

Club Journal

July 2025

The magazine for all CIU members

75p

The 162nd Annual Meeting to take place on Saturday, April 18

The 2026 CIU Annual General Meeting – the 162nd edition – will take place on Saturday, April 18 at 10am in Blackpool.

The venue will be confirmed once contracts have been signed.

Meanwhile, the 34th CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition will take place on Friday, April 17 and will see a number of the Union's Preferred Suppliers and other club suppliers demonstrating their latest products and services.

CIU President Ken Roberts CMD ACM said: "The 2026 Annual Meeting will be one of the most pivotal in our Union's recent history.

"Following the discussions at our most recent Conference, we now stand at a crossroads where decisive action will shape the future of our organisation for years to come.

"Modernisation and financial sustainability are not just goals; they are necessities, and their success



The 162nd CIU Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, April 18

depends on the engagement of every club.

"I urge all our member clubs to ensure their voices are heard by sending representatives to this crucial AGM on April 18.

"Together, we can secure a stronger, more vibrant future for our Union."

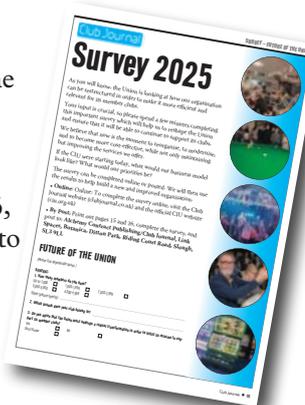
● **For updates, please visit:**
ciu.org.uk

Have your say on the CIU's future

Following on from the launch of the formal member consultation at the 2025 Annual Meeting regarding the modernisation and restructuring of the Union, we are asking for your opinions on a variety of issues in our latest survey.

The survey, which can be found on pages 15 and 16, can be completed online or posted. It will enable you to have your say about the proposed changes to the Union's structure, most notably the consolidation of the current branches into five or six regional branches.

● **For the survey, please see pages 15 and 16, and complete it either online or post it to us.**



Win a cash prize with the CIU National Lottery Draw



Don't forget to buy your tickets for this month's CIU National Lottery 50/50 Draw which takes place at 7pm on August 1.

As well as the winner receiving a cash prize, there will also be a five per cent revenue share for the winning member's club.

Tickets cost £1 each and can be purchased online via your computer, tablet or smartphone at the website: **ciu.praxisplay.online**

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Welcome to the July edition of *Club Journal*.

This month's big announcement is that next year's Annual Meeting in Blackpool will take place on Saturday, April 18.

As our President observes in the front page story, it's set to be a really important AGM with the very future of the Union up for discussion, so please do mark the date in your diaries and send along your club representatives.

Meanwhile, linked to the proposed restructuring of the Union, we have launched a survey designed to get your comments and opinions on how the CIU can modernise itself.

The survey can be found on pages 16-17 but can also be filled in online at the CIU's official website ciu.org.uk and the *Club Journal* website clubjournal.co.uk.

This feedback will be incredibly useful and will enable clubs to have a genuine voice in helping to make the Union more efficient.

The 'Club of the Month' for July is Beechwood Easterside & District Social Club in Middlesbrough.

It really is an incredibly impressive venue and is positively thriving thanks in part to its ambitious live entertainment offering which sees artistes and bands performing at the club four times a week.

The club has plenty more to offer

Welcome

alongside their big music events, including darts, pool and dominoes.

Billiards is also a mainstay of the club with none other than World Champion David Causier based at the club.

For the full profile of the club, please see pages 12-15.

As ever, please get in touch if your club is keen to host the Union's Award in Club Management (ACM) day courses.

For further information, contact Senior Head Office Administrator Cath Fitzpatrick at: Catherine.Fitzpatrick@wmcui.org.

Elsewhere in this issue, Preferred Supplier Greene King take another look at how clubs can make the most out of selling cask ale.

We also look ahead to the key live sporting fixtures coming up in July, including golf's Open Championship taking place at Royal Portrush and also have a special preview on pages 34-35 of the upcoming new Premier League season which gets underway in mid-August.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue.

Stephen Goulding

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The views expressed in this journal are not necessarily those of the publisher

CLUB JOURNAL

CIU Editorial Panel



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Vice-President



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NEC Member

Cullercoats Crescent Club celebrates 80th anniversary



Members of Cullercoats Crescent Club dancing during the club's 80th anniversary celebrations

Cullercoats Crescent Club in North Shields marked its 80th anniversary over the late May Bank Holiday Weekend with four days of celebrations, including live entertainment.

The club also displayed items from its history, including the document proclaiming the club as a member of the CIU.

Following a busy night on the Friday to get proceedings underway, the party continued on Saturday with singer John Pickering presenting his 'Magic of Motown' show.

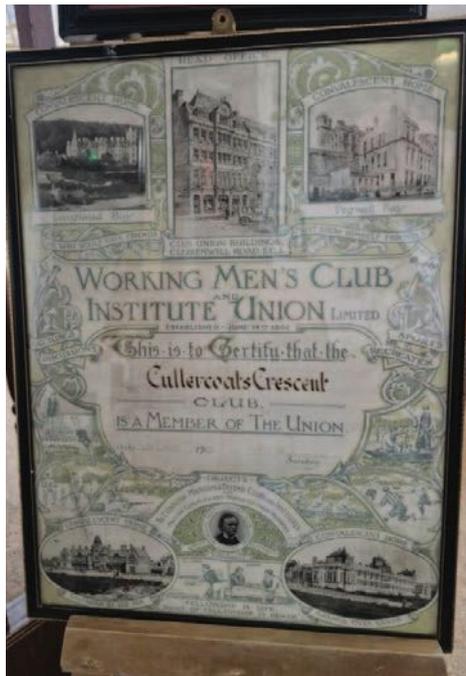
The Sunday evening saw the club staging a 'Back to the 80s' spectacular with The Hype performing the biggest hits of the 1980s with solo singer Barry Onions in support.

The club also put on a free buffet at this members' event.

Then, on the afternoon of the Bank Holiday Monday, members enjoyed a performance by the Andy Rayner Band with top hits from the likes of Dire Straits, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones.

The club was founded in 1945, became affiliated to the CIU in 1947, and has been a popular venue ever since with its full programme of activities and entertainment putting it right at the heart of village life.

Its facilities are second-to-none with the club divided into four distinct areas: the Sports Bar which has seating for 120 as well as six TV screens showing all the key live sporting fixtures, plus darts, snooker and pool facilities; the Seaview Lounge which allows members to gaze across Cullercoats Bay and the Mouth of the Tyne while they enjoy a drink; the Buffet Bar which seats 90 and the impressive Concert Room which seats 200 or 400 standing and has hosted many live acts over the years, making the club known as one of the best live venues in the area.



The original document proclaiming the club as a member of the CIU

News in brief



Hampshire's Grayshott Social Club to celebrate its 120th anniversary in August
Grayshott Social Club in Hampshire will be marking the 120th anniversary of its founding on Saturday, August 2.

The event, which will also act as a fundraiser for the British Heart Foundation, will see live music and DJ sets from 3pm onwards, along with a cocktail bar and food from the London Hog Roast Company.



Castle Vale Residents Association Club Family Night raises £815 for local Hospice
The Castle Vale Residents Association Club recently staged a Family Night which raised funds for the Birmingham Hospice.

The event saw a disco, quiz, bingo and games plus a raffle with a total of £815 raised for the charity.

Meanwhile, coming up at the club on Saturday, August 15 is a Beach Party with an array of summer cocktails available.

CLUB NOTICES

Expulsion

Mr Wayne Hibbert has been expelled from the Corringham Social Club (North East Metropolitan Branch)

News in brief



Charity Darts Weekend to be held at Kent's Sheerness East WMC in aid of Prostate Cancer

Sheerness East Working Men's Club in Kent will be hosting a Charity Darts Weekend on Saturday, August 9 and Sunday, August 10.

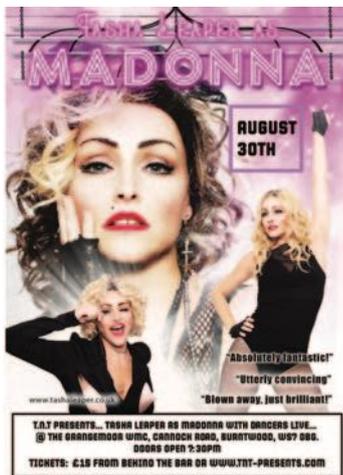
There will be a total prize fund of £1,000 with tournaments for Men, Ladies and Youth players.

