moderators.

But there are opportunities as well as challenges



here, with many moderators saving alcohol for selected occasions, or looking for mid-strength serves and alcohol-free alternatives on every day and lower tempo occasions. Making it easy for consumers to achieve this controlled enjoyment will be the key to unlocking their spend.

A new place for premium

Brands and operators also need to redefine their role in the premium space. Despite pressure on disposable incomes, more than half (55%) of consumers are still likely to pay more for a better-quality drink. Asked about their plans with a set amount of money, 63% of consumers stated that they would buy one or two high-quality drinks while

just 9% would choose four or five standard or value ones.

However, while 'less but better' remains popular, this preference has softened year-on-year as consumers become increasingly selective with discretionary spending. They are redefining what quality and premium mean, with the all-round experience of a drink becoming just as important as what's in the glass. Service, atmosphere and execution all shape perceptions of value, and premium is no longer simply a product attribute; it is something that must be delivered in the moment.

For the full report, visit The On-Premise Consumer-Global Perspectives from REACH 2026

• nielseniq.com

Regional Winners announced in CAMRA Club of the Year

The 14 clubs going through as Regional Winners in the 2026 CAMRA Club of the Year competition have been announced.

Run in partnership with Club Mirror and the Club Awards since 2014, the prestigious CAMRA Club of the Year competition recognises clubs that combine excellent beer, outstanding facilities and a welcoming atmosphere with a thriving club community.

The 14 Regional Winners have been invited to the Club Awards in Leicester on 25 November, where the four Super Regional Finalists will be announced. These four clubs will then face mystery judging as they battle it out for the ultimate accolade – CAMRA Club of the Year 2026.

THE REGIONAL WINNERS ARE:

Super Region 1

North West

Blackpool Cricket Club

West Midlands

St George's Sports & Social Club

Merseyside – Cheshire

Appleton Thorn Village Hall

Super Region 2

North East

Billingham Catholic Club

Yorkshire

Knowl Club

East Midlands

Empingham Cricket Club



2025 CAMRA Club of the Year Winner, Billingham Catholic Club

Super Region 3

East Anglia

Carleton Rode Club

South East

Albatross Club (RAFA)

Greater London

Orpington Liberal Club

East Central

Hitchin Rugby Club

Super Region 4

Wales

Sebastopol Social Club

South West

Backwell Village Club

South Central

Corfe Castle

West Central

Cookley Sports Club

• clubawards.co.uk



Shandy surges in popularity

Google Trends data shows that searches for 'shandy' have increased by 150% over the past three months compared with the previous three, while searches for 'how to make shandy' have rocketed by a remarkable 5,000%.

The trend is also reflected in sales data from Shandy Shack, which has tracked demand since launching in 2018, founded to challenge outdated assumptions about the drink.

According to Shandy Shack, the resurgence comes as the way Brits drink continues to evolve. Recent data from the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA) shows that low- and no-alcohol beer is the fastest-growing category in the UK drinks market, with volumes up 870% since 2013.

Last year, around 200 million low- and no-alcohol beers were consumed in the UK – making it the category's most successful year on record and highlighting the growing appetite for lighter, more refreshing ways to enjoy a drink.

Tom Stevens, founder of Shandy Shack, said: "More and more people want flavour and quality, but they don't necessarily want something that's going to knock them sideways after a couple. Whether you're watching the football, spending all day at a festival, firing up the BBQ or sat in a pub garden with your mates, people want a drink they can enjoy throughout the whole occasion – and that's exactly where shandy comes into its own."

The UK's top 10 shandy-loving cities

Shandy Shack analysed its sales data since launch in 2018 to identify the UK's biggest shandy hotspots.

1. London
2. Bristol
3. Reading
4. Manchester
5. Oxford
6. Southampton
7. Birmingham
8. Cheltenham
9. Liverpool
10. Salisbury

Edinburgh narrowly missed out on the top 10, ranking 11th in the UK's shandy rankings.

