

Union Conference Weekend in Blackpool just a month away



The 162nd Annual Meeting will be chaired by Union President Ken Roberts CMD ACM

CIU Conference Weekend is now just one month away, with the 162nd Annual Meeting set to take place at Blackpool's Norbreck Castle Hotel on Saturday, April 18.

The 10am meeting will see delegates review the 2025 Annual Report and Financial Report, and there will also be ongoing consideration of measures to secure the Union's future.

Two guest speakers have been confirmed for the AGM.

Firstly, 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 second 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*.

Tickets for the CIU Showcase now available to purchase

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

The event, compered by John Gillan, will feature top club acts who will take to the club's Concert Room on the night before the Union's Annual Meeting .

The four acts confirmed for this not-to-be-missed showcase are: John Gillan; Miss Motown; Jon Alex as Elton John and singer Connor McRae.

Tickets cost £6.13 and can be purchased by clicking on the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-club-and-institute-showcase-tickets-1982766560156?aff=oddtcreator>

Trade Show set for Friday, April 17 in Blackpool



The 34th CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition will be staged in the Norbreck Castle Hotel's Norcalymphia Suite on Friday, April 17, between 1-5pm.

As the UK's largest trade event for private members' social clubs, the exhibition offers a wealth of products, services, and practical advice to help clubs improve operations, boost trade, and reduce costs.

A wide range of key suppliers will be in attendance, including Preferred Suppliers Dransfields, Greene King and Pure Purchasing.

Delegates will also be able to talk to Head Office staff about the services and products provided by the Union to its member clubs.

• **For more information on the event, see pages 16-21**

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Welcome to the March edition of *Club Journal*.

Well, 2026 Conference Weekend is now just a month away.

There are three key events scheduled for delegates: The 162nd Annual Meeting on the morning of Saturday, April 18; the Beer & Trades Exhibition on the afternoon of Friday, April 17 and the CIU Entertainment Showcase at the H&A Social Club on the evening of Friday, April 17.

The AGM is incredibly important this year given that the NEC will be presenting their plan to ensure the future sustainability of our organisation.

Please do send along your club delegates to the Meeting and have your say on how the Union is run.

As always, the Trade Show is shaping up to be another very worthwhile event with key club suppliers – as well as the CIU itself – ready to talk business with attendees.

The Showcase will see four top comedy and musical acts performing, so if you are in Blackpool for Conference Weekend we hope you will come along for what promises to be a great night out.

Tickets will be available to buy on the day for £5 and you can also purchase them online – see page 23 for further details.

Fittingly, the H&A Social Club is this

Welcome

month's 'Club of the Month'.

The club traces its roots back to the end of the 19th century and remains one of the most beloved club venues in the North West with fantastic facilities and a great entertainment offering – as those attending the CIU Showcase event will discover from themselves.

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

Meanwhile, in the 'HQ' section on page 24 you can read the letter sent by the CIU to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking for members' clubs to be added to the Business Rates Relief Scheme announced by the Government in February.

Please write to your local MP and highlight this issue as this will help to get the support which our clubs need and deserve.

In other news, this month we welcome Ron Wonders to the NEC as the representative for the Northumberland & Scotland Electoral District.

He replaces Harry Chandler who stepped down at the end of last year.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue.

Stephen Goulding

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CLUB JOURNAL

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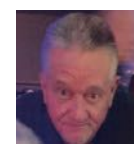
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Ron Wonders
NEC Member



David Woodburn CMD
NEC Member

Beechwood & Easterside Club smashes charity target



Representatives of Beechwood & Easterside District Social Club with the cheque for £28,855.50

Generous members of Beechwood & Easterside District Social Club in Middlesbrough have raised nearly £29,000 for a hospital cancer unit, with funds already being used to purchase new equipment and support patients from the Teesside area.

A massive donation of £28,855.50 was presented to staff at The James Cook University Hospital on Friday, February 13 by club representatives.

The funds will support the hospital's Cancer Wards and the Endeavour Unit.

The impressive total was achieved through a combination of events, including a charity night held in December, alongside individual member fundraising efforts such as sponsored bike rides, blind card draws, and bonus ball competitions.

Part of the money has already been put to use, funding the purchase of a new bladder scanner for the Endeavour Unit. The remaining funds will be dedicated to helping hospital staff treat cancer patients from Teesside and beyond.

The cheque presentation held special significance for two of the club officials involved. Club Entertainments Manager Harry Dunn and Club Secretary Michael Smith, both of whom are currently being treated for prostate cancer at the hospital, were on hand to make the donation.

They were joined by staff from the Endeavour Unit, including Radiotherapy Services Manager Claire Huntley, who is pictured on the left.

Since his own diagnosis, Mr Dunn has been a vocal advocate for men's health, actively encouraging local men to get tested.

His efforts have had a profound impact, with around 25 men heeding his advice.

Subsequently, 10 of them have been diagnosed with prostate cancer and are now receiving the necessary treatment.

OBITUARY

Eric Campbell

It is with great sadness that the Durham Branch announces the passing of their President Mr Eric Campbell.

Eric passed away at lunchtime on Saturday, February 14.

Eric is a huge loss to the Durham Branch in particular and the CIU in general.

In March 2019, he was presented with a Service Award for 50 years of dedication to the CIU at the Chilton Sports and Social Community Club and received his 21-Year Branch Award in January 2022.

Our condolences are sent to Mrs Campbell and to Eric's family.

R.I.P. Eric – a truly great clubman.



News in brief



Cheam Social Club set for a bout of 'Night Fever' with top Bee Gees tribute act

Members of Cheam Social club will be getting ready to dust off their white suits and platform shoes as a spectacular Bee Gees tribute act is set to perform at the club on Saturday, March 21.

The show, which is guaranteed to have the crowd dancing in the aisles, will be a night dedicated to the timeless harmonies of the Gibb brothers, promising a journey through their incredible back catalogue, from their early ballads to the disco anthems that defined the 1970s, not least 'Night Fever' and 'You Should Be Dancing'.

News in brief



Briton Ferry WMC set for big darts event in July with Richie Burnett and Trina Gulliver

Briton Ferry Working Men's Club in South Wales will be welcoming two big names for a special one-night-only event later this year.

