# CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE



## Cheers For That! Reopening Guidance Inside

Linneweber Update

Preparing for A (Summer) AGM



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## Message From The Chief Executive

Well, we now have a vision of what the next few months of 2021 might look like. You can see the full report in Club Law and Management, along with the copious amounts of caveats, that the planned re-opening is data lead and that no dates are set in stone. At least however we now have a roadmap to work towards.

In theory there are three stages for Clubs to consider. Outside opening from April, inside opening from May and unrestricted opening from June. Which target individual Clubs aim for is a matter for discussion by the Club's Committee. There will certainly be some Clubs which can make an outside reopening work financially in April although we are anticipating that the May date will be the key date for most Clubs with almost a 'soft launch' followed by a full re-opening in June.

It has been a long, bumpy and difficult road getting here and no one can yet be sure there will not be further twists ahead. We can, however, be optimistic that the future is brighter than it has been for quite some time and that the key difficulties Clubs faced during the Tier system are gone. No more 10pm closing and, thank goodness, no more discussions on whether a Scotch Egg counts as a substantial meal. Clubs will still have to work with table service and the Rule of Six during the April and May opening rules but we know from last year that Clubs are much more able to adapt to those restrictions than the substantial meal and 10pm closing which caused real issues for many. For now, Clubs should be looking forward to a successful summer of trading - the entire hospitality industry knows that there is a substantial amount of demand for hospitality when people are once again allowed to visits clubs, pubs, bars and restaurants and I hope that ACC Clubs are there to take full advantage of this expected boom in business, welcoming members and guests when the time arrives.

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# **MANAGEMENT** England Lockdown Exit Dates and Information Announced

The Government has announced the roadmap to end the lockdown currently in effect in England. We are expecting a similar plan to be published for Wales in due course.

The aim of the roadmap will be to guide the Government "cautiously but irreversibly" to lifting the lockdown. This approach will be led by data, not deaths and all future measures are geared towards containing, not eliminating the virus.

The Prime Minister has said there will be no Tier system for England - it will be a national approach with the country being treated as a single area.

#### THE TESTS

Before each step of restriction is eased, four tests must be met:

- The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully. 1.
- 2. Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
- 3. Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

The assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new variants.

#### **STEP ONE**

8 March

People can leave home for recreation as well as exercise and meet with one person from another household.

#### 29 March

- People will be able to meet outside including in private gardens, subject to the rule of six, or provided no more than two households are meeting. This has been confirmed as up to 6 people from 6 households, and that two households can be more than six people.
- Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis or basketball courts and open-air swimming pools can reopen and formally organised sports can restart.

People should continue to work from home where they can, and people are advised to continue to minimise travel wherever possible.

#### **STEP TWO**

From no earlier than 12 April

- Hospitality venues including Clubs, pubs and restaurants will be able to open for outdoor table service, with no requirement for a substantial meal to be served alongside alcoholic drinks, and no 10pm curfew.
- Non-essential retail, personal care premises such as hairdressers, salons and close contact services, and indoor leisure facilities such as gyms and spas (but not saunas and steam rooms) can reopen.
- The majority of outdoor settings and attractions can also reopen, including zoos, theme parks, drive-in cinemas and drive-in performances events.
- Public buildings such as libraries and community centres will reopen.

#### STEP THREE

From no earlier than 17 May

- Indoor hospitality, with table service will open.
- Remaining accommodation, such as hotels, hostels and B&Bs will open
- Most restrictions outdoors will be lifted, subject to a limit of 30 people per group.
- Indoor entertainment, such as museums, cinemas and children's play areas can reopen

Indoor leisure can resume - such as ten-pin bowling, escape rooms, etc

- Adult indoor group sports and exercise classes can resume
- Some large indoor events, including conferences, theatre and concert performances and sports events of up to 1,000 people or 50% of a venue's capacity, whichever is lower, and outdoor events with a capacity of either 50% or 4,000 people, whichever is lower. There will also be special provision for up to 10,000 people or 25% of total seated capacity at large, outdoor seated venues where crowds can be safely distributed.
- International travel will not resume before 17 May
- We are seeking clarity on whether table service outdoors will still be necessary from 17 May. We consider it to be likely to avoid persons congregating inside at a bar.

#### **STEP FOUR**

From no earlier than 21 June

Remaining restrictions lifted:

- Remove all legal limits on social contact
- Social distancing and face coverings could be removed at this point if the review (see below) proposes this
- Reopen the remaining closed settings, including nightclubs and enable large events, including theatre performances, above the Step 3 capacity
- Remove all limits on weddings and other life events
- Working From Home guidance will be reviewed and offices to be allowed to reopen fully, subject to review

#### **GOVERNMENT REVIEWS**

The Government's Roadmap document outlines four crucial policy reviews, the results of which will be used to inform different stages of the reopening process. The reviews will:

- Look at whether "Covid status certificates", essentially, having a vaccine or a negative test result "test passports" can reduce restrictions on social contact. This will be set out ahead of step 4. Officials say it is not a foregone conclusion that these will be used.
- Pilot the impact of testing and reduced social distancing on events. This will start in April.
- Look at how to facilitate more inbound and outbound travel as soon as possible, given worries over new variants of Covid. It will report on 12 April, but international travel will not resume before 17 May at the earliest.