• shandyshack

Hydration key for younger members, says Sunmagine Juices

Soft drinks supplier, Sunmagine Juices, is helping operators address concerns around proper hydration levels in children with its Hydra Juice range.

A study published in *Physiology & Behaviour* reported that 17% of children begin the day dehydrated, with this number jumping to 40% by the end of the day.

In order to encourage more regular drinking, operators should ensure their offering includes flavour-led products to appeal to young people's preferences according to Sunmagine Juices. The company has launched Hydra Juice, designed to balance taste and hydration, made with a 50%-50% blend of juice and water.

Hannah Richardson, Marketing Executive at Sunmagine Juices, said: "We've developed Hydra Juice with health in mind. This drink is naturally lower in sugar and calories than traditional juice to support healthier choices, meaning it will meet the nutritional expectations of parents and carers who still appealing to the young people drinking it."

The juices come in six flavours – Orange, Apple,



Apple & Mango, Tropical, Mixed Berry, Strawberry & Cherry.

• sunmaginejuices.co.uk

Taylor's unveils its first Very, Very Old White Port



Taylor's first Very, Very Old White Port (VVOP White) is born from generations of stewardship, more than 80 years of patience and over three centuries of vision.

Drawn from a small reserve of historic White Ports - with some components dating back to 1896 - Taylor's VVOP White is the oldest White Port ever released by the House, an exceptionally rare wine, crafted from White Ports aged for more than 80 years in seasoned oak casks.

The wines that make up Taylor's VVOP White were laid down by people who would never see them bottled. Each generation that followed inherited the responsibility of caring for them, preserving them and ultimately deciding whether they should one day be shared.

David Guimaraens, Taylor's Head Winemaker and Master Blender, said: "When you're working with Port wines that have been ageing for decades, you're making decisions that honour the work of people who are no longer here. That's both a privilege and a tremendous responsibility."

• taylor.pt

Darkness Falls returns to Oakham Ales' line-up

First brewed in 2024, Darkness Falls has returned to Peterborough-based Oakham Ales' Cask Aged range.

At 5.2% ABV, the cask-aged black beer combines UK-sourced Harlequin hops with Cascade from the USA, delivering spicy and fruity flavours, including black-currant, citrus lemon and a hint of grape-fruit bitterness.



The complex malt mix includes Maris Otter, Wheat, Black, Chocolate, Caramalt and Medium Crystal malts, with Flaked Oats adding a smooth, soft mouthfeel.

• oakhamales.co.uk - Darkness Falls

Pimm's and Aperol record the strongest seasonal uplift

Pimm's has recorded the largest seasonal increase of any alcoholic beverage brand, as measured using the YouGov BrandIndex (27 April to 26 July 2026*). Its score rises from 6.7% in winter to 12.3% in summer, an increase of 5.6 percentage points.

Aperol records the second-largest increase, climbing from 6.9% to 9.9% (+3.0 points), reflecting stronger consideration during the summer months.

Smirnoff also records a notable increase, rising from 12.8% in winter to 14.0% in summer (+1.2 points).

Several other brands also see higher purchase consideration in summer, although the increases are smaller.

WKD (+0.7 points) and Hooch (+0.6 points) record the next largest gains, while Campari (+0.4 points), Grey Goose and Malibu (+0.3 points each) follow. Jameson Ginger and Lime (+0.2 points) and Archers (+0.1 points) also see modest improvements compared with winter.



* Using YouGov BrandIndex data from 27 April to 26 July 2026 and comparing it with 1 December 2025 to 1 March 2026, this analysis examines which alcoholic beverage brands see the largest increase in Consideration during the summer months. YouGov BrandIndex collects data on thousands of brands on a daily basis.

