

Union clubs set for 160th Annual Meeting in Blackpool



The 160th Annual Meeting will take place at Blackpool's Grand Hotel on Saturday, April 20

The morning of Saturday, April 20 will see the 160th Annual Meeting of the CIU taking place at the Grand Hotel in Blackpool.

During the meeting, the 2023 Annual Report will be considered by delegates while Union Accountant Uto Ekanem will present the Union's Financial Report for 2023.

Delegates will also vote on several Motions up for debate during the proceedings.

The biggest trade show in the UK for members' social clubs – the CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition – takes place the day before the AGM, on Friday, April 19, at the Norcalympia Suite at Blackpool's Norbreck Castle Hotel.

Then, on the Friday evening, the CIU Blackpool Showcase is being staged at the Viva venue in central Blackpool.

This is the second edition of the

relaunched event and promises a great mix of music and comedy with some of the best acts on the club circuit performing.

Union General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM said: "As with every year, a lot of forward planning and effort has gone into making Conference Weekend a worthwhile and interesting experience for club delegates.

"As well as being able to take part in the Union's democratic process at our milestone 160th Annual Meeting on the Saturday, delegates will also have the opportunity to meet with a number of product and service suppliers at our trade show on the Friday afternoon.

"They can also enjoy a night of top-class entertainment at the CIU Blackpool Showcase on the Friday evening."

(Details of how to book on page 17 in this issue.)

Buy your ticket for the CIU National Prize Draw



The next CIU National Prize Draw will be taking place on Friday, April 19 at the CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition in Blackpool.

This draw will see a total of five winners who will each receive a prize of £1,000.

It couldn't be easier to take part in the CIU National Prize Draw and have the regular opportunity to win significant cash prizes with tickets available to buy online via computers or smartphones.

Tickets cost £2 each (up to a maximum of 100 tickets).

To buy tickets for the Prize Draw, go to the website: [ciu.praxisplay.online/signin](https://www.ciuprize.com) or scan the QR code below with your smartphone and it will take you to the website.

Good luck!





Welcome to the April issue of *Club Journal* as clubs prepare for Conference Weekend.

This year's Annual Meeting – the 160th – will take place on the morning of Saturday, April 20 in the Royal Suite of the Grand Hotel in Blackpool with delegates from clubs from all over the country in attendance.

The venue is extremely easy to get to from central Blackpool on the tram with the Wilton Parade stop just a couple of minutes walk.

There is also parking available to delegates but please ensure that you enter your car registration at the hotel Reception desk to ensure you are not charged.

As well as considering the Annual Report and Financial Statement, delegates will also have the opportunity to vote on a number of Motions proposed by the NEC.

As usual, on the day before the Annual Meeting, delegates are invited to the CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition at the Norbreck Castle Hotel.

Again, the venue is easy to reach by tram with its own stop directly opposite the front entrance. Parking is also available but, again, please ensure you enter your car registration at the hotel Reception.

This is the UK's biggest trade show for private members' social clubs and there will be a wide range of suppliers

Welcome

ready to talk about the products and services they can offer, including the CIU's Preferred Suppliers BOC, Card Industry Professionals, Dransfields, Greene King, Higos and Pure Purchasing.

Then, on the Friday evening, the Union will be staging our Blackpool Showcase event at the Viva cabaret venue with a number of superb acts from across the UK performing.

CIU members can buy tickets for this unmissable event for £12 – see page 17 for more details of the artistes performing and how to book tickets online.

Also, don't forget that the next CIU National Prize Draw will be taking place on Friday, April 19 at the trade show.

This draw will see a total of five winners who will each receive a prize of £1,000. Tickets cost £2 each and you can enter by scanning the QR code on the front cover or visiting the website:

ciu.praxisplay.online/signin

Enjoy the issue and I hope you have a great Conference Weekend in Blackpool.

Stephen Goulding

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CLUB JOURNAL

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Weston-super-Mare Social Club installs defibrillator

Weston-super-Mare Social Club in Somerset has installed a publicly accessible defibrillator on the exterior of its building.

The club has been fundraising as part of the Donate For Defib Weston-super-Mare Project which was founded in August 2023 by former heart patient Josh Bell.

Further fundraising events have been organised by the club to further support the life-saving project.

The club has hosted public training sessions in CPR and the use of defibrillators, run by Donate For Defib.

Bell said: "A very big thank you to Club Steward Tony Williams for the support and time that has been given to our senior management team – from the fundraising to hosting training sessions."



Josh Bell of the Donate For Defib Weston-super-Mare Project with Weston-super-Mare Social Club Steward Tony Williams

Richmond Place Club joins Neighbourhood Matters



Hereford's Richmond Place Club has signed up to Neighbourhood Matters which forges stronger links between businesses and the local police force

The Richmond Place Club in Hereford has signed up to the Neighbourhood Matters scheme set up by its local police force – West Mercia Police.

Neighbourhood Matters is a messaging system which enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams.

The club will now receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what the police are doing in the community.

"We're delighted to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters given that we already have an excellent relationship with the local police," said Club Secretary Les Walker.

"This means we will be able to receive regular messages directly from the police in order to help us know what is going on in the local area."

News in brief

A poster for 'CRY CHARITY NIGHT' in memory of Robert Daniel Smith. It features a portrait of Mark Elvis Nixon and a photo of Robert Daniel Smith. The event is on Friday 26th April at Langley Park WMC Club, with tickets at £5 including a buffet. The poster also includes the logo for 'Cardiac Risk in the Young' and contact information for CRY.

