

# *CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE*



February 2017 50p



## **‘Come on Eileen!’ – Oxton’s Double Celebration**

**Daventry, Newark and Burley Charity Fundraising Reports**

**Rt Hon Greg Clark MP - ACC President**

**Club Law and Management – How to Deal with Club Fraud**

# Newark Conservative Club Raises Money For Macmillan

CONSERVATIVE  
CLUBS  
MAGAZINE

## CONTENTS

Pontefract Supports Remembrance Sunday	3
Rt Hon Greg Clark MP - ACC President	5
Club Law and Management	4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Daventry Charity Fundraising Report	9
Prime Minister Portrait Now Available To Order	9
Cullingworth and Paddock Clubs Host Christmas Parties	11
Burley Club Member in Hair Raising Experience	13
Oxton Conservative Club's Double Celebration	14
Pages From The Past	15
ACC Order Form	16

The Newark Conservative Club, Nottinghamshire, held an Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise money for this popular and important Charity.

In total the Club raised £730 from the Coffee Morning and the event was well attended by Club Members and their guests. Along with the usual coffee and cakes stalls, there was a tombola stall and a book stall which were both popular. The Club has also held

competitions over the preceding five weeks to maximise the amount of money which was collected for Macmillan.

A Macmillan Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Support's flagship fundraising event. Each year, members of the general public host their own coffee morning to collect money. The donations received go towards Macmillan services and to support those suffering from cancer.



Members of the Club pictured with the cheque.

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# Pontefract Supports Remembrance Sunday

Chelsea Pensioners travelled to Pontefract to lay a wreath on behalf of the Pontefract Conservative Club, Yorkshire.

The Pontefract Conservative Club once again played host to the Chelsea Pensioners from R.H. Chelsea on Remembrance Sunday weekend. Six Chelsea Pensioners travelled up to Pontefract and were accommodated at a local hotel, the Kings Croft, owned by one of the Club's Members. On the Friday before Remembrance Sunday the Chelsea Pensioners

visited a local school where the children learned about the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the different military experiences of each of the Pensioners. All the children enjoyed the day and wrote letters of thanks for the Pensioners.

On Saturday morning the Chelsea Pensioners were out and about in Pontefract assisting Royal British Legion Poppy sellers in the local supermarkets and on the streets promoting Poppy sales. Hospitality was then put on in the Club for the Pensioners to enjoy.



Pictures From The Day.



On Remembrance Sunday they led the parade and were well supported by local residents. The Pensioners laid two wreaths, one on behalf of the Pontefract Conservative Club and one on behalf of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. They were accompanied on the March by the Club's President. They were then entertained for the rest of the day in the Club where Members joined them for lunch and entertainment was provided by an excellent female vocalist with a 'Land of Hope and Glory' singalong.



## PLANNING A CLUB DAY OUT?

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[www.chesterconservativeclub.uk](http://www.chesterconservativeclub.uk)

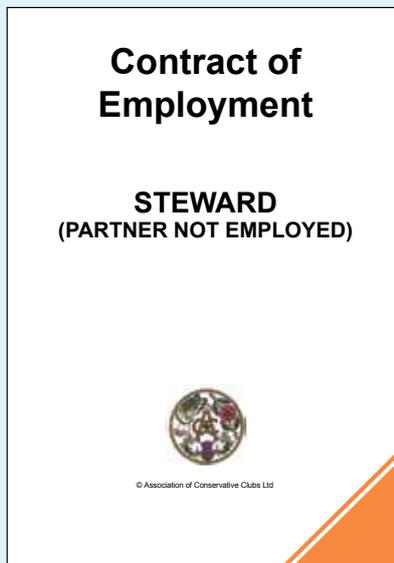
# ACC Contracts of Employment

The ACC are pleased to supply a range of Employment Contracts. These contracts are designed specifically to comply with the needs of ACC Clubs and are produced to a high quality with a glossy finish. All Contracts were fully revised and updated in 2015, with minor revisions made in 2016, and are compliant with all current UK legislation. We recommend that all Clubs use our current contracts of employment for their employees.

