

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



February 2021 75p

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Zoom Meeting



Tooting Conservative & Unionist Club Hosts Virtual Bingo

Lockdown Announced: Grant Information Inside

ACC 2020 AGM Report



CONTENTS

Message From The Chief Executive	2
Club Law and Management	3, 4, 5,
Tooting Conservative & Unionist Club Hosts Virtual Bingo	7
Industry Insights	8, 9, 10, 11
ACC 2020 AGM Report	12, 13
Obituaries	14
Pages From The Past	15
ACC Order Form	16

Message From The Chief Executive

As I write this message we are still suffering the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic although for the first time in a while there are strong reasons to be optimistic for the months ahead. The vaccine rollout is commencing strongly and there are reasons to believe that a spring re-opening for the hospitality industry is feasible and realistic. It has been a difficult time for all Clubs but the general consensus is that areas such as hospitality and travel will be busy once the Country has recovered from the pandemic as people will once again be keen to embrace these areas and start enjoying their favourite activities. We therefore have hope that the latter part of the year will prove to be busy for Clubs and that a strong and hopefully sustained re-opening is now within sight.

Since the start of this new year we have been advising clubs on the various grants available since the new restrictions came into force and of course these grants differ slightly in different parts of the UK. Clubs

are again needing assistance on how to continue 'ticking over' whilst being closed, although for many Clubs they are now quite adapt at minimising costs whilst closed and ensuring that the Club is in the best financial position possible to re-open when the time comes. I continue to speak up for Clubs and have placed a written question to the HM Treasury querying why Clubs were not awarded the £1,000 wet led pub grant announced in December. Watch this space.

Clubs should now have received their 2021 ACC membership subscriptions. We appreciate that there was unlikely to be a good time to send these out but we hope Clubs will appreciate the work and advice that the ACC has provided them over the last twelve months during the pandemic. No one will be happier than ourselves when we can get back to publishing a magazine without the dreaded 'C' word needing to be involved!

As ever, I hope everyone reading this remains safe and well.

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE

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:
Rt Hon Alistair Burt
Chief Executive:
Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE
Printed by: Snell Print Ltd,
Brympton Way, Yeovil,
Somerset BA20 2HP

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Lockdown Announced and New Financial Assistance for Clubs

As Clubs will be aware a full England lockdown has been activated. Similar lockdown restrictions are also active in Wales and Scotland.

For many Clubs, the latest lockdown changes little. Following the Tier changes over the Christmas period most ACC Clubs were already in a Tier which meant mandatory closure. Now this is extended to all Clubs in England. All Clubs are already closed in Wales. Therefore, all Clubs in England and Wales are now required by law to be closed. The previous allowance for takeaway alcohol to be sold has also ended although takeaway food is still permitted.

Please see below for information on the latest lockdown, asking employees to take holiday, Membership Renewals, AGMs and Grants.

The Furlough Scheme

We would like to remind all Clubs to use the furlough scheme whilst they are closed. Whilst some Clubs may choose to top up to 100% pay, most Clubs are simply paying the 80% provided by the furlough

scheme. If you are not using the furlough scheme we encourage you to now use it - the early predictions are that the latest lockdown will not be lifted until the middle of February at the earliest.

Grants

The Chancellor has announced new financial help to Clubs, this is in addition to the existing grant system also outlined below.

The new grants will comprise of one off top-ups and will be granted to closed businesses as follows: £4k for businesses with a rateable value of £15k or under; £6k for businesses with a rateable value between £15k and £51k; and £9k for businesses with a rateable value of over £51k. These grants will once again be administered through the Club's local authority so please contact them to obtain the grants. These grants were only announced today so your Local Authority may need some time to process claims.

In addition, the existing grant system for closed Clubs will continue to apply. Clubs should therefore also continue to apply for following grant funding from their local authorities. Currently **Clubs in England** can claim the following:

- For properties with a rateable value of £15k or under, grants to be awarded of £1,334 per month, or £667 per two weeks;
- For properties with a rateable value of between £15k-£51k grants to be £2,000 per month, or £1,000 per two weeks;
- For properties with a rateable value of £51k or over grants to be £3,000 per month, or £1,500 per two weeks.

Please contact your local authority to ensure you receive the applicable grant. It is important that you apply and receive the applicable grant above and ensure it is paid for every week that the Club is closed.

For Welsh Clubs:

For most Welsh clubs the ERF Sector Specific Support is worth £1,500 per employee up to a maximum of £15,000 – see further details below.

To summarise at the current time of writing a Welsh club should be eligible for three levels of grant support:

- ERF Restrictions Business Fund – this is a lump sum grant based on rateable value (RV), £3,000 for RV below £12,000 or £5,000 for RV between £12,000 to £51,000; this has been received by many clubs from their local council in the last few days. For the vast majority of clubs which received the previous lockdown grants no application is required, however, if the previous lockdown grant was not received you should contact the local council to apply.
- The furlough payments, as mentioned above.
- The Welsh Sector Specific Support Grant

Holiday Time

Employees can be required to use accrued holiday time and they can remain on the furlough system during such a holiday period. If the Club is paying 80% pay during furlough then they will simply have to top this pay up to 100% for the duration of the holiday period. Clubs should provide employees with notice equivalent to double the holiday time that they are being required to take. Therefore, if an employee is being asked to take five days of holiday, they should be provided with ten days notice. Clubs wishing to ask employees to take accrued holiday time during this current lockdown should therefore place the employees on notice as soon as possible. Once again, we encourage all Clubs to consider placing employees on holiday leave during this current lockdown to avoid too much holiday accruing and therefore needing to be used once they have returned to work and the Club has reopened.

Guidance from HMRC website:

*"Holiday pay
An employer can continue to claim for a furloughed worker's wages when the worker takes annual leave.*

Calculate holiday pay as normal for any time the worker was furloughed. If the holiday pay turns out to be more than the worker was paid during this time, their employer must pay the difference."

