

# *CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE*



October 2021 75p



## **Waterloo and Taunton Celebrates 130th Anniversary**

**Aldershot Holds Covid Memorial Service**

**Paignton Voted CAMRA Club of the Year**

**Industry Insights**





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# Message From The Chief Executive

In much the same way as supermarkets begin their Christmas planning in January, the ACC have to start to think about 2022 in August/September to ensure we have organised the revised Inter Affiliation Tickets and 2020 Club Law/Diaries ready to start sending out from October. To that end, I am pleased to say we are well on track and clubs will shortly start to see 2022 IA Tickets and Diaries available for order. Clearly, 2021 has been an unusual year (and not just for the obvious reasons) in that we have continued to receive orders for 2021 IA Tickets right up to the time of writing in late September – a situation almost unheard of in previous years where we'd seldom expect to supply many IA Tickets past the half way point of the year. As with many things, the pandemic is the culprit with IA ticket orders mostly non-existent until around April and then increasing steadily as it became clear that UK holidays were on the horizon. We remain pleased by the wide ranging support that the IA Ticket scheme

receives and we look forward to starting the supply process for the 2022 IA Tickets (and Dairies) in the coming weeks.

October is also the month where we can start to look back at the year as a whole and in general terms we can be proud of the way in which clubs have survived the pandemic. For an industry that was, for all intents and purposes, shut down for the first half of the year it is pleasing to see members returning to their clubs and new members making applications to join. As expected, there have been a handful of clubs which sadly have not re-opened but these are very much the exception and for the most part we are hearing that clubs are doing well and in some cases the enforced shutdown has allowed them to complete much needed projects such as renovations and repair work.

We hope that the upcoming Christmas and New Year season will remain immune from possible future Covid restrictions as we know many clubs are eagerly awaiting this busy time of year.

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# CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

## ‘Natasha’s Law’ Comes Into Force

Almost five years after the death of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse, Natasha’s Law comes into force this October.

It’s been almost five years since Natasha Ednan-Laperouse collapsed and died after eating a Pret a Manger baguette. The teenager went into cardiac arrest on a British Airways flight in July 2016 after suffering a major allergic reaction to sesame, which wasn’t declared on the packaging.

The inquest into her death in 2018 exposed a major loophole in UK food labelling law, which meant retailers such as Pret making food fresh on their own premises didn’t have to provide allergen information on the packaging. “In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths could occur unless action is taken,” warned the coroner, Dr Séan Cummings, at the time.

In 2019, after a tireless campaign by Natasha’s parents Tanya and Nadim Ednan-Laperouse, then-environment secretary Michael Gove announced plans to close that loophole with Natasha’s Law. The legislation proposed making full ingredient labelling mandatory on all pre-packed for direct sale (PPDS) food from October 2021.

The new rules, which will affect a wide range of businesses from cafés to major supermarket chains, were backed by the FSA. Heather Hancock, who was chair of the regulator at the time, described Natasha’s Law as an “important step forward in our ambition for the UK to become the best place

in the world for people living with food hypersensitivities”.

It applies to products designated as ‘pre-packed for direct sale’ (PPDS). That is food packaged at the same place it is offered for sale to consumers, including pre-wrapped products kept behind a counter.

It will potentially affect cafés and sandwich shops, as well as caterers, supermarkets and convenience stores with a food-to-go offer. We believe it will only have a limited effect on Clubs but it is important to be aware of the new regulations if the Club prepares and then sells packaged food on the premises. No changes apply to food prepared on demand for customers, such as ordering from a menu.

Under the revised legislation, PPDS food will need to have a label showing the name and quantity of the food and the full ingredient list.

Any of the 14 declarable allergens – celery, cereals containing gluten, crustaceans, eggs, fish, milk, lupin, molluscs, mustard, sesame, peanuts, soybeans, sulphur dioxide and sulphites, and nuts – will need to be clearly emphasised (ie in bold and underlined).

Pret’s high street rival Starbucks has already implemented the necessary changes to comply with Natasha’s Law, which will only apply to a small number of its stores, while Greggs is set to roll out full ingredient labelling across its store estate by September.

### What is PPDS food?

Prepacked for direct sale or PPDS is food which is packaged at the same place it is offered or sold to consumers and is in this packaging before it is ordered or selected.

It can include food that consumers select themselves (e.g. from a display unit), as well as products kept behind a counter and some food sold at mobile or temporary outlets.

### Food that isn’t PPDS

- Any food that is not in packaging or is packaged after

being ordered by the consumer. These are types of non-prepacked food and do not require a label with name, ingredients and allergens emphasised. Allergen information must still be provided but this can be done through other means, including orally.

- Food packed by one business and supplied to another business. This is prepacked food and already must have full labelling, including the name of the food and a full ingredients list, with allergenic ingredients emphasised within it.

## Linneweber 2 Update

Clubs may have already heard the long awaited decision in the test case for Linneweber 2 claims was finalised last week with HMRC publishing their take on this matter in their business Brief 12 of 2021 which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revenue-and-customs-brief-12-2021-vat-treatment-of-gaming-machines-from-6-december-2005-to-31-january-2013/revenue-and-customs-brief-12-2021-vat-treatment-of-gaming-machines-from-6-december-2005-to-31-january-2013>.

In essence this covers claims for VAT overpaid at HMRCs insistence on gaming machines operated by Clubs in VAT periods covering dates between 6 December 2005 and 31 January 2013. HMRC have confirmed they will consider repayment if any VAT registered business has a valid claim and a valid appeal against a decision to reject a claim. Please note that it is too late to submit any new claims.

HMRC note they would like requests for repayment to be made by email where possible.

