

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



October 2020 75p



Shanklin Celebrates Refurbishment

Coronavirus Regulations Update

ACC Survey Results

Message From the Chief Executive

CONSERVATIVE
CLUBS
MAGAZINE



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At the time of this issue going to print considerable changes were announced. We have ensured the contents are accurate as of 24th September, but any further announcements will not be reflected within the advice we have provided in this edition of the magazine.

There are, not surprisingly, some questions that we are awaiting final clarification. These changes will, of course, impact most Clubs to some degree but hopefully they will only be in place temporarily and we are urgently reviewing technology based solutions to assist Clubs with changes such as the mandatory move to table service. There have also been some changes to Test and Trace. Clubs are now legally required to log details of customers, visitors and staff for NHS Test and Trace - and from Thursday 24th September premises will be required to display official NHS QR code posters under law ahead of the NHS COVID-19 app being rolled out nationally. Please see the QR Code section in Club Law and Management for relevant links and poster download.

This is a challenging time for all Clubs but at ACC Head Office we are working hard to provide timely advice and support to our excellent Officers and Committees.

Please keep checking our website and also sign up to our email mailing list so that you can receive our updates as soon as they are published.

Lord Smith of Hindhead
ACC Chief Executive



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Shanklin Celebrates Club Refurbishment

We are delighted to announce that the Shanklin Conservative Club has completed their redevelopment of their bar area.

Although lockdown hampered some of their efforts, it also gave them the opportunity to fine tune some of the refurbishment ideas. James Hilson is the Club's Secretary and below he describes the experience:

"We used the services of an interior designer in January to redesign our bar, snooker area and sports bar. Just before lockdown we were going through the plan and choosing aspects we liked and didn't like. We were making good progress and looking into tendering for the work. Once lockdown hit, we quickly realised it would be sometime before we could reopen our doors. A few weeks into lockdown, we had everything shut down and the premises effectively put into hibernation. We held a Management Committee meeting via Zoom to decide how we could make best use of the time as we felt there was no better time to get some big jobs done. The Committee

granted permission to make a start on the refurbishment plan and gave the team a budget to work to. We formed a small team consisting of the Manager, President, two Trustees and a Management Committee member. We kept the team small to ensure we could keep our distance from each other while working. We started by stripping the bar back to a shell and planning what materials we required. It was at this point we realised we had a mammoth task on our hands as we found it extremely difficult to source everything we required due to most of the economy shutting down! But after some persistence, we managed to get everything ordered although some items would take some time to arrive.

Four of us focused on the new Bar while the other drew the short straw and had the task of painting the walls. We made good progress working Monday – Friday and enjoying the weekends off. We approached the end of June and we weren't far off finishing but we were waiting on the new bar top to arrive. We couldn't fit the new mirrors or shelving until the top

arrived so we were now a little pressed for time as Boris has just announced that the hospitality sector could reopen on Saturday July 4th! The new Bar top arrived on Friday 26th June and we worked day and night over the weekend to fit it. On Monday morning the new mirrors were fitted and it all started to come together. The final week was a big push to put the finishing touches on everything, restock the bar, service the bar equipment, clean the furniture and get ready to reopen but we made it. We have

this week had the new carpet fitted which unfortunately had a long lead time but the whole project is now complete. We've had great feedback from members who couldn't believe we had achieved what we have in the climate we found ourselves in."

We congratulate the Club on such a sterling refurbishment effort and particularly thank the Committee Members and Members who personally put some much of their own time into this important project.



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.

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.

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.

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.

To obtain any of the documentation packages please email 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 or phone 0207 222 0843.

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.

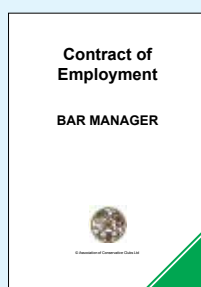
Our newest introduction to our contracts range is a contract of employment for use by Clubs which employ Bar Managers. We know that many Clubs employ Bar Managers as opposed to Club Stewards and we are pleased to now supply a specific contract pack for Bar Managers. The contracts which are offered by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



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.



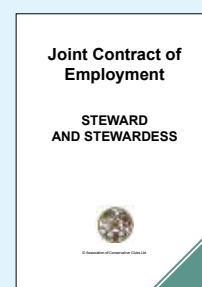
Steward Contract
Appropriate for a Club employing a Steward with or without accommodation included. Each contract pack costs £25 and includes:
2 x Club Steward Contract
2 x Service Occupancy Agreement
2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



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.



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.



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, email charles@toryclubs.co.uk or phone 0207 222 0868.

CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Coronavirus Regulations Update

As Clubs will have read on page two, significant Coronavirus changes have been announced and we have included as much of the revised regulations in this edition of the magazine as possible. There are some items which we are still awaiting final confirmation on and we will update our website accordingly. We encourage all Clubs to regularly check our website and also to sign up to our email mailing list which will ensure all updates are sent to Clubs as soon as they are available. The email mailing list can be signed up to by visiting our website.

Following the introduction of the new regulations Clubs must now:

- Close at 10pm
- Move to a table service only model
- Understand and communicate face covering requirements for staff and customers
- Collect Test and Trace information and refuse service for those that do not provide it
- Put up the NHS Test and Trace App poster
- Enforce the 'Rule of Six', subject to exemptions

When are the new rules to be introduced?

The rules announced by the Prime Minister will come into effect on Thursday 24th September at 00:01.

Do Clubs have to stop serving at 10pm?

Yes – in England – the 10pm closure applies to bars and dining areas. Therefore Members and guests will not be able to continue using these areas which must be closed between 10pm and 5am. We believe that in practice, final orders should therefore be taken slightly before 10pm.

In Wales, the advice is that last orders will be at 10pm and then a short amount of drinking up time will be granted.

We will wait to see how the legislation is interpreted in practice, in both England and Wales, and provide further clarification as soon as possible on our website.

In England, do employees have to have left the Club at 10pm?

No, employees can remain in the

Club to do the standard cashing up and closing procedures once the Club has been closed to Members and their guests.

Do Members and Guests need to wear face coverings while going to the toilet or entering the venue?

Yes, new face covering regulations mandate the wearing of a covering in Clubs for customers and customer facing employees. A covering should also be worn when moving around Clubs, including while going to their table and going to the toilet. This applies to all Members, guests and employees unless they are exempt from wearing masks.

I understand that customer facing employees can wear face masks but can they use a clear plastic visor instead?

Yes, we understand that these types of coverings will be permitted.

Can snooker and darts (and similar sports) still be played?

Yes, as before indoor sports can be played but different groups (comprised of up to six people) cannot play other groups and groups must remain separate from each other (i.e. when a snooker room has multiple tables where each table is being used by a separate group).

Do Members and Guests have to wear masks whilst playing snooker or darts?

We are seeking clarification on this. Currently we believe that masks are not required whilst persons are playing indoor sports such as snooker and darts.

Can bingo and similar activities still be played?

Yes, as before these can still be played but Members must be seated at a table in groups of no more than six people. Groups should not interact with other groups and table service must be provided.

Can Members and Guests still play on the Club's gaming machines?

Yes, but whilst using the gaming machines they should be wearing masks. As before, machines should be cleaned and wiped down between uses.

Is table service now required?

Table service is now mandatory.

Bar service is no longer permitted so drinks and food service must be served to Members at their tables. There are app based solutions which will allow Members to order directly from their tables and their orders be received directly by the bar staff. We are reviewing these apps with a view to being able to recommend a specific app or apps in due course.