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/holiday-entitlement-and-pay-during-coronavirus-covid-19>


The key points are as follows:

- Employees continue to accrue holiday while they are on furlough leave at the same rate they otherwise would.
- Employees can use their holiday while furloughed. Taking holiday will not interrupt a period of furlough, meaning employers can continue to claim under the furlough scheme for employees using annual leave.
- Provided the correct notice is given, employers have the right to require employees to use their statutory annual leave and this right continues to apply with furloughed employees. An employer must provide notice of at least twice the length of the holiday the employee is required to take. Therefore, if a Club requires an employee to take one week's holiday, they should give at least two weeks' notice of this. It is good practice for such notice to be in writing.
- Employees' statutory holiday entitlement is 5.6 weeks (28 days including Bank Holidays for full time employees). Where employees are contractually

To page 5 ►

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ACC Services

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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.

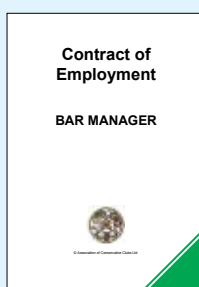
The contracts which are offered by the ACC are as follows:



Club 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.



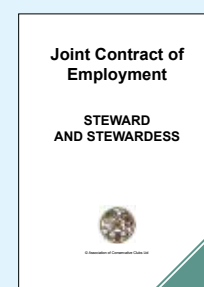
Steward Contract
Appropriate for a Club employing a Steward with or without accommodation included. Each contract pack costs £25 and includes:
2 x Club Steward Contract
2 x Service Occupancy Agreement
2 x Club Employee Disciplinary and Grievance Policy Handbook.



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.

◀ From page 3

entitled to more than the statutory minimum holiday, they can also be required to use their excess entitlement where the contract provides for this.

- Employees can only be required to use annual leave when it is possible for them, in principle, to have a break from work. Employees who are unwell therefore should not be required to take annual leave while they are sick. Employees who are unwell can choose to use holiday while sick, but cannot be required to.
- When employees take holiday while furloughed they need to be paid the holiday pay they would usually receive for this time were they not furloughed. Therefore, employees with regular hours should be paid their usual pre-furlough rate of pay for holiday. If pay has been reduced to 80%, or £2,500 per month, it will be necessary for employers to top up to 100% pay for periods of holiday.
- The basic rule is that employees should not receive less pay than they usually would because they are using their holiday entitlement.

The new government guidance also explains emergency legislation recently introduced. Previously, other than in very limited circumstances, employees

have been required to take at least four of their 5.6 weeks' statutory holiday in each year without any carry-over and the 1.6 weeks' holiday can only be carried over if there is a written agreement between the employer and employee. The emergency legislation has allowed more than 1.6 weeks' carry-over to the following two holiday years where "it has not been reasonably practicable" for an employee to take at least four weeks' annual leave "due to the effects of the Coronavirus." The guidance urges employers to enable employees to take annual leave in the year to which it relates wherever possible.

It is in Club's interests to consider how they approach the holiday entitlements of their furloughed employees. Employees' holiday entitlements will continue to accrue while they are furloughed and Clubs should consider requiring them to take holiday whilst furloughed. Although Clubs will bear the financial burden of topping up furlough pay from 80% to 100%, requiring the use of annual leave will avoid the potential issue of employees having accrued large quantities of holiday to use when they return to work after the furlough scheme ends. This could be a significant disruption to the Club when it is attempting to reopen and would likely incur greater expense for the Club in the long term due to requiring additional staff to then cover the holiday absence and without the assistance of the furlough scheme being in place.

AGMs

Clubs which are due to hold AGMs in the next few months are advised to delay these meetings until after Easter. It is hoped that AGMs will be able to be held

from the Spring onwards. Clubs which have the capability to hold AGMs using video conferencing or similar can continue using such methods.

Membership Renewals

Clubs are also likely considering how to handle 2021 membership renewals. Whilst there is no right answer, we can confirm that Clubs have tended to decide between the following options:

1. Delay subscription collection until the Spring.
2. Delay subscription collection until the Spring and offer a reduced 2021 rate.
3. Collect subscriptions now in full.

4. Collect subscriptions now and offer a reduced 2021 rate.
5. Waive the 2021 fee entirely and automatically extend all memberships to 2022.

We will continue to keep all Clubs updated through emails, the website and the magazine and hope to be able to report more encouraging news over the next few months as the aim to return to normality during 2021 becomes a reality.

Insurance: Business Interruption Update

Following the recent Supreme Court ruling, Club Committees should check if the Club's insurance policy includes cover for business interruption caused by the Coronavirus.

Whether your Club is covered by this ruling will depend on the type of policy cover it had in place. Clubs seldom have exactly the same policy coverage in place so it is necessary to check the wording of the Club's Insurance Policy.

If you think business interruption is covered by the Club's policy you should contact your insurance providers to see if they agree. In the event of a disagreement we would expect your providers to explain in writing to the Committee why they consider that the Club's policy is not covered.

We can also review the information provided by your insurance provider if you think it is incorrect.

ACC Annual General Meeting 2020 Information and Tips

As Clubs will know, last year the ACC held a virtual AGM for the first time in our history. A full report of this report is contained on pages 12 and 13 of this month's magazine. Whilst the virtual format is not something we would want to continue with in the future we felt that the event was successful and may provide a template for Clubs currently considering how to hold either their delayed 2020 AGMs or their forthcoming 2021 AGMs.

Whilst the ACC's Chairman, Rt Hon Alistair Burt, was unable to attend the event due to ill health the ACC Chief Executive Lord Smith of Hindhead chaired the meeting and provided reports to the delegates in attendance. The event was well attended with delegates from many Clubs throughout the UK attending and it was commented how well the meeting ran under the circumstances.

There are now a number of competing video conference calling formats available but Zoom has gained popularity during the pandemic and it was the software we decided to use to host the meeting. Microsoft Teams and Google Video Calling were also considered.

To host the meeting was as

simple as scheduling the meeting time and date using the Zoom software. This then creates a URL and passcode. Users wishing to join the event simply enter the URL and passcode and are then allowed to join the meeting at the designated time. The host always has full control and oversight of who is attending the meeting at any point and a virtual recording of the meeting can be made to assist with Minutes. The Zoom software allows for attendees to virtually raise their hand if they have a question they wish to ask or wish to make a comment. Using this method, the ACC was able to successfully hold our AGM during a time when a physical meeting would not have been possible.