Review social distancing measures, such as the 1-metre-plus rule, rules on face coverings and working from home. This will conclude before step 4.

#### **ACC Conclusion:**

Given the roadmap which has been laid out above which, we must stress, is subject to change we consider that most ACC Clubs in England are likely to reopen from 17th May. We are hoping for clarification for Welsh Clubs soon and this information will be posted on our website.

Clubs with significant outside space may also wish to reopen from 12th April, possibly using reduced opening hours to start with. Clubs which have seated outside areas and heaters may benefit from opening during this initial period.

At the time of writing, we are waiting the March Budget which will outline the future of the furlough scheme and business rates holiday. We are hopeful that both of these will be extended in some form and further updates will be posted on the website.

Clubs reopening on the 17th May will still have to offer table service To page 5 🕨

## **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.

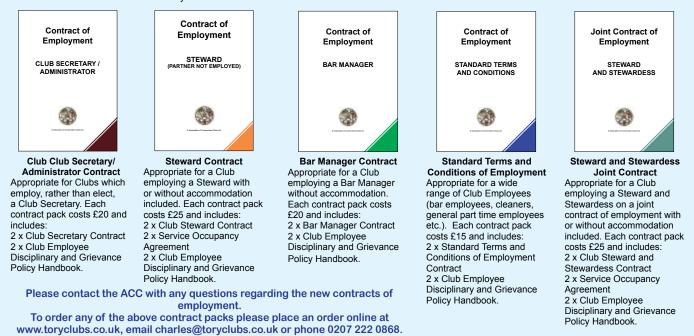
To obtain any of the documentation packages please email charles@toryclubs.co.uk or phone 0207 222 0843. To enquire about any of the ACC's financial assistance packages please email assistance@toryclubs.co.uk or phone 0207 222 0843.

## **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 LAW AND MANAGEMENT**

#### ◄ From page 3

and adhere to the Rule of Six or two household groups. However, the requirement to serve a substantial meal alongside alcohol and the 10pm curfew have both being eliminated.

There are quite a few steps to go before we reach the proposed final step on the 21st June but hopefully this will be the date that all restrictions are removed and Club operations can revert to normal without table service being required or maximum group sizes being mandated.

From the 17th May to 21st June we are expecting Club entertainment to work as it did last summer – with social distancing in place between the performer and the audience and also between the specific audience

## **Annual General Meetings 2021**

A n AGM is held to transact certain business: the report on the ballot for officers and committee (unless they are elected at the AGM itself); the report on the accounts; the adoption of the accounts, as audited; and other reports as required by a club's own rules.

Firstly it is essential for the AGM to be properly summoned. This usually involves a notice being placed on the club notice board announcing the date and time of the meeting and requesting motions to be submitted to the Secretary by a certain date.

The rules of most clubs provide that a notice of the AGM shall be exhibited at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting; and the notice of any motion must be submitted within ten days following the posting of the notice. Rules can also say that the agenda must be posted for a specified number of days before the date of the meeting.

Before the meeting it is essential for whoever is taking the Chair– Club President or Chairman depending on the club's rules–to undertake a careful study of the agenda. This will mean he can conduct the business effectively and also spot any difficult matters that might arise. Preparation is crucial to the success of the meeting.

When the meeting starts, the Chairman should satisfy himself that the requisite quorum is present. Most club rules require a quorum. This is to prevent a small, poorly attended meeting making decisions which affect the whole club.

The meeting must proceed with each item of business taken in the order in which it appears on the agenda. A normal agenda begins with confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM, any business arising from them, then the Treasurer's report on the accounts, the election of officers, and so on. The presiding officer, mindful of the need for a well-ordered, good tempered and constructive meeting, must see that the agenda is followed strictly. Speakers should stand when called by the chairman and, to preserve order, only one person should be on their feet at the same time. When the Chairman rises any other speaker should sit down and this should be insisted upon. Unless this is done, a meeting can degenerate into disarray and chaos.

A proposal for discussion is a 'motion' and when it is accepted it becomes a 'resolution'. Before discussion begins, a motion must be proposed and seconded. Α motion that is proposed, but finds no seconder, lapses and the meeting proceeds to next business. When a motion is proposed and seconded it is open for discussion. No speaker should be allowed to address the meeting more than once on each motion, except for the proposer, who may reply to the debate. A motion may be ultra vires-that is, outside the scope of the meeting-and should immediately be ruled out of order by the chairman.

An amendment is a proposal to alter the wording of a motion and may be moved at any time during the discussion of the original Special care must be motion. taken over this if the meeting is not to be allowed to become confused. The proposal requires a proposer and seconder before it can be considered by the meeting. The chairman should present an amendment to the meeting, once it has been properly proposed and seconded, in terms such as: 'To the motion before the meeting the following amendment has been duly proposed and seconded, that ... ' The wording of the amendment then follows and the immediate discussion must be confined to the subject of the amendment. Some bodies permit amendments to be moved to amendments but it is NOT recommended for clubs. If it

groups. Bingo and similar activities can also take place as they did during the summer of 2020. Between May and June it is likely that customers will have to be seated whilst in the Club and cannot mix between groups. According to the roadmap, restrictions on these activities will be removed from the 21st June.