All Contract Packs now include a high quality and durable employee disciplinary and grievance policy handbook which should assist both Clubs and employees when these issues arise. Contracts for use with employees who live on the Club's premises now come with a specifically drafted Service Occupancy Agreement for the employees, and their partners if applicable, to sign in relation to their accommodation.

Our newest introduction to our contracts range is a contract of employment for use by Clubs which employ Bar Managers. We know that many Clubs employ Bar Managers as opposed to Club Stewards and we are pleased to now supply a specific contract pack for Bar Managers.

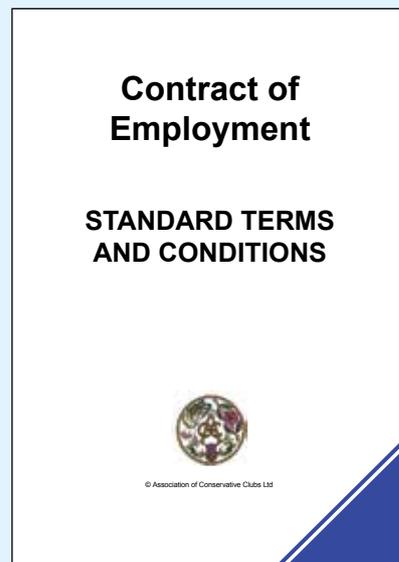
The contracts which are offered by the ACC are as follows:



### Steward Contract

Appropriate for a Club employing a Steward with or without accommodation included. Each contract pack costs £25 and includes:

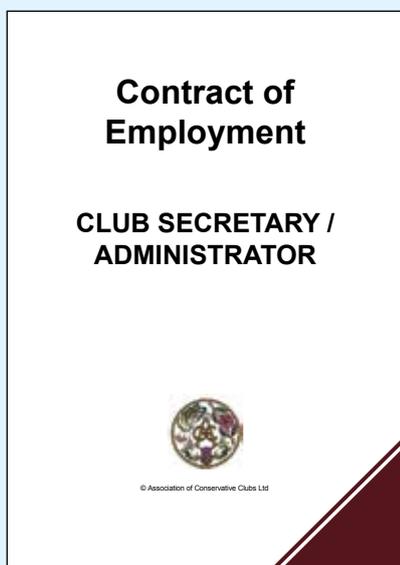
- 2 x Club Steward Contract
- 2 x Service Occupancy Agreement
- 2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



### Standard Terms and Conditions of Employment

Appropriate for a wide range of Club Employees (bar employees, cleaners, general part time employees etc.). Each contract pack costs £15 and includes:

- 2 x Standard Terms and Conditions of Employment Contract
- 2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



**Club Secretary/Administrator Contract**  
Appropriate for Clubs which employ, rather than elect, a Club Secretary. Each contract pack costs £20 and includes:

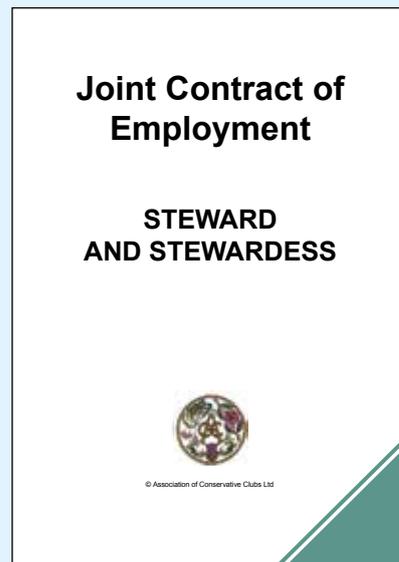
- 2 x Club Secretary Contract
- 2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



### Bar Manager Contract

Appropriate for a Club employing a Bar Manager without accommodation. Each contract pack costs £20 and includes:

- 2 x Bar Manager Contract
- 2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



### Steward and Stewardess Joint Contract

Appropriate for a Club employing a Steward and Stewardess on a joint contract of employment with or without accommodation included. Each contract pack costs £25 and includes:

- 2 x Club Steward and Stewardess Contract
- 2 x Service Occupancy Agreement
- 2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.