Can a Member go to the bar to order food or drink and then have bar staff deliver these items to their table?

No, Members and guests should be discouraged from moving around the Club once seated and orders must be made at the table by employees visiting them or using a technology solution such as an app or a phone. For instance, it would be possible for Club Members to phone orders through to the bar and we are looking at app solutions which could also assist.

Our bar is Covid secure and has screens on it. Can our Members still go to the bar to order drinks and food?

No, these regulations apply to all Clubs and all situations. For the ordering of drinks and food these must be taken via table service or a technology solution.

We have a buffet on Sundays. Can this still take place?

The buffet can still take place but the food must be served to Members whilst they are sitting at their tables. Members should not visit the buffet themselves.

Have the new regulations changed the number of people permitted to visit a venue?

No, up to six people are still permitted to be seated together (more if it is a single household and/or bubble).

Can meetings (such as AGMs or Committee Meetings) of up to 30 people still be held?

Yes, it is still permitted to hold work meetings of this size, provided that social distancing is observed.

Can Clubs still host wedding receptions under the new rules?

From Monday 28 September, wedding receptions are still permitted to take place but with a limit of 15 people. People that are

not from the same household or support bubble should continue to socially distance from one another. The venue must record visitors' details, in case they need to be traced.

Can wakes still be held?

The funeral service itself is capped at 30 people although we understand that any following wake will be restricted to 15 people although we are seeking clarification on this. As with wedding receptions, wakes must still be socially distanced and contact details taken.

Can sit-down meals for more than 30 people take place?

Large bookings of this kind are not currently permitted under government guidance.

Two parties of 6 come to the Club, with two separate table bookings. If staff know that the two groups are essentially one party, can they allow them in? If so, if the parties start to swap places between tables, how is it supposed to be policed and who is responsible for the breach of the rule of 6 – the individuals or the venue?

In this instance, staff must ensure that there is no mixing/socialising between the two groups. This should be made clear to parties when entering a venue. Venues will be held liable if 'group of six' regulations are not being followed within their establishment and separate groups are allowed to mix.

What happens if groups are found to be socialising in groups of more than 6 in a venue?

The government has made it clear that it is illegal not to follow these guidelines. Venues will be fined and/or be subject to other enforcement action if they are found to have knowingly broken these rules. Initial fines will be £1,000, to be paid within 28 days. The second fine rises to £2,000, the third and subsequent fines are £4,000 each.

Have the penalties for noncompliance changed?

Businesses can now be fined up to £10,000 if they are found not to be in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions.

QR NHS App Codes

There is a FAQ regarding the new QR codes and app available for England on the NHS website here <https://faq.covid19.nhs.uk/category/?id=CAT-01043&parentid=CAT-01027>

What is a QR code? A QR code looks like a small barcode. These can be scanned by smartphones. In the case of the NHS app, the user will open the app, scan the QR code displayed at the Club and this will record their visit to the Club.

New legal requirements regarding test and trace:

Clubs, pubs, bars, cafes, restaurants and other leisure venues in England and Wales will now need to advise customers of their obligation to take bookings of no more than 6 people, ensure people are not meeting in groups of more than 6 people on their premises (see below exemptions in Q&A) and ensure there is sufficient social distancing space between tables.

It is also now mandatory to collect customer, visitor and staff contact detail logs. If you observe the customer using the official NHS app and QR code (once launched) there is no further requirement for data collection. Clubs should refuse entry to customers that do not provide their details or provide details that are believed to be inaccurate

From Thursday 24 September Clubs also need to display the official NHS QR code posters to make it easier for people to check-in at different premises once the app is rolled out nationally. If individuals choose to check-in using the QR code poster they do not need to log in via any other route. The aim of the law is to enable an individual (over the age of 16) who seeks to enter the Club and has a smartphone in

their possession to scan the QR code with that smartphone as, or immediately after, they enter the premises. You will soon see these QR codes displayed in all premises such as Pubs and Hotels.

For persons who do not wish to use the NHS App or do not have a smartphone please still record their details as previously using a signing in book. Details to be recorded include name, telephone number and time of entry. If a person uses the NHS App to 'check in' no further information and they do not need to sign in the signing in book as before.

To generate and download the official NHS QR Code for your Club visit <https://covid19.nhs.uk/venue-check-in-businesses.html>

Each set of regulations can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1005/contents/made> (test and trace)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1008/contents/made> (rule of six)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1005/contents/made> (face coverings indoors)

We are awaiting publication of 10pm curfews and table service regulations.

General Government Questions and Answers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

We hope this information is of assistance to Clubs and we shall update our website as soon as we receive clarifications on several of the previously mentioned items.

As ever, Clubs should contact us for any assistance that they require.

Chancellor announces further financial assistance – Furlough replacement announced

Shortly before going to press, Rishi Sunak has announced a scheme to top up the wages of workers for six months after the furlough scheme ends. Employees who work 33 per cent of their hours will get 77 per cent of their pay, with the government and the employer each paying a third of the shortfall.

The government says this means the employee would get at least 77% of their pay. So, for example, if someone earning £2,000 a month was working half their hours, they'd get £1,000 normal pay. They would then get £333 extra from their employer and £333 from the government.

The scheme is open to small and medium sized businesses (usually defined as firms with 250 employees or less).

The scheme starts on November 1 and the chancellor said that it would protect jobs in businesses that are facing lower demand over the winter months owing to new restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19.

To help the hard-hit tourism and hospitality industries he has

extended the reduced 5 per cent VAT rate to the end of March next year. He has also allowed businesses who deferred their VAT to split the lump-sum bill they would have had to pay at the end of March into smaller, interest-free payments over 11 months.

Businesses that have borrowed under the bounce-back loan scheme will have more time and greater flexibility for their repayments and coronavirus business interruption loans will be extended for up to ten years.

To minimise unemployment, the UK government will also give firms:

- £1,000 for every furloughed employee kept on until at least the end of January
- £1,500 for every out-of-work 16-24 year-old given a 'high quality' six month work placement
- £2,000 for every under-25 apprentice taken on until the end of January, or £1,500 for over 25s

We will publish further information on our website as soon as possible.

Sky Sports and Premier League agree 8pm kick off time

From 24 September, the government are introducing late evening restrictions on closing times for the Hospitality Industry. To ensure Sky customers can continue to make the most of their investment in live sport while these restrictions are in place, Sky Sports have worked with the Premier League to secure a

change to the 8.15pm Premier League kick-off times, moving them to the earlier start time of 8pm. At a time when stadiums are closed, this will ensure Sky Sports venues can continue to bring their customers the experience they've been missing, while adhering to the Government coronavirus restrictions.

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This has been an unimaginably challenging time for people up and down the country, but none more so than for clubs like yours. We've worked with organisations like yours for over 20 years, so we understand the pressure you're under.

That's why we've been working tirelessly behind the scenes to support you, and fight for the best solutions to the issues you're facing. From legal challenges against insurers, to advice, guidance and support. Doing everything we can to keep you protected, until things return to normal.