The competitions will get underway on both days at 10am and all profits generated by the tournament will go towards Prostate Cancer UK.

For more information, email: pett542000@yahoo.co.uk.

It is certainly set to be a busy month in August at Sheerness East WMC with the Associated Sheppey Bikers Annual Summer Bash taking place at the club on Sunday, August 3.

This charity fundraising event – which gets underway at 10am – will see hundreds of bike owners from across Kent assembling at the club with stalls selling bike accessories and memorabilia, barbecue food and drinks.



Tasha Leaper set for return to Grangemoor Working Men's Club with Madonna show

Next month will see members of Grangemoor WMC enjoying some of the greatest pop hits of the 1980s and 1990s when Madonna tribute artiste Tasha Leaper returns to the club.

The show will take place at 7.30pm on Saturday, August 30 and promises songs from across Madonna's 40-plus year career which began in 1983 when she released her debut album.

Fairweather Green WMC launches defibrillator campaign



Fairweather Green WMC is fundraising to make a donated defibrillator available to the public

Fairweather Green Working Men's Club in West Yorkshire has launched a campaign to raise the funds to ensure that the club's defibrillator can be accessed by the community at all times.

The club recently received a defibrillator from Defibshop as a donation and is now aiming to install it in a secure outdoor cabinet.

Currently, this vital piece of life-saving equipment is kept inside the club and is only accessible when the building is open.

An appeal has been set up on Crowdfunder:

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/247-public-defibrillator-for-fairweather-green

Barry West End Club clinches the South Wales Snooker Open



Barry West End Club in South Wales is celebrating after beating Ammanford Snooker World in the final to win the South Wales Snooker Open. Pictured, left to right: Matthew Laver, Alfie Davies, Steve Parsons (Secretary of South Wales Snooker), Mauro Zeraschi, and Tom Vedmore

Kingston WMC stages successful beer festival



Real ale and cider enthusiasts headed to Kingston Workmen's Club in Surrey in June for the 2025 CAMRA Kingston Beer & Cider Festival

The CAMRA Kingston Beer & Cider Festival took place on June 12-14 with visitors enjoying the hospitality and facilities of the club over the three days.

In the formal beer judging portion of the event, Raisin the Bar from the Kissingate Brewery won the gold medal for best beer of the Festival.

Grayshott Social Club installs Dart Shark system



Dart Shark is a brand-new system from Preferred Supplier Dransfields which offers a state-of-the-art technological spin on traditional darts

Grayshott Social Club in Hampshire has become the latest venue to install the Dart Shark system.

Dart Shark is an interactive darts system from CIU Preferred Supplier Dransfields which combines a traditional dartboard with modern technology for various interactive games, aiming to increase foot traffic and revenue.

News in brief



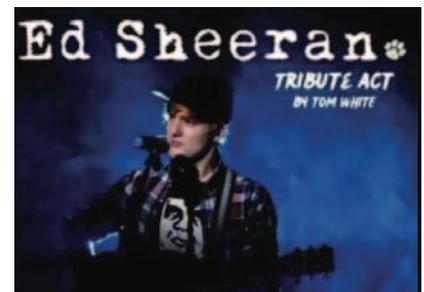
Grangemoor Working Men's Club to host Ladies Night event on Saturday, July 12

Tickets are selling fast for the upcoming Ladies Night at Grangemoor WMC in Burntwood.

The event, which takes place on Saturday, July 12 will see drag act Miss Gale Force overseeing an evening of fun, rounded off by a DJ set.

For more information, visit:

www.missgaleforce.co.uk



Ed Sheeran tribute artiste Tom White heads to Surrey's Cheam Social Club in July

Tom White will be bringing his Ed Sheeran tribute act to Cheam Social Club on Saturday, July 12.

The doors opens at 7 pm and the show starts at 8:30 pm.

Tickets are available for members at £5 and for members' guests at £10.

CLUB NOTICES

Club name changes

From: Northampton St. James' Working Men's Club

To: Northampton St. James' Working Men's Club Limited

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Willesden WMC hosts Rugby League fans



Rugby League fans gathered at Willesden Working Men's Club for pre-match drinks ahead of the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley Stadium on June 7

Willesden Working Men's Club recently welcomed a contingent of Rugby League fans ahead of the Challenge Cup Final match between Hull Kingston Rovers and Warrington Wolves.

The club, in North London, is one of the closest CIU clubs to the world-famous sporting cathedral with the stadium just a 20-minute journey on London Underground from Willesden Green Station.

The match saw Hull Kingston Rovers run out 8-6 winners.

Classic bikes show held at Higham Village Club



The Higham Village Club Car Park was full of classic motorcycles on June 1 for the 2025 edition of the Higham Classic and Custom Motorcycle Show

Kent's Higham Village Club hosted the 2025 Higham Classic and Custom Motorcycle Show on Sunday, June 1.

There were a number of stalls selling bike-related merchandise while a raffle raised money for good causes.

News in brief



Longbridge Social Club will host The Fleetwood Mack Experience on August 29

Tickets are now on sale at Longbridge Social Club in Birmingham for the highly anticipated performance by tribute act The Fleetwood Mack Experience, who will be returning to the venue on Friday, August 29.

The band will be recreating the sound of Fleetwood Mac with songs that span the decades, including several hits from the multi-platinum selling 1977 album Rumours.

Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased from: wegottickets.com/event/661393



Elton Fold Workingmens Club members get ready for Matt Shaw's Meat Loaf show

Top Meat Loaf tribute artist Matt Shaw is making a return to Elton Fold WMC in Bury on Saturday, July 12.

Matt is currently touring the UK with his theatre show 'The Very Best of Meat Loaf' and will be performing all the hits, including 'Bat Out Of Hell', 'Dead Ringer For Love' and 'Two Out of Three Ain't Bad'.

Tickets for the night are available from behind the club bar and cost £6 for members and £8 for non-members.



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Distinguished Service Award

Durham Branch

John Musgrave – Newton Aycliffe WMC

Long Service Award

Durham Branch

Raymond Liddell – Stanley Central Club

Edwin Campbell – Newton Aycliffe WMC

Kent Branch

Paul Carroll – New Eltham Social Club

David Barnes – Palmerston Road Social Club

Certificate of Merit

Durham Branch

Paul Buckley – Darlington Northgate Club

Edward Rowell – Consett & District Club

Irene Hutton – Ryton Social Club

Malcolm Drummond – Ryton Social Club

Kent Branch

Dennis Brown – Palmerston Road Social Club

South East Midlands Branch

Janice Wardle – Midland Band Social Club

Club Centenary Award

Wallsend Engineers Club (Northumberland Branch)



Beechwood Easterside & District
Social Club opened in 1973



Beechwood Easterside & District Social Club

From packed live music nights to cost-saving strategies that enables the club to invest in its facilities, we look at the continuing success of Beechwood Easterside & District Social Club

In an era when many traditional social clubs face existential threats, Beechwood Easterside & District Social Club in Middlesbrough stands as a beacon of what's possible through innovation, community focus and hard work on the part of the Committee, staff and members.

With over 3,000 members, annual profits exceeding £100,000 and an entertainment budget that would make most other venues envious, this club has not just survived the challenges of recent years – it has thrived.

Secretary Mick Smith is delighted with the continuing financial performance of the club, built on high levels of trade throughout the year.

“Last year we had an unbelievable year,” he says. “We made over £100,000 clear profit – that’s the best we’ve ever done.”

This remarkable achievement comes



The club was named Northern 'Entertainment Club of the Year' at Club Mirror's 2024 Club Awards. Pictured, left to right: President Bernie Stephenson, Committee Member Davina Cartman, Committee Member Tracy Pidgeon, Secretary Mick Smith, Committee Member Rose Carroll, Vice-President Andrew Cassy, Committee Member Brenda Briggs and Committee Member Margaret Smith.

despite the club losing £120,000 during the COVID lockdowns, a testament to their robust recovery strategy which focused on continuing to invest in live entertainment.

This commitment to quality entertainment has paid dividends, with the 400-capacity Concert Room regularly packed with members.

What makes these figures even more impressive is the context. “Most clubs around us aren’t getting in full bands anymore,” says Mick.

“Many are cutting back, using duos and solo singers to save money. But we’ve stuck with the four and five piece acts because that’s what people want to see.”

With an annual entertainment budget of £130,000, Beechwood & Easterside offers an enviable programme.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights they typically have performances from four of five-piece bands.

On Monday nights they have a three-piece band playing classic cover hits. Then there are special Wednesday night band nights every two months.