HMRC have noted that they require the following from claimants;

- Name, address, VAT registration number, any changes in details since claims were made
- Related tribunal numbers,
- status of the person submitting the request for repayment,
- confirmation the club accepts the risks of corresponding by email
- the total claim broken down by VAT period, detailing output and input tax
- details of irrecoverable input tax as a result of partial exemption calculations, capital goods scheme calculations and confirmation of the partial exemption method used
- confirmation of what category of gaming machines were operated during the periods in question

If full information isn’t available HMRC require explanation of

- what evidence is missing,
- what steps have been taken to retrieve it
- the reasons why it is unavailable

Having considered the business brief and the details HMRC say they require we are advised (by Ian Spencer - VAT consultant) that the demands for information are onerous and might be avoided. We will seek further advice on this point.

Some Clubs may have submitted claims themselves, others may have used advisors to do this on their behalf. Where advisors were used our advice is to contact the adviser and seek assistance in dealing with HMRC.

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# CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

## Premier League October and November Fixtures

**Saturday 2 October**  
12:30 Man Utd v Everton  
Burnley v Norwich  
Chelsea v Southampton  
Leeds v Watford  
Wolves v Newcastle  
17:30 Brighton v Arsenal

**Sunday 3 October**  
14:00 Crystal Palace v Leicester  
14:00 Spurs v Aston Villa\*  
14:00 West Ham v Brentford  
16:30 Liverpool v Man City

**Saturday 16 October**  
12:30 Watford v Liverpool  
Aston Villa v Wolves  
Leicester v Man Utd  
Man City v Burnley  
Norwich v Brighton  
Southampton v Leeds  
17:30 Brentford v Chelsea

**Sunday 17 October**  
14:00 Everton v West Ham  
16:30 Newcastle v Spurs

**Monday 18 October**  
20:00 Arsenal v Crystal Palace

**Friday 22 October**  
20:00 Arsenal v Aston Villa

**Saturday 23 October**  
12:30 Chelsea v Norwich  
Crystal Palace v Newcastle  
Everton v Watford  
Leeds v Wolves  
Southampton v Burnley  
17:30 Brighton v Man City

**Sunday 24 October**  
14:00 Brentford v Leicester  
14:00 West Ham v Spurs\*\*\*  
16:30 Man Utd v Liverpool\*\*\*

**Saturday 30 October**  
12:30 Leicester v Arsenal  
Burnley v Brentford  
Liverpool v Brighton  
Man City v Crystal Palace  
Newcastle v Chelsea  
Watford v Southampton  
17:30 Spurs v Man Utd

**Sunday 31 October**  
14:00 Norwich v Leeds  
16:30 Aston Villa v West Ham

**Monday 1 November**  
20:00 Wolves v Everton

**Saturday 6 November**  
Arsenal v Watford  
Brentford v Norwich  
Brighton v Newcastle  
Chelsea v Burnley  
Crystal Palace v Wolves  
Everton v Spurs\*  
Leeds v Leicester\*  
Man Utd v Man City  
Southampton v Aston Villa  
West Ham v Liverpool\*

**Saturday 20 November**  
Aston Villa v Brighton  
Burnley v Crystal Palace  
Leicester v Chelsea  
Liverpool v Arsenal  
Man City v Everton  
Newcastle v Brentford  
Norwich v Southampton  
Spurs v Leeds

\*Matches that could be affected by clubs' participation in UEFA competitions the preceding midweek

\*\*Matches subject to change depending on the participation of clubs in the UEFA Champions League the next Tuesday

\*\*\*Final confirmation of the kick-off times of these fixtures TBC

Watford v Man Utd  
Wolves v West Ham

**Saturday 27 November**  
Arsenal v Newcastle  
Brentford v Everton  
Brighton v Leeds  
Burnley v Spurs\*  
Chelsea v Man Utd  
Crystal Palace v Aston Villa  
Leicester v Watford\*  
Liverpool v Southampton  
Man City v West Ham\*  
Norwich v Wolves

**Tuesday 30 November**  
19:45 Aston Villa v Man City\*  
19:45 Everton v Liverpool  
19:45 Leeds v Crystal Palace  
19:45 Watford v Chelsea\*  
19:45 West Ham v Brighton\*  
19:45 Wolves v Burnley  
20:00 Man Utd v Arsenal

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## Questions and Answers

**Q**An employee has stated that they need to take time off although it is unclear if it is for sickness or other reasons. We are minded to provide the time off but need to know if it should be paid? This employee has had considerable sickness leave in the past 12 months.

**A**I think the first thing to establish is if the time off which has been requested is due to sickness and would therefore be paid as SSP or is to be taken as unpaid leave.

Once the nature of the leave is known then the next steps can then be determined. Ultimately with extended sickness leave the employer (the Committee) can discuss the situation with the employee and if it is determined that it is unlikely the employee will be able to return to work then dismissal can be a lawful option. Initially, however, we simply need to understand the reason behind the present leave request and, if it is sickness absence, whether it is linked to the previous sickness absences.

**Q**The Committee are concerned at some of the nominations for Committee which have been proposed. We consider that they would not work in the Club's interests if elected, indeed we understand they may wish to reverse some previous Committee decisions. It is also likely that they would cause disruptions in Committee Meetings if they were elected. Can we prevent these persons from going on the final nominations sheet?

**A**The short answer is no. The ACC respects the decision of Club Members when it comes

to nominating and voting for Committee Members. It is entirely plausible that Committee Members will be elected, sometimes individually, sometimes en masse, who do not agree with previous Committee decisions or the general direction of the Club. It is, of course, the right of the Members to vote for candidates who have been critical of the Committee and who, individually, will be pushing for different policies to be enacted.

Ultimately, decisions are made by majority Committee decisions. Therefore, a Committee where there is one or two lone voices objecting to policy is unlikely to be impacted by these points of view. Committee Members who disagree with Committee policy must do so respectfully, must not disrupt Committee business by monopolising Committee time and must accept the ultimate decision of the Committee. Committee Members who behave inappropriately, who do not comply with Committee decisions or who reveal confidential information to third parties can be disciplined as per the Club's standard disciplinary rules.

