

# *CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE*



January 2024 75p



**Happy New Year!**



# Message From The Chief Executive

## Happy New Year to all ACC Affiliated Clubs and readers of the Magazine.

*CONSERVATIVE  
CLUBS  
MAGAZINE*

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By tradition our January Magazine includes an annual round up and reminder of dates for Club Committees to be aware of, including reminders of ever present issues such as PRS-PPL and MPRC licencing requirements. I do suggest all Committees take a look at Club Law and Management this month to be aware of the dates in question and the reminders included.

As we move into 2024, I am sure everyone is hopeful of a slightly easier year than 2023. With inflation steadily dropping and pay awards relatively high, we hope people will start to feel they have a bit more spending power in their pockets. If interest rates fall this year, as expected, this will decrease the cost of borrowing which will be appreciated by those clubs which have expanded through the use of

loans, or which just needed a loan to get them through a particularly difficult patch.

The ongoing energy situation shows no sign of abating unfortunately with higher energy costs being a real burden for all hospitality establishments. Business Rates for Clubs in England are being maintained at the present high discounted level of 75%, although clubs will have seen the Welsh Labour Government and the Scottish SNP Government, supported by the Scottish Greens, take a different and less generous stance to business rates which is regrettable to say the least for clubs located in those areas.

As ever, we encourage any club in need of financial assistance or advice to reach out to the ACC and I do hope that 2024 will prove to be a prosperous year for all our clubs.

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Rt Hon Alistair Burt  
Chief Executive:  
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# CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

## DATES FOR YOUR 2024 DIARY AND GENERAL REMINDERS

Club Secretaries will have in their minds – and hopefully in their diaries – the dates by which certain returns and applications

### Club Premises Certificate

Whilst there is no specific renewal date of a Club Premises Certificate it is necessary for an annual fee to be paid to the local Licensing Authority in order for the Club

#### Fees for a CPC

Rateable Value	Band	Annual Fee
No rateable value to £4,300	A	£70
£4,300 to £33,000	B	£180
£33,001 to £87,000	C	£295
£87,001 to £125,000	D	£320
£125,001 and above	E	£350

### Performing Rights Society & Phonographic Performances Ltd

PPL PRS Ltd is a new joint venture between the UK's two music licensing societies - PPL and PRS for Music.

Previously Clubs may have had to purchase two separate music licences, one for PRS and one for PPL. Currently in the roll out stage, eventually they

will be combined under a single licence.

Typically, in January, fees are payable to the PRS and PPL. These payments are fixed under an Agreement with the PRS PPL and the appropriate fee for a Club is calculated according to the type of music used.

### Audits

Clubs registered under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act, the Friendly Societies Acts or the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act must submit an Annual Return to the Financial Conduct Authority no later than the date required under the terms of the Club's particular Rules. Failure to comply may result in prosecution. Such Clubs must also ensure the annual fee is paid, the amount of which depends upon the Club's assets.

Clubs which are incorporated as companies must ensure that their company returns are made to Companies House by the agreed submission date in order to avoid fines and must also ensure that their Accounts are filed.

Unincorporated Members' Clubs are not required to submit annual returns or to file Accounts with any outside body.

In addition to the above, please make a note of the date for VAT returns, insurance renewal and the Club's TV licence.

### Temporary Event Notices

Clubs are able to apply for up to 20 Temporary Event Notices per calendar year. A Temporary Event Notice allows Clubs to hold events which are open to the public such as Open Days and

Beer Festivals or simply private events which are not held by Members. A Member holding a private event and inviting their guests will not normally require a TEN to be obtained

### Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC) Licence

Clubs may receive a letter from this Company which indicates that they are required to pay for an 'Umbrella Licence'. This is an annual licence from MPLC which allows commercial premises to broadcast copyrighted material such as film DVD's to the public.

MPLC itself represents licence holders such as film studios and television production companies which produce content such as dramas or comedies. If a Club showed any of this content then an MPLC licence may need to be obtained.

However, Clubs which only show channels such as Sky Sports,

BBC News or a music channel are unlikely to be required to obtain an MPLC licence.

If you are unsure of what licence you require please let us know and we will try to assist.