“We have bands every two months on a Wednesday night when most clubs would say you can’t get people in midweek,” Mick explains.

“We often put on bands who had hits in the 1960s and are still going with one or two – or sometimes all – of the original band members, and that really brings people out.

“We will generally sell all 400 tickets on a Wednesday night which would be a bonus for any club.”

The secret to their entertainment success lies in plenty of hard work behind the scenes.

“Our Entertainment Manager Harry Dunn is absolutely brilliant,” says Mick.

“He’s finding bands going freelance to avoid agent fees. The difference can be £600 for a band versus £750 – that’s

serious savings when you add it up over the year.

“These savings are passed on to members, with tickets priced at just £5 for acts that charge £20 and upwards when they perform in local theatres.

“Of course, people want to have a few drinks while they watch the bands so the trade over the bar is always good during the live entertainment nights.”

Not a surprise then that the club was named Northern ‘Entertainment Club of the Year’ at Club Mirror’s 2024 Club Awards, adding to their tally of awards which includes the prestigious ‘King of Clubs’ title which they won back in 2013.

“The Club Awards event was a great night and the Committee members who went along really enjoyed themselves,” says Mick.

“To win an award was fantastic and it was also really good to hear about all the other clubs across the UK and what



The club invests upwards of £100,000 in live entertainment throughout the year



The club has over 3,000 members

they are doing to make themselves successful.”

While the club is happy to invest in excellent live entertainment, behind the scenes the Committee has dedicated itself to meticulous cost management.

“We’ve done a lot of work on our wage structure,” Mick explains.

“We used to have a handyman to carry out running repairs and now I do that work myself – that saves us £10-12,000 a year.

“We changed our Steward system too. Instead of having the traditional Club Steward, we now have three senior barmen on set wages doing that job, saving £400 a week.”

The club’s strong partnership with Molson Coors provides another competitive edge.

“We’re 100 per cent Molson Coors and that means we receive a 50 per cent discount on our Sky subscription,” says Mick.

“That saves us £1,000 a month just on Sky.”

These savings allow them to run popular promotions like their £2-a-pint special which runs all day on Tuesdays, a major membership driver.

“We don’t make a fortune on

Tuesdays,” Mick admits, “but we cover wages and costs.

“More importantly, we sign up more new members that day than any other and it is also a way to give back to members for supporting the club.”

The club’s bestselling beers are Carling and Coors but premium European lager Madri has also become very popular, particularly among the younger members of the club.

Recent years have seen significant investment in the club’s infrastructure with a complete refurbishment of the

Concert Room seating and decor, the installation of modern resin-coated bars, the replacement of all fire doors with metal versions and upgraded smoking shelters.

“We made £85,000 profit the year before last,” Mick notes, “and we’ve ploughed a lot of that money straight back into improvements.

“Members appreciate that we’re constantly upgrading and ensuring that this the club continues to be a great environment where you can be really comfortable.”



The club’s own David Causier, a multiple World Champion in Billiards

The club hosts many community events, including this local boxing night



Beechwood & Easterside’s appeal extends far beyond drinks and entertainment and traditional sports are extremely popular.

The club boasts multiple darts and pool teams, but its crown jewel is undoubtedly its billiards connection.

“We’ve got Dave Causier playing for us – he’s won about 10 world titles in the last eight years,” says Mick.

“He’s the best in the world, and we give him a key so he can come in and practice any time.”

As you’d expect in football-mad Teesside, Middlesbrough FC matches are shown on the club’s screens whenever the Boro are in action .

“We show every game we can and obviously have access to live Championship football on Sky Sports,” says Mick.

“It’s more about giving members what they want than making huge profits from it.”

The club’s charitable efforts are also second-to-none. A recent fundraiser for a local cancer patient raised £21,000 in one night.

Their annual charity efforts typically raise £10,000-£15,000 across the year.

“The club will always support charity

and good causes for the local community and people were extremely generous.

“We sell a scratch card every Sunday that raises £75 so that adds up over the year,” Mick explains.

“At Easter we do hampers so charity fundraising is an ongoing effort.

“We are just about to hand over £14,000 to the cancer unit at the James Ward Hospital.”

With members travelling from as far as Newcastle (40 miles away) and even Holland for special events, the club has cracked the membership model.

“We get our forms out every April through to November and there’s no shortage of people wanting to join,” says Mick.

“We’ve got all ages – from 18 year olds up and we even have a couple of members who live miles away and just come for the entertainment. They park up their campervans outside so they’ve got somewhere to stay.”

Mick pays tribute to his fellow Committee members for helping the club to move forward.

“Our Committee is very evenly split between men and women which really balances out the way they look at what

is best for the club,” says Mick.

With plans for more facility upgrades and an ever-evolving entertainment programme, Beechwood & Easterside shows no signs of slowing down.

As traditional social clubs nationwide face an uncertain future, this Middlesbrough success story offers both inspiration and a practical blueprint.

Through a mix of financial prudence, quality offerings and genuine community spirit, Beechwood & Easterside Social Club has not just survived – it’s setting the standard for what a modern members’ club can be.

“Put simply, as a club we invest in what members want,” says Mick.

“We could have cut entertainment like others, but we stuck with it. Now we’re reaping the rewards.”

CONTACT DETAILS

Beechwood Easterside & District Social Club
Broadwell Road
Middlesbrough
TS4 3PP
Tel: 01642 311304
Branch: Durham

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Club Journal

Survey 2025

As you will know, the Union is looking at how our organisation can be restructured in order to make it more efficient and relevant for its member clubs.

Your input is crucial, so please spend a few minutes completing this important survey which will help us to reshape the Union and ensure that it will be able to continue to support its clubs.

We believe that now is the moment to reorganise, to modernise, and to become more cost-effective, while not only maintaining but improving the services we offer.

If the CIU were starting today, what would our business model look like? What would our priorities be?

The survey can be completed online or posted. We will then use the results to help build a new and improved organisation.

♦ **Online:** Online: To complete the survey online, visit the Club Journal website (clubjournal.co.uk) and the official CIU website (ciu.org.uk)

♦ **By Post:** Print out pages 15 and 16, complete the survey, and post to: **Alchemy Contract Publishing/Club Journal, Link Spaces, Botanica, Ditton Park, Riding Court Road, Slough, SL3 9LL**

FUTURE OF THE UNION

(Please tick appropriate boxes.)

GENERAL:

1. How many members do you have?

- Up to 1,000 1,000-1,999 2,000-2,999
 3,000-3,900 4,000-4,999

Other (please specify)

2. Which branch does your club belong to?

3. Do you agree that the Union must undergo a radical transformation in order to fulfill its mission to support its member clubs?

- Yes No
 Don't Know



4. Are you in favour of restructuring the branches into a regionalised format along the following lines? North East (Durham and Northumberland); Yorkshire (Heavy Woollen, Leeds, South Yorkshire, Wakefield and West Yorkshire); Manchester; Midlands (East Midlands, West Midlands, South East Midlands, Leicestershire and Warwickshire); South East (Kent, North East Metropolitan and South East Metropolitan) and South West (South Wales, Monmouthshire, Wessex and Western Counties).

Yes No Don't Know

Your Comments

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.....

5. How do you think Branch Secretaries should be selected?

Elected by clubs within each regional branch Appointed by each regional branch committee

Appointed by National Executive Committee Elected by vote at AGM

Don't know

Your Comments

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.....

6. How should the new regional branches be staffed?

Your Comments

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.....

7. Do you think that there should be fewer members of the National Executive Committee (NEC)

Yes No Don't Know

8. Would you be in favour of an NEC comprising General Secretary, President, Vice-President plus one member each representing the six new regional branches?

Yes No Don't Know

Your Comments

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9. Would you like to see the Union's Award in Club Management available online?

Yes No Don't Know

Your Comments

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10. How important are the following CIU services/products/events/functions to your club?

	Not important	important	Don't Know
Rules Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HR Documents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal Advice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education (ACM)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Racing Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PRS For Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Branch Advice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Show	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Awards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lobbying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Raceday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to Preferred Suppliers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Do you have any further comments, observations or suggestions which you believe would help to ensure that the Union is fit for purpose in the modern age?

Your Comments

.....

.....

.....

This survey can be completed online at the website clubjournal.co.uk and ciu.org.uk or you can download and print a copy.