Langley Park WMC to host Elvis tribute event in aid of Cardiac Risk in the Young charity

'The King' will be making an appearance at Langley Park WMC in County Durham in April as part of a charity fundraiser.

Mark Nelson will be presenting his tribute to Elvis Presley in a benefit event for Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) on April 26.

All proceeds will go to cardiac screening events for young people between the age of 14-35.

The event is being organised by the family of Robert Daniel Smith who tragically passed away in April 2014 from Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome.

A poster for a '90s SPICE' tribute night featuring 'TAKE THAT' and 'SPICE GIRLS'. The event is on 15th November 2024 at Nottingham Oddfellows WMC. The poster includes details about advance tickets, online booking, and contact information for the venue.

Nottingham Oddfellows WMC set for spectacular 1990s tribute night in November

Nottingham Oddfellows WMC in Leicester has announced that they will be hosting a big 1990s tribute night on Saturday, November 15 with tributes to Take That and the Spice Girls, followed by a disco with big hits from the decade.

CLUB NOTICES

Club name changes

From: Bocking Working Men's Club
To: Bocking Working Men's Club Limited
 (West Yorkshire Branch)

From: Ponders End Working Men's Social Club & Institute
To: Ponders End Working Men's Social Club Limited
 (North East Metropolitan Branch)

From: Pangbourne WM Club & Institute
To: Pangbourne Working Men's Club Limited
 (North West Metropolitan Branch)

From: Washington Station Club & Institute Limited
To: Washington Westwood Sports & Community CIU Limited
 (Durham Branch)

From: Colchester Belle Vue Social Club & Institute
To: Colchester Belle Vue Social Club & Institute Limited
 (North East Metropolitan Branch)

From: Wallsend Social Club
To: Wallsend Social Club Limited
 (Northumberland Branch)

From: Blytholme Club (Stockton)
To: Blytholme Club and Institute Limited
 (Durham Branch)

From: Ellesmere Port & District Labour Social Club & Institute
To: Ellesmere Port & District Labour Social Club & Institute Limited
 (Manchester Branch)

From: Barnsley Trades Council Club
To: Barnsley & District Trades Council Club and Institute Limited
 (South Yorkshire Branch)

Queens Park WMC members dig deep for charity



Pictured, left to right: Councillor Jayne Birch, Ange Walters, Val Bouher and Naomi Richardson from Off The Street Northampton who donated a bleed control kit to sit alongside a defibrillator

Members of Queens Park WMC in Northampton have been busy raising funds for good causes in their local community.

The club recently installed an external defibrillator and bleed control kit for community use on the exterior of the club. The bleed control kit was donated by charity Off the Streets Northampton which aims to prevent knife crime.

Meanwhile, the club raised over £2,507 for the Gossett Ward Parents Room at Northampton General Hospital.

The Gossett Ward is an intensive care neonatal unit and the money will go towards building more on-site accommodation so more parents can be closer to their baby for more of the time during their stay in hospital.



Queens Park WMC member Phil Kilby, Club Steward Julie Bodsworth and Abbie Campbell from Northampton General Hospital

Northallerton WMC raises funds for special needs school



Tribute act Shoewaddywaddy were the headliners at a recent charity event in aid of a local special needs school held at Northallerton WMC in Yorkshire

A charity night was held in the concert room of Northallerton WMC in Yorkshire on Saturday, February 10 to raise funds for the Dale School at Morton on Swale, a local special needs school.

Tickets were on sale at £6 each and the event was really well supported on the night, resulting in a complete sellout.

The entertainment was provided by tribute act Shoewaddywaddy who were a massive hit with the audience.

A raffle of three meat prizes and 25 other mixed prizes was held, while there was also an auction of a textile clown made by a lady member of the club.

A total of £380 was raised by the raffle while the clown auction added an additional £110.

With further generous donations and money raised from bingo, the club was able to hand over a total of £1,200.

Club Vice-President Yvonne Budgen said: "It was a fantastic night and the representatives of the school who attended have told us that the money will go towards purchasing a new minibus.

"Shoewaddywaddy were absolutely brilliant and we actually booked them after seeing them perform at the 2023 CIU Blackpool Showcase.

"We are bringing 20 people from the club to this year's Showcase on April 19 and we are really looking forward to being able to see so many top club acts in a single night and will be looking to book some for upcoming entertainment nights at the club, including fundraisers for local charities."

Other entertainment highlights at the club this year include a fundraiser for Carers Plus Yorkshire in early April featuring covers band Broken Toys plus tribute acts featuring the songs of Tina Turner and Meat Loaf.

The club is fully committed to holding regular charity events with past benefits held for the children's diabetic unit at the nearby Friarage Hospital, as well as an event for the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity and donations to the local Air Ambulance.

Club President Mick Herron said: "The club is going from strength to strength at the moment and everyone is really enjoying our live entertainment acts which are absolutely second to none and providing some memorable nights.

"Our members are also really proud of our record of making donations to good causes."



A handmade clown was auctioned for £110

News in brief



Coventry's Bell Green WMC to host night of boxing and wrestling on Saturday, June 1

Bell Green WMC in Coventry will be staging a major fight event on Saturday, June 1 when the Coventry Pro Wrestling (CPW) organisation brings a mix of wrestling and boxing action to the club.

