

Union clubs set for 162nd Annual Meeting in Blackpool



The 162nd Annual Meeting will take place at Blackpool's Norbreck Castle Hotel on Saturday, April 18

The Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool will welcome delegates on Saturday, April 18, at 10am for the 162nd Annual Meeting.

The agenda includes consideration of the 2025 Annual Report and Financial Report, along with ongoing discussions on measures to secure the Union's future.

A lineup of guest speakers has been confirmed, including Blackpool South MP Chris Webb, Dransfields Managing Director Chris Haley – marking both

the company's 80th anniversary and his own 30 years with the firm – and eminent club historian Dr Ruth Cherrington.

The meeting will also feature addresses from the President and General Secretary, a review of recent Employment Law changes by Legal Consultant Allyn Walton, and a restructuring update from NEC Member Mark Fergusson CMD ACM.

For the full agenda of the AGM, see pages 14-15.

H&A Social Club hosts the CIU Entertainment Showcase

The annual CIU Entertainment Showcase will light up the H&A Social Club in Blackpool on Friday, April 17, as part of Conference Weekend.

Compered by comedian John Gillan, the evening features Miss Motown

(soul classics), Jon Alex (Elton John tribute) and vocalist Connor McRae (hits from Oasis to Harry Styles).

Tickets are £6.13 online at this link or £5 on the day at the CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition.

CIU Beer & Trades show returns on Friday, April 17



The CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition – the UK's largest trade show for private members' social clubs – returns for its 34th edition on Friday, April 17, when it takes over the Norcalympia Suite at the Norbreck Castle Hotel.

The exhibition showcases a wide range of products and services designed to help clubs cut costs and boost trade, including those offered by the CIU itself to its member clubs.

Key suppliers from across the UK will attend, including CIU Preferred Suppliers BOC, Brown & Brown Insurance, Dransfields, Greene King and Pure Purchasing.

A complimentary bar, hosted by Greene King and featuring its leading club-centred brands, will provide the perfect networking setting to meet representatives of other CIU clubs from across the country.

There will also be several fun activities to enjoy during the event, including several bingo sessions – featuring some fantastic prizes – run by Dransfields as well as the chance to play a frame against professional pool player Clint L'Anson.

A number of prize draws will be held at the end of the event.

For more information on the event and the full list of exhibitors, see pages 16-21.



Welcome to the April edition of *Club Journal* as we look forward to Conference Weekend.

This year's Annual Meeting – the 162nd – will take place on the morning of Saturday, April 18 at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, 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 Norbreck stop directly opposite the hotel.

There is also free 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 2025 Annual Report and Financial Statement, delegates will also hear from several guest speakers, including Chris Webb MP, the Member of Parliament for Blackpool South; Dr Ruth Cherrington, author and club historian and Chris Haley, Managing Director of Preferred Supplier Dransfields who will be giving an insight into the Gambling Commission review and its effects on clubs.

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

This is the UK's biggest trade show for private members' social clubs, and here the CIU will have a wide range of

Welcome

suppliers ready to talk about the products and services they can offer, including the CIU's Preferred Suppliers: BOC, Dransfields, Greene King, Brown & Brown Insurance and Pure Purchasing.

You can also have a chat with the teams from Head Office and *Club Journal*.

Then, on the Friday evening, the Union will be staging our Blackpool Showcase event at the H&A Social Club venue with a number of superb acts performing.

Tickets cost £5 each – see page 23 for more details.

The 'Club of the Month' for April is the Intake Social Club in Doncaster, which is taking part in a massive fundraising effort for the Motor Neurone Disease Association this month.

The club's Secretary, Carl Bassindale, will be undertaking a serious physical challenge involving running, cycling and swimming significant distances during April.

For the full profile of the club, see pages 10-13.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue and have a great Conference.

Stephen Goulding

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CLUB JOURNAL

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Bob Russell CMD
Vice-President



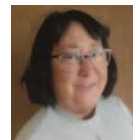
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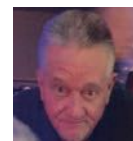
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Dransfields announces series of management changes



Pictured, left to right: Quentin Stott, Peter Davies, Robert Dransfield and Chris Haley

CIU Preferred Supplier Dransfields has announced a series of senior management changes.

After three decades of dedicated service, current Managing Director Chris Haley will transition into the role of Group Chairman in May of this year, succeeding Robert Dransfield, who is retiring following a remarkable tenure guiding the company's success and stability.

Chris's 30 years at the company have seen Dransfields strengthen its position as the UK's leading supplier of gaming and amusement machines to pubs and clubs, while maintaining the company's longstanding values of integrity, innovation and outstanding customer service.

Stepping into the position of Managing Director will be Peter Davies, a highly respected and well-known figure within the gaming machine supply industry.

Peter brings deep sector expertise, longstanding industry relationships, and a practical understanding of the evolving needs of operators and customers alike.

At the same time Quentin Stott of Reflex Gaming Limited will be appointed to the Dransfields Board, Claire Naylor will be appointed to the Board as Commercial Director, and Ian Chuter will become Group Non-Executive Director

Speaking on the transition, Chris Haley said: "It has been a privilege to lead Dransfields for the past 30 years, and I am incredibly proud of what our team has achieved.

"As I move into the role of Group Chairman, I look forward to supporting the continued growth of the business while working closely with Peter as he takes on this important leadership role. Peter is widely respected across the industry, and his experience and approach make him the ideal choice to guide Dransfields into its next chapter."

CLUB NOTICES

Clubs affiliated to the Union

Greenwich Town Social Club
(Kent Branch)

Leeds Anglers Club Limited
(Leeds Branch)

Clubs withdrawn from the Union

Broomhill Albion Club & Institute
(West Midlands Branch)

The Sportsman's Club, Winchester
(Wessex Branch)

News in brief



Weoley Castle WMC set for a top Irish boyband experience with Westlive UK

Birmingham's Weoley Castle Working Men's Club will be staging 'An Evening with Westlive UK' on Friday, May 1.

The show is a tribute to the Irish boyband Westlife – who are currently touring as part of their 25th anniversary – and will feature a number of hits including 'My Love', 'Uptown Girl' and 'Flying Without Wings'.

The entertainment will get underway at the club at 7pm and the live music will be followed by a DJ session.

News in brief



Members of the Oatlands Club enjoy a real ceilidh as they celebrate St Patrick's Day

The Oatlands Club in Harrogate staged a special St Patrick's Day celebration on Saturday, March 14 as members turned out en masse to take part in a ceilidh with a live band and authentic Irish dancing.

This came at the end of a busy week for the club with a special Cheltenham Gold Cup Day held the previous day.



The Friday of the Cheltenham Festival has become one of the busiest days of the year for the club in recent times with members packing into the club to watch all the action unfold on the venue's various TV screens and enjoy food, drinks and some fun bets giving them the chance to win drinks prizes at the bar.

Most importantly, the day raises money for St Michael's Hospice, an organisation which does so much good work for the local community.

Looking ahead, the club will be welcoming Bee-Gees tribute act Stayin' Alive on Friday, May 8.

Tickets cost £6 for members and £8 for non-members and can be bought directly from the club.

The Forest Club in North Yorkshire celebrates its 125th anniversary



The Forest Club in Starbeck is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2026

The Forest Club, situated in Starbeck in North Yorkshire, hosted a series of events to commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding in March.

Running from March 2 to March 8, the club's festivities included themed evenings, entertainment and family-friendly activities designed to bring members together, with a different drinks promotion running every day.

Jan Johnson, Secretary at The Forest Club, said: "We had a whole week of celebrations here for our members with discounts on drinks during the week, a big quiz on Wednesday, a curry night on the Thursday and bigger bingo with a special games night afterwards on the Friday.

"The week finished off on the Saturday with a children's party in the afternoon and a great party night in the evening with live entertainment from The Railroaders and discounted cocktails."

