

# *CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE*



March 2024 75p



## **ACC Chairman Visits Stotfold Conservative Club**

**Industry Insights**

**Enfield Town Holds Celebration For Oldest Member**

March 2024  
75p



## CONTENTS

Annual General Meeting Notice	2
Club Law and Management	3, 4, 5, 6
ACC Chairman Visits Stotfold Conservative Club	7
Industry Insights	8, 9, 10, 11
Tiverton Updates	13
Enfield Town Holds Celebration For Oldest Member	14
Pages From The Past	15
ACC Order Form	16

# Annual General Meeting 2024

The Annual General Meeting of the Association of Conservative Clubs Ltd shall be held on Saturday 18th May 2024 at the Carlton Club, London.

Formal notice of the Annual General Meeting will be sent to all ACC Clubs.

Clubs wishing to attend should ensure a prompt return of the invitation since space is limited.

## CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE

Published by The Association of Conservative Clubs, Ltd  
1 Norfolk Row,  
London SE1 7JP  
Tel: 020 7222 0843  
Sales: 020 7222 0868  
assistance@toryclubs.co.uk  
www.toryclubs.co.uk

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

All editorial and advertising enquiries should be addressed to the ACC. When replying to advertisers please mention Conservative Clubs Magazine

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but neither the publishers, nor their agents, can accept responsibility for any error or omission.

## Introducing

DRANSFIELDS  

# SPOTLIGHT

THE ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

GAMES

MUSIC

QUIZ

KARAOKE

BINGO

## The ultimate fun experience

Dransfields SPOTLIGHT is a state-of-the-art audio visual platform delivering the best entertainment to your venue and giving your customers lots of fun with the ultimate entertainment experience.

Spotlight is modular system that enables a club to tailor it to their needs, whilst allowing instant upgrades to bring in additional features on a pay-as-you-use basis.

**Best deals, best service, best choice**

Dransfields is the UK's largest independent supplier of gaming and amusement machines to private members clubs, pubs and the licensed trade.

With over 75 years' club and pub industry experience, we have unrivalled expertise and are able to provide the very highest levels of service and support to help you maximise profits for your venue.

**Make more money with Dransfields – your local partner in profit**

LOCAL SERVICE, NATIONAL STRENGTH

[www.dransfields.com](http://www.dransfields.com)

**Call Dransfields on 0345 644 9414**  
enquiries@dransfields.com

Recommended supplier to the Association of Conservative Clubs

# CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

## National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates increase from 1 April 2024

Employers should be aware that all minimum wage rates increase on 1 April of each year. This includes all National Minimum Wage rates and the National Living Wage rate.

From 1 April 2024, the National Living Wage will be

extended to include those aged 21 years old and over.

Minimum wage - increased rates from April 2024

See the table below that shows the current minimum wage rates and new rates from 1 April 2024:

	Current rate (since April 2023)	New rate from April 2024	Increase
National Living Wage (23 years old and over)	£10.42	£11.44 (21 years old and over)	9.8%
National Minimum Wage (21-22 years old)	£10.18	N/A	N/A
National Minimum Wage (18-20 years old)	£7.49	£8.60	14.8%
National Minimum Wage (16-17 years old)	£5.28	£6.40	21.2%
National Minimum Wage (apprentice rate)	£5.28	£6.40	21.2%
Accommodation Offset	£9.10	£9.99	9.8%

## MPLC Reminder

We have been contacted by a number of Clubs who have received letters, emails and phone calls from the MPLC - the Motion Picture Licensing Company Ltd

We can confirm that MPLC is a legitimate organisation but that Clubs only need to obtain a licence from them under specific circumstances.

Crucially, Clubs do not tend to need an MPLC licence to show content such as sports, music channels or Sky News. Therefore, for most Clubs the only license that is required is a Television Licence. In the ACC's experience it is rare that a Club would need to obtain an MPLC licence as most Clubs do not screen films or drama series.

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, BT Sports, Sky News, sports shown on free to view channels such as BBC One or Channel 4 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
- Eastenders – MPLC Licence
- BT Sports – No licence
- Sky News - No licence
- Sky Atlantic - No licence
- Sky Movies - No licence

The ACC contacted Sky UK regarding MPLC. Sky provided us with the following statement:

The showing of Sky's own paid for channels and partner channels does not require an MPLC licence because the Sky Subscription Agreement covers this license directly from the licensor (by virtue of Sky's underlying rights agreements with the rights owners).

MPLC should be explaining to Clubs that an MPLC licence

is not required should the Club just wish to show channels such as Sky Sports, Sky News, Music channels and sports shown on terrestrial television such as Six Nations, Match of the Day, Euros, World Cup etc.

If Clubs are concerned at the information they have been provided by MPLC please let us know. Clubs can also raise their concerns directly by emailing MPLC Head of Licencing Tyrone Samuel at [TSamuel@mplc.com](mailto:TSamuel@mplc.com).

## Redundancy Guidance Update

A recent decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal has re-emphasised the importance of consulting with employees on relevant aspects of a redundancy process at both a formative stage of proposals and on a workforce level. In *Mr Joseph De Bank Haycocks v ADP RPO UK Ltd [2023] EAT 129*, the EAT found that an employer who dismissed an employee based on a matrix of subjective selection criteria without giving him the opportunity to challenge or influence the criteria or his scoring had acted unfairly. The EAT also decided that the internal appeal process could not remedy that inadequacy of consultation.

In addition, despite the fact that this was a redundancy situation affecting only 16 people which meant it did not engage the statutory collective consultation regime, the EAT stated that, as a matter of good industrial relations practice, consultation should have taken place at "the workforce level". In the absence of a good explanation as to why that approach was not taken it determined that the dismissal was unfair. This is an important development of the law in this area, and employers should take note of it.