For Clubs needing to hold 2021 AGMs, we are currently suggesting that these are now scheduled to be held in the months of July and August with the appropriate Committee elections also taking place when the delayed AGM takes place.

We will continue to update all Clubs through our email updates, our website updates and using the Magazine.

#### - How to Prepare for an AGM:

is allowed it can prolong discussion and make for a complicated passage of business. In practice the proposer of the main amendment may incorporate in it what he considers best in suggestions for further amendments, if he accepts they will improve his proposal. No amendment may be a direct negative to the main motion for this would merely duplicate the need to vote on a particular proposition. An amendment must be disposed of before the meeting can proceed to a further amendment. If an amendment is accepted it becomes part of the original motion; it is then called the substantive motion. Further amendments may be considered in turn until all have been dealt with. Then, discussions may continue on the substantive motion until it is put to the vote. Before the vote on each amendment the chairman should repeat its wording so that there is a clear understanding of the matter on which a vote is being taken.

Similarly the substantive motion should be read out again before the vote. When those 'for' and 'against' in each vote have been counted, the chairman should announce the result. If a large number of people are voting, the President should appoint two 'tellers' to count the votes. The tellers should both count the 'yes' and 'no' votes. If there is any disagreement the vote MUST be taken again. When an issue is controversial a close vote may be disputed so it is useful to be prepared for a written vote.

One further possible motion is 'That this meeting do now adjourn.' This takes precedence over all other business and may be moved at any time during a meeting. The Chairman should not accept such a motion if he thinks it is being moved with the intention of disrupting the meeting. The decision is made on the vote of the meeting, on a motion proposed and seconded, and without lengthy discussion. Amendments are possible but only to set, limit or extend the period of the adjournment.

The correct conduct of a meeting is not an easy skill to master, but many difficulties can be avoided if the presiding officer follows the procedures set out here. However, even this will not guarantee that meetings are without problems. Some issues will so divide the membership that heated, and sometimes irresolvable, exchanges are inevitable. Nevertheless, a basic knowledge of tried, and accepted, procedures will help ensure that most meetings are managed efficiently.

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## **Guest Article: After the Pandemic....**

I have been concerned about the efficacy of the government's whole population strategy of locking-up healthy people to protect the vulnerable and the NHS. I supported the first lockdown as originally envisaged – a three-or-fourweek lockdown to 'flatten the curve' and buy time to flex-up NHS critical care resources; and I support the current lockdown because we now have a destination – an end is in sight thanks to the mass vaccination programme. What has happened in between has placed the government in a position where they were "damned if they did", and "damned

if they didn't" - a rolling set of semi-lockdowns and regional tiers appears to have been a compromise that has satisfied very few. But I recognise that government has run out of easy options.

I broadly support the view taken in the Great Barrington Declaration that we should focus controls and shielding on the elderly and those with serious underlying health conditions, and open-up the economy in a covid-secure way. Social clubs are in an ideal position to do this. Deaths from covid-19 are age-related with the average age of those succumbing being 82. We know that over a third of those dying from covid-19 have been care home deaths or deaths of elderly patients in hospitals, where the underlying health issues of those who succumbed was overwhelmingly Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. And yet only recently have we seen twice weekly testing for care home residents and staff.

Our public health establishment has always favoured a whole population approach to all sorts of health issues notably those associated with alcohol misuse. So, I want to focus on what the "new normal" will look like now that the vaccine cavalry is charging over the hill and infection and death rates are beginning to fall. Will we return to how things were before covid reared its ugly head? Will all restrictions be gradually lifted from April 2021, so that licensed retail, including social clubs, will once again operate under licensing law rather than health regulations? I wouldn't bet on it.

Licensed hospitality, of which the social club sector is an important part, is seen as something that could be sacrificed even though the sector agreed covidsecure procedures with government that would enable safe opening. The feeling that we were being scapegoated, despite there being no evidence that social clubs, pubs, and restaurants were a major source of viral transmission, is a view widely shared throughout the sector.

But where does the public health establishment's paranoia about clubs, pubs and alcohol come from? I think it has two sources: firstly, the public health establishment has a long-term goal of turning alcohol production and consumption into a sunset industry. And



what I unrepentantly call the "health lobby" has monopolised the ear of government. Secondly, I think there is a deep-rooted cultural suspicion of alcohol use and the premises in which it takes place. Alcohol is seen by a paternalistic establishment as a disinhibiting drug that will cause the great unwashed to throw caution to the winds, and social distancing protocols will be ignored, and things will get out of control. It's a bit like that old Presbyterian fear that you shouldn't allow music in case it leads to dancing!

So, I expect that the "new normal", from a licensing perspective, will look very different by this time next year. Government will row back from the freedoms and flexibility of the licensing reforms introduced in the first decade of the twenty-first century. The police will not want to go back to a situation where many city-centre licensed premises are open until the early hours of the morning. Public health will urge the regulation of prices and restrictions on availability of alcohol. Local councillors will want their enforcement teams to have more power to close premises that don't meet new, draconian public health regulations.