We know that many ACC Clubs have successfully pivoted to online Committee Meetings during the pandemic and we believe that Clubs can consider using a virtual format for their AGM if they do not wish to wait for an occasion when it will be possible to hold a meeting in person.

If any Clubs are considering holding a virtual AGM and wish to ask for advice from the ACC on how to best organise such a meeting then please let us know and we would be pleased to assist.

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Tooting Conservative & Unionist Club Runs Virtual Bingo Events

Tooting Conservative and Unionist Club are keeping in touch with their Members by organizing Zoom Bingo sessions every Sunday Night. These events have proved incredibly popular with the Members looking forward to these weekly occasions.

Committee Member Philomena Canning has managed to organise these events by having Bingo

books sent out electronically and for those not Computer conversant she delivers bingo books by hand whilst giving out prizes. She is to be thoroughly commended for this as it is a vital link for some Members who have not been able to see friends and family during the lockdown.

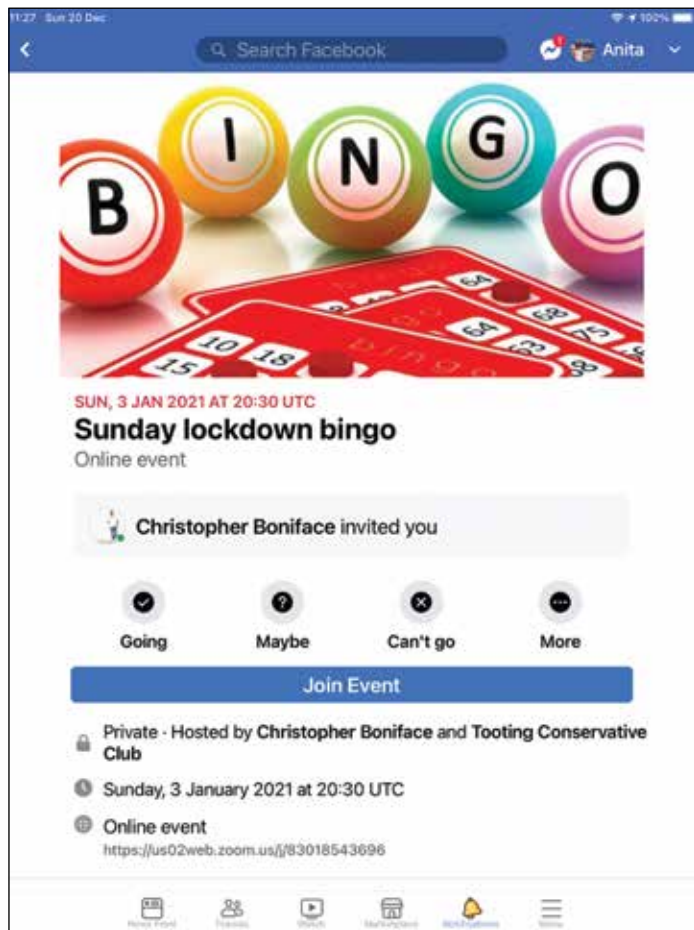
Chris Boniface is the master of ceremonies calling the bingo

Numbers in a humorous way and checking all the players are properly connected. Chris comments that the members sometimes are a bit loud so they have to agree to be quiet while the numbers are being called. On occasion, the Members even heed this request...

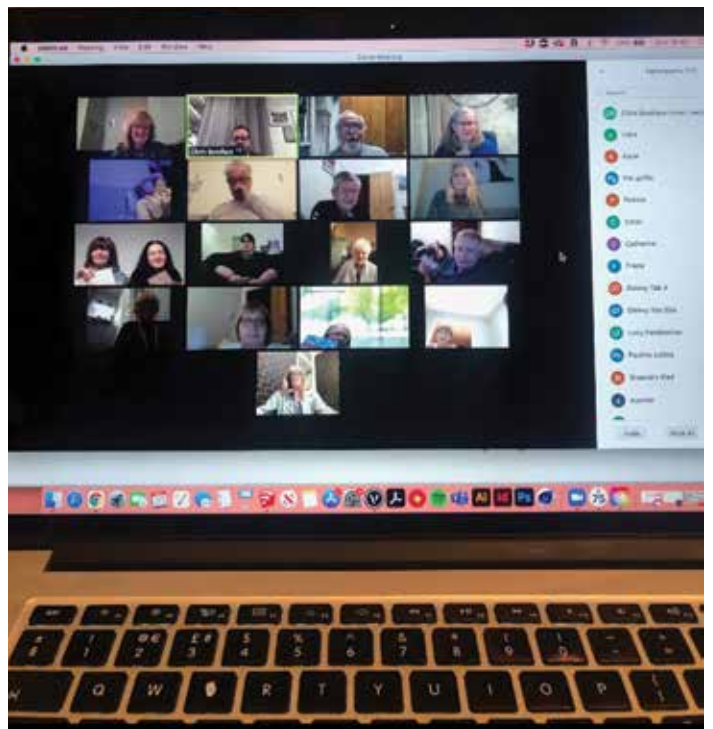
The zoom event is a great opportunity for Members to talk with each other exchange views and comment on the current situation. The Club has been surprised with the popularity although understand why this is the case since for some Members

this is the only contact they have and they look forward to it. The Club also provides regular updates on the Website so that Members can be informed of the current covid regulations. Chris comments that he 'hopes that Bingo will soon be in its rightful place, in our Club with the Members socialising in person. We are so looking forward to the Club opening again safety and hope it will be soon.'

The ACC congratulates the Club on such an innovative and successful event.



The Bingo Event.



Committee Member Philomena Canning.



Master of Ceremonies Chris Boniface.

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.

Takeaways & delivery – here to stay?

The UK food delivery market was growing at a significant rate before the Covid-19 crisis and expected to become even more important to clubs and hospitality operators this year, for all the sad but obvious reasons.