WE'LL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE, AND THIS IS OUR PROMISE TO YOU:

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- Competitive finance packages.
- Wellbeing resources
- Bespoke advice and guidance

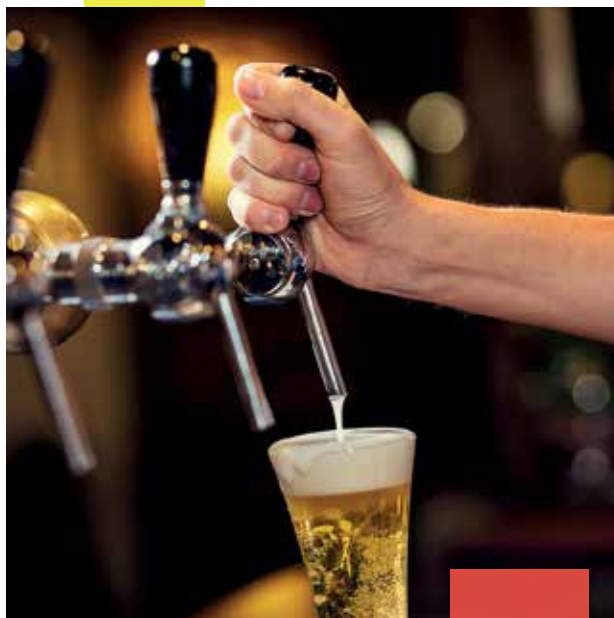
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October 2020

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ACC Club Coronavirus Survey Results

We were delighted to receive so many responses back to the ACC Survey request and these have really assisted us to work out how Clubs have generally fared throughout the Coronavirus Shutdown period and beyond and also what assistance Clubs are likely to require going forwards.

We are including the results in full and we hope they are of interest to all Clubs. It is clear that this has been a difficult time for all Clubs but we are heartened that most Clubs have re-opened since the lockdown was ended although when looking at the average takings for most Clubs it is clear that it is still difficult for many Clubs.

Clearly these results are

indicative of the point in time that most surveys were completed (August and September) and in recent days, as we go to print, it is clear that further challenges lie ahead with the enforcement of table service and the increased requirement of wearing masks when moving within the Club. When viewing the bar charts, please be aware that the numbers on the left side all refer to overall percentages of respondents.

We can only pledge to continue to support Clubs as we progress through this Coronavirus crisis and it is likely that going forwards both the ACC and our Member Clubs will have to learn to adapt quickly to changes as they are introduced. We will continue to update all Clubs through our website, the

magazine and our email updates (sign up here: <https://www.toryclubs.co.uk/#subscribe>) with all new regulations and guidance as soon as they are published.

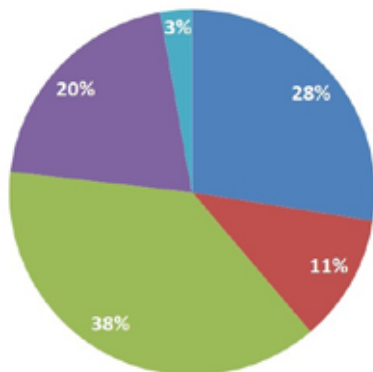
We were also interested to hear generally about how Clubs access ACC Services and how Clubs may wish to contact the ACC going forwards. As a result we do intend to focus on setting up a video conferencing system where Clubs can book meetings with the ACC to discuss the Club and also set up a system where multiple Clubs can join a video conference with the ACC which can involve an interactive Q&A segment, similar to how regional meetings were previously held prior to the Coronavirus situation. We were surprised at how many respondents

were keen to contact the ACC via text messaging or similar and we are not actively looking into how we can accommodate contact by this type of technology.

Finally, the feedback provided on the ACC Magazine was very useful and it is clear that the majority of Clubs still find the monthly format a useful way of receiving information from the ACC. We will, however, be looking to make some changes to the Magazine over the next few months and hope that we can make the Magazine an even better place for Clubs to learn about legislation changes, fellow ACC Club updates and also gain a wider insight into the drinks industry which all Clubs form an important part of.

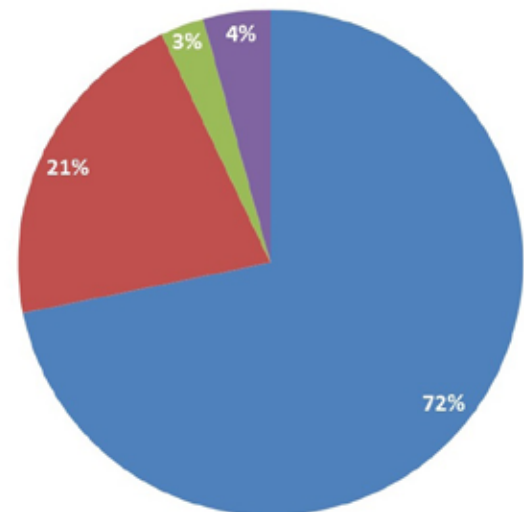
Which of the following is your preferred method of receiving information from the ACC?

- Reading the ACC Magazine
- Checking the ACC Website
- ACC Email Updates
- Contacting the ACC by email
- Contacting the ACC by phone



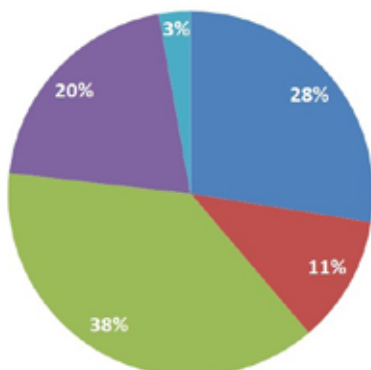
When are you intending to reopen your Club?

- July
- August
- September
- October or beyond



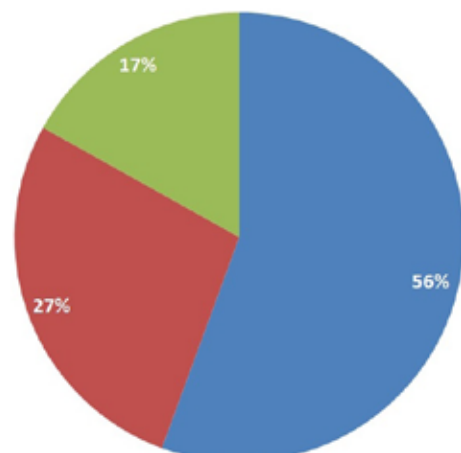
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- Contacting the ACC by phone