**Please contact the ACC with any questions regarding the new contracts of employment.**

**To order any of the above contract packs please place an order online at [www.toryclubs.co.uk](http://www.toryclubs.co.uk), email [charles@toryclubs.co.uk](mailto:charles@toryclubs.co.uk) or phone 0207 222 0868.**

# CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

## ACC President 2017 – Rt Hon Greg Clark MP

The ACC is delighted to announce that the President of the Association of Conservative Clubs for 2017 is the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club, which has been a member of the ACC since 1895 and is centrally located in Mr Clark's constituency of Tunbridge Wells, is delighted that their local Member of Parliament accepted the ACC's invitation to take on this honorary role for the year ahead.

As a former Director of Policy for the Conservative Party, Mr Clarke is well aware of the important role that Clubs play in supporting the Party's work, particularly during times of campaigning, and also the key social role which all clubs play in community life of towns and villages throughout the county.

Greg Clark said: 'It would be a tremendous honour to contribute to the Association's work and I have

very great pleasure in accepting this kind invitation'.

ACC members look forward to meeting Mr Clarke at the Association of Conservative Clubs' Annual General Meeting to be held on 3rd June.



## Club Gaming Machine Permits

The Gambling Commission is reminding all Clubs that Club Gaming Machine Permits issued upon introduction of the Gambling Act 2005 will expire this year and will need to be renewed. Club Gaming Machine Permits (CGMP) are issued for a period of 10 years and then need to be renewed, therefore for a large number of Clubs the renewal year will be 2017.

Clubs who are supplied by ACC Recommended Machine Supplier Dransfields will receive help and assistance with the renewal application from their Reps. Dransfields have also graciously offered to assist any Club, regardless of whether they are existing customers, with the renewal application. Dransfields can be contacted on **0113 244 4555**.

CGMPs that were first granted under the Act in 2007 will expire

in 2017 unless renewed. This does not, however, apply to a Permit which was granted under the fast track procedure which do not expire. If you are unsure if you hold a fast track permit, you may wish to contact your Local Authority to clarify.

An application to renew a permit must be made within three months of the expiry date and prior to six weeks before the expiry date. For example if a permit was issued on 1 October 2007, the application would need to be submitted between 1 July 2017 and 20 August 2017.

The process for renewal is exactly the same as for a new application and the renewal fee for Clubs is also the same as for a new application. Clubs can obtain the application form from their local authority and this is also normally available online as well.

## How to deal with possible Club financial fraud

Clubs should be prepared to act immediately on suspicions of fraud. Whether investigations are conducted in-house or by third party, it is important that the Club has a basic understanding of the investigation process and what you can and cannot do.

### Introduction

A range of investigation options are available to Clubs:-

- do nothing
- in-house investigation
- external investigation by professional advisers/consultants
- police investigation (potentially leading to criminal prosecution).

In the past the first reaction of a Committee was to phone the police to start a criminal investigation, however, more often than not the police fail to take action:

- The detective responsible for the investigation is called off to a more important crime, or
- The detective states there is insufficient evidence or there are just too many people 'with their finger in the

pie' to bring a successful criminal action.

So a Committee has to think carefully which course of action they take. The Committee's responsibility is to 'protect the Clubs assets', the best course of action is usually to take steps to recover the stolen money and to ensure no further losses occur.

The Fraud Advisory Panel have issued guidance on this subject and they point out that if the police are called you can no longer expect them to do all the work, they do not have the experience or the resources and it will be necessary for the Club to provide them with the documented evidence.

The Committee should also consider that criminal action may not be the best course. Law enforcement agencies focus on gaining a criminal conviction not gaining financial redress for the Club. Civil action is becoming more common, it is easier to satisfy the civil burden of proof than the criminal burden of proof, making civil recovery preferable in some cases. Taking civil action does not

To page 6 ►

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## ◀ From page 5

prevent a separate criminal charge being brought.