Here, Toph Ford, brand director of virtual delivery brands company Restaurant Brands Collective, shares his insights on some key delivery food trends for 2021

New consumer habits formed during 2020 will drive growth for delivery occasions in between breakfast and lunch, and lunch and dinner. These look to include sweet treats, healthier treats and drinks, such as hand spun milk shakes. These small, but growing "dayparts", could potentially offer clubs geared up for catering with more opportunity to be busy with deliveries across the day.

Value is essential: consumers aren't necessarily looking for cheap deals, but offers that feel like good value. Think interesting combos, meal deals and sharers, which will appeal to the increasing number of people eating delivery meals either as a necessity or as a social occasion.



Affordable luxury and treats: people are increasingly willing to spend more and order more when it comes to food. To capitalise on this, clubs need to make it easy for customers to add things to their orders and upgrade their meals.

Breakfast/lunch deliveries: with a significant

number of workers now based at home some or all of the time, breakfast on the way to the office or popping out for lunch isn't an option, so breakfast and lunch deliveries are expected to grow.

Safe adventures: members aren't likely to take too many risks when spending in 2021, so familiar dishes such as pizza, fried chicken and burgers will remain key. But doing these classics differently/cleverly is an option to 'make it your own' - a 'secret recipe' seasoning, for example.

Delivering an experience: in 2021, it will be as much about delivering an experience for members at home as in the club. For example, think about playlists on websites/facebook for people to enjoy when eating.

Powerful packaging: delivery packaging will ideally look good, and most importantly it needs to keep food warm and well-presented during transit.

Sweet treats: going against the health trend of recent years, ordering sweet treats as gifts for others also looks set to become a bigger trend.

Drinks that deliver: from interesting cocktails to innovative non-alcoholic alternatives, the demand for delivery drinks is set to continue. In terms of takawyas (soft drinks only as we go to press) you'll need to ensure you have some tempting options to drive purchase.

Pride in British: the pandemic has engendered a renewed support for British suppliers and local businesses, something clubs can capitalise on.

No and Low Alcohol Labelling

The Wine and Spirit Trade Association has produced new guidance around the labelling of low and no alcohol drinks.

With the popularity of the low and no alcohol category at an all-time high, drinks producers are developing new and innovative techniques to provide consumers with more choice and greater quality.

Many new products on the market are produced to closely resemble their alcoholic counterparts – they are closer than ever before – in taste, aroma and appearance – to the spirits and spirit drinks they are providing an



alternative to. The WSTA's new guidance aims to establish acceptable legal names, marketing text and general labelling requirements for low and no alcohol drinks.

• www.wsta.co.uk

Alcohol-free offering from Gordon's

Gordon's has launched an alcohol-free option, Gordon's 0.0%, using the same botanicals as its iconic Gordon's London Dry Gin.

Charlotte Gibbon, GB Head of Marketing at Gordon's said: "We are extremely excited to be introducing Gordon's 0.0% into the UK market. With the low and no trend showing no signs of slowing down, we are delighted to offer a new alcohol free alternative which allows consumers to enjoy the same great taste of Gordon's without any of the alcohol. At Gordon's, we are committed to providing choice for different occasions and we don't think people should have to miss out on the flavour or experience when choosing an alcohol free drink."

Anita Robinson, Marketing Director Diageo GB said: "Combining years of experience and historic Gin distilling knowledge, our expert innovation team at Gordon's has created a truly special product at 0.0% ABV which also remains true to the brand's heritage and has been made by distilling the same botanicals used in Gordon's London Dry Gin. Our distillation process is a closely guarded secret, known only to a handful of people and we are incredibly proud to be bringing gin drinkers that juniper led taste they're expecting from Gordon's when they choose not to drink alcohol."

• www.diageo.com/en



Joining TeamZero

Liverpool FC captain and England vice-captain Jordan Henderson moved to a new team in January – #TeamZero, an initiative from Budweiser to encourage consumers to make smart drinking choices.

A major push for the brewer's 0% ABV Budweiser Zero, #TeamZero is a 'social movement' designed to help consumers focus on their health, wellbeing and personal ambitions for the year ahead.

Budweiser Zero is zero alcohol, zero sugar and 46 calories, brewed with premium Budweiser barley, hop and malt through the same Beechwood Ageing technique as its alcoholic counterpart.

• www.facebook.com/jointeamzero/

In good spirits



Dry January 2021 proved a record-breaker for alcohol-free spirits producer Bax Botanics which saw 10 times more sales in the first week of the year than it saw in the whole of January 2020.

• www.baxbotanics.com/

It's a new take on lime & soda



British juice drinks brand, CRAFTED®, has launched 'Posh Lime & Soda', a premium variant of lime and soda made with real lime juice and soda water and served in a 330ml glass bottle. Posh Lime & Soda contains no added sugar or sweeteners, no artificial flavourings and no added preservatives or colours. It's not just a lime and soda, it is a Posh Lime & Soda!

• www.crafteddrinks.co.uk/foodservice

Feel-good alcohol-free beer

Alcohol-free beer has been launched by drinks startup entrepreneur Mark Wong and his team of plant scientists.

The team wanted to create a healthy functional alcohol alternative, 'brewed for relaxation without the booze'.

Mark, Founder of IMPOSSIBREW Co, started experimenting with active botanical plants used by his ancestors in Asia.

"Accidentally coming across a copy of The Kissa Yōjōki (喫茶養生記), published in 1211 AD, changed everything. I became obsessed with active botanical plants that have been used for thousands of years in my culture and self-experimented with as many as I could get my hands on," he said.

"With our team of plant scientists and experts across leading UK Universities, we presented our findings to the industry but was met with scepticism. One brewer told us what we were looking for was impossible. It motivated us even more, and we have decided to name ourselves in tribute to it – brewing the impossible."

• www.impossibrew.co



Dry 2021 January boosts trend for no-low alcohol

Regulatory body The Portman Group, recently commissioned YouGov to conduct its annual polling on the rising trend of low and no alcohol.

The research showed that almost two-thirds of UK adults (62.5%) have tried low and no products, including over two-thirds of current UK drinkers (68%). Furthermore, a quarter (25%) of UK drinkers consider themselves to be semi-regular consumers of low and no alcohol [5], with the highest consumption taking place in Scotland (27%).