Topping the bill will be a showdown between two local fight legends, Dave Dawson and Ben Kidd, as they face off for the FCB Legacy Belt.

Tickets are available to buy online from: bookwhen.com/cpwboxoffice



Massive turnout for Quiz Night in aid of Autism charity at Sheerness East WMC

The Sheerness East WMC in Sheppey, Kent recently hosted a Quiz Night in aid of the Autism Apprentice community interest company.

The organisation offers advice and support to people of all ages who are on the autism spectrum.

Meanwhile, the club has announced that it will be staging this year's edition of the Sheppey Classic Darts Weekend on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2.

There will be a Pairs Competition on the Saturday and the main Singles Competition on Sunday.

The cost of entry on the Sunday is £10 per pair while entry for the Singles competition is £15 per player (£10 for female players).

Registration takes place until 12 midday on both days with play commencing on the oche at 12.30pm.



FOR SERVICE

Long Service Award

Northumberland

Edward Houlton – Guide Post Social Club

Graham Swarbrick – Bedlington Social Club

Branch Executive Award – 41 Years

Ken Tidbury – South East Midlands Branch

CLUB NOTICES

Clubs admitted to the Union

Kelloe Working Men's Club
(Durham Branch)

Gilfach Working Men's Club & Institute Ltd
(South Wales Branch)

Sharlston Villa Club & Institute
(Wakefield Branch)

Boro of Bethnal Green Club
(North East Metropolitan Branch)

Springwell Village Social Club
(Northumberland Branch)

Expulsion

Gary Milburn – Spennymoor WMC
(Durham Branch)

Clacton Railway Club opens Darts Academy



Former darts professional Wayne 'Hawaii 501' Mardle (pictured, second from left) attended the opening of the Clacton Railway Club Darts Academy in March

Clacton Railway Club in Essex opened its Darts Academy in March with over 50 young players assembling at the club to be welcomed by none other than former darts pro turned TV pundit Wayne 'Hawaii 501' Mardle.

Wayne spent time with the players, sharing supportive words and encouragement, as well as giving autographs and participating in 'selfies'.

The Academy is aimed at young players aged between seven and 21 years of age and offers support and coaching in all areas of the game including scoring, rules and board management.

The Academy takes place every other Saturday from 11-1pm at the club with the sessions costing just £2.



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Help shape the future of the Union at the 160th AGM

The 160th Annual Meeting of the Union takes place in the Royal Suite of the Grand Hotel in Blackpool on at 10am on Saturday, April 20 and will see delegates voting on a number of key issues



The 160th Annual Meeting will take place in the Royal Suite of the Grand Hotel, Blackpool on the morning of Saturday, April 20

Conference Weekend takes place this month with delegates from clubs all over the country assembling in Blackpool for the key date in the CIU calendar.

The morning of Saturday, April 20 will see the 2024 Annual Meeting taking place as attendees take their seats in the Royal Suite of the Grand Hotel in Blackpool.

This year's AGM represents a major milestone for the Union and will be the 160th Annual Meeting.

This venue is well served by transport, with the Wilton Parade tram stop directly opposite, and is close to the centre of the town.

Free parking will be available on the

day and delegates are advised that they must ensure that their car registration is recorded on the computer terminal at the hotel's Reception.



Union General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM will give an address at the AGM

Union President George Smith will chair the Annual Meeting and will be supported on the main stage by the General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM and Vice-President Ken Roberts CMD ACM, as well as Members of the National Executive Committee.

During the meeting, the 2023 Annual Report will be considered by delegates while Union Accountant Uto Ekanem will present the Union's Financial Report for 2023.

There will be several Motions proposed by the NEC which will be voted upon by delegates.

The Meeting will conclude with an address by the General Secretary.

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Friday, April 19 – Beer & Trades Exhibition

Join fellow CIU club delegates and a wide variety of key club suppliers at the 32nd CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition at the Norbreck Castle Hotel on the afternoon of Friday, April 19

The Union’s 32nd CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition will take place on Friday, April 19 at the Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool.

The event is the UK’s biggest trade show for private members’ social clubs with an array of products and services on display which are all targeted at helping clubs to boost trade, save money and support clubs, while taking part in some fun activities and networking along the way.

All the key club suppliers across the UK will have a presence at the show, including Preferred Suppliers BOC, Card Industry Professionals, Dransfields, Greene King, Higos Insurance and Pure Purchasing so make sure you put the date in your diary and come along for expert business advice.

Greene King will be showcasing some of their flagship brands at the complimentary bar making the occasion a great opportunity to network with officials from other clubs and to share knowledge.

There will also be food available on the day with delegates last year enjoying a range of delicious Pukka Pies as well as bar snacks from Mr Scratchings.



