

Latest update on Gaming Machine VAT case

Following on from previous advice (*writes Ian Spencer*), it seems that in some instances HMRC are beginning to finally make repayments as requested by taxpayers, following HMRC's concession that VAT was not payable on income generated from gaming machines and the instructions detailed in HMRC's Revenue & Customs Brief 05/2020 early last year on requesting repayment.

HMRC's position was, and remains, that for repayment to be authorised any claimant must have both a valid claim and a valid appeal.

The next requirement from HMRC was that any protective assessment raised by HMRC when making repayment to clubs in 2010/2011 also had to be subject to appeal, with HMRC agreeing that a simple request to HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) to allow an appeal against the protective assessment to be joined to an original appeal, was acceptable.

HMRC's practice is that as soon as such application was made HMRC would write to HMCTS confirming they had no objection to such an application.

Problems have arisen with this over the past six months as HMRC cannot release repayment, as the requirements set out in brief 05/2020 are not fully met until HMCTS confirm there is a valid appeal against the protective assessment. HMCTS has been unable in many instances to provide confirmation of this within any reasonable timescale, so as such, HMRC's hands have been tied.

Any taxpayer that hasn't yet requested repayment from HMRC in respect of a claim submitted in 2006/2007 and subsequently appealed, is still able to make a request for

repayment from HMRC as set out in HMRC's Revenue & Customs Brief 05/2020.

Recently HMRC have confirmed that they are beginning to receive confirmations from HMCTS that applications in respect of protective assessments are accepted, thus allowing HMRC to process repayments.

Remember, HMRC should make payment of the amounts of overstated VAT, interest thereon and repay the interest they charged when seeking recovery of payments made in 2014.

Interestingly, having set out requirements for taxpayers to provide significant amounts of information to support claims in HMRC's Revenue & Customs Brief 05/2020, HMRC have not raised any objections to the response provided by many taxpayers when requesting repayment using the template letter provided by WMCIU. This letter rejects the suggestion that the taxpayer should provide the information on the basis that all the information said to be required was already within HMRC's knowledge.

Despite this good news, there are a significant number of taxpayers in the situation where HMRC are rejecting requests for repayment on the basis that no valid appeal is in place.

Where HMRC issued a decision to reject the claim shortly after it was made, and any taxpayer has failed to appeal against that decision, this seems to be a correct stance for HMRC to take.

However, there are a significant number of cases where HMRC failed to issue a decision, thereby denying taxpayers the right to submit an appeal.

It seems only fair and reasonable not to discriminate against those clubs because of a failing on HMRC's part.



The Linneweber case concerns VAT on gaming machines

There is a course of action available to any taxpayer that finds themselves in this situation but at this moment it seems that HMRC will raise objections to this and seek to block any such argument.

If taxpayers take no action, then HMRC will not make any repayment.

- **Any club requiring assistance with any of the issues in this article can ask for help by contacting Ian Spencer by email: ianspencer@vatproblemsolved.com or by phone on 07904 864209**

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Welcome to the March issue of *Club Journal* as our sector prepares to welcome back members in the near future after the announcement of the Government's roadmap to the easing of the current lockdown.

Clubs all over the country are already gearing up for the big reopening and looking forward to getting back to what they do best – serving their members and their local communities – so there is no doubt that everyone involved with our clubs will be keeping their fingers crossed that the Prime Minister's plan runs smoothly in the coming months.

Looking further ahead to the late summer, the date for this year's Annual Conference has been confirmed as Saturday, September 11 with the trade show taking place a day earlier – Friday, September 10.

I hope that as many club delegates as possible make the trip to Blackpool to take part in the key event in the Union calendar, particularly as the Coronavirus pandemic has led to a two-year gap between AGMs.

For more details on Blackpool 2021, including the confirmed venue for the Annual Meeting, please see pages 20-23.

As you'll see from the front page article written by the CIU's VAT consultant, Ian Spencer, the long-running Linneweber case which

Welcome

centres on the issue of VAT on gaming machine incomes, continues to run on.

If your club needs any help with this issue, please get in touch with Ian via the contact details listed at the foot of his article.

Elsewhere in this issue we profile Bishopthorpe Sports & Social Club in York.

The club has been mightily industrious during the past year and underwent a major refurbishment last summer which went down a storm with their members for six weeks and six days – the short period of time during which they were able to open after completing the redesign of their Bar and Lounge areas before lockdown was reimposed in their area.

As you'd expect, the members are desperate to get back in and enjoy the fantastic, modern facilities. You can read the full story of the club on pages 14-17.

So, as we move towards reopening, please keep all your stories coming in to *Club Journal* so that we can share all the good work that is being done in clubs at this crucial juncture.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Stephen Goulding, Editor

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CLUB JOURNAL

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Snooker great Doug Mountjoy passes away



The world of snooker mourned the loss of Doug Mountjoy in February after the Welshman passed away at the age of 78.

The Welshman, who learned his trade on the working men's club circuit in his native South Wales, became a household name as a professional player in the 1970s and 1980s.

In 1977, the former miner won his first title as a professional, the Masters, having taken the World Amateur title in South Africa the previous year. He went on to win the BBC Pot Black title in 1978 and then again in 1985.

Having overcome lung cancer in the 1990s, Mountjoy retired from the professional game but went on to make several appearances in the National CIU Snooker Championship as an amateur.

In 2005, he was part of the Twyn-N-Ffald Working Mens Social Club team which finished as runners-up to Coventry's Bell Green WMC in the National CIU Team Snooker Championship.

COVID testing centre opens at Bettws Social Club

Bettws Social Club in Newport has handed its car park temporarily to the local council as a COVID-19 testing centre.

The site opened in mid-February as part of the Welsh Government's drive to improve access to COVID-19 tests across the nation, and will be in operation from 8am to 8pm each day.

The aim is that those attending can walk to it and do not have to drive to get a test, should they require one.

Meanwhile, clubs across Wales are eagerly awaiting news of when they are likely to be allowed to reopen by the Welsh Government.

When quizzed on when the hospitality sector could expect to be given the green light to open their doors again, Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford would not be drawn on a specific timetable and said that the re-opening of bars would not be included in the next two three-week reviews in Wales, which will be on March 12 and April 2.

He said: "A lot will happen in that six weeks and we will learn a great deal about the impact on the circulation on the virus of re-opening schools and any other measures.

"Providing things continue to improve, then hospitality will come on to the agenda of things we will be able to consider next."

OBITUARIES

Keith Barrowcliffe

It is with regret that Manchester Branch announces that stalwart Keith Barrowcliffe has passed away after many years of dedicated service to the CIU.



Keith was an Executive Member of the branch for 39 years and served as Vice-President for 15 years. He was also a member of the NEC for 14 years.

Keith was a regular visitor to the Union's Annual Meeting and voiced his opinion on many occasions during some lively debates.

He always spoke his mind and gave an honest opinion.

Another character has left us, but will not be forgotten.

Yvonne Castello

It is with sadness that the California Club in Ipswich announces that Yvonne Castello, a member of the club's Committee, has passed away.



Yvonne, a life member, was a much loved lady within the club and will be sadly missed by us all.

She was always in the Cali kitchen every Saturday night without fail serving her famous burgers and chips with that lovely smile on her face.

Our love and best wishes go to her partner Bruce and her family at this time.

CLUB NOTICES

Club closed

Harrogate National Reserve Club
(Leeds Branch)

News in brief



Encouraging signs for the return of spectators to horse racing events

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) has welcomed the Government's roadmap for the easing of restrictions related to COVID-19, saying it will work with authorities to allow spectators to safely return to racing events as soon as they are allowed.

Sporting events will be able to welcome spectators during phase three (from May 17), with larger venues with a capacity of 40,000 allowed to have 10,000 fans in attendance.

Racing was initially halted during the first UK lockdown in March last year, and did not resume until June, but fans have remained absent, with the exception of a small number of trial events.

A BHA statement said: "We have further discussions with officials scheduled, which will enable us to draw up specific proposals for race meetings, including potential pilot events."

Any updates with regard to the resumption of the CIU Racing Club will be published in future issues of *Club Journal*.

World Pool Championship moves to new date in May

Sky Sports will be showing all the action from the major pool tournaments during 2021.

