

CONSERVATIVE CLUBS MAGAZINE

November 2024 75p

— TIVERTON —
CONSTITUTIONAL
CLUB

Tiverton Constitutional Club Continues Refurbishment

Energy Broker Questions and Answers

Beaconsfield Hosts British Motorcycle Preservation Society



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Message From The Chief Executive

As hospitality businesses approach the busiest months of the year, it is with some trepidation that I write this contribution for the magazine over how forthcoming Governmental changes may affect our industry. The first Labour Budget for fourteen years will have been announced and the details picked over by the time this edition is in print posted to our readers.

Removing my political hat for a moment, clearly the entire industry wants to see Government support and assistance even as the flow of news stories suggests there is no clear plan or understanding of our industry. It has now, for example, been suggested that plans to extend the smoking ban into gardens and other outside areas are to be abandoned which is what the industry has been asking for but it would provide more confidence if we had not had to endure the charade of ill-thought out measures being announced only to be withdrawn when cooler heads, and common sense, eventually prevail.

The Trade press has reported today that 54% of businesses would reduce their employment levels if the current business rates

relief ends in April next year. 76% would experience lower profits and 51% would cancel planned investment. Business rates are such a damaging tax as they are not based on success or failure but merely a non-negotiable charge for anyone trying to do business from a physical location. Business rates on physical locations have long needed an overhaul.

Likewise, the planned forthcoming employment law changes will most likely have the effect of putting off employers from hiring, in an Industry where there is a place for casual or flexible employment patterns in highly seasonal environments. Full employment rights from day one does not inspire confidence from those who have to find the wages and associated employment costs.

These issues, along with others, make many people ask question, 'does the Government really understand small businesses or hospitality'. I sincerely hope that the Labour Government does understand what help and support small businesses based on the high street need to thrive but so far the omens are not looking good.

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
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Chairman:
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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

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CLUB LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Flash flooding SOS – how to cover your club for a flood

With the recent significant rain falls, there's no better time to review your insurance policy and make sure your Club is adequately covered for a (very) rainy day.

Flash flooding is caused by excessive rainfall. It can happen unexpectedly, and your club could be unprepared. Whatever the type of flooding, the impact can be devastating. But with a comprehensive insurance policy you can have peace of mind that you won't be left drowning in financial difficulty.

Is your club at risk of flooding?

Flooding should be on your radar if your club is close to water such as rivers, lakes or reservoirs. If you're on a low-lying area, the risk of flash flooding is particularly great.

Even if you're not situated on a known flood plain, this doesn't mean flooding will never happen to you.

The best way to stay one step ahead of the floods is to sign up for flood warnings on the gov.uk website, and to put an action plan in place so your club and its committee know how to handle the emergency.

Insurance cover for flooding

Flooding is one of the risks covered in your buildings and contents insurance. But sometimes it comes at a cost, including a hefty excess or pricey premiums. There are several ways to bring the price of insurance down,

though. For example, putting flood resistance measures in place such as fitting water-resistant doors and window frames will demonstrate to your insurer that you are trying to minimise the risk of flooding.

Another innovative measure is FloodFlash, a new type of flood insurance now offered by Club Insure that eliminates doubt around flooding claims and ensures a quick pay out. A sensor is fitted on the outside of your club, detecting flooding immediately. There's no need for damage assessments – you'll receive the pre-agreed fixed fee set out in your policy.

Your club may also need additional protection, such as Business Interruption Insurance. Ask yourself if your club could survive financially if it had to close for a few weeks or even months. If you don't have the cash flow to keep you going, then Business Interruption Insurance could be the answer. It covers your costs so you don't need to worry about loss of revenue.

Do I need Flood Excess Insurance?

Flood Excess Insurance pays the excess if your property does flood. It covers you for up to £50,000, and pays out even if your claim doesn't exceed the excess. Well worth considering if the flood excess on your policy makes your eyes water.

The ACC thanks Club Insure for their assistance with this article.

YDP Card Terminal Offer

YDP Ltd works with clubs to find the best suppliers and reduce unnecessary expenditure.

One key area where we have found we can make a big difference is with card machines. That's both for clubs that don't yet take card and for those who already have card machines.

Any clubs that don't currently take card payments over the bar should consider installing this immediately, as they will likely produce substantial improvements in bar takings. We know that making it easier for members and visitors to pay makes them more likely to do so, and visitors can often be turned off by cash only bars. Clubs that have card machines already, however, will be aware of the substantial costs involved in leasing machines compatible with their tills and of card transaction fees and additional charges.

YDP now offer a simple cost-effective solution using a single standalone device able to take card payments. There has recently been a major development in this area with the release of the Zettle Terminal. This device has the app built in and no longer needs a connected phone or tablet to work. The terminal includes a

receipt printer and is 3G and WIFI enabled meaning you will never lose connectivity. It's simple to use and the funds are deposited straight into your bank account.

Using the brand new Zettle Terminal, clubs can take advantage of a 1.75% flat fee for all card types and no additional charges. The Zettle back-office application allows for instant access to all your sales records and working with YDP we can integrate this into your bookkeeping system to ensure your record keeping is seamless from end to end.

The price of a Zettle Terminal is £260.00 plus VAT, however YDP are able to provide 2 free Zettle Terminals to any club which signs up to our Bookkeeping Service. Working closely with us as your bookkeeper YDP are able to look at countless other ways to save costs and improve efficiency. To find out more about this, or to order a Zettle Terminal, please contact YDP today at info@ydp.co.uk or call 01933 358080.