My top predictions are as follows:

• A "public health" licensing objective will be introduced in England and Wales, bringing us into line with Scotland

• Minimum unit pricing will be introduced in England to bring it into line with Scotland and Wales (this is a floor under prices that prevents heavy discounting and mostly affects supermarkets)

• A return to a system of "permitted hours" decided nationally by Parliament, that existed under the Licensing Act 1964, will replace the current system, where hours are decided locally

• Many of the covid hygiene measures will be retained to contain viral transmission – the virus won't disappear overnight because of vaccination

• A vaccination certificate or "health passport" will be introduced as a condition of entry to all premises employing door supervisors, or those that have entry control systems, like members' clubs

I have no doubt that the covid-19 pandemic will enable lots of lobby groups to validate their pre-existing narratives and promote their favourite restrictive legislative measures. The "new age of pandemics" will facilitate a "new puritanism" designed, like the old one, to save us from ourselves.

#### Paul Chase

#### **Editors Note:**

Paul Chase is director of Chase Consultancy and a leading industry commentator on alcohol policy and public health.

# 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.

### **Pernod Ricard – sustainability and responsibility**



Lexandre Ricard, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Pernod Ricard, presented an upbeat picture of the business in February when he presented the company's Half Year Financial Report.

"We are particularly encouraged by our mustwin domestic markets returning to growth in H1 FY21. The first half confirms the long-term sustainability and underlying strength of our business.

"Despite an uncertain and volatile environment, with disruption in the on-trade and a prolonged downturn in travel retail, we anticipate organic sales growth for full-year FY21, thanks in particular to our dynamic performance in domestic must-win markets USA, China and India."

Ricard said that the company would continue to implement its strategy, in particular 'accelerating our digital transformation, while dynamically managing resources'.

"Thanks to our solid fundamentals, our teams and our brand portfolio, I am confident that Pernod Ricard will emerge from this crisis stronger," he said. "I would like to take this opportunity to praise our teams, whose engagement and performance are exemplary in these very challenging times, and to express our support to our on-trade and travel retail partners who continue to be impacted by the pandemic."

Pernod Ricard has continued to drive its 2030 Sustainability and Responsibility roadmap, and sees a significant achievement as its plan to remove all single-use Point-of-Sales plastic from June 2021.

www.pernod-ricard.com

## Jameson Irish Whiskey shows positive results

Results from Irish Distillers for the first half of its financial year showed a 12% growth in the UK for Jameson Irish whiskey, supported by +4% in Ireland and +7% in Russia with a sales growth of 3% globally.

Conor McQuaid, Chairman and CEO of Irish Distillers, said: "Despite an extremely difficult environment, we had a solid start to the financial year, with sales of Jameson Irish whiskey showing resilience by growing 3% in the first half of the year."

In the ready-to-drink (RTD) category, the Jameson RTD range was up by 42% in value compared to the first half of the previous year. "The pandemic continues to present challenging business conditions for our partners in hospitality, the on-trade and global travel retail," he said. "We understand that it will take some time for those sectors to recover and reach pre-pandemic growth levels, but we are optimistic for the future and confident that they will rebound and emerge even stronger than before."

The single pot still Irish whiskey category continues its resurgence, driven by value growth in Redbreast (+33%) which saw the addition of a new permanent expression to the family with the launch of Redbreast 27 year old in March 2020. Value growth was also seen across the Spot range (+31%), with the reimagined Blue Spot unveiled in November, reuniting the historic Spot family for the first time in over half a century.

"The trend of premiumisation continues apace as more and more consumers choose higher quality spirits, with Redbreast, the Spot range, and Method and Madness achieving their highest ever volume sales, with the Midleton range seeing significant value growth (+46%) driven by the US, UK, Irish, German, and Canadian markets," said McQuaid.

www.irishdistillers.ie

## **Global competition targets world food systems**

Unhealthy food is now deadlier than alcohol, drugs and tobacco combined, according to BI Norwegian Business School. The school, along with consulting firm Kearney, are supporting the UN Food Systems Summit (UN FSS) in 2021 by hosting a virtual global case competition to generate 'gamechanging solutions to challenge the status quo in the world's food systems'.

Between the 5th and 21st March 2021, students from around the globe will compete to present the best and most innovative solutions designed to pave the way towards healthy and sustainable food consumption. In addition to cash prizes of over £14k (\$US20k), representatives from UN's Action Tracks will initiate discussions with member states to incorporate the best solutions into final Action Track submissions.

"We all have to eat and everyone on this planet is a stakeholder in the global food system. Yet today, the food system is failing both our health and the environment, and the science shows that we cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals nor the Paris Agreement without fixing it," said Dr Gunhild Stordalen, Founder and Executive Chair of EAT and Chair of UN FSS Action Track 2.

"The younger generations are particularly important, as it's their future, and why BI, Kearney and EAT have launched this Case Competition to sup-



port the Action Tracks. I can't wait to see what brilliant ideas and solutions will emerge."

Inge Jan Henjesand, President at BI Norwegian Business School, said: "We believe that today's students, which represent the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders, can be a driving force in finding solutions that may provide long term economic, environmental and societal value at a large scale. This case competition is a call to action for students and people worldwide to put their skills to the test to solve one of the most pressing challenges facing society, namely our food systems and the need for system transformation," says Inge Jan Henjesand, President at BI Norwegian Business School.

• www.bi-edu

## Campari – new rum addition

Campari UK is now distributing super-premium agricole rum brand Trois Rivières. The brand joins the likes of Appleton Estate, Wild Turkey and Grand Marnier as part of the Campari Prestige portfolio.