The Club's Chairman must ensure Committee meetings are kept on track and are not disrupted by individual Committee persons. The published agenda should be followed and if a situation arises in Any Other Business then the Chairman can determine that it will be formally dealt with at the next Committee Meeting. No Committee resolution can be rescinded until notice is given of intention to rescind at a proceeding Committee Meeting and the item formally placed on the agenda of a future Committee Meeting. If an agenda item is proposed that the Chairman believes can be quickly determined by a vote then a vote can be held which will

resolve the matter. Committee Members should not be allowed to grandstand or waste the time of the Committee on matters which have already been determined.

Therefore, in your situation I would repeat our general advice that Committee Meetings are kept on track by the Chairman, that the matters discussed at the matters listed on the agenda and that once a decision has been made by majority vote the Committee should broadly consider the matter closed unless a intention to rescind the decision is proposed in line with the Club's Rules.

As for the election results, these results will be purely determined by the Club's Members and the results of the election should be respected by all parties.

**Q**Could you confirm what happens if there is a tie in votes for the final Committee position?

**A**We can confirm that in the event of a tie for the final Committee position that any tied candidates would be randomly selected by lot with the successful candidate filling the final Committee position.

**Q**We have a lapsed Member who wishes to use the Club as a guest. Is this permissible under the Rules?

**A**The relevant rule is below:  
No person who has been expelled from this or any other Conservative Club affiliated to or inter-affiliated with the Association of Conservative Clubs Limited, or who at the request of the Committee, has resigned from membership, or who, having been a candidate for election, has been rejected, or who is indebted to the Club, shall be admitted as a guest. If a Member has not formally resigned then they owe the membership fee that they were due to pay. If they pay the fee due they can then be signed into the Club as a guest. The rule exists to discourage members simply lapsing their membership and then using the Club as a guest. If a Member wishes to resign they should do it in the correct way by notifying the Club's Secretary. Lapsed members cost the Club's administrative team time and money in pursuing them for a membership renewal which is why it is important for Members to formally resign if they no longer wish to be a Member of the Club. Furthermore, the Committee does have discretion to prevent resigned members from using the Club as a guest and the Committee can make

such decisions on a case by case basis.

**Q**Our Committee have recently had to invite a member to a disciplinary meeting after some poor behaviour. We are a small club and don't often have to officially deal with such problems, could you let us know how we should conduct a disciplinary procedure?

**A**You cannot expel or suspend a member from the club without first inviting them to a Committee meeting. A suspension or permanent expulsion can only take place once a disciplinary meeting has been held. You can also only suspend a member for a maximum of twelve months.

If the Committee are of the opinion that this individual's behaviour has either broken specific club rules/Bye-Laws or could be judged to be prejudicial to the Conservative cause or the interests of the club then they can summon this member to appear before the Committee. The Committee should inform them of the allegations that have been made against when asking them to attend the disciplinary meeting.

The Committee can also instruct this member to withdraw from the facilities of membership until he appears before the disciplinary meeting. It is normal that once the withdrawal takes place that a disciplinary meeting is held within two months and that at least seven days' notice of the meeting must be given to the member, in accordance with the club's rules. If this is how the Committee wishes to proceed you should write to the member and inform them that due to their conduct he has been requested to appear in front of the Committee. You should also include the precise details of the complaint and alleged conduct which has forced the Committee to summon the member to them.

You should then hold the disciplinary meeting and, after reviewing any points this member has to make in their defence, the Committee should decide if their conduct requires a suspension of membership up to one year in length, permanent expulsion from the club or no action taken against them.

If you decide to withdraw the facilities of membership from the member until the Committee has heard the disciplinary meeting then this means that they will be unable to enter the club until the disciplinary meeting has been heard.

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

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# Memorial Service at Aldershot Conservative Club

A Memorial Service was held last month at the Aldershot Conservative Club to record sympathy and support to families who have lost loved ones during the Covid Pandemic.

The Service was conducted by The Reverend Captain Carol Monk and in addition to members and local Councillors, the service was attended by the Club's Officers, including Club Chairman, Miss Pat Mathews, The Mayor Cllr Bruce Thomas and Mayoress Mrs Tracy Thomas. ACC Chief Executive, Lord Smith of Hindhead also attended the service.

A welcome and introduction was made by Mr Stuart Green and a list of names of those who had passed away was read by Mrs Elizabeth Bryce. A collection was made for the Military Welfare Unit at Frimley Park Hospital and following the service a buffet and refreshments were made available for members and guests to enjoy.



Pictures of the Aldershot Conservative Club.

## Paignton Conservative Club Vote CAMRA regional Club of the Year

Paignton Conservative Club has been voted Club of the Year 2020 by South Devon Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) members.

Dave Gwyn-Jones, club chairman, accepted the award from South Devon CAMRA branch chairman Bob Southwell in the presence of club and CAMRA

members, Torbay MP Kevin Foster and club steward John Forrest.

CAMRA members voted the Conservative Club top considering quality of real ale, community focus, club style, décor, furnishing and cleanliness as well as service, welcome, and atmosphere.

The ACC congratulates the Club on this prestigious award.



Club chairman Dave Gwyn-Jones, second left, accepts the award from South Devon CAMRA chairman Bob Southwell, overseen by Torbay MP Kevin Foster and club steward John Forrest.

# 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.**

## Sustainability up there with cost, quality and reputation, says survey

Rebecca Fairfield, Head of Key Accounts at BRITA VIVREAU, shares new insights on consumer perceptions towards sustainability in clubs serving food, and examines how these changes can bring in more business.

**W**hen it comes to eating out, the quality of the food on offer, a club's reputation and the cost have all been stalwart priorities for members and guests. However, it seems the pandemic has brought with it a new factor for consideration beyond the obvious hygiene and safety measures.