This is an exciting development for Clubs, offered by an ACC Recommended Supplier, which we hope is both easily affordable and likely to produce a boost in sales and profitability.



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Trade Management Services

Update From St Neots Conservative Club Concerning Insurance Rebuild Costs

Ray Durrant, Club Chairperson, kindly provided us with the following update from their Club which they felt would be useful to share with other ACC Clubs:

“We decided to stay with Club Insure despite being courted by LAP for our renewal this year. We agreed a three year deal, with an increase of around £250 a year. Not unexpected given inflation etc. The premium was agreed

and the insurance put in place. We were encouraged, pushed even, to get a rebuild survey carried out on our building. Part of which is grade II listed. The online/remote survey was undertaken and the result was quite a shock. Our rebuild costs rose by over £1 million.

The net result being an additional £700 per annum increase in our insurance premium. The lesson learned is that if clubs don't have an updated rebuild cost survey,

in the event of a claim, they might be under insured. For example, if a club is deemed to be 30% under insured on the rebuild cost, any subsequent claim will result in only a 70% pay out of the rebuild costs. It matters not how much the claim might be. The percentage under insured will reflect on the pay out received. The club will be left to fund the remaining 30% of the cost.

Of course, we should have been aware of this and to be frank, we have been lucky that we have never had to claim. If we had, we would have been under insured. The other issue is our grade II listing. Although grade II listed, a large part of the building at the rear is a modern extension. We understand that

under current rules, the whole building is counted as grade II, significantly increasing the rebuild cost. So, the moral of this tale is to ensure that the rebuild cost of our building is up to date. Getting an insurance quote without having the survey done appears pointless as rebuilding costs continue to rise. Clubs either have appropriate insurance in place or take the risk of being under insured in the event of a claim.”

Our thanks to Ray for his views on this topic and it is a timely reminder to all Clubs to ensure that your insurance rebuild costs are accurate. If Clubs have any other experiences they wish to share with other Clubs then please let us know.

ACC Energy Brokers Q&A With Troo Energy Broker

Following on from last month's article in the monthly magazine we thought we'd ask Rob McCluskey from Troo some more questions about the benefits and drawbacks of using brokers and knowing who is the right broker for you.

We have recently received some excellent feedback about Troo, one of which is from Albert Ritson at Jarrow Conservative Club who says the following:

Just dropping you a line to inform you that the club has recently taken on Troo Limited to sort out our gas, electricity and water supplies/contracts. It was pure coincidence that Rob McCluskey cold called me at a time when our gas contract was due for renewal and I was not too happy with our previous brokers. He was invited to a committee meeting and gave a talk/presentation about his background and company; the committee found him to be down to earth, knowledgeable and trustworthy - he gave it as it is. He was most helpful in sorting out the paperwork and made my task so much easier.

Troo's Rob McCluskey can be contacted on **01918 150526** or rob.mccluskey@troocost.com

Q Should I Use a broker or just deal directly with an energy supplier?

A Both options have their place. If you go directly to an energy supplier, they'll give you a price based on what you ask for, but that doesn't always mean it's the best price or the right fit for your needs. Suppliers typically offer an “off-the-shelf” price tied to the

day-ahead market. If prices are low, this can seem like a great deal – but you need to check if they're willing to hold that rate for longer than 12 or 24 months. If they aren't, that could be a sign they expect prices to rise, and they don't want to take on that risk.

On the other hand, if the market is high, the prices you're offered won't be so appealing, which is when many businesses turn to

brokers for help. Brokers often have more knowledge about market trends and future movements. They usually have relationships with suppliers and access to information that you wouldn't get from speaking directly with a supplier's customer service team.

Cost is always a consideration. A supplier might offer a price that's 0.5p cheaper than what a broker can find, but only for a 12-month contract. A broker, however, might secure a 36-month deal. In the short term, the supplier's price may look better, but over the course of a few years, energy costs can rise far more than 0.5p per unit. So, by month 13, the supplier's cheaper price could end up being a false economy.

A good broker will also explain why they recommend certain options and show you the difference in costs, giving you the information you need to make the right decision for your club.

Q If a broker is just getting quotes from energy companies, surely it would be cheaper just to approach directly.

A Getting prices from a broker doesn't cost you anything upfront, and it saves you the hassle of ringing around suppliers. Brokers also have access to products that you might not be aware of, and suppliers may not offer unless specifically asked. That's one of the big advantages of using a broker – but it's important to find the right one.

The costs come into play when you sign a contract. Brokers get paid based on the units of energy you use, with the fee built into the rates they offer you. This fee can range from 0.1p to 4p per unit. While that's how brokers make their money, it's important to note that brokers also act as your energy advisor, providing updates on market changes and helping you plan for future volatility. In many cases, their

insights can end up saving you more than the cost of their commission.

Brokers also have better terms with suppliers and can offer deeper insights into what's happening in the market. This is similar to when you negotiate with a brewery – having someone who understands the landscape can make all the difference. A good broker will also keep an eye on your energy usage throughout the year, spotting any unusual patterns that you might miss.

Q I have x amount of my contract to run, I'm not interested as it will be cheaper to wait and that's what we've always done.

A Having time left on your contract is a good thing because it gives you budget certainty. But if you're dealing directly with your supplier, you'll only be able to renew within a six-month window. Suppliers don't want to take on the risk of market changes beyond that. This leaves businesses exposed to market volatility, which is common in the UK right now.