Once completed this can be sent to: **Alchemy Contract Publishing/Club Journal, Link Spaces, Botanica, Ditton Park, Riding Court Road, Slough, SL3 9LL**

Name: Address:

Position:

Club Name: Business tel no (inc STD):

Mobile phone no:

Send to: **Alchemy Contract Publishing/Club Journal, Link Spaces, Botanica, Ditton Park, Riding Court Road, Slough, SL3 9LL**

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News in brief

Updated CIU Contracts and Club Secretary's Handbook are available to buy from branches

- Club Staff Accommodation Contract
- Contract of Employment – Bar Manager
- Club Staff Handbook
- Contract of Employment – Bar/Cleaning Staff
- Contract of Employment – Club Steward
- Club Secretary's Handbook
- Zero Hours Contract

They are each priced as follows - £5 per Handbook; £3 per contract.

Due to increased production and postage costs the price list will be reviewed over the coming months.

National Executive Committee dates

The remaining NEC meetings at Head Office for 2025 will take place on:

July 16&17; September 3&4; October 15&16 and December 3&4.

CIU Conference 2026 dates

Friday, April 17 – CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition

Saturday, April 18 – The 162nd Annual Meeting

Find out if a club is a member of the CIU

The search facility at the Union's official website: ciu.org.uk is fully working and up-to-date.

There are several areas that can be searched in order to find clubs, general information on the CIU and *Club Journal* articles going back to 2011.

There is also a map facility that is available which enables you to find a CIU club in a particular area of the country.

Recent poll finds that almost half of people prefer to opt out of buying drinks in rounds

A poll conducted by YouGov asked the question: 'When having drinks as part of a group, do you prefer to buy drinks just for yourself, or for each of you take it in turn to buy a round of drinks for everyone?'

The results found that 48 per cent of respondents said that they preferred to buy drinks just for themselves while 38 per cent said that they preferred to buy drinks in rounds. A total of 14 per cent opted for 'I don't know'.

When broken down into regional results, the top areas for buying drinks in rounds were London and Scotland, both scoring 43 per cent in favour of rounds, while Wales had the highest percentage of respondents saying they preferred to buy drinks just for themselves (58 per cent).

In terms of age profile, those aged 65 and over were most likely to want to buy drinks in rounds (46 per cent) while 61 per cent of 18-24 year olds were most likely to buy drinks for just themselves.

The study also found that women were more likely to buy just themselves a drink (54 per cent) in contrast to men, 45 per cent of whom were more likely to buy drinks in rounds.

The YouGov poll conducted the study amongst 6,587 people.

Head Office mourns former staff members

It is with great sadness that we report that two former members of the Head Office team have passed away.

John Kinsler joined in 1979 and worked as caretaker and stores assistant for 36 years.

He was a familiar face at Blackpool as part of the Head Office team setting up events during the Annual Conference.

Norman Pritchard Woollett joined in 1991 and worked as an Administrative Consultant for 26 years and advised the Executive on parliamentary and legislative affairs.

Both were highly regarded by their colleagues and peers.

We send our condolences and best wishes to their families at this difficult time.



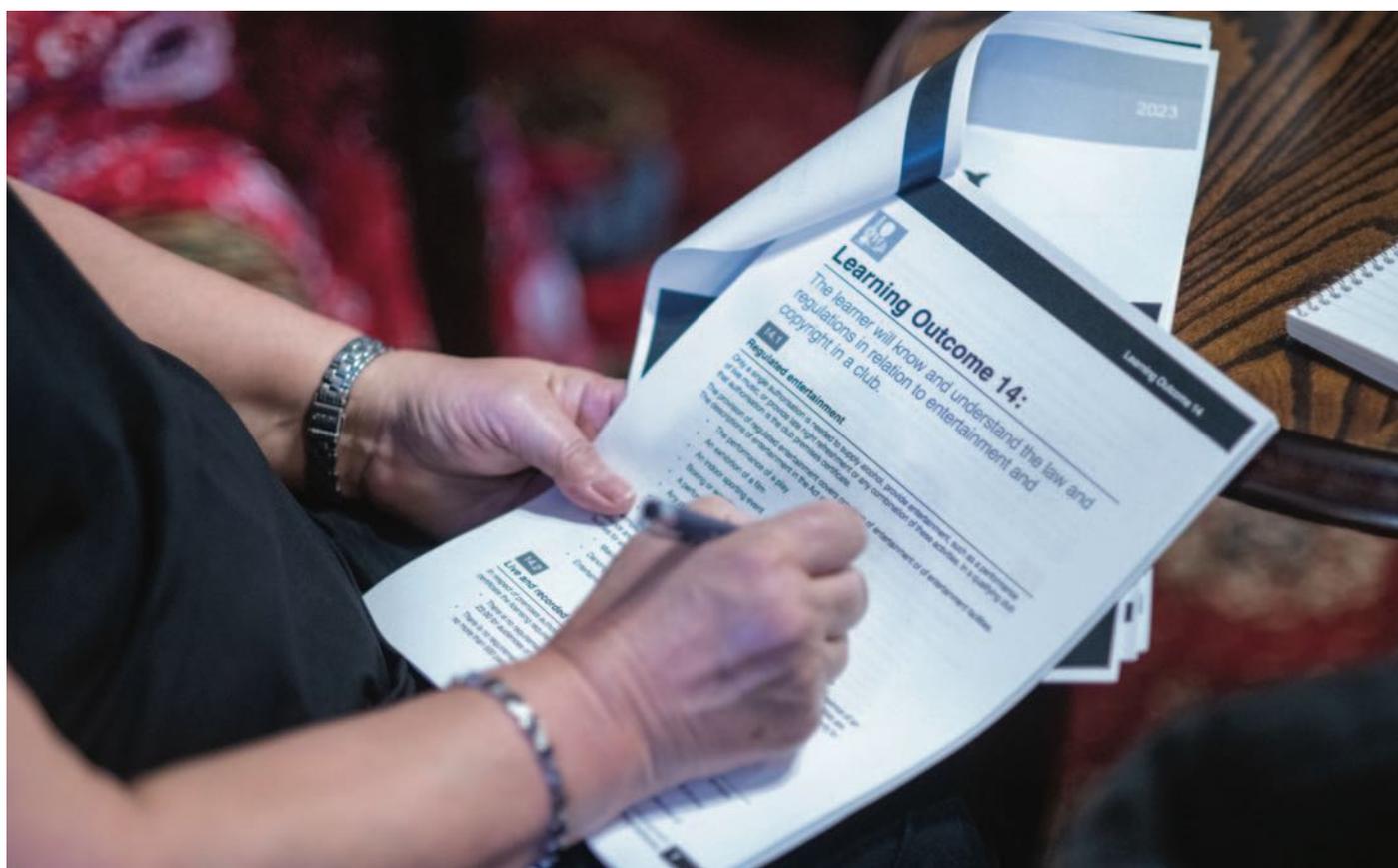
John Kinsler



Norman Pritchard Woollett

Boost your expertise with the Union's Award in Club Management

The Award in Club Management (ACM) enables CIU club officials to gain a thorough grounding in the skills associated with running a club. If you would like to host future ACM sessions at your club, or share sessions with clubs in your area, please get in touch with Catherine Fitzpatrick at Head Office



The ACM course is taught by experienced club administrators and covers key aspects of club administration and finance

The Union's Award in Club Management (ACM) course is specifically designed for people running CIU clubs and aims to give club officials a thorough grounding in the key aspects of managing a club with maximum efficiency.

The qualification consists of three self-contained units, each taking one day of classroom-based study to complete.

Unit 1 of the course covers Law & Regulations, Licensing, Unit 2 covers Law and Regulations (Part 2) and Unit 3 covers Management, Finance and Administration.

Once a candidate has completed the course and been examined in all three units through a multiple choice examination at the end of each unit, they receive the ACM.

The course is primarily aimed at

people who are going to be sitting on club committees and occupying positions of authority within clubs for the first time.

It has been developed to ensure that candidates gain a thorough understanding of licensing laws and regulations relating to members' clubs, as well as a whole host of other laws and regulations that govern the running of a club, including entertainment, the various copyright permissions required and the rules and regulations surrounding gaming machines in clubs.

The lectures are carried out by highly experienced lecturers from within the CIU – including Union General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM and Union President Ken Roberts CMD ACM – who lead the day sessions and can draw from

their knowledge of the club scene to illustrate the key points and explore real-life scenarios and problems which can crop up at members' clubs.

If you have a minimum of 10 participants from your club or a combination from clubs in your surrounding area, the ACM course will come to you.

The three self-contained units will be delivered by Union lecturers over three Saturdays of your choice at your club – or a combination of clubs in your area if that is a more practical arrangement.