The 2021 World Cup of Pool will take place in England, while the World Pool Masters and World Pool Championship will move to new dates in May, giving fans a spring feast of 9-ball action.

The World Pool Championship will take place at Marshall Arena, Milton Keynes from May 10-14 as the world's top 128 players do battle to be crowned the new world champion.

Richmond Place Club aiming for June relaunch



The Richmond Place Club in Hereford has been closed – bar three days – since the first lockdown was imposed in England in March 2020

The Richmond Place Club in Hereford is aiming for June 21 as the date when the club will reopen its doors.

That is the date by which the Government is aiming to remove legal limits on social contact for events such as weddings and other events, a change which will enable the club to become, once again, financially viable.

The club has remained shut since the start of the first lockdown in March 2020 – save for a three-day period in October – because the Committee took the view that the club would lose money without being able to hold functions or events.

"Private functions and live entertainment are crucial to the financial wellbeing of the club," says Club Secretary Les Walker.

"As a result, we made the decision to remain closed throughout the whole of 2020 as opening in a limited way would have resulted in the club losing money.

"We've built up a tremendous reputation as a venue for private functions over the past few years, particularly wedding receptions, so that is a major source of income.

"We've tried to save the club as much money as possible over the past 12 months and not opening for the sake of it which would have seen us having to dig into our reserve funds."

There were some unforeseen expenses incurred by the club during the closure, including the replacement of some windows, plus the repair and clear-up bill following a burst water pipe in the Function Room, but the club will now be in a strong position going forward.

"The announcement by the Prime Minister on February 22 that all restrictions are likely to be lifted on June 21 means that we can now plan our grand reopening and start welcoming members back," said Les.

"As soon as that announcement was made, we started fielding calls from people eager to book our Function Room for parties and wedding receptions.

"We've also been in contact with singers and groups so we can restart our live entertainment which is always really popular.

"With the continuing rollout of the vaccinations, there's a real feeling of optimism that we can put a terrible year or so behind us and look to the future.

"We missed out on celebrating our centenary in 2020 so we're hoping to make up for that this year."

Tom Jones marches on for charity



Belvedere Social Club member Tom Jones, 103, has raised over £3,000 so far for the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice by taking part in a sponsored walk

Tom Jones, a member of Belvedere Social Club in Kent, is following in the hallowed footsteps of Sir Captain Tom Moore by carrying out a sponsored walk for charity.

Tom, 103, is raising money for the local Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice by walking laps of the garden of Groveland Park care home where he has resided since 2013.

The oldest surviving member of the Unite union, Tom served on the Committee of Belvedere Social Club for many years and was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Kent Branch of the CIU.

On one of the regular walks, he even sported a tuxedo and sipped a cocktail while striding through the garden, while he also completed laps wearing his Belvedere Social Club bowling blazer.

The great-great grandfather decided to embark on 1,000 laps of the garden as a way of expressing gratitude to health and care workers after receiving both doses of the vaccine.

He said: "I was so happy that I can help in a way. I wanted to highlight the NHS, the care home and the GPs."



Tom enjoys a cocktail while taking part in his sponsored walk

Groveland Park care home Manager Nicola Ireland added: "He's amazing, he's really on the ball. For a gentleman that's 103 he's very fit, he's very knowledgeable, he's got full capacity.

"He just lives life to the full. He did say he would like to do 1,000 (laps) and we sort of said 'Tom you're 103' but who knows?"

"Tom does what he wants to do, he's a big character."

At the time of writing, Tom has raised a total of £3,234 for a fantastic cause.

To make a donation, visit: <https://gofund.me/a2ba6092>

News in brief



HMRC issues reminder on the new VAT deferral payment scheme

HMRC has issued a reminder that if your club deferred paying VAT due in the period from March 20 to June 30 2020, it should be paid by March 31, 2021 if this is possible.

If your club can't afford to pay by March 31, 2021, you can join the VAT deferral new payment scheme and pay your deferred VAT over a longer period.

The online service opened on February 23, 2021 and closes on June 21, 2021.

You can make up to 11 monthly instalments, interest free. The earlier you join, the more months you can spread your payments across.

You can join the scheme online without the need to call – search 'Pay deferred VAT' on GOV.UK for more information and to join quickly and simply online when the scheme opens.

If you need more time, please contact HMRC – go to GOV.UK and search 'if you cannot pay your tax bill on time'.

Green lights for bowls clubs to stage outdoor games from March 29

The Prime Minister's announcement in February confirmed that outdoor bowls clubs will be able to open from March 29.

Bowls England Chief Executive, Jon Cockcroft, said: "With the roadmap laid out by the Prime Minister, we are excited about our sport's prospects for the coming season.

"With sensible interventions in place, bowls is a sport that can be enjoyed authentically and safely within the Government guidelines and it will be a huge boost for the wellbeing of the bowls community to be playing the sport they love and connecting back in with their local communities.

"We will be working in partnership with all stakeholders, notably affiliated clubs, to navigate through any challenges and, whilst mindful to retain a level of caution, are very excited about the outdoor bowls season beginning soon."

For detailed guidance, visit:

<https://www.bowlsengland.com/>

News in brief



Marie Curie Nurses charity appeals for people ready to take part in the '2-Hour Challenge'

In March of every year hundreds of people usually take to the streets with a yellow bucket and spend two hours collecting money for Marie Curie Nurses as part of the Great Daffodil Appeal.

Due to safety concerns they can't go ahead with the public collections this year, so instead the charity is asking people to give two hours of their time to fundraise.

You can do whatever you want to fundraise for your 2 Hour Challenge, but in case you can't decide, here are a couple of ideas:

- If you're good with your hands you could spend two hours creating something for your challenge. Maybe you could spend two hours knitting daffodils and sell them to raise money?
- Why not do a sponsored session of two hours in the kitchen with no plan or recipe and see what you can come up with?

For more information on the 2-Hour Challenge, visit: www.mariecurie.org.uk

Sky Sports to show six live Super League ties during Easter Weekend

Super League's Round 2 Easter Weekend schedule has been announced.

The set of six games, all live on Sky Sports and set to be played behind closed doors at the Totally Wicked Stadium, will kick off on Thursday, April 1 with a tie between the league's defending champions and last year's losing finalists Wigan Warriors and Wakefield Trinity, followed by Hull KR v St Helens.

There are two games on Good Friday, with Warrington Wolves taking on Leigh Centurions before Leeds Rhinos play Castleford Tigers.

The round concludes on Easter Saturday with another doubled header of games as Salford Red Devils face Hull FC ahead of the clash between Huddersfield Giants and Catalans Dragons.

Heaton Buffs Club ready to make up for lost time



Members of the Heaton Buffs Club in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne enjoy live music in early 2020, just weeks before the pandemic hit the UK

The Heaton Buffs Club in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne is determined to make up for lost time when it reopens in the coming months.

Indeed, the club has promised its members that it will be staging both a Christmas party and a New Years event in July, having been forced to cancel these events at the tailend of last year due to its enforced closure under the Government's tier system.

The club had been due to stage a spectacular New Year's Day Party to kick off 2021 with highly rated covers band Kamino playing sets throughout the day as well as regular bingo and Play Your Cards Right sessions.

The club, which is renowned for its year-round live entertainment offering, has also booked live bands for every Saturday from June 26 until the end of December 21.

The first Saturday, which falls in line with the Government's plans to relax COVID-19 restrictions from June 21 onwards, will feature popular local rock band Electric Sheep.

Other bands booked for upcoming Saturday nights in July and August include The Beer Monkeys, The Force, The Howard Baker Band and Sneaky Blinders.

It's a clear sign that the club is ready to resume its thriving level of trade which was rudely interrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

A club spokesman said: "We are in a very fortunate position here at the Buffs. The club has been run very well. I'm not just talking about recently but, historically as well. We have enough put by to see us through this terrible situation.

"Committees past and present should be commended for the way the club is continuing to thrive and survive.

"The Government grants and furlough scheme are also a massive help, without which it would have been very difficult to keep all our fantastic staff."