The club, which changed its name from Starbeck Working Men's Club to The

Forest Club in 2025, will be running a Charity Darts Night on Saturday, May 2 to raise funds for the men's mental health charity, Andy's Man Club.

Entry is just £5 per player – all abilities are welcome – and there will be several prizes up for grabs as well.

The finals will be shown live on the big screen and there will be a disco to follow with shots at £1 apiece.



Sam Fender makes surprise appearance at club charity event



Sam Fender joined his father and brother on stage at King Street Social Club in March

Rock star Sam Fender made a surprise appearance at a fundraiser held at King Street Social Club in North Shields in March.

The Brit Award winner, perhaps most famous for his song ‘Hypersonic Missile’, took to the stage of the venue to help raise money in memory of Janine Turnbull who died from Motor Neurone Disease (MND) last year.

Fender joined the line-up at his home town club in front of a capacity audience.

The fundraising event marked the reunion of The Pirates, co-founded by Janine’s husband John, for their first performance together in more than a decade – and Sam’s fellow musicians also turned the gig into quite a family affair with the Rein Me In star playing alongside his dad Alan and brother Liam Fender.

Among the tracks performed by Sam and co were The Trammyps’ ‘Hold Back the Night’, the Ghostbusters theme song and iconic Lindisfarne number ‘Fog on the Tyne’.

Janine, who served as a police officer for more than 20 years, died from MND last August and her family have continued to raise more than £29,000 to help fund research to fight the disease.

For more information on MND and ideas for fundraising at your club, visit the website: www.mndassociation.org

The club is certainly continuing to attract big names throughout the year and has become a renowned live music venue.

Indeed, the venue is set to receive around £40,000 in mayoral funding in order to upgrade its status as a music venue.

It is one of just 11 venues to be awarded part of a £360,000 fund distributed by the North East Mayor to “unleash cultural creativity” in the region.

News in brief



Huntington WMC raises £1,500 for St Leonards Hospice after fundraising night

Last month saw Huntington Working Men’s Club in York present a cheque for £1,500 to St Leonards Hospice following a recent fundraising night held at the club.

The community turned out in force on March 1 for a memorable night of fundraising and entertainment, rallying behind Club Treasurer Mark as he underwent a sponsored head and beard shave on stage.

Thanks to the generosity of members, along with raffle prizes and sponsorship, the event raised an impressive £1,500.

The main attraction of the night was a performance by Fabbalicious who sang some classic Abba tracks.



Latest Village Bake Off competition at Endmoor Club Inn set for Saturday, April 11

The Club Inn at Endmoor in Cumbria will be staging its latest Village Bake Off on Saturday, April 11 with intrepid club bakers producing their finest Victoria sponges which will then be judged by a panel.

The club’s Bake Offs take place on the second Saturday of every month.



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St Paddy's Day spectacular held at Horbury WMC



Members enjoyed several Irish bingo sessions

It was standing room only at Horbury Working Men's Club in West Yorkshire on March 15 as the venue held a St Patrick's celebration as part of a weekend of Irish-themed fun.

The event began at 2pm and included live music from the Kelly's Heroes Irish band. The group filled the venue with authentic Celtic music, setting the tone for a day of nonstop entertainment.

But the music was only the beginning. Attendees enjoyed a packed line-up of activities throughout the evening, including karaoke; Irish bingo with some great cash

prizes on offer; prize raffles and a 'Guess the Name of the Leprechaun' contest.

The weekend's drink specials proved to be a major draw as well.

From Friday, March 13 through to the Sunday, members enjoyed Guinness for just £3 a pint, while non-members paid £3.50.

Meanwhile, a 3-for-£5 Baby Guinness offer ran all weekend long and was available to everyone

The club's St. Patrick's Weekend celebration certainly proved to be a major success.



Many attendees decided to wear Irish-themed outfits to the event on March 15

News in brief



Barry West End Club prepares for Summer Skittles competition with £4,000 prize fund

The West End Club in Barry, South Wales is currently taking registrations for teams wishing to compete in its Summer Skittles competition.

Teams will be composed of eight players with each player paying £3 to participate.

There will be cash prizes of £4,000 up for grabs. For more information, call 01446 735739.



Little Lever WMC in Bolton set for K-Pop Party with big hits from BTS, Blackpink and more

Bolton's Little Lever Working Men's Club will be staging a K-Pop Party on the afternoon of Sunday, April 19.

The tribute show will celebrate the music of several Korean pop acts, including BTS, Blackpink and Seventeen, all of whom have enjoyed massive popularity across the globe in recent years.

Indeed, BTS are currently on a world comeback tour, with the band members having all completed mandatory military service in the Korean Armed Forces.



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Richmond Place Club hits the charity bullseye



There was even an appearance from 'Bully' at the charity darts event alongside Bar Person/Darts Organiser Gill Kirby and Club Secretary Les Walker

The Richmond Place Club in Hereford recently held a special darts event which raised £2000 for the Wye Princess charity which is restoring a river boat for the use of the community.

The event, held on March 22, saw World Darts announcer John McDonald and referee John 'The Voice' Bray hosting a darts competition.

Alongside the men's, women's and youth competitions, there were opportunities for the attendees to have photos taken with the hosts as well as the World Darts Trophy

which the pair brought along with them.

There was even the chance to meet 'Bully' of Bullseye fame.

The competitions themselves saw some fantastic darts with the Men's title won by Graham Jenkins who took on dad Terry in the Final.

Stacy Barnes was the victor in the Ladies tournament, while Oscar Evans-Clay won the youth section.

All in all, it was a fantastic day for darts aficionados and supporters of the Wye Princess charity.



John McDonald, Men's runner-up Terry Jenkins, Men's winner Graham Jenkins, Russ Bray and Ralph English

News in brief



World Snooker Championship gets underway on Saturday, April 18 at Sheffield's Crucible

Club members will be eager to catch all the action taking place on the green baize in April and May as the Snooker World Championship is staged at the iconic Crucible in Sheffield.

The tournament will see the world's top 32 players vying for the most coveted prize in the sport from April 18 until the final on May 4.

First held in 1927, the World Championship is one of three tournaments that make up snooker's Triple Crown Series.

The historic event is one that invariably captivates the nation and there will be a huge prize of £500,000 for this year's winner with £200,000 awarded to the runner-up from a total prize fund of £2,395,000.

Zhao Xintong was the worthy victor at the 2025 World Championship, the Chinese star becoming the first Asian player to win the tournament, and he is likely to be a key contender this time around.

However, there are several in-form players ready to take the crown during what is sure to be another unmissable tournament.

Coverage will be available on the BBC and TNT Sports.



Brookside Commercial Club welcomes James Johnson to the stage on Saturday, April 11

Members of the Brookside Commercial Club in South Elmsall are getting ready for 'a night of floor fillers' as renowned singer James Johnson brings his show featuring classic dance anthems to the club's stage on Saturday, April 11.



Intake Social Club, Doncaster

The Intake Social Club in Doncaster embarked on a new era in 2021 when a new Committee came on board with the aim of securing the future of the club for the local community

When Carl Bassindale took over as Secretary of Intake Social Club in Doncaster in 2021, he was walking into the unknown.

After a four-decade reign, the previous Secretary had retired, leaving Carl – a former Premier League referee with no previous experience of running a members' club – holding the keys during a global pandemic.

“I had five months during lockdown to figure things out,” Carl recalls.

“I’d turn up every day on my own and think, ‘Right, how do I pay wages? How do I deal with HMRC?’ By talking to people, I learned how the cogs worked and gained the necessary information.”



Members can enjoy the use of two snooker tables in the club's Games Room



Live entertainment is staged regularly at the club

He turned to the CIU for guidance. “The CIU have been fantastic, from national right down to local level,” he says.

“Originally it was Doncaster Branch Secretary Dave Gravel who was my main source of advice. Then he retired and the Branch was absorbed by South Yorkshire under the Branch Secretary and Union General Secretary Ken Green, who was a huge help, as is the current Branch Secretary Mark Fergusson.