Sustainability has now become a key component with 50% of consumers surveyed agreeing that they now care more about the environment than they did pre-pandemic. Crucially for food and drink providers, new research\* has found that nearly half of consumers (45%) wouldn't consider food outlets that don't have sustainability measures in place.

Though this has been a consideration for many in recent years, consumers want to hear more about your sustainability measures, so they can truly understand the impact and benefits to the environment.

So, the question is, how do clubs go about promoting their sustainability practices to consumers in order to win them over and secure their business? Well, there are some simple steps you can follow in order to attract attention and trust.

### Are you doing enough?

The research reveals three quarters of consumers believe if a club claims to be sustainable, the least they should be doing is recycling cardboard, glass and plastic, while just over half think this should also include measures such as no single-use plastics, limited food waste and offering reusable products.

On the plus side, only a third would expect sustainability measures to include the use of biodegradable products, recycled materials or energy saving equipment.

Whether it's a case of reviewing current sustainability measures in place or how these are communicated to stand out more clearly in your area, there's an opportunity to go above and beyond to wow your target customer.



### Shout about your sustainability success

Talking about sustainability measures can feel quite dry to some, which is why it's great to bring the impact of these to life in more visual ways. With 60% of consumers wanting to better understand how measures make a difference to the environment and 44% wanting to understand how their own involvement supports change, there's a real opportunity to get creative with your comms and excite your members by showcasing how they can help the planet too.

For example, many of us know that the use of a filtered water dispenser helps to remove the need for single-use plastic bottles and therefore reduce waste to landfill, but did you know if 100 people each drink approximately one litre of filtered water daily from a dispenser rather than plastic bottled water, it equals 506kg less plastic waste per year? This is the equivalent weight to a new-born grey whale and something that is much more likely to stay in people's minds.

### Be open, honest and upfront

While being sustainable clearly has its advantages, for 62% of consumers it comes with the worry of increased costs while 41% are also concerned that companies may claim to be more sustainable than they are. With this in mind, it's key to stay honest and transparent. Even if you currently only have a few measures in place, use this as a talking point to discuss your future ambitions.

### Sustainability is the fourth key component

Sustainability should now be just as important as the quality of food, cost and reputation, as it's just as important to consumers, so make sure you're communicating each factor equally. It's a great opportunity to discuss things such as food wastage and recycling, ongoing savings of using more environmentally friendly measures and the reputation you are building as a sustainable business.

• [www.brita.co.uk](http://www.brita.co.uk)

\*All research within was conducted by BRITA VIVREAU and 3GEM among 1,000



## Hogs Back Brewery predict bumper crop

**H**ogs Back Brewery in Tongham, Surrey, began its annual harvest of its hops in September, with its 20 volunteers helped for the first time by a Suffolk Punch horse.

The horse, called Sovereign, pulls a trailer between the rows of hop plants and then takes it, full of cut bines, to the hop hangar just yards away. Once there, the bines are loaded into the hop picker machine, which separates out the hop cones. These are then loaded into a kiln to be dried, vacuum packed to capture their flavour, and cold stored at 5°C on site until needed for brewing.

Hogs Back has invested significantly in its hop garden, acquiring its own hop picker, tractor and other equipment.

Rupert Thompson, Hogs Back Brewery owner, said: "This year we're hoping for our biggest ever crop, thanks mainly to the right combination of warmth and rain, but also because we're able to pick



the hops when they're at their best, so we have very little waste. And by transporting them just a matter of yards – from field to firkin in a furlong – we're keeping our carbon footprint at virtually zero, which is part of our drive to become a more sustainable brewer."

• [www.hogsback.co.uk](http://www.hogsback.co.uk)

## Bohem Brewery welcomes Hoppy Hana

**N**orth London's Bohem Brewery is launching its first new beer since the pandemic, with the arrival of Hana. The 3.9% ABV dry-hopped lager combines an intensely hoppy citrus hit with the depth of flavour that characterises Bohem's authentic Czech style lagers, says the brewer.

"Like most breweries, over the past year we've had to focus on keeping sales of our core range ticking over," said Bohem head brewer Matej Krizek. "Now, with demand increasing, we're delighted to be expanding our range again. Hana is our brand-new beer, offering new hope.



"What's interesting is that our customers running bars and bottle shops in our London heartland report that, post-pandemic, consumers are more interested in enjoying premium beers and traditional styles with authentic flavours. That very much plays to our strength."

Hana, short for Hoppy Hana, is a traditional Czech name. Like all

Bohem Brewery beers, Hana is brewed on genuine Czech decoction brewing equipment, and traditionally lagered at low temperature. It is available to order in kegs from Bohem Brewery.

• [www.bohembrewery.com](http://www.bohembrewery.com)

## Manchester distillery opens second production facility



**T**he Spirit of Manchester Distillery, creators of award-winning Manchester Gin, is opening a new 5000 sq ft facility 'The Vault' in response to increased demand.

Anticipating growth in 2022 of over 30% on pre-pandemic levels, The Vault will provide the distiller with space for bottling, labelling and shipping and enable growth to over 1 million bottles a year.

Seb Heeley, Master Distiller at The Spirit of Manchester Distillery and co-founder of Manchester Gin said: "Having come through a tough period for the industry we're delighted to be looking to the future and investing in our growth.

"By expanding our production facilities, we're also able to plan exciting enhancements to our distillery tour and gin tasting offering and look forward to sharing the magic that is The Spirit of Manchester."

• [www.manchestergin.co.uk](http://www.manchestergin.co.uk)

## The hidden cost of workplace safety

**O**ver a third of hospitality and leisure workers in the UK (37%) believe their employer is putting profits over people, with almost one in 10 fearing for their safety every day at work, according to a major new study. The research also found a perception that the focus on Covid-security has compromised other measures designed to keep workers safe.