It is well-established that for a redundancy dismissal to be procedurally fair, consultation should take place at an early stage, before any final decisions are made. Where fewer than 20 redundancies are concerned,

there must be consultation with each of the affected employees but this has not previously been understood to necessarily involve consultation at the workforce level or at a formative stage of proposals on issues such as the rationale for the redundancies or the method of selection.

The EAT declined to be prescriptive about what this revived approach to consultation might actually involve in practical terms but, it is likely to require employers having to (i) facilitate discussions with trade unions or the affected employees (or their representatives) as a collective at an early stage in the consultation process and (ii) engage about the broad redundancy proposals and approach to selection rather than just their application. This additional step, if truly required to be adopted by employers, will almost certainly add to the overall timeframe and costs associated with smaller scale redundancy processes. Crucially it would appear that a failure to take this approach (without compelling excuse) will run the risk of any individual redundancy being found to be unfair.

It may well be that this decision will be appealed further or subject to comment from the superior courts but in the meantime, employers would be well advised to take note of this approach and to factor it into any proposed redundancy exercises in 2024.

## Questions and Answers

**Q** We have a candidate for Membership who has twice been refused in the past and it is likely his present application will also be refused. We are concerned though that a future Committee may admit this person as a Member. Can we create a Bye-Law preventing a person from applying for Membership if they have been refused twice in the past?

**A** You would not be able to introduce such a Bye-Law since it would be in conflict with the Rule which states that persons can reapply again after the twelve month period has elapsed. You can, of course, alter the rule in question but you would need the Members' approval.

Our advice is not to worry too much about this situation. Ultimately there is an argument that if a future elected Committee wishes for this person to become a Member then the current elected Committee should not be attempting to take steps to prevent such a decision from being made. We must always be open to the Club's Members electing a new Committee and going in a new direction and I would advise the current Committee not to unduly spend too much time trying to prevent a possible future Committee from making certain decisions.

**Q** At the moment our Stewardess attends Committee Meetings however since the AGM a new Committee Member is saying this is illegal. Could you clarify this?

**A** There is nothing unlawful about employees attending board or Committee Meetings. The ACC holds three Council Meetings each year at which ACC employees are requested to attend in order to provide assistance to the Council as and when required. You will find in most businesses that employees will be part of Board Meetings to differing degrees.

It is therefore for the Committee to determine if they wish to invite the Stewardess to attend Committee Meetings. If the Committee decide to invite her to attend then this fine and is completely lawful. A person invited to a Committee Meeting can also be asked to leave the meeting at any point, particularly if a matter for discussion would be a sensitive subject or a conflict of interest.

**Q** Each month our Treasurer explains in detail the club financial situation including staff wages. A newly elected Committee Member has pointed out that detailed financial details of members of staff could be breaching new data protection laws – please could you advise?

**A** The Committee are considered to be the Employers in the Club's employer/employee set up. It is therefore completely fine for the Committee to be aware of salary details and this is not a breach of GDPR in any way.

Of course, such information should not be shared with persons outside of the Committee or the Club's financial advisors/accountants.

**Q** During our refurbishment, we considered if we could create space for disabled toilet facilities. We do not have enough space for a full disabled toilet but we can create enough space to enable us to construct an Ambulant Toilet which would meet the needs of those who have mobility issues but are not fully confined to a wheelchair. Would this be sufficient to discharge our legal obligations?

**A** If the Club is able to provide disabled facilities then you should do so although you are not expected to do so if presently the cost would be too high or if it would be physically difficult to find space to install such facilities. If this is the case then you can simply make a note to refer to this case every so often to see if anything has changed. As and when the Club is in a position to provide disabled facilities then you should aim to do so.

We would therefore suggest that you do what you can, even if you cannot currently offer a complete package of disabled facilities. At least if you are showing that you have considered the situation affecting disabled persons and you have done what you can at this time, this will prove that the Club is taking its responsibilities seriously and hopefully in the future further improvements can be made.

**Q** A Committee Member has offered to help out behind the bar when help may be required. They do not want to be paid for this and would just consider it as volunteering. Our Chairman has said that this will cause a "conflict of interest" and that other staff would feel "threatened" by a committee member working behind the bar. Does the ACC have a view?

**A** There is no legal reason that a Committee Member cannot volunteer behind the Club's bar. Some Clubs operate exclusively with volunteers, others utilise a mixed approach. I am not sure I agree that employees would feel threatened by working with a Committee Member but if there is any reason to think this would

be the case it should certainly be considered and discussions held with the Club's employees.

Whilst we respect the view of the Club's Chairman, this is ultimately a Committee decision to make. I therefore suggest that this proposal is put to a vote at the next Committee Meeting. With any employee or volunteer it is, of course, always necessary to ensure some formality is adhered to when anyone is responsible for handling cash and this can be a consideration regarding how and when the Committee might allow volunteers to assist behind the bar.

**Q** Each year our club holds one or two events, the admissions to which have, in recent years, been by 'ticket only.' We have some members who question this and say that they must be allowed to enter the club, even if they do not wish to buy a ticket. We would appreciate your clarification of this matter.


**A** I confirm that it is in order for an event to be promoted at the club, the admission to which is by ticket only. A member of a club does not have an automatic legal right of entry to their club. Consequently, if a ticket only event is organised and promoted then members who do not wish to purchase a ticket may not enter a club at such an occasion. Ticket events are few and far between and in most clubs only take place on New Year's Eve. By selling tickets for such an event the committee will at least be able to manage the number of staff required and levels of entertainment and refreshments required etc., which otherwise they may not be able to do on what can be either a very busy or a very quiet night.

**Q** We only have one candidate for the position of Chairman so we understand that they will be elected automatically without a contest. Several Members have asked if they can be allowed to vote for or against this person. Is this permissible?