Delegates will be able to find out about the services and products offered by the Union to affiliated clubs at the dedicated CIU stand, as well as pick up a copy of *Club Journal*



The Dransfields team will be on hand to talk to delegates about all their gaming and entertainment machine requirements



The Beer & Trades Exhibition is a great opportunity to network with officials from other CIU clubs



Preferred Supplier Card Industry Professionals will be exhibiting in Blackpool this month



David King of Pure Purchasing will be offering advice at the 2024 event



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CIU Trade Show – Preferred Suppliers

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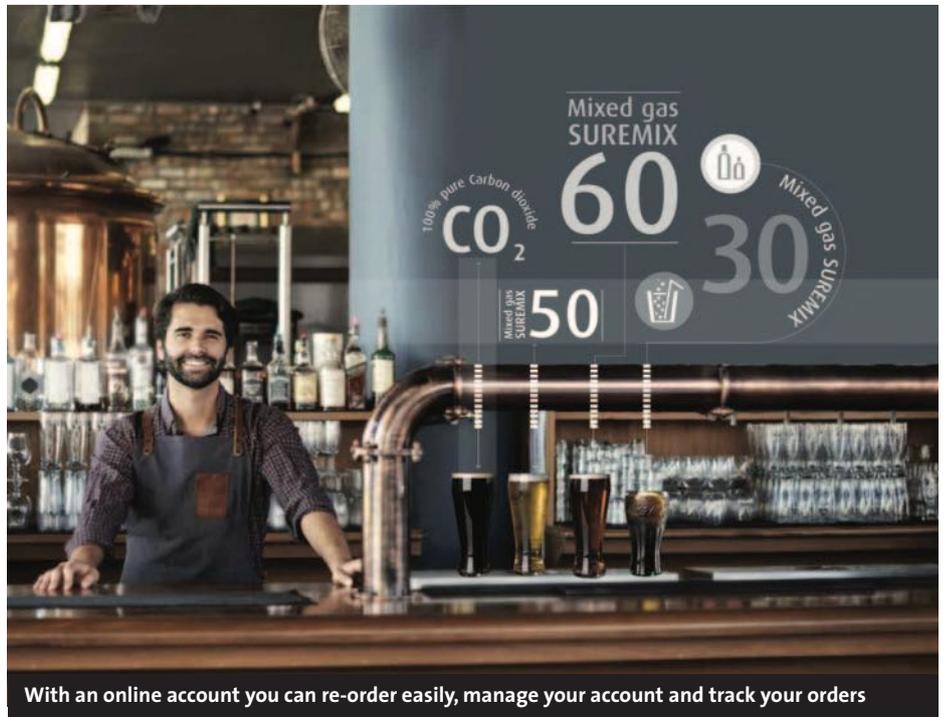
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“We offer a one-stop-shop delivery service across beers, wines, spirits and soft drinks.

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“The depth of our product portfolio means we can build bespoke solutions for individual customers, all backed by customer service teams and a cellar service staffed by our own engineers. Our regular promotional and marketing activity help clubs drive sales, with Regional Sales Development Managers calling in person to offer support and advice to our customers.”

www.greeneking.co.uk

Alastair Drew, Sales Development Manager

Telephone: 07812 256201, or call

Customer Sales on 0345 8504545



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Pure Purchasing’s David King (left) with CIU Vice-President Ken Roberts CMD ACM

A fantastic night of live entertainment

Don't forget to buy your ticket for this year's CIU Blackpool Showcase at the Viva on Friday, April 19. The event features an unbeatable line-up of top tribute performers, singers and comedians



The CIU Showcase will take place at the Viva venue in Blackpool on Friday, April 19 with a number of top club acts on the stage

The 2024 CIU Blackpool Showcase event will take place at the Viva venue in Blackpool on the evening of Friday, April 19.

Following on from last year's smash hit edition, the Showcase promises a great mix of acts, including the latest performers to confirm – JJ Gibson who will present his 'Tribute to Bruno Mars' show, The Abba Experience, The Motown Experience and Strike 2.

NEC Member Nathan Clarke, who is organising the event alongside top promoter Barrie Lucas, said: "The 2024 CIU Blackpool Showcase is set to offer an unmissable night of live entertainment with a line-up of great acts – make sure you are there to enjoy the show."

You can order your tickets from: www2.theticketsellers.co.uk/buy-tickets/ciu-blackpool-showcase/10057653



The Viva has been described as 'the Vegas venue in the heart of Blackpool'



Merthyr Tydfil Labour Club in South Wales is celebrating its centenary this year

Merthyr Tydfil Labour Club

Founded in 1924, Merthyr Tydfil Labour Club – known locally as ‘The Club of Love’ – is positively flourishing a century later with trade boosted by the recent refurbishment of its Concert Hall

Located just outside the town centre, Merthyr Tydfil Labour Club is housed in one of the oldest buildings in the area – The Old Court.

The main building that stands today was built in 1717, but there is evidence that there was a building on the site as far back as the 12th Century and that it actually served as the Court of the Welsh Prince, Ifor Bach.

The club has its own illustrious chapter to add to the existing rich history of the site, having been founded in 1924, and continues to be a hub of the local community as it celebrates its centenary this year.

But step inside the listed building and you are left in no doubt that this is very much a 21st Century hospitality venue with a recent £100,000 state-of-the-art refurbishment of the Concert Hall bringing it bang up to date.

Opening in November of last year, the new-look Concert Hall has proven to be a huge boost to the club’s bottom line.



Club members enjoy top-class pool, snooker and darts facilities

“We are so pleased with our new Concert Hall,” says Club Secretary Marnie Bollard.

“The investment has certainly paid dividends because our turnover has gone up massively since the work was completed.

“What happened was we applied for and received a grant from a Welsh Government backed organisation called Creative Wales which supports venues which put on live music and cultural events.

“We also received funding from our local council as part of a social enterprise scheme - the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

“So, in the end we received £35,000 from Creative Wales and £20,000 from the Council to go towards the project which cost £106,000 in total.