Please contact Senior Administrator Cath Fitzpatrick at the CIU Head Office on 020 7226 0221 or email: Catherine.Fitzpatrick@wmcui.org to discuss hosting a future series of day sessions at your club or with fellow CIU clubs.

Calling all CIU Clubs. It's time to shine!

The 2024 Club Awards saw CIU clubs recognised in many categories, including the Union's prestigious CIU Club of the Year Award, as well as Committee, Manager and Entertainment Clubs of the Year. Could this be your year? Time to recognise all that you, your committee and your members do for the club and the local community. Read on ...



All the finalists will be invited to the Gala Awards Dinner in Leicester in November

Club Mirror's 2024 Club Awards, held on November 27 at the Athena venue in Leicester, showcased the best of clubland with CIU clubs winning in a number of categories.

As ever, competition was fierce throughout, not least in the prestigious CIU Club of the Year category, presented by President Ken Roberts CMD ACM, General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM and Vice-President Bob Russell CMD.

This year saw two winners sharing the title – **Broseley Social Club** in Shropshire and **Lindley Liberal Club** in Huddersfield.

Broseley Social Club is a thriving club at heart of its local community with its 1,780 members enjoying a range of activities and entertainment.

Many local groups hold their events, meetings and regular catch-ups at the club including a local choir, the Royal British Legion and the

RAOB.

The club runs two snooker teams, two darts teams, an in-house darts league, an in-house dominoes league, and seven Crown Green bowls teams.

The club prides itself on providing a warm and friendly environment for all generations to enjoy.

Charity work is important to the club with the club holding party nights, raffles, beer tasting and other events to raise money for such charities as Severn Hospice, Hope House, Midlands Air Ambulance, Asthma UK and Birmingham Children's Hospital.

In June 2023, the club invested in a new car park, re-surfacing at the cost of £40,000, a move which has enabled so many more customers to use the club as the access is now improved for wheelchairs, mobility vehicles and families with pushchairs.

The club's gardens have also been improved in recent years with

members and their children now enjoying a fantastic Beer Garden during the warmer months.

Club Treasurer Gail Hall says: "We constantly think of new ways to encourage current and new members to keep the club as their local. We have live entertainment every month, with every effort made to use local bands and artists and new bands just starting out are always given a try.

"The people on the committee give up their free time in so many ways to keep the club running as smoothly and efficiently as we can and ensuring that we remain at the heart of the community."

Joint winner **Lindley Liberal Club** was founded in 1887 and the magnificent Victorian building remains at the centre of its community to this day, with over 2,000 members enjoying access to a wealth of sporting and cultural activities seven days a week, including



Beechwood, Easterside & District Social Club in Middlesbrough picked up the Northern Entertainment Club of the Year Award

billiards, snooker, dominoes, cricket, chess, comedy and live music.

Ukraine is dear to the club's heart, and it has hosted a Ukrainian music afternoon in support of the Ukrainian community which included a Ukrainian children's choir and a Ukrainian folk band along with one of Ukraine's biggest stars, Uliya Lord.

"The afternoon was a huge success with many members of our club as well as our local Ukrainian club attending," says Club Secretary Dawn Fawcett.

"The success of this led us to making Sunday afternoon entertainment a regular activity and we now have entertainment once a month on Sunday afternoon which has led to a three-fold increase in takings on those Sundays.

"We have an active programme of refurbishment of the club with the Concert Room and Lounge being the areas most recently updated.

"We are now underway with investing in improving our Entrance Door, Hall and Tap Room.

"These refurbishments have been expensive as we have invested in quality products such as wallpaper,

curtains and fabrics to ensure a premier look to these areas of our club.

"We have taken this opportunity to make sure that access to the club is more disabled-friendly as we have several customers with mobility issues."

During 2024, the club has remodelled its administrative structure with the introduction of an Executive Committee made up of five members who guide the club through larger financial decisions and make recommendations to the general Committee.

The club runs regular racing trips to local racecourses such as Ripon, Thirsk and Beverley with the trips having a strong take-up by members and their guests.

Dawn adds: "We have also initiated an afternoon tea for Ladies Day at Royal Ascot with all the races being shown on the big screen along with a tote to enable betting for members. This has been a massive success with members who enter into the spirit of the occasion and dress accordingly.

"The club has invested in vintage crockery, tea pots and afternoon tea-

stands to facilitate this.

"As this has proved a great success we are going to replicate it for Cheltenham Festival.

"The Royal Ascot afternoon tea saw a fourfold increase in our usual revenue on a Thursday afternoon. Alongside this we have traditional race nights in the Concert Room at the club which have good attendance."

The club also stages regular comedy nights, two bingo sessions a week, prize draws and quiz nights.

The club is proud of its bowling facilities with a separate pavilion with its own kitchen and a well-kept green.

"But it's not just the bowling green which has garnered renown in the area. The club's Snooker Room is also a first-class facility with two full-size tables ensuring that the snooker and billiards sections also flourish.

"The club has long been part of the fabric of the local community and we intend to ensure that always remains the case," says Dawn.

In the Bar Manager of the Year category it was David Bellamy of **Midland Band Social Club** in



New Eltham Social Club won the Committee of the Year Category. (See next page for details.)

Kettering who triumphed.

The club was also announced as a Campaign For Real Ale (CAMRA) Super Round winner which means that they are one of just four clubs vying for the beer organisation's Club of the Year award which will be decided in 2025.

As well as selecting a varied range of guest cask ales, David also organises the majority of the entertainment at the club.

He is also the club's resident chef for Saturday lunches and Sunday roasts, bingo caller, quizmaster and karaoke king.

The club is the reigning Northamptonshire CAMRA Club of the Year and also features in this year's Good Beer Guide.

The Charity Club of the Year Award was presented to **Skegness Ex-Servicemens Club**.

Charity is of paramount importance to the club and the members support a number of good causes throughout the year, including major fundraisers for the Royal British Legion and Royal Naval Association.

In September, they handed over a cheque for £6000 to Breast Cancer Now after staging a major fundraiser in August which included members taking part in a sponsored 'Run & Walk It Pink' event which was attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Skegness.

This was followed by further fundraising at a live entertainment night at the club, including a raffle.

In July, the club staged a Race Night in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital and supported club member Hollie as she completed the 'Three Peak Challenge'.

The club has selected Prostate Cancer UK as its nominated charity for 2025.

The Business Initiative of the Year category went to **Grangemoor Working Men's Club** in Staffordshire.

The club has enjoyed a very successful past year with the club's membership and turnover increasing.

A number of new initiatives have strengthened links with the local community. This includes a new

agreement with FC Grangemoor to become the football team's kit sponsor and for the team to use the club as their 'clubhouse' and for meetings.

The tie-up with the football club has also brought in younger people with the majority of the players and their supporters in their 20s.

Meanwhile, the 'Thursday Club' remains a very valued part of the club which sees various activities put on for the over-50s, including guest speakers, balloon badminton and meals.

Karaoke and acoustic sessions at the club continue and these have been greatly supported by the members with private functions continuing to be a valuable income for the club.

The club has been redecorated and reupholstered in the past year to ensure that the club continues to be a modern, welcoming venue.

Top-class entertainment, including tribute acts, have proven extremely popular with members, with the majority of the club's ticketed entertainment nights selling out well in advance.



Time to Shine!

CIU clubs invited to enter the 2025 Club Awards
 Visit www.clubawards.co.uk for all the details



Lucy Hague, Secretary of The Oatlands Club in Harrogate, was named 'Club Secretary of the Year' in 2024

The Club Awards are proudly supported by:



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Our online contest to win includes a method of free entry via post, please see T&C's for details. No purchase is necessary to enter but the intention of the raffle is to support the works of the CIU.

Only gamble responsibly.

CIU Licence Number LN/000023921

Get involved with the CIU National Lottery

The CIU National Lottery is a great way to support your club and your Union as well as give yourself the chance to win some fantastic cash prizes, as well as regular opportunities to win beer and other prizes

The CIU National Lottery gives Union members the opportunity to win significant cash prizes or prizes each month with tickets available to buy online via their computers or smartphones.

The next Draw takes place at 7pm on **Friday, August 1** and will be a 50/50 Draw which will also see 5% of the total revenue raised going to the winner's club.

Q: How do I buy tickets?

A: It's a very simple process:

- Create an account at ciu.praxis-play.online
- Add funds to your account
- Receive email confirming you have added money to your account.
- Buy tickets by selecting PLAY on the raffle you wish to purchase tickets
- Receive an email confirming your tickets purchase, including ticket numbers. This will be sent by email in a PDF attachment and you can also see tickets in your account.