**A** If there is only one candidate for the position of Chairman then they will be automatically

**Welcome To YDP Limited**

The ACC's recommended supplier for all of your financial management needs



Are you struggling with a mountain of administration problems?

Do you find it difficult to cope with managing your accounts, cash flow, wages and inland revenue reporting?

YDP can assist with Bookkeeping, Payroll, Audit & Accounts, Stocktaking & Consultancy

Call us on 01933 358080 or email [info@ydp.co.uk](mailto:info@ydp.co.uk) to discuss how we can make your life easier

elected at the AGM. There is no way to challenge such an appointment and the Members are unable to vote against this person's election if they are the sole person standing for the position. The Members can, of course, remove the Chairman at any time by calling for a SGM. We would also encourage Members to stand for positions to ensure a contest is created to allow Members to vote for their preferred candidate.

**Q**Our club has always welcomed IA Ticket holders from other clubs but recently a group of members from a neighbouring club have been using our club four or five times a week. The committee wish to impose a ban on all IA Ticket holders who live within five miles of the club. Is this acceptable?

**A**Regulation 8 of the Rules and Regulations governing the IA Ticket Scheme reads as follows – *'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 Inter-Affiliation Ticket holders whose permanent habitation is within a radius of ten miles of club premises. The holder of an Inter-Affiliation 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.'*

The object of this regulation is to prevent members of one club, with possibly a low annual subscription, from using the facilities of a neighbouring club that has a higher rate of annual subscription on a regular, if not daily, basis. Therefore, the committee of any Inter-Affiliated club reserves the right to impose a radius restriction on IA Ticket holders.

Due to the fact that Regulation 8 also provides committees of Inter-Affiliated clubs with the authority to refuse the admission of any IA Ticket holder—if this is considered to be in the interests of the club—we suggest that overall radius restrictions are not imposed.

Club committees should instead rely on the authority provided by Regulation 8 to simply restrict those IA Ticket holders who seek to use the IA Ticket Scheme as a method of regularly enjoying the facilities of a club which, for whatever reason, they have chosen not to join.

In short, therefore, committees are advised not to permit a few 'bad apples' jeopardising the enjoyment of neighbouring IA Ticket holders who do not wish to abuse the Scheme but who would like to occasionally visit other local clubs.

**Q**We have received a petition of 30 Members requesting a SGM to vote on removing the Committee from Office. Since we have received the petition several Members who are on the petition have said they do not support it and did not know what they were signing. Should the SGM still go ahead if these Members formally withdraw their support?

**A**Most Clubs have a mechanism where 30 or more Members can sign a petition which will mean a SGM will be held and a vote taken on whether to remove the Committee.

If it became apparent that some of the names of the list had requested that their names be removed and this caused the number of names on the list to fall below 30 then a new petition would have to be circulated and submitted to the Committee. An SGM can only be held if a valid petition of at least 30 names has been submitted and if those named on the petition objectively support the petition.

As a matter of course, we would suggest that any Member leading such an operation obtains at least 30 names and ensures that all the persons signing the petition are aware of the nature of the petition and that by signing the petition they are calling for an SGM to be held in order to vote on removing the Committee. If an SGM is successfully called then 75% of those Members who attend the SGM are required to vote in favour of the motion removing the Committee from Office in order for it to succeed.

**Q**The Club runs multiple bingo sessions each week which the total amount being staked going over £2000 in some weeks. Would the Committee be acting appropriately to obtain a Bingo Operating License to make sure that the Club is fully compliant with the Gambling Act and will it in any way change the constitution of the Club?

**A**If the total amount being staked each week on bingo is exceeding the maximum allowable amount of £2000 per week then we would encourage the Committee to obtain such a licence. To reach this turnover on bingo is however unusual for most Clubs. There is no reason that the purchase of such a license will change the constitution of the Club or affect the Club's Club Premises Certificate. The important point is that the Club will still only admit Members, their guests and IA Ticket Holders; holding a Bingo Operating Licence does not alter this.

**Q**Our Club has a pull tab lottery machine which is very popular and delivers a healthy profit to the Club. We are also looking into installing a B3A gaming machine inside the Club as they are also free from taxation and we think such a machine could prove to be popular amongst our Members. There is some concern though that a B3A machine may cannibalise the sales of the pull tab lottery machine and simply split the revenue received and increase our costs. Do you know if this is ever the case?

**A**Whilst I do not have any statistical evidence which I can send you regarding the change of usage of pull tab machines following the introduction of a B3A, I can safely say that I have rarely been into a Club with a B3A machine which does not also have a familiar pull tab ticket vending machine in some other part of the Club. I do think that the pull tab tickets have a following from part of the membership which is not particularly interested in playing any form of gaming machine even though I accept that the B3A machine is a very simple one to use compared with the more complex B4 machine features.

**Q**Are employees able to use the Club's Gaming Machines? We have Members who consider that it would be unfair for an employee to win a jackpot, perhaps aided by watching the machine.

**A**Opinion is divided on whether it is possible for a person to determine when a machine might pay out although we are aware that there is a common perception that watching machines gives rise to an unfair advantage.

Gaming machines have to adhere to strict average pay-outs and this is calculated over the course of a machine's entire life and is therefore unpredictable. It may be that a machine goes months between the jackpot being won or it may be that two jackpots occur on the same day. With the advent of extra features such as nudges and hi/lo features it is even more difficult to calculate out if a machine is about to pay out.

It is, however, preferable to avoid any possibility of an unfair advantage, real or imagined, and as such it is good practice to prohibit Club employees from using the Club's gaming machines.

**Q**We are trying to set up an account regarding potential investments and are having difficulty in describing the set up of our Club. We have Trustees but do not issue shares to members.

**A**The Club is an Unincorporated Association. The property of the Club, both real and personal, is vested in the names of elected Trustees who hold this on behalf of the Club and its objects.