“We are absolutely delighted with the result as the whole room has been transformed with a new PA system, a new lighting system and a complete refurbishment, making it a stunning environment for any event.

“We even have eight ‘hidden’ darts boards which come out of the wall when we are running one of our regular

big darts tournaments, all with LED lighting.

“It took a lot of hard work to secure the funding but we had some great advice from Business Wales who helped us to look at what support might be available.

“A lot of pubs and clubs in Wales have closed since the pandemic and we wanted to make sure that we could put ourselves in the best position to secure the future of the club.

“It has really paid off and the Council is absolutely delighted with the investment because we’ve created more jobs in the local area, going from having around 15 staff members to 25.

“That level of staff is needed because of all the activity going on at the club with many different types of events going on throughout the year.”

As you might expect, the 300-capacity Concert Hall is in huge demand for private functions, providing valuable revenue for the club.

“We don’t charge for the hire of the room but we obviously make our money from sales over the bar,” says Marnie.

“The feedback we’ve received from people who’ve held events such as

wedding receptions or birthdays has been really positive and everyone has commented on how beautiful the venue is.

“We also run our own events for the members with regular live entertainment.

“Recently, back in March, we had a fantastic ‘Super Saturday’ which is the final day of the Six Nations rugby championship with all six teams in action, including Wales v Italy.

“We booked three really good bands to play at the club on the same day and result was a really busy day and night for the club.

“For a normal Six Nations day, we would normally take around £6,000 but with everyone watching the game on our TV screens and then staying in the club to enjoy the live music later on, we more than doubled our turnover to £14,500.”

Much of the current success of the club can be attributed to the venue attracting people of all ages through its doors.

“We’ve worked really hard to ensure that everyone is made welcome,” says Marnie.



The club has been boosted by the recent £100,000 refurbishment of its Concert Hall



Merthyr Labour Club is known locally as 'The Club of Love' with this eye-catching mural helping to attract people to the venue

“There can still be a bit of reluctance on the part of younger people to come into a social club because they seem to think that it’s a place for the older generation.

“But we’ve managed to break through that barrier and the younger generation are coming to the club in great numbers, firstly as guests and then when they see what we have to offer, they want to join.

“At the same time, you also want to keep the other age groups happy and that’s what we’ve done with a good balance of activities – like bingo, snooker, pool, darts and live sport on the big screens.

“The result is that we are positively thriving throughout the week, not just at weekends.”

Part of the perception shift results from the club branding itself as ‘The Club of Love’ with that nickname featuring on an eye-catching, graffiti-style mural on the exterior of the building.

“The new nickname has really caught people’s imagination and made us a bit more contemporary,” says Marnie.

“We’ve used ‘The Club of Love’ on social media and it’s something which has helped increase our profile amongst the 18 to early twenties crowd.

“Many of the them still live at home but want to go out and socialise with their friends and are coming to us where it’s a great, safe environment but with a very well-priced bar.

“We make sure that we keep up with all the latest drinks trends as well as offering the traditional brands.

“We enjoy a really good relationship with our supplier, Molson Coors, and our big sellers at the bar in terms of our draught offering are Madri, Carling, Guinness and Thatchers Fusion.

“Keeping up on current trends means you are catering for an influx of new people but we’re also there for all the other generations with our oldest members in their 90s. We aim to have something for everyone.”

That is the also the case when it comes to the club’s live entertainment offering a mix of bands, singers and tribute acts performing regularly in the Concert Hall and Downstairs Lounge.

“We are actually finding that people are coming from quite far afield for many of our most popular entertainment acts,” says Marnie.

“Particularly for the bigger tribute bands – like Tom Jones, Freddie Mercury, Elvis, Whitney Houston and Abba – which people love.

“We keep our ticket prices down to a reasonable level so members and guests are getting a good night out and it’s not costing them an arm and a leg.

“It’s a win-win, as the club’s wet sales go through the roof when we have live performers, whether that’s tribute acts or covers bands.”

The club is also well known as a cultural hub with film screenings, comedy nights and Open Mic events staged regularly.

In February, the club welcomed the

The club's members enjoy regular live entertainment, including high-profile tribute acts



director and several actors from the cult 1990s movie *Twin Town* for a screening of the film followed by an onstage Q&A session.

Marnie has been the Secretary for the past two years but has been with the club for 30 years alongside her partner Matthew Curtis who is the Club

Steward.

“We used to be the Steward and Stewardess but I took over the role of Secretary after my predecessor had a nasty fall and had to stand down while Matthew has continued as Steward,” explains Marnie.

“Both Matthew and I absolutely love

the club so we are so delighted that all the hard work is paying off and that the club is flourishing.”

The club has recently put in a further bid for SPF funding to update its 125-capacity Lounge which also hosts live events.

“We’re very hopeful of the bid being approved,” says Marnie. “Upgrading the facilities will undoubtedly help us to create more employment opportunities for local people as it will bring more people to the club.

“There’s a great buzz around the club and it’s just a great place to be.”

It certainly appears to be a real labour of love for those driving Merthyr Tydfil Labour Club ever onwards!

CONTACT DETAILS

Merthyr Tydfil Labour Club
1 Court Street
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8DU
Phone: 01685 722108
Branch: South Wales

Karaoke is another regular activity enjoyed by members



HQ

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 dates for the NEC meetings at Head Office in 2024 are: April 18 (Blackpool), May 29&30, July 10&11, September 4&5, October 16&17 and December 4&5.