The survey was commissioned by Yorkshire-based global workplace safety company A-SAFE as part of a worldwide campaign, The Hidden Cost of Workplace Safety, to highlight risks being taken and the safety measures that can be put in place to reduce them.

Over 2,000 manual and semi-skilled UK workers were questioned. Among workers from the hospitality and leisure sector, key findings included the following:

- 37% believe that profits are put before people in terms of ensuring that the right health and safety measures are in place where they work.
- 27% say the focus on creating Covid-secure environments has led to the neglect of other health and safety measures.
- 26% do not think their employer is dedicated to keeping them safe and they do not trust them to protect workers – this is marginally higher than the national average of 24%.
- Taken together, this leads to just under one in 10 (8%) of those surveyed saying they go to work every day not feeling safe in general.

Data from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) shows that, on average, at least 136 workers have received fatal injuries in the workplace each year since 2016 with 70,000 receiving injuries.

James Smith, co-owner and director of A-SAFE said: "I know that for some hospitality and leisure businesses health and safety becomes a chore with red tape, ticking boxes and endless bureaucracy. But when there are failures, the results can be catastrophic – lives can be changed and families devastated in an instant. It is time this hidden cost of going to work is highlighted, and that is what this survey and our campaign aims to do.

"As industry experts, we support organisations of all sizes to find the best ways to lead and promote health and safety, and therefore meet their legal obligations."

• [www.asafe.com/thehiddencost](http://www.asafe.com/thehiddencost)

## Crystal Clear Cubes from the new space-saver

**C**arpigiani UK has announced the launch of the Ice-O-Matic UCG Series, a space-saving undercounter machines with contemporary styling that deliver crystal clear, slow melting 'Gourmet' or 'Bistro' Ice Cubes. The machine, says the company, provides ice making and storage in one perfectly compact ice machine that fits under most counters and features Ice-O-Matic's new removable air filter, making cleaning easy and ensuring that the UCG is always operating at its optimum performance, extending the expected life-span of the machine.

Adam Lenton, Brand Director at Ice-O-Matic UK sees real benefits to operators in the UK marketplace: "The UCG Gourmet Series is a stylish and compact range of undercounter ice machines. Perfect for smaller spaces, the UCG045 produces 25kg of ice per 24 hours up to the UCG165 that turns out 73kg per day and has a 40kg bin.

"Front air ventilation allows for flexible installation and the range features our horizontal spray technology that ensures each individually produced ice cube is pure, clear and great tasting. This range is a great option for operators with space limitations who want an undercounter ice machine, and we have the full UCG Gourmet Series in stock, ready to deliver."

With its contemporary styling, the UCG range is designed to fit into any front of house area and fea-



tures corrosion-resistant stainless steel on the inside and a durable stainless-steel finish. The self-contained gourmet cube ice makers are designed with many practical features that make them reliable and easy to operate. With durable stainless steel top pan-

els and convenient slide-away doors, the new UCG range is perfect for all undercounter applications, says the company.

• [www.carpigiani.co.uk](http://www.carpigiani.co.uk)

## Cash is key for leisure and hospitality sector

Nearly half (44%) of small hospitality and leisure businesses in the UK rely on cash daily, according to recent research of more than 500 small businesses by the Post Office.

The research found that 82% of hospitality business owners agreed that cash is an important payment option for customers when it comes to hospitality and leisure services. It also found that 49% of hospitality and leisure business owners said that if their business did not accept cash, many customers would not use their goods or services.

The research highlights that 34% of the hospitality and leisure industry would be concerned about the safety and security of their business if they didn't have the ability to deposit cash at the end of the day, with 42% saying they have been directly affected by bank branch closures in the UK.

Similar sentiments about cash are felt amongst consumers, as 34% of respondents surveyed by YouGov for Post Office aged between 35-44 agreed that without cash, there were things they couldn't do or would feel excluded from. For those aged over 55, this was even higher as 47% agreed that this was the case. Cash also provides a safety net, with more than half of consumers feeling that having cash provides them with a sense of safety and security.

Martin Kearsley, Banking Director at the Post

Office, said: "Now more than ever access to cash is so important for many different parts of the economy, and none more so than the hospitality and leisure industry, which has been so badly affected by the pandemic. Millions of small businesses within this sector rely on cash to operate and almost half rely on it daily to survive.

"We're calling on the public to consider what would happen if they didn't have cash whilst they are out and about and to support our 'Save Our Cash' campaign calling for the Government to speed up legislation to protect access to cash for the millions of people and businesses that rely on it."

The Post Office's 'Save Our Cash' campaign is calling on the public to write to their MP to support policies and legislation to protect cash.

The Post Office network maintains more than 11,500 branches, with 99% of the population living within three miles of a Post Office. On average, over £2 billion of cash is withdrawn and deposited per month at Post Office branches. Annual volumes of cash withdrawals via Post Office counters have grown by 46%, to £7.8 billion since the start of the Banking Framework in 2017, and cash deposits have increased by 110% to £22.1 billion in the same period.

• [www.saveourcash.co.uk](http://www.saveourcash.co.uk)



## Festival of Clubs 25-26 November, 2021

**W**ith events now back on the hospitality agenda, the inaugural Festival of Clubs has been launched, aiming to become an important new fixture in Clubland's calendar.

The Festival of Clubs is a series of events, from trade shows to celebratory dinners and business-building ideas, designed to welcome back Clubland in a safe, fun, free two-day event, all built around the annual Club Awards and Beer Festival.

A Club Association Lunch is also being held, encouraging key players to share learnings and experiences, while new trade show Club Business 2021 launches, with club-supporting suppliers keen to network with guests, all joining together to help Clubland bounce back from the challenges caused by the pandemic.

• [www.festivalofclubs.com](http://www.festivalofclubs.com)



# Synergy Grill Technology gets Craft Guild seal of approval

**S**ynergy Grill Technology has been awarded The Craft Guild of Chefs' Approved Product' accreditation for its range of grills. The certification was awarded to Synergy's original Trilogy grill, the best-of-both chargrill oven, CharGo, and their newly launched electric grill, the eGrill, all of which received a 'Grade A' rating for their outstanding performance.