Q: What happens if I forget my password?

A: You can reset your password at any time by clicking in the reset password link on the screen.

Q: Is there a cap on the amount I can spend?

A: Yes – the maximum number of tickets you can buy is 20 tickets.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum amount that I have to keep on my account?

A: You only need credit in your account to buy tickets for the draws. Tickets are just £1 each.

Q: What happens to my personal data?

A: Praxis is ICO registered and has full GDPR statement in the T&C's & log-in/sign up process.

Q: I don't own a smartphone. Can I still play the CIU Raffle?

A: Yes. Please go online to ciu.praxisplay.online and sign up to create an online account and play the CIU Raffle.

Q: How will I receive my winnings?

A: The Winners receive an email and

text confirming their win, along with payment into the client's CIU draw app account. The user can then withdraw the funds via the app account to another bank account.

Q: I have a technical issue with the App. Who do I contact?

A: In-app users can create a support ticket to resolve a query or call the CIU Head Office on 0207 226 0221 for help with any problems they encounter when buying a ticket.



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Great deals on tickets at 16 racecourses

The CIU has teamed up with Arena Racing Company (ARC) to give club members discounted tickets to 16 racecourses across the UK – visit: arenaracingcompany.co.uk/offers/ciu

The CIU has teamed up with Arena Racing Company (ARC) to give CIU club members fantastic, great-value offers to enjoy a brilliant day out at the races this year!

Offer 1

(Sunday – Thursday fixtures):

A ticket, a drink (beer, cider or soft drink) and a racecard - only £14.50!*

Offer 2

(Friday & Saturday fixtures):

A ticket, a drink (beer, cider or soft drink) and a racecard – only £19.50!*

This incredible value deal is available at all of ARC's 16 racecourses across the UK, – that's more than 500 racedays to enjoy!

Highlights include the prestigious Betfred St Leger Festival at Doncaster in September, a whole host of family fun days, live music events and stylish Ladies Days.

*Exclusions apply. See ARC's Terms and Conditions below.

Terms and conditions

- Offer is valid for Grandstand tickets or equivalent.
- Under 18s tickets are free of charge.
- Drink includes a pint of beer, cider or a soft drink.
- Subject to availability and offers may sell out.
- Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion, discount or concession. New bookings only.
- Offers can only be booked online and in advance.
- Advance sales close 24 hours before each fixture.
- All bookings are subject to our Ticket Purchase Terms and Conditions and Conditions of Entry.
- Booking fee applies.
- The offers are open to UK & Irish residents only who are aged 18 and over.
- You may be asked for proof of CIU membership on entry. Anyone in possession of a CIU package without proof of CIU membership may be refused entry and details sent back to CIU.
- ARC withhold the right to rescind this offer at any time.

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01302 304200

Grow sales with Ale Ambassadors

In the latest in a series of articles on Greene King's category vision for ale, the brewer discusses the key role that staff ambassadors can play on taking your ale sales to the next level



Cask ale is the third biggest category by rate of sale per venue and accounts for one of every five pints sold

If you have been following this series of articles on Greene King's 'How To Win With Ale' category vision, you will hopefully have set out on your journey to grow sales of cask ale and bring new energy and excitement into this hugely important category.

So far, we've covered everything from perfect presentation and range science to quality and elevating the experience.

In this article, we turn our attention to one of the most important elements of great cask ale experience – your staff behind the bar.

Why ale?

Firstly, however, it's worth taking a quick refresher course on why Greene

King has created a new category vision for ale.

Well, ale is a fundamental cornerstone of a credible beer offer for any venue.

One in every five pints sold is ale, and cask ale is the third biggest category by rate of sale per venue, with more than 130 pints sold per week.

And, yes, that's ahead of keg, which sits in fourth position. In other words, cask ale is popular.

It sells fast, and it helps bring customers to your door at quieter times of the week.

There is a huge opportunity to transform the way the industry looks at the ale category, and Greene King is

proud to take on the responsibility of playing a leading role in that transformation.

'How To Win With Ale' embraces the importance and role of ale on the bar and the challenges and opportunities for the category, and it also provides a fresh perspective on innovation, quality, and presentation for the industry.

People power

No one in the trade needs to be told that any venue's biggest assets is its people, and in no category is this more important than in ale.

Having all the basics in place, like a great range, great quality products, an efficient and effective cellar operation,



Greene King's Peach Cooler, a 3.4% ABV session cask ale, is available throughout July and August

available, the interesting and unique nature of cask ale, and all the tricks of the trade in serving top drawer ales every time can help enhance the customer experience and make the job even more interesting for the Ale Ambassadors themselves.

Training support

Greene King offers a wide wider array of training solutions and resources to help you bring your ale ambassadors up to speed as quickly as possible.

From in-depth information and even videos on Greene King ales on our website to web resources we provide, like beergenius.co.uk and Cellar Doctor, you have everything you need to help your team become genuinely expert in the wonderful world of cask ale.

It works

And if you're wondering whether establishing Ale Ambassadors actually works and helps sell more ale, then consider that in Greene King's managed estate, our branded cask ales are growing 8.9% by volume, outperforming the cask market.

The learnings we have shared with you in this series of articles have been applied in real venues, and they work.

So if we work together, Greene King making great beers and you keeping them that way, and your ale ambassadors advocating from behind the bar, we can deliver stronger sales for you, drive fresh footfall, generate customer loyalty, and provide those elevated experiences your drinkers are looking for.

Cask ale is a unique product that's only available in the on-trade and has hundreds of years of history and heritage behind it.

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great glassware, good POS and more, can only really be leveraged properly if the team behind the bar serving those ales is friendly, enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

And let's face it, cask ale is a category that should inspire enthusiasm and passion. It's unique to the on-trade, it's crammed full of history and tradition. It's packed with flavour, and it has a fantastic story to tell.

The key to unlocking growth in ale is having staff behind the bar who are fully engaged with the category.

This is partly about training – and Greene King can help in lots of ways on this front – but it's also about working with your team to develop that passion and that pride in serving top quality iconic cask ales.

Nothing makes a cask ale drinker happier than staff who can give them a quick educated tour of the cask ales on offer in that venue, and perhaps share some tidbits of information and make some suggestions on which ales to try

and why.

Having staff that are prepared to dedicate some time to learning about the category and the products in it can go a long way to driving engagement and sales with customers, be they diehard cask ale fans or people curious about the category.

Staff who are sufficiently knowledgeable enough to offer great advice and suggestions to customers, perhaps offering a little sample here and there and discussing tasting notes, can transform sales of ale.

We are all aware of the consumer interest in provenance and history in recent years, and we know that customers are looking for products with interesting back stories as well as great flavour.

And no category ticks these boxes quite like ale. Why not consider appointing formal Ale Ambassadors in your venue, members of your team who already have an interest in the category?

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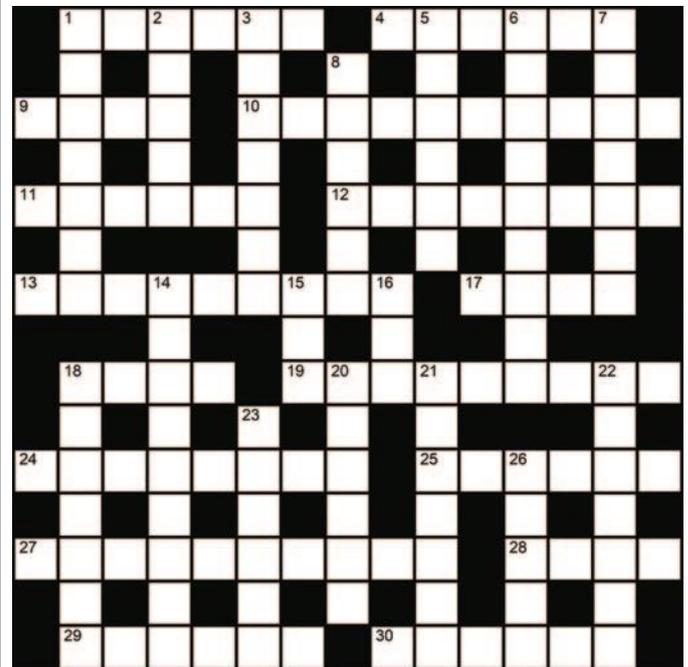
- 1 Facing crazy Heartwood without a hoe (6)
- 4 Substitute found in freezers at zero (6)
- 9 Pile-driver backing out of the food counter (4)
- 10 Work hard at sorting out that dam' rodent? (6,4)
- 11 Graduation has no turn, however leisurely the music (6)
- 12 3D artist attempting to opt for curls (8)
- 13 Conifers to spy out in a recess (9)
- 17 And plagues are ageless? (4)
- 18 About to request a barrel (4)
- 19 Figuratively, it's not about to alter the lily (9)
- 24 Strangely, "Gur!" meant 'supporting reasons'! (8)