The constitution of the Club is the Club Rule book. As an Unincorporated Association, an investment cannot be made in the name of 'Conservative Club' since the Club has no legal identity. The investment shall have to be made in the names of the Trustees acting on behalf of the Conservative Club.

We have found in recent years that a number of investment companies and even high street banks will not accept business from this type of Constituted Association.

The refusal to carry out this business is normally, of course, a result of ignorance of the legal position. In other words, if a

To page 6 ►

## ◀ From page 5

box cannot be ticked the system cannot work.

Legally there is no reason why a Club cannot invest surplus funds in a way that will be beneficial for the objects of the Club.

There are some types of investments which are not open to the Club. For example Premium Bonds and ISAs, however there is certainly no

## Types of Club

Members' clubs may be subdivided into a number of different categories according to their constitution. Please find an explanation of types of Clubs below:

### Unincorporated Clubs

The most common type of members' club is the unincorporated members' club. These are clubs in which the club's property, both real and personal, is vested in a number of trustees elected or appointed in accordance with the club's rules.

Once they have been selected, trustees must formally be appointed to a club's Trust Deed. Without this act of conveyance taking place, a club's property will not be legally held by trustees.

Unincorporated clubs do not achieve corporate status and therefore cannot take, or be subject to legal proceedings in the name of the club. Such proceedings can only be made in the names of the trustees acting on behalf of a club.

Trustees are entitled to indemnify against all liability, costs, damages, claims and demands which are incurred or suffered in connection with any bona fide transaction or activity carried out on behalf of the club. Such indemnification is usually underwritten by the value of the property of a club, its insurance and, depending on a club's rules, special subscriptions raised from among the membership.

It is important for trustees not to act on behalf of a club

restrictions on placing the money in a high interest account or a guaranteed investment bond which may be offered by a High Street Bank. Naturally the Club would not wish to risk money and most Clubs do not have share portfolios. You will just need to find a financial services provider which is willing to work with an Unincorporated Association.

without proper instruction from a club's committee, or by resolution of the members, or outside the terms of a club's Trust Deed.

### Co-Operative Societies

Registration of a club as a Co-Operative Society gives a club the status of a corporate body with the advantages that this status brings: to take or defend legal proceedings in the name of the club; to hold property, both real and personal, as a perpetual corporation instead of through trustees; and to authenticate its acts with a common seal.

The responsibility and authority for administering this Act is vested in the Financial Conduct Authority (FSA), Mutual Societies Registration Department.

A club registered under this Act is required to include the word 'Limited' at the end of its name in order to indicate the limited financial liability of the club. Members are required to purchase a share in the club which represents the members' sole liability of the club. The value of a share can be as low as 5p.

Unlike a company, shares in clubs registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act are usually restricted to one per member. This single shareholding should not be transferable or withdrawable. This ensures that shares cannot be held outside the membership of the club.

Such clubs must also pay an annual fee, make annual

returns and register all rule amendments with the FCA.

Whilst the administrative burden of being a Co-Operative Society may appear to be greater than that of an unincorporated club, the benefits of corporate status, with the resulting removal of the need for trustees, and the creation of limited liability of members, is a matter which many clubs find attractive.

### Limited Companies

We would not advise clubs to seek incorporation under the Companies Acts. Whether limited by share or guarantee, the constitution of a company is mostly consistent with that of a club which, as I have described above, operates as a mutual trading association.

A company's memorandum and articles of association are too cumbersome for the purposes of a club's rule book and the administration required by Companies House

to operate a company is often too time-consuming for most Club Secretaries.

A club registered under the Companies Acts may, by special resolution, determine to register as a Co-Operative Society.

A small number of clubs have a situation where their land and buildings are held by companies, which in turn are owned by the club. Such scenarios are usually the result of historic accident and can be the source of confusion caused by share registers not being kept up-to-date, shares not being properly recorded and Directors not being registered or removed from registration.

Clubs in this situation should seek advice on how to convert both the company and club to registration as a Co-Operative Society. Such conversion would provide one consolidating constitution that would properly serve the objects of the club.

**WANT TO WIN £1,000 AND HELP US FIGHT ELECTIONS?**

**Make every week a potential winner with the Conservative Lottery.**

It pays to support the Conservative Party. Sometimes literally. The Conservative Lottery lets you support the party and win cash prizes at the same time. Our lottery has raised millions for our campaigns. It's got a cash prize of £1,000 every single week. And it costs just £1 a week to enter. So why not take part?

**Sign up at [lottery.conservatives.com](http://lottery.conservatives.com)**

**How does the lottery work?**  
It couldn't be simpler. All you have to do is visit the website and buy your entries!

**How much can I win?**  
There's £1,000 up for grabs every single week. And if that's not enough, there's also £5,000 up for grabs in our regular superdraws.

**How does the lottery support the party?**  
Your entry fee supports our campaigns. So by taking part in our lottery, you're helping us win elections and build back better.

**Ready to play? Just visit [lottery.conservatives.com](http://lottery.conservatives.com)**

National Conservative Draws Society is licensed and regulated in Great Britain by the Gambling Commission under Account No. 5027. www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk. Must be 18 or over to play. Underage gambling is an offence. £1 per entry. Promoter: The National Conservative Draws Society (NCDS), 1 Norfolk Row, London, SE1 7JP. Responsible Person: Philip Dumville. Full terms & conditions, how proceeds are used and the likelihood of winning a prize can be found at: [lottery.conservatives.com](http://lottery.conservatives.com). Winners will be notified by post. All proceeds from the Conservative Lottery go to the National Conservative Draws Society (NCDS), which although being independent of the Conservative Party, donates all profits to the Party or Conservative candidates.

# ACC Chairman Visits Stotfold Conservative Club



Rt Hon Alistair Burt during his visit to the Club.

Earlier this year the ACC Chairman, Rt Hon Alistair Burt, paid a visit to the Stotfold Conservative Club.