This is where brokers come in. Some brokers can arrange contracts up to 24 months before your current one ends, through what's known as a pre-contractual agreement. This allows your current contract to run its course while locking in the next one ahead of time. Some suppliers, through a broker, may even allow for longer-term agreements beyond the 24 months.

However, it's important to remember that global events can affect market prices. A good broker will help you understand market trends, offering insights backed by data so you can make an informed decision.

Q We've used the same broker for years, what is different about you?

A While many brokers may seem similar on

the surface, what really sets Troo apart is the ongoing support we provide, not just during the contract process but throughout the life of the contract. Transparency, fairness, and helpfulness are the values we live by, and we believe in genuinely supporting our customers.

We have a dedicated team called Troo Assure, whose sole focus is ensuring everything runs smoothly from the moment you sign your contract to the day it ends. Other brokers might say they offer this kind of service, but we truly deliver it. We help with switching suppliers, answer any queries you have, and make sure your first bill is correct by validating it ourselves. You'll also get an annual review and a quarterly newsletter to keep you up to date and on top of any potential savings or market changes.

And our service goes beyond procurement. Whether you're looking to improve your energy efficiency, explore renewable options like solar or battery storage, or reduce your overall costs, we've got a wide network of expert suppliers to connect you with.

It's this hands-on, personal approach that makes Troo different.

Q We have never done longer than 2 years at a time as it is always cheaper, why would we do more than that?

A Before COVID, energy markets were far more stable. The idea of shorter contracts made sense because the risk for businesses was lower. But since late 2021, the market has been much more unpredictable. Many businesses that stuck to shorter contracts have ended up with much higher costs – in some cases, doubling or tripling their energy bills.

This is where brokers provide valuable advice. Some brokers push shorter or longer contracts based on their own interests, so it's crucial to find

one who genuinely listens to your needs and gives you advice based on the current market. A broker who only offers 12-month contracts or insists on nothing less than four years may not be considering what's best for your business. At the end of the day, a good broker will explain the risks and benefits of different contract lengths, so you can make the final decision with confidence.

Q I'm being told I need to sign a contract by a certain time or the rates will increase, what should I do?

A In most cases, prices offered by brokers are live and subject to change. If you're dealing with bespoke pricing, such as for a half-hourly electric meter, then yes, timing is important. However, market stability can vary within the week. For example, a price quoted on a Monday may still be valid on Wednesday if the market hasn't moved much.

A broker's role is to explain any potential changes, so you're not caught off guard. Ideally, you'll want your broker to provide prices as close to your decision-making day as possible, such as the day of your committee meeting. Some brokers use "price books," which give rates for the whole week, but these tend to have a small buffer built in to account for potential market changes. If you have any doubts, ask your broker questions. They should be able to explain why they're recommending certain prices and terms.

Q Martin Lewis has said prices are dropping, we're just going to wait until then.

A Martin Lewis offers great advice for domestic energy users, but commercial energy is a different story. Wholesale prices for businesses are driven by global supply and demand and can change

rapidly. Businesses don't have the same protections as households, like price caps, so they are more exposed to market fluctuations.

While Martin Lewis might be right about wholesale prices falling, commercial rates often include forecasts, which is where a lot of businesses went wrong during the 2022 energy crisis. Many waited for prices to drop further, only to see them rise again unexpectedly.

A good broker can help you take advantage of falling markets, but waiting too long can be risky. Global events often influence energy prices, and it's impossible to predict with certainty when prices will bottom out.

Q We've already signed a contract with someone after our current contract ends, can you do any better?

A If you've already signed a contract, do not sign another one with any broker. If a broker tells you otherwise, they're misleading you. Signing multiple contracts can leave you liable for the original broker's lost commission and may result in additional fees from the supplier. If you're unhappy with the contract, your best option is to speak to the broker you originally signed with and see if they can help.

If you're uncertain about the contract you've signed, I'd be happy to offer some advice.

Q How do we know if what you're saying is true and you aren't just trying to get us to sign with you?

A You should always fact-check your broker. Don't just take their word for it. Ask them for evidence to back up what they're saying. If you want, I can cross-check their figures for you. Ultimately, the decision is yours, and a good broker will always help you make an informed choice rather than pushing you into a contract.

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Tiverton Constitutional Club Continues Refurbishment

Tiverton Constitutional Club continues its refurbishment plans with Committee Members Roger Lazarus, Jordan Lazarus and Adam Reid working with PasProtec, specialists in installation and upgrading, in order to continue the ongoing program of refurbishment and improvement .

Waterproofing, painting and replacing fire doors, window frames and hand rails are all ongoing as well as a refresh of the outside of the Club.

Tim Waldron, Bar Manager said "This brings a brighter fresher feel; which is already attracting new members".



Coldhurst Conservative Club Hosts Rock and Roll Event

The Coldhurst Conservative Club, Oldham, Greater Manchester (known locally as the 3 C's) has recently launched a new Monday afternoon Rock and Roll club, where musicians and singers are invited along to come along and perform.

Headed up by Tommy and the gang, the new event is already proving very popular with club members, with one, David Briggs, saying "I so look forward to performing the Roy Orbison songs - Best day of the week!".



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.

The shift towards retention – actionable insights to reduce hospitality staff turnover

Shift planning software company Planday has undertaken a survey to analyse why staff retention in hospitality is so low and offers up the following results to share practical advice on what managers can do to increase staff retention and happiness.

Planday's survey of over 2,000 UK shift workers has revealed that one in seven (15%) of hospitality workers would not recommend hospitality as a career, with low pay (66%) identified as the primary reason for dissatisfaction with their employment.