The option(s) pursued will depend upon the Club's objectives and appetite for taking action (disciplinary, regulatory, civil or criminal) against the suspected fraudster and a variety of other factors, such as the complexity of the case, the level of internal fraud investigation resource available, any legal and/or professional advice obtained and cost.

The investigation process can be quite complex for someone with little or no experience and it is important that Clubs give due consideration to the need for external professional advice to avoid falling foul of the law, contaminating important evidence and preventing further losses from occurring.

### Planning an investigation

Key issues to consider when planning an investigation should include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Are your objectives clear and have they been agreed upon. Identify any difficulties that may be encountered during the investigation. Has the cost

(time, money and resource) of the investigation been considered?

- Who will supervise the investigation and keep a record of it? What (if any) investigative skills are available in-house? Should you involve the police and/or appoint external professional advisers/investigators to conduct the investigation? Who should be aware of the fraud within the Club?
- Evaluate your evidence; consider the quality of evidence gathered, its relevance, reliability and admissibility. It is important to remember that there are different standards of proof that need to be met according to the type of action you wish to take against the fraudster – disciplinary, regulatory, civil or criminal. Legal and/or professional advice may need to be sought.
- Any action towards a suspect should be measured and justified. Particular care should be taken in cases involving employees to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to suspend them and/or restrict their security clearance/access.

If in doubt you should seek legal and/or professional advice.

### Reporting

Each stage of a fraud investigation should be documented. The written report should be accurate, relevant and chronologically referenced. The investigation report is likely to end up in court if the case is prosecuted, so it is crucial for the report to be clear and concise. Once the evidence is gathered the suspect should be interviewed and presented with the evidence. They should also be allowed an opportunity to respond to the evidence gathered. If it is a clear cut case or the suspect admits guilt, it should be assessed if they have any funds available and if they are willing to repay the Club immediately or in instalments. If it is unlikely that money will be voluntarily repaid then civil action, perhaps in the small claims court, could then be considered.

### DONT'S

- Allow too many people to know about the allegations before they are investigated.
- Make defamatory statements to members at the AGM. To protect the Club from a counter claim it may not be possible to tell the members all the facts.
- Allow individual officers and staff to confront the suspected fraudsters as this could not only lead to physical danger but also to the destruction of evidence.

### DO'S

- Consider the immediate actions that need to be taken to

preserve evidence and prevent further losses occurring.

- Use experienced experts to gather high quality evidence and witness statements.
- Evaluate all the costs of civil action both from the Club's professional advisors and the court.
- Consider the ability of the perpetrator to repay the missing funds.
- Follow legislation, specifically employment law if the perpetrator is an employee.
- Manage the flow of information about the investigation on a 'need to know basis', but be ready to react to internal rumour and/or external enquiry.
- Consider the use of 'parallel sanctions' and associated criminal or disciplinary proceedings for employees.

If the Committee establish a clear plan of action at the start of the investigation then the chances of success are greatly improved. Ultimately, any time that money does go missing- irrespective of the outcome of a fraud investigation – should be a wakeup call for the Committee to review the Club's money handling and banking policy to ensure as few people as possible have access to cash, that proper financial records are always kept and that random spot checks are undertaken to check the system is working effectively.

R H Jeffs & Rowe have assisted with this article. They are Club Accountants based in Wales and can be contacted on 01443 402116.