The Chairman noted that the Club was busy and doing well with the Club's Committee estimating that they have a larger

active membership now than they have done for many years. The Club has expanded into a food offering which has been very

well received and the Committee are pleased with all the support shown to the Club by their loyal members.

## Waterloo and Taunton Present Cheque to Anthony Seddon



Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, Ashton-under-Lyne, who were recently crowned Club Mirror - Charity Club of the 2023, has presented a local charity, the Anthony Seddon Fund, with a cheque for £100.00.

The cheque was presented to Anthony Seddon Fund Trustee, Mark Thornley who said "We really appreciate the support



and all the funds raised towards supporting mental health and wellbeing in our community".

Club Chairman, Leon Tamcken said, "Thank you to our club

snooker lads who have raised these vital funds to support such a worthwhile cause, one that has supported so many of our club members"

The Anthony Seddon Fund delivers a range of activities from their centre on George Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, to support people living with mental illness.

# 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.

## Soft drinks enjoy standout year, says Fentimans

The fifth annual Fentimans Premium Soft Drinks and Mixers Market Report has been published, identifying a standout year for soft drinks.

**S**oft drinks have been among the drinks market's winners over the last 12 months. CGA data shows year-on-year growth of 3.8% in the soft drinks and mixers segment—nearly three times the growth of 1.3% in the drinks market as a whole.

Soft drinks now attract nearly 15 pence in every pound spent on drinks in Britain's On Premise. Soft drinks' strong trading is also above growth in other core categories like wine (up 0.8%). This reflects a trend of drinkers reducing their alcohol consumption in favour of soft drinks and no or low alcohol alternatives.

There was a particularly impressive leap in soft drinks sales over the 2022 festive season and the 'Dry January' that followed, with stronger trading in key periods like the run-up to Easter, when soft drinks sales were up by 24% year-on-year. However, summer weather was broadly disappointing, and kept consumers away from outdoor drinking areas for extended periods—though heatwaves in early June and September caused weekly sales to surge by as much as 24%.

Juices overtook lemonade as consumers' second top choice after cola in the past 12 months, while flavoured carbonates leapfrogged energy drinks in fifth position, with year-on-year growth of 4.9%. Energy drinks' sales fell by 10.9% in the 12-month period, suggesting that consumer interest in them may have peaked.

### KEY TAKAWAYS FROM THE REPORT

#### 1. Drinking less but drinking better

Some consumers are reducing visits to licensed premises but are spending more when they do go out.

#### 2. Focus on health continues

Many consumers—but not all—are more inter-



ested in the wellbeing-related aspects of their food and drink.

#### 3. A surge in no and low alcohol

Numbers drinking alcohol-free or low-alcohol alternatives are soaring—especially in cocktails.

#### 4. Craft drives the premiumisation trend

While more consumers are looking for value, the provenance and quality of drinks remain important.

#### 5. A rise in casual food-led occasions

Soft drinks have become an important element of everyday meals out.

#### 6. The enduring appeal of celebratory occasions

Consumers want to mark special occasions out of home and soft drinks are an important part of their mix.

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

### BEYOND DRY JANUARY – TAPPING INTO NO/LOW'S SUCCESS

A third (33%) of consumers have increased the frequency that they drink low and non-alcoholic alternatives in the past year, according to the latest On Premise User Survey from CGA by NIQ.

Beer remains the most popular no/low option when drinking out (50%), followed by Mocktails (40%) and Virgin Cocktails (26%).

In addition, 48% of consumers have tried new drinks or brands across all categories in the past three months, demonstrating an appetite for innovative new offerings. Coupled with more consumers extending their Dry January drinking habits throughout the year, the no/low category is now seeing investment from brands and new products entering the market.

The 18–34-year-old age bracket is over-indexing for the category and also for drinking more frequently. For these reasons, no/low is now regarded as a vital trend to leverage and engage the next generation of On Premise consumers.

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





## Wine feels the love for Valentine's Day

Figures for wine sales were set to be promising for this year's Valentine's Day if 2023's figures are anything to go by, where an average rate of drinks sales per managed outlet was put at of £1,479 on the day. This is £290 or 24.4% more than the annual average.

Champagne, sparkling wine and still wine are among the drinks categories that get the biggest uplift from such occasions. Nearly a third (30%) of consumers told the OPUS survey that they typically drink still wine on special occasions, while around a fifth choose sparkling wine (20%) or cocktails (19%).

Total Wine and Champagne sales have been slow to recover since the COVID-19 pandemic, and CGA's data indicates total sales of £3,448m in 2023, 0.3% behind 2022.

White and rosé wines increased their share of

value sales by 1.1 and 0.3 percentage points respectively, while red lost 0.8 percentage points. It was a tough year for Champagne, with sales down 17.0% to £253m, but sparkling wine saw solid growth of 5.1% to £597m.

**CGA client director Mark Newton said:** "After the post-Christmas trading hangover and Dry January, Valentine's Day delivers a vital boost to sales for restaurants, pubs, bars and suppliers. It's an especially good opportunity to attract new wine consumers and encourage existing drinkers to trade up, and smart campaigns now can pay dividends not just on the day itself but throughout 2024."

CGA's Wine Insights report provide insights to help operators make the most of major occasions, including key trends in sales, varietals and venues.

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

## Greene King unveils two new craft IPAs

Greene King Brewery has launched two new craft beers, Hazy Day and Prior Life.

The launches reflect Greene King's observation of the emerging appeal of Hazy IPAs and growing interest in All-Day IPAs, indicating a consumer shift towards sessionable beers that maintain the hop-forward profile of IPAs without the high alcohol content.