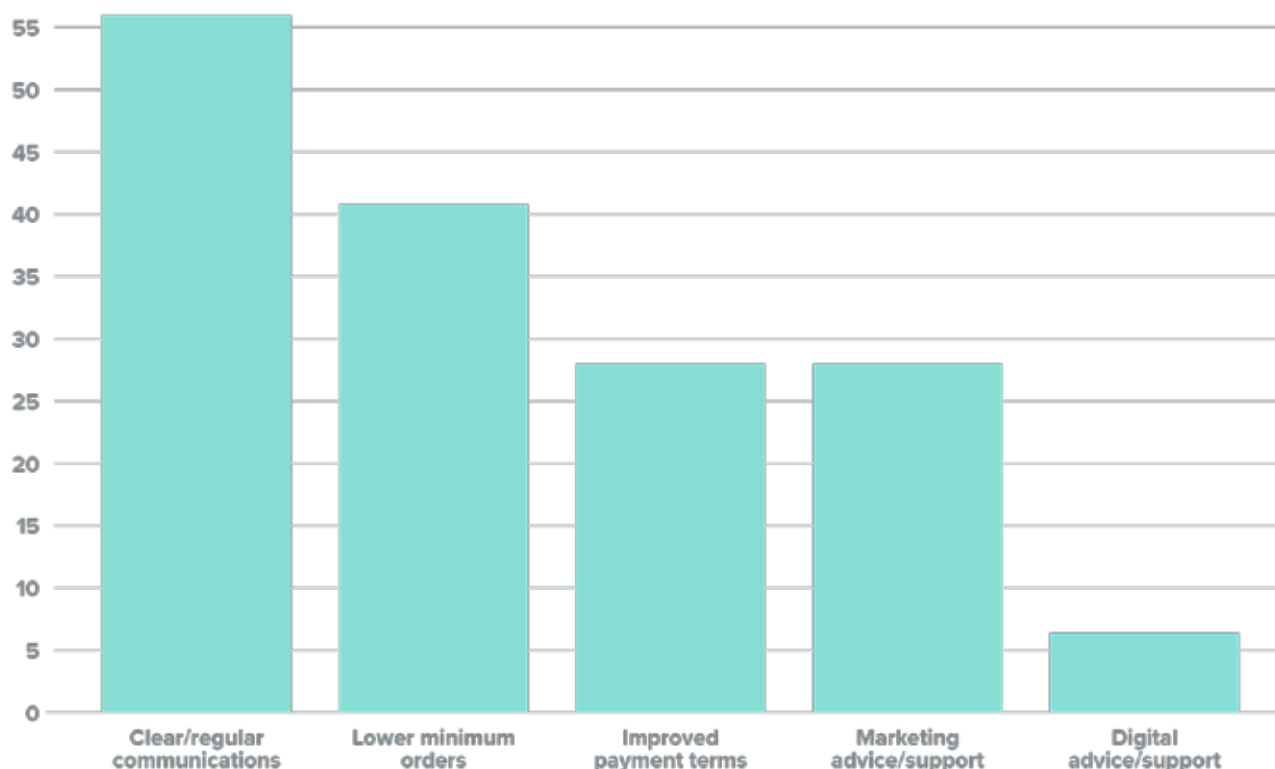


How confident are you about the Club's future?

- Very
- Moderately
- Not very



What would you like to receive from your club's suppliers to help you re-open successfully?



A sample of survey comments:

On confidence about the future of the Club:

Footfall slowly increasing, and different members are now attending the club after first few weeks were slow. Membership is very solid and we know more will attend as we progress.

Need to be able to open up fully i.e. make the club available for private parties. We are really missing this vital income on the increased wet sales. That is of course assuming public confidence returns enough to book parties.

Getting people's confidence to come out is a bit worrying.

Many older members (majority of our membership) are very cautious about returning. The localised (Greater Manchester) lockdown restrictions have clearly not helped. However we have attracted nearly 50 new members in the last month, many of them younger than our profile. The reason appears that we are seen to be

providing a (relatively) safe environment and are adhering to the government guidelines on temperature checks, registration of details, social distancing, at-table service etc.

We opened on 4 July and bar takings are still down as we are unable to have parties etc. Also a significant number of our members have been shielding and not ventured back into the club.

Members are gradually returning. It is encouraging. They feel safer at the club than visiting pubs apparently.

Whilst Government assistance has been welcomed operating under the current restrictions is very difficult with income 50% below normal. We have also lost parking income and have no function income which really keeps the Club afloat. Without additional support or income the Club's future could be in doubt.

Restrictions in holding parties/wakes/bingo and absence of live entertainment

mean that the Club will not have the same level of income as before.

On the barriers to successfully re-opening:

Private functions have become an important part of our income stream. However at the moment our lettable room capacity has been reduced from 80 to 30 because of distancing requirements. However, most hirers want space for at least 50 people. Same issue with live entertainment - not viable unless we can get an audience of at least 50. During the winter months, midweek snooker, pool, and darts league games bring much needed patronage. Not yet clear if and how these might operate.

Cost of showing live sport i.e. BT and Sky is far too high and if we cannot afford that will drive trade out.

Our opening hours remain the same, but we are trying to fill the gaps with other activities. i.e. extra bingo sessions.

People have got used to drinking at home in gardens and many are still doing this rather than going to pubs/clubs.

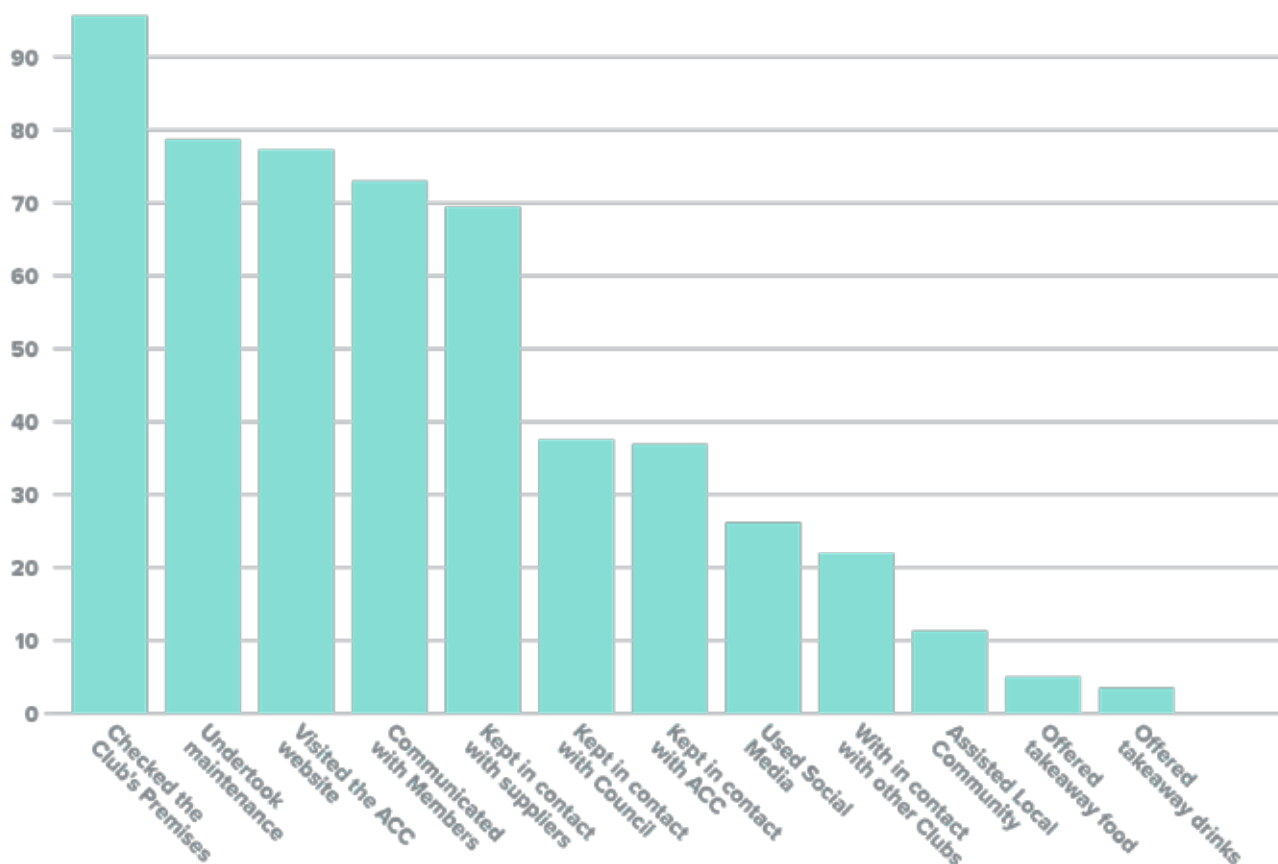
Many of our members are widowed and enjoy sitting at the bar, talking to other members in a similar position. I don't see them sitting at each end of a 2 metre long table engaging in conversation. We are a lifeline to many people on their own (regardless of their age) and they enjoy the close social interaction over a drink at the bar. We do understand why they can't do it, but it is very hard on them.