• yougov.com

Which alcoholic beverages are UK people more likely to consider buying in summer than winter

Brand name	Score (%)	Previous score (%)	Change in score
Pimm's	12.3	6.7	5.6
Aperol	9.9	6.9	3.0
Smirnoff	14.0	12.8	1.2
WKD	3.4	2.7	0.7
Hooch	2.7	2.1	0.6
Campari	4.1	3.7	0.4
Grey Goose	5.6	5.3	0.3
Malibu	6.3	6.0	0.3
Jameson Ginger and Lime	1.2	1.0	0.2
Archers	3.8	3.7	0.1

Borders Distillery launches tribute to Scottish pioneer

The Borders Distillery has unveiled the fourth and final expression in its blended whisky Workshop Series with the launch of 'Deep Time', a limited edition bottling inspired by the pioneering Scottish geologist and farmer James Hutton, marking 300 years since his birth.

From the soils he cultivated as a farmer to the rocks he studied as a scientist, Hutton recognised the powerful relationship between land, water and time.

Giancarlo Bianchi, Managing Director, said: "Deep Time is a fitting conclusion to our Workshop Series. As we close this chapter, we're also celebrating how these experimental releases have helped lay the foundations for our single malt, giving us invaluable insight into the character and potential of our spirit."

• thebordersdistillery.co.uk



ZCF expands supply chain collaboration



Zero Carbon Forum (ZCF) has welcomed Sysco GB as its first wholesaler Supplier Member, extending the hospitality and brewing industry's collaborative model into the food and drink supply chain.

The move builds on the Forum's model that has already brought together competing operators including Burger King, KFC and McDonald's to tackle shared operational challenges.

For the first time, leading suppliers and wholesalers will work alongside operators to improve supply chain data, develop practical solutions and accelerate action that strengthens resilience while reducing emissions across the food and drink value chain.

Mark Chapman, Founder and CEO of Zero Carbon Forum, said: "We've already proven that

businesses can achieve far more when they collaborate on the challenges they all share. Competitors across hospitality and brewing have worked together through the Forum to halve direct energy emissions and save millions of pounds because they recognised there is commercial value in solving industry-wide problems collectively."

Sysco GB will contribute directly to the Forum's work on supply chain resilience and decarbonisation, including the Beef Action Group, Dairy Roadmap and menu development programmes. They will also help improve emissions data collection, support supplier engagement and share expertise in logistics, sourcing and operational efficiency.

• zerocarboncompany.org

Macmillan Coffee Morning returns on 25 September

Macmillan Coffee Morning is set to return on Friday 25 September 2026, raising vital funds for those living with cancer.

The first Coffee Morning took place in 1990, when a group of people came together over coffee and donated the cost of their drink to Macmillan. The idea proved so successful that the event was repeated the following year on a national scale.

While the format may vary, the aim remains the same: to raise money to support the almost 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer.

Suggested activities to encourage involvement:

- *Hosting a quiz.* Test your attendees' knowledge on different subjects.
- *Hold a raffle.* Ask attendees or local businesses to donate items for the raffle.



• *Make it a competition.* Present prizes for the best baked item/s brought to the Coffee Morning. Or if you're having a themed event, the best fancy dress.

More games and resources are available free for downloading at:

• macmillan.org.uk



Lockhart Catering Equipment partners with US blender company

Lockhart Catering Equipment has partnered with Blendtec. The US based company has been producing high-quality commercial blenders since 1975, with an emphasis on speed, sound, and smoothness.

Stealth (pictured above) delivers industrial strength power without industrial strength noise.

Lockhart customers will also be able to purchase Blendtec's Connoisseur 825 and Connoisseur 825 SpaceSaver models, as well as a purpose-built Blendtec Rinse Station that streamlines the cleaning process between blends.

Each blender benefits from durable, lightweight, stackable, and NSF Certified jars, and a blunt safety blade which is stronger than traditional blades to ensure longevity. Blendtec's drive socket is made of steel, meaning they are virtually indestructible.

• lockhart.co.uk

Fresh Direct strengthens commitment to British produce

Leading fresh produce supplier Fresh Direct has reaffirmed its commitment to British growers with an expanded programme of activity supporting Love British Food and this year's British Food Fortnight (17 September – 2 October, 2026), as well as expanding its own Best of British campaign.