Please note that selected meetings will be held via Zoom in in order to save on travel costs.

Annual Meeting 2024 dates

The dates for the 2024 Conference Weekend are as follows:

Thursday, April 18 – NEC Meeting

Friday, April 19 – 32nd CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition (Norbreck Castle Hotel)

Friday, April 19 – CIU Blackpool Showcase (Viva)

Saturday, April 20 – The 160th Annual Meeting

The wait is nearly over as Fury v Usyk showdown is set for Saturday, May 18



On Saturday, May 18 fight fans in the UK will finally witness the Undisputed World Heavyweight Championship fight between the WBC champion Tyson Fury and unified champion Oleksandr Usyk.

The initial December 23 date for the fight was pushed back after Fury's disappointing win on points against MMA legend Francis Ngannou in October 2023.

Then, just two weeks before the rearranged February 17 meeting in Saudi Arabia, Fury suffered a cut above his eye in sparring, leading to yet another rescheduling of the fight, with the management of both fighters agreeing on the May slot.

This is a much-anticipated fight given the various titles at stake. A win for either fighter would make them the first undisputed Heavyweight World Champion since Britain's Lennox Lewis achieved the feat back in the 1990s with his twin victories over Evander Holyfield.

The fight will be showing live on TNT Sports Box Office which is available to commercial premises via channel 490 on the Sky platform.

● **For more information on booking the fight for your club, visit: www.tntsportsbusiness.co.uk or call 0800 678 10721**

Greene King unveils strategy on ‘How to Win with Ale’

Preferred Supplier Greene King outlines its vision to transform how the ale category is perceived in the industry, focusing on bringing a fresh perspective on innovation, quality and presentation

Greene King Brewery is aiming to transform the way the industry looks at the ale category with the launch of its innovative proposal on ‘How to Win with Ale’.

Greene King's vision embraces the importance and role of ale on the bar, the challenges and opportunities for the category and provides a fresh perspective on innovation, quality, and presentation for the industry.

This exciting development aligns with Greene King's commitment to ale and its passion for its heritage, as a brewer for over 200 years.

With one in five pints of beer ordered in the UK being ale, as a category it is a fundamental part of a credible beer offer for any bar and continues to see a strong demand.

Cask ale is also the 3rd biggest category for rate of sale of pints, with over 130 pints sold per week, with keg ale following in 4th, so it's proven that the category sells well.

Greene King's new vision for ale aims to build on the current demand for an even more successful future.

The brewer starts by looking at the different sub-categories of ale with tradition keg ale, cask ale and craft ale and the role they each play on the bar.

Understanding the different areas of ale and how these then match with the venue and member profiles can ensure that the range on offer is the most profitable.

To provide an elevated experience for members, venues need more than just a good range of ales on the bar, they need the correct ales in that range too.

Reviewing what works best for the venue, members and even region will ensure those pints fly off the bar.

Given that ale, especially cask ale, is unique to the On-Trade, it shouldn't be a difficult category to engage current members with, however, if the basics aren't right then it all falls at the first hurdle.

Focusing on quality, education and



Greene King provides expert cellar training to its customers in order to help them maintain the quality of their ales

presentation, means venues will really get the most from their offering.

Drawing in on quality, cellar management needs to be at the forefront by maintaining a high standard and ensuring that training is kept up to date.

Greene King provides expert cellar training to its customers in person and with useful online guides through its Beer Genius online portal.

To further address the challenge of a fresh, short shelf-life product like cask ale, the brewer launched its 4.5-gallon pins into the market last year.

The introduction of pins aims to minimise wastage and encourage venues with smaller throughput to still have cask on the bar, and even the ability to add further range with a lesser volume.

The launch of pins has had a great impact on growing cask, with overall stockists of the seasonal cask calendar up 20% last year vs the previous year.

To really win with ale, it is also about giving the best customer experience, where members want to have their ale in an appropriate branded, clean glass and presented in the best possible way. Providing that elevated experience is

what members now expect.

To truly build a thriving future for ale and not just for the now, the industry needs to recruit new drinkers too and show that there is a world beyond lager, by addressing other barriers perceived with drinking ale and taking learnings from other categories that have managed to build that fresh appeal and image.

Angie May, On-Trade Category Manager at Greene King, said: “The aim of our vision is to get the industry feeling the passion and motivation we have for ale, and understand how to make the best out of it for now and make it successful for the future.

“Greene King wants to make it as easy as possible for our customers to win with ale and in turn seek the rewards from members too.

“Where there is demand there is a need and we believe that it's about getting it right now and making those changes for the future, that will provide profit for businesses and an exciting future for ale.”

• For more details, contact Alastair Drew, Sales Development Manager on 07812 256201, or call Customer Sales on 0345 8504545.

Clubs have their say in Birmingham

Clubs had a chance to share their views on the future of the Union to NEC members at a special Consultation Meeting held at Oscott Social Club in Birmingham on Saturday, March 23



Club delegates from all over the country were invited to a special Consultation Meeting in Birmingham in March. As well as listening to a series of presentations by NEC members, attendees shared their views on the future financial viability of the Union

Delegates from CIU clubs attended a special Consultation Meeting at Oscott Social Club in Birmingham on March 23.

The Consultation Meeting, which was chaired by Union Vice-President Ken Roberts CMD ACM, was held to enable clubs to give their opinions on the best way to secure the financial viability of the Union.