“They’ve been there every step of the way. I had no experience of CIU rules and regulations, but they gave me the guidance I needed.”

When lockdown ended, the club drew a line under the previous regime with a new President, Vice-President, Treasurer and a fresh Committee put in place.

With a new team on board, the focus shifted entirely to the future. The club, according to Carl, is now defined by its openness.

“We pride ourselves on honesty,” Carl states firmly. “We don’t have to lock our doors or our desk drawers

because we’ve got nothing to hide. We want to be known as the honest club and ensure that everything we do is done in plain sight of the members.

“Our new Committee has a great balance of skills but everyone is united by wanting the club to move forward and prosper.”

Alongside this change in philosophy and due to the vision of the then-President Jim McGarry, a physical transformation of the building was undertaken with a massive refurbishment.

“It used to be one big room with a stage, snooker tables, and pool,” says Carl.

“As a Committee we decided to spend thousands and divided it into two with soundproofing. Now we have a games area with four big-screen televisions for football and racing, and a separate Concert Room for entertainment and private parties.

“It has made a massive difference to what we have to offer as we can now run separate events on the same evening which would have been impossible before we made these

structural changes.

“It means we’re even more of an asset to the local community as we can host functions, from parties to essential occasions like wakes.”

This renovation has revitalised the club’s offering.

Live entertainment now runs every Saturday, and the club is considering adding Friday night shows.

Traditional pastimes have been resurrected, with two over-55s snooker teams competing and popular Monday night darts, dominoes, and cribbage.

Attention to detail has been key to the club’s bid to get members visiting more often and staying longer.

For example, the introduction of a ‘Members’ Playlist’ during key nights. “We play bingo on a Tuesday night,” says Carl. “So we asked everyone who comes in to list their favourite song.

“We put together a playlist, and now we play it during the breaks. It sounds simple, but it makes a vast difference. People love it and it makes them feel more welcome and an integral part of the club.”



Club Secretary Carl Bassindale will be running 10km a day for a week during April to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association

Intake Social Club is the only place selling beer in the immediate area, a fact not lost on Carl and his team. Their message to the local community is clear: this is your club.

“We want everybody in Intake to be involved,” he says. “It’s not a case of ‘I’m the Secretary or President or whatever and you do as I tell you.’

“If the membership instructs us to do something, we do it. We’re just here to advise and do the necessary work behind the scenes.”

This community-first approach extends to the club’s finances which are looking increasingly healthy.

Carl, leveraging the financial acumen accumulated in previous business roles, has locked in a favourable energy deal until 2031, insulating the club from price hikes, while he has examined every aspect of the club’s outgoings in order to keep costs down.

“We’ve made a loss for a few years, because of the investments we have made in the club, but we have a plan.

We know where we can make savings. We feel the club can be here in another 25 years.”

The club is just a short hop from the world-famous Doncaster Racecourse, home of the annual St Leger Festival, and is always keen to welcome in members of other CIU clubs in town for the racing.

“The club is ideal for those coming to the races as it’s just a few minutes’ walk from the course,” says Carl.

“We regularly have other CIU clubs giving us a ring in advance and then dropping in before and after the racing.”

Another aspect of Intake Social Club’s community spirit is its commitment to good causes.

April will see Carl himself take on an ambitious charity challenge.

Inspired by friends diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), the 67 year old is putting his fitness to the test.

Starting on Saturday, April 18, Carl

will run the route of the Doncaster 10K every day for a week.

Then, on the final day, Thursday, April 24, he will push his body to the limit: swimming 400 metres, cycling 50 miles, and then running the 10K again, finishing at the club’s doors at 7pm to kick off a massive charity night.

The evening will feature a Peter Kay tribute act, Lee Lard, along with live singers, bingo, cash raffles and football cards, all with the objective of raising money for much-needed research into MND.

“Over the past three years, I have been touched by three friends being diagnosed with this terrible illness, one of these being the bar manager of the Intake Social Club who sadly had to retire in 2025,” says Carl.

“We set up a Just Giving page hoping to raise £1,500,” he continues.

“We hit that target in just ten days. But every penny counts. A little old lady stopped me in the street and donated £1.40. She said, ‘I’ve seen

Bingo is a popular activity at the club



what you're doing, and I want to donate.' That £1.40 means as much as someone donating £100.

"But charity is something which is absolutely integral to the club and money is raised for good causes all through the year with members always incredibly generous.

"The way they have got behind this MND fundraiser – and other fundraisers, including a Music and Comedy Night in November 2025 which benefited the Prostate Cancer charity – is a real testament to that spirit and this latest charity challenge has been featured in the local press and on the ITV local news."

Carl's stamina is no surprise given his previous career.

For 20 seasons, from 1987 to 2008, he was a Premier League match official, officiating at a full Wembley Stadium (Manchester United v Arsenal), the Millennium Stadium, Anfield, and sharing the pitch with legends like Cristiano Ronaldo, Pirlo,

and Iniesta.

"I was chasing 18-year-olds when I was in my 40s," he laughs.

"The fitness regime was brutal during my refereeing days and I still swim, cycle, and run.

"The lads in the club always joke that I ruined Paul Gascoigne's career because I sent him off in a game. They blame me for everything he does wrong!"

With that experience, Carl is now hoping to leverage his contacts to take his MND fundraising to the next level.

"Next year, I'd love to invite Rugby League legend Kevin Sinfield down and organise an annual rugby league versus football match," he reveals.

"And I've been thinking – Yorkshire is swimming in musical talent. Def Leppard, Arctic Monkeys, to name just two internationally renowned Yorkshire bands.

"Why don't we have a song for MND? It needs someone to grasp the nettle, so I'm hoping to get involved in

that once this challenge is out of the way."

With a diary full of events, a refurbished building, and a Secretary willing to run, swim, and cycle for charity, the future is bright.

As Carl puts it: "It's not about profit – it's about doing a good job for the members, reinvesting back into the club and ensuring that the club will endure.

"As far as I'm concerned, the club is in a great position and will be here for many, many years to come."

If you would like to support Carl's MND challenge, you can donate to the fundraising page at:

www.justgiving.com/page/c-bassindale-1

CONTACT DETAILS

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 Branch: South Yorkshire

The 162nd Annual Meeting

The 162nd Annual Meeting will take place at the Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool on the morning of Saturday, April 18 with a number of topics set to be debated by the assembled delegates

The Norbreck Castle Hotel will host the 162nd Annual Meeting at 10am on Saturday, April 18 in the hotel's Function Room.

During the meeting, the 2025 Annual Report and Financial Report for 2025 will be considered by delegates.

There will also be ongoing consideration of measures to secure the Union's future.

As announced on this month's front page story, a number of guest speakers have been confirmed for the AGM.

Firstly, Chris Webb, who has been the Member of Parliament for Blackpool South since 2024 and was born and brought up in Blackpool.

This will be followed by Chris Haley, Managing Director of Preferred Supplier Dransfields.

Dransfields is celebrating the 80th anniversary of its founding this year, while Chris is marking three decades at the gaming machine and entertainment company.

The third speaker on the day will be Dr Ruth Cherrington, the eminent club historian and author of several books on clubland, including *Not just Beer and Bingo! A Social History of Working Men's Clubs*.

In addition to addresses by the President and General Secretary, the CIU's Legal Consultant Allyn Walton will examine the effect of recent changes in Employment Law on clubs, while NEC Member Mark Fergusson CMD ACM will update candidates on the ongoing process of restructuring of the Union.