Low and no sales continue to soar and the sector has witnessed a phenomenal 30% year-on-year growth from 2019 to 2020 [7], highlighting changing drinking habits in the UK and the sector's ability to respond to this.

HEINEKEN is just one Portman Group member to tap into this trend, offering up a range of zero alcohol beer. HEINEKEN's Interim managing director, Simon Amor, said: "In recent years we have seen a steady rise in the interest surrounding low and no alcohol alternatives within beer and cider, and demand from consumers has grown considerably. As part of our approach to responsible drinking and promoting moderation, it is important for us to be able to offer people a high-quality no or low alcohol option amongst the brands they enjoy."

Key reasons for choosing low and no alternatives include being able to drive home and not drinking excessively at social events. Additionally, among those who say they are more likely to drink low and no products since the emergence of COVID-19, almost half (43%) say they are trying to live healthier lives and 41% say they are trying to moderate their alcohol consumption at home. This reinforces existing responsible drinking and moderation trends; 17.5% who are already drinking low and no said they would be further encouraged to select alternatives if they were more widely available in hospitality venues and supermarkets.

• www.portmangroup.org.uk



Whisky joins PRO14 team



Scotch Whisky distiller, Loch Lomond Whiskies, has agreed a new partnership and sponsorship with PRO14 Rugby to become its Official Spirit for the next three years.

Special Edition Whiskies will be created with input from PRO14 Rugby and rugby clubs, with part of the profits being donated to worthy charities across the UK, Ireland and Italy.

The distiller will showcase its range of single malt whiskies at match venues and digitally throughout the season. In addition, the Loch Lomond Whiskies logo will feature on the match officials' shirts, digital pitch branding and the distiller will support some initiatives aimed directly at helping fans engage with the game, players, coaches and clubs that they support.

CEO Colin Matthews said: "Much like our other sports partnerships, our sponsorship of PRO14 Rugby will centre on contributing to the true spirit of the sport. We passionately believe that participation and interest in sport can make a real positive difference to individuals, groups and communities and so we are committed to leveraging our new association with PRO14 Rugby to support the wider rugby community."

The inaugural partnership is the latest addition to Loch Lomond Group's sponsorship portfolio. In golf, Loch Lomond is the Official Spirit of The Open, Women's British Open and Scottish PGA. In Scottish football, its Glens vodka brand sponsors Motherwell FC. It is also "The Spirit of the SPFL", Scotland's national men's football league.

• www.lochlomondgroup.com

Premiership rugby signs four-year deal with BT Sport

Premiership Rugby has reached an agreement to extend its long-standing broadcast deal with BT Sport by a further four years.

Clubs will be able to show up to 80 live games – 69 Gallagher Premiership matches and 11 Premiership Rugby Cup ties – each season until 2024.

BT Sport managing director Andy Haworth said: "We will continue to play our part in bringing the best TV coverage of top-flight club rugby to our viewers whilst they are not able to attend live sport."

Premiership rugby has been screened live by BT Sport since 2013.



Every match from each round of fixtures has been made available to BT customers, while eligible club season-ticket holders have been able to gain free access to home games on the BT Sport App.

Premiership Rugby chief executive Darren Childs said: "BT Sport have been incredibly supportive partners of Premiership Rugby."

"We are pleased we have reached an agreement to extend our partnership through to 2024."

Premiership rugby has been screened live by BT Sport since 2013.

• www.BTsport.co.uk

Diageo partners with WaterAid

WaterAid and Diageo, producer of Johnnie Walker, Smirnoff and Guinness, are joining forces in a renewed £4 million, five-year partnership to help transform lives with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene in communities across Diageo's global supply chains and beyond.

One in ten people – 785 million people – lack access to clean water. The partnership will employ climate-resilient and sustainable technologies to help protect communities from the growing impacts of climate change on access to clean water and decent sanitation.

The new commitment, which follows five years of partnership between the beverage giant and the international charity, is part of Diageo's 10-year action plan, Society 2030: Spirit of Progress, and aims to reach hundreds of thousands of people.

Diageo will also continue to invest in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to ensure a healthy workforce, and resilience and productivity beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Globally, it has been estimated that every dollar invested in clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene returns \$5.50 in increased productivity.

Since 2015 Diageo and WaterAid have helped transform the lives of more than 80,000 people in countries across sub-Saharan Africa, such as Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda with WASH. It has also funded a £200,000 women-led project in Myanmar to provide 10,000 people with access to clean water in households and healthcare facilities.

• www.diageo.com



Belgian pastry specialist Pidy has expanded its award-winning Trendy range to include the 'Micro' Trendy (3cm x 1,7cm), the 'Trendy Shallow' (8cm x 1,1cm) and the classic 'Trendy Round' (8cm x 2cm). Pidy products use 100% natural ingredients, can be stored at ambient temperatures and have a 12 months shelf life.

• www.pidy.co.uk

Resolution beer – low in carbs and calories, high in taste



Marston's Resolution, ABV 4.7%, delivers punchy flavours with lots of character, says the brewer. The brew undergoes a double fermentation process which turns all sugars into alcohol. The end result is a strong, refreshing beer that's less filling and easier to drink. Described as great tasting with lots of full-bodied flavours and a refreshing, crisp note, it pairs well with lighter meals and has 88 calories and 5.2 grams of carbohydrates per 275ml bottle.

• www.marstonsbrewery.co.uk/resolution

Countertop draught system

HEINEKEN UK has upped its online presence of Blade, the countertop draught system, by integrating it into Beerwulf.com, the brewer's online consumer store. Beerwulf.com will now manage all direct-to-consumer sales, marketing and distribution, while HEINEKEN UK will continue to service HEINEKEN business customers through its sales teams and partner wholesalers.

Blade beer dispense system allows users to serve a freshly poured pint of draught beer, without the need for a cellar or traditional equipment, says the company.

For clubs, one of the key benefits is said to be that Blade provides the technology to offer draught alcohol free beer. Heineken 0.0 was one of the first products available on Blade and has helped grow the popularity of alcohol free beer.