Several NEC members made presentations on key topics – Pass Cards, the Annual Fee, Branch Structure and the CIU National Prize Draw – while delegates were able to take to the podium to have their say.

CIU General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM said: “I believe it was a very useful exercise in terms of canvassing views on the future direction of the Union.

“We have taken on board the views of the member clubs present and they will help shape the motions which will be put forward at the AGM on April 20.”



The informal event at Oscott Social Club enabled a frank exchange of views between clubs and NEC members on a number of topics including Pass Cards, Annual Fees and the location of the CIU's Head Office

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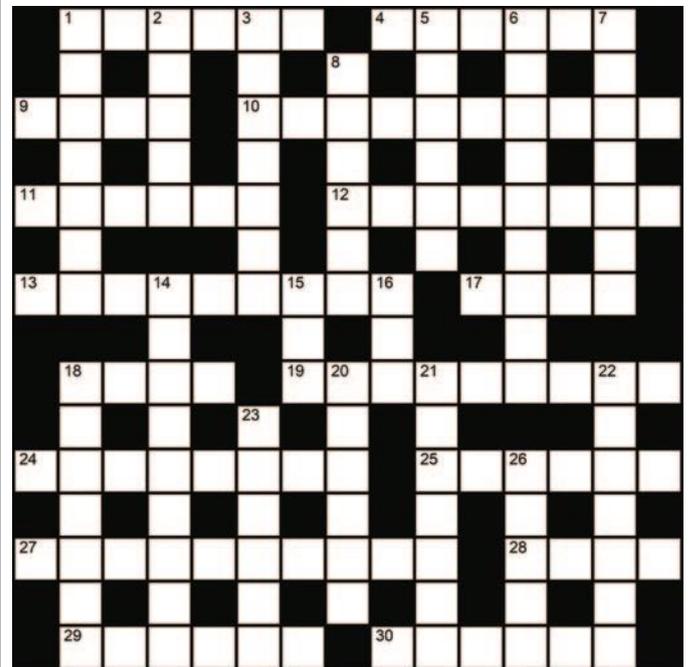
- 1 Shrub, growing out of Maoism (6)
- 4 'Mad, mad sir, to beat swords into ploughshares' (6)
- 9 Cosy way to re-purpose guns (4)
- 10 Throaty bit badly mapped, alas! (5,5)
- 11 Give your old banger the broth treatment? (4,2)
- 12 Dreamland designed by a doodler? (8)
- 13 A good eatery would try to keep tabs on a group (6,3)
- 17 First four disciples slipped one maybe? (4)
- 18 Dream type is quietly pushed into meat dish (4)
- 19 Wig, taking on leaden features of a lens (4-5)
- 24 Divali planned in the North

and South for poorly ones (8)

- 25 Central heating capital of plating metal (6)
- 27 They can be sporty, with a wall opening that reverses? (10)
- 28 Glove made from the ends of a mitre joint (4)
- 29 Crafty seers to force a way out! (6)
- 30 Car that did U-turn on person's document (2,4)

DOWN

- 1 Old man has a problem with the old stringy one! (7)
- 2 Cram in a vertical beaker? (3,2)
- 3 Washing material with a false smell? (7)
- 5 Enid is troubled by such information (6)
- 6 Give out paint to the poor at random (9)
- 7 Tuneful lid to come off (7)
- 8 Agate pattern at youth centre is just cake (6)
- 14 Musical-hall performer who cut the carpet and laid it out (3,6)
- 15 Foot is a poor, but audible substitute (3)
- 16 Attempt to get the lot (3)
- 18 Nine, apt to become featherlike (7)
- 20 The nicest possible fly, say (6)
- 21 Let off with deuces played around a spot marker (7)
- 22 Idle Tim's design is mediocre (7)
- 23 Clouds? Half a minute, back to the transport! (6)
- 26 Dance, to a dodgy degree? (5)



Name _____
 Club _____
 Address _____

Send your entry to Club Journal Crossword, Alchemy Contract Publishing, 59/60 Thames St, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1TX. **Deadline April 25.**

Club Secretary (Club Manager) Victory Club South Norwood

Hours: Minimum 8 hours (As required)
 Hourly rate: £13.75
 Responsible for: Club employees in Payroll
 Responsible to: The Committee

<p>Weekly Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barbook reconciliation Post Processing Invoices Weekly wages Managing Staff Members (x4) Entering invoices onto Dext Accounting System Members Complaints Manage Club email account. Manage Club bank accounts. Liaisons with Accounts Company, Suppliers, Club Members, Chief Bar Steward and anyone else requiring your attention of assistance. 	<p>Monthly Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking minuets at monthly meetings Checking all Direct Debits against Invoices and Bank Statements Quarterly VAT
<p>Ad hoc Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Assessments Selecting all supplies when needed. i.e. Utilities, Repairers, Insurance suppliers, anything the Club requires. Answer enquiry calls & emails. Year-end Accounts Renew all Licences when required. Update training for staff when required. Any addition duties deemed necessary. 	

The Victory Club South Norwood
 Tel: 0208 653 2617
 Email: victoryclub1920@gmail.com

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

John Bowman of Crawbrook SC
 J Kemp of Woolley Bridge WMC
 H Pavitt of Palmerston SC
 D Gamble of Kenilworth Sports & Social
 R Middleton of Cleveleys WMC



Sunday, April 7, 2pm – Sky Sports Premier League
Premier League: Manchester United v Liverpool
 Can Liverpool get a step nearer to the Premier League trophy with a win at Old Trafford? The earlier tie between the two sides, back in December at Anfield, ended in a nil-nil draw. Jurgen Klopp's side had plenty of attacking opportunities on that occasion but could not break down the resolute United defence in order to find the back of the net.