- 25 Be undecided in credit, here and now (6)
- 27 Own interest chaser feels and reeks awfully (4-6)
- 28 Birdbrained bird? (4)
- 29 At Yale we create an allowance (6)
- 30 Typhoons not so shaped like a snake (6)

- 7 Ouzels, in a pattern, are fanatical (7)
- 8 Painful lashes make for trouble (6)
- 14 Cabinet treatment to mix up the cards again (9)
- 15 Sun god of dissolution (3)
- 16 Park yourself in opposition (3)
- 18 No clear setting of the eyepiece (7)
- 20 Paint Akela's portrait to produce a sharp one of breath (6)
- 21 Old, in a tree-like way? (7)
- 22 Now idle, could have some rest (3,4)
- 23 See tap as being old money in Spain (6)
- 26 Whittle we must not, about the soil state (5)

DOWN

- 1 Duet, say, is bad. That's the third one this week! (7)
- 2 Squeeze wiring I discarded (5)
- 3 Bow materials nor bibs, curiously (7)
- 5 The sort to monkey with your blood? (6)
- 6 Papal lace disguises nothing but voices (1,8)



Name _____
 Club _____
 Address _____

Send your entry to Club Journal Crossword, Link Spaces, Botanica Ditton Park, Riding Court Road, Slough, SL3 9LL. **Deadline July 25.**

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Congratulations to the winners of our £10 Prize Crossword for June.

- Alan Hogan of Stormont Main WMC
- David Jandrell of Cwmarn WMC
- Pat O'Neill of The Progressive Club
- Keith Nicholas of Cynon Valley Club
- Mrs RE Lindley of Scissett WMC



**Job Opportunity:
 Club Steward/Stewardess (Live-in)
 Braintree Bocking & District Liberal Club
 CM7 9ES**

We are seeking an experienced individual or couple to manage the day-to-day running of our friendly members' club. Duties include overseeing the bar, kitchen, cellar, events, and general maintenance.

The role includes on-site accommodation (2/3-bedroom flat), a competitive salary, and full retention of menu profits. Ideal for someone with hospitality experience and customer service skills. References required.

**To apply, email your CV and cover letter to:
 philpeg25@sky.com Contact Philip Pegram for
 more details.**

Premier League fixtures released

The new Premier League season gets underway on Friday, August 15 as Liverpool take on Bournemouth, live on Sky Sports. We look ahead to the feast of football coming to your club



The bulk of TNT Sport's Premier League fixtures will take place in the Saturday lunchtime slot

Sky Sports will broadcast a record minimum of 215 Premier League matches a season from 2025/26 after finalising a new four-year agreement for TV rights.

From the 2025/26 season, Sky Sports' exclusively live coverage will increase from 128 Premier League matches to at least 215 games.

As part of the new rights deal, Sky Sports will show at least four matches per week.

This will include more than 140 matches played at weekends, evening matches on Fridays and Mondays and full coverage of three midweek match rounds.

For the first time, Sky Sports will also broadcast all 10 Premier League matches on the final day of each season.

The 2025/26 season will kick-off with a bumper opening weekend as Liverpool face Bournemouth in the curtain raiser on Friday August 15, live on Sky Sports.

The reigning champions will be the team to beat and it will be fascinating to see how Arnie Slot's side deal with the added pressure of being title holders.

Liverpool confirmed the signing of Bournemouth left-back Milos Kerkez in June, with the deal worth £40 million, making him the club's most expensive full-back.

Kerkez follows Florian Wirtz, Jeremie Frimpong and goalkeeper Armin Peci into the club as the fourth signing of an increasingly busy summer.

The opening weekend coverage will also include Wolves v Manchester City, a Super Sunday of Chelsea v Crystal Palace and Manchester United v Arsenal, before Leeds v Everton on Monday Night Football.

The match at Old Trafford is sure to garner plenty of attention as Ruben Amorim's United welcome Mikel Arteta's side – runners-up in the Premier League last season.

United's struggles last time out were well documented and Amorim will be



Sky Sports will be showing a total of 215 live games from the Premier League this season, starting on Friday, August 15

desperately hoping that his team can get off to a decent start in the 2025/26 season.

Interestingly, Arsenal have only won twice in the league in the last 18 years at Old Trafford while United are historically the club with the best record in the Premier League on opening weekends.

United finished in 15th place last season, but have been boosted by some summer signings, including forward Matheus Cunha from Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The Sunday lunchtime slot on the opening weekend will see Chelsea, fresh from clinching a UEFA Champions League place on the final day of last season, kicking off with a home match against Crystal Palace.

Another notable fixture will be the Monday night game featuring Leeds United and Everton.

There is sure to be an incredible atmosphere at Elland Road as the home fans get behind the home team on their return to the Premier League.

TNT Sports get their coverage of the season underway with Aston Villa taking on Newcastle United live on Saturday, August 16 in the lunchtime slot.

Villa will be out for revenge in that opener after the Magpies pipped

them to the post in the race for a Champions League spot in the last campaign.

Of course, it's not just the Premier League fixtures which will help clubs fill their bars in the coming season with Sky Sports also showing plenty of games from the Championship and League 1 and League 2.

After a play-off final win, Charlton are back in the second tier of English football – the Championship – along with Birmingham City and Wrexham, while Leicester, Ipswich and Southampton dropped down from the top-flight.

Barnet and Oldham moved out of non-league at the end of last season to return to League Two, replacing Carlisle and Morecambe.

In League One, meanwhile, the quartet of Doncaster, Port Vale, Bradford City and play-off winners AFC Wimbledon take the places of Crawley, Cambridge United, Bristol Rovers and Shrewsbury, who were all demoted in 2024/25.

Leagues 1 and 2 kick off on August 1 while the new Championship will get underway on August 9 with Sky Sports showing all the opening fixtures live across the weekend.

It means there will plenty of football to help fill club bars this season.

Opening weekend Premier League TV fixtures

Friday, August 15, 8pm – Sky Sports

Liverpool v AFC Bournemouth

Saturday, August 16, 12.30pm – TNT Sports

Aston Villa v Newcastle United

Saturday, August 16, 5.30pm – Sky Sports

Wolves v Manchester City

Sunday, August 17, 2pm – Sky Sports

Chelsea v Crystal Palace

Sunday, August 17, 2pm – Sky Sports

Nottingham Forest v Brentford

Sunday, August 17, 4.30pm – Sky Sports

Manchester United v Arsenal

Monday August 18, 8pm – Sky Sports

Leeds United v Everton

For the full list of Premier League fixtures for the 2025/26 season visit: premierleague.com



Wednesday, July 2, 10am, Sky Sports Cricket
International Cricket: England v India, 2nd Test

The Second Test gets underway at Edgbaston and there is sure to be a fantastic atmosphere at this famous ground. The last Test here, back in 2022, saw England win by seven wickets as they pulled off their highest successful chase in Test cricket as Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow completed sparkling unbeaten hundreds.



Sunday, July 17, 8pm, BBC
Football – Women's European Championship: England v Wales

A huge game in the group stages of the Women's Euros as England take on Wales. Despite a number of high-profile players deciding to call time on their international careers ahead of this tournament – including inspirational goalie Mary Earp – England will still be among the favourites to lift the title in the final at the end of July.



Saturday, July 19, 11am – Sky Sports Main Event
Rugby Union: Australia v British and Irish Lions – 1st Test

Action from the Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane as the British and Irish Lions take on Australia in the first of three test matches. The last Lions tour Down Under, back in 2013, saw the Lions clinch the series 2-1 with victories in the first and third tests. This is sure to be another fascinating series.