Hazy Day is a fruity IPA (4.3% ABV) with orange, citrus and tropical notes. The inspiration for the name dates back to the 16th Century in Bury St Edmunds, for those who were convicted of minor crimes and sentenced to a day in the pillories. With 'clouded judgement' and a 'hazy sense of morality', locals would come to heckle, goad and throw things at the miscreants.

Prior Life is an easy drinking, fruity All Day IPA (3.4% ABV) with mellow tropical notes and a citrus aroma. This beer is a tribute to the original Bury St Edmunds master brewers, the Benedictine monks, whose ghosts are said to still walk the Abbey today. The monks would drink litres of ale each day, the brewing process making it safer to drink than water at that time.



**Matt Starbuck, Managing Director at Greene King, said:** "We launched our craft portfolio just under two years ago and we have seen a great response to the beers, so naturally we wanted to create even more tasty craft beers for our consumers to explore."

"Taking insight from consumer trends we worked with our brewers to craft two delicious beers with exciting stories to tell and we are proud of the work that has gone in to creating Hazy Day and Prior Life."

"It's the centuries-worth of brewing expertise and the myths and legends behind our portfolio that makes all of the beers unique, and we can't wait for people to enjoy the distinct flavours that will resonate with the modern-day craft drinker."

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

## TNT Sports seals Emirates FA Cup four year deal

The Football Association (FA) and TNT Sports have agreed a four-year broadcast deal for the Emirates FA Cup, starting from the 2025/26 season, which will see more games available than ever before, across both TNT Sports and free-to-air, from the world's oldest national football competition.



TNT Sports will showcase live matches from the First Round, with every game from the Third Round outside of 3pm kick offs on display through to the Final at Wembley Stadium connected by EE. Selected matches from every round will be available free-to-air, and highlights of every game will be made available.

In addition to the Emirates FA Cup ties, TNT Sports will also broadcast the English football season's traditional curtain raiser, The FA Community Shield, and The FA Youth Cup Semi Finals and Final.

• [TNTSportsUK@wbd.com](mailto:TNTSportsUK@wbd.com)

## Club bar staff can prove important sales driver

CGA by NIQ's 'Global Bartender Report' has revealed that nine in 10 (93%) bartenders recommend drinks to guests on every shift, with 71% saying these tips are bought every or almost every time.



More than nine (93%) in ten bartenders think strong and positive relationships with suppliers and distributors are important to the success of their bar, and a quarter (25%) think visits from suppliers will be even more important in the future than they already are; just 7% see them becoming less so.

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



## Celebrating 40 years of taste, innovation and service

**F**unnybones Foodservice has hit 40 this year after being founded in 1984 by two London restaurateurs. The duo specialised in Americana food and, when diners dubbed their baby back ribs ‘those funny little bony things’, the name Funnybones was born.

Since then the company has grown to become a leading international food provider in the UK, developing a particular speciality in Caribbean cuisine as well.

**Funnybones Commercial Manager, Marja Lawrence, said:** “Over the last four decades Funnybones has seen the turn of the millennium and withstood the challenges of a global pandemic, all whilst witnessing industry innovation and emerging food trends on an unprecedented scale.

“We’re proud to have been at the forefront of these innovations, guided by our customers’ demands. Whether that’s plant-based power, fusion flavours, environmentally conscious dining, or a simple love for the classic staples.”

Funnybones is an importer and supplier of authentic ingredients and meal solutions, from Caribbean flavours, through to Pacific dishes and Mexican street food concepts.

• [gkco.com](http://gkco.com)



## Redesigned macaron range unveiled

**B**elgian pastry specialist, Pidy, has launched a new and improved range of flavoured macarons.

Made using a traditional method for a smooth, fine, crunchy finish, they are available in two sizes. The large macarons measure 6.9cm in diameter, with operators able to choose from neutral, chocolate, or raspberry flavours, while the mini macarons are just 3.5cm across, and come in neutral, chocolate, raspberry and newly added pistachio.

**Fabien Levet, Commercial Manager at Pidy UK said:** “Macarons are incredibly versatile. They can be served individually as petits fours, or as deco-

ration on larger desserts. With our new recipe we’ve created a macaron base which boasts a deliciously more-ish flavour, without overpowering the unique taste of operators’ fillings.”

For best results, once filled, the macarons should be refrigerated for 2-4 hours so that they become moist inside and then removed 15-20 minutes before serving to return them to room temperature. The macarons can also be frozen once filled.

Orders of large macarons are available in units of 64 and their mini counterparts in packs of 180. The shelf life is 10 months.

• [pidy.co.uk](http://pidy.co.uk)

## Lockhart Catering equipment – new breathable chef’s jacket

**L**ockhart Catering Equipment has added a new breathable, unisex chef’s jacket to its Brigade portfolio of chef clothing.

The short-sleeved jackets use a durable, lightweight 80/20 polycotton twill, with a mesh vented back panel to provide added ventilation.

Suitable for washing at up to +70° C the white jackets can be tumble dried on low heat without shrinkage.

**Simon Britten, Head of Marketing at Lockhart Catering Equipment said:** “Over the last couple of

years we’ve seen summer months reach record high temperatures. With commercial kitchens being notoriously hot, breathable clothing has become a high priority for chefs across all sectors. When chefs are comfortable, they’re able to better focus on their craft, resulting in higher quality dishes, and happier customers.”

Available in a variety of sizes from Small – 2XL.

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



## Hot sauces are ‘having a moment’

From a boom in hot sauce sales, to the rise in popularity of hot sauce tasting festivals, diners of all kinds are craving the kick hot sauces provide, according to Lion Sauces.

**Sarah Lesser-Moor, Brand Manager at Lion Sauces, said:** “Ensuring you have a variety of spicy dishes on your menu makes sure you’re keeping your dishes on trend.

“One of the most popular hot sauce varieties on the UK market is Piri Piri. Using African bird’s eye chilli peppers, they are blended with delicious flavours like lemon, garlic, herbs and vinegar to create beautifully spiced sauces – from mild and delicate to seriously spicy.