On Friday, July 24, the club's thriving Darts Academy will welcome Welsh legend Richie Burnett and nine-time Women's World Champion Trina Gulliver MBE for an evening of exhibition darts and entertainment.

For darts fans in South Wales, the chance to see 'The Prince of Wales' on home soil is a rare treat. Richie Burnett, the 1995 BDO World Champion, remains one of the most naturally gifted players the game has ever produced.

Known for his trademark lightning-fast throws and steely determination, Burnett's career has seen him conquer the biggest stages in darts.

After recently battling through the gruelling cauldron of PDC Q-School, his passion for the sport remains as fierce as ever.

He will undoubtedly be keen to entertain the home crowd with a masterclass in finishing.

Joining him on the night is one of the undisputed queens of women's darts, Trina Gulliver MBE.

A true pioneer of the sport, Gulliver's record of nine BDO World Championship titles is a testament to her dominance, focus and enduring class.

The event, being staged to support and raise funds for the club's own Darts Academy, promises an evening of top-quality tungsten.

Attendees will have the rare opportunity to see these two legends in action, and even test their own skills against them as well as get some top tips on darts excellence.

Kent clubman Tom Jones celebrates his 108th birthday in style



Tom Jones blows out the candles on his birthday cake as the Mayor of Bexley watches on

In February, Kent clubman Tom Jones celebrated an extraordinary milestone – his 108th birthday – at the Groveland Park Care Home in Bexley.

A testament to resilience and good cheer, Tom's birthday was a multi-day celebration worthy of his remarkable life.

A dedicated clubman through and through, Tom remains a member of Belvedere Social Club, having served on its Committee for many years.

His commitment to the wider club movement also saw him serve as a valued member of the Executive Committee of the Kent Branch of the CIU.

True to form, the birthday boy started the day with a burst of energy. Not one to rest on his laurels, Tom took part in a 'Boxercise' session with instructor Katie.

The celebrations continued with a splendid afternoon tea, attended by his proud family, friends, fellow residents, and staff.

The party was given an official seal of approval with a visit from the Mayor of Bexley, who came to pay tribute to this milestone.

However, the afternoon's crowning moment came when Tom proudly read aloud his personal birthday card from His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla.

As if one party wasn't enough for the super-centenarian, the Groveland Park community gathered again in the evening for a celebration filled with live music from Andy Mace, ensuring the atmosphere was electric and the memories were lasting.

Tom's 108 years are a tapestry of a life well-lived. He met his late wife, Gladys, at a dance in his hometown. During the Second World War, he served as an aircraft fitter, working on Spitfires, Hurricanes and Lancasters.

In his professional life, he was a skilled carpenter, a trade he maintained well into his 80s.

Everyone at the CIU sends their warmest congratulations to Tom.

Tyson Fury comeback set for Saturday, April 11 at Tottenham

The date and venue have been set for Tyson Fury's comeback fight against Arslanbek Makhmudov.

Taking place on Saturday, April 11, Fury and Makhmudov will clash at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in north London.

Makhmudov is an experienced heavyweight with a knockout ratio of over 90 per cent. But Fury intends to go into this comeback fight without a trainer.

Fury has had a successful training partnership with SugarHill Steward and became a world heavyweight champion for a second time, beating Deontay Wilder twice and also making successful defences against Dillian Whyte and Derek Chisora.

But in 2024 he lost his WBC belt in an undisputed title fight with Oleksandr Usyk and could not get his revenge in their rematch.



Tyson Fury will fight Arslanbek Makhmudov on Saturday, April 11

Canton Liberal Club raises £1785 for the Wales Air Ambulance



Cardiff's Canton Liberal Club recently presented a cheque for £1,785 to the Wales Air Ambulance Charity, a magnificent total which was raised by the club's annual 'Turkey & Tinsel' event held during December 2025

News in brief



Birmingham's E57 Social Club set to welcome full-band Queen tribute act in March

Members and guests of the E57 Social Club in Birmingham will be singing and dancing along to some of the biggest hits of the 1970s and 1980s when Queen tribute act Flash perform at the club on Saturday, March 21.

Flash offer a full-band experience and will be playing songs from right across the career of Queen, including 'We Are The Champions', 'We Will Rock You' and 'Bohemian Rhapsody'.

For tickets, which cost £15, call: 07745854573.



South Moor Excelsior Club invites members and guests for Poker Day on March 29

The chips will be flying on the green baize at South Moor Excelsior Club in County Durham on Sunday, March 29 when the club hosts its latest Poker Day.

Entry to the fun but competitive tournament is £10 with the action getting underway at midday.

The bar will be open from 11am and there will be cash prizes to win throughout the day.

Members and guests are welcome to join in the fun.

The club's regular Poker Days take place on the last Sunday of each month, so if you can't make the March date, look out for upcoming events.



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Yeovil Labour Club upgrades its darts facilities



Yeovil Labour Club is one of Somerset's top venues for darts

Yeovil Labour Club in Somerset, which is the home of the Yeovil Darts League, has just upgraded its already impressive darts facilities with firm – Mike's 180 Studio – sponsoring four brand-new Winmau Plasma Dartboard ring lights.

The club, which also hosts regular ADC

tournaments throughout the year, including the ADC Emerging regional finals in April, is planning to expand even further by introducing an additional five boards to the club.

This would take the total to 10 boards, all with dedicated fixed oches.

Egham USC to stage 48th Beer Festival in April

The Easter edition of the Egham Beer Festival will take place at Egham United Services Club from Wednesday, April 8 to Saturday, April 11.

The festival is open to non-club members and entry to all day sessions between Wednesday and Saturday costs £7, although there is a £1 discount to NUS, CIU & CAMRA card-carrying members and also guests of EUSC Club members.

Entry is free for club members on all days.

The opening times are:
 Wednesday April 8: 3pm-late.
 Thursday, April 9: 10am-late.
 Friday, April 10: 10am-late.
 Saturday, April 11: Midday to late.

For more information, including a list of the beers which will be available, visit:
eghambeerfestival.co.uk

Fasten your seatbelts for the 48th ...