The Craft Guild of Chefs Product Endorsement Programme enables business partners to have products tested by high level chefs from across all sectors of the Hospitality Industry.

Justin Cadbury, Chairman of Synergy Grill Technology, said: "Our revolutionary patented technology provides chefs with faster cooking times, less energy consumption, carbon footprint reduction and, of course, money savings. We are delighted and proud of our achievement to develop a product range that



receives such high level of praise by our peers, and we thank the Guild for their continued support."

• [www.synergygrill.com](http://www.synergygrill.com)

## Positive benefits of Hoshizaki Snowflake GII+ revealed

**R**efrigeration and ice machine manufacturer, Hoshizaki, has upgraded its best-selling Snowflake range with the launch of the Snowflake GII+. The new machine champions reliability, durability and affordability, but with an even sharper focus on efficiency and space utilisation, thanks to the introduction of a new monoblock refrigeration system.

Simon Frost, Director UK & Ireland, Hoshizaki UK, said: "The Snowflake GII+'s new monoblock cooling system is a self-contained and insulated removable refrigeration configuration with plenty of pluses. Firstly, as this system sits on top of the unit as opposed to inside the unit, access for servicing and maintenance is easy.

"Additionally, as Hoshizaki's monoblock cooling systems is self-evaporating and fitted with a self-cleaning condenser, our new Snowflake GII+ units do not require space for an evaporator, therefore the user can take full advantage of all internal storage space."

The new monoblock system means operators do not have to face the challenge of cleaning the evaporator. In fact, says the company, so simple is the Snowflake GII+ to clean that the user simply needs to spare a matter of minutes to wipe down all removable shelves, gaskets and unit surfaces.

• [www.hoshizaki-snowflake.com](http://www.hoshizaki-snowflake.com)

## Aber on tour 2021: upcoming events

**A**ber Falls, based in North Wales, has announced the Autumn release of its Single Malt Welsh Whisky, described as a rich and full-bodied whisky, crafted using 100% Welsh malted barley and rock-filtered water taken from the Aber Falls Waterfall.

The distiller is showcasing the 'Spirit of North Wales' around the UK: "We've loved meeting you so far, and look forward to attending the fantastic festivals and fairs that have invited us along as part of their 2021 lineups!"

**November dates:** 9-10, Arley Hall, Cheshire; 12-13, Manchester 'Gin to my tonic'; 15-17, Tatton Park, Cheshire; 19, Aber Christmas Farmers Market; 27, Ruthin Artisan Markets; 27-28, BBC Good Food Show, Birmingham.

**December dates:** 4, Llandudno Gin Festival; 19, Aber Christmas Farmers Market

• [www.aberfallsdistillery.com](http://www.aberfallsdistillery.com)



## THE MOST USUAL DRINK FLAVOURS OF ALL TIME?

From favourite beers to the classic cola mixer, are members open to venturing outside their comfort zone? Test them out with Fentiman's list of some of the most unusual drink flavours of all time.

### Electricity vodka

What does electricity taste like? Wyborowa has courageously presented a safe method to find out - Oddka Electricity. Wyborowa states that this bottle of booze tastes like, well, electricity. According to a taste review in Difford's Guide, the vodka (and, presumably, electricity) tastes like "very sweet boiled sweets and green grape" followed by "cracked black pepper spice".

### Celery soda

Dr. Brown's Cel-Ray is all but impossible to find outside of the US, but across the pond, it is a beloved choice of beverage for many. The drink is also nicknamed "Jewish Champagne" due to its prevalence in Jewish delis, and with its sweet flavour, it's easy to see why it would be paired with a good deli sandwich. This crisp and sweet fizzy drink is slightly herbaceous, which it no doubt owes to the unique inclusion of celery seeds in its recipe.

### Rose Lemonade

Fentiman's botanically brewed Rose Lemonade is flavoured with pure Otto rose oil from Rose Valley in Bulgaria. With 4.4 out of 5 stars on Amazon.co.uk, the unusual addition of rose into a classic summer treat has gone down as a new favourite drink for many. The floral, sweet taste is a hit with many reviewers, and several note that it's the perfect "grown-up drink" for the increasing number of people choosing to go low-or-no-alcohol these days.

### Beefdrinker Teriyaki Beef Jerky Soda

For those with a truly carnivorous streak, there is now a meaty flavoured fizzy drink to go along with the mixed grill order - say hello to Beefdrinker's Teriyaki Beef Jerky Soda. According to SodaPopOnline, the bottled beverage smells like soy sauce and is "surprisingly sweet" alongside its "authentic Teriyaki spices".

### Grass Soda

This peculiar offering has had rave reviews on Amazon. Several customers noted that it does indeed smell like freshly cut grass when opened. As for the flavour, one grass connoisseur commented, "I once ate grass as a kid, and this didn't taste like grass."

### The Sourtoe Cocktail

When miner Louie Liken had his frostbitten toe amputated in the 1920s, he preserved it in a jar of alcohol. In 1973, it was brought to the Sourdough Saloon as a challenge: who could finish their drinks with a human toe floating in it? The original toe was accidentally swallowed, but the bar has found more than 10 donors in the years since.

• [www.fentimans.com](http://www.fentimans.com)



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# Waterloo and Taunton Celebrates 130th Anniversary

Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, Ashton-under-Lyne, celebrated its 130th Anniversary in style over the Bank Holiday by throwing a special event.

The day included live entertainment, crown green bowls match, food and drink stalls, and a hamper draw.

The Club, built by the architects John Eaton and Sons, who also designed Dukinfield Town Hall, opened in 1891 as a private gentlemen's club.

Distinguished guests from the Association of Conservative

Clubs and Tameside Councillors Dan Costello and Liam Billington attended the day's proceedings.