“With the Piri Piri trend in mind, Lion has developed a range of delicious Piri Piri hot sauces – with a punchy on-trend Garlic Piri Piri Sauce brand new for 2024. This addition completes our range, alongside new recipes for the rest of our Piri Piri Sauces - including Hot Piri Piri, Medium Piri Piri, Original Piri Piri and Lemon and Herb Piri Piri recipes – meaning there’s a sauce for every pallet!”

The Piri Piri range has been improved to reduce salt content. Lion Sauces are suitable for vegetarians, vegans, non-GM and soya-free and are free from artificial colours, preservatives and sweeteners.



### Menu inspiration

- *Meat lovers* – Piri Piri Chicken Kebab or Hot Chilli Con Carne
  - *Vegan* – Thai Sweet Chilli Ramen Bowl, Piri Piri Aubergine Salad or Dirty Loaded Vegan Chilli Fries
  - *Spicy salads or sides* – Spiced Up Trio of Dips, Crunchy Creamy Piri Piri Tuna Salad, or a Piri Piri twist on Patatas Bravas
- [aalkfoodservice.com](http://aalkfoodservice.com)

## ‘Great sausage roll off 2024’ raises money for charity

Alan ‘Sir Porketeer’ Paton has won this year’s ‘Great Sausage Roll Off’, an annual competition to find the UK’s best sausage roll.

Alan’s winning creation was a Suffolk Duroc pork and black pudding Battenburg with Yorkshire rhubarb curd. Second place was ‘The Weeping Chef Tomasso, a handmade pig cheek cottechino sausage with croissant dough, crackling and tomato sauce powder, served with basil and spicy pepper sauce. And third place was The Kilted Wonder, a pork and haggis sausage roll served with spicy ketchup.

**Winner, Alan Paton, said:** “I’m delighted to have won this year’s Roll Off. It’s such a great event and it’s



an honour to spend time with my culinary companions – trying their creations and hearing their stories. This trophy will be displayed proudly for all to see.”

Hosted by Fuller’s pub The Red Lion in Barnes, tickets and sausage roll sale saw £5,000 raised on the night for charity Only a Pavement Away.

**Angus McKean, Manager of The Red Lion, said:** “Once again, the Great Sausage Roll Off was a fantastic event. The level of skill these chefs have is incredible and the passion that emanates out of all of them created an electric atmosphere – in the kitchen and for our audience.

“The judges had a difficult job to pick a winner. The calibre was so high – each entry was a delicious sausage roll delight. Thank you to everyone who entered and to the excellent panel of judges. A big thanks to everyone who joined us on the night, too. We raised £5,000 for Only a Pavement Away – a charity that’s close to all our hearts in the hospitality sector.”

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

## Chinese beer appoints new UK distributor

LEC Beverages Group and In Good Company are to manage the UK licensing, sales and distribution of Tsingtao Beer, the flagship beer of China’s Tsingtao Brewery Co. Ltd.

Tsingtao, pronounced ‘Ching Dow’, is distributed in over 100 countries worldwide and is described as a smooth and easy-to-drink pilsner, made using Laoshan Mountain spring water, malt, hops and rice from the paddy fields of Western China.



The beer is only uniquely brewed in the seaport of Qingdao in North Eastern China.

**Jack Perry, Chairman of LEC Beverages, said:** “We’re thrilled to be taking on responsibility for Tsingtao’s licensing, sales and distribution in the UK. We have a long-standing history of developing and nurturing premium imported brands in the UK market and we know how important capturing a brand’s authentic heritage is as part of delivering a smart route to market strategy. We’re excited to bring our expertise in this area to Tsingtao and look forward to collaborating with In Good Company for the first time.”

**In Good Company’s CEO, Steve Cox, said:** “We’re really excited about this partnership with LEC Beverages and Tsingtao, and what it means for the further growth of the business. While our heritage and DNA has been and will always be in craft beer, thanks to the phenomenal breadth of expertise in our team, we have capabilities well beyond this and are keen to capitalise on this as the business evolves. We’re also really delighted to be working in partnership with LEC Beverages, who have a huge amount of industry expertise.”

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

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

## Complaint upheld against Yonder pink lemonade

A complaint against Yonder pink lemonade beer has been upheld by the alcohol industry’s Independent Complaints Panel (ICP), after a member of the public complained their 13-year-old daughter had asked them to buy it for her in a shop.

The complaint said: “This afternoon my 13 year old daughter chose a can of drink from the chiller cabinet at Gloucester Services north-bound service station... She gave it to me, I bought it and gave it back to her to drink. When she opened the can, thankfully she thought it smelt

a bit odd so asked me about it; it was only then I realised it was alcohol.”

The Panel ruled that the product did not communicate its alcoholic nature with absolute clarity under Code Rule 3.1. However, the Panel did not rule that the product had particular appeal to under-18s under Code Rule 3.2(h).

The company has agreed to make amends to the product packaging to bring it in line with the Code.

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



Proudly  
partnered with



***Club Insure took away  
all my worries & gave me  
immense peace of mind...***

Totton Conservative Club

**Do you feel this good about your insurance broker?**

We're the UK's leading broker specialising in sports & social clubs, and it's our 25 years' of experience that mean we can offer service that our clients love.

**So if you want to experience market-leading protection from our friendly team, get in touch on 0344 488 9204**



**CLUB INSURE**  
INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

**Access Award-Winning Service  
at [club-insure.co.uk](http://club-insure.co.uk)**

# A Close Shave

Nick Miller, Tiverton Constitutional Club member, had a sponsored shave & haircut, to raise funds for The Mid Devon Messenger, the Talking Newspaper for the Visually impaired.