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48

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 Thu 9th & Fri 10th : 10am - late
 Sat 11th : 12 noon - late

www.EghamBeerFestival.co.uk

News in brief

CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP DAY
 Friday 13th March

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The Oatlands Club in Harrogate to host 2026 edition of Cheltenham Festival Charity Day

Members of The Oatlands in Harrogate will once again be celebrating Gold Cup Day at the Cheltenham Festival with an afternoon of fun and fundraising.

Gold Cup Day – which this year takes place on Friday, March 13 – has become a major annual occasion at the Yorkshire club with large numbers of people enjoying the action on the club's screens.

There will be hot food available throughout the day while the £10 entry fee will give members the chance to win drinks at the bar with prizes linked to the winning horses at Cheltenham.

Most importantly, the day will be fundraising for St Michael's Hospice.

DARTS MARATHON

21 MARCH '26
 1300 - 1900
 SUPPORTING HEARTS & HOPES FOR HELEN METUP UK

Saltash Social Club members urged to get involved in Charity Darts Marathon in March

Saltash Social Club is hosting a Darts Marathon in support of Hearts & Hopes for Helen and METUP UK on March 21.

They are aiming to score 100,000 points in six hours on two boards at £10 per entry.

Message Chris Green on 07738664559 to sign up for this fantastic charity effort which will help to improve outcomes for those living with Metastatic Breast Cancer.



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Beeston Victory Club gears up for a Ska-fest



The Skas will be bringing their 'Waiting For The Bus' tour to Beeston Victory Club on Saturday, April 25 with a feast of Ska and 2-Tone tunes performed by the six-piece band

Nottingham's own six-piece ska sensation The Skas are heading to Beeston Victory Club for what promises to be a high-energy night of 2-Tone classics and party vibes.

On Saturday, April 25 the club will be transformed into a ska dancehall as the band deliver a live set packed with all the favourites inspired by the golden era of British ska – Madness, The Specials, The Beat, Bad Manners and more.

The six-piece powerhouse outfit promises “infectious rhythms, jumping horns and a proper feel-good atmosphere from start to finish”.

And the party doesn't stop when the live set ends – a party disco will keep the night going long after the band have left the stage.

Doors open at 7.30pm at Beeston Victory Club, with admission priced at £3 for members and £5 for non-members.

Tickets selling fast at Wadsley Bridge WMC for the Dualers

It may be several months away but over half of the tickets for the Tyber & Pete from the Dualers event on Friday, December 4 at Wadsley Bridge Working Men's Club in Sheffield have already been sold.

The duo are key members of the Dualers, an eight-piece ska and reggae band who originally hail from South East London.

Initially comprising brothers Si and Tyber Cranstoun and now led by Tyber following Si's departure in 2010 for a solo career, they first developed a profile when the single 'Kiss on the Lips' entered the UK top 30, peaking at 21, in October 2004.

The Dualers have supported Madness at their large outdoor concerts and played headline gigs at Indigo O2 and the Fairfield Halls in Croydon.

This is part of the 'Simmer Down' national tour by the duo and is likely to be a sellout given the cult following enjoyed by the Dualers since they



emerged in the late 1990s.

Tickets cost £20 each and are available to buy from the club's website: www.wadsleybridge-wmc.co.uk

News in brief



Draw made for UEFA Champions League Round of 16 ties to be played in March

Top seeds Arsenal will play Bayer Leverkusen in the UEFA Champions League Round of 16 while Manchester City will take on Real Madrid.

The draw, which took place at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon on February 27, saw Liverpool drawn against Galatasaray, with Chelsea taking on holders Paris St Germain.

Tottenham will play Atletico Madrid and Newcastle United have been drawn to play Barcelona as six Premier League clubs bid to reach the quarter-finals.

The final will take place in Budapest on Saturday, May 30.

UEFA Champions League – Round of 16 Draw Tuesday, March 10

5.45pm Galatasaray v Liverpool (TNT Sports)
8pm Atalanta v Bayern Munich (TNT Sports)
8pm Atlético Madrid v Tottenham Hotspur (TNT Sports)
8pm Newcastle United v Barcelona (Prime Video)

Wednesday, March 11

5.45pm Bayer Leverkusen v Arsenal (TNT Sports)
8pm Bodo/Glimt v Sporting CP (TNT Sports)
8pm PSG v Chelsea (TNT Sports)
8pm Real Madrid v Manchester City TNT Sports

Tuesday, March 17

5.45pm Sporting CP v Bodo/Glimt (TBC)
8pm Arsenal v Bayer Leverkusen (TBC)
8pm Chelsea v PSG (TBC)
8pm Manchester City v Real Madrid (TBC)

Wednesday, March 18

5.45pm Barcelona v Newcastle United (TNT Sports)
8pm Bayern Munich v Atalanta (TNT Sports)
8pm Liverpool v Galatasaray (TNT Sports)
8pm Tottenham Hotspur v Atlético Madrid (TBC)

For more information on showing TNT Sports in your venue, visit: www.tntsportsbusiness.co.uk/



The club is situated in the heart of Blackpool

The H&A Social Club, Blackpool

The H&A Social Club in Blackpool will host the CIU Entertainment Showcase on Friday, April 17 and will once again give a warm welcome to CIU members from all over the UK

Tucked away in the heart of Blackpool and just a short walk from the famous Winter Gardens, the H&A Social Club is a beloved venue for locals and visitors alike with people from all over the UK walking through its doors to enjoy its warm Lancashire hospitality and excellent live entertainment.

While many venues have struggled in recent years, the Hotel and Apartments Social Club AKA The H&A Social Club, has invested £160,000 in refurbishments during the past 12 months and is preparing for another busy holiday season .

Club Secretary Chris Mulley, who also runs the Sunnhurst Hotel



The downstairs Games Room is extremely popular seven days a week

directly opposite, has overseen a remarkable transformation.

When he became heavily involved eight years ago, the club was struggling to remain relevant with trade tailing off.

Today, in Chris's own words, it is "punching above its weight" in one of the UK's most competitive entertainment markets.

The challenges facing traditional social clubs in recent years in Blackpool are formidable.

All-inclusive deals at major hotels have fundamentally altered visitor behaviour.

"The biggest problem clubs in general have faced recently is that the bigger hotels have started doing more or less all-inclusive deals as they don't want you to go out of the hotels," says Chris.