Club Chairman, Leon Tamcken said "Like many clubs up and down the country, the covid 19 pandemic hit us hard, and the recovery has been a tough one. However we've made it through and we're proud to be able to celebrate this amazing milestone".

The club would like to give special thanks to the event sponsors Be-ginning Gin Co, Tameside Glass, Ashton American Diner, and Thwaites Brewery.



Pictures From The Event.



## Acomb Pays Tribute to Brian Shannon

Nineteen years ago Brian Shannon stepped in as Treasurer of Acomb & District Conservative Club, located on the outskirts of York. After a long and distinguished role of looking after the club finances, Brian decided to step down earlier this year and let fresh blood handle things.



Bob Redwood, Secretary, announced Brian's departure at a recent AGM but stressed that Brian wished to remain on the committee to offer help, advice and assistance to incoming new Treasurer, Chris Fairburn. The committee recognised that more of Brian's friends and colleagues would be present on the popular Bingo Night than at the AGM so they conspired to make a surprise presentation when he and his wife, Maureen, next attended Bingo.

A specially designed glass plaque and gift vouchers were presented by the Club President, Ken Hunter, and Chairman, David Lane, to great applause. Maureen was presented with a bouquet to acknowledge her support throughout the years. Brian was thanked for his long and faithful service.

The ACC also gives its thanks to Brian for his long and faithful service to the Club.

Pictures From The Event.



# CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Confidentiality of Committee Meetings

The confidentiality of committee meetings is paramount to the effective management of a club. Discussion in committee should remain confidential between committee members.

The Minutes of committee meetings should merely record the motions and amendments and decisions which are agreed and, again, remain confidential. This does not mean that there are never circumstances in which the membership ought to be informed of what takes place during committee meetings.

In all clubs there are issues which are of immediate concern to all the membership. The committee may have discussed some matter referred to it by a general meeting for consideration. In such cases, the Secretary should arrange for a suitable notice to be posted on the club notice board.

The general membership does not have a right to inspect the committee's Minutes.

However, a club's auditors will have a right to inspect the committee's Minutes in order to confirm that certain transactions have been authorised.

In addition, clubs registered under the Friendly Societies Act are obliged to permit members to examine all books, including all

Minute books, at any reasonable time. This is a good reason why the Minutes should read like a telegram and not like a social history.

There are, however, few clubs registered as Friendly Societies. Such clubs are different from those registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act.

No member of the committee is entitled to inform anyone of the proceedings and deliberations of the committee. If a club is to be served well, then it is essential that the committee should be free to conduct their affairs in a frank and open way. Surely, few people would serve on committees if they knew that their views were repeated outside the confines of the committee room and, as is so often the case, misinterpreted by being taken out of context and made to appear contrary to the original intentions.

Committees are therefore entitled to insist on the confidentiality of their proceedings and the right of quasi privilege in the conduct of the affairs of the club while, at the same time, keeping the members informed of matters that affect them generally, but not in respect to individual members.

Proceedings in committee

are not privileged, but qualified privilege may apply where the person who makes the communication has an interest or duty, legal or moral or social, to make it to a person, or persons, having a corresponding interest or duty to receive such a communication. On the whole, the spirit of this principle has been upheld by the courts. It appears that the courts will not usually intervene in respect of domestic decisions, and cannot

demand explanations. If reasons are given, however, the courts reserve the right to consider their sufficiency. It may be said that normally decisions of a committee made in accordance with the rules, and made fairly, cannot be overturned.

In conclusion, therefore, what is said in committee should not be repeated outside the confines of a committee meeting, and committee Minutes should remain confidential.

## Temporary Event Notices (TENs)

Temporary Event Notices (TENs) are a method of obtaining, under the Act, the authority to sell alcohol and provide regulated entertainment at an event of short duration (e.g. a dance, or a private party) where the organiser wishes to avoid going through the more complicated procedure of applying for a Premises Licence.

The method of obtaining a TEN must be submitted by the premises user (must be over 18 years of age) and must be copied to the relevant Chief Officer of Police at least ten working days before the event. The TEN (in a prescribed form) must contain the following information–

- The licensable activities to be carried out
- The total length of the event (not to exceed ninety-six hours)
- The times during which the licensable activities are to be carried out
- The maximum number of people to be allowed onto the premises at any one time (not to exceed 500)
- Whether any alcohol sales are to be made for consumption on or off the premises (or both)

The Act requires that alcohol sales must be made under the authority of the premises user. Further requirements are that there must be an interval of at least twenty-four hours between events and no premises may be

used for more than twenty one days per year in total (i.e. the total amount of time used by the TENs must not exceed 504 hours – an unlikely scenario!) Any club wishing to exceed the limit of fifteen events a year at the same premises would have to apply for a premises licence.

Licensing Authority Officials are required to acknowledge receipt of the TEN, and provided they do not issue a counter notice and the Police do not object (they can only do so, or insist on conditions in keeping with the crime and disorder objectives of the Act), the event can go ahead.

If the Police object, Licensing Authorities are required to hold a hearing at which the Police and premises user may put their case. The exceptional use of 'Police Powers' does not arise in the case of small-scale events.

The TEN procedure can also be applied to increase a club's normal Permitted Hours granted under the CPC, for the event in question. Applications for such events must be made by an individual rather than the club. The number of applications made in any one year, by any one individual, is five. Therefore, club officers can divide the applications in order to take full advantage of these events, e.g. the Secretary makes the first five applications, the Treasurer the next five and the Chairman the remaining two.

## Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back to December 1988 and look at a Political Affairs column.

The column deals both with a recent boost in NHS funding and a debate on the future of television services which was written 10 months before Sky's entrance into the television market and eight years before the four current terrestrial channels was expanded to five following the entrance of, well, Channel 5. The article did successfully predict that more services would lead to more programmes, more competition and more choice which is undoubtedly

true although the article also mentioned the concerns of Roy Hattersley that the changes would create less diversity and lower standards. Anyone who has seen Naked Attraction would probably conclude that Roy was both right and wrong with his predictions....