Examples of programmes that do and do not require a licence are below:

Six Nations – No licence  
Match of the Day – No licence  
Euros – No licence  
World Cup – No licence  
Sky Sports – No licence  
Channel 4 7pm News – MPLC Licence  
Eastenders – MPLC Licence  
TNT Sports – No licence

### New Year Business Health Check– Make sure you are maximising the Club's revenue

1. Update all the images on your Club's website – and delete any out of date content.
2. Check the last six months of your P&L and highlight your worst selling drinks and menu items. Change them.
3. Search for your Club online on Google. Look for any out of date information and email the relevant site to get it changed/removed.
4. Draw up a list of your top 5 suppliers – call a competitor for each one and check you are getting the best deal. Then ask wholesale drinks supplier Matthew Clark to see if they can provide an overall better deal. Most Clubs can reduce their drinks spend by either talking to Matthew Clark or negotiating with their present suppliers.
5. Dig out your utilities bills and note the end of all the contract terms in your calendar and make a note a month before to shop around for the best price before each contract ends.
6. Do a deep clean of the exterior of your Club and car park. It will be noticed.
7. Create a group on WhatsApp for the Club's Members to join. Use it to engage them and post about topics they are interested in, not just as a promotional tool. You'll then have a willing audience when you ask for feedback on any changes you make, or invite them to exclusive events, or to try new menus. Designate a Committee Member to manage the group and provide feedback from the group to your Committee Meetings.
8. Come up with a plan to promote a specific drink or menu item to the Club's Members. Call the supplier of that product and ask them to sponsor your promotion/provide prizes, merchandise or extra stock. If you think you have a great selection of local Ales or some niche gins then make sure you properly promote them.
9. Create your own mystery customer feedback form including any areas that are new, or that you have had negative feedback on, and ask someone outside the Club to give you an honest view.
10. Talk to your employees – do they have any ideas of where the Club

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## ◀ From page 3

could be improved? Would they like to introduce a new product to trial? The bar staff have constant contact with the Club's Members – this is valuable feedback.

11. Write to your local MP and invite them to come to an event or pull a pint behind your bar – if they say yes then contact your local media and get a photographer to attend too.
12. Remind your Members that ultimately they need to recruit new Members. No Club will survive without constantly recruiting new Members and your existing Members are your best form of advertisement and word of mouth. Ensure you provide a generous bar voucher both to new Members and the Member who recruited them.

## Rules governing the admission of Inter-Affiliated Members to Clubs

- No holder of an IA Ticket shall be admitted into an Inter-Affiliated club until he has produced his own club ticket for the inspection of a club official, showing that he has paid his subscription at his own club for the whole time during which he is admitted to the club he visits.
- On every day upon which he visits the club, he must also sign his name, enter the name of his own club and the number of his IA Ticket in the ACC Inter-Affiliated Members' Book kept for that purpose in each Inter-Affiliated Club. In doing so, he is declaring that he has paid his subscription to his own club for the current period, is eligible for the privileges of Inter-Affiliation, and pledges himself to abide by rules and regulations of the club he is visiting.
- The signature of the Inter-Affiliated member in the above-mentioned book shall in every case be compared by the doorkeeper, or some other official, with the signature on the IA Ticket, before the holder shall be admitted.
- The club steward shall on no account serve an Inter-Affiliated member until he is satisfied that the above formalities have been complied with.
- Inter-Affiliated members visiting a club shall have the same privileges and rights, and be subject to the same rules and regulations as an ordinary member (except when special regulations have been made under Section 8), but shall not be supplied with excisable articles for consumption off the club premises, take books from the club, or attend or vote at meetings
- IA Tickets shall not give the right of entering or using a club to–
  - Any person who has been an unsuccessful candidate for admission to the said club.
  - Any member of any club who is under suspension or expulsion from the said club. A suspended member shall deliver up his IA Ticket to the secretary of the issuing club, who shall retain it until the period of suspension has expired, when the ticket shall be returned to him. Should the holder fail to deliver up the ticket to the Secretary within three days of demand, it shall forthwith be cancelled, and the number of the ticket reported to the Secretary of the ACC.
  - The holder of any IA Ticket which has been cancelled by the committee of the club issuing it, or to a suspended or expelled member.
  - The holder of an IA Ticket issued by any club which has ceased to exist or is no longer affiliated to the ACC or of which he is no longer a member.
- Any club knowingly admitting a suspended or expelled member, whose IA Ticket is cancelled, shall be liable to immediate expulsion from the Association.
- The committee of every Inter-Affiliated club reserves to itself the right to make special regulations (subject to permission of the ACC Council) as to the admission of Inter-Affiliated members, in which

case a copy of the same shall be exhibited on the club notice board. Such permission shall not be required for the exclusion of IA Ticket holders whose permanent habitation is within a radius of ten miles of the club premises. The holder of an IA Ticket is reminded that admission to an Inter-Affiliated club is an act of courtesy which can be withheld, in the interests of the club, on any occasion or in respect of any individual at the discretion of the club committee of any Inter-Affiliated club.

- A notice shall be posted in a conspicuous position in every Inter-Affiliated club prohibiting the sale of any excisable article to any person not being an ordinary or Inter-Affiliated member. Any infringement of this rule will render the club liable to immediate expulsion from the Association.
- All questions concerning the rights and obligations of Inter-Affiliation shall be referred to the Council of the Association, whose decision shall be final.
- The Association may make such further, or other, regulations as to Inter-Affiliation as they may consider in the interest of Inter-Affiliated clubs, and can decline to supply tickets to, or can cancel the Inter-Affiliation of, any club at any time, without assigning any reasons.