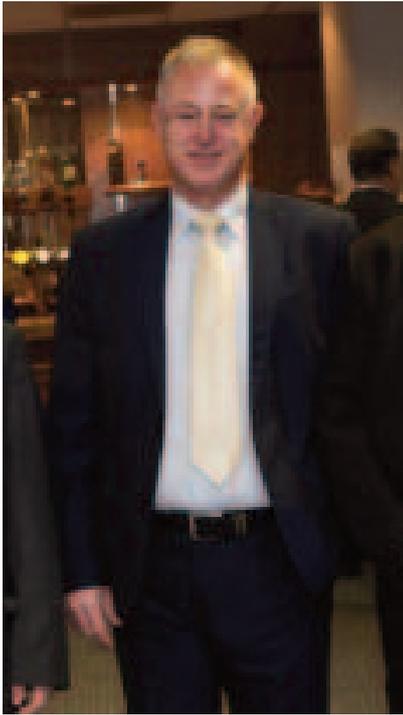
For more information on upcoming events being held at the club, visit: www.heatonbuffs.com



UEFA Champions League football live on BT Sport



News in brief



CIU Legal Consultant Allyn Walton

CIU's In-House Legal Consultant Allyn Walton ready to provide help for clubs

The work done by the Union on behalf of its member clubs is wide ranging.

One important service is legal advice through our In-House Legal Consultant Allyn Walton (pictured above), an Employment Law and Litigation specialist who has been with the CIU as a Nationally Preferred Supplier since 2011.

In addition to his advice to the Union directly, he also provides help and assistance to our clubs in a variety of areas.

As long as you talk to him about matters such as procedures and policies, terms & conditions etc over the telephone, he will offer advice free of charge.

If you use him for more detailed legal work, such as unfair dismissal, discrimination, contract disputes with suppliers etc. his charges are approximately one-third of the average High Street rate.

So, even if you have legal advice insurance in place and you need to notify them of any potential claim, there is always room for a second opinion.

Alternatively, Allyn can liaise with your insurance company to come on board under your existing cover.

For the majority of clubs who don't have the benefit of insurance cover, our job is to recommend suitable people with the necessary skill, experience and ability to help clubs.

Perhaps you want to give Allyn Walton a try? If so, just contact Head Office and we'll put you in touch.

Johnson sets out four-step reopening plan

In February, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed his four-step plan for the easing of lockdown and reopening of hospitality venues. Here is our at-a-glance guide to the key dates for reopening.

STEP 1

March 8 – schools reopen; hospitality limited to takeaway and delivery; meet one person from outside their household, such as 'a coffee on a bench'.

March 29 – Easter holiday – 'rule of six' returns outdoors. People no longer legally required to stay at home, though many restrictions will remain in place.

STEP 2

April 12 – Non-essential retail and outdoor spaces are permitted to open, including 'beer gardens' and 'alcohol takeaways.' No indoor social mixing will be allowed, but clubs will be open for outdoor drinking according to the 'rule of six.'

STEP 3

May 17 – Clubs can reopen for indoor serving. Two households will be able to mix indoors, with the 'rule of six' reintroduced. Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions, funerals and wakes. For outdoor gatherings, the 'rule of six' will be abolished and replaced with a limit of 30 people.

STEP 4

June 21 – All legal limits on social contact will be removed, with the reopening of large events like theatre performances and nightclubs. Restrictions on weddings and funerals will also be abolished.

There will be at least five weeks between the lifting of each set of restrictions, and crucially, an announcement will be made on whether or not a given step will be delayed seven days in advance.

Moving any faster, the Prime Minister said, "would be acting before we know the impact of each step."

He confirmed that restrictions will be eased nationally, putting paid to the unpopular tiered restrictions in different regions of the country.

This is Johnson's "cautious and irreversible" plan, one that is likely to remain unreversed because the government has set up four tests it must meet at each stage, tests it can almost certainly count on passing.

The Four Tests

- The vaccine programme continues successfully.
- Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently reducing the number of people dying with the virus or hospitalised.
- Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
- The assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new variants of concern.

"The sequence will be driven by the evidence," Johnson said. "At every stage, our decisions will be driven by data, not dates."

He added that the spring and summer would be "seasons of hope, looking and feeling incomparably better for us all".

He described the plan as a "one-way road to freedom" but said he could not guarantee it would be irreversible "but the intention is that it should be".

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Coronavirus Survey



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second *Club Journal* Coronavirus Survey.

Following on from our earlier survey in 2020, these questions are intended to help get a current ‘snapshot’ of how CIU clubs are doing after a nightmarish 12 months of enforced closures and business disruption.

The CIU is determined to ensure that clubs have the support they need to bounce back once the pandemic recedes so we would appreciate you filling in the following survey.

The results of this survey will help the Union to lobby the Government on the key concerns facing clubs going forward, including whether the levels of financial support available are sufficient to enable the sector to face the future with optimism or whether further measures are required to help clubs hit the ground running once they reopen.

Closing date for the survey is March 26, 2021 and we will publish the results of the survey in the April issue of *Club Journal*.

The National Executive Committee

CLUB JOURNAL CORONAVIRUS SURVEY

(Please tick appropriate boxes.)

1. How many members does your club have? (Tick one box)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 200 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 300 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 400 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 800-plus | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1000-plus | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

2. What did your club do during the latest shutdown?

- Maintained communications with your members
- Helped the local community
- Used social media to build the club's community/membership
- Kept in touch with your local authority
- Kept in touch with your CIU Branch
- Kept in touch with suppliers
- Kept in touch with other clubs
- Offered takeaway beer via delivery service
- Offered club premises as testing/vaccination centre
- Underwent routine maintenance/refurbishment

3. When do you think your club will reopen?

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| March | <input type="checkbox"/> | June | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| April | <input type="checkbox"/> | July | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| May | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

4. How confident are you about the club's future?

- Not very
- Moderately
- Very
- Extremely

Do you have anything to add on this subject?

5. After reopening, how long do you expect for trade to return to pre-COVID-19 levels?

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Immediately | <input type="checkbox"/> | Less than 12 months | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Less than 3 months | <input type="checkbox"/> | Longer than 12 months | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Less than 6 months | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6. What further measures should the Government take to help clubs recover?

- Extend VAT cut to 5% for 12 months
- Create a further Business Rates holiday for clubs
- Create a further Job Retention Bonus Scheme
- Defer tax payments until December 2021
- Extend the Furlough scheme
- Reduction in Beer Duty
- Action on alcohol pricing in supermarkets
- Other (please specify)

7. Which funding schemes/grants have you accessed during the pandemic?

- Furlough Job Retention Scheme
- Bounce Back Loans
- Business interruption Loan Scheme
- Business support grants
- Other (please specify)

8. Did your club suppliers maintain contact during the shutdown?

- Yes
- No

9. Have you received any support from your club suppliers during the pandemic?

- None
- They have not contacted me
- They have been supportive
- They have provided loans/funding
- They have provided discounted goods
- They were involved with our takeaway service

10. What support would you like to receive from your club suppliers?

- Attractive payment terms
- Lower minimum orders
- Marketing advice/support
- Digital advice/support
- Clear/regular communications

11. Potential areas for growth in the future

- Locals looking for better value
- Community now more aware of the club
- Being local/people travelling less
- Hub for all activities in the area
- Social hub
- Pub customers will come to the club
- Other (please specify)

12. Will your club change significantly how it operates in any of the following areas?

- Live entertainment
- Drinks offering
- Indoor sports/games
- Private functions
- Cashless payments
- Staffing
- Showing live sport
- Other (please specify)

13. Do you believe that the continuing progress of the vaccination programme will help clubs to return to pre-COVID levels of trade?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Do you have anything further to say on this subject?

Post to: ACP, Club Journal Survey, Gainsborough House, 59/60 Thames Street, Windsor, SW4 1TX. Alternatively, you can scan your survey responses and email them to: info@clubjournal.co.uk

Interview: Dransfields Managing Director Chris Haley

Chris Haley, Managing Director of Preferred Supplier Dransfields, is looking forward to re-engaging with CIU clubs when the lockdown is lifted in the coming months, as well as meeting with delegates during Conference Weekend

Q: What do you make of the Government's approach to the reopening of clubs?

Chris Haley: I was disappointed, to be honest, with the Prime Minister's announcement on February 22, particularly in regard to the date of May 17 as being earliest point for the resumption of indoor hospitality.