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Cricket takes centre stage in July with England hosting India in the ongoing Test series, while the T20 Bash will be providing more thrills. Also coming up is the Women's European Football Championship

Wednesday, July 2, 10am, Sky Sports Cricket
International Cricket: England v India - 2nd Test

Wednesday, July 2, 11am, Sky Sports Main Event
Rugby Union: Reds v British and Irish Lions

Thursday, July 3, 10am, Sky Sports Cricket
International Cricket: England v India - 2nd Test

Thursday, July 3, 11.30am, Sky Sports Golf
Golf: BMW International Open – Day 1

Friday, July 4, 10am, Sky Sports Cricket
International Cricket: England v India - 2nd Test

Friday, July 4, 11.30am, Sky Sports Golf
Golf: BMW International Open – Day 2

Friday, July 4, 8pm, Sky Sports Action
Super League: Leigh Leopards v Wigan Warriors

Saturday, July 5, 10am, Sky Sports Cricket
International Cricket: England v India - 2nd Test

Saturday, July 5, 11am, Sky Sports Main Event
Rugby Union: Waratahs v British and Irish Lions

Saturday, July 5, 11.30am, Sky Sports Golf
Golf: BMW International Open – Day 3

Saturday, July 5, 3pm, Sky Sports +
Super League: Hull FC v St Helens

Saturday, July 5, 5pm – BBC
Football – Women's European Championship: Wales v Netherlands

Saturday, July 5, 5.30pm, Sky Sports +
Super League: Wakefield Trinity v Catalans Dragons

Saturday, July 5, 8pm – BBC
Football – Women's European Championship: France v England

Saturday, July 5, 8.40pm, Sky Sports Action
Rugby Union: Argentina v England

Sunday, July 6, 10am, Sky Sports Cricket
International Cricket: England v India - 2nd Test

Sunday, July 6, 11.30am, Sky Sports Golf
Golf: BMW International Open – Day 4

Sunday, July 6, 2pm, Sky Sports F1
Formula 1: British Grand Prix

Sunday, July 6, 3pm, Sky Sports +
Super League: Hull KR v Leeds Rhinos

Tuesday, July 8, 6.25pm, Sky Sports Cricket
Cricket: T20 Blast – Somerset v Essex Eagles

Wednesday, July 9, 11am, Sky Sports Main Event
Rugby Union: Brumbies v British and Irish Lions



Golf: The Open Championship, starts
Thursday, July 17, 6.30am,
Sky Sports Golf

Wednesday, July 9, 5pm – BBC
**Football – Women’s European
Championship: England v
Netherlands**

Wednesday, July 9, 6.55pm, Sky
Sports Cricket
**Cricket: T20 Blast – Sussex Sharks
v Kent Spitfires**

Wednesday, July 9, 8pm – BBC
**Football – Women’s European
Championship: France v Wales**

Thursday, July 10, 8.30am, Sky
Sports Golf
Golf: Scottish Open

Thursday, July 10, 10am, Sky Sports
Cricket
**International Cricket: England v
India – 3rd Test**

Thursday, July 10, 6.55pm, Sky
Sports Cricket
**Cricket: T20 Blast – Derbyshire
Falcons v Worcestershire Rapids**

Thursday, July 10, 8pm, Sky Sports
**Super League: Hull FC v
Wakefield Trinity**

Friday, July 11, 8.30am, Sky Sports
Golf
Golf: Scottish Open

Friday, July 11, 10am, Sky Sports
Cricket
**International Cricket: England v
India – 3rd Test**

Friday, July 11, 6.45pm, Sky Sports
Cricket
**Cricket: T20 Blast – Lancashire
Lightning v Yorkshire Vikings**

Saturday, July 12, 8.30am, Sky Sports
Golf
Golf: Scottish Open

Saturday, July 12, 10am, Sky Sports
Cricket
**International Cricket: England v
India – 3rd Test**

Saturday, July 12, 11am, Sky Sports
Main Event
**Rugby Union: Australia/New
Zealand XV v British and Irish
Lions**

Saturday, July 12, 2pm, BBC
**Tennis: Wimbledon – Women’s
Singles Final**

Saturday, July 12, 8.40pm, Sky
Sports Action
**Rugby Union: Argentina v
England**

Sunday, July 13, 10am, Sky Sports
Cricket
**International Cricket: England v
India – 3rd Test**

Sunday, July 13, 10am, Sky Sports
Golf
Golf: Scottish Open

Sunday, July 13, 2pm, BBC
**Tennis: Wimbledon – Men’s
Singles Final**

Sunday, July 13, 8pm – BBC
**Football – Women’s European
Championship: England v Wales**

Monday, July 14, 10am, Sky Sports
Cricket
**International Cricket: England v
India – 3rd Test**

Wednesday, July 16, 8pm, BBC/ITV
**Football – Women’s European
Championship: Quarter-Final 1**



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Darts: World Matchplay, Saturday,
July 19, 8pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Thursday, July 17, 6.30am, Sky Sports Golf

Golf: The Open Championship

Thursday, July 17, 8pm, BBC/ITV
Football – Women’s European Championship: Quarter-Final 2

Friday, July 18, 6.30am, Sky Sports Golf

Golf: The Open Championship

Friday, July 18, 8pm, BBC/ITV
Football – Women’s European Championship: Quarter-Final 3

Saturday, July 19, 9am, Sky Sports Golf

Golf: The Open Championship

Saturday, July 19, 8pm, BBC/ITV
Football – Women’s European Championship: Quarter-Final 3

Saturday, July 19, 11am, Sky Sports Main Event

Rugby Union: Australia v British and Irish Lions – 1st Test

Saturday, July 19, 8pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: World Matchplay

Sunday, July 20, 8am, Sky Sports Golf

Golf: The Open Championship

Sunday, July 20, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: World Matchplay

Monday, July 21, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: World Matchplay

Tuesday, July 22, 11am, Sky Sports Main Event

Rugby Union: First Nations & Pasifika XV v British and Irish Lions

Tuesday, July 22, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: World Matchplay

Tuesday, July 22, 8pm, BBC/ITV
Football – Women’s European Championship: Semi-Final 1

Wednesday, July 23, 10am, Sky Sports Cricket

International Cricket: England v India – 4th Test

Wednesday, July 23, 8pm, BBC/ITV
Football – Women’s European Championship: Semi-Final 2

Thursday, July 23, 10am, Sky Sports Cricket

International Cricket: England v India – 4th Test

Saturday, July 26, 11am, Sky Sports Main Event

Rugby Union: Australia v British and Irish Lions – 2nd Test

Sunday, July 27, 8pm – BBC/ITV
Football – Women’s European Championship: The Final

Saturday, August 2, 11am, Sky Sports Main Event

Rugby Union: Australia v British and Irish Lions – 3rd Test



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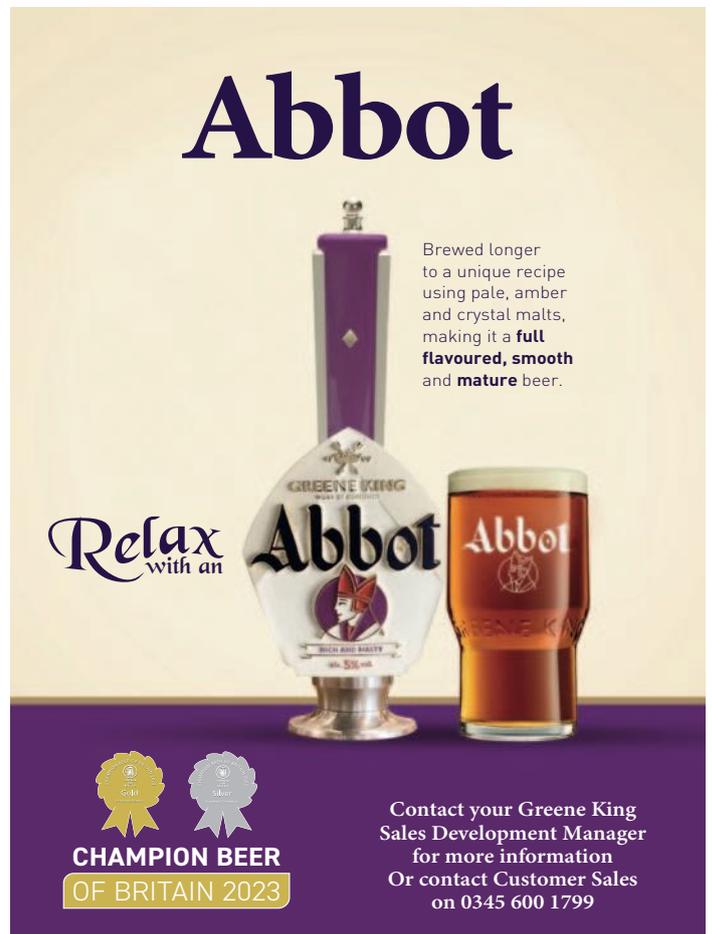
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