• www.heineken.co.uk



NEWS IN BRIEF

HI-KLEEN – doing the dirty work

HI-KLEEN from Hi-line Industries was launched last summer for full sanitisation of all contact surfaces, providing at least five hours of protection from further contamination once applied with a single, quick application.

The company has produced a short but highly informative YouTube video (<https://youtu.be/7cQJavJ51S4>) that demonstrates the product's easy application.

Hi-KLEEN's special formulation ensures it kills and inhibits both bacteria and viruses (including enveloped viruses such as COVID-19) on hard or soft surfaces, says the company.

It is odour-free, does not stain, is non-corrosive and will leave a streak and smear-free finish to most polished surfaces, including glass and stainless steel.

The product is composed of organic, non-chlorinated solvents and comes in both 500ml aerosols and disposable 17kg canisters (with spray gun). The latter is ideal for those looking to sanitise entire rooms, providing typical coverage of 750 square metres.

Hi-line is offering a free, no-obligation demonstration of and a free HI-KLEEN aerosol spray with each purchase of Hi-line's compressed air equipment during 2021.

Hi-line has provided essential help to the NHS by supplying medical gas dryers for hospitals, including NHS Nightingale facilities.

• www.hilineindustries.com

Hats of to award-winning Honduras coffee cooperative

Cooperativa Cocabel, Honduras, has won the Ernesto Illy International Coffee Award. The annual award applauds the best producer of sustainable coffee.

The cooperative won both the "Best of the Best" and "Coffee Lover's Choice", after blind tastings by two independent juries, one comprising experts and the other consumers.

The coffee was declared to be creamy with an elegant balance, chocolate and caramel notes and refreshing citrus notes, 'saturated with nutty and delicate whispers of dried and fresh fruits and a lingering aftertaste of light honey and vanilla nuances'. The complex coffee's intensity of flavor was seen to 'magnificently represent the taste characteristics of its origin'.

Illycaffè is a family-owned Italian company founded in Trieste in 1933. Worldwide, over 8 million cups of illy coffee are served each day.

The company aims to help growers achieve higher prices for their coffee, and establishes partnerships based on the principles of sustainable development.

"This is a well-deserved recognition of the extraordinary work carried out day by day with great dedication by men and women from the Cocabel Cooperative," said illycaffè's Chairman Andrea Illy. "The Cooperative managed to draw together small coffee growers united by the awareness that sustainable quality begins with the plant."

• www.illy.com

Chairman's Report on the Work of the Association

Due to the absence of the ACC Chairman, Lord Smith spoke on his behalf. Lord Smith said that at this AGM, representatives would have been celebrating the magnificent General Election Victory of December 2019, which saw a Conservative majority a size of which had not been seen since 1987. It was right of course that we congratulated our Prime Minister and all those hard working candidates and volunteers who made that victory possible.

But in those famous words of Harold Macmillan 'Events dear boy, events' the Covid-19 Pandemic had all but taken up every thought and action since March and as a result we had been concentrating more on the here and now and focused on; Furlough

Schemes, Rule of Six, Table Service, Household Bubbles, Substantial Food Offerings, Eat Out to Help Out, Track and Trace, Protecting our NHS and of course, 'Hands, Face and Space'.

The Chairman was confident that in a post vaccine world, the ACC could re-establish its attention on the activities which had been carried out over the previous 126 years and to do so with the same attention to detail that we had all come to expect.

Currently, over 100 Constituency Associations had their offices in Conservative Clubs and now many of those Constituencies had Conservative MP's and in several cases, for the first time. The ACC continues to see this arrangement as a positive one. The ACC had other good stories and news from

many clubs covering both political and charitable donations and these have been published in the monthly magazine whenever they come to our attention.

But none of these achievements can be claimed unless our Clubs are themselves in a strong and healthy position and the ACC is making sure that Clubs are receiving the best advice and support.

Lord Smith placed on record the Chairman's grateful thanks to all ACC Officers and Council Members for spending so much time organising and attending meetings and Club events. In 2019 Weekend Conferences, Area Meetings and social events held by the North West, Wales, Yorkshire, Northern, Eastern and Western Areas were important occasions within the ACC Calendar and

enjoyed by a large number of Club representatives. Whilst it may be a little time before such meetings and events are held again, the Chairman was confident that members would again enjoy and benefit from these activities.

Lord Smith also placed on record the Chairman's thanks to the ACC's national suppliers and recommended companies; Dransfields for the excellent service which they provided to their many ACC customers, our insurance providers, 'Club Insure' whose continued professional approach to ACC Clubs is much appreciated and K&M refurbishment

Finally the Chairman wished to thank all the ACC staff for their continued loyalty and commitment to the Association of Conservative Clubs.

The Chief Executive's Report

Lord Smith reflected on the difficult year of 2020 and hoped that 2021 would bring more positivity into everyone's lives. He commented on the assistance which the ACC had provided during this unprecedented year in the presence of a pandemic, enforced home working and an office move.

Following the move to new premises on 23rd June, the office was up and running answering emails and telephone calls the following day. This was the first time since The ACC's formation in 1894 that the ACC had owned its own office premises and is something which would be beneficial for future years.

Lord Smith reported that assistance and advice had been provided via the ACC Magazine, the ACC website and to Clubs which had joined the ACC's email distribution list. With the exception of the June and July magazine, which was combined into a single issue (primarily due to the ACC office move taking place around the same time), the ACC had managed to send out a magazine every single month, even during the height of the initial lockdown period.

He went on to say that over half of all ACC Clubs had subscribed to the email distribution list and that sixteen updates had been published since the Coronavirus situation commenced in March. On average, each email was opened by around 85% of

recipients. The ACC would continue to encourage Clubs to sign up to email updates using the link on our website.

Whilst the Magazine still played an important role, this year had shown the need for ways to communicate with more quickly and our website had played an important role in delivering information.

Lord Smith reported that approximately fifty per cent of ACC clubs re-opened over the first weekend following the first lockdown, and many others did so following that first week. It was currently too early to say how many clubs in Tier Two would open following the end of the second lockdown but it was estimated that it would not be many since the provision of substantial meals and the confusion over the interpretation of some regulations has been unhelpful.