Before the announcement, I was thinking it could potentially be the beginning of May but was hoping for the middle of April.

But it's clear that the Government is approaching the end of this lockdown in a cautious manner and not over-promising this time round.

One of the positives to take from it is at least we've got a time frame for emerging from lockdown and hopefully we won't be going back into it again as a result of the cautious sort of approach.

Q: How will Dransfields approach the end of this latest lockdown?

CH: We'll be looking at a phased return to work across the company, bringing some people back part-time and others full-time.

It very much depends on how quickly our customers reopen.

Looking back at 2020, our best month last year – from March onwards – was September when we got back to about 87 per cent of turnover compared to the previous September in 2019.

Although our staff have been furloughed through the lockdowns, we've still remained open and kept our lines of communication with our club customers through emails and our website, while our phone lines have been in operation throughout.

Our club customers can be assured that they will get everything they need from us in terms of service – engineering, support, logistics, etc - ahead of them reopening.



Chris Haley, Managing Director of Preferred Supplier Dransfields

Obviously, there are technical issues involved in getting gaming machines back up and running after a lockdown but we are prepared as a company to ensure that our customers can hit the ground running when it comes to using our products in their reopened clubs.

Q: So, on your evidence from previous lockdowns, you'd expect clubs and the wider hospitality sector to bounce back fairly swiftly?

CH: Well, it did last time, and in fact it bounced back quite strongly. I think 'pent-up' demand has a lot to do with that as members are desperate to get back in their clubs.

That's a major advantage for CIU clubs and members' clubs in general, that their members support their clubs so strongly and want to play their part in helping them get back on their feet.

People want to get back to having fun and socialising with their friends and where better to do it than at your club?

Of course, the level of trade will very much depend on what social distancing rules are put in place by the Government in hospitality settings in those early months before all restrictions are lifted on June 21.

I haven't seen any details on that yet but that will be important in terms of capacity.

But I would imagine that many



Dransfields will be showcasing their latest products at the CIU Trade Show in September in Blackpool

clubs will opt to remain closed until June when they're allowed to reopen fully without restrictions and use their concert halls and function rooms fully to ensure that they have that extra income coming in from private functions and live entertainment.

Despite being closed for much of the past 12 months, I know that many CIU clubs have still been working hard and many have taken the opportunity to refurbish while they have empty premises.

That augurs well for how strongly these clubs are likely to bounce back as members emerge from being stuck at home on their sofas for the best part of a year.

Q: Looking slightly further ahead, are you looking forward to CIU Conference Weekend in September?

CH: Absolutely. I will be attending the Annual Meeting as a delegate for my own club on Saturday, September 11, and we'll obviously have a big

presence at the CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition on the day before.

Aftet last year's Conference Weekend was cancelled due to the pandemic, this trade show will be a great opportunity for Dransfields to re-engage with our customers after the third lockdown.

It's a key event for the company as a whole which is why we always bring along a lot of personnel and take the opportunity to showcase our latest products to clubs.

While the whole point of the show is to help clubs boost their trade, it's also a really fun event to attend for both delegates and exhibitors alike.

We like to think that we contribute a lot to the day with our various competitions throughout the afternoon, including the Wheel of Fortune, speed pool and bingo sessions where you can win some great prizes, including TVs and cuddly toys.

Our Play Your Cards Right stand was extremely popular in 2019 as I well know because I was turning over

those giant cards for hours and ended up having physiotherapy on my shoulder for months afterwards!

Q: Dransfields was a longtime sponsor of the CIU National Quiz competition? Was that something you enjoyed being involved with as a company?

CH: Yes, we were delighted to support the CIU National Quiz and it's a real shame that it has not run for the past couple of years.

It was always of an extremely high standard not to mention being one of the oldest quiz competitions in the world.

The CIU quiz has been graced by some outstanding quizzers over the years, not least Mark 'The Beast' Labbett from The Chase and Egghead Kevin Ashman.

I would love to see it return as there's been a real surge of interest in quizzes during the lockdown with many people taking part in them via Zoom.



Bishopthorpe Sports & Social Club

Bishopthorpe Sports & Social Club in North Yorkshire carried out a major refurbishment in 2020 and is looking forward to welcoming members back to enjoy its fantastic facilities

Situated in the picturesque village of Bishopthorpe, just three miles south of York, Bishopthorpe Sports & Social Club is, in normal times, buzzing with activity seven days a week.

The club, established in 1946, is renowned for being forward-looking and its former Club Secretary, Jackie Medley, was at the forefront of the successful campaign to give women full rights as CIU members in the mid-2000s.

Scroll forward 15 years or so and the club continues to look to the future with confidence, buoyed by a highly effective Committee – headed by Chairman Martin Scott – with a diverse age range that runs from twentysomethings to octogenarians.

“We’re very lucky in the high calibre of people who are willing to join the Committee,” says Club Secretary Dawn Paylor.

“We have a great balance in terms of enthusiasm, skills and experience and we’re very keen to have a

succession plan in place where the older members of the Committee can pass down their knowledge to the next generation.

“We pride ourselves on being a true community venue for everyone,” she continues.

“The club was open for just 18 weeks in total during 2020 but we can’t wait for the club to reopen and once again play its central role in village life.

“In normal times we are used by a number of local groups for



Roger and Anna Bacon retired as Stewards in September 2020

fundraising events and meetings throughout the year.

“Before Coronavirus emerged, the club was a real hive of activity throughout the week with Pop choir on a Monday; Rock ‘n’ Roll on a Tuesday; Community choir sessions on a Wednesday; Thursday was Open Mike or Radio Club and then you’d have the weekends with private parties or club events taking place.”

Of course, such uplifting community events have been in short supply during the various lockdowns but despite a frustrating year of enforced closures, the club continues to look to the future with optimism, opting to give the premises a serious makeover midway through 2020.

“During the last 12 months, we’ve completed a full refurbishment of our Lounge and Bar area,” says Dawn.

“We thought that, while we’re closed, it would be a fantastic opportunity to improve the club. Our Lounge and Games area in particular really needed some work as it was looking a bit dated.

“I’d met Graeme Miller of ACE Furniture at the CIU Trade Show in Blackpool about three years ago and been really impressed with their

knowledge of the club sector as well as their range of furniture, so gave him a ring.

“I explained what we had in mind for the club and he put me in touch with Vanderbyl Design, which is a Cheshire-based refurbishment specialist that works alongside ACE.

“The two firms did a brilliant, seamless job in tandem and everyone is delighted with the results.

“Due to logistics, the work was actually carried out in August 2020 so we delayed our opening until September and in the end we were only open for six weeks and six days before we had to close again!

“It may have been a short period of time that we were open but we did really well as people wanted to come and see the club refurbishment for themselves having seen the pictures on our Facebook page and on our website.

“We were actually busier on weekdays than we were in pre-pandemic times even though we were only allowed to open until 10pm.

“It helped that we have the luxury of plenty of space so could lay out the club in such a way that ensured everyone felt very safe.

“It was very pleasing to see the reaction to the refurbishment and we actually got loads of new members joining during those six weeks.

“Sadly, a lot of our older members stayed away, quite understandably, but trading was very buoyant.