The Annual Meeting will be chaired by Union President Ken Roberts CMD ACM with the Union Officers and NEC Members in attendance



Union President Ken Roberts CMD ACM delivers a speech at the 2025 Annual Meeting



Chris Webb MP, the Member of Parliament for Blackpool South



Author and historian Dr Ruth Cherrington will be speaking at the AGM



The Norbreck Castle Hotel will be the focal point for Conference Weekend 2026

The 162nd Annual General Meeting – Agenda

1. Minutes of the Council Meeting held 26 April 2025
2. Welcome by Chris Webb MP
3. The President’s Address
4. Guest Speaker Chris Haley, Managing Director, Dransfields
‘Gambling Commission Review’
5. To consider the Annual Report 2025
6. To consider the Union’s Financial Statement for the year ended 30 September 2025
7. Guest Speaker Dr Ruth Cherrington – Author & CIU Historian
‘Our clubs; changes and challenges’
8. The Union Restructure
9. Guest Speaker Allyn Walton – Union Legal Consultant
‘Employment Law changes’
10. The General Secretary’s Address



There will be a number of topics discussed at the 2026 Annual Meeting



Union General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM delivers his address at the 161st AGM



Dransfields Managing Director Chris Haley will be giving an update on the Gambling Commission Review and its implications for clubs



Union Accountant Uto Ekanem will be presenting the 2025 Financial Report during the Annual Meeting

YOUR HOSTS



Ken Roberts CMD ACM
President



Bob Russell CMD
Vice-President



Kenneth D Green CMD ACM
General Secretary



Sean Belton CMD
NEC Member



Nathan Clarke
NEC Member



Mandy Crockford
NEC Member



Glenn Doyle
NEC Member



Kevin Edwards CMD ACM
NEC Member



Mark Fergusson CMD ACM
NEC Member



Geoff Fisher
NEC Member



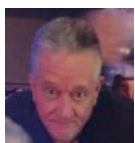
Stephen Foster CMD ACM
NEC Member



Jack Haughey CMD ACM
NEC Member



Chris O'Neill CMD ACM
NEC Member



Ron Wonders
NEC Member



David Woodburn CMD
NEC Member





34TH BEER & TRADES EXHIBITION

When? 17 April, 2026
Where? Norbreck Castle Hotel,
Queens Promenade, Blackpool,
Lancashire, FY2 9AA

JOIN US

- Find out what the CIU's National Accounts and club suppliers are up to and what impact they could have on your club
- Seek legal advice
- See what's new in entertainment
- Network with other clubs

EXHIBITORS

Last year we welcomed:
ACE Furniture, BOC, Big Screen, Brown & Brown, CAMRA, CIU, Club Control, Club Journal, Crystals, Dransfields, Gemini Parking, Pure Purchasing and TNT Sports.

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN US

"This year's event will see club-supporting suppliers all ready and waiting to showcase their products and provide expert advice on helping club business," says Stephen Goulding, Office Manager CIU.

CIU MEMBERSHIP

Not a member? For more details on joining the CIU, please contact:
Stephen Goulding
Address: CIU Office Manager, Club Union House,
253-254 Upper Street, London N1 1RY
t. 020 7226 0221
e. Stephen.Goulding@wmcui.org

SEE YOU THERE?

Suppliers – Want to join us? Call 07789870709 or email sean@clubmirror.com for more details

Clubs – CIU HQ sent out delegate/club information in March. If you have any questions, call 020 7226 0221 or email info@wmcui.org



The 34th CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition – Testimonials



“We’re delighted to be attending our thirteenth consecutive CIU trade show and look forward to showcasing our innovative products, including the Club Key Digital Card System, which means you can give your members a digital membership card, held on their phone, that will both open your door entry system (no more lost or forgotten cards!) and identify them at the till.”

Chris McNally – Club Control

“We’re delighted to be exhibiting at the CIU Trade Show again this year, we are always happy to meet with clubs to help support them in achieving smarter, more efficient procurement & cost saving. The event is a fantastic opportunity to connect with new faces while also strengthening relationships with our existing clients. If you're attending, be sure to stop by!”

David King, Pure Purchasing

“Ace Furniture has been exhibiting at Blackpool for over two decades. It provides a great opportunity to share our product portfolio with both old and new customers.”

Graeme Miller – Ace Furniture

“We love the energy of the CIU Trade Show – it’s the ideal place to meet customers, partners, and friends old and new.”

Jonathon Crystal – Crystals

“As a primary exhibitor at the CIU Trade show for over 20 years it’s great to catch up with some long-lasting customers as well as meeting many new ones. The event is always a great way to showcase new products as well as providing fun to the show, including our ever popular BeBop music bingo. This year to celebrate our 80th birthday, we are also bringing along Clint P’Anson, the European Pool Champion to provide additional entertainment.”

Chris Haley – Dransfields

“The CIU Exhibition is like being part of one big family – meeting up, exchanging views and ideas and making new friends from different parts of the country as well as enjoying what exhibitors have to offer. At the moment we are all facing a big challenge in 2026 so a big thank you for all the people involved in making this show happen.”

Les Walker – Richmond Place Club Hereford



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To Enter Scan the QR code or go to
ciu.praxisplay.online

Set up your Subscription or Buy Tickets Each Month



£1.00 PER TICKET

Draw held on the
1st of the Month at 7pm

For your chance to win includes a method of free entry via post, please see T&Cs for details. No purchase necessary. We enter but the intention of the raffle is to support the works of the CIU. Only gamble responsibly. CIE License Number LN/000023921

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Bring the crowds flooding into your venue with Dark Shark, the revolutionary darts experience, that combines a traditional dartboard with interactive gaming.

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- Uses state-of-the-art tech for a seamless experience
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Modernise Membership. Enhance Access. Elevate Experience.

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Why Clubs Love Club Key

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- ✓ Direct Member Communication
- ✓ Remote Member Management
- ✓ Reduce Costs & Admin Time

Key Benefits for Your Members

- ✓ Choice of physical or digital card
- ✓ Digital membership card is always available on their phone
- ✓ Use at both the Club Key Entry System and EPOS tills
- ✓ No more forgotten cards, just easy, secure access
- ✓ **Start Today - It's On Us!** Order your EPOS Control System now and receive the Club Key Digital Entry System absolutely **FREE**.

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"Membership, modernised."
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Join us at the H&A Social Club on Friday, April 17

Tickets are now available for the CIU Entertainment Showcase which takes place at Blackpool's H&A Social Club on the evening of Friday, April 17 with four top acts performing on the stage

**THE CLUB & INSTITUTE UNION
PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL SHOWCASE
FRIDAY 17TH APRIL 2026
AT THE H&A SOCIAL CLUB
122 CORONATION STREET, BLACKPOOL, FY1 4QQ**



JOHN GILLAN
Vocal Comedy Entertainer



Jon Alex
ELTON JOHN



Miss Motown

EPIC VIBES, TOP ARTISTS

**Tickets
£5.00**

Doors open at 7pm



The Award Winning
CONNOR MCRAE

This year's CIU Entertainment Showcase will take place on the evening of Friday, April 17 at the H&A Social Club in Blackpool as part of Conference Weekend.

The event, compered by John Gillan who will also perform a comedy spot, will feature a number of top club acts performing in a variety of musical genres.

They will take to the club's Concert Room on the night before the Union's Annual Meeting.

Acts appearing alongside John Gillan include Miss Motown who will perform some of the greatest soul classics made famous by The Supremes, Gladys Knight and Martha Reeves; John Alex performing his tribute to Elton John,

and highly-rated vocalist and Connor McRae who will sing hits from such artists as Oasis, Ed Sheeran, Lionel Richie, Bon Jovi and Harry Stiles.

Tickets cost £6.13 online or can be purchased for £5 on the day at the CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition.

• Tickets available at this link.

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 is under review.

National Executive Committee dates

The NEC meetings at Head Office for the rest of 2026 are as follows:

April 16 (Blackpool), June 3/4, July 15/16, September 2/3, October 14/15 and December 2/3.

CIU Conference 2026 dates

Friday, April 17 – CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition (Norbreck Castle Hotel)

Friday, April 17 – CIU Entertainment Showcase (The H&A Social Club)

Saturday, April 18 – The 162nd Annual Meeting (Norbreck Castle Hotel)

Find out if a club is a member of the CIU

To find other Union clubs, use the search facility on the official website: ciu.org.uk.