"Whereas before, holidaymakers would be more likely to come down and see the acts that we put on, the hotels are trying to keep them 'in house' with very good deals and their own entertainment."

Yet the H&A has found a way to thrive by understanding its unique position.

Located amid the small hotels and apartments that dot this part of town, the club has always relied heavily on holidaymakers.

"We've got our membership and we have our locals, but we rely heavily on holidaymakers and visitors to the town, so trade holds up well



The club stages an annual Darts Exhibition event to coincide with the World Matchplay tournament in Blackpool

throughout the year because there's always something going on in Blackpool," says Chris.

Last year, the club made a bold statement of intent with that six-figure investment in its facilities.

The timing was fortuitous – a flood had damaged flooring both upstairs and down, triggering an insurance claim. But rather than simply repair, the committee saw an opportunity to update the entire club.

"When we were getting all the works done through the insurance, we decided to spend quite a lot of our own money to upgrade the rest of it in one go," says Chris.

The club closed completely for two weeks in February 2025, while the upstairs Concert Room remained out of action for several weeks.

The transformation has been significant. New carpeting throughout, improved stairways, more



The club stages live entertainment and bingo every night of the week during the high season

The club will be hosting the CIU Entertainment Showcase on Friday, April 17



welcoming external signage and a refreshed interior have modernised a building whose deeds date back to 1894, even if its current incarnation dates from the 1960s.

“There’s still some work to do, but we spent significant amounts to ensure that it’s a modern venue,” says Chris.

“Inside, it’s very nice and comfortable for customers. Outside, we’ve got new signage to let people know that they’re welcome to come in.”

From the end of April through to November, the H&A offers live entertainment seven nights a week.

The programming is carefully considered, mixing established favourites with fresh talent.

“Some of the acts have been here for a fair while, but what we’re doing – even with some, especially when they’re on with backing tracks– we actually pay to get some new music done for them on the backing tracks, say four, five, six songs, so they can add it into their set and mix in some really up-to-date songs. It really freshens it up and helps span the generations.”

The quality on offer is remarkable

given there’s no admission charge.

“We’ve got an Amy Winehouse tribute act who is phenomenal while another regular, Kearra Bethany, was playing the Opera House at the Winter Gardens last year,” says Chris.

“It was £38 a ticket to see her. And she comes here once a month and you can see her perform for free.”

The funding model relies on bingo revenues to cover entertainment costs.

“Effectively we don’t charge admission because we do well on the bingo but we are spending more on the artists in order to keep it as fresh as we can.”

Bingo is a cornerstone of the H&A’s success, with multiple sessions each evening drawing enthusiastic crowds.

The game has been revitalised with simplified pricing, screen-based play, and characterful callers who bring their own personality to proceeding.

The investment in improving bingo was a direct response to customer feedback.

Chris noticed guests from his hotel were getting taxis to other clubs. When he asked why, the answer was blunt yet revealing: “Same artists and crap payouts on the bingo.”

The club addressed both issues, and the results have been striking.

“Now I haven’t had anyone ask in two years to go to another club,” he says. “They all come over here and have a fantastic time.”

Perhaps the most dramatic transformation has been in catering. The club has brought food operations in-house after a difficult period of franchising that left them with little control over opening hours or quality.

“We had about three or four people who ran it in a row. We had no control over when they were going to open or what they were going to do,” says Chris.

“So now we run it in-house. We always make sure that it’s staffed and we can always guarantee that the food’s available when people want it.”

The impact on trade has been remarkable. “It’s gone from around £10,000 turnover to £80,000 turnover since we took it in-house,” reveals Chris.

“Weekends now feature breakfasts and Sunday dinners, alongside a standard menu available throughout the day and evening.

The food is homemade, competitively priced, and serves a crucial strategic purpose, keeping



The H&A Social Club stands on the site of what was once the Jubilee Club, as this 1938 photograph shows

customers on the premises.

The club has recently expanded its profile through social media channels and this has helped to bring in a younger demographic to the club's entertainment nights.

"We are getting more and more younger people," says Chris.

"We find that young people love bingo and the live entertainment – it seems to have gone full circle."

The club's location proves advantageous for attracting a mixed demographic.

"Generally each week it's more or less a different audience because 95 per cent of people in the Concert Room on any given night will be holidaymakers, although a lot of them are members, even if they don't live in Blackpool," says Chris.

His dual role as hotelier gives him unique insight into what brings visitors to Blackpool – and what keeps them coming back to the H&A.

"The reason I got involved heavily was because it was struggling and it wasn't moving forward," he says.

"To me, it was the biggest asset my hotel has got because so many of my guests were coming here because of the club.

"Then once they started drifting elsewhere to other clubs, it made

more sense to stay in hotels nearer to those other clubs. So that's why I took it on, in order to try move it forward as well. And it has worked."

The symbiotic relationship is now so strong that guests plan their holidays around the club's entertainment schedule.

"I know from my guests and when I speak to other hoteliers, a lot of guests plan their holiday around what's on at the H&A," says Chris. "That's a testament to the high-quality entertainment we put on and to the whole experience we offer."

With the CIU Annual Conference approaching, the H&A is preparing to welcome delegates for the Entertainment Showcase event on Friday, April 17.

Last year's event proved a success, and expectations are high for 2026.

The club's upstairs concert room, with its fantastic sound system, state-of-the-art lighting and open layout provides an ideal venue.

"We're really looking forward to welcoming CIU members for what will be a fantastic night with some great artistes performing," says Chris.

For CIU members descending on Blackpool, the H&A offers a traditional club that has successfully adapted to survive and thrive.

As Chris puts it: "I think what we've got – our strength – is that you can come in here and it's a 'one-stop shop'.

"You don't need to leave. Because you've got your food, you've got your bingo, you've got your entertainment, you've got your gaming machines, your live sport on the TV and the Games Room – there's everything here."

In a town where too many clubs have disappeared from the scene, that ability to offer a complete package – combined with substantial investment, smart marketing, and a clear understanding of their holidaymaker audience – has kept the H&A Social Club not just surviving, but flourishing.

And as the CIU gathers for its Conference in April, delegates will find a warm welcome at a venue that exemplifies the resilience and adaptability the wider Union is now seeking to secure its own future.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Branch: Manchester

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

Planning continues for Conference Weekend 2026 which is now just a month away.