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## Premier League Fixtures for February

### Saturday 4 February

12.30pm Chelsea v Arsenal (Sky Sports)

5.30pm Tottenham Hotspur v Middlesbrough (BT Sport)

### Sunday 5 February

1.30pm Manchester City v Swansea City (Sky Sports)

4pm Leicester City v Manchester United (Sky Sports)

### Saturday 11 February

12.30pm Arsenal v Hull City (Sky Sports)

5.30pm Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur (BT Sport)

### Sunday 12 February

1.30pm Burnley v Chelsea (Sky Sports)

4pm Swansea City v Leicester City (Sky Sports)

### Monday 13 February

8pm AFC Bournemouth v Manchester City (Sky Sports)

### Saturday 25 February

5.30pm Watford v West Ham United (BT Sport)

### Sunday 26 February

12pm Tottenham Hotspur v Stoke City (Sky Sports)

2.15pm Manchester City v Manchester United (Sky Sports)

### Monday 27 February

8pm Leicester City v Liverpool (Sky Sports)

## Question and Answers

**Q** Could you let us know if we have to release our CCTV footage if a Member requests it? Also, how long should we retain such footage for?

**A** A person has the right to request CCTV footage of themselves. If requested, the Club must provide it to the person in question within 40 days and can charge up to £10 for doing so.

The person must make a request in writing for the CCTV footage and provide the Club with a specific date and time along with proof of their identity. The footage can be edited to protect the identities of other persons in the footage.

If the Club's CCTV system does not permit copies of footage to be made then the Club can comply with this requirement by inviting the person to the Club to view the footage in person.

You can refuse this request if sharing the footage would place a criminal investigation at risk, if this is a possibility the Police will be able to advise further regarding this point.

Commonly CCTV systems do retain footage for 31 days and the Police also recommend this timeframe. However, it is ultimately up to the Committee how long you store the CCTV footage that you record.

**Q** Our Committee has been considering the ACC's Sale and Leaseback service.

We are interested in going forward and need to know what we need to do next. Does the ACC obtain a valuation or can we submit to you a recent valuation which we have previously obtained.

Would you also need to visit the Club to view the property and meet the Committee before making a final decision? It is fair to say that our Club building has seen better days. Would you also need to review our Accounts?

**A** The next stage of the Sale and leaseback procedure

does not necessarily have to be very complicated at all.

We do not normally obtain our own valuation of the Club; we allow Clubs to obtain a valuation from a local surveyor which we will then review. Assuming the valuation is what we broadly expect then we would accept it without the need for a further valuation. We would then produce an outline of the offer which would outline the proposed ACC purchase price of the Club and then the monthly rent repayments which would be due. Once the Committee have these details it is then able to make an informed decision regarding if they want to progress with the Sale and Leaseback at this time. There is no cost or charge from the ACC in preparing and making the Club such an offer.

Your recent valuation may well be sufficient for our purposes although should the Committee wish to obtain an up to date valuation then we would completely understand.

We do not necessary need to visit the Club or view the Club's accounts although we would certainly review the Club's account if they were forwarded to us and if the Committee felt that we needed to visit the Club then we would try our best to arrange this. We acknowledge that sometimes the Club will have seen better days and this is not a problem, indeed a large proportion of the Sale and Leasebacks that we undertake are to enable the Club to refurbish the premises in order to attract new Members.

We try to keep the Sale and Leaseback process as straight forward as possible although I appreciate that it is likely that the Committee will have further questions once we have submitted a formal offer to the Club for consideration.

**Q** We have recently received our Loan Deposit statement from the ACC. In past years tax has been deducted but this year no tax has been deducted. Could you let us know if this is an omission.

**A** You are correct that previously be deducted the tax due from a Club's deposit with us when applying the interest to the Club's account. We have been advised that we no longer are required to do this and that the Club can just include the accrued interest in the Club's yearly tax return.

**Q** Our Stock Taker agrees the stocktake report with the Steward before he issues the report to the Committee. Is this normal? We accept that he should agree the final stock quantities but not the overall report.

**A** I understand that the Stock Taker approves the stock report with the Steward and has the Steward sign the summary page which shows the overall results and the surplus or deficit for the period. We would suggest that the final stock report should be seen by the Committee only and that the Stock Taker should be requested not to share the stock report with the Steward.

**Q** Our Rules state that the Club's Annual General Meeting should be held in the month of March although our Audit will not be ready until April. Should we delay the AGM?