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.

Tyson Fury fight available to clubs on Netflix via Sky Business



Netflix and Sky Business have partnered to bring the Tyson Fury v Arslanbek Makhmudov to clubs on Saturday, April 11.

The full fight card is available only on Netflix and exclusively to licensed venues via Sky Business.

The day is expected to attract strong demand from sports fans, with major football and golf fixtures coinciding, allowing venues to maximise dwell time and revenue.

Under the deal, Sky Business holds exclusive commercial rights to screen the boxing event in pubs, bars and hospitality venues, with operators required to hold a valid commercial licence. Residential Netflix subscriptions cannot legally be used for public screenings.

Alongside Fury's highly anticipated comeback, the undercard features leading British fighters including Conor

Benn and Frazer Clarke, culminating in the British Heavyweight Title bout featuring Jeannie Tshikeva.

Tony Singh, Managing Director of Business Development (Northern Europe) at Netflix, said: "We're delighted to partner with Sky Business to bring Netflix's first major UK boxing event to clubs and bars across the country."

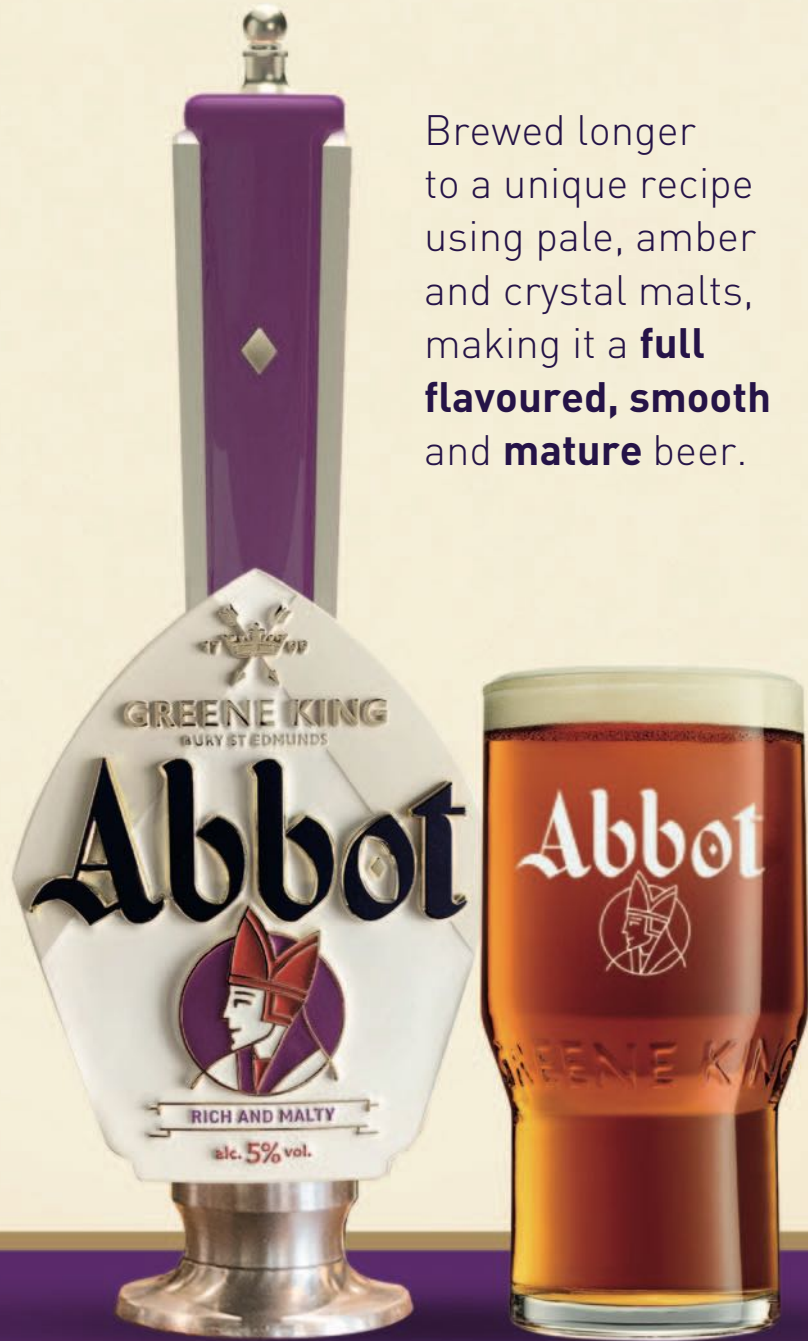
James Tweddle, Director of Hospitality at Sky Business, said: "We're excited to partner with Netflix for the first time to bring this huge boxing event to the on-trade. Fury's return, a strong undercard and a major British title on the line makes this a standout night for all boxing fans – and a major commercial opportunity for venues to drive footfall and boost revenue."

For more information, visit: skyforbusiness.sky.com

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Buy your ticket for 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, May 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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richard@geminiparkingsolutions.com

Why not complete your Award in Club Management in 2026?

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



At the ACM sessions, candidates receive a thorough grounding in the skills required to run a club efficiently with guidance from experienced administrators such as Union General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM and also receive a set of three workbooks for reference

It is no secret that having a well-run operation is absolutely crucial to the continuing financial health of members' clubs.

The Award in Club Management (ACM) course is specifically designed for CIU clubs and aims to give club officials a thorough grounding in the key aspects of running a modern and efficient club.

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, they receive the ACM.

The course is aimed at people who are going to be sitting on club committees and occupying positions of authority within clubs.

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 Cath Fitzpatrick at the CIU Head Office on 020 7226 0221 or email:

Catherine.Fitzpatrick@wmcui.org to discuss hosting a future course at your club or with fellow CIU clubs.

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Bar Steward Job Specification – Key responsibilities include the following:

- Stock management** – Maintain stock levels in the bar ensuring proper rotation of stock.
- Customer service** – Provide a high-quality service to customers, ensuring a welcoming atmosphere and addressing customer needs promptly. Engage with customers and take orders.
- Financial and Operational Duties** – Manage cash handling procedures, and reconcile cash taken and report and discrepancies. Opening up the venue and locking up after closing time.
- Health and Safety Compliance** – Ensure compliance with health and safety regulations, maintaining cleanliness and hygiene standards in the bar area. Report and maintenance issues or safety concerns to the appropriate personnel.

Required Skills – Previous experience in a bar or hospitality setting is advantageous. Strong interpersonal skills to interact effectively with customers and team members. Flexibility to work a varied shift pattern, including evenings, weekends and bank holidays, as required by the business.

Please send your CV and brief cover letter to Angela at: victoryclub1920@gmail.com or pop in at:

The Victory Club, 227 Selhurst Road, South Norwood, London. SE25 6XY

Every month we give one lucky entrant a £50 prize.