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, two guest speakers have been confirmed for the AGM.

Firstly, 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 second 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*.

Looking ahead to this year's Annual Meeting, General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM said: "It is clear that the AGM represents a vital opportunity for our member clubs to come together under one roof to discuss the key issues facing our movement.

"It is the centerpiece of a busy Conference Weekend schedule, serving as the primary forum where the democratic voice of our membership is heard."



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



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



Club delegates will vote on a number of changes to the CIU Constitution



There will be debate about the Future of the Union at the 2026 Annual Meeting



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



The Norbreck Castle Hotel will host both the Annual Meeting on the morning of Saturday, April 18 and the Beer & Trades Exhibition the day before



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



The Lord Mayor of Blackpool welcomed the CIU delegates at last year's Annual Meeting



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



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



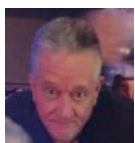
Stephen Foster CMD ACM
NEC Member



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, Bog 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 will be sending out delegate/club information in March. If you have any questions in the meantime, call 020 7226 0221 or email info@wmcui.org.uk



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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Buy your tickets now! Our subscription draw gives you the opportunity to win big while also helping a great cause.

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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- Uses state-of-the-art tech for a seamless experience
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- Great way to generate revenue
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Key Benefits for Your Members

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- ✓ 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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Get ready for a top night at the H&A Social Club

Tickets are now available for the CIU Entertainment Showcase will take place at Blackpool's H&A Social Club on the evening of Friday, April 17 and will see 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**







EPIC VIBES, TOP ARTISTS

**Tickets
£5.00**

Doors open at 7pm



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.

Three acts have been confirmed for the night alongside John Gillan: 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.

Link: www.eventbrite.com/e/the-club-and-institute-showcase-tickets-1982766560156

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 2026 are as follows:

March 25/26, 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

Friday, April 17 – CIU Entertainment Showcase

Saturday, April 18 – The 162nd Annual Meeting

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.

CIU urges the Chancellor to extend relief to members' clubs

The CIU has written to the Chancellor to urge that social clubs be included in the business rates relief scheme for pubs and live music venues announced in January.

The letter reads:

Dear Chancellor

We write to you as Officers of the Club and Institute Union (CIU). The CIU was established in 1862 and is the largest not-for-profit members' club group in the UK with over 1100 clubs. Our clubs play a vital role in local communities.

We wish to express serious concern about the omission of social clubs from the recently announced business rates relief for pubs and live music venues.

While we welcome the Government's recognition of the severe financial pressures facing pubs, the decision to exclude social clubs risks leaving a large and vital part of the community hospitality sector exposed to sharp and unsustainable increases in business rates from April.

Across the UK, clubs such as ours and other not-for-profit members' organisations play a crucial social and cultural role.

They provide affordable social spaces, support live music and grassroots sport, combat loneliness and act as hubs for local communities, often in areas where other facilities have disappeared.

Many operate on extremely tight

margins and are run largely by volunteers.

Despite these similarities to pubs, social clubs are currently excluded from the new relief arrangements, even though they face the same revaluation pressures and rising operating costs.

For many clubs the absence of targeted support will result in severe financial strain, reduced services or permanent closure.

This exclusion appears increasingly difficult to justify given that social clubs:

- Serve many of the same community functions as pubs
- Support local employment and voluntary activity
- Often reinvest any surplus directly back into their facilities and communities
- Are particularly vulnerable to sudden increases in fixed costs such as business rates.

We therefore urge the Government to reconsider its position and to extend comparable business rates relief to social clubs or to introduce a parallel scheme that recognises their distinct structure and community value.

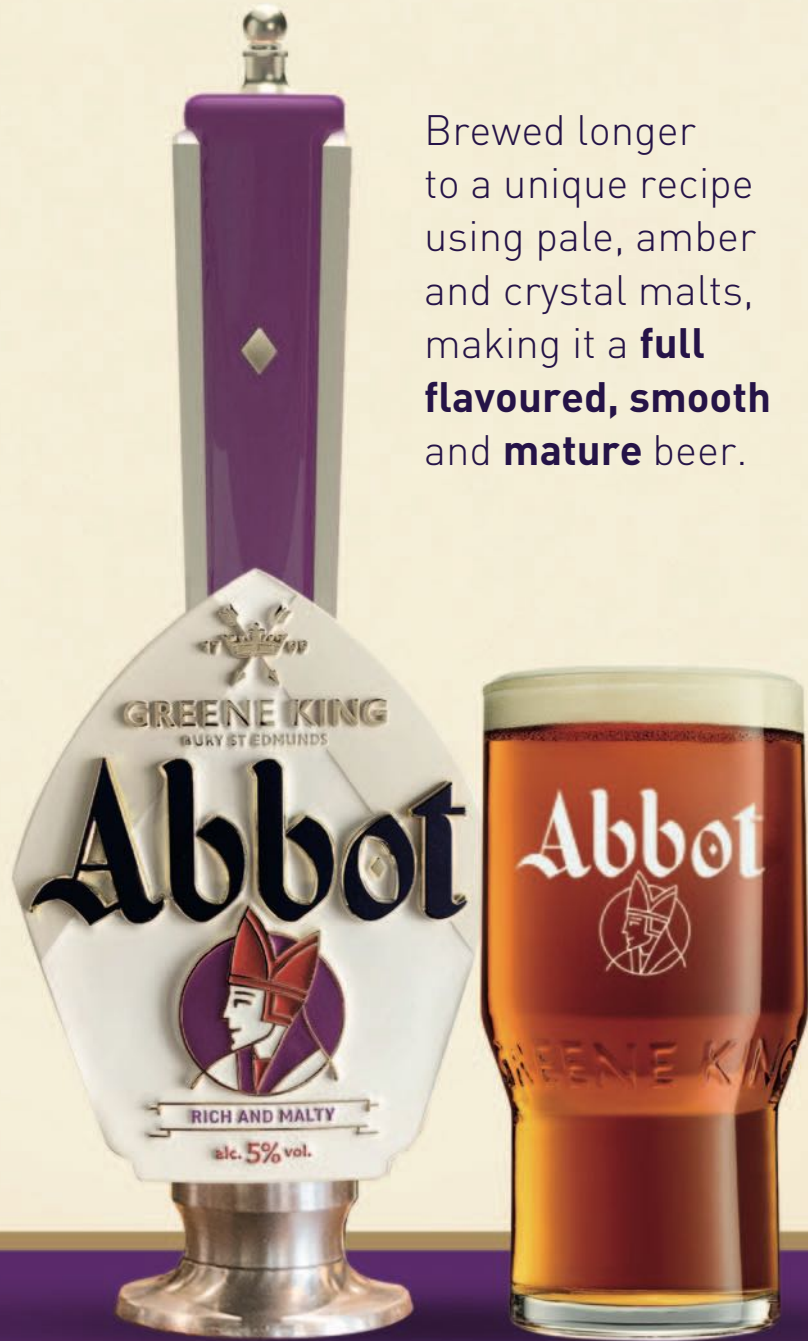
Without such action many clubs face an uncertain future through no fault of their own.