Long shifts and/or uncontrollable hours (57%) plus a lack of control over rotas (46%) are also identified as contributing factors. Over half of respondents (53%) stated that they suffer anxiety from not knowing their shift patterns sufficiently in advance – only 31% are given a week or more notice ahead of their next shift – and 68% of respondents have considered switching to another industry due to lack of notice on rotas and unpredictable shift patterns.

One actionable result to alleviate the unhappiness at work, according to the survey, is that 67% of employees believe having more notice of shift patterns would improve their life.

Dave Lee, CEO at Planday, said: "Being able to plan ahead more efficiently is quickly becoming an essential component of a successful hospitality business, and is the single biggest shift that hospitality

businesses can do to support staff. Those that fail to do so will struggle to retain current staff as employees quickly become burnt out and frustrated with schedules that aren't accurate or fail to give them the flexibility to swap shifts."

Planday shares the following four practical actions that clubs can take to help improve staff retention:

Improve mental wellbeing support

85% of respondents reported poor mental health problems in the last 12 months and yet only 24% have access to support in the workplace.

Create progression plans for all employees

71% who feel they lack appropriate guidance to reach the next level, plan to leave their role in the immediate future.

Plan rosters further ahead

69% of employees get a week or less notice of their next shift, and 68% have considered switching to another industry due to lack of planning. Planning

shift work further in advance could positively impact a vast majority of hospitality workers.

Use technology to work across generations

68% state they would make regular use of a mobile app that allows them to make shift changes and stay on top of their rota and pay.

Giving employees more freedom means a better work/life balance and happier staff, says Planday. Using these tips will help hospitality businesses keep their staff happy and in turn have higher staff retention.

"We believe that if businesses can make some simple changes, such as improving mental wellbeing support, having robust progression plans in place, planning rotas further in advance, and using technology to support them, their businesses will become not only a more desirable place to work, but staff members will be happier, resulting in higher staff retention," said Lee.

• planday.com

Tipping laws come into force, with more changes in sight

The Employment (Allocation of Tips) Act and the statutory Code of Practice on fair and transparent distribution of tips has now come into force, requiring employers to pass all tips, gratuities and service charges on to workers, without deductions.

The Department for Business and Trade estimates that the changes will mean around £200 million will be received by workers that would otherwise have been retained by these employers.

The legislation was passed by the previous Conservative Government which issued a consultation in December 2023 on the draft statutory Code of Practice on Fair and Transparent Distribution of Tips. The purpose of the Code is to support employers in promoting fairness and transparency in the distribution of tips, gratuities and service charges that fall within the scope of the Act.



In April 2024, the Government published its response to the consultation alongside an updated final draft Code which was approved by the House of Commons and House of Lords in May 2024 just before the prorogation of Parliament in advance of the general election.

Ben Thomas, CEO of tips and tronc solution company TiPJAR, said: "Our hospitality and service

industries are powered by a wonderfully diverse and exceptionally talented workforce. For the first time, these millions of workers can trust that tips employers collect on their behalf will always be passed to them.

"As a business providing a platform to get tips to workers quickly, fairly and transparently, we wholeheartedly welcome [this] announcement. We look forward to continuing our work with the DBT and government to develop further guidance as the principles of the legislation are put into practice, supporting businesses across the sector to operate to a consistent and equitable standard in handling tips."

Andrew Tighe at the BBPA, said: "This new framework will introduce a level playing field for all businesses, ensuring that those who were not already passing on all tips to their staff will now be required to."

• gov.uk

Bidfood research highlights expected most popular foods for 2025

Wondering what dishes to add to the club menu next year? Have a look at Bidfood's annual report *Food & Drinks Trends* for inspiration.

Home highlights: Scottish salmon, Aberdeen Angus steak, Welsh lamb and dishes like Welsh rarebit, Welsh cakes, potato farls, colcannon, stovies and Lorne sausage.

Southern States cuisine: Cajun, Creole and Soul food dishes and ingredients like blackened fish or chicken, Jambalaya, Gumbo, corn bread.

Argentinian cuisine: Argentinian steak, dulce de leche, empanadas and chimichurri.

Turkish cuisine: Pide, kofta kebabs, shakshuka and mezze dishes.

Greek cuisine: Greek salad (Horiatiiki), souvlaki (grilled meat on skewers), tzaziki, moussaka.

Portuguese cuisine: Piri piri chicken, pastéis de nata, Portuguese mixed fish stew.



Swiss cuisine: Chocolate and cheese fondue, potato rosti, polenta, Swiss cheeses.

Proactive Practices: Would-be wasted ingredients, plant-based dishes and ingredients, ingredients sourced from suppliers that practice regenerative agricultural practices, sustainable fish and seafood choices.

Friendly fibre: Beans and pulses, nuts and seeds e.g. chia seeds, flax seeds, wholegrains like oats and buckwheat.

• bidfood.co.uk



Foodservice inflation eases again but beverages drive rise, says latest research

Foodservice inflation eases again but beverages drive rise, says latest research

Year-on-year inflation in foodservice eased to 2.8% in August 2024, according to October's Foodservice Price Index report from Prestige Purchasing and CGA.

The latest Foodservice Price Index (FPI) report shows that prices continue to stabilise after a prolonged period of aggressive inflation. However, the report reveals a 0.5% month-on-month increase in prices across the basket of goods—a third consecutive rise.