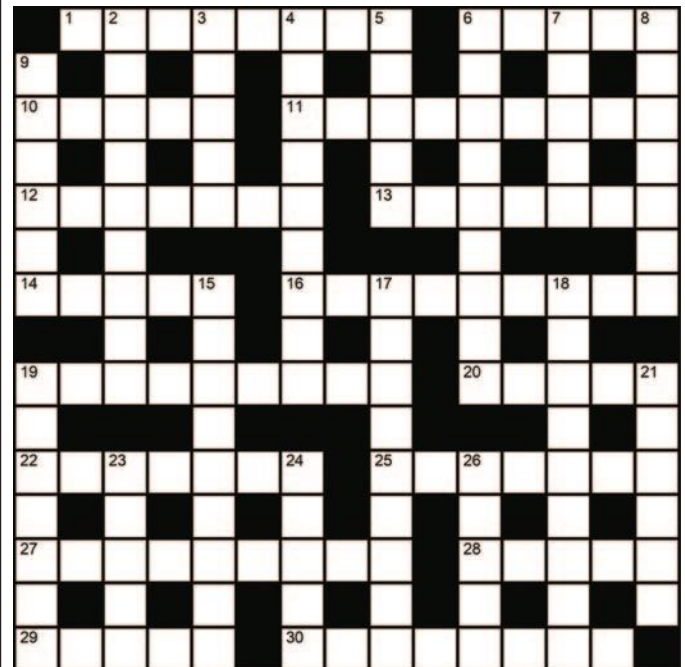
ACROSS

- 1 Contribution of a finger of suspicion (8)
- 6 Stumpy hill said to be objectionable? (5)
- 10 Make self-conscious at a 'party'? (5)
- 11 Tolerance of regular money? (9)
- 12 Stuck to her code? Bananas! (7)
- 13 Become less of a wine fermented in an odd way (3,4)
- 14 Eureka! (Rub away to reveal Caribbean island) (5)
- 16 Sandy sort of dance for holiday fun? (9)
- 19 Junior one to ban result in desperation (9)
- 20 Weary, but said to be fitted with slicks (5)
- 22 Revs up a change of parties (4-3)

- 25 Hesitation that has no chance to connect with (3,4)
- 27 Cartridge belt is a red albino oxymoron (9)
- 28 Promotional statement's a bit of a blur, basically (5)
- 29 Loves cunningly to get solution (5)
- 30 Dig round the clods for 100,000 albums (4,4)

DOWN

- 2 Fancy food-store that lit up old snaps? (9)
- 3 General atmosphere of an old anaesthetic (5)
- 4 Ineducability of lost city, somehow cannot be heard (9)
- 5 Cold enough to glide about (5)
- 6 Top gear for fast or spin types? (6,3)
- 7 Orangutan, gone in the dance (5)
- 8 Lent an ear to a plan that's timeless (7)
- 9 Fascinates, but sent off to make dashboard (6)
- 15 Tonal blue used unwisely for 99 out of 100 (3,3,3)
- 17 We've got nothing on the state of France! (2,7)
- 18 Flyers having a nature so distorted (9)
- 19 Crises the bottle-opener created for writers (7)
- 21 Call in on and fire away from a bird of prey, perhaps? (4,2)
- 23 Corruptible form of navel studying (5)
- 24 'Army' bandage made from stone thrower? (5)
- 26 Implant in the East Midlands retirement spot (5)



Name _____

Club _____

Address _____

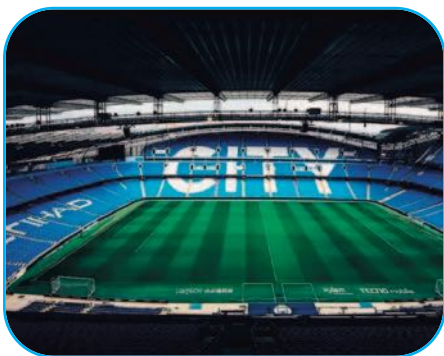
Send your entry to Club Journal Crossword, Link Spaces, Botanica Ditton Park, Riding Court Road, Slough, SL3 9LL. **Deadline April 25.**

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Congratulations to the winner of our £50 Prize Crossword from the March issue:

Jimmy Bradley from Bedlington Social Club





Saturday, April 4, 12.45pm, TNT Sports
FA Cup: Manchester City v Liverpool

It's the quarter-final stage of the FA Cup with four unmissable ties taking place over a busy sporting weekend. This clash at the Etihad is set to be a titanic battle between two sides who have won the fabled trophy 15 times between them – Liverpool on eight occasions and Manchester City on seven. Last year saw City losing 1-0 to Crystal Palace in the Final.



Thursday, April 9, 2pm, Sky Sports Golf
Golf: The Masters

The first golf major of the season takes place at the Augusta National with the famous green jacket up for grabs. Last year saw Rory McIlroy win the tournament after the first hole of a sudden-death play-off against Justin Rose. In doing so, McIlroy became only the sixth player, and the first European, to complete the modern career Grand Slam. Can he claim another title in the 2026 edition?



Tuesday, April 28, 8pm, TNT Sports
UEFA Champions League

The top-tier European club competition reaches the semi-finals and there is every chance that English teams will still be challenging for the title at this stage. Arsenal were the only Premier League side to reach the last four last season, before being knocked out by PSG, and will be focused on going all the way this time around.

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

April will see some crucial ties in the Premier League, the knockout stages of the UEFA Champions League and three days of top jump racing culminating in the Grand National on Saturday, April 11

Thursday, April 2, 7pm, Sky Sports
 Main Event

Darts: Premier League – Manchester

Friday, April 3, 8pm, Sky Sports+
Super League: Bradford Bulls v Leeds Rhinos

Friday, April 3, 8pm, Sky Sports
 Football
Championship Football: Coventry City v Derby County

Saturday, April 4, 3pm, TNT Sports
FA Cup: Quarter-Final – Manchester City v Liverpool

Saturday, April 4, 5.15pm, TNT
 Sports/BBC
FA Cup: Quarter-Final – Chelsea v Port Vale

Saturday, April 4, 8pm, TNT
 Sports/BBC
FA Cup: Quarter-Final – Southampton v Arsenal

Saturday, April 4, 3pm, Sky Sports+
Super League: Warrington Wolves v Leigh Leopards

Sunday, April 5, 3pm, Sky Sports+
Super League: Castleford Tigers v Wakefield Trinity

Sunday, April 5, 4.30pm, TNT Sports
FA Cup: Quarter-Final – West Ham United v Leeds United

Monday, April 6, 5.30pm, Sky Sports
 Football
Championship Football: Swansea City v Middlesbrough

Monday, April 6, 8pm, Sky Sports
 Football
Championship Football: Hull City v Coventry City

Tuesday, April 7, 8pm, Prime Video
UEFA Champions League: Quarter-Final – Sporting CP v Arsenal

Wednesday, April 8, 8pm, TNT
 Sports
UEFA Champions League: Quarter-Final – PSG v Liverpool

Thursday, April 9, 2pm, ITV
Horse Racing: Grand National Meeting – Day 1

Thursday, April 9, 2pm, Sky Sports
 Golf
Golf: The Masters

Thursday, April 9, 7pm, Sky Sports
 Action
Darts: Premier League – Brighton

Friday, April 10, 1pm, ITV
Horse Racing: Grand National Meeting – Day 2

Friday, April 10, 2pm, Sky Sports
 Golf
Golf: The Masters

Friday, April 10, 8pm, Sky Sports
 Football
Championship Football: West Bromwich Albion v Millwall

Friday, April 10, 8pm, Sky Sports
 Premier League
Premier League: West Ham United v Wolves

Saturday, April 11, 12.30pm, TNT
 Sports 1
Premier League: Arsenal v AFC Bournemouth

Saturday, April 11, 8pm, Sky Sports
 Football
Championship Football: Norwich City v Ipswich Town

Horse Racing: The Grand
National Meeting, Saturday,
April 11, 1pm, ITV



Saturday, April 11, 1pm, ITV
Horse Racing: Grand National Meeting – Day 3

Saturday, April 11, 4.30pm, Sky Sports Golf
Golf: The Masters

Saturday, April 11, 5.30pm, Sky Sports Premier League
Premier League: Liverpool v Fulham

Saturday, April 11, 7pm, Netflix/Sky Business
Boxing: Tyson Fury v Arslanbek Makhmudov

Sunday, April 12, 12 noon, Sky Sports Football
Championship Football: Birmingham City v Wrexham

Sunday, April 12, 2pm, Sky Sports Premier League
Premier League: Sunderland v Tottenham Hotspur

Sunday, April 12, 4.30pm, Sky Sports Golf
Golf: The Masters

Sunday, April 12, 4.30pm, Sky Sports Premier League
Premier League: Chelsea v Manchester City

Monday, April 13, 8pm, Sky Sports Premier League
Premier League: Manchester United v Leeds United