**A** If the Audit is not going to be ready until May then in these circumstances it would be logical to delay the AGM. A notice to this effect should be posted on the Club's Notice Board. In future I suggest that significant

time is given to the Audit to allow the Annual General Meeting to proceed as usual in April.

Under the terms of the old 1964 Licensing Act, it was a specific requirement that 15 months must not elapse between the dates of each AGM. The Licensing Act 2003 does not include this provision but specifically requires a General Meeting of Members to be held each year.

If you wanted to hold the AGM in April, for instance if you felt that Members may complain if the Meeting was not held in April, then the Meeting could be held in April and all other agenda items dealt with apart from the Accounts. The Meeting could then be adjourned until a specific date in May and then resumed to solely deal with the approval of the Club's Accounts.

**Q** Our existing Rules, which may be out of date, state that we can have either one or two Vice Presidents. Is it the Committee who decides if we will hold elections for one or two positions?

**A** If the Club's Rules state that the Club will have either one or two Vice Presidents then it is the Committee who will decide if the Club will have one or two Vice Presidents for the forthcoming year. This decision should be made not only prior to the voting taking place but also prior to the nominations sheet being placed on the Notice Board. This will ensure that the Members are fully aware of how many positions are being elected in the forthcoming election.

### Experienced Full Time Bar Manager Required

A vacancy for the above post will become available in March 2017.

Please send your CV to:

**The Secretary, Belvedere North Conservative Club, Belvedere, Kent DA17 5AA.**

Two references will also be required at a later date.

Any enquiries can be made via email to [bncc@onebillnet.co.uk](mailto:bncc@onebillnet.co.uk) or telephone 0208 311 1302.

# ACC Services

## Loans

Loans can be arranged from as little as £1,000 to £500,000. We provide loans at competitive simple interest rates, currently 4.75%, and all loans commence with a three year period of fixed interest. Loans are repaid over a term to be agreed on an individual basis with each Club in order to create a manageable and sensible time frame for repayment.

## Trusteeship

The ACC Trusteeship Service is a free facility offered by the ACC. The transfer of Trusteeship to the ACC has increasingly become popular amongst unincorporated clubs and there are two main benefits for the Club. The first is that the ACC will pay for all legal expenses involved with the transfer of Trusteeship. The second is that the Association's financial and legal resources are such that the Club's position will be greatly strengthened when negotiating loans or defending itself against legal action taken by a third party.

The ACC do not become involved with the day to day business of any Club for which we act as Trustee. The Club will continue to be able to call upon the ACC for advice on any matter without needing to make reference to our Trusteeship. We will only act on behalf of the Club in accordance with the lawful instructions of the Committee and Members. The Club Committee will therefore continue to run the Club's affairs and will only refer matters to the ACC as and when they consider it appropriate to do so

## Deposit Scheme

Clubs may deposit surplus funds with the ACC and we are currently offering interest of 2.5% gross per annum on funds deposited. We are already holding in excess of £4,000,000 on behalf of Clubs and deposits range from £1,000 upwards. Funds can be returned in full or part at any time and our rate of interest will apply on a pro rata basis. There is no upper or lower limit of investment.

## Sale and Leaseback

Since launching the ACC Sale and Leaseback service, over 70 Clubs have entered into this arrangement with the ACC.

Under what circumstances would a Sale and Leaseback be appropriate? The most successful examples of ACC Sale and Leasebacks are Clubs which have a dedicated Committee and Membership and want to secure their Club's future. By unlocking the Club's freehold, Clubs can be provided the means of repaying debt, often undertaking refurbishments and providing a significant cash sum. The rent payable to the ACC following the completion of a Sale and Leaseback can often be less than a Club was paying for servicing debt.

## Documentation Available Free Of Charge

**ACC Room Hire Agreement** - The room hire agreement is designed to be completed at the time a booking and includes space for a deposit to be taken to secure the room is applicable.