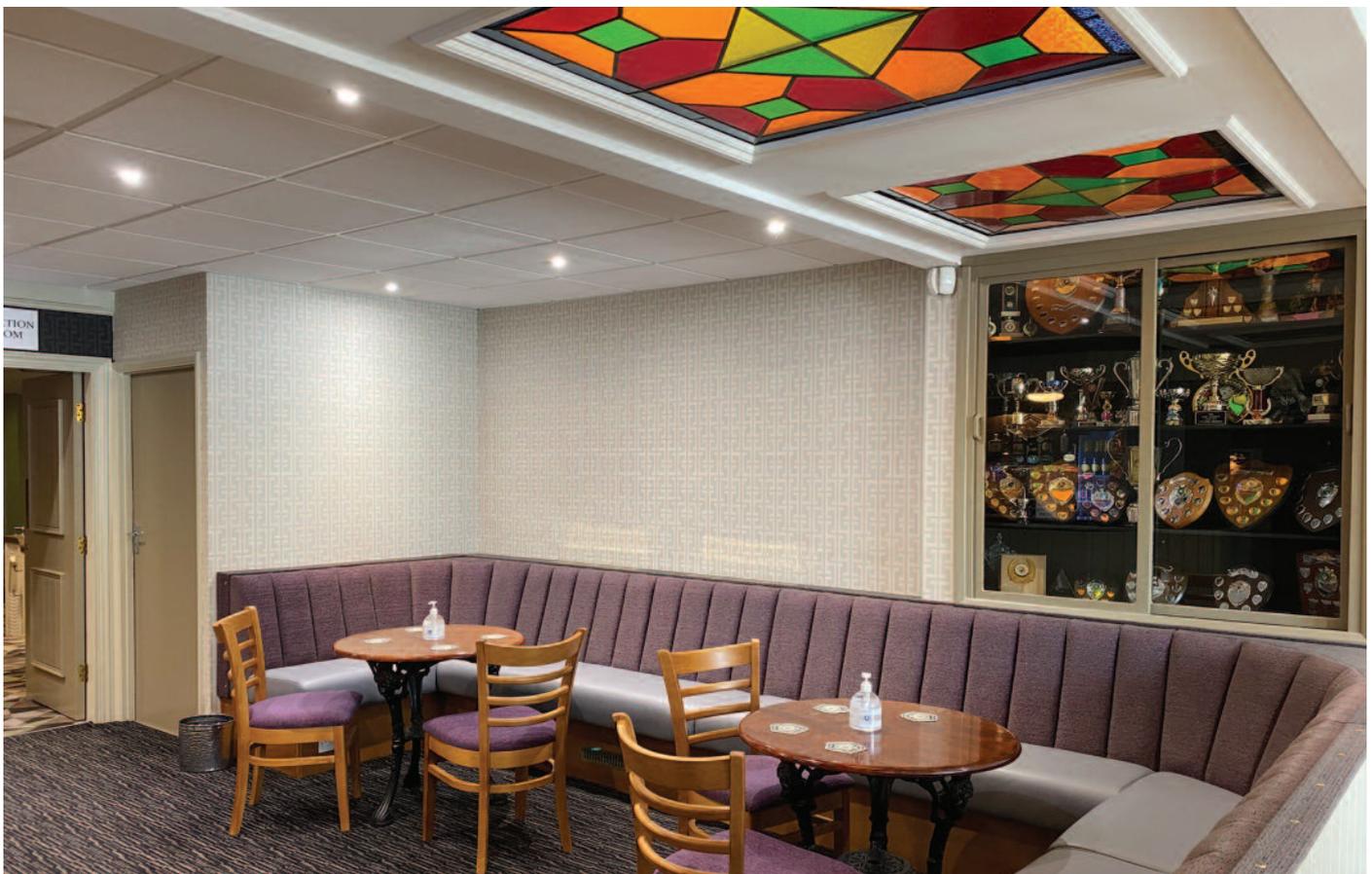
“It makes me feel very positive about how well things will go when this current lockdown ends.”

Of course, like all licensed premises, the club had to find a way through a seemingly ever-shifting array of Government restrictions in order to remain compliant.

“It was incredible just how things changed over that six-week period in terms of how we operated,” says Dawn.

“When we first opened up following that first lockdown, as well as putting in a one-way system, we had perspex screens installed at the bar and members used to come in and queue in a socially distanced fashion, order in one place and then pick up their drinks at the collection point.

“We’d only been open a week and then the table service-only order came down from the Government so we had to completely rethink the bar operation.



The club's Bar and Lounge areas have been modernised

CLUB OF THE MONTH

“We employed some young people from the village to do the table service and it worked really well in the end.

“There was a lot of live sport on BT Sport and Sky so we got that back on and our members really enjoyed themselves in the new-look club.

“Leeds United have a big following in the club so it was particularly busy when their Premier League games were being shown.

“We had tables spaced out in our Function Room and have a massive 120-inch projection screen in there so it’s a brilliant environment for watching the sport, along with four further TVs ranging from 32 to 65 inches.

“Showing live sport is important to the club so no doubt a lot of members are looking forward to coming back in for that.

“The club actually sponsors a number of local football teams who play their matches nearby and use us as their clubhouse – Bishopthorpe United FC, Bishopthorpe Club FC and Corinthians FC.

“So, on Saturdays and Sundays, they play their games in the morning and then head to the club for post-match drinks while they watch the Premier League action on our various screens.

“It adds to the general atmosphere



The club’s comfortable and modern Lounge has proved very popular with members

in the club and also brings new people into the club.”

Among the many profound changes that affected the club in 2020 was the retirement of their much-loved Steward and Stewardess, Roger and Anna Bacon.

“In September, Roger and Anna

decided to retire after 22 years with the club.

“They really have given fantastic service to the club and its members over that time so we’re really grateful for all they’ve done and intend to build on their legacy.”

Indeed, that legacy includes a

Len Atkinson (second left), the club’s longest serving Committee Member received a service award from NEC Member Dave Gravel CMD (far left), York City Branch President Alan Preston (second right) and York City Branch Secretary Frank Healy CMD (far right)



national reputation for serving an outstanding collection of cask ales which has earned the club accolades aplenty from the Campaign For Real Ale (CAMRA).

“We’ve won ‘CAMRA Club of the Year’ for York four times in total, the latest in 2019,” says Dawn.

“Meanwhile, in October, we found out that we’ve been included in CAMRA’s Good Beer Guide for the first time ever which is a real accolade.

“When we reopen, we will have one regular ale from Black Sheep and two rotating guest ales.

“In March, we usually host our St Patrick’s Beer Festival over three days and that is one of the main social highlights for the village.

“We have live bands playing as well as sport showing on the big screen and it makes for a great weekend.

“Last year’s event took place the week before lockdown and it was well supported with everyone determined to enjoy themselves to the full knowing what was coming.

“It would have been our 10th annual event this year so it’s very disappointing that it’s not going to happen but no doubt we’ll make up

for it in 2022.”

One event which did take place at the club, albeit in the car park, was the Bishopthorpe Community Choir’s Christmas production.

Dawn explains: “Every year the choir does a Christmas performance in the village church but this year due to lockdown they performed on the raised patio outside the club with the accompanying organ plugged into a power socket in our cellar.

“It was a few days before Christmas and was a really lovely event with lots of people from the village coming along to enjoy some socially distanced carols.”

As the pandemic recedes, all clubs will be hoping that such community-orientated events are back in the diary before too long as people are able to hold celebratory events once more.

“Before the pandemic took hold last year, we had projected that 2021 was going to be our busiest ever year in terms of private functions being held at the club,” says Dawn.

“We were fully booked virtually every weekend of the year and that would have resulted in some great added income for the club. But we’ll obviously be hoping that once we

reopen, all those cancelled celebrations and events will be able to take place at some point.

“With the club looking so fantastic after the refurbishment, we can’t wait to reopen and welcome everyone back in!”

There has been a flurry of activity at the club during the early part of 2021 with City of York Council setting up a mobile COVID testing centre in the car park back in January.

“We were delighted to offer our car park over to the council as a testing site as that’s obviously hugely important in the continuing fight against the virus,” says Dawn.

It’s clear that in good times and bad, Bishopthorpe Sports & Social Club is determined to do whatever it can to serve its local community.

CONTACT DETAILS

Bishopthorpe Sports & Social Club
12 Main Street
Bishopthorpe
York, YO23 2RB
Phone: 01904 707185
Branch: York City
Website: bishopthorpeclub.co.uk



The annual St Patrick's Beer Festival is one of the highlights of the year for the CAMRA-accredited club

Heineken UK launches the 'Benefits Bar' to help boost trade

Heineken UK – the Preferred Supplier of beer and cider to the CIU – has launched the 'Benefits Bar' as a resource available to its customers where they can share ideas and receive advice on their specific business needs



Heineken UK has launched the Benefits Bar which gives clubs support in all areas of their business, including advice on which brands to serve

As the countdown begins to the hospitality trade reopening later this year following the Government's roadmap to ending the COVID-19 restrictions, Heineken UK – the Preferred Supplier of beer and cider to the CIU – has launched the 'Benefits Bar' as a resource available to its customers, writes the brewer.