Trois Rivières Agricole Rhum is described as 'an exceptional vintage rum with an innovative spirit that embodies excellence and the Caribbean way of life'. It has won 263 awards and medals in the past five years,

Campari UK's Managing Director Brad Madigan said: "With a rich legacy and history Trois Rivières premium agricole rhum has been recognised worldwide for its extraordinary quality and elegance. Trois Rivières is an exciting addition to the growing Campari UK Prestige portfolio.

"As a prestigious, high-quality rhum brand, Trois Rivières is a brilliant addition to our established Prestige Portfolio brands such as Wild Turkey, Appleton Estate and Grand Marnier, further diversifying the Campari UK offering. I would like to thank the team at Speciality Brands for their commitment in establishing Trois Rivières in the UK market. We are very much looking forward to building on their great work and introducing more consumers to the wonder of Trois Rivières." • www.camparigroup.com/en





## Back to class with School of Booze

s clubs prepare to reopen, Jane Peyton, founder of School of Booze, has launched an online drinks education platform offering training courses in Beer, Cider, and Wine. The Beer Sommelier was Britain's first accredited Cider Pommelier and is accredited through the Wine & Spirit Education Trust.

There are three levels of learning – Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced – and the courses are designed to be concise with easy-to-learn content in audio and written formats.

www.school-of-booze.com

#### Hygiene is key to consumer confidence

As businesses prepare to reopen following lockdown, new research reveals that many outlets could face millions more in lost revenues due to customer fears around infection risk.

According to a survey of 2,000 members of the public, almost two thirds of Brits will boycott hospitality outlets with a poor reputation for hygiene and infection control.

The findings also reve aled that more than one in three (34%) people would never use offending businesses again, and would also tell as many people as possible to avoid these businesses too, through channels such as word-of-mouth and social media, further increasing reputational damage. The research was carried out by infection control specialist JLA as part of its "Infection Insights" campaign to raise standards across the ind ustry.

According to the research, winning customer trust will be key for businesses looking to retain and grow their customer base over the coming months, with 87.6% of Brits now deeming it important that a business has a good reputation for hygiene and infection control. Furthermore, 58.1% of these proclaim a positive standing for hygiene "extremely important". This indicates that hygiene ratings traditio nally a significant indicator of quality for many businesses - have also become more important than ever before in the eyes of the public. A further 33.6% of the public admitted that they are less likely to use a business with a poor reputation for infection control, with only 6.3% of the population stating that hygiene and infection control ratings are still not an issue for them. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it was revealed that the events of 2020 have prompted a nationwide change in attitudes towards hygiene and infection control overall, with 77% of the public holding greater concerns in this area than a year previously attributing this change directly to COVID-19. Notably, four in five customers (80.5%) also report that tangible proof of businesses prioritising hygiene and customer safety, such as an i ndustry accreditation mark denoting infection control excellence, would be reassuring.

Ben Gujral, CEO at JLA, commented: "The events of the past year have laid bare the potential consequences for companies that do not demonstrate the highest standards in infection control, as well as the growth opportunities for organisations that do invest what is needed now to reassure worried customers.

"Expectations of the businesses customers will trust their money – and their health – with are virtually unrecognisable from even a year ago and, as our findings demonstrate, consumers will be quick to condemn any business that does not meet their heightened standards when it comes to infection control.

"At a time where businesses across a range of industries need the continued loyalty of their customers more than ever be fore, it is crucial that they use the coming weeks to action all possible infection control measures to put their minds at ease. Those that take the time to do this now will reap the benefits once doors are able to reopen properly, offering potentially millions in boosted revenues, as well as the loyalty of customers both old and new, for years to come."

www.jla.com/knowledge/icir-2021

## Brixton Brewery becomes is wholly owned subsidiary of HEINEKEN UK

**B**rixton Brewery, the south London based brewer founded underneath a railway arch, has been acquired by HEINEKEN. This follows the original investment from HEINEKEN in 2017, which saw the global brewer acquire a minority stake in the company, enabling it to expand to a second brewery close to their original site.

Brixton Brewery was started in 2013, the dream of two local couples who met in a Brixton bar and shared a passion for the emerging London beer scene. Their vision was to make beers that reflected their vibrant and exciting home neighbourhood, with its famous nightlife, renowned music scene and multicultural influences. Jez and Libby Galaun, and Mike Ross and Xochitl Benjamin worked hard to make a success of the brewery and create a sustainable local business.

Starting life with one employee and mainly making deliveries on foot around Brixton Market, Brixton Brewery currently employs over 25 people and is a London Living Wage employer as well as a member of the Living Wage Foundation.

Founder Jez Galaun said: "When we look back over the past seven years, we honestly can't believe how far we've come – from home brewing to starting a small brewery, to building a highly recognisable community-based brand, with a large new brewery and Tap Room. It makes us want to dream even bigger for the next seven.

"We will still manage the brewery and have creative control over the brand and the beers we brew. The partnership means we can lean on HEINEKEN's expertise and routes to market, meaning more peo-



ple across the UK can get a taste of Brixton."