### Clarification

In the December Magazine there was an article that stated that Micheal Newberry was the Secretary of Fairwater Conservative Club, Cardiff. We would like to confirm that Leanne Collis is the Club's Secretary.

## Questions and Answers

**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

# CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

they will be unable to enter the club until the disciplinary meeting has been heard.

**Q** We have a number of members who have still not paid their annual membership Subscriptions. Can we bar these members from attending the Annual General Meeting and voting?

**A** You are perfectly entitled to prevent members who have not paid their annual subscription from attending the Annual General Meeting and voting. In fairness, most clubs collect subscriptions from the 1st January so the Committee should have had ample to time to make sure all members were up to date with their subscriptions prior to the AGM taking place. I suggest that in future years, the Committee are pro-active in dealing with members who are late with their subscription payments and apply the terms of the rules which cover such late payments.

**Q** The committee recently suspended a member for a period of three years which we have been informed may be unlawful. There is nothing specific in our rules concerning suspension and the committee have asked for your recommendations.

**A** Most clubs restrict the maximum period of suspension to one year. The reason for a one year limit is due to the fact that a suspended member remains liable to pay his subscription. To expect a person to continue to pay a subscription for a great length of time may be considered unreasonable. It is also considered that any misconduct requiring a suspension period of more than one year should probably be dealt with by expulsion.

If your club has no specific rule precluding a ban of more than one year then there is n reason to suggest that your decision to suspend for a three year period is unacceptable. However, if the person in question does not pay his subscription, his

membership will lapse and he will need to re-apply for membership following the three year suspension instead of being automatically re-admitted.

I would suggest that in the future any member whose conduct warrants a suspension period of more than one year is expelled.

**Q** We wish to remove the Sky TV in the club as it is too expensive. However, we have a vocal minority of members who are intent on keeping the Sky TV service. Could they call an SGM to reverse a Committee decision?

**A** Whilst the rules do allow a Special General Meeting to be called by the members, it is fair to say that typically such items as opening hours and the provision of Sky Television are left to the purview of the Committee. It is understandably difficult to run a club if such decisions are constantly being debated among the members with a view to holding an SGM every time a decision without universal approval is taken. Clubs which engage in this sort of activity ultimately find it difficult to find members who are willing to stand for the Committee.

If there is a section of the membership who are unhappy with the direction that the Committee is taking the club then we would recommend that such members stand for election onto the Committee at the next available opportunity. This is ultimately the most effective way for members to influence the running of the club. To coin an old phrase "put up or shut up".

**Q** In the past the Committee have had cause to expel certain members from the club due to their conduct. A question has been raised over whether an expelled member, which we refer to as a 'life ban', could ever reapply for membership?

**A** Under the rules of most clubs, a member who has been expelled from the club can only reapply for

membership with the consent of the Committee and even if that consent is given, the Committee can still vote against the admission of a candidate.

Careful consideration should always be given to the request of previously expelled members to reapply for membership. A previous Committee would not have taken such a decision lightly. Also bear in mind that whilst a simple majority is required for a committee to agree that a previously expelled member can reapply for membership, the actual re-election to membership normally only needs two votes against to exclude a candidate. Therefore an agreement that an expelled member can reapply is certainly not a guarantee of re-election.

**Q** At a Special General Meeting two proposals were considered; raising the membership fees with a £20.00 bar voucher or raising the membership fees without the voucher. The first proposal went through. However, some of the disgruntled members have mooted to join another local Conservative Club, buy an IA Tickets from that Club and come into our club.

A Committee member said that we would have to raise a bye-law to stop them doing that. Would we be allowed to stop a member of another club entering our club with an IA Ticket?

**A** I am sorry to learn that following an increase of membership subscription

some members have suggested that they will resign, become members of a neighbouring Conservative Club and then continue to use the Club facilities under an IA Ticket.

I confirm that if the Committee are happy for these members to carry out their threat, assuming that the neighbouring Club will elect them to membership then they could visit the Club as IA Ticket holders. However, in view of the fact that I think it would be unlikely for any Committee to accept this situation I can advise you that by reference to Regulation 8 of the Rules and Regulations governing the IA Ticket Scheme, the Committee of each Club reserve the right to refuse the admission of any IA Ticket holder if they consider this to be in the interests of the Club.

Therefore, the Committee could decide that any member who resigns shall not be admitted as an IA Ticket holder for, say, three years. I think this would be a very effective deterrent but one which you may not wish to even consider until and unless the threatened resignations arrive. There is no requirement for the Committee to introduce a bye-law.

An important point to remember is that if these members decide to simply not pay their subscriptions, then they will automatically not be admitted to the Club either as IA Ticket holders or as Members' Guests since they will be considered under your Club Rules as being indebted to the Club.