The CIU would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and provide details of clubs across the country that are likely to be adversely affected unless urgent support is made available.

Abbot

Brewed longer to a unique recipe using pale, amber and crystal malts, making it a **full flavoured, smooth** and **mature** beer.

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OF BRITAIN 2023

Making the most of Spring

After the challenges of Winter trading, Spring's promise of longer days, brighter weather and a fuller events calendar bring renewed opportunity and energy to venues



Greene King seasonal ales offer a simple way to refresh the bar and connect your range to the Spring calendar

For venues that plan ahead, Spring is the ideal moment to reset, refresh, and build momentum towards the summer months.

There are also encouraging signs from consumers. Our latest Greene King Survey found that when asked what they will prioritise spending their disposable income on in 2026, 38% of respondents said 'eating and drinking out of home', placing it third after 'savings and investments' and 'holidays and travel'.

That underlines the continued importance of hospitality-led experiences and shared social occasions.

Spring is a season full of opportunity. Key dates such as Saint Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, and Easter give

members clear reasons to visit, while improved weather encourages people to socialise more often and stay out longer.

It's also a great moment to review what you offer and ensure it reflects the season.

From lighter serves to refreshed displays and seasonal promotions, small changes can help venues feel current and relevant, encouraging both repeat visits and increased spend.

Seasonal drinks play an important role in signaling change and creating excitement.

Spring is a natural time to lean into limited edition and seasonal beers, particularly those aligned to key calendar moments.

Greene King seasonal ales such as Spring Break offer a simple way to refresh the bar and connect your range to the spring calendar.

Using alternative pump clip options for St. Patrick's Day and St. George's Day will help you create themed events in your venue.

Alongside beer, Spring is also a strong period for spirits and cider which are ideal for warmer weather trading and outdoor occasions.

Spring is also the time when many venues start to turn their attention outdoors.

Cleaner, brighter spaces, refreshed signage, and clear promotion of seasonal offers all help create a more welcoming atmosphere.



Old Golden Hen delivers 'subtle tropical fruit notes and a deliciously smooth finish', making it a perfect choice during the warmer months

As customers increasingly look to enjoy drink in the open air, making the most of outdoor areas become even more important.

This Spring also marks the launch of Greene King's annual promotional calendar, designed to give customers clear value-added support throughout the year.

By investing in guest-facing promotions across our own brew range, we aim to help you drive footfall, boost sales, and create compelling reasons for members to visit more often.

Activities such as 2-for-1 promotions on premium craft beers offer strong value for members while supporting volume, margin and engagement for your club.

With planned activity mapped across the year, the promotional calendar gives you the confidence to plan ahead and make the most of key trading moments, knowing that high impact support is already in place.

Golden Ales

Golden ales have become a mainstay of the cask category and are valued for their balance and versatility.

With a clean, refreshing finish and a lighter appearance in the glass, they offer broad consumer appeal, attracting not only traditional ale drinkers but also

those who might otherwise choose lager.

This style is also appealing to a younger, more affluent audience and is especially popular among female consumers thanks to its approachable flavour profile and easy drinkability.

Old Session Hen

Within our Hen family, we hit the mark perfectly. Old Session Hen at 3.4% ABV is packed full of flavour yet remains exceptionally sessionable.

With hints of tropical fruit and a perfectly balanced bitterness, it provides a refreshing option for members looking for a pint they can enjoy all afternoon.

Old Golden Hen

Old Golden Hen, at 4.1% ABV is brewed with a carefully selected range of hops, including Galaxy, delivering subtle tropical fruit notes and a deliciously smooth finish.



To discuss supply with Greene King & Belhaven, call 0345 8504545 and quote "CLUB26".

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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 **Wednesday, April 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?

The poster is for the CIU National Lottery. At the top, it says 'CIU SUBSCRIPTION & MONTHLY LOTTERY'. Below that, it asks 'Do you want a chance to win some fantastic cash prizes in 2025? Buy your tickets now! Our subscription draw gives you the opportunity to win big while also helping a great cause.' A dark red banner says 'To Enter Scan the QR code or go to ciu.praxisplay.online'. Below the banner, it says 'Set up your Subscription or Buy Tickets Each Month'. A QR code is shown next to the text '£1.00 PER TICKET'. At the bottom, it says 'Draw held on the 1st of the Month at 7pm'. There is also a small disclaimer: 'Our online contest to win includes a method of free entry via post, please see T&C's for details. No purchase is necessary to enter but the intention of the raffle is to support the works of the CIU. Only gamble responsibly. CIU Licence Number LN/000023921'.