**ACC Catering Franchise Pack** - The ACC Catering Franchise pack can be used by Clubs which have a franchisee who uses the Club's facilities to prepare and serve food within the Club. The Franchisee Contract permits the Committee to decide if the franchisee shall pay a set fee per month to the Club for use of the Club's facilities, shall pay to the Club a percentage of the profits from the sale of food or that a combination of both methods of remuneration shall be utilised.

**Health and Safety and Risk Assessment Documentation** - The ACC has extensive documentation to assist a Club in creating a Health and Safety policy and conducting regular risk assessments. This documentation is available free of charge. Examples include template health and safety documentation, risk assessment forms and practical advice on completing a Club risk assessment and first aid information.

**Candidates for Admission Sheets** - The admission sheets can be posted on the Club's Notice Board to detail prospective new Members and have spaces for: Date, Candidate Name, Address, Occupation, Proposer, Seconder.

**To obtain any of the documentation packages please email [charles@toryclubs.co.uk](mailto:charles@toryclubs.co.uk) or phone 0207 222 0843. To enquire about any of the ACC's financial assistance packages please email [assistance@toryclubs.co.uk](mailto:assistance@toryclubs.co.uk) or phone 0207 222 0843.**

# Daventry Conservative Club Raises £5,500 for Charity

The Committee and Members of Daventry Conservative Club, Northamptonshire, are delighted to have raised a Club record of £5,500 for the charity Daventry Mind.

This amount was raised throughout 2016 and is a result of numerous activities throughout the year such as weekly quizzes, raffles, entertainment nights and bake offs along with, of course,

and the generosity of the Club's Members.

Phil Macefield, Club Secretary, would like to thank all the Club's employees who assisted with the activities and all the Club Members and volunteers who supported all the events. Everyone at the Club is pleased to have beaten the existing Club record with this year's fundraising efforts.



Daventry Conservative Club President John Moore, presenting the 2016 fund raising cheque to Mary Doyle the Service Manager at Daventry Mind.

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# Cullingworth Hosts Christmas Children's Party

The Cullingworth Conservative Club, Bradford, once again held its annual Children's Christmas Party in the Club which is always an occasion enjoyed by the Club's Members and their families.

The event started with a disco, along with food and drink provided for everyone. A children's

entertainer then entertained all the children present with fun and games before Santa made his grand entrance at the end of the evening with presents for everyone.

All the Club Members and Children always appreciate this annual event and look forward to its return next Christmas.



Santa and his Elves. L-R: Milly Jones (granddaughter of the Secretary), Phoebe Welsh (staff member), Gordon Kelly (club member), Sophie Wood (staff member) and Santa (John Coultous – Club Vice President).

## Paddock's Christmas Party



The Members of the Paddock Conservative Club, Huddersfield, enjoyed the excellent entertainment provided by the Yorkshire Oompah Band during the Club's Christmas Party. The Band can be seen here in full flow!



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John Jenkins, Secretary – Aintree Conservative Club



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# Burley Conservative Club Member has a Hair-raising Experience for Charity

Burley Conservative Club, Leeds, Member Sean McCabe has gone one year without having a haircut or shaving in order to raise funds for Charity. Sean chose the Candlelighters Charity to be the recipients of his fundraising efforts. Candlelighters support

families facing children's cancer in Yorkshire. They get involved in all sorts of different projects to help ordinary families who are facing extraordinary circumstances.

Sean raised almost £30,000 during his one year of fundraising and had his impressive locks shaved off on New Year's Eve.



Sean McCabe.



After The Chop.



Sean McCabe next to Craig Wright who performed the honours of cutting his hair on New Year's Eve.

## St Georges Conservative Club Celebrates Christmas and New Year



Pictured here are the Members of St Georges Conservative Club, Northampton North, wearing Christmas attire for the Club's Christmas Party and enjoying the Club's New Year's Eve Celebrations.



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# Oxton Conservative Club



**Eileen Newsham.**

The Oxton Conservative Club, Merseyside, has, in its 136th year of existence, voted to accept Ladies as Members of the Club. The historic decision was made at the Club's AGM and Ladies started to join as Members in January 2017. The Club, however, decided that the first Lady Member should be the Club's Stewardess Eileen Newsham who has worked for the Club for an impressive 44 years.