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# Northern Area Conservative Clubs Dinner Dance

Members and guests from throughout the Northern Area were delighted to attend the Dinner Dance in November at the Little Haven Hotel in South Shields.

The Area Chairman, Mr Jim Prescott proposed a toast to the 'Guests' which was greatly enjoyed by all in attendance.

Guests then enjoyed a fine meal following by lots of dancing.

Here are a collection of pictures from the event.





# Waterloo and Taunton Wins Club Mirror Award

Inverdale, at the Athena in Leicester and saw hundreds of clubs from all over the United Kingdom in attendance.

The Club also wishes to pay tribute to Elwyn Pugh who recently found out a lifelong friend and fellow club member at Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, Ashton-under-Lyne, Neil Purcell, had become seriously ill with pancreatic cancer, and could no longer work. Elwyn thought he'd do his bit to raise some cash to support his mate and his family for Christmas.

Elwyn set a target to run 31 Marathons in 31 days on a static cycle. Elwyn completed 32 marathons in 30 days, beating his own target, a total of 838.4 miles (the distance by road from Lands end to John O'Groats), raising a HUGE £2,500 for Neil and his family.

Elwyn said "Thank you to everyone who sponsored me. Special thanks to my wife Maxine Pugh and my boys Samuel and Benjamin who came and did a marathon bike ride with me. Thanks to Emily Oates, my friends and work colleagues at GPS & Musclefood and finally to Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club who gave so generously to support Neil".

Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club Chairman, Leon Tamcken said "To find out



one of our club members isn't well and going through such a tough time is heartbreaking, but to have a friend like Elwyn, who's got your back, is truly amazing".

Elwyn started on his fundraiser weighing in 19st and ended at 17st 11lb.

The Club also held its annual Halloween Party with party games including Pin Head (peg as many pegs onto your face in 3

minutes) and the Mummy Returns (involved a lot of loo roll).

Prizes were also awarded to the best fancy dress outfits.

Members danced the night away to Thriller and Monster Mash.

Leon Tamcken, club Chairman said "Thanks to everyone who came along, with special thanks to DJ John for his fantastic party games".

The Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, Ashton-under-Lyne, has been awarded the Club Mirror Awards - Charity Club of the Year 2023.

Working in partnership with Camra, TNT Sports, Club Control, Greene King, and others, 'Club Mirror' has championed the role clubs play for over 55 years.

Waterloo and Taunton Conservative, a private members club established in 1891, raises thousands of pounds each year for local and national charities, including Willow Wood Hospice, Blind Veterans UK, Mantell, and others.

Leon Tamcken, Club Chairman, said, "It is fantastic to be recognised nationally for all our fundraising efforts. Every penny we give to charities really does help."

The award was presented by BBC and itv broadcaster, John



# 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.

## Sysco GB expands its business in Scotland by 25% with £15m investment

Sysco GB, the UK's largest foodservice wholesaler, has announced a £15m investment in its Brakes Scotland Newhouse depot, creating around 100 new jobs as it expands the site by more than 25%.

**A**s part of the Sysco GB's new £1.5m investment, Brakes Scotland is committed to growing the number of Scottish products it sells. Once completed, the site's expansion will allow the company to significantly increase the size of its locally sourced Scottish product range.

Already one of the largest of the 30 depots in the Sysco's British network, once planning permission has been granted the Newhouse site will grow to more than 200,000 sq feet, improving the facilities to allow the company to increase the range of fresh products it can sell, something which the company believes is becoming increasingly important to food outlets across the country.

**Paul Nieduszynski, Chief Executive, Sysco GB, said:** "Brakes Scotland has grown steadily over the past few years, serving communities right across the nation. The investment that we are making in the Newhouse facility to increase our capacity and grow our Scottish range shows our commitment to providing market-leading range and service to our exist-



ing and new customers across Scotland."

Brakes sells a comprehensive range of fresh, frozen and ambient products as well as catering equipment.

Sysco operates 333 distribution facilities worldwide and serves approximately 700,000 customer

locations. In Britain it services more than 20,000 customers from 30 distribution centres across the UK, and its foodservice businesses include Brakes, KFF, Medina, Fresh Direct, M&J Seafood, Wild Harvest and Country Choice.

• [Sysco.com](https://www.sysco.com)

## Showcasing Scotland – food and drink event

**A**series of nationwide tours are being arranged for UK buyers in March 2024 as part of Showcasing Scotland. The tours encompass everything that Scotland has to offer, from whisky to seafood, red meat to dairy, bakery to brewing, and premium grocery.

Held on 5-7 March 2024 in Edinburgh, Showcasing Scotland is designed to expand buyer exposure to some of Scotland's best suppliers.