This uptick was primarily fuelled by the Beverage category (not including alcoholic beverages), with total inflation here reaching 5.8% year-on-year. The Mineral Waters, Soft Drinks and Juices segment recorded a particularly steep increase of 6.7%, while the Tea, Coffee and Cocoa category remained elevated at 4.7%.

In contrast, total food basket prices experienced a more moderate inflation rate of 2.5%. Two of the eight food categories saw year-on-year decreases, with Dairy falling by 0.3% and Oils and Fats by 1.2%. The Vegetables and Sugar, Jam, Syrups and Chocolate categories generated the highest inflation, rising 9.1% and 8.2% respectively—though these figures represent a slight easing from July.

Shaun Allen, Prestige Purchasing CEO, said: "The sustained downward trajectory of foodservice inflation is undoubtedly positive, but the persistent month-on-month increases and stubbornly high inflation in certain categories, particularly beverages, underscore the fragility of the current market. Operators need to maintain a proactive and adaptable approach to procurement to navigate these choppy waters."

• [Download the report at this link](#)

TNT Sports – home for Autumn Nations Series

TNT Sports will be showing all 21 fixtures of 2024's Autumn Nations Series, kicking off with England v New Zealand at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham

Rugby World Cup champions South Africa will head to Twickenham in mid-November in what is sure to be a phenomenal tussle between north and south. Steve Borthwick's side will also face the All Blacks with a chance to exact retribution for two agonising summer tour losses in New Zealand.

Elsewhere, Warren Gatland's Welsh side can avenge their summer losses to the Wallabies as they host Australia in Cardiff, and Ireland and the All Blacks will write another chapter in their flourishing rivalry.

WEEK 1

Saturday, November 2

- England v New Zealand, Allianz Stadium, kick-off: 15:10
- Scotland v Fiji, Scottish Gas Murrayfield Stadium, kick-off: 17:40

WEEK 2

Friday, November 8

- Ireland v New Zealand, Aviva Stadium, kick-off: 20:10

Saturday, November 9

- England v Australia, Allianz Stadium, kick-off: 15:10
- Italy v Argentina, Stadio Friuli, kick-off: 17:40
- France v Japan, Stade de France, kick-off: 20:10

Sunday, November 10

- Wales v Fiji, Principality Stadium, kick-off: 13:40
- Scotland v South Africa, Murrayfield Stadium, kick-off: 16:10

WEEK 3

Friday, November 15

- Ireland v Argentina, Aviva Stadium, kick-off: 20:10

Saturday, November 16

- Scotland v Portugal, Murrayfield Stadium, kick-off: 15:10
- England v South Africa, Allianz Stadium, kick-off: 17:40
- France v New Zealand, Stade de France, kick-off: 20:10

Sunday, November 17

- Italy v Georgia, TBC, kick-off 13:40
- Wales v Australia, Principality Stadium, kick-off 16:10

WEEK 4

Friday, November 22

- France v Argentina, Stade de France, kick-off: 20:10

Saturday, November 23

- Ireland v Fiji, Aviva Stadium, kick-off: 15:10
- Wales v South Africa, Principality Stadium, kick-off: 17:40
- Italy v New Zealand, Allianz Stadium, kick-off: 20:10

Sunday, November 24

- Scotland v Australia, Murrayfield Stadium, kick-off 13:40
- England v Japan, Allianz Stadium, kick-off 16:10

WEEK 5

Saturday, November 30

- Ireland v Australia, Aviva Stadium, kick-off 15:10

• tntsportsbusiness.co.uk

CAMRA appoints Ash Corbett-Collins as new Chairman



The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has appointed Ash Corbett-Collins as its new Chairman following an election which took place at a meeting of the Campaign's National Executive in Cumbria in September.

Vice-Chairman since last November, Ash Corbett-Collins is a longstanding National Executive member who was first elected to the Board of the Campaign in 2018.

Following the election, he said: "Effective leadership and collaboration for change is vital to safeguard our future. CAMRA is still as vital and relevant for consumers across the UK today as it was half a century ago.

"Our valued and loyal membership means we can work across all nations, whether this is campaigning for change, supporting our events and festivals, or protecting our cherished pubs and access to cask beer. I want to work together to continue to bring about change at a time where pubs, clubs, taprooms and breweries are facing uncertain times."

Gillian Hough has been announced as the new Vice Chair. She has been a member of the organisation since 1984 when she joined as a student. Hailing from Northern Ireland, she was inspired by the wide variety and quality on offer at beer and cider festivals in London.

• camra.org.uk

Make Christmas extra special, says Brakes

Leading foodservice wholesaler Brakes has launched a £1m campaign to reward independent businesses over the Christmas period.

The initiative, explains the company, is part of the company's successful mybrakes rewards programme, which was launched in 2023 to offer customers a more personalised rewards experience, benefiting from cash rather than points. More than 14,000 Brakes customers have signed up for the programme, which offers rewards and cashback across the year that can also be redeemed for products or vouchers at the mybrakes rewards store.

Leading the giveaway is a Christmas promotion, which allows customers to receive up to £1,000 in cashback, as well as additional chances to win bonus cash prizes.

Brakes has also announced a second tranche of new products for Christmas, which will see more than 30 additional new products being launched in the run up to Christmas, adding to the 100 that have already been introduced.

Paul Nieduszynski, Sysco GB CEO, said: "We've listened to what customers want and created a cam-



paign that offers them a significant cashback reward at a critical time. We believe that this is a real Christmas cracker of an offer which will appeal to customers, helping them to generate a significant return on anything they spend with us.