Tuesday, April 14, 7pm, ITV
FIFA Women's World Cup 2027 Qualifier – England Women v Spain Women

Tuesday, April 14, 7.45pm, Sky Sports Football
Championship Football: Portsmouth v Ipswich Town

Tuesday, April 14, 8pm, Prime Video
UEFA Champions League: Quarter-Final – Liverpool v PSG

Wednesday, April 15, 8pm, TNT Sports
UEFA Champions League: Quarter-Final – Arsenal v Sporting CP

Thursday, April 16, 7pm, Sky Sports Action
Darts: Premier League – Rotterdam

Thursday, April 16, 8pm, Sky Sports+
Super League: Hull FC v St Helens

Friday, April 17, 8pm, Sky Sports+
Super League: Huddersfield Giants v Leeds Rhinos

Saturday, April 18, 12.30pm, TNT Sports 1
Premier League: Brentford v Fulham

Saturday, April 18, 3.05pm, TNT Sports 1
Premiership Rugby Union: Exeter Chiefs v Northampton Saints

Saturday, April 18, 5.30pm, Sky Sports Premier League
Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur v Brighton & Hove Albion

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Premier League Darts – Aberdeen, Thursday, April 30, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Saturday, April 18, 8pm, TNT Sports 1

Premier League: Chelsea v Manchester United

Sunday, April 19, 2pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Everton v Liverpool

Sunday, April 19, 3pm, Sky Sports+

Super League: Wigan Warriors v Castleford Tigers

Sunday, April 19, 3pm, TNT Sports
Premiership Rugby Union: Sale Sharks v Saracens

Sunday, April 19, 4.30pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Manchester City v Arsenal

Monday, April 20, 8pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Crystal Palace v West Ham United

Thursday, April 23, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: Premier League – Liverpool

Thursday, April 23, 8pm, Sky Sports+

Super League: Leigh Leopards v Huddersfield Giants

Friday, April 24, 8pm, Sky Sports+
Super League: Warrington Wolves v Wigan Warriors

Friday, April 24, 8pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Sunderland v Nottingham Forest

Saturday, April 25, 12.30pm, TNT Sports 1

Premier League: Fulham v Aston Villa

Saturday, April 25, 3pm, Sky Sports+
Super League: Bradford Bulls v Hull Kingston Rovers

Saturday, April 25, 3.05pm, TNT Sports

Premiership Rugby Union: Saracens v Leicester Tigers

Saturday, April 25, 5.30pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Arsenal v Newcastle United

Sunday, April 26, 2pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Burnley v Manchester City

Sunday, April 26, 4.30pm, Sky Sports Premier League
Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion v Chelsea

Monday, April 27, 8pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Manchester United v Brentford

Tuesday, April 28, 8pm, TNT Sports
UEFA Champions League: Semi-Final

Wednesday, April 29, 8pm, TNT Sports
UEFA Champions League: Semi-Final

Thursday, April 30, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: Premier League – Aberdeen

Thursday, April 30, 8pm, Sky Sports+
Super League: Hull Kingston Rovers v Castleford Tigers

CIU clubs encouraged to enter Club Awards

The Club Awards celebrate the people, passion, and pride that make UK clubs truly special

For more than three decades, these Awards have remained the definitive celebration of the UK's club sector, recognising the spirit, dedication, and commitment that make clubs the beating heart of local communities, from awe-inspiring sports clubs to vibrant community hubs.

CIU clubs continue to prove time and time again their vital role in their communities, demonstrating the unique spirit that defines Clubland across the UK.

What makes a winner?

Take a look at CIU club success stories from 2025. Here's what they won – and why.

CIU Club of the Year 2025

Northern – High Green Club, South Yorkshire

High Green, now in its 126th year, hosts live concerts every Friday and Sunday, bingo sessions, local games and snooker leagues. It offers a breadth of reasonably priced beers, wines, and

spirits, welcoming members, players and visitors to its vibrant community hub.

Southern – Sheerness East Working Men's Club

Sheerness East is a true community hub, hosting blood donation sessions, dementia support, youth darts, and a deaf group. Events such as Easter parties and huge darts tournaments raise funds for charity, and the club fosters inclusion, providing social, and recreational opportunities for all ages.

Community Club of the Year

New Eltham Social Club

Founded in 1892, the club blends its long-standing CIU traditions with a modern approach, becoming a thriving, award-winning hub for its 1,660 members.

Club Secretary of the Year

Lucy Hague, The Oatlands

Lucy has led bar team recruitment, implemented dual pricing and automated membership cards, chaired the Bar Sub-Committee, reduced wastage and increased margins while maintaining member discounts.

Bar Manager of the Year

David Bellamy, Midland Band Social Club

David has led his club to four consecutive CAMRA Northamptonshire Club of the Year awards consistently delivers outstanding service.





Family Club of the Year

Groby Ex-Servicemen's Club

The vibrant heart of its Leicestershire village and with excellent facilities, family members of all ages are welcomed seven days a week.

Charity Club of the Year

Skegness Ex-Service Club

In 2025 fundraising included over £10k for Prostate Cancer UK, and thousands of pounds for the Poppy Appeal.

Charity Club Special Award

Beechwood Easterside & District Social Club

The club was praised for a unique community Fundraising Night which raised over £27k to help a member diagnosed with terminal cancer make more family memories.

Turnaround Club of the Year

Brookside Commercial Club

The club saw a dramatic reversal from a £3k operating loss to a £40k profit.

Racing Club of the Year

Beechwood Easterside & District Social Club

Horse racing is a permanent fixture on the club's screens, and 2025 saw seven coaches ferry almost 400 members to Thirsk Races.

Darts Club of the Year

Clacton Railway Club

The club's Youth Darts Academy now boasts over 50 children, building darts proficiencies alongside maths and social skills.

“ Not only are the Club Awards an amazing night out for our team, the amount of brilliant and successful people in attendance is a real testament to the work and importance of all UK clubs and the central part they play in all of our communities. ”

Lucy Hague, The Oatlands

“ The Awards are a great way to show how your club works for the community. ”

Paula Andrews, Sheerness East Working Mens Club

“ The Club Awards are an excellent opportunity to see what is happening in the sector and to share ideas, when we are facing increasing challenges. Without these opportunities, there is a risk that our clubs may not survive and many clubs are a hub within their communities for people to enjoy and to support their wellbeing. So while some may not win an award, all those who enter are winners as they have the ability to meet other clubs and to recognise we are not alone but can be stronger together and support each other in securing the future of the club industry across the UK. In this way, our communities continue to benefit from what our sector can offer. ”

Stuart Will, Aylsham Social Club

“ Clubs are an important aspect in a community and bring people together. ”

Samantha McManus, Leicester Railwaymen's Club & Institute

“ In 2025 we won the Darts Club of the Year award and will be entering this year's awards again. The buzz it sent through the club was fantastic – staff and members and especially the dedicated members of the committee. ”

Alan Rumsey, Denbigh Hall Sports & Social Club

Club Awards – the categories

You can enter as many or as few categories as you like. Take a look at the categories below, along with tips on what the judges are looking for

Can't decide which to enter? Then 'Let the Judges Decide', and the panel will find your perfect match. And don't forget to nominate individuals who stand out in helping the club to be the success that it is.

THE CATEGORIES – CLUB AWARDS 2026

CIU CLUB OF THE YEAR

CIU clubs can be rightly proud of their continued success at the Club Awards – a testament to strong foundations, a vibrant present, and a shared commitment to building an even brighter future for members and communities. This important category honours clubs that treasure their past while building their future – the true spirit of the CIU.

BAR MANAGER/STEWARD OF THE YEAR

Celebrating the heart behind the bar. Recognising those who deliver an efficient, lively, and welcoming bar experience that keeps members returning time and again. Excellence in service, drinks knowledge.