**Iain Baxter, Chief Executive of Scotland Food & Drink, said:** "In a competitive market where margins are squeezed and customers rightly expect the highest quality of products, Showcasing Scotland gives buyers the opportunity to differentiate themselves by expanding their range of first-class Scottish products. Our natural larder is one that is increasingly recognised across the world and Showcasing Scotland allows for a unique chance for



buyers to see first-hand the craft and passion that goes into our products. Showcasing Scotland 2024 is not to be missed, particularly for buyers who want

to explore and source more of Scotland's incredible products."

• [showcasingscotland.com](https://www.showcasingscotland.com)



## TNT sports extends UK Premier League rights until 2029

**T**NT Sports has confirmed that it will continue to show live and exclusive Premier League matches for a further four years, through to the 2028/29 season.

Andrew Georgiou, President and MD, UK & Ireland and WBD Sports Europe, said: "It's hugely exciting to continue to bring fans exclusive Premier League matches for the next five seasons. TNT Sports has quickly established itself as a premium live sport offering and the Premier League is an important part of our line-up that includes the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Women's Champions League, UEFA Europa League, MotoGP, boxing, NBA, UFC, Premiership Rugby, Champions Cup and much more.

"As the new streaming home of TNT Sports, discovery+ gives our customers access to even more live sport through Eurosport, the only place where you can get every moment of Olympic Games Paris 2024, the Australian Open, Roland-Garros, cycling's Grand Tours, including the Tour de France, alongside the full range of discovery+ entertainment, in an



offering that has something for everyone."

The new agreement extends the relationship with the Premier League to 16 years spanning BT Sport and now TNT Sports.

TNT Sports will continue to show Saturday lunchtime kick offs and two mid-week rounds per season.

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

## Sky Sports signs new tennis deals with ATP and WTA



**S**ky Sports has agreed new five-year partnerships with the ATP and WTA to show all-year-round tennis involving the best players in the world, including Novak Djokovic, Iga Swiatek and Britain's Emma Raducanu, starting next season.

The agreement will see more than 80 tournaments and 4,000 matches – including both season-ending finals and all Masters 1000 events – broadcast live on Sky Sports from 2024.

The partnership comes after the return of the US Open to Sky Sports and will showcase the world's top players such as World No 1 Djokovic as well as the 'new era' of tennis stars including Carlos Alcaraz, Coco Gauff and Brits Raducanu and Jack Draper.

Coverage will be led by presenter Gigi Salmon,

alongside Tim Henman and Laura Robson who will offer their expert analysis and insights across the two tours, with Jonathan Overend on the match commentary.

Stephen van Rooyen, CEO Sky UK & Ireland and Group CCO, said: "This is a fantastic time to see the ATP and WTA Tours on Sky Sports across our markets, as tennis enters a new era with fresh and exciting talent making their way to the top of the sport. We are committed to bringing the two Tours together to elevate both male and female stars, and deliver world-class coverage of the 80 events across 48 weeks of the year; creating a brand-new home for tennis fans."

• [skysports.com](http://skysports.com)



## Carlsberg and Liverpool FC sign historic 10-Year Deal

**C**arlsberg and Liverpool FC have extended their existing long-term partnership for another 10 years. The inking of this agreement sees the partnership reach 42 years, the longest partnership in Premier League and club history, according to the company.

The relationship was first launched in 1992, when Carlsberg became a principal partner of the club and took pride of place on the front of the Reds' shirt.

During that time it witnessed some of the club's most iconic and celebrated moments on the pitch, including the cup treble in 2001, a UEFA Super Cup, and The Gerrard Final.

Louise Bach, Global Sponsorships Director, Carlsberg, said: "The partnership is deeply rooted in our shared values, and we are very excited for the next decade. We can't wait to bring this unique partnership to the millions of football fans around the world, because just like Liverpool FC, we, at Carlsberg, put the fans first."

In 1997, Carlsberg commissioned and donated the Bill Shankly statue, sculpted by Tom Murphy, which stands outside the Kop.

• [carlsbergmarstons.co.uk](http://carlsbergmarstons.co.uk)

## Portman Group appoints new Chair of Independent Complaints Panel

**T**he Portman Group has announced the appointment of Rachel Childs as new Chair of the Independent Complaints Panel (ICP), following seven years as a serving member.



Rachel was appointed as the Panel's first Deputy Chair in January 2022 and took over as interim Chair of the Panel in September 2023.

As a former headteacher with an impressive and varied career spanning over 10 years in regulation, Rachel has also served on the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) Council between 2011 and 2019, and currently sits on the Advertising Advisory Committee, providing consumer input into the development of the CAP and BCAP codes.

Matt Lambert, CEO of the Portman Group said: "I am delighted to appoint Rachel as Chair of the Independent Complaints Panel following our recruitment process. Having sat on the panel since 2016, two years of which she spent as Deputy Chair, I know Rachel brings a wealth of experience and commitment to the role which will enable her to successfully lead the Panel as they continue to ensure irresponsible alcohol marketing is addressed as quickly and robustly as possible."