"It's also great to see more innovation, with the new products we're announcing today meaning that more than 130 new lines are available in our Christmas range. We pride ourselves on being the wholesaler driving innovation and helping customers to grow this festive period and beyond."

• brakes.co.uk

Fresh Direct Partners with Love British Food

Fresh Direct, provider of foodservice fresh produce, has become an Official Partner of 'Love British Food', which promotes the use of British food.

The link with Love British Food is described as a natural extension of the company's Best of British campaign, promoting British supply partners through social media and advertising campaigns.

Paul Nieduszynski, CEO at Sysco GB, said:



"Over the past few years, we have made a conscious decision to focus on increasing the amount of British food that we sell across all of Sysco's British businesses.

"We know that customers want to put great British produce on their menus when it's available and in season, whether that's traditional fruit and vegetables or vertically-grown herbs, so we are working hard with more than 100 growers to provide a fantastic range of high quality, home-grown food for them."

Alexia Robinson, Founder & CEO, Love British Food, said: "We are delighted to welcome Fresh Direct into the Love British Food family. Their lead, alongside their sister company Brakes, in having a dedicated section on their British produce is something we applaud and are calling for across the industry."

• freshdirect.co.uk

New venue for 47th Great British Beer Festival

Following a hiatus in 2024, the Campaign For Real Ale's (CAMRA's) Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) will take place August 5-9, 2025 at a new location, the NEC Birmingham.

GBBF aims to celebrate the best of UK brewing and beyond, with a huge range of drinks, hundreds of different beers as well as bars dedicated to real cider, perry and cocktails.

Festival-goers will also enjoy a plethora of entertainment, a range of quality food and traditional games.

There are also opportunities to connect with brewers and its 17 launch partners, who are Thornbridge, Greene King, Harvey's, Siren Craft Brew, Oakham, Woodforde's, Batemans, Ossett Brewery, Brains and



Theakston. Alongside these breweries, the British Institute of Innkeepers (BII), the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA), Cask

Marque, JD Wetherspoon, Visit Birmingham (West Midlands Growth Corporation), Brewser, and Beer 52 are all partnering with the festival.

CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain 2025 competition will also return to the festival, with overall winners announced on the first day of the festival.

Festival Organiser Adam Gent said: "The return of the Great British Beer Festival is a cause for great celebration. I cannot wait to welcome beer and cider lovers from across the UK, and indeed the world, to the NEC Birmingham, where the festival promises to be better than ever before. Come and experience our incredible selection of the finest beers, ciders and perries, along with delicious food."

• gbbf.org.uk

Aimia Foods segments services with new brand name

Aimia foods has rebranded its food service and vending division to Aimia Foods for Professionals, aiming to allow customers to clearly identify the new brand as manufacturer and distributor of foodservice products, with key brands such as Horlicks, Drink me Chai, Galaxy and Caffe Prima, taking centre stage.

Michelle Younger, Marketing Director at Aimia Foods, said: "In terms of market positioning and perception, Aimia Foods has developed a strong pool of loyal foodservice customers over the past 43 years. We too recognise that the OOH area has good opportunity to grow – a growth that we want to approach with our divisional brand name 'Aimia Foods for Professionals'. We feel this brand name truly emphasises our expert position in the field, and



reflects our commitment to developing this sector in the future."

• aimiafoods.com

Czech lager launches 'Born in Budweis' campaign

Czech lager brand, Budweiser Budvar has unveiled a UK-wide marketing campaign to help shine a spotlight on what makes Budweiser Budvar unique, despite sharing its name with a well-known American beer.

The campaign sees the independent-owned brand taking over the streets with billboards that draw dramatic distinctions between the authentic Czech lager and its American namesake.

Budvar is keen to discover other famous namesakes living under the radar, and has set up a national hotline encouraging people to call in and share what it's like to be the UK's Taylor Swift, Kim Kardashian or Tom Cruise for their chance to win a

free crate of Budvar.

Anyone who shares their mistaken identity stories either via email, the hotline, or the Namesakes' Night have the chance to be inducted into the Budvar Hall of Name digital gallery, which will feature on the brand's website and social media.

Claire Sharpe, UK Marketing Manager, Budvar, said: "The team has already been working hard behind the scenes to bring the campaign to life, with the help of our namesakes, Michael Jordan, Julia Roberts, and Dwayne Johnson. We can't wait to see what other interesting stories we uncover through the campaign."

• budweiserbudvar.com

Lockhart dishes up new tableware sets

Lockhart Catering Equipment has expanded its portfolio of tableware by partnering with Ariane fine porcelain, handcrafted by skilled artisans to result in tableware designed to be beautiful yet functional pieces and designed to last.

Simon Britten, Head of Marketing at Lockhart Catering Equipment, said: "We're delighted to be working with Ariane to bring their products to the UK market. In an industry that places so much emphasis on presentation, the significance of choosing the right tableware cannot be understated. After all, the art of plating is in the name.

With Ariane adding five uniquely designed ranges to choose from, Lockhart customers will



have an even wider choice of crockery, so they can select a set that perfectly captures the ethos of their business."

All ranges are microwave and dishwasher safe, with high alumina material significantly minimising the risk of chips.