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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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 President Ken Roberts 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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- Fantastic classic club games including Open the Box, Higher or Lower and Spin the Wheel
- Raises additional revenue through local advertising
- Drives footfall & extends dwell times
- Takes your venue to the next level



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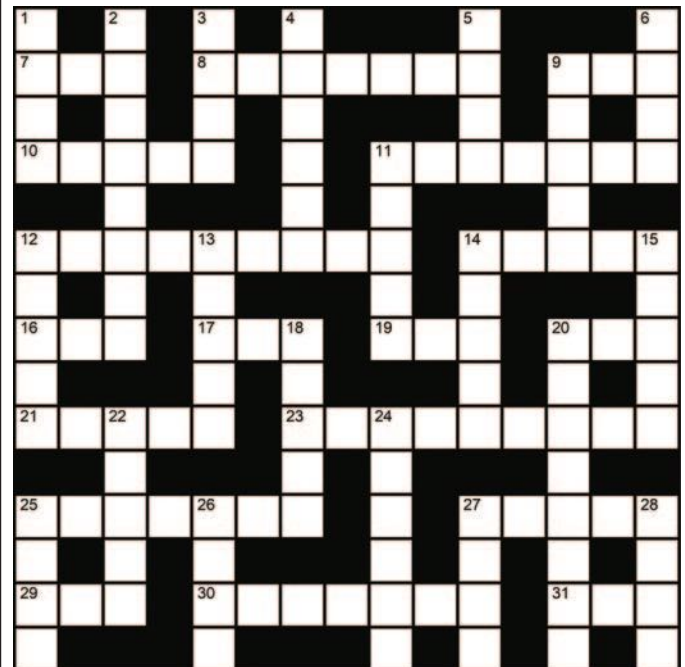
ACROSS

- 7 Back out from the forefront (3)
- 8 Treats shop to some heart to heart? (5,2)
- 9 Incubate the novice in the centre (3)
- 10 Tall grasses grown from seed in the river (5)
- 11 Fur trim for a miner in four (7)
- 12 Where a cab can be driven with clothes to swim in (9)
- 14 Bad librettos from off the cuff (2-3)
- 16 Rent from apple trees? (3)
- 17 Fire remains just like a tree (3)
- 19 Jump at a bit of busking (3)
- 20 Jam to put right? (3)
- 21 Measurement, with a bad end built in (5)
- 23 Inwards I'm drawn to selection theory, naturally (9)
- 25 Dotty printing, but it's not daft! (7)

- 27 Small department at hospital added to the profundity (5)
- 29 Dashed inside to get the lady (3)
- 30 Faculty of ego, in cell division (7)
- 31 Criticise back to sleep (3)

DOWN

- 1 Distant affair, if taken away (4)
- 2 Agreement of Biblical proportions (8)
- 3 Odes composed for the deer (4)
- 4 DNA sequence that for me has gone awry (6)
- 5 A life of excess panache? (4)
- 6 Torque tool to be announced, right? (1-3)
- 9 Polite? Very un-military! (5)
- 11 Morse code for social norms? (5)
- 12 Local regulation ably crafted by Welsh leader (5)
- 13 More to be said of a PM (5)
- 14 Bali biennial giving a reason for absence (5)
- 15 Music box (sic) not made to be plump! (5)
- 18 Bet either way with, say, a fund (5)
- 20 Light-hearted flap about a pint! (8)
- 22 Sir Francis leading Mr Duck? (5)
- 24 Aura pier gives off like a narrow blade (6)
- 25 Beast, a dropout, but nothing finer (4)
- 26 Beat, with your tongue? (4)
- 27 What to eat when the tide is out? (4)
- 28 Optimism with open middle (4)



Name _____
 Club _____
 Address _____

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



Victory Club

Bar Steward

- Location: South Norwood in London • Salary: Please enquire • Contract: Part-time shift pattern

Love working with people? Enjoy a lively atmosphere?
 Join our team at The Victory Club South Norwood!

We are currently looking to recruit a welcoming, reliable, and customer-focussed Bar Steward to join our team and help create a warm, enjoyable atmosphere for our guests in our supportive team environment.

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

Keith Nicholas, Cynon Valley Club & Institute, Aberdare





Tuesday, March 3, 7.30pm, TNT Sports

Premier League: Bournemouth v Brentford

A big night of Tuesday night Premier League action with four games taking place, including this clash at the Vitality Stadium between two sides who have performed admirably for much of the season and deservedly find themselves in the top half of the table. Also showing are: Everton v Burnley, Leeds United v Sunderland and Wolves v Liverpool.



Thursday, March 5, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: Premier League – Cardiff

The Premier League juggernaut heads to Wales where the world's top marksmen take part in a competition which tests their consistency over a number of weeks. Head-to-head contests will see World No.1 and reigning World Champion Luke Littler taking on Josh Rock and World Championship runner-up Kevin Van Venen facing Jonny Clayton in what should be an exciting night of darts.



Saturday, March 22, 4.30pm – Sky Sports Football/ITV

Carabao Cup Final: Arsenal v Manchester City

The first silverware of the season is up for grabs at Wembley as Arsenal take on Manchester City in the Carabao Cup Final. Last year saw Newcastle United end a 70-year wait for a trophy with a memorable 2-1 win over Liverpool. City knocked out the holders with a 3-1 victory in the semi-final while the Gunners squeezed past London rivals Chelsea 1-0.

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

It's another packed month of sport in March with action coming up from the Cheltenham Festival, the UEFA Champions League Round of 16, the Premier League, the T20 Cricket World Cup and the Six Nations

Sunday, March 1, 12pm, Sky Sports Football

Scottish Premier League: Rangers v Celtic

Sunday, March 1, 2pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion v Nottingham Forest

Sunday, March 1, 2pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Premier League: Fulham v Tottenham Hotspur

Sunday, March 1, 2pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Manchester United v Crystal Palace

Sunday, March 1, 3pm, Sky Sports+

Super League: Bradford Bulls v Toulouse Olympique

Sunday, March 1, 4.30pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Arsenal v Chelsea

Monday, March 2, 8pm, Sky Sports Football

Championship: Birmingham City v Middlesbrough

Tuesday, March 3, 7.30pm, TNT Sports

Premier League: AFC Bournemouth v Brentford

Tuesday, March 3, 7.30pm, TNT Sports

Premier League: Everton v Burnley

Tuesday, March 3, 7.30pm, TNT Sports

Premier League: Leeds United v Sunderland

Tuesday, March 3, 8.15pm, TNT Sports

Premier League: Wolves v Liverpool

Wednesday, March 4, 1pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Cricket: Men's T20 World Cup: Semi-final 1

Wednesday, March 4, 7.30pm, TNT Sports 2

Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion v Nottingham Forest

Wednesday, March 4, 7.30pm, TNT Sports 3

Premier League: Aston Villa v Chelsea

Wednesday, March 4, 7.30pm, TNT Sports 5

Premier League: Fulham v West Ham United

Wednesday, March 4, 7.30pm, TNT Sports 4

Premier League: Manchester City v Nottingham Forest

Wednesday, March 4, 8.15pm, TNT Sport

Premier League: Newcastle United v Manchester United

Thursday, March 5, 1pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Cricket: Men's T20 World Cup: Semi-final 2