• [portmangroup.org.uk](http://portmangroup.org.uk)

## Preparing for Veganuary

As Veganuary gets underway and club kitchens work at making their menus even more inclusive to more diners, Lion and Whirl from AAK Foodservice's 'Sacrifice Nothing' campaign aims to show how easy it is to make plant-based dishes that don't sacrifice taste and which can also save time and money in the kitchen.



**Asian Ginger, Garlic & Chilli Rice Noodle Jars**

**Sarah Lesser-Moor, Brand Manager at Lion Sauces, said:** "Gone are the days of having one or two bland vegan options on our menus – it is time to embrace the vegan-friendly movement!

"Our diverse range of Lion Sauces showcase vibrant global flavours such as American Style Smokey BBQ Sauce, Asian Ginger, Garlic and Chilli Sticky Sauce and Lemon and Herb Piri Piri, and Whirl butter alternatives give you the freedom to elevate your dishes and cater for all diners.



**Lemon & Herb Piri Piri Roasted Aubergine**

"There's no need to sacrifice flavour when it comes to vegan friendly dishes – Lion and Whirl have got you covered!"

• [aakfoodservice.com](http://aakfoodservice.com)

## Choosing leaders, not just jobs

Michael Herd, Head of International Search & Consulting at Kopplin Kuebler & Wallace explores the recruiting world in private members clubs.

**W**ithin the world of private members clubs, candidates are on a quest for more than just employment – they're in search of leaders who embody the essence of these respected establishments.

Gone are the days when candidates accepted positions solely based on monetary rewards. Today, candidates are drawn to leaders who build camaraderie and curate experiences that extend far beyond fulfilling job descriptions.

### A leader sets the tone

The way leaders handle member interactions, anticipate desires, and resolve challenges motivates operations throughout the entire club. Top candidates for key roles gravitate towards leaders with genuine charisma, resulting in a membership and team who feel confident they are well-balanced parts of the whole.

### Inspirational pathways and personal growth

Private members clubs of today need to offer not just jobs, but a journey. Those at the helm of this voyage, are sought-after captains of inspiration. Their ability to navigate uncharted waters, stimulate creativity, and nurture personal growth are the underpinnings of appeal for candidates aspiring toward a remarkable career path.

### Alignment of ethos and ideals

Leading candidates seeking opportunities are driven by identifying shared values. The ethos upheld by leaders, be it a dedication to philanthropy or cultural pursuits, become resonant chords that strike a harmonious note with candidates' ambitions. The commitment to the tenets of club culture has become a pivotal factor in can-



didate deliberations.

### Trust and openness

In the discerning world of private member clubs, trust is a currency of paramount value. Those who cultivate openness, transparency and honesty attract candidates seeking not just a position, but a workplace centered around integrity. The assurance that voices will be heard, and contributions will be acknowledged respectfully creates an irreplaceable draw.

### Mentorship

Candidates, like aspiring apprentices, seek leaders who are invested in their personal and professional evolution. The prospect of being nurtured under the supervision of a seasoned manager can be the compass guiding candidates to their chosen destination. Leaders who are not afraid to develop talent will establish a strong pipeline of the best to work alongside them

• [kkandw.com](http://kkandw.com)

## G'Vine launches new Watermelon variant

**P**remium French gin brand G'Vine has announced that Watermelon will be the latest addition to its June by G'Vine range.

G'Vine is a gin brand with roots in the Cognac region of France which takes pride in creating its products from grape alcohol.

The launch supports the overall ambition of the French distillery to produce exceptional creations in the premium spirits market.

**Chris Jones, Managing Director at Paragon Brands who distribute G'Vine in the UK, said:** "The release of June Watermelon is another opportunity for us to demonstrate the versatility a premium gin such as G'Vine holds.

"The new launch marks the continuation of G'Vine's quest for excellence in the world of spirits, and our desire to offer original and premium creations within the gin sector.

"Our June by G'Vine collection has continued to



rise in popularity amongst those that enjoy a flavoured, luxury spirit, and we are certain that June Watermelon will be a new favourite both with our core customers and beyond."

The range also features June Wild Peach & Summer Fruits and June Pear & Cardamom.

• [paragonbrands.co.uk](http://paragonbrands.co.uk)

## Swansea's Drop Bear Beer brews first batch of Yuzu Pale Ale

**D**ecember marked a historic moment for Drop Bear Beer Company as it showcased its commitment to crafting exceptional non-alcoholic beverages.

Situated in the heart of Swansea, the new non-alcohol distillery presented its Yuzu Pale Ale, infused with the citrusy notes of the Japanese Yuzu fruit with a refreshing flavour profile for those seeking quality non-alcoholic options.