With the support of Twyford Internet Radio and the RAOB, the amount raised at the Club so far is £1000.00. People wishing to support further may call into the Tiverton Constitutional Club to make a further donation.



Before.



After.

# Tiverton Constitutional Club Completes New Year Update

The Tiverton Constitutional Club took advantage of the "After Christmas Lull" to refresh the bar servery area.

The red bar top has been recovered with a tile effect.

The back bar servery has been made to match.

Back bar shelving has been altered to take bigger bottles.

A glass return area has been established.

Maintenance below bar has been completed.

The Committee are very

pleased with the response so far to the changes and were keen to empaaise to other Clubs how small changes can make big

differences in ensuring that the Club remains feeling fresh and that Members and their guests return frequently.



Before.



After.

# Enfield Town Conservative Club Holds Celebration For Oldest Member

The Committee of the Enfield Conservative Club ensured all the stops were pulled out when the Club's oldest Member, Mr Donald Howkins, turned 103 years old in January.

Mr Howkins, who is also a recipient of the Legion of

Honour award, enjoyed a wonderful afternoon party dedicated to his remarkable achievement and insisted on a glass of his favourite whiskey to celebrate.

Here's to many more birthdays to come.



## Obituary

### Rowland Davies

After moving from Haverford West, Rowland Davies joined Fairwater Conservative Club, Cardiff in the early 1970's, where he later joined the committee on which he served for some 25 years. During his service he was both Vice Chairman and House Chairman at the club. He was very active in raising funds for the club through organising various events from bottle draws to coach trips.

He had also been an auditor to the accounts for the Welsh Clubs Council,

Rowland enjoyed attending many conferences over the years in many parts of the UK. He recently received the Medal of Honour from Fairwater Club for which he was immensely proud.

Rowland Davies who passed away in December 2023 aged 84.

## Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back 100 years to March 192

Club Committees currently trying to navigate the requirements of offering popular beers, an ever increasing gin selection, cocktails, a wine list and the now expected non-alcoholic offerings will be envious of the simple choice Committees faced 100 years ago of either stocking a single red wine or, well, not stocking any red wine.

Not that offering a single red wine is anything to be

sniffy about, since the one on offer in the advert is guaranteed to be made from pure grape juice, is rich in flavour as well as being red in colour and can even be sampled before an order is placed.

Sadly there is no record of what became Imperial Service Wine Association Ltd. One can surmise that they enjoyed a healthy dominance of the wine market place before competitors came along with fresh ideas such as offering a selection of different wine products for purchase.



Club Refurbishment

Club Furniture

The Sole A.C.C. Recommended Interior Refurbishment Contractor & Furniture Supplier

**FREE** Design Consultation

**FREE** Printed or Digital Furniture Brochure

[info@kandmclubrefurbishment.co.uk](mailto:info@kandmclubrefurbishment.co.uk)

[www.kandmclubrefurbishment.co.uk](http://www.kandmclubrefurbishment.co.uk) **01454 299844 / 07718782749**

**KandM**  
CLUB REFURBISHMENT LTD



# "CLUB RUBY"

## The Rich Red Wine

(Muscatel)

GUARANTEED PURE GRAPE WINE.

TO CLUB SECRETARIES.

Club Members pleased with the Wine and creating regular demand !

Committees satisfied with the principle of co-operation in fair profit only, as between Club and Members !

Copy of Analyst's Certificate supplied.

Postcard will secure you a free sample, and your Committee will place trial order on value.

GUARANTEED TO KEEP AND MAINTAIN BRILLIANCE.

TO BE OBTAINED ONLY FROM

Sole Proprietors—

TELEPHONE CENTRAL 3015

IMPERIAL SERVICE WINE ASSOCIATION LTD.

30, MARK LANE, LONDON, E.C. 3.

Published by the ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATIVE CLUBS, Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster, S.W., and printed by WHITEHEAD MORRIS LIMITED, 38 & 39 Parliament Street, Westminster, S.W.

**All you need to do is complete the Order Form below and return it with your cheque. Or you can telephone/email your order, or shop online.**

**Please note all prices include 1st Class Postage and Packing**

REFERENCE NO. AND DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
2024 I.A. Ticket	£2.00		
2024 ACC Diary	£5.00		
Club Law & Management Book: Revised Edition	£10.00		
Questions and Answers Book	£10.00		
Club Directory	£3.50		
ACC Silk Tie	£15.00		
Ladies ACC Scarf	£15.00		
ACC Lapel Pin	£3.50		
Signing In Book	£13.00		
Nomination for Membership Book	£12.00		
Register of Members with Index	£20.00		
Subscription Receipt Book	£10.00		
Minute Book	£20.00		
Secretary's Daily Takings Book	£15.00		
Steward's Daily Takings Book	£15.00		
Goods Received Book	£10.00		
Petty Cash Book	£10.00		
Wages Book PAYE	£13.00		
Terms & Conditions of Employment for Club Staff, Contract Pack, 2 Copies	£15.00		
Appointment of Steward(ess) Alone, Contract Pack, 2 Copies	£25.00		
Appointment of Steward and Stewardess, Contract Pack, 2 Copies	£25.00		
Bar Manager Contract Pack, 2 Copies	£20.00		
Club Secretary Contract Pack, 2 Copies	£20.00		
Badge of Honour	£75.00		
Distinguished Service Award	£30.00		
Three Year Bar	£10.00		
Five Year Bar	£10.00		
Range of Committee Badges - Please call for details or order online	£5.00		

Please supply the items indicated on this Order Form to:

Name of Club .....

Address .....

Delivery Address (if different from above) .....

A/C No. ....Date ..... Signed .....

**Please return this form to: The Association of Conservative Clubs Ltd,  
1 Norfolk Row, London, SE1 7JP**

**Sales Order Line: 0207 2220868 email: assistance@toryclubs.co.uk**

**Order and pay online: www.toryclubs.co.uk**