Saturday, April 13, 1pm – ITV
Horse Racing: Grand National Meeting
 The third day of the Grand National Meeting at Aintree will be watched the world over, particularly the feature race in its Saturday tea-time slot. This event will see an illustrious field of 40 horses aiming for sporting immortality. Last year saw Corach Rambler, the 8-1 favourite, winning for 21-year-old owner Cameron Sword, the youngest winning owner in the race's history.



Saturday, April 20, 3pm – BBC
Snooker: World Championship
 Sheffield's iconic Crucible is the venue for the 2024 Snooker World Championship. Last year saw Belgium's Luca Brecel hold off a remarkable fightback by Mark Selby to win his first Championship. The Belgian had stormed into a huge lead in the opening sessions at the Crucible - only for Selby to fight back. Fans will be hoping for another classic final this time around.

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

The Premier League inches towards its climax this month, while there are also major ties in the Super League and Rugby Union Premiership plus action from Aintree as the Grand National takes centre stage

Saturday, April 6, 12.30pm
 TNT Sports

Premier League: Crystal Palace v Manchester City

Saturday, April 6, 5.30pm
 Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion v Arsenal

Sunday, April 7, 6am
 Sky Sports F1

F1: Japanese Grand Prix

Sunday, April 7, 12 noon
 Sky Sports Football

Scottish Premiership: Rangers v Celtic

Sunday, April 7, 2pm
 Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Manchester United v Liverpool

Monday, April 8, 8pm
 Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur v Nottingham Forest

Tuesday, April 9, 8pm
 TNT Sports

UEFA Champions League: Quarter-Final, 1st Leg

Wednesday, April 10, 8pm
 TNT Sports

UEFA Champions League: Quarter-Final, 1st Leg

Thursday, April 11, 1pm
 ITV

Horse Racing: The Grand National Meeting – Day 1

Thursday, April 11, 8pm
 TNT Sports

UEFA Europa League: Quarter-Final, 1st Leg

Thursday, April 11, 8pm
 Sky Sports

Golf: US Masters – Day 1

Friday, April 12, 1pm
 ITV

Horse Racing: The Grand National Meeting – Day 2

Friday, April 12, 8pm
 Sky Sports

Golf: US Masters – Day 2

Saturday, April 13, 12.30pm
 TNT Sports

Premier League: Newcastle United v Tottenham Hotspur

Saturday, April 13, 1pm
 ITV

Horse Racing: The Grand National Meeting – Day 3

Saturday, April 13, 5.30pm
 Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Arsenal v Aston Villa

Saturday, April 13, 8pm
 Sky Sports

Golf: US Masters – Day 3

Sunday, April 14, 2pm
 Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Liverpool v Crystal Palace

Sunday, April 14, 4.30pm
 Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Bournemouth v Manchester United

Sunday, April 14, 8pm
 Sky Sports

Golf: US Masters – Day 4

Monday, April 15, 8pm
 Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Chelsea v Everton

Super League: Wigan Warriors v Castleford
Tigers, Friday, April 19, 8pm, Sky Sports



Tuesday, April 16, 8pm
TNT Sports

**UEFA Champions League:
Quarter-Final, 2nd Leg**

Wednesday, April 17, 8pm
TNT Sports

**UEFA Champions League:
Quarter-Final, 2nd Leg**

Thursday, April 18, 8pm
TNT Sports

**UEFA Europa League: Quarter-
Final, 1st Leg**

Friday, April 19, 8pm
Sky Sports

**Super League: Leeds Rhinos v
Huddersfield Giants**

Friday, April 19, 8pm
Sky Sports

**Super League: Wigan Warriors v
Castleford Tigers**

Saturday, April 20, 1pm
BBC

**Snooker: World Championship –
Day 1**

Saturday, April 20, 3pm
Sky Sports

**Super League: Warrington Wolves
v Leigh Leopards**

Saturday, April 20, 3pm
TNT Sports

**Premiership Rugby Union:
Northampton Saints v Leicester
Tigers**

Saturday, April 20, 3pm
TNT Sports

**Premiership Rugby Union: Exeter
Chiefs v Bath**

Sunday, April 21, 8am
Sky Sports F1

F1: Chinese Grand Prix

Thursday, April 25, 8pm
Sky Sports

**Super League: St Helens v
Huddersfield Giants**

Friday, April 26, 8pm
Sky Sports

**Super League: Hull KR v Wigan
Warriors**

Saturday, April 27, 3pm
TNT Sports

**Premiership Rugby Union:
Leicester Tigers v Bristol Bears**

Saturday, April 27, 3pm
Sky Sports

**Super League: Salford Red
Devils v Warrington Wolves**

Sunday, April 28, 3pm
Sky Sports

**Super League: Hull FC v Leeds
Rhinos**

Tuesday, April 30, 8pm
TNT Sports

**UEFA Champions League:
Semi-Final, 1st Leg**

Wednesday, May 1, 8pm
TNT Sports

**UEFA Champions League:
Semi-Final, 1st Leg**

Thursday, May 2, 8pm
Sky Sports

**Super League: Wigan Warriors v
Catalans Dragons**



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