The Heineken Benefits Bar offers operators access to exclusive, dedicated customer support in all areas of their business.

This support aims to cover all elements of running a bar, from sharing learnings to the specially developed tools and technologies, all integral to boosting business and

enhancing member experience.

Heineken aims to help operators satisfy every customer, every time, and grow their business through five key areas of expertise underpinning its Benefits Bar:

Doing business in the right way

Heineken's dedicated team and expert partners are always on hand to support you and grow your business.

Brewing a better world is fundamental to everything at Heineken, from growing 100 per cent sustainable barley for their range of beers or local apples for their ciders to helping you serve the perfect pint to your members.

Offering the right brands

Feel confident you have the right products for every customer, every time.

Choose from Heineken's extensive range of drinks, whether it's the number one cider brand, an on-trend craft beer, the latest premium mixer or one of their exclusive wines.

Serving expertise and insight

Access the latest market and consumer trends as well as Heineken's understanding through Star Pubs & Bars on everything it takes to run a great bar. Using industry knowledge and local market dynamics, Heineken's customer teams

can share ideas, advice and on-trade expertise to meet your club's specific business needs.

Making things easier and more profitable

From marketing your venue to driving footfall to delivering a great customer experience, Heineken are continuously developing innovative technology and solutions, including the Heineken Buying Club, SmartDispense™ and Swifty. Tried and tested in Star Pubs and Bars, these innovations are designed to help you save time, money and grow your business.

Hosting unbeatable experiences

Show your customers a great time through training, marketing support and events to make your bar and every pint you serve look perfect.

From getting the basics right with

lit founts and glassware, to tools like Hello BEER and POS Direct, as well as exclusive partnerships and sponsorships including UEFA European Championship, Heineken can help you create experiences to drive sales.

Networking opportunities

As part of the Heineken Benefits Bar, Heineken UK recently launched The Pub Social – a Facebook group open to all operators, including CIU clubs.

This online community gives operators the opportunity to share experiences, ask questions and get advice from peers, as well as real-time relevant support from Heineken UK.

With over 800 members already active on The Pub Social Facebook group, all operators can be part of this supportive community as they navigate reopening, new regulations

and the changing needs of customers.

Whether it's sharing ideas for driving footfall, staying active within your community or just looking for recommendations, get honest feedback and learn from the experiences of fellow operators across the country.

The Pub Social joins Heineken's portfolio of business solutions designed to work seamlessly with everything your members already love about their favourite hospitality venue, while enhancing their experience.

The Heineken Benefits Bar utilises tried and tested insight and learnings, making it an exclusive resource for operators to help their businesses thrive.

• For more information on the Benefits Bar, visit:

<https://www.heineken.co.uk>



Heineken's customer teams will share ideas and advice via the Benefits Bar

Date confirmed for 2021 CIU Beer & Trades Show

It has been confirmed that the 29th Beer & Trades Exhibition will take place on the afternoon of Friday, September 10 in the Norcalympia Suite at the Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool



The 2021 CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition will take place on Friday, September 10

The Union's NEC has confirmed that the 29th CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition will take place on Friday, September 10 as part of the rescheduled Conference Weekend for 2021.

With the Government recently setting out its plan to lift COVID-19 restrictions from June 21, the stage is set for delegates to attend and enjoy Conference Weekend during the late summer.

The event is the UK's biggest trade show for 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 bounce back from the various lockdowns which have been imposed over the past year, while taking part in some fun activities along the way.

Already several key club suppliers have confirmed their presence at the 2021 show – see page opposite.



The Norcalympia at the Norbreck Castle Hotel is the venue for the CIU Trade Show

Exhibitors for the 2021 Trade Show

We hear from the suppliers who are looking forward to meeting CIU members in September



“We’re very excited about the prospect of Blackpool later this year. We’ve been a keen supporter of the Trade show for many years now and our calendar seemed that much poorer without it in 2020. We’re delighted it’s back and look forward to catching up with our club customers.”

Ed Cracknell, Head of Marketing, BT Sport



“We are delighted to be attending our sixth consecutive CIU trade show, showcasing our innovative range of products, specifically designed and bespoke for the club sector.

“We look forward to seeing you on our stand as always. We will be demonstrating our EPOS Control System, which is now helping over 1,300 clubs, together with our new mobile serving solutions which are tailored to ensure Covid safety for your staff and members.

“Stay safe, take care and see you in Blackpool in September.”

Chris McNally, Director, Club Control



“There’s no doubt it’s been a tough time for us all but it is great to see so many clubs continuing to support their members and local communities.

“Dransfields will continue to work with customers to assist them during these difficult times and I am therefore delighted to support the rescheduled CIU Trade Show and Exhibition once again. The positives of being able to get together once again and meet in a fun, safe and controlled manner are immense and will be a highlight of the 2021 calendar for many of us.”

Chris Haley, Managing Director, Dransfields



“While we all know the challenges our sector is going through at the moment, we hope your experience with Higos Insurance has so far been a positive one. We are all really looking forward to attending our first CIU Trade Show and Exhibition in September. We certainly hope that we can see as many of the CIU members there as

possible, and the Clubs team will be on hand to talk to you about any of your insurance needs, plus the other services Higos can offer you as the CIU insurance partner. In the meantime we hope you all stay safe and well, but if you need to talk to us about anything insurance related please do not hesitate to call the team on 01458 270 303 or email hospitality.portfolio@higos.co.uk.”

Darren Siwec, Account Executive, Higos Insurance



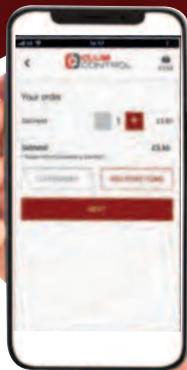
“Great news that the CIU Trade Show will be back in 2021. We look forward to seeing our club friends old and new at Blackpool in September. This year will be a little different on our stand as we look forward to sharing with you some new ideas and technologies that will help clubs to save money and boost their bottom lines. In the meantime, stay safe and well.

David King, Director, Pure Purchasing Consultants Ltd

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SERVING CLUBS NATIONALLY

Annual Meeting confirmed for Saturday, September 11

It has been confirmed that CIU club delegates from across the country will gather at the 2021 Annual Meeting in the Royal Suite of the Grand Hotel in Blackpool on Saturday, September 11

The Union's 2021 Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, September 11 in the Royal Suite of the Grand Hotel in Blackpool.

The venue, situated on Blackpool's North Promenade, is very close to the town centre and has a tram stop opposite its main entrance.

This year's Annual Meeting will be the first chance for delegates to debate and vote on the CIU constitution since April 2019 with the 2020 Conference having been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The 2021 Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, September 11 at Blackpool's Grand Hotel



Union President George Smith will chair the 2021 Annual Meeting



The Royal Suite at the Grand Hotel in Blackpool will be the venue for the 2021 Annual Meeting



Union Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM will deliver his address at the 2021 AGM



NEC Member Jack Haughey CMD ACM at the last AGM



Durham Branch Vice-President Stan Summers speaking at the 2019 AGM

THE CIU – UNITED WE STAND!

As clubs gear up to reopen later this year, here's an in-depth look at the many services and benefits offered by the CIU to our affiliated clubs, including legal advice, the chance to learn about club law and finance through the Union's Education Programme and the opportunity to take part in national sporting competitions

Advice and Help for Clubs

Affiliated clubs can take advantage of the resources of the CIU through their local Branch Secretary and from Head Office with assistance offered in legal proceedings where matters of club principles are involved. The Union produces a series of contracts and handbooks which take in the current legislative requirements, including the Club Secretary Handbook which is regularly updated to include the most recent changes to employment law. The Union also runs an Arbitration Training programme.

Education

The Award in Club Management (ACM) is a qualification which comprises three self-contained units each taking one day of classroom-based study to complete. Unit 1 covers Law & Regulation, Licensing, Unit 2 covers Other Law and Regulations and Unit 3 covers Management, Finance and Administration. The course is open to all CIU members but is specifically aimed at people who are going to be sitting on club committees and occupying positions of authority within clubs for the first time.