Our function room keeps our club viable it has been closed since March with no sign of reopening that is the biggest challenge.

Social distancing presents no problem, but older members worried of catching virus.

Live entertainment is happening on a very limited basis in line with government guidelines, we have stopped all private functions. Entertainment and private functions provide a large amount of our income which has impacted our finances as have limited capacity.

What did your club do during the Coronavirus shutdown?



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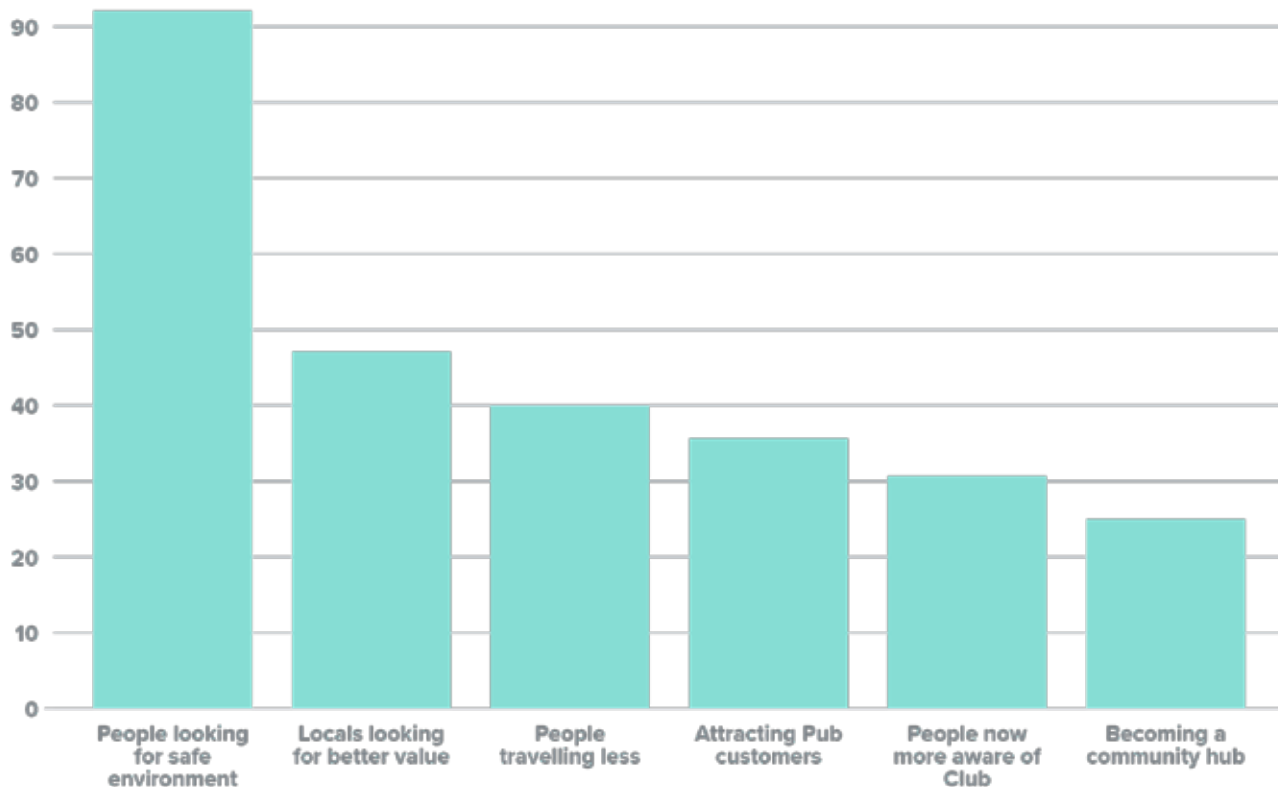
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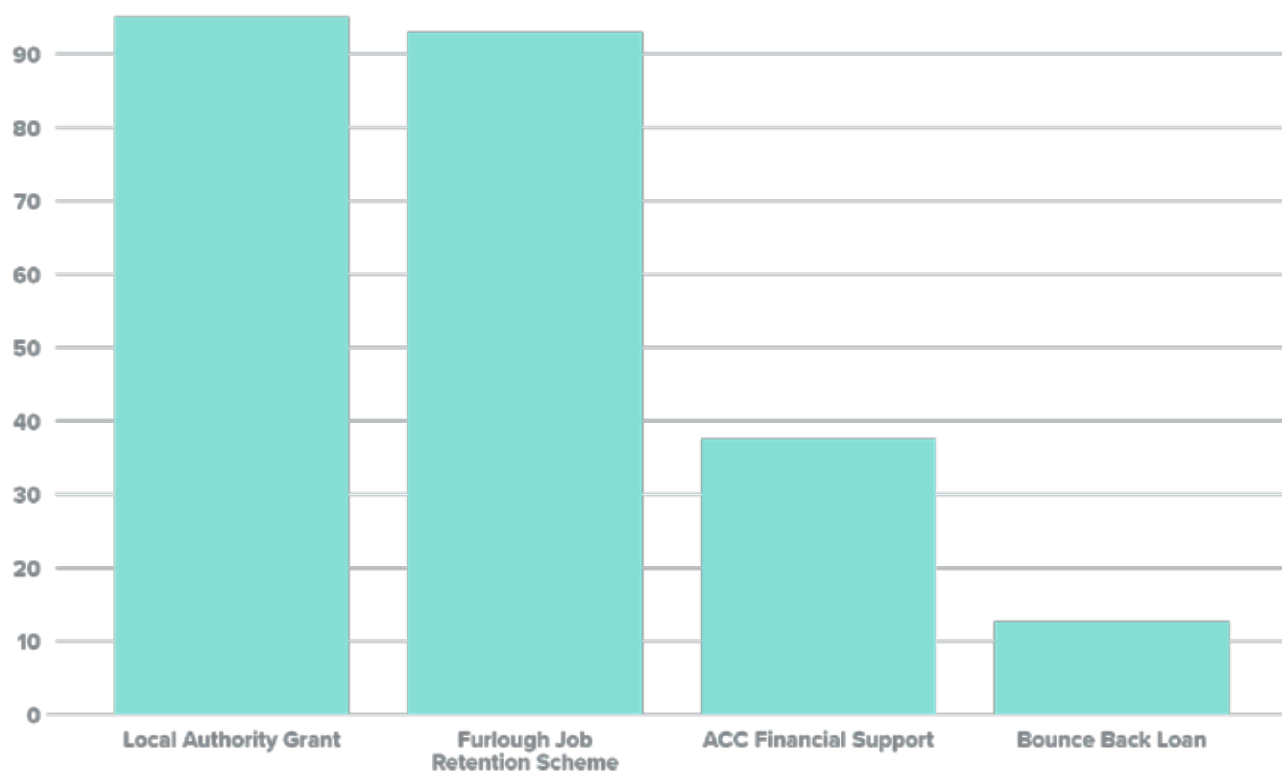
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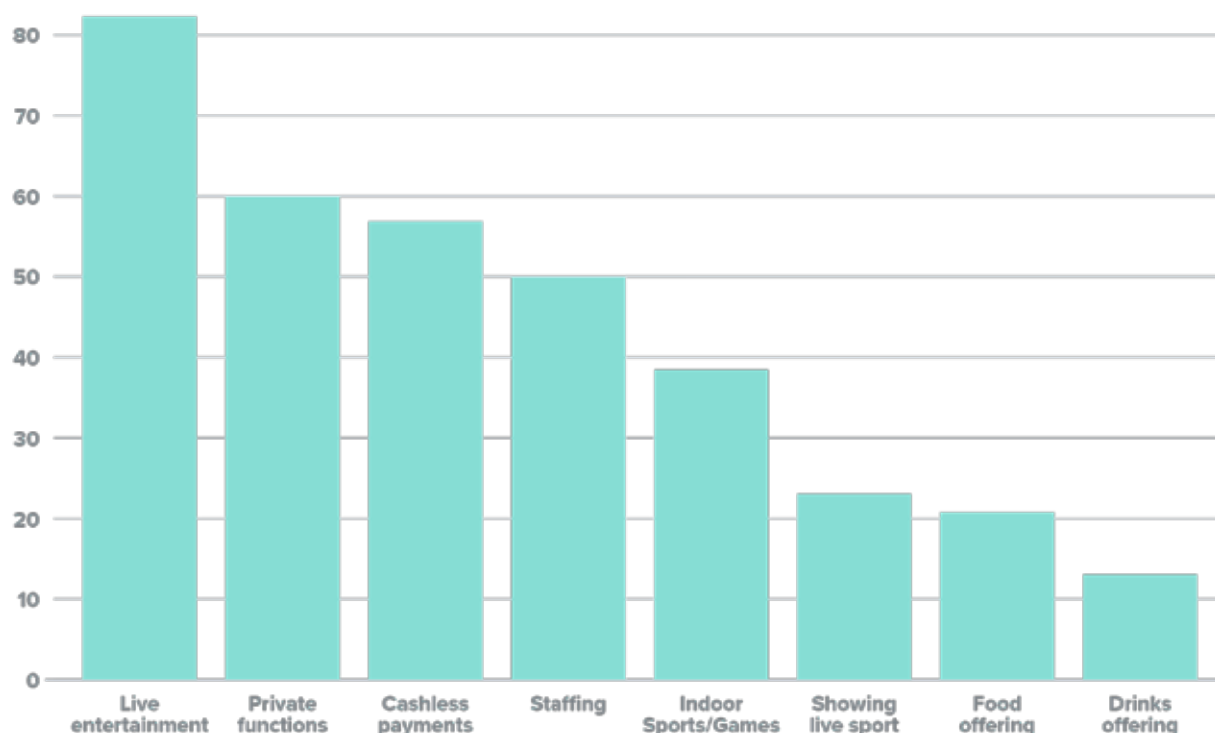
Which of the following offer potential for growth in the future?