The renewed partnership highlights Fresh Direct's strategic focus on championing seasonal, home grown produce and helping chefs put more British ingredients at the heart of their menus.

The business now works with more than 100 growers nationwide, sourcing all contracted British produce from LEAF Marque accredited farms, ensuring independently verified standards in soil health, biodiversity, water stewardship and energy management.

Fresh Direct's commitment has led to strong customer demand for British produce, with categories such as British asparagus, purple sprouting broccoli, Isle of Wight tomatoes and Chef's Choice potatoes showing particularly strong sales.

Andy Pembroke, Managing Director of Fresh Direct, said: "Championing British produce is central to who we are. Our growers deliver outstanding quality, and our customers want British ingredients when they're in season and at their best. Renewing our support for Love British Food and British Food Fortnight is a natural extension of our commitment to sourcing sustainable products with provenance and championing the future of British farming."

• freshdirect.co.uk

Tooting Conservative & Unionist Club Celebrates 140 Years

Tooting Conservative & Unionist Club celebrated its remarkable 140th anniversary in July with a full weekend of events bringing together members, families and guests.

The celebrations began with a Charity Race Night, which raised an impressive £1,080. The proceeds were divided between MIND and the Oncology Services at St George's Hospital in Tooting. The well-attended evening saw mixed fortunes on the horses, but everyone enjoyed themselves while raising money for two very worthwhile causes.

On Saturday evening, the Club held its official 140th Anniversary Celebration and Presentation Night. Acting as Master of Ceremonies was Alan Boniface, who has been a member of the Club since 1967, is a long-serving former Officer of the Club and currently serves on the ACC Council.

The guest of honour was ACC Chairman, Lord Smith of Hindhead, who was delighted to present a number of ACC long-service awards to members of the Club.

David Molloy received his Lifetime Membership Plaque. David has served on the Committee since 1989 and became Chairman in 2007.

Tony Buckley received his 25-year bars. Tony has been a Committee member since 1987 and became Club Secretary in 2024.

John Hill received his 20-year bars, having served on the Committee since 2004.

Philomena Canning received her five-year award. Philomena joined the Committee in 2020 and became Treasurer in 2022.

Bosco Rodrigues, Eileen Harkin and Marzena Grabowska also received five-year awards,

having each joined the Committee in 2021.

Following the presentations and speeches, members and guests enjoyed a traditional buffet before being entertained by Motown tribute act Soul Kinda Wonderful. The group proved a tremendous success, keeping members singing and dancing into the early hours. Unsurprisingly, there were a few sore feet and hoarse voices around the Club the following day!

The celebrations continued on Sunday with a Garden Party featuring a barbecue, garden games and live music. Many members brought their families along and the event perfectly demonstrated the Club's strong community spirit, with children enjoying the garden and sunshine while "BBQ Queen" Eileen made sure everyone was well fed.

The weekend proved to be a

memorable celebration of the Club's history and was made possible by the hard work of the Committee, staff and members.

Club Treasurer Philomena Canning said:

"It was hard work, and there was a lot of preparation and organising to get the weekend the way we wanted it to be, but it was worth it in the end. We all had a great time and the members loved it. Our Steward and bar staff had their work cut out for a full-on weekend, but stepped up with the usual great service."

After such a successful anniversary weekend, the Club is already thinking that it might do it all again for its 150th anniversary, provided everyone has recovered by then!

Awards were handed out on the evening - please see photos and captions of recipients across the page.





Marzena Grabowska



David Molloy



Tony Buckley



Philomena Canning



Alan Boniface



Bosco Rodrigues



Eileen Harkin



David Molloy presenting



John Hill

A Warm Welcome at Patricroft

The Patricroft Conservative Club in Eccles recently welcomed representatives from the North West Area Conservative Clubs Advisory Committee, including Chairman Leon Tamcken and Secretary Lyndon Watkin.

During the visit, the team met Club Secretary Josh Thomond and Bar Supervisor Dan Rowbotham, who provided a tour of the Club and

an update on its recent activities.