BOWLS CLUB OF THE YEAR

Applauding Bowls Clubs that live and breathe the sport – inspiring all ages to get involved, investing in their facilities, and keeping the bowls community thriving. A vibrant programme, true teamwork, and innovative promotions will also be celebrated.

BUSINESS INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR

Recognising clubs with forward-thinking strategies that embrace fresh ideas and creative thinking, introducing initiatives that boost membership, improve experiences, and help build club business.

CAMRA CLUB OF THE YEAR

Recognising clubs that showcase an

outstanding commitment to cask ale — through excellent cellarmanship and training, a diverse range of guest ales, and a passion for promoting real ale to members and guests alike. Please note: This award runs to a separate schedule, with regional CAMRA representatives putting regional winners through to the final rounds.

CATERING CLUB OF THE YEAR

Honouring clubs that provide the perfect dining experience tailored to their members, from everyday favourites and hearty fare to fine dining. This award celebrates clubs that serve up the tried and tested taste, service, and value meals that members love.

CHARITY CLUB OF THE YEAR

One of the toughest categories for our judges. Clubs without exception make a huge difference through tireless fundraising support. This Award recognises clubs that put charity as a priority, from helping distressed members to fundraising for good causes.

COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR

Testimonials Behind every great club is a great committee. This category celebrates teams who work together, make smart decisions, and keep their clubs thriving for generations to come. Exceptional teamwork, forward thinking, and dedication.

COMMUNITY CLUB OF THE YEAR

Honouring clubs that serve as the heart of their communities, creating a welcoming space for everyone and connecting people of all ages and backgrounds. Because strong communities start right here.

COMMUNITY HEROES

Presented to selfless club people who make a genuine difference in their local communities. This award honours individuals whose kindness, dedication,

and community spirit go far beyond the call of duty – the true unsung heroes of club life.

DARTS CLUB OF THE YEAR

Recognising clubs that champion the sport of darts. From junior throwers to lifelong players, growing the game, nurturing talent, and building community spirit one bullseye at a time.

ENTERTAINMENT CLUB OF THE YEAR

Honouring clubs that keep members entertained through creative, high-quality events – from live music and comedy nights to family fun days and social activities.

FAMILY CLUB OF THE YEAR

Celebrating clubs that create a true family atmosphere, welcoming all ages and providing events, activities, and facilities that bring generations together.

LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD

Honouring long-standing dedication, loyalty, and service to their club, this award applauds those whose commitment and passion continue to inspire others.

MANAGER/SECRETARY OF THE YEAR

Leading with purpose and passion, this award recognises those who inspire teams, grow membership, and keep their clubs at the heart of the community.

REFURBISHMENT AWARD

Celebrating clubs that continue to reinvest in their future, creating fresh, welcoming spaces for members to enjoy for years to come, balancing comfort, quality, and a warm welcome.

SOCIAL MEDIA CLUB OF THE YEAR

Recognising the use of social media to effectively to engage members, promote activities, and showcase the spirit of their club community.

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB OF THE YEAR

Celebrating clubs that bring people together through both sport and social connection. From match days to social nights, finalists in this category know how to keep everyone involved, on and off the field.

TURNAROUND CLUB OF THE YEAR

This award celebrates clubs that have turned challenges into success stories, proving what’s possible with teamwork, vision, and community spirit – change, growth, and determination.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

The heartbeat of every great club, recognising volunteers who give their time, energy, and love to make a difference. This award is a thank you to those who go above and beyond, time and time again.

WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

Recognising clubs that use their online presence to engage members, promote events, and showcase the spirit of their community.

YOUNG AMBASSADOR AWARD

The future of club life is bright. Celebrating young individuals who bring fresh ideas, boundless energy, and a true passion for keeping club culture alive and thriving. (Age: 16 - 30)

100 CLUB

Celebrating clubs that have reached their incredible century milestone – 100 years and beyond. Becoming a member of the 100 Club honours heritage, dedication, and the enduring spirit of clubs that continue to bring generations together.

KING OF CLUBS

The Ultimate Accolade. Honouring clubs that exemplify excellence, dedication, and the true spirit of “going the extra mile” for their members and the communities they serve. This prestigious award recognises those clubs whose passion and commitment inspire others and strengthen the very heart of club life. All entrants are automatically considered for this distinguished honour.

HOW TO ENTER

Enter online at www.clubawards.co.uk OR:

Type up your entry using the information requests below, and email the document to sean@alchemymedia.co.uk OR:

Post it to: Club Awards/ACP, Link Spaces, Botanica, Ditton Park, Riding Court Road, Datchet SL3 9LL • Deadline – 30 June, 2026

CLUB INFORMATION

Your name and role in club: _____

Club name & address: _____

Contact phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Website and/or Social Media links: _____

Year club founded: _____

Number of members: _____

Approximate club turnover (not for publication): £ _____

YOUR CATEGORIES

List the categories you wish to enter. Not sure? Type in ‘Let the Judges Decide’.

YOUR ENTRY

Throw a spotlight on your/your club’s achievements over the past 12 months? What makes it so special? Please provide as much information as possible to support your entry, and information supporting the categories you have chosen. Minimum 250 words; Maximum - 2,000 words. Supporting information could include, for example:

Biggest Successes and achievements; Greatest moments; Best Business Initiatives/Innovations; Role in the community

NOMINATING INDIVIDUALS?

Please send in: their name, role in the club and why they are being nominated?

DEADLINE 30 JUNE, 2026. GOOD LUCK!



CIU Clubs Shine at the Club Awards

Celebrating centenary achievements, community spirit, and club excellence at the Athena, Leicester.

The 2025 Club Awards, held on November 26 at the stunning Athena venue in Leicester, brought together the best of British clubland. CIU clubs featured prominently among the winners, making their way to the stage to collect awards across a variety of categories.

Hosted by former BBC presenter Ray Stubbs alongside Ireland and Liverpool football legend Mark

Lawrenson, the evening combined celebration, networking, and well-deserved recognition. Before dinner, guests enjoyed a lively drinks reception courtesy of CIU preferred supplier Greene King, who offered an excellent selection of their finest beers.

A popular and important part of the Club Awards is the 100 Club – and CIU clubs were very evident on stage that night.



Celebrating Centuries of Achievement

The 100 Club was launched in 2021 to honour clubs reaching their landmark centenary during the pandemic, when lockdown restrictions made true club celebrations impossible.

To help mark those occasions, we enlisted the help of Tom Jones, one of the oldest CIU members, who celebrated his 108th birthday last month.

(Read more about Tom's incredible story on page 4 of the March issue.)





YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN THE 100 CLUB

Has your club hit its centenary? Then let us know. Just drop us a line – caroline@clubmirror.com – or call into the office on 07789870709.

All centennial clubs will be invited to join us at our next celebrations where they will be invited onstage to collect their 100 Club Certificate.



Honouring Dedication and Achievement

Competition across all Club Awards categories was as impressive as ever, particularly for the highly coveted CIU Club of the Year award, presented by General Secretary Kenneth D. Green CMD ACM and Vice-President Bob Russell CMD.

The 2025 awards once again highlighted the incredible hard work, community commitment, and dedication shown by CIU clubs, their officials, and staff throughout the year.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Planning is already underway for the 2026 Club Awards, and we encourage all CIU clubs to consider submitting entries or nominations when the call opens. Full details will be published in upcoming editions of Club Journal and on the CIU website.

In the meantime, if you want celebrate your club's centennial, just email your name and your club's name plus year founded to caroline@alchemymedia.co.uk

- For more information, visit www.clubawards.co.uk.

CIU clubs taking to the stage included:

- Brinsworth Social Club
- Cowplain Social Club
- Earlsheaton Central WMC
- High Green Club
- Leicester Railwaymen's Club & Institute
- Lindley Liberal Club
- Queens Park WMC
- Richmond Place Club
- Rubery Social Club & Institute
- Sheerness East Working Men's Club
- Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club
- Thirsk and Sowerby Institute
- Wadsley Bridge W.M.C





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