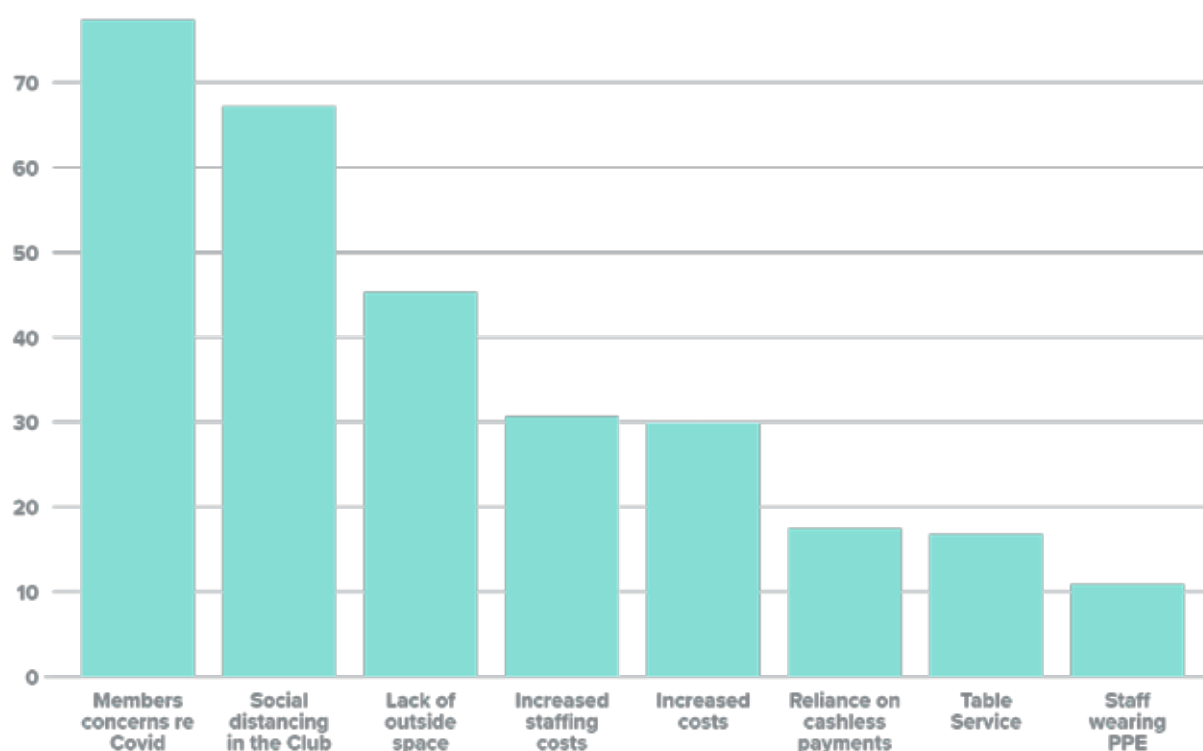
Which funding schemes/grants did you access during the shutdown?



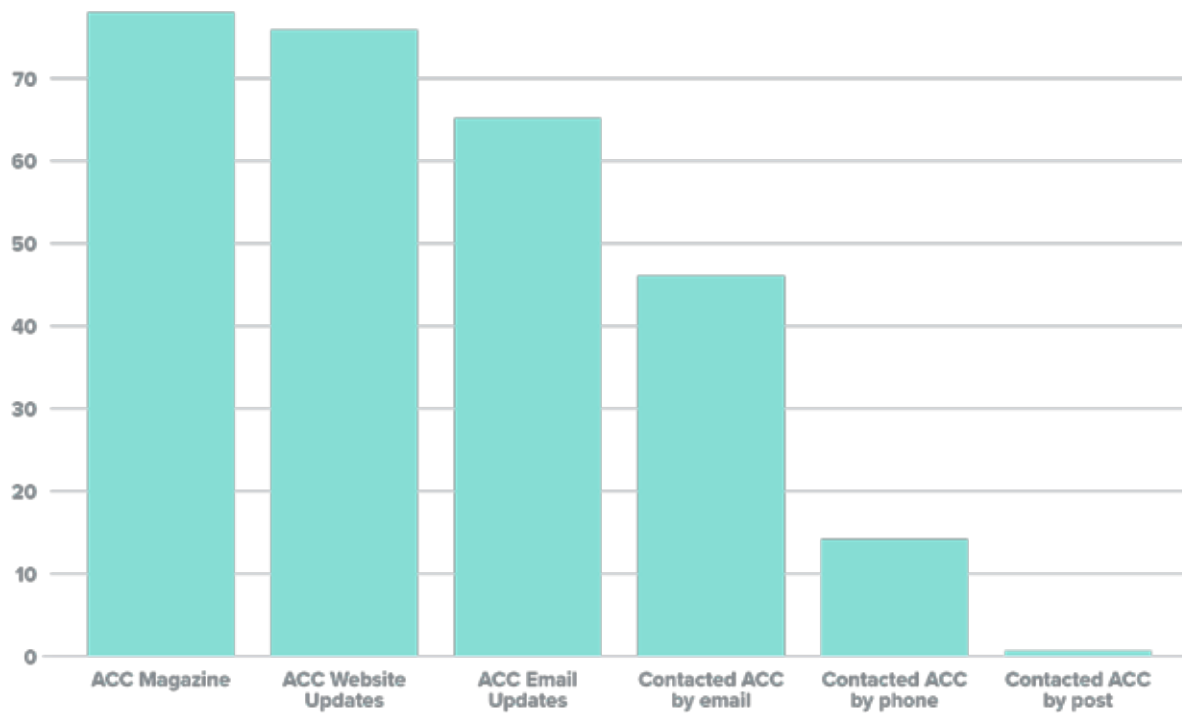
Will your club significantly change how it operates in any of the following areas?