Lord Smith commented that 994 pubs closed in 2019 with almost the same number closed in 2018. About 80 pubs vanished each month from the communities they served. Between 2010 and 2017, the number of pubs slumped from more than 54,000 to 42,000. The figure for 2020 would be unknown for some time but he thought we could all assume that it was unlikely to make happy reading. The ACC recognised that what happened in the pub world was eventually reflected to a greater or lesser extent in the club world.

Lord Smith was therefore pleased that the ACC continued to provide so many clubs with financial assistance, with £4.9 million currently on loan to clubs. The sale and leaseback arrangement for clubs continued to be a popular option for releasing assets tied up in property to either invest in the facilities being offered to members, repay historic debt or to provide significant working capital. With a further sixteen clubs adopting this scheme last year alone, and seventeen the previous year, clearly this was an area which had potential for growth.

During the year the ACC had advised clubs how they might be able to claim back VAT on the historic Linneweber case and had just published a revised version of the Club Law & Management book, originally written in 2008.

During the year the ACC had reduced the interest paid on the Deposit Account from 2.5% to 2% and it was likely that this rate of gross interest would be reduced further before the year end to 1.5% but that rate would be guaranteed for a minimum twelve month period. The ACC were confident that this proposed rate

of interest would remain highly competitive compared with bank and building society rates.

Lord Smith stated that he believed that the ACC had achieved a great deal over the previous few years and he hoped that his report today demonstrated that much could be achieved in the future. He placed on record his thanks to the excellent and loyal team at the ACC for all that they do throughout the year. He also thanked the ACC Council for their support and to all ACC Clubs for everything which they did in order to keep clubs viable and to maintain the high standards and reputation of private members' social clubs which played such a vital part in so many communities throughout Great Britain.



Meeting Report

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2019

In the absence of Philip Davies, the Lord Smith called upon Mr Charles Littlewood, Deputy CEO, to propose that the Statement of Accounts was received.

Mr Littlewood had pleasure in reporting that the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2019 shows a surplus of just under £2.3 million.

In addition to these figures, the amount of loans to Member Clubs from the ACC accounts during 2019 stood at £4.9 million. A reduction in the loan figure of almost 18%. ACC Club Development Fund 'A' showed a surplus for the year of £1,500. The 'B' Fund returned a deficit but Mr Littlewood reminded the meeting that this Fund was used to cover legal expenses involved with Trusteeships and was therefore non-profit making.

Income from the sale of IA Tickets very slightly increased from the previous year.

Commission income showed a higher receipt of £72,000 compared with 2018.

The accounts also show a deficit on the magazine of some £14,600 but that was expected. The Magazine remained an important

communication link between Clubs and the ACC and was a widely read publication.

The Accounts showed rental income from the sale and leaseback of Club properties at just in excess of £1.35 million, an increase on the previous year. Mr Littlewood reported that the ACC had purchased sixteen clubs during the year and had sold nine. The ACC's Deposit Scheme stood at £14 million. Total expenditure showed an increase of £160,000 from the comparison with 2018 and was expected and within budget.

The year end result is that the total net assets of the Association of Conservative Clubs show an increase of £2,350,250 to £27,759,633.

Mr Littlewood thanked the ACC Accounts Manager, Lesley Dipopolo and the ACC's Accountant and Auditor Katy Dee, of Begbies Chartered Accountants and concluded by saying that it gave him great pleasure to propose that the accounts as set out be received by the Annual General Meeting. The proposal to receive the Accounts was seconded and carried unanimously.

ACC COUNCIL 2020/21

Hon. President:	To be confirmed
Chairman:	The Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
Vice-Chairmen:	To be confirmed
Treasurer:	Philip Davies MP
Additional Members:	Thomas Leeming
London:	Alan Boniface
Northern:	Bill Newall
North Western:	John Hudson OBE Geoffrey Knowles OBE Jeff Simpson Charles White
South Eastern:	Chris Smith
Yorkshire:	Eddie Ward
East Midlands:	To be confirmed
West Midlands:	Mike Robinson
Eastern:	To be confirmed
Wessex:	Jim Gauld
Western:	Brian Tottle
Wales:	David Thomas
Solicitor:	Josephine Willoughby
Auditor/Accountant:	Katy Dee

Clubs Development Fund Committee

The Rt Hon Alistair Burt
MP Mr. E. Ward
Philip Davies MP
Mr. W. Newall
Cllr. J. Hudson OBE
Lord Smith of Hindhead CBE
Mr A. Boniface

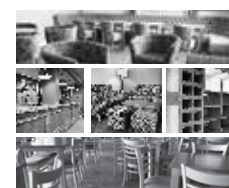
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Obituaries



Kathleen Hudson

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Kathleen Hudson who died after a short illness aged 82. Kathleen, who dedicated her life to charity work and civic duties, was the wife of Cllr John Hudson OBE, Chairman NW Area Conservative Clubs.

Kathleen was a constant presence by the side of her husband, a veteran Conservative Councillor, and she gave freely of her time to help out in the community and support John in his service to the community. During their term as mayor and mayoress of Oldham, John and Kathleen raised more than £56,000 for local charities, an "outstanding

amount", said current mayor Cllr Ginny Alexander. Kathleen chaired the local Conservative Ladies Group for many years.

A tribute from Oldham Council said Kathleen lived all her life in Greenfield, and contributed significantly to Saddleworth and the borough as a whole, particularly when it came to offering support to local charities. As well as being one of the longest serving members of the Saddleworth Charity Committee.

John and Kathleen celebrated 60 years of marriage last year. We send our heartfelt condolences to John and his family.

Brian Binley

It is with deep regret that the ACC reports the passing of its former Treasurer, Brian Binley, who died on Christmas Day at the age of 78. He had been hospitalised with Covid and pneumonia. This followed a lengthy period of chemotherapy in the previous year for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Brian was a lifelong passionate and committed Conservative who, following a period as a Conservative Agent, established a flourishing marketing company. He entered Parliament at the age of 63, when most are retired or contemplating retirement. Brian held the seat of Northampton South from 2005 to 2015. He

had also been President of the Northampton Conservative Club since 2008.