"We're thrilled that the first brew off the block at our new distillery in Swansea is Yuzu Pale Ale. This represents a significant milestone for Drop Bear Beer, and we're eager to share this moment with our community and the wider public," said Joelle Drummond, co-Founder of Drop Bear Beer Co. • [dropbearbeers.com](http://dropbearbeers.com)



## Confidence in hospitality sector climbs

**T**he Business Confidence Survey from CGA and Fourth showed that the optimism of Britain's hospitality leaders has risen for the fourth quarter in a row, with 49% of leaders now feeling confident about the hospitality market over the next 12 months – up by four percentage points from August's figure

of 45%. The proportion of leaders who feel optimistic about prospects for their own business in the next year was unchanged at 62%.

Leaders were also upbeat about prospects for the crucial final quarter of the year, with 58% optimistic about their businesses' Christmas trading and 8% feeling pessimistic, with rising costs, rate reform, energy and staffing levels cited as concerns.

**Karl Chessell, CGA by NIQ's director – hospitality operators and food, EMEA, said:** "These figures are another vote of confidence in hospitality and a sign that trading conditions may start to ease as inflation comes down. It's encouraging to see good levels of optimism about Christmas sales, which can make or break the year for many restaurant, pub and bar groups. Despite pressure on their spending, consumers clearly remain eager to enjoy the special experiences that hospitality provides."

• [cgastrategy.com](http://cgastrategy.com)



## Żubrówka launches first-ever Bison Grass Beer

**W**orld-famous Polish vodka brand Żubrówka has announced the launch of the first-ever craft beer to feature famed Bison Grass, recognised for its unique and enigmatic taste, available exclusively in collaboration with craft beer subscription

service Beer52.

Żubrówka, the world's third largest vodka brand, boasts a heritage spanning 500 years and is recognisable for the blade of bison grass in every bottle.

Now, the newly created Polish Bison Grass Wheat Craft Beer is designed to capture the long-standing appeal, aromatic qualities and exciting flavour profile of the original vodka that comes from this celebrated ingredient.

Brewed at 4.2% using the essence of bison grass, the beer is described as a celebration of the characterful bison grass ingredient, which offers a unique and aromatic taste with notes of almond, vanilla, coconut, and lavender.

• [beer52.com](http://beer52.com)



## Refuge Manx Rum donates to RNLI lifeboat stations

**A**n Isle of Man distillery will be donating a special rum to all 238 RNLI lifeboat stations in the British Isles in order for them to be auctioned to raise funds.

The Fynoderee distillery is creating a limited edition spirit as part of a coastal range to mark the charity's 200th anniversary next year.

The rum is currently locked away in the Tower of Refuge in Douglas on the Isle to mature, and was transported there from Ramsey via tram and horse tram.

The distillery says two bottles of Refuge Manx Rum will be donated to every RNLI lifeboat station to help generate further funds for the charity.

**Distillery Co-founder Tiffany Kerruish explained the origins of the new RNLI Edition:** "The idea to produce commemorative spirits came from members of RNLI Ramsey, our local lifeboat station.

"We recognised the unique provenance and potential to not only generate substantial funds for the RNLI for the historic anniversary, but also to provide the perfect tipples for raising a glass to all those who have saved lives at sea over the generations."

• [fynoderee.com](http://fynoderee.com)

## Drink Me Chai Artisan Blend triumphs in blind taste test



**A**n independent blind taste test saw Drink Me Chai's Artisan blend deemed the most preferred option by taste and by visual appeal, with seven out of eight regular chai drinkers surveyed stating that it would be the one that they would choose to purchase again.

• [aimiafoods.com](http://aimiafoods.com)

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# Hadfield Conservative Club Holds Remembrance Sunday Event

Hadfield Conservative Club, Hadfield, Derbyshire held a special event for Club Members on Remembrance Sunday.

The community came together for the Remembrance Service at St Andrews Church, before heading down to the

Hadfield Cenotaph.

Afterwards, funnyman and war time entertainer, Dom Collins, performed his 1940's war time show

at the club, with members waving flags and singing war time songs.



# Dennis Taylor Wows Crowd at Romsey Conservative Club

On Saturday 7th October, legendary snooker player Dennis Taylor hosted a momentous evening at Romsey Conservative Club.

The Club were delighted to welcome such a sporting icon and he literally raised the roof with his hilarious and infectious personality. Members and guests were treated to stories from his career, behind the scenes anecdotes from the world of snooker and his own account of some of the sport's most iconic moments. He also gave an insight into the industry and

how much it has changed over the years.

Three lucky raffle ticket winners won a game of snooker against him which was a particular highlight of the night, and he performed some incredible trick shots. Arguably one of the greatest ever snooker players, Dennis brought excitement and fun to the evening and showed off his skills, not only as a legend of the sport, but also as a fabulous speaker. He truly gained a place in Romsey Conservative Club's hearts, and it is very easy to see why he's such a fan favourite.



# Waterloo and Taunton Remembrance Sunday Event

Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, Ashton-under-Lyne, supported the Royal British Legion by raising vital funds on Remembrance Sunday.