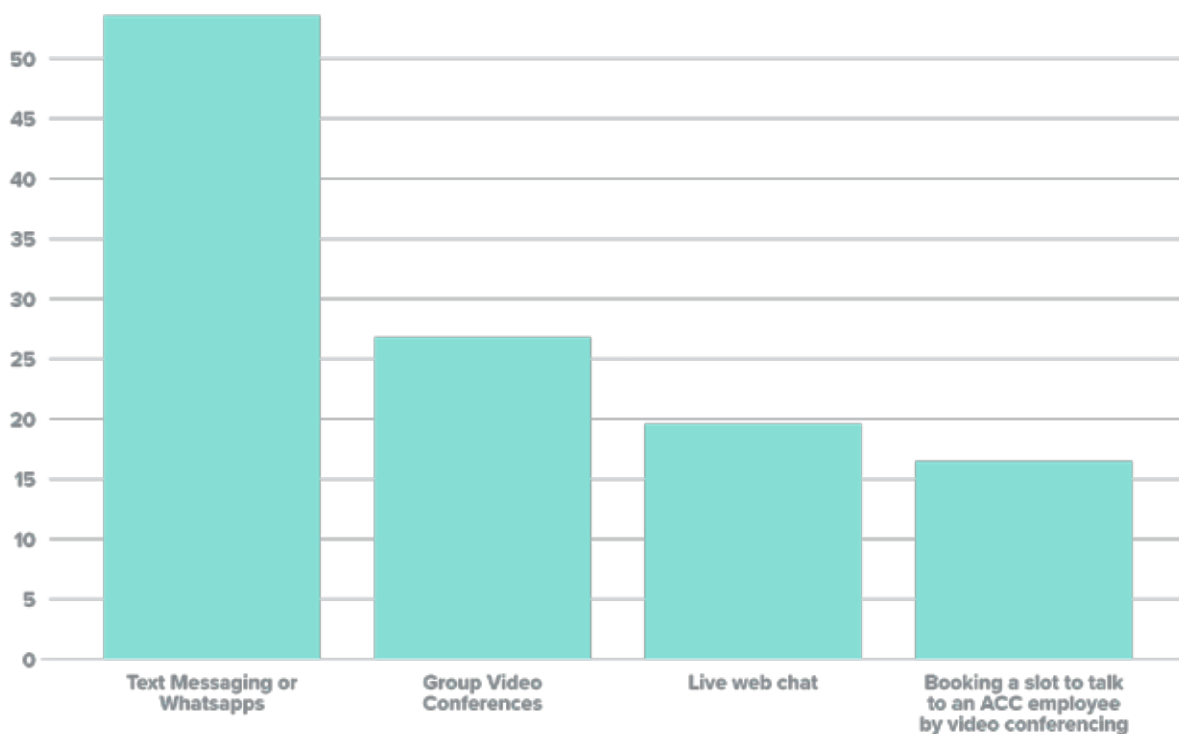
What is likely to present the biggest barrier to trade in your club in the post-lockdown period?



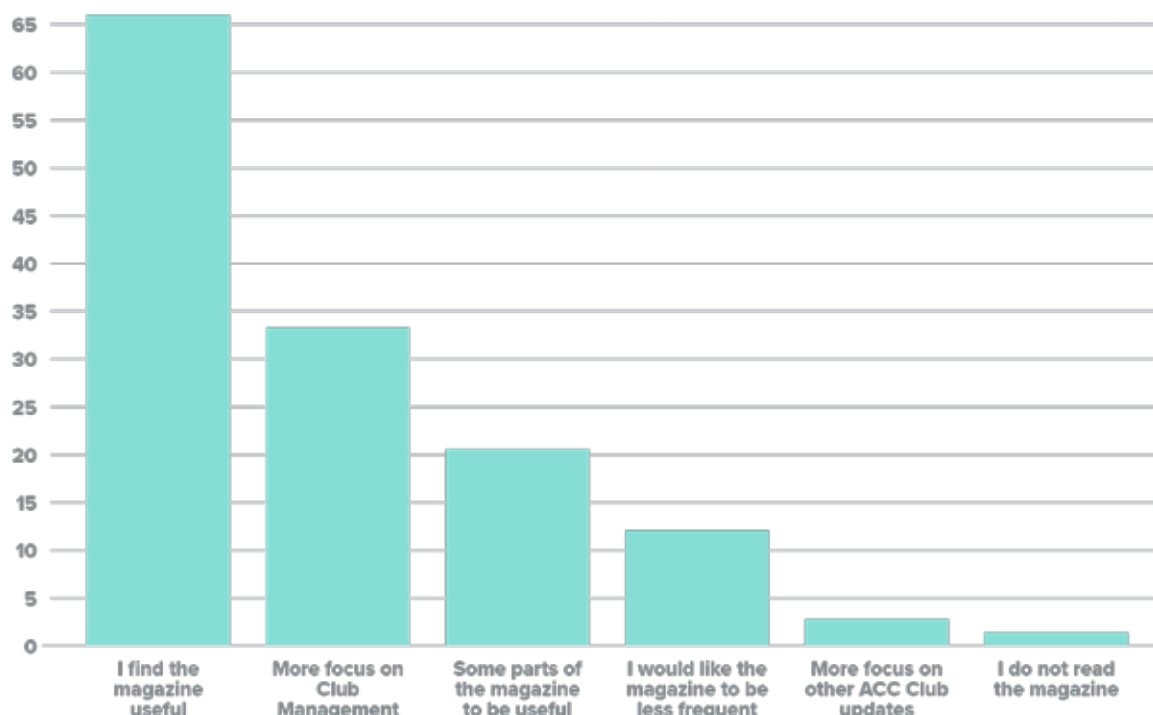
Which of the following ways have you received information from the ACC during the Covid crisis?



The ACC is always looking to introduce new ways to assist Clubs. Which of the following ways would you be interested in:



Thinking of the ACC's Monthly Magazine, which of the following statements apply:



Club Insure Statement following FCA High Court Verdict

Following this morning's highly anticipated verdict, Club Insure has released a statement on the results, and the impact it has on venues across the UK. The statement follows:

- Club Insure has worked tirelessly since COVID-19 hit the hospitality and leisure industry

- With mixed results, Club Insure will continue to put its full support behind clubs and community centres whichever way the verdict went for them

Following today's mixed verdict from the High Court, market leading broker Club Insure is both pleased and frustrated at the results, as MS Amlin claims are being recognised as legitimate, while Ecclesiastical claims are still being denied.

Following months of hard work from Club Insure and its sister company NDML, alongside

industry leading associations, barristers and lawyers, this mixed result is frustrating for all involved. Whilst it gives hope to many sports and leisure venues, it leaves many more still in limbo and uncertain of their futures in these turbulent and challenging times.