"Our growth and expansion are a source of huge pride to us – we've always been ambitious for our team and for our business. Over the past three years of working together, we've built a strong relationship with HEINEKEN who share our commitment to quality and responsibility. We have benefitted from the HEINEKEN team's expertise and market reach, and we want to build on it. There's no denying the fact that the next few years will be challenging for many reasons, so we're happy to have the opportunity to secure the future of Brixton Brewery for our families, our team, our community and fans of our beers, who've been hugely supportive of our success so far."

• www.heineken.co.uk

## **Stewley Orchard's new steward**

The Taunton Cider Company are taking back stewardship of the 34 acre Stewley Orchard, taking on responsibility for its conservation and care of its 20 varieties of heritage apple trees.

The original Taunton Cider Company first planted them back in the mid-seventies, and now Taunton Cider Orchard Manager Martin Ridler and Master Cider Maker Bob Chaplin are back as part of the team bringing Stewley Orchard back to life. There are plans to build 20 hives to participate in the protection of the British Honeybee who in turn will become welcome pollinators in the fields. The company is also keen to support the local community and has created two new jobs and an apprenticeship. An annual yield of 300 tonnes of apples will be picked to produce the sweet Somerset cider, now available throughout the UK, Europe and the US. • www.tauntoncider.co.uk







Luxury sandwich brand MrZ caught the public's imagination when it launched online with a menu including a beef and 24 carat edible gold leaf sandwich costing £50. Pancake day? It was a 'for one day only' Poseidon Pancake with Exmoor Caviar no less. Anyone looking for a side order of Oscietra Caviar at £50 was out of luck – sold out.



Lincat has added two compact, heated Grab & Go merchandisers to its Seal range. The units have been developed to help outlets generate additional grab-and-go revenue where counter space is at a premium. The models are 400mm and 500mm wide. • www.lincat.co.uk.

#### UKBG to benefit from new industry partnership

Refrigeration and ice machine supplier Hoshizaki has announced a partnership with the United Kingdom Bartenders Guild (UKBG) giving members discounted prices and places at Hoshizaki training masterclasses. It is also sponsoring a selection of UKBG online educational and community events.

Claudia Carrozzi, UKBG Maritime Branch Chair, said: "As a Cunard fleet head mixologist and beverage consultant in the UK, I communicate the importance of good ice to create a great drink to my team members, students and guests, on a daily basis. A great drink means a happy guest – and a great drink comes from a careful balance. Hoshizaki's products and decades of expertise are going to be an amazing resource for our members."

Salvatore Damiano, President of the UK BG, said: "Our latest collaboration with Hoshizaki will help us support our people in a difficult and uncertain time, with expertise and high quality tools. It is part of the UKBG's ongoing commitment to help to rebuild our industry brick by brick."

www.hoshizaki-europe.com

## UK's distilleries forge ahead

ew HMRC figures show a record number of distilleries were registered in the UK in 2020, with numbers up 28% on 2019.

England's distillery numbers are now over 300 for the first time (311), Scotland is up to 214, and Wales and Northern Ireland numbers are also up.

The Wine and Spirit Trade Association (WSTA) is urging the Government to 'continue to nurture the distillery boom' by cutting duty and extending the VAT reduction .

WSTA Chief Executive Miles Beale said: "It's heart-warming to find a positive story from the gloom of 2020 and our bold and growing band of distillers have delivered once again. The record number of new distilleries opening across the UK is great news and helps provide jobs and a real boost to local economies."

March 2021



## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Equipment breakdowns damaging for kitchen efficiency

Research from BRITA Professional shows that on average hospitality workers have dealt with 84 days of equipment breakdowns in 2020, with half of kitchen workers saying they need more reliable equipment to run a practical and efficient kitchen.

When asked to create a wish list of how they would like to change life in the kitchen, responders said t<u>hey wanted:</u>\_\_\_\_\_

- esponders said they wanted: More rebust equipment cleanin
- More robust equipment cleaning schedules (39%).
- A preventative maintenance schedule to reduce equipment breakdowns (33%).
- An external maintenance service team to check equipment is always in top condition (25%).

The new research also reveals that 75% of professionals also want to increase sustainability. The top ways in which hospitality workers want to achieve this is by focusing on equipment and energy efficiency (36%) followed by recycling more (34%) and reducing food waste (34%).

"The importance of equipment efficiency, to save time and reduce stress, is more essential than ever," said Sarah Taylor, Managing Director of BRITA UK. "A regular maintenance schedule will give kitchen workers vital time back to concentrate on what they love best – creating incredible food for customers. Not only that but machines will run more efficiently and last for longer, saving money in the long run and improving businesses' impact on the environment."

#### • www.brita.co.uk

High output soft ice cream machine



Jestic Foodservice Solutions has extended its range of Malibu soft ice cream machines with the launch of a new easy to use model, the lcetro CT 211, capable of producing 20 consecutive cones and an output of 27kg of soft ice cream an hour.

• www.jestic.co.uk

## Waterloo and Taunton Celebrates Local Hero Peter Crompton

Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, Ashton-under-Lyne, has presented Club Committee Member - 'Peter Crompton', with a 'Covid 19 Local Hero Award' for supporting the local community.

Peter has personally kept in touch with many club members during the ongoing lockdowns, helped to deliver Christmas parcels to members, supported local charities, and supported a local Primary School to collect unused laptops to be used for online learning.