Elsewhere in the page we have reference of the UK's Foreign Secretary visiting the Dartford Conservative Club. The Dartford Conservative Club has recently undertaken a significant refurbishment and we look forward to featuring an article on the Club next month.



# Political Affairs

## IGNORE THE 'DOOMSAYERS'

THE "VOICES OF DOOM" are at it again. Time and time again, whenever a change of direction is announced by the Government, up pop the "instant quoters" voicing doom and despair, a return to soup kitchens, hunger marches, quality of life disappearing, people dying in the streets, family break-ups – and so on.

Take the two recent changes.

The freeing of television and radio, for example. There cannot be anyone in Britain who is not fed-up with a large part of the 4-channel trivia which is broadcast night after night. Anti-British plays and documentaries mixed with mind-numbing game shows and inane sit-coms cannot be too strong a description as far as the vast majority of viewers are concerned – young, middle-aged or old.

Something has to be done about it to widen the competitive, commercial side and to let in some light. The result will eventually be more programmes, more competition, more choice. Coupled with this will be the end of the licence system, which to many is objectionable and bureaucratic.

But the purveyors of doom are at it again. Roy Hattersley immediately said there would be "less diversity and lower standards". What makes him say that? It can't be worse than it is at present – anything else must be an improvement! And even the Daily Mirror failed to mention him at all in their news report – that's how much credibility he commands on the subject.

A radio presenter offered as an objection the "fact" that the 20 or more TV stations and increased radio channels would mean we would not know when our favourite regular programmes would be on and that we would have to look for them in the programme listings! Yes, he was serious!

This new freedom is exciting and a challenge to all but the whingers. Once again, it is a Tory Government which has pushed forward and welcomed new technology. We will have a choice, and pay for what we want to see.

The other controversy was over the Chancellor offering more cash to two million of Britain's poorest old people costing

some £200 million.

To seek out these needy people there would have to be a "means test".

Immediately, our voices of doom on TV and radio hyped up the image of soup kitchens, hunger marches, starvation and the like.

Absolute nonsense! Income tax is a "means test", and if this sort of money is to be spent from taxpayers, they will want to be assured that it is only the needy who are given extra money.

Let's face facts. The Government is progressively weeding out our national failures, giving the people more freedom, and looking after those most in need. The doom-mongers, all of those who believe that they know best, that choice is bad for us and that freedom is at their whim, are

seeking to stifle the nation of its energy, its vibrance and its rapidly rising standards of living.

Britain is now the envy of the world. There is still a great deal more to do, but the overwhelming majority of people like what is being done, and the Government, with our support, will continue to bring in measures aimed at improving our life and that of our children.

The aim is a strong nation, economically and socially, free from dogma, bureaucracy, bully-boy violence and fear which governed our lives only a short 10 years ago.

This is a new age with new horizons. Let's ignore the "doom-mongers" and let the Government get on with the job.

## MORE ABLE TO CARE

A Spectacular Boost for the Health Service – The Government's continuing commitment to a modern – and expanding – National Health Service is underlined by its plans to increase spending on the NHS by more than £2 billion next year – that's 4.5 per cent more than is needed to keep up with inflation.

The huge injection of resources will mean:

- 20 per cent more money to build and repair hospitals;
- an extra £12 million to train nurses;
- £320 million to provide more and better family practitioner services;
- £130 million – that's double last year's sum – for AIDS prevention, care and treatment.

And, of course, almost £1 billion has already been provided this year to fund the nurses' pay award *in full*.

Since 1978:

- the number of day-cases treated each year has almost *doubled* to 490,000;
- the number of in-patient cases treated is up by almost a quarter and now exceeds 8 million;
- out-patient attendances are up by 11 per cent to 3.75 million;
- there are an extra 79,000 staff providing direct patient care; and
- hospital building is up by almost a third.

It's the Conservatives who care for the nation's health – not Labour. They *cut* nurses' real pay four years out of five, and they *cut* hospital building by a third. They could manage just one increase – and that

was in waiting-lists, up by almost a half.

**More Help for the Needy** – Earlier this year, the Government's Social Security reforms singled out three groups for special help – the elderly, families on low incomes, and disabled people. Spending plans for next year continue the drive to target resources at these groups.

● The basic pension will rise in line with prices – as it has every year since 1979. A single pensioner will receive £43.60 a week (that's up £2.45), a married couple £69.80 (up £3.90).

● The small minority of less well-off pensioners will gain from higher income-related benefits such as Income Support and Housing Benefit.

● Spending on Cold Weather Payments will double and will benefit more old people (as well as families with young children who receive Income Support).

● £70 million will be used specifically to help less well-off families with children.

● Disabled people will see their benefit increase by 5.9 per cent next April. And they will be eligible for Mobility Allowance up to the age of 80.

**Child Benefit** – Child Benefit will be maintained at £7.25 a week for each child. Increasing Child benefit *would give no help at all* to families who receive Income Support or Family Credit. For every £1 they would gain from additional Child Benefit, *exactly the same amount* would be deducted from their other benefits, which are linked to income. Only the well-off would actually gain from an increase.



## Foreign Secretary at Dartford

MR. HARRY BELL, Chairman of Dartford Conservative Club, shared a pint with Sir Geoffrey Howe, O.C., M.P., when the Foreign Secretary visited the Club recently.

Sir Geoffrey recalled that he had first visited the Club in 1974 when the Conservatives had just lost the seat to Labour."

The logo consists of a dark purple circle with a thick yellow border. Inside the circle, the word "The" is in white, slanted, and positioned above a large red letter "A". Below the "A", the word "Ticket" is written in white, slanted, and overlaps the bottom of the "A".

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