Simon Mabb, Managing Director of Club Insure said:

"We must celebrate any wins where they occur, and we're really pleased that the verdict mandates MS Amlin to pay out their claims. However, we can't forget about the countless business for whom this verdict has gone the wrong way. This is frustrating news, and something we wanted to avoid, but we anticipate an appeal from the FCA against Ecclesiastical, and we'll be supporting this wholeheartedly to fight for a positive result all round."

With next steps still unclear, Club Insure and the wider leisure industry will be expecting to hear more from the FCA soon with further details on an appeal against Ecclesiastical. For businesses affected by the positive result against MS Amlin, the claims process is being finalised. This will allow these businesses to start planning for the future, more secure in the knowledge that they'll have the resources to survive.

Whilst there is positive news here, there is likely to be an appeal brought by insurers where the High Court has sided with the FCA, so businesses should be aware that there are still challenges ahead, but they will not be facing them alone.

ACC Note: Many Clubs will not be affected by this ruling but should any Club Insure customer be unaware of their position then they can contact Club Insure who will assist them.

Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back just over a hundred years to May 1919 which coincided with a campaign to restore to Clubs the rights that they enjoyed pre-war time. During this time, it was felt that too many rights had been taken away from Clubs and too many restrictions placed on them which was hampering their ability to run as businesses and serve the needs of their Members. Of significant importance was the issue that Clubs were still having to close at 9.30pm each night, significantly earlier than their previous closing times.

It was also noted that there was some question over who should be taking responsibility for the restrictions placed on Clubs with some pointing the finger at Lord D'Abernon who was the initial author of the restrictions although it was also expected that if asked he would refuse responsibility and point the finger at the Cabinet for making the final decision regarding restrictions.

It was good news when the restrictions Clubs were facing were eventually lifted and they could resume business as normal. That really would have been cause for celebration.

The Campaign for the Restoration to Clubs of their Pre-War Rights.

With the anticipated early signing of Peace it is hoped to push forward the Club Campaign another step this month. References to clubs in the Commons will be found on page 30.

The daily papers should be watched for any alterations announced in the Budget affecting beer and spirits. It is also rumoured that the recent Beer Order may be subjected to certain modifications in the near future.

Still Pegging Away.

THERE is, unfortunately, not much definite progress to be recorded in the "restoration campaign". Further attempts were made last month to get a Cabinet Minister to hear our case, but the Peace negotiations, "pressure of urgent business" and the Easter recess all conspired against the efforts of the "Triple Alliance"—the A.C.C., the Club and Institute Union and the National Union of Liberal Clubs. Very shortly the Premier should be "home for good," and it may be found advisable to wait until his return, so that the deputation can go direct to the "fountain head." Meanwhile, it is hoped to arrange for a representative body of clubmen to meet Lord D'Abernon, the author of the restrictions the retention of which we are fighting against. He will, of course, disclaim responsibility for their continuance and put the blame on the Cabinet, but a frank exchange of views with the Chairman of the Liquor Control Board will do no harm even if it doesn't accomplish much good.

More and Better Beer Coming.

Further persistent attempts were also made last month by Headquarters to get a more liberal supply of beer for our clubs, and I am hopeful that, by the time these lines are in print, a material increase in the output will have been sanctioned, and also that the quality will show a much-needed improvement. I hear that the average gravity may be raised from 1,032° to somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1,040°, which would enable brewers to produce a palatable beverage, though the average gravity would still be 10 points below the pre-war figure. If this improvement comes about it will be mainly due to the constant pressure both in the Commons and outside which has been brought to bear on the Food Ministry by the representatives of clubmen.

The Continued Spirit Famine.

These notes are written before the Chancellor of the Exchequer discloses the terms of his budget, but both beer and whisky are, I understand, likely to be "dealt with." It is merely waste of time and space to indulge in idle speculations with regard to the future of the spirit

supply. One thing, however, is certain—viz., that the prices which clubs have now to pay are the *maxima* to which they will consent. If there is any attempt to increase the retail charges there will be serious trouble.

Before the war whisky at 30 u.p. was sold at 3s. 9d. a bottle, and the duty was then 1s. 9d.—in other words, the value put on the spirit was 2s. At the moment of writing the tax is 3s. 6d., and the price to the public is 9s., so that 5s. 6d. is charged for an article previously valued at 2s. If the Chancellor increases the duty, the distillers will have to bear it, and they are well able to do so. But they will kick against doing so—and kick hard.

Sharp Practice.

Just a word of warning with regard to spirits purchased by the bottle. Each bottle should contain the sixth of a gallon—but does it? I have heard of one case where three bottles of whisky bought from a reputable firm were found to be a quarter and a half short. The bottles themselves, on being weighed, contained nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. more glass than three bottles of equal size purchased in pre-war days! Thicker glass means less space for whisky. It may be worth a club's while to test their bottle purchases occasionally, and if they find they are being robbed to communicate with the local Food Committee. At the price we are compelled to pay for spirits we must see that we get our full measure.

Closing Hours Still 9.30.

The closing hour for non-residential clubs still remains at 9.30, so far as the supply of intoxicants is concerned. Elsewhere I deal with the mistaken impression which got abroad last month that the hour had been universally advanced to 11 p.m. Here is an official statement issued by the Assistant Secretary of the Liquor Control Board:

I am directed by the Central Control Board (Liquor Traffic) to state that intoxicating liquor can only be supplied to members after 9.30 p.m. under the provisions of Article 4 (1) of the General Amending Order, 1919. I am to point out that this article only refers to the sale and supply of intoxicating liquor to residents on licensed premises and clubs for consumption with a meal.

Our Efforts Appreciated.

The following is one of many similar resolutions passed by affiliated clubs:

That the Cwmearn Constitutional Club with a membership of 308 appreciates the manner in which Mr. F. Solbé and Mr. B. T. Hall are fighting for the rights of clubs, and emphatically support them in their efforts to wipe out D.O.R.A. and the Liquor Control Board.

Such resolutions are much valued at Headquarters, and show that our efforts are appreciated. We are determined to fight on until we get our pre-war rights restored in full.

CLUB NOTES—continued from page 26.

More Bouquets!

Really, if the shower of eulogistic letters which reach us continues at the present rate, we shall be in danger of suffering from "swelled head." From at least a score of Clubs last month came spontaneous tributes to the usefulness of the "C.C.G." congratulations on its enlargement, and orders for additional copies. *Bon!* This is very encouraging and ample recompense for writing the whole paper from cover to cover—no light task, I can assure you! Very soon I hope to double the size of the "Gazette," and incorporate, as in pre-war days, articles by well-known politicians on subjects which they have made particularly their own, and also restore the "Club Entertainer" Supplement, which many Clubs found so useful. Here is a nice letter acknowledging from the Crewe Conservative Club to the A.C.C.

I am instructed by my Committee to thank you very sincerely for

the trouble you have taken on our behalf. The information has proved most valuable and enabled us to proceed with the work of reconstruction. . . . We shall probably accept the kind offer made by you to carry the whole matter through on our behalf.

I refrain from quoting the nice things said by correspondents about the "C.C.G."—modesty forbids—but I am very grateful and "bucked," and will, as always, try and make the paper as *useful* as possible to my readers, whose views I am always glad to get on any matter affecting Clubs.

Club "Reconstruction."

A branch of the A.C.C. not as widely known as it deserves to be is the Architectural Department, which advises affiliated clubs on any building problem with which they may be faced. The hon. Architects of the Association are particularly skilled in all appertaining to clubs, and are thoroughly conversant with their structural requirements. This expert advice and guidance can be had for the asking.

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