• lockhart.co.uk

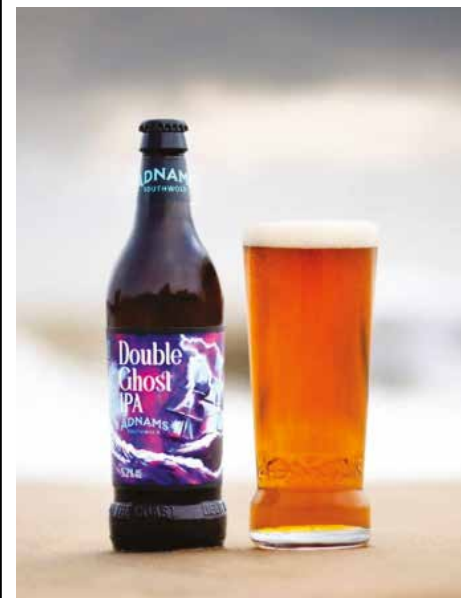
Festive feast of football on Sky

Manchester United's away trips to Liverpool and Manchester City headline the 25 matches of festive football to be shown live on Sky Sports during December and January.

Pep Guardiola's City will meet United on Sunday December 15, with kick-off at 4.30pm. United will then travel to Anfield to face Arne Slot's Liverpool on Sunday January 5, with kick-off at 4.30pm.

Sky Sports will also show Tottenham's home games with Chelsea – kick-off at 4.30pm on Sunday December 8 – and Liverpool at the same kick-off time on December 22, in big games affecting the title race and top four battles.

• skyforbusiness.sky.com



Adnams unveils Double Ghost IPA

Southwold-based brewer Adnams has added Double Ghost IPA to its portfolio.

Double Ghost is a 5.2% IPA which is double dry hopped, having two sets of dry hopping at different points in the fermentation process.

Citra hops are the main contributor, with Centennial and Chinook used in support, alongside some UK Pilgrim for bittering.

Head Brewer Dan Gooderham said: "Upfront, there is a massive splash of pine and Ghost Ship's characteristic spiciness from the use of rye and Adnams house yeast.

"The palate opens up into mango, guava and pineapple and some of the Citra character starts to shine, adding orange and red berries. Overall, it's well-balanced with a pleasant bitterness, and our local barley produces good body which carries all those hops."

The new beer joins Ghost Ship 4.5% Pale Ale and Ghost Ship 0.5% Pale Ale in the Adnams portfolio.

• adnams.co.uk

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Stroud Conservative Club Refurbishment Works

The Stroud Conservative Club has recently undertaken substantial renovation works. The building has had a completely new roof installed which will future proof the Club for at least 20 years.

In addition, the Club has created a brand new patio area which is been well received by the Members particularly during the summer months. The patio was formally launched with a Family Fun Day in August which was attended by Sir Geoff Hurst MBE who cut the ribbon opening the new area.

The Stroud Conservative Club was in financial difficulty around 18 months ago but with a new Committee they are pleased to announce that income has substantially risen and the renovated building and new patio area have seen sustained increases in Membership numbers as well.



The IA Ticket

The Association of Conservative Clubs' Inter-Affiliation Tickets cost £2 each (inc. VAT, p & p) Order any quantity at any time.

Ask your Club Secretary for YOUR I.A. Ticket NOW

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Beaconsfield CC Hosts British Motorcycle Preservation Society

The Beaconsfield Club Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester (AKA the Beaky Club) hosted the British Motorcycle Preservation Society in August 2024.

This classic motorcycle club

turned out in force to display various bikes of all shapes, sizes and models. Club members had a fantastic morning viewing the motorcycles with food served up by the ladies from the Spud and Grill Company.



Gillingham (Kent) Conservative Club Charitable Donation in Support of the Oliver Fisher Baby Unit

The Gillingham Conservative club have a long-standing history of involvement of charitable support carrying out various activities and events. The club members regularly make sweet and savoury dishes for donations and also hold regular cake mornings. In addition to the this the club Steward and Stewardess Ian and Julie Bridgeman supported by family, Club and committee members to undertake the following events:
100km walk from East borne to Arenal – Ian and Lee Bridgemen.
100km walk from Putney to Henley – Ian and Lee Bridgeman, Les Munson, Les Wood, Martin

Briggs and Jason Read.
To date the events have raised in excess of £15,000 in support of charities with the main aim to raise funds for the Clubs preferred charity, The Oliver Fisher Baby Unit.
This year the club entered a team into the 2024 Dragon Boat Race, an event which takes place annually over the late May Bank Holiday at the Maritime Dockside located in Chatham, Kent. This event is managed by the Sunlight Rotary Club to raise charitable funds in support of local and national charities.
This event funding support is primarily raised through Dragon Boat Race team's entry



fees which are required to take part in the event. However, all teams also carry out significant sponsorship actions to raise funding for the charities that they individually support. This day is an outstanding fundraiser supporting many varied Charities and all people involved have a great fun day whilst doing so.
The Conservative Club Management Team raised £3840 for the Oliver Fisher Baby Fund handing the cheque over as shown in the picture below. This cheque was handed over at the

Rotary Sunlight Clubs charity event night held at the St Marys Island community centre in August 2024. During this event they issued funds raised from the Dragon Boat Race event to four individual charities whom they wished to individually support on this occasion.
Ian and Julie Bridgemen have confirmed the Gillingham Conservative Club, its committee and members will continue to support charitable fund-raising events and in particular for the Oliver Fisher Baby Unit.

TOP OF THE POLL!

The A.C.C. Pocket Book and Diary for 1925 Now on Sale.

The A.C.C. Pocket Book and Diary for next year, a specimen copy of which was forwarded last month to the Secretary of every affiliated Club, is now on sale. The appreciative letters which have accompanied the many orders to hand show that even a general election could not supplant this popular publication in the affections of Clubmen! Already a big inroad has been made into the 10,000 copies printed, and there is every indication that before the current month has sped its course the Pocket Book will be out of print. As previously announced, there can be no reprint, so all desirous of securing copies should place their orders without a moment's delay.