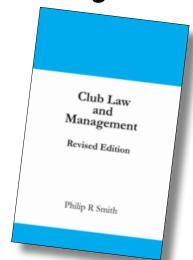
Peter was presented his local hero award by Club Chairman - Leon Tamcken, who thanked Pete for his outstanding support during the pandemic



Peter Crompton is presented his Local Hero award by CWaterloo and Taunton Club Chairman, Leon Tamcken.

## **Club Law and Management**

## Revised Edition Now Available



The ACC is pleased to announce the forthcoming launch

of Club Law and Management: Revised Edition. Our original Club Law and Management was launched in 2008 and has served as a trusted aid for many Club Committees ever since. This new edition completely overhauls the previous book and includes completely new advice sections as well.

Please order now using either our website, by phoning 0207 222 0868 or emailing us. This revised edition will sit alongside our recently published Club Law and Management: Questions and Answers. We hope that the collection of both books, each focusing on a specific area of Club Law guidance will prove invaluable for Club Committees for years to come.



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## Linneweber 1 – An update from Ian Spencer

Following on from previous advice it seems that in some instances HMRC are beginning to finally make repayments as requested by taxpayers, following HMRCs concession that VAT was not payable on income generated from gaming machines and the instructions detailed in HMRCs Revenue & Customs Brief 05/2020 early last year on requesting repayment.

HMRCs position was, and remains, that for repayment to be authorised any claimant must have both a valid claim and a valid appeal. The next requirement from HMRC was that any protective assessment raised by HMRC when making repayment to clubs in 2010/2011 also had to be subject to appeal, with HMRC agreeing that a simple request to HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) to allow an appeal against the protective assessment to be joined to an original appeal, was acceptable. HMRCs practice being that as soon as

such application was made HMRC would write to HMCTS confirming they had no objection to such an application.

Problems have arisen with this over the past 6 months as HMRC cannot release repayment, as the requirements set out in brief 05/2020 are not fully met, until HMCTS confirm there is a valid appeal against the protective assessment and HMCTS has been unable in many instances to provide confirmation of this within any reasonable timescale, as such HMRCs hands have been tied.

Any taxpayer that hasn't yet requested repayment from HMRC in respect of a claim submitted in 2006/2007 and subsequently appalled is still able to make a request for repayment from HMRC as set out in HMRC's Revenue & Customs Brief 05/2020.

Recently HMRC have confirmed that they are beginning to receive confirmations from HMCTS that applications in respect of et protective assessments are accepted, thus allowing HMRC to process repayments. Remember HMRC should make payment of the amounts of overstated VAT, interest thereon and repay the interest they charged when seeking recovery of payments made in 2014.

Interestingly, having set out requirements for taxpayers to provide significant amounts of information to support claims in HMRC's Revenue & Customs Brief 05/2020 HMRC have not raised any objections to the response provided by many taxpayers when requesting repayment using the template letter provided by the ACC rejecting the suggestion that the taxpayer should provide the information on the basis that all the information said to be required was already within HMRCs knowledge.

Despite this good news there are a significant number of taxpayers in the situation where HMRC are rejecting requests for repayment on the basis that no valid appeal is in place. Where HMRC issued a decision to reject the claim shortly after it was made, and any taxpayer has failed to appeal against that decision this seems to be a correct stance for HMRC to take. However, there are a significant number of cases where HMRC failed to issue a decision, thereby denying taxpayers the right to submit an appeal. IT seems only fair and reasonable not to now discriminate against those clubs because of a failing on HMRCS part. There is a course of action available to any taxpayer that finds themselves in this situation but at this moment it seems that HMRC will raise objections to this and seek to block any such argument. If taxpayers take no action, then HMRC will not make any repayment.

Any club requiring assistance with any of the issues at point in this article can ask for help by contacting Ian Spencer by email at ianspencer@ vatproblemssolved.com, or by phone on 07904 864209.



## **Obituary**

#### **Chris Godbald**



Chelmsford Conservative Club's members are very sorry to report that Chris Godbold, a long serving stalwart of our Club, sadly passed away on 6th January after losing a short battle with cancer. Chris was born in 1942 and was aged 78.

Chris became a member in 1980 and joined the Committee the following year. He served on the Committee for many years holding several positions including Chairman, President, Treasurer, House & Buildings Sub-Committee Chairman and Bar Sub-Committee Chairman.

Chris was honoured as a Life Member for his considerable contribution to the Club.

He was involved with many projects for the Club such as the building of a new bar area. Chris was always on hand to maintain the building, which is over 100 years old, and sort out any problems with the Cellar, bar equipment or any urgent maintenance that was required saving the Club considerable sums. More recently, as Treasurer, he took on responsibility for the installation and maintenance of Club Control's till and door entry systems.

Chris used his entrepreneurial skills in all aspects of the Club's activities and supported people when needed. The Club was Chris' second home and he was a devoted member for 40 years.

In his personal life, Chris worked for Essex Police's Civil Dept as a motor mechanic and he then became a Marine Engineer in the Marine Section working on police boats until his retirement.



Club.

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back to May 1951 where the Magazine looked ahead to the summer of football involving England, Wales and Scotland. Readers may be interested to know that the 9th May England vs Argentina game ended 2-1 to England and the England vs Portugal game ended 5-2. It is what football fans like to call the good old days.