Thursday, March 5, 4pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Golf: PGA – Arnold Palmer Invitational

Thursday, March 5, 8pm, TNT Sports 1

Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace

Horse Racing: Cheltenham Festival, Starts Tuesday, March 12, 12pm, ITV



Thursday, March 5, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: Premier League – Cardiff

Thursday, March 5, 8pm, Sky Sports+

Super League: Wakefield Trinity v Hull C

Friday, March 6, 4pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Golf: PGA – Arnold Palmer Invitational

Friday, March 6, 8pm, Sky Sports+

Super League: York Knights v Warrington Wolves

Friday, March 6, 8.05pm, ITV

Six Nations Rugby: Ireland v Wales

Saturday, March 7, 2.10pm, BBC

Six Nations Rugby: Scotland v France

Saturday, March 7, 3pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Golf: PGA – Arnold Palmer Invitational

Saturday, March 7, 4.40pm, ITV

Six Nations Rugby: Italy v England

Saturday, March 7, 5pm, Sky Sports+

Super League: Toulouse Olympique v Wigan Warriors

Sunday, March 8, 1pm, Sky Sports Cricket

Cricket: T20 World Cup Final

Sunday, March 8, 3pm, Sky Sports+

Super League: Leeds Rhinos v Castleford Tigers

Tuesday, March 10, 12pm, ITV

Horse Racing: Cheltenham Festival – Day 1

Tuesday, March 10, 7.45pm, Sky Sports+

League One Football: Port Vale v Bradford City

Tuesday, March 10, 8pm, TNT Sports

UEFA Champions League: Round of 16, 1st Leg

Wednesday, March 11, 12pm, ITV

Horse Racing: Cheltenham Festival – Day 2

Wednesday, March 11, 8pm, TNT Sports

UEFA Champions League: Round of 16, 1st Leg

Thursday, March 12, 11.30am, Sky Sports Golf

Golf: The Players Championship – Day 1

Thursday, March 12, 12pm, ITV

Horse Racing: Cheltenham Festival – Day 3

Thursday, March 12, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: Premier League – Nottingham

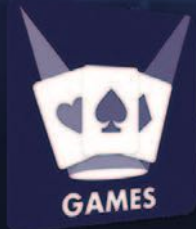
Friday, March 12, 11.30am, Sky Sports Golf

Golf: The Players Championship – Day 2

Friday, March 13, 12pm, ITV

Horse Racing: Cheltenham Festival – Day 4

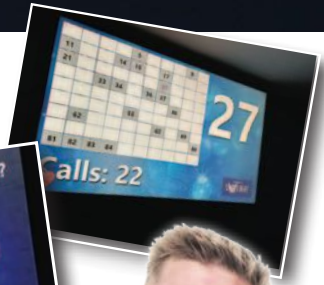
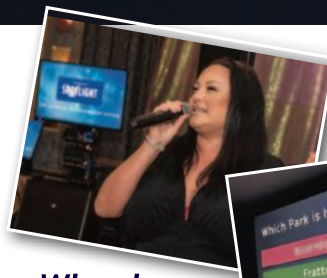
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UEFA Champions League – Round of 16, Tuesday, March 17, 8pm, TNT Sports

Saturday, March 14, 11.30am, Sky Sports Golf

Golf: The Players Championship – Day 3

Saturday, March 14, 12.30pm, TNT Sports 1

Premier League: West Ham United v Manchester City

Saturday, March 14, 2.10pm, ITV

Six Nations Rugby: Ireland v Scotland

Saturday, March 14, 4.40pm, BBC

Six Nations Rugby: Wales v Italy

Saturday, March 14, 5.30pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Chelsea v Newcastle United

Saturday, March 14, 8.10pm, ITV

Six Nations Rugby: France v England

Sunday, March 15, 11.30am, Sky Sports Golf

Golf: The Players Championship – Day 4

Sunday, March 15, 2pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Arsenal v Everton

Sunday, March 15, 4.30pm, Sky Premier League

Premier League: Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur

Monday, March 16, 8pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Brentford v Wolves

Tuesday, March 17, 8pm, TNT Sports

UEFA Champions League: Round of 16, 2nd Leg

Wednesday, March 18, 8pm, TNT Sports

UEFA Champions League: Round of 16, 2nd Leg

Thursday, March 19, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: Premier League – Dublin

Friday, March 20, 8pm, Sky Sports+

Super League: Bradford Bulls v Huddersfield Giants

Friday, March 20, 8pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: AFC Bournemouth v Manchester United

Saturday, March 21, 12.30pm, TNT Sports 1

Premier League: Brighton & Hove Albion v Liverpool

Saturday, March 21, 3pm, Sky Sports+

Super League: Warrington Wolves v Castleford Tigers

Saturday, March 21, 5.30pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Everton v Chelsea

Saturday, March 21, 5.30pm, Sky Sports+

Super League: Catalans Dragons v Hull KR

Saturday, March 21, 8pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Leeds United v Brentford

Sunday, March 22, 12pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Newcastle United v Sunderland

Sunday, March 22, 2.15pm, Sky Sports Premier League

Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur v Nottingham Forest

Sunday, March 22, 3pm, TNT Sports

Premiership Rugby: Leicester Tigers v Bristol Bears

Sunday, March 22, 4.30pm, ITV1/Sky Sports Football

Carabao Cup Final: Arsenal v Manchester City

Thursday, March 19, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event

Darts: Premier League – Berlin

Thursday, March 26, 7.45pm, BBC

FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifying Semi-Final: Wales v Bosnia-Herzegovina

Friday, March 27, 7.45pm, TNT Sports

Premiership Rugby: Newcastle Red Bulls v Exeter Chiefs

Friday, March 27, 7.45pm, ITV1

International Football Friendly: England v Uruguay

Saturday, March 28, 6pm, TNT Sports

Premiership Rugby: Saracens v Northampton Saints

Tuesday, March 31, 7.45pm, ITV1

International Football Friendly: England v Japan



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.)





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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