It has been a busy few months for the hardworking team at Patricroft, with the Club hosting a summer snooker shootout competition and installing a new pool table as it continues to develop its sporting and social offering for members.

The visitors also met Club member Matt Phillips who, together with Club Secretary Josh

Thomond, was recently crowned a winner of the Bolton and District Snooker League's Malc Cannon Cup, providing another sporting success for the Club to celebrate.

Alongside its regular activities, Patricroft Conservative Club is also an important venue for the wider local community. The Club has two private function rooms available to hire by members

and non-members seven days a week, regularly hosting occasions including birthdays, weddings, christenings, baby showers and funeral gatherings.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for the North West Area team to see first-hand the work being undertaken at Patricroft and to catch up with those helping to keep the Club active and thriving.



Phil Wood Memorial Golf Day Raises Funds for Air Ambulance

Dunsar Conservative Club has once again demonstrated its fantastic community spirit after raising an impressive £7,281 for The Christie.

The money was raised through a charity karaoke night held at the Club, with members, guests and supporters coming together for an evening of entertainment while supporting one of the North West's

best-known cancer charities.

The event featured plenty of music and a hugely successful raffle, with a wide variety of prizes generously donated by local businesses and supporters. The tremendous response helped the fundraising total climb to £7,281, all of which will support the vital work undertaken by The Christie.

The Christie provides specialist

cancer care to patients from across the region and beyond, alongside world-leading cancer research and treatment.

Dunsar Conservative Club, based in Bromley Cross, has a proud record of supporting charitable causes and playing an active role within its local community. The Club has previously hosted a number of successful fundraising

events and continues to provide a welcoming venue for members, guests and community activities.

Congratulations to everyone at Dunsar Conservative Club who helped organise and support another outstanding fundraising effort.

Story inspired by reporting in The Bolton News.



Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back to December 1956, when Tooting Conservative & Unionist Club featured on the front cover of The Conservative Clubs Magazine.

The photograph shows the Club's premises in Tooting as they appeared almost 70 years ago, with the Club forming part of the magazine's long-running "Our Clubs" series.

It is particularly fitting to revisit Tooting this month, as elsewhere in the magazine we report on the Club's recent celebrations marking its 140th anniversary. From its early years in the late nineteenth century, through its appearance on our cover in 1956 and on to the present day, the Club has remained part of the local community for well over a century.

The 1956 cover provides a fascinating reminder both of the Club's long history and of the considerable heritage shared by Conservative Clubs across the country.



THE
CONSERVATIVE
CLUBS MAGAZINE



INCORPORATING THE CONSERVATIVE CLUBS GAZETTE & THE CLUBMAN

Vol. VII No. 12

DECEMBER, 1956

Sixpence



OUR CLUBS—LXXXIV

Tooting Conservative & Unionist Club, S.W.17

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATIVE CLUBS LTD.

The WOW factor!

stunning machines, fantastic entertainment



Dransfields bring you the latest exciting, innovative products for your club

We have an extensive range of the latest state-of-the-art machines including Game Master 2, Cyclone and Hi Maxx cabinets, adding a touch of class to any venue.

As the home of the Lucky Dip Lottery and **SPOTLIGHT**, the ultimate entertainment system, we have everything you need to keep your venue thriving.

Dransfields is the UK's largest independent supplier of gaming and amusement machines to private members clubs, pubs and the licensed trade.

With over 75 years' club and pub industry experience, we have unrivalled expertise with the very highest levels of service and support to help you generate profits for your venue.



THE ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM



FANTASTIC INSTALLATION DEALS:

- Category B4 and C machines
- B3A lottery machines
- Pull tab products
 - Jukeboxes
 - Pool tables
 - Spotlight Entertainment System



Dransfields
LOCAL SERVICE, NATIONAL STRENGTH

Call 0345 644 9414
enquiries@dransfields.com



Recommended supplier to the Association of Conservative Clubs