Eileen was awarded the Club's first female Membership at a surprise birthday party and she described the gesture as 'better than winning the lottery'. She went on to say: "It's never bothered me that it was a men's only club but now it's happened I'm very happy." Her birthday party was the occasion when she was given a gold necklace, earrings and a gold membership card from the Club

celebrating her status as the Club's first female Member. "There were tears all over the place," she added.

Eileen is now semi-retired and her daughter is taking over her duties as the Club's Stewardess. Due to her long standing service, it was first suggested by several of the Club's Members that it was only right and proper that she became the Club's first female Member, a suggestion which the Club's Committee wholeheartedly agreed with.

Chairman Roy McGunigall

said he was "immensely proud" to welcome Mrs Newsham as a lifelong member in recognition of her "outstanding service and dedication". He added that 'It was about time we accepted women'. Oxton Conservative Club was one of the very few remaining ACC Clubs to operate as a single sex Club and the ACC has for many years actively encouraged all Clubs to adopt a gender neutral policy.

The ACC congratulates Mrs Newsham on her long service and status as the Club's first female Member.



**Chairman Roy Magunigall presenting Club Stewardess Eileen Newsham with her Membership card.**

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**The Oxton Conservative Club.**

## Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back to October 1966 which featured the history of the Oxton Conservative Club. The Club also features on the front page of this month's magazine. During the 1950s, 60s and 70s the ACC featured Clubs each month giving some good historical background to how each Club was founded. This reference provides an incredibly useful political and social reference which

we frequently have need to refer to. As regular readers of Pages From The Past will know, the Conservative Clubs Magazine has been published, in one form or another, since 1895 one year after the ACC's formation in 16th February 1894. The photograph on the front cover shows the Club's attractive building and bowling green, a facility which is still enjoyed by Members today. We wish the Club every future success.



## PAGES FROM THE PAST

### The Conservative Club VILLAGE ROAD, OXTON BIRKENHEAD CHESHIRE



S. CARRODUS, ESQ.,  
*President*



*Standing L. to R.: Messrs. N. Davies, T. Teague, G. King, Cllr. C. Pyke, L. Roberts, G. Hodder. Sitting L. to R.: Messrs. T. Bell, Secretary; W. Platt, D. McIntyre, Chairman; A. Brame, Vice-Chairman; F. Hudson, Treasurer; N. Bryan.*

**F**OUNDED in 1882, the Oxton Conservative Club is one of the oldest established Conservative Clubs on Merseyside.

The Club celebrated its Jubilee in 1932 with the publication of a Souvenir booklet. At that time it was recorded that from a modest beginning in Claughton Firs the Club had grown by 1932 to have one of the biggest memberships of any Club in the District. It was claimed to be the finest, most comfortable and best equipped Club in Cheshire. Its establishment was brought about by the energies of the then M.P. of the Borough, Mr. David McIver, together with Mr. John Laird, the then Chairman, Birkenhead Conservative Association; Mr. Edmund Taylor, Alderman Roper, Mr. J. Gould Smyth, and many other prominent residents of Oxton.

The first meeting to inaugurate the Club was

held at Claughton Fir on 21st November, 1882, when fifty-six members were enrolled. The opening was celebrated by a dinner given on 21st December, 1882, and the premises were opened by the then President, Alderman Roper.

The foundation stone of the new premises in Village Road was laid by Miss Catherine King on a pleasant Saturday afternoon in 1897 before a large and distinguished gathering of well-wishers. Miss King had done more than lay the stone; she had given the Club £500, a not inconsiderable sum of money in those days, nor, for that matter, today. The stone she laid was to be followed by the premises containing a recreation room, committee room, kitchens and the usual facilities on the ground floor. The Committee room and recreation room were divided by folding doors, which made it possible to convert them both into a concert or

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