Club Journal

Club Journal is the Union's official monthly magazine and is a must-read for CIU members. Each month the magazine features news from around the branches, club profiles, opinion columns from leading Union figures, business-building advice from the experts, sporting news and results, plus details of the CIU Racing Club discounts available to members. Each affiliated club receives one free copy of the monthly magazine while an annual subscription of 12 issues costs £7.50.

Charity

CIU clubs are at the forefront of raising funds for an array of national and local charities with members getting involved in a range of activities – from charity darts marathons and sponsored bike rides to special fundraising concerts and entertainment nights. As well as countless local charities, many national charities benefit from CIU events that are held throughout the year at our clubs, including the Alzheimers Society, the British Heart Foundation and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Lobbying on Behalf of Clubs

Union officials have been at the forefront of helping shape legislation across a number of areas of crucial importance to clubs through the CIU's involvement with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Non-Profit Making Private Members' Clubs. This group, which meets regularly at Westminster, gives the Union direct access to both Members of Parliament and Peers from across the political spectrum. The CIU also plays a leading role in the Committee of Registered Clubs' Association (CORCA).

Rules

The CIU Rules Department deal with all matters relating to rules on behalf of clubs, the Union and the Branches. The preparation of all rule changes for the approval of the club members, the registration with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the printing through the Union's printer, are all dealt with at Head Office. Head Office also deals with clubs' affiliation to the Union. The Union has produced a Generic Rules Book especially to help clubs which are currently unaffiliated to the CIU.





Events - CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition

Normally staged during Conference Weekend – set for September this year – the CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition provides a great opportunity for club delegates to attend a free trade show which is specifically designed for CIU clubs. The show provides a great day out as the many exhibitors – including several of the CIU’s Preferred Suppliers such as Dransfields, Heineken UK, Higos and Matthew Clark – show attendees how they can help increase profits and save money on running costs at their clubs.

The CIU Racing Club

In normal times, the CIU Racing Club enables clubs to take advantage of special discounted tickets for club outings to a variety of racecourses across the country. When spectators are allowed back into racecourses, *Club Journal* will publish a list of fixtures for race meetings throughout the year for which CIU members can obtain their discounted tickets, as well as giving details of exciting ‘one-off’ offers and packages, including racedays at some of the country’s top racing venues, including Chepstow and Haydock Park.

Sport & Games

The Union is one of the biggest organisers of sporting competitions in the country with trophies being competed for at both a National and Branch level. The following Indoor Championships are held annually within the CIU: Team Darts, Team Pool, Team Snooker, Individual Snooker, Individual Darts, Individual Pool, Dominoes 5s and 3s, Dominoes Straights and Cribbage Pairs. Many nationally ranked snooker and darts players first honed their skills at their local CIU club.

CIU Official Website

The CIU’s official website (www.wmciu.org.uk) provides a wealth of information regarding the activities going on throughout the Union, as well as contact details for Head Office and Branch personnel. It also has a ‘Breaking News’ section which will keep you abreast of the latest Government information on financial support for clubs during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as links to the Union’s Preferred Suppliers. It also has a database of all the clubs affiliated to the CIU.

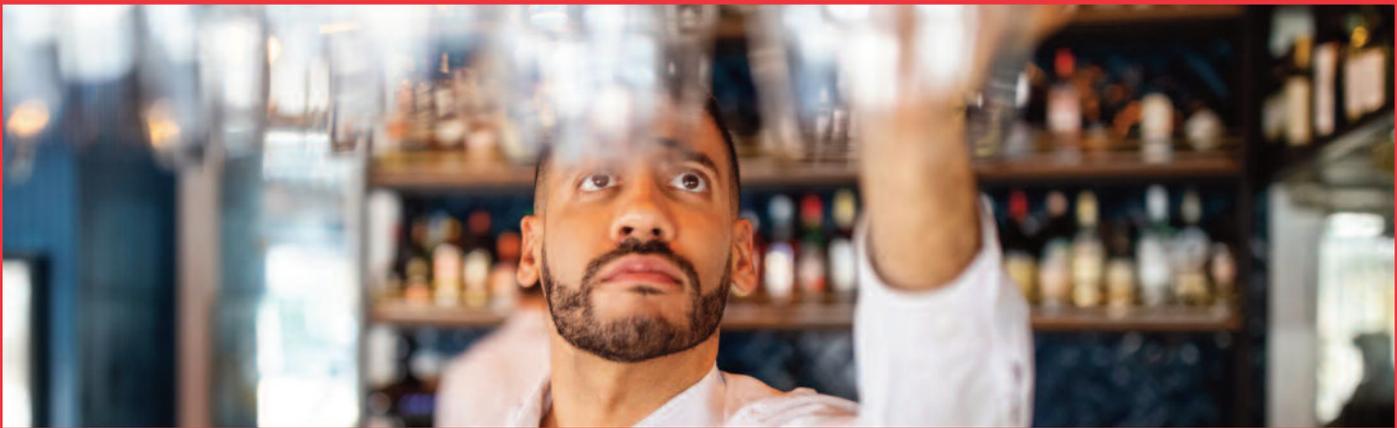
Events - CIU National Charity Raceday

Dransfields CIU National Charity Raceday is an annual event, held at Wetherby Racecourse in November. This is one of the highlights of the CIU calendar and the last event held saw 1,000 Union members enjoying a fantastic day out as they raised over £1,700 for the CIU’s Education Programme. The CIU marquee is situated next to the Winners Enclosure, with discounted beer and hearty food on offer. Normally, the CIU also runs an annual Greyhound Racing night each September.

PRS Tariff

The CIU has negotiated a special discount for its clubs with the Performing Right Society (PRS) which collects and distributes licence fees for the use of music on behalf of songwriters, composers and performers. The PRS licence covers music played through radios, CDs, streaming on the internet, music on TVs and also live music performances. The tariff for Members’ Clubs is printed annually and placed in *Club Journal*. It can also be downloaded from the CIU website: www.wmciu.org.uk





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FAST DELIVERY - UK STOCKIST- CONTRACT QUALITY

Steward or Stewardess with partners wanted Skegness Ex-Servicemen's Club

(Previous applicants need not apply)

A one bed flat is available on the club premises.

Duties to include:

- Bar, cellar and staff management
- Stock ordering and bar sales recording etc
- Cash control

The Club Management has 13 members at present.

A £2,500 bond is required.

Applications with CV and references should be made to the

Club Secretary by post to:

Skegness Ex-Servicemens' Club Ltd
2, Grand Parade, Skegness, Lincolnshire PE25 2UN.

Any questions telephone **01754 762113**
between 11.30am-1.30pm and ask for the Secretary.
Alternatively email on exserviceclub@hotmail.co.uk

Every month we give £10 prizes to five lucky correct entrants.

ACROSS

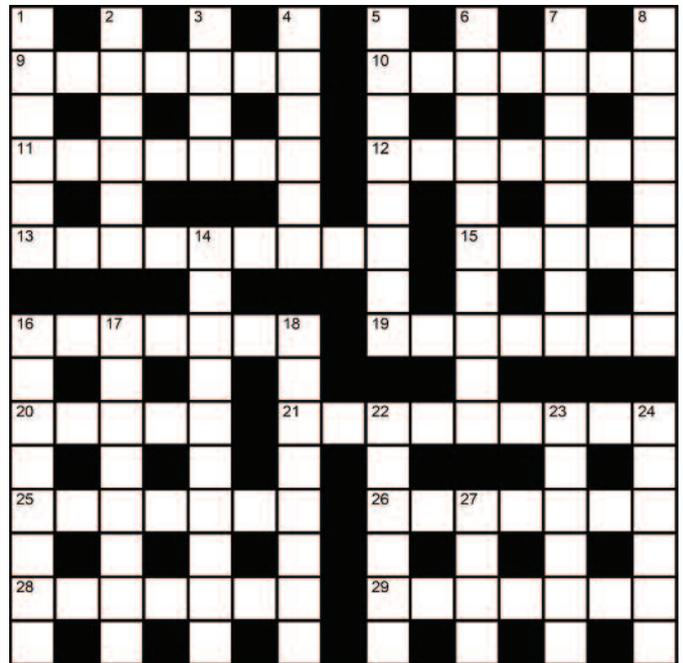
- Metal symbolised by you, say (7)
- Opposed to a sting (a setup) (7)
- Jacket's under sad music, say? (7)
- See Pace as being the one that got away (7)
- Agreement of scones baked in the sun (9)
- Queen's mate that can go on a bit? (5)
- Pelt the mob with drab stuff to disperse them (7)
- This sort of science can exit badly! (7)
- 'Can you fix my boil, corporal?' (5)
- Downpour, with a follower, could be an 'imagination-fest' (9)