The Welsh Football games against Portugal and Switzerland ended 2-1 and 3-2 respectively, both to Wales. The Scotland team's games against Denmark and France ended 3-1 and 1-0 respectively. Clearly a good time for all the home nations football teams.

He was a volunteer with St John's

Ambulance for many years and a volunteer driver for the London

Olympics in 2012 in which he was

sought nominations for roads in

a new development at Beaulieu

Heath to be named after local

servicemen Chris nominated his

grandfather, Joseph Clibbon, who

served in World War 1 and never

returned home. Chris' nomination

was accepted and Joseph Clibbon

members will miss Chris and

the huge contribution he made

throughout his membership of the

The Club's committee and

Drive was named in his memory.

When Chelmsford City Council

very proud to take part.

As we look towards the end of the Coronavirus restrictions we can look forward to a summer potentially full of sport, with the delayed Euros taking place in June and July and the Olympics still scheduled to take place in July and August. We certainly hope both events go ahead and that Clubs will get a sizeable benefit from the television Euros games.



## PAGES FROM THE PAST

THE CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE

May 1951

## SUMMER SOCCER by S. A. Tomlin

Soccer fans throughout Britain will have an exciting and interesting May for there is a host of football to be watched. The fixtures include seven full International and two Amateur International games. A real festival of "festival" Soccer, here is the list:

May 9th .- England v Argentine, at Wembley.

\*May 10th.-England v Finland, at Swindon.

May 12th .- Ireland v France, at Belfast.

May 12th .- Scotland v Denmark, at Hampden Park.

May 12th .- Wales v Portugal, at Cardiff.

\*May 15th .- England v Norway, at Middlesboro'.

May 16th .- Scotland v France, at Hampden Park.

May 16th.-Wales v Switzerland, at Wrexham.

May 19th.—England v Portugal, at Everton. \* Amateur.

More recent International performances by British teams have not been very impressive. A quite ordinary team from Yugoslavia held England to a draw in London whilst an Austraian team with few claims to distinction defeated the Scots at Glasgow.

In most departments of the game the home sides more than held their own. But the object of Soccer is to score more goals than your opponents and this aspect was lacking. Let's hope this failure will be remedied.

When reviewing English Soccer in the September Magazine I drew attention to the match-winning play exhibited by Tottenham Hotspur when winning the second division Championship last season. Well, their fast open and attacking play has again succeeded in placing them ahead of their contemporaries in the League. This time the First Division.

It has, I think, been noticeable during this season that attacking play is slowly coming back into English Soccer. Bolton Wanderers, Manchester United, Newcastle United and Wolverhampton Wanderers are among those teams who, without revolutionising traditional tactics, have begun to show more enterprise in attack, this as their records show, with some degree of success. I was reading the other day that in the first England v Scotland International played in 1872, the England team had a goalkeeper, a three quarter back, a half back and eight forwards. This would seem a very queer formation today but perhaps the cycle is beginning to complete itself.

The solid defensive methods of play as still maintained by the Arsenal for instance do not pay dividends unless supported by brilliant individuals in the forward line. It is also, as Stanley Matthews well proved at Highbury, vulnerable when opposed by such brilliant individuals. The Continental teams, having no real Soccer tradition to worry about, approach their game with a more modernistic outlook. They are much more concerned with thrustful attack by fast, fit players, most of whom have the advantage of youth. It will, therefore, be interesting to see how our selectors blend eleven players into teams against our May visitors.

Perhaps the key match will be England against Argentine if they eventually agree to fulfil the fixture for they are, at the time of writing, still demanding the appearance of Tottenham in South America as the basis of their acceptance. England is still smarting under World Cup defeats in South America and a victory at Wembley would do much to raise our prestige and improve our confidence.

Many of the other visiting teams are amateurs who have proved worthy on previous occasions of holding and even defeating teams from this country, when visiting the Continent. They have so far had no success when competing here except against amateur sides. Their superiority over our amateurs in the 1948 Olympics was most marked. The Festival Games may, therefore, give us some indication of British possibilities in the Olympic Games to be held next year.

Unfortunately some of the stronger European Soccer nations like Italy, Sweden, and the eastern European nations will not be revealing their form but perhaps the nations that are coming should give us a good guide.

It is unfortunate perhaps that there have been no recent International matches to help the selectors in picking their National sides and they will only have the England-Scotland match to help them. This is always a hard fought and entertaining game in which players, inspired by the occasion, produce their best.

Although many of the fully proved International players are still producing excellent football, there are a great number of younger ones knocking at the door and it is possible that these Festival Games may provide opportunity for some of them to gain their first caps. As a long term policy it would undoubtedly be wise to give a few younger players a chance to prove their temperament and ability, in particular temperament, for it is a quality of supreme importance, especially when playing in other countries where spectator approach can be somewhat more vigorous.

Whatever the result of these games may be there is no doubt that we shall have some fast, entertaining football and can only hope that the "Lion's Tail" will not be unduly twisted and that the "Hampden Roar" will serve a useful purpose. We should win them all but you can never tell.

Following the Festival Internationals, London may have an additional Soccer tit-bit.

(Continued on page 16)

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