Pages From The Past

With a Gambling review currently underway in parliament, this month's pages from the past seemed an appropriate subject for this month's edition from 1921.

The report gives details of a court case involving a Mr Arthur Ward who admitted to being involved with unlawful gaming at the Westminster Conservative & Unionist Club in Great Smith Street, effectively turning the club into a betting house on various days. A fine of £20

with five guineas of costs was handed down by the Court. This equates to approximately £1,000 today. The article also shows the maximum penalty for running an unlawful gaming house as being £500 (approximately £24,500) or 12 months' hard labour!

Clubs are reminded that today the laws on gambling still attract heavy fines and custodial sentences for serious breaches and it is therefore wise to adhere closely only to those activities



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BETTING AND GAMBLING IN CLUBS.

Cases in Court, and the Lesson they Teach.

(BY THE EDITOR OF THE "C.C.G.")

Two cases came before the Courts last month of great importance to Clubs. In the one a member of a Conservative Club was prosecuted for betting with fellow-members; in the other the charge was one of permitting gaming on Club premises. As doubt exists in some quarters as to the law on such matters, we give reports of the proceedings, and explanatory notes, which will enable Committees to take necessary steps to avoid similar conflict with the authorities, and to safeguard the reputation, and existence, of their Clubs.

A Bookmaker's Bets with Members.

At Westminster Police Court, Arthur H. Ward, 42, commission agent, of Balham, was charged before Mr. Francis with using the Westminster Conservative and Unionist Club, 38, Great Smith Street, Westminster, as a betting house on various days.

Prosecuting for the police, Mr. Herbert Muskett said the defendant was until recently associated with the management of the Club and was a member of the Committee. He resigned about a fortnight ago. There was no doubt he had turned the premises into his betting office, and that he carried on a large betting business, though in other respects the Club was a well-conducted establishment.

Mr. Conway, for the defendant, said he did not wish to raise any point of law as to betting with fellow members of a Club. The institution was an old-established local political club, and defendant had been a member over 20 years.

Mr. Francis: There was no betting by outsiders?

Mr. Muskett: No, with members only.

Mr. Francis, observing that such proceedings jeopardised the Club, imposed a fine of £20 and five guineas costs.

The above decision is a clear illustration of the law on the question of betting in Clubs. To such a charge there is no defence. A Divisional Court of the King's Bench Division recently ruled in proceedings taken against the Coventry Club, Piccadilly, that betting in a *bona fide* Club, even amongst members, is an offence. Justice Darling observing that members could not say: "This is a social club, we may do what we like in it." If only a room on the premises were used for the purpose of betting, it was held to be a violation of the law. Let it, therefore, be clearly understood that it is illegal for a bookmaker, although a member, to resort to a Club for the purpose of making bets, or for persons, although members, to resort thereto for the purpose of betting with him. No bookmaker should be elected to membership of any A.C.C. Club, and betting of all descriptions between members should be strictly prohibited. As the Westminster magistrate observed: "such proceedings jeopardise the Club." They do; and only by prohibiting, absolutely and entirely, book-making and betting, can a Club's safety be assured.

Gaming in Clubs and the Law Thereon.

The other case to which reference has been made was heard at the London Sessions, where Edward Levi, 51, was prosecuted for allowing the New Bohemian Club, Kennington Park Road, to be used for gaming.

Mr. Rowland Oliver, for the prosecution, said that no references were required from would-be members of the Club, and police constables who joined for the purposes of the prosecution were admitted to membership on the doormat. The Club was well conducted, but in permitting poker to be played there was a breach of the law.

Mr. Valetta, for the defendants, said that it had taken two unskilled policemen a long time to lose very little money—9s. The judge fined Levi £25 and £30 costs.

With the above case as an example let us see what constitutes "gaming" in law, and what transforms a Club into a "gaming

house." A "gaming house" is one to which a number of persons are invited habitually to congregate for the purpose of playing cards for money. It does not matter what games are played on the premises—even whist and cribbage become unlawful if played at a "common gaming house." Though a Club is not devoted exclusively to gaming, but is used as an ordinary social, or political, Club, and also as a place of gaming, that will not prevent it coming under the category of a house "kept for the purpose of gaming." Therefore, members must not habitually congregate at the Club for the purpose of playing any card game for money, or trouble will undoubtedly ensue. The extreme penalty for keeping a gaming house is £500, or, in default, 12 months hard labour.

Unlawful Games in Clubs.

Even where a Club does not come under the category of a "common gaming house," it must not permit unlawful games to be played, or there is trouble. Now what constitutes an unlawful game of cards? *Every game of cards is unlawful which is not a game of skill.* Whist drives, according to the recent decision in the Court of Criminal Appeal, are illegal,

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for the judges held that, with change of partners, the element of chance outweighed the amount of skill required to win the games. But despite this, save in a few places, where the local police are on the look-out for a job, no proceedings are likely to be instituted against Clubs which confine the "drives" to members and the *bona fide* guests of members. Still, while the law remains in its present nebulous state, there will always be an element of risk in promoting whist drives in Clubs. Of course, nap, poker, pontoon, and baccarat, are purely games of chance, and are illegal no matter under what conditions they are played.

GAMES THAT CAN BE PLAYED IN CLUBS.

By this time readers will be wondering what card games can safely be played in Clubs. Well, it is not illegal to play games of skill for money, provided the stakes played for are well within the means of the players. Thus, to play ordinary whist, solo whist or cribbage is safe provided, as just stated, only small stakes are played for. If, however, the stakes are high, and members meet habitually to play for them, then the Club would become a "common gaming house," and all associated with its management, or participating in the games, would be liable to heavy fines, or terms of imprisonment.

No one wishes to prevent members of our Clubs playing *bona fide* card games of skill for small stakes, nor is there any valid reason why they should not do so. But our Clubs must, on no account, be allowed to degenerate into places where members foregather habitually to make money by card-playing. If such is permitted, not only is a grave risk run of proceedings being instituted under the Gaming Acts, but it gives the Club a bad name, and it soon becomes known as "a



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