- Now back after difficult beginning, gained at great cost (4-3)
- Windscreen that's rated XXX! (7)
- Take ore, and produce plant from it (3,4)
- Point is spot-on, but somehow incessant (7)

DOWN

- Canadian province that's unique, because it's smaller (6)
- Monkey about with bankbook that's lost a few thousand (6)
- 'Snake-speak' which is self-centred (4)
- Rectifies prayer, ending with deputy heads (6)
- Tweak Sir's composition for

- travel astern (5,3)
- Ball arranged for serfs' candy (5,5)
- No repeats for a harp on a production line (8)
- Pete sets off on the greatest incline (8)
- Warn of a melée breaking out over these pans (10)
- Long cutter mentioned in a book about a hill (8)
- Karen, mad about the devil's apple plant (8)
- Mad to have lost the farmhouse cooker? (8)
- Nine, to produce a chant (6)
- Flat ball shape can be a lot out (6)
- Confusions with the food-processor? (3-3)
- Pubs that'll wing it away from your winnings (4)



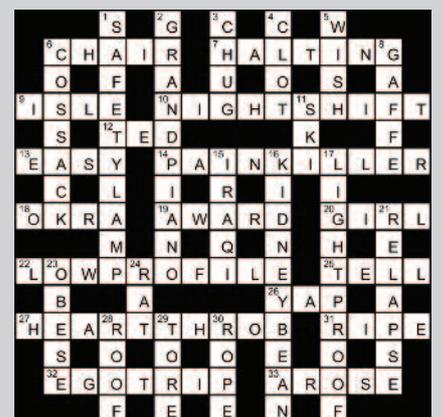
Name _____
Club _____
Address _____

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

- Mrs Lindley of Jackson Bridge WMC
- Mr Stanley Bower of Bocking WMC
- J McGuigan of Yardley Ex-Servicemens
- Mr H Shaw of Alberta Social
- Ronnie Kane of Putney CIU Club





Saturday, March 20, 2.30pm – BBC

FA Cup: Everton v Manchester City

A huge weekend of FA Cup action as the competition reaches the last eight stage. Manchester City got through to the quarter-finals with a 3-1 win at Swansea while the Toffees went through with a memorable 5-4 defeat of Tottenham after extra time. With both teams in excellent form in recent weeks, this should be a highly competitive tie.



Friday, March 26, 7.45pm, Sky Sports

Super League: St Helens v Leigh Centurions

Super League returns for the new season – after a month's delay – with a weekend of hard-hitting action. Reigning champions St Helens and newly-promoted Leigh Centurions are both in action on the opening night, while all matches in Round 1 will be played behind closed doors at Leeds Rhinos Emerald Headingley Stadium.



Wednesday, March 31, 7.45pm – ITV

World Cup Qualifier: England v Poland

The Poles, whose star striker Robert Lewandowski is one of the best players in the world, have faced the Three Lions in qualifying for the 1974, 1990, 1994, 2006 and 2014 World Cups, as well as taking on England in the finals in Mexico in 1986. England and Poland also met in qualifying for the 1992 and 2000 European Championships.

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

As well as the return of Super League, March sees the remaining teams in the Champions League battling it out for place in the quarter-finals, while England take part in three World Cup 2022 qualifying ties

Tuesday, March 9

8pm

BT Sport

UEFA Champions League: Round of 16, 2nd Leg - Juventus v Porto

Wednesday, March 10

8pm

BT Sport

UEFA Champions League: Round of 16, 2nd Leg - Liverpool v RB Leipzig

Saturday, March 13

12.30pm

BT Sport 1

Premier League: Leeds United v Chelsea

Saturday, March 13

2.15pm

BBC

Six Nations Rugby: Italy v Wales

Saturday, March 13

4.45pm

ITV

Six Nations Rugby: England v France

Saturday, March 13

5.30pm

Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Everton v Burnley

Saturday, March 13

8pm

BT Sport 1

Premier League: Fulham v Manchester City

Sunday, March 14

12 noon

BBC1

Premier League: Southampton v Brighton & Hove Albion

Sunday, March 14

2pm

Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Leicester City v Sheffield United

Monday, March 15

8pm

Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Wolves v Liverpool

Tuesday, March 16

12 noon

ITV

Horse Racing: Cheltenham Festival – Day 1

Tuesday, March 16

8pm

BT Sport

UEFA Champions League: Round of 16, 2nd Leg - Manchester City v Monchengladbach

Wednesday, March 17

8pm

BT Sport

UEFA Champions League: Round of 16, 2nd Leg - Chelsea v Atletico Madrid

Saturday, March 20

12.30pm

BT Sport

Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion v Newcastle United

Saturday, March 20

12.15pm

BT Sport

FA Cup - Quarter-Final: Bournemouth v Southampton

Saturday, March 20

4.45pm

ITV

Six Nations Rugby: Ireland v England



Cheltenham Festival, Tuesday,
March 16, 12 noon, ITV

Saturday, March 20

5.30pm

Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion v Newcastle United

Saturday, March 20

8pm

BT Sport

FA Cup - Quarter-Final: Everton v Manchester City

Saturday, March 20

7pm

Sky Sports Arena

Boxing: WBO World Cruiserweight Title - Lawrence Okolie vs Krysztof Glowacki

Saturday, March 20

8pm

ITV

Six Nations Rugby: France v Wales

Sunday, March 21

12 noon

Sky Sports Football

Scottish Premiership: Celtic v Rangers

Sunday, March 21

1.30pm

BBC1

FA Cup - Quarter-Final: Chelsea v Sheffield United

Sunday, March 21

3pm

BT Sport

Gallagher Premiership Rugby: Northampton Saints v Bristol Bears

Sunday, March 21

5pm

BBC1

FA Cup - Quarter-Final: Leicester City v Manchester United

Thursday, March 25

7.45pm

ITV

FIFA World Cup European Qualifier: San Marino v England

Friday, March 26

6pm

Sky Sports

Super League: St Helens v Salford Red Devils

Friday, March 26

8.15pm

Sky Sports

Super League: Leigh Centurions v Wigan Warriors

Saturday, March 27

3pm

Sky Sports

Super League: Wakefield v Leeds Rhinos

Sunday, March 28

3pm

Sky Sports F1

Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix

Sunday, March 28

5pm

ITV

FIFA World Cup European Qualifier: Albania v England

Wednesday, March 31

7.45pm

ITV

FIFA World Cup European Qualifier: England v Poland



**For sports &
social clubs,
it has to be Higos**

Hope's for a brighter future.

As light begins to appear at the end of what seems like a very long tunnel, at Higos we're keen to continue making 2021 a successful year. We're ready to get stuck in and focus on getting to know the quirks, challenges and idiosyncrasies of all our clients unique insurance needs. We have high hopes for the future to get back out on the road again and thoroughly introduce ourselves to all the clubs.

With 8000 membership organisations in the UK, from snooker clubs to scout troops, we understand your business is unique, so is our approach. Our bespoke cover is flexible, simple and handled by our dedicated in-house CIU insurance team, offering independent advice, expertise and underwriting skills to find cover that's 100% tailored you.

Our bespoke sports and social clubs insurance includes:

Public & Employers liability	Directors & Officers liability
Sports playing surfaces	Money in gaming machines
Legal expenses cover	Personal accident cover

With Covid19 causing many changes to the workplace, we know the amount of valuable time and energy that's spent on keeping up to date with UK & EU regulation, that's why we're delighted to offer our bespoke Higos Risk Management service. Our service provides you with the means to manage all aspects of staff employment and workplace safety more easily, effectively and more profitably. We can also offer cover and advice in respect of: Cyber Insurance, Engineering Inspection, Commercial Loss Recovery, and much more.

For independent advice contact our expert team

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