The A.C.C. Pocket Book and Diary for 1925 is obtainable at the following rates:—

Single copies (post free)	s. d.
.. .. .	1 2
1 doz. copies and upwards (post free)	11 0

By taking a dozen copies and upwards Clubs obtain the Diary for 11d. each. Not only for personal use, but as an appropriate Christmas gift for a fellow-Clubman, the A.C.C. Pocket Book is ideal. It is an all-the-year-round reminder of comradeship and good will.

The new edition of the Pocket Book contains, in the smallest possible compass, a wealth of information unobtainable in such a form from any other source. Here are some of its leading features:—

(1) A Dictionary of Club Law.

The first 16 pages are devoted to points of Club Law, and here the purchaser will get, in alphabetical and tabloid form, reliable information on a wide range of subjects, including:—

Accidents.	Club Tax.	Lost Property.
Agreements.	Corporation Duty.	Music & Dancing.
Assessments.	Ejection.	Police Entry.
Automatic machines.	Entertainments Tax.	Stewards.
Betting.	Expulsion.	Subscriptions.
Billiards.	Health Insurance.	Suspension.
Cards.	Hours of Supply.	Sweepstakes.
Children in Clubs.	Inhab. House Duty.	Workmen's Comp'n.
Cinema Shows.	Income Tax.	Whist Drives.

These are the headings of a few only of the many matters directly affecting Clubs which appear in this invaluable Dictionary of Club Law which is well worth a shilling "on its own."

(2) General Legal Advice.

The foregoing by no means exhausts the legal information contained in the Pocket Book. Four pages are devoted to domestic and commercial law, 50 separate and distinct points being dealt with, ranging from Actions for Damages and Contracts, to Slander Suits and Wills. With all this knowledge in his possession every Clubman can become his own lawyer.

(3) Useful Everyday Information.

The headings of the various sections of the Pocket Book will show what a wide range of every-day matters are dealt with:—

Beer and Spirit Measures.	Licence and Stamp Duties.
Commercial Terms.	Metric System Table.
Income and Super Tax.	Population Statistics.
Interest Table.	Weights and Measures.

In addition there is a most useful chapter on "First Aid," showing what should be done in emergency; the addresses of the various Government Departments, Embassies, and Legations; the Sporting Seasons; and a Diary of Legal and other obligations.

(4) A Complete Diary.

Calendars for 1925 and 1926 precede a complete Diary, with ample space provided for recording daily engagements, etc., whilst at the end are blank pages for Memoranda. Attached to each Pocket Book is an ivory Memo. Tablet on which casual notes can be scribbled and when done with rubbed out. All this, and much more for a shilling!

If it is desired to secure one or more copies of this invaluable and unique little book—an illustration of which appears on the front cover of this issue—orders should be addressed without delay to the A.C.C. Publication Department, Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

ELECTION EXPERIENCES.

WHAT A YANKEE CANDIDATE DID TO OBTAIN VOTES.

From Atlanta comes the following sworn statement of election expenses incurred by a Georgia candidate for the office of County Commissioner at the recent "primary" election:—

Lost 3,419 hours' sleep thinking about the campaign. Gave 1 beef, 4 goats, and 5 sheep to a county barbecue. Gave away 2 pairs of suspenders, 4 calico dresses, 13 baby's rattles, and 5 dollars in cash. Kindled 14 kitchen fires, and put up 4 stoves. Attended 16 revival meetings, and was baptised 4 times by total immersion and 2 times in some other way. Made love to 9 grass widows, kissed 126 babies, hugged 49 old maids, got dog-bit 39 times, and gave 50 dollars to foreign missions. Walked 4,676 miles, and shook hands with 9,508 persons. Told 10,101 lies, and talked enough to make, in print, 1,000 volumes.

Despite all this it is sad to record that the candidate failed to secure election.

MARGATE CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB.

An extension to the premises of Margate Constitutional Club, consisting of a billiard room and extended lounge, completed at a cost of over £1,000, was opened last month by Dr. F. E. Nichol, J.P. A new billiard table was presented by the Chairman, Mr. E. Baxter, who formally uncovered it. The first game played on the table between Messrs. Bown and Jewhurst resulted in the former winning by 43 points.

Pages From The Past

In this month's Pages From The Past we go back 100 years to November 1924 where they were also in the midst of promoting the forthcoming year's range of ACC products with a focus on the pocket diary which still produced to this day.

In 1924 these were priced at 1 Shilling and 2 pence which in 2024 terms roughly equates to £2.40 including postage which is remarkable value considering the ACC diaries now cost £5. Obviously the comparable buying power of £2.40 in 1924 would be very different to the buying power in 2024.

Aside from the doubling in price of the diary over the past 100 years, the format of the diary

remains remarkably similar with a prelude to the diary containing useful information on Club Law. Reports that this is because the contents of the diary have simply not been updated since 1924 are unconfirmed.

The diary in 1924 also contained useful every day information such as information on Income and Super Tax. At the time of writing the UK no longer has a Super Tax but with Labour's budget due next week we may have to introduce this section to the diaries next year. Other information included is "Population Statistics" which is placed, rather optimistically, under the Useful Everyday Information heading.

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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		
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Appointment of Steward(ess) Alone, Contract Pack, 2 Copies	£25.00		
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