Members of the club Committee laid a wreath on behalf of club members at the Waterloo and Taunton War Memorial. They were joined by club life

member Ken Winstanley, who was representing Blind Veterans UK.

Afternoon entertainment followed afterwards with male vocalist Stephen Maycock. Club members dug deep to purchase poppies, wrist bands, pin badges and also donated loose change to the Legions collection tins.



# Heavitree and Tiverton Host Annual Harvest Competition

The annual competition between Heavitree Conservative Club, Exeter, and Tiverton Constitutional Club took place at Heavitree Conservative Club at the end of November 2023.

This year's competition was for the best parsnip grown by members.

The event was a lot of fun and was well supported. The winner of the Gary Hooper Cup was Mel Ward from Heavitree, the runner

up was Tony Phillips, also from Heavitree, and in third place was Mike Lomo from Tiverton. It is hoped that next year's competition between the two clubs will be for the best red sunflower. Ironically, the smallest parsnip shown in the photograph was grown by Gary Hooper himself.

All photographs were taken by Peter Crabtree, Heavitree Conservative Club Exeter.



## *Pages From The Past*

As threatened last month, in this month's Pages From The Past we return to December 1937 to catch up with the crew of the HMS Sheffield who were entertained by Immingham Clubmen.

As, presumably, a reward for their service to the UK, the crew of the HMS Sheffield were entertained upon their arrival by three dances and two football matches. After such an amazing show of generosity and entertainment the concern might have been whether the crew would be willing to return to their shipbound duties although the article does not provide answers to this question.

In addition to the three dances, the crew also participated in classic games with Members of the Club

and a cartoon was drawn by Mr Hadley Fourte of the HMS Sheffield documenting the games. Finally, as if further entertainment was required, a farewell concert was organised for the departing crew.

The HMS Sheffield itself had a distinguished career. Launched in 1936 it had an active service history until 1967 and was highly decorated with awards during its service. The ship was active during World War 2 until 1944 where a refit took place which lasted 1946. When the ship was decommissioned the stainless steel ship's bell, which was made by Hadfield's of Sheffield, was preserved and today hangs in Sheffield Cathedral along with her battle ensign.

**H.M.S. SHEFFIELD.**

**HOW THE CREW WERE ENTERTAINED BY IMMINGHAM CLUBMEN.**

On the occasion of the recent visit of H.M.S. Sheffield, the new 9,000-ton cruiser, to Immingham, Mr. P. W. Barron, Secretary of the local Conservative Club, arranged a series of social and sporting events to entertain the crew during their stay. These included three dances and two football matches.

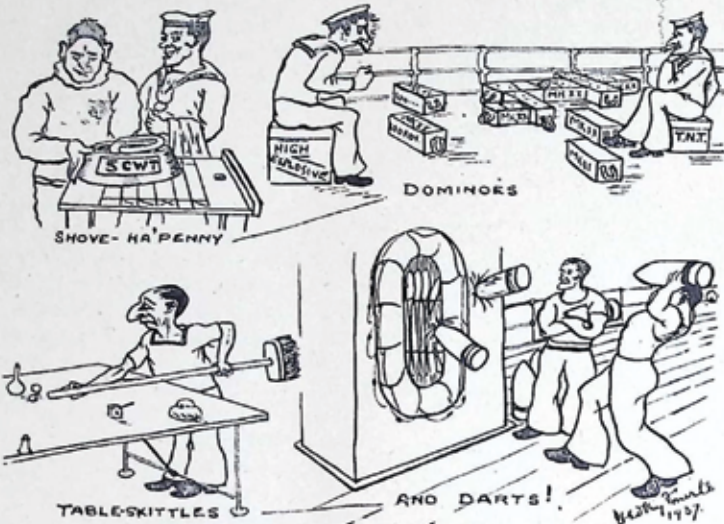
The Club also challenged the gallant bluejackets to a games contest and, in response, received the cartoon which we reproduce. Having gone into strict training for

the various events (billiards, snooker, dominoes, fives and threes, shove-halfpenny and darts), the visitors put up an excellent show and, when the scores were totalled, it was found that both H.M.S. Sheffield and the Club had scored a like number of points—a happy outcome

of a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Prior to the departure of the ship, the Club gave a farewell concert to such of the crew who could attend and a good time was spent by all.

In appreciation of the Club's efforts, the Captain of H.M.S. Sheffield, in company with the Chairman of the local Council, called personally at the Club and thanked Mr. Barron, the other officers and members for all they had done on behalf of his men.

H.M.S. SHEFFIELD v. IMMINGHAM CONSERVATIVE CLUB.  
THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB HAS CHALLENGED US—SO WE'VE STARTED TRAINING FOR —



The above cartoon, drawn by Mr. Hedley Fourte of H.M.S. Sheffield, was sent to Immingham Conservative Club in reply to a games-contest challenge.

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