Club Journal

October 2026 The magazine for all CIU members 75p

Clubs urged to lobby their MPs over potential increase in Machine Games Duty in Budget

Clubs across the country are being urged to rally together and lobby their local MPs in order to prevent a potentially crippling tax increase on gaming machines.

Reports in the national press suggest the Chancellor is considering doubling the rate of Machine Games Duty (MGD) on gaming machine income from 20% to 40%. While much of the media focus has been on Adult Gaming Centres on the high street, clubs' Category B4 machines could also be caught by this increase unless the Government can be convinced to exclude them.

In a stark warning to club committees, Chris Haley, Group Chairman of CIU Preferred Supplier Dransfields, highlighted the severe threat this poses to the movement.

He noted that while pubs (Category C machines) have been excluded from any potential rise due to concerns about their finances, clubs appear to have been overlooked once again.

"Those of us that are committed to clubs and their survival, understand the devastating impact that such a tax increase would have, and I am therefore asking for your help once again to try to influence the Government thinking before the Budget is presented," said Mr Haley.

"The earlier we raise our voices and the louder we shout the more chance we have of making an impact."

There is a very real danger that an MGD increase affecting clubs could be announced in the upcoming Budget.

While Dransfields have already written to the Treasury and held talks via their trade body, Mr Haley stresses that the most effective weapon clubs have is direct engagement with their constituency MPs.



Dransfields Group Chairman Chris Haley

"I am therefore asking you to write to your local MP, or to invite them to your club to see what you do for your community, and tell them your concerns," he urged.

"I am sure that the majority will not be aware of this potential threat and will only be focussed on the headlines involving Adult Gaming Centres; they may well be supportive of the increase without understanding that clubs will also be directly affected."

Mr Haley is calling on clubs to make it clear to politicians that gaming machine income is often the lifeblood of private members'clubs.

"The more letters we send, the more chance we have of heading off this devastating increase in MGD," he said.

"I urge you to contact your MP as soon as possible and highlight that to many clubs the income from their gaming machines is the difference between success and failure, and helps to subsidise their charitable, social and community activities."

He added a grim prediction for the sector if the tax rise goes ahead: "It is highly likely that some clubs will not be able to absorb the reduced revenue from their machines caused by a rise in MGD, and could ultimately be forced to close.

"I would also stress that private members social clubs are run as not-for-profit organisations and function for the benefit of their members and to service the needs of their local community."

In related news, Mr Haley also provided an update on the Gambling Commission consultation on gaming machine technical standards.

He said: "We are still awaiting the outcome.

"However, I am aware that the work we all did submitting our thoughts and opinions have been considered and I am very hopeful that our collective voices had an impact."

For a full interview with Mr Haley about the impact of a rise in MGD, see pages 16-17.

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Welcome

This month we lead on the alarming news that the Government may be considering increasing Machine Games Duty (MGD).

Chris Haley, Group Chairman of Preferred Supplier Dransfields, is urging clubs to lobby their local MPs to prevent this potentially crippling tax increase on gaming machines.

Reports suggest the Chancellor is considering doubling Machine Games Duty (MGD) on gaming machine income from 20% to 40%. While pubs have been excluded from any potential rise, clubs' Category B4 machines could be caught unless the Government is convinced to exclude them.

Chris stresses that the most effective weapon clubs have is direct engagement with their constituency MPs, urging committees to write to them or invite them to their club.

You can do this by writing a letter or email outlining your concerns, or by inviting your MP to visit your club to see firsthand the vital community work you do.

To find your MP's contact details, visit **https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP** and enter your postcode.

The more clubs that make their voices heard, the greater our chance of protecting the future of our movement.

On a more positive note, the 2026 Dransfields CIU National Charity Raceday will take place on Saturday, November 28 at Doncaster Racecourse.

See page 9 for details of how to book your ticket for the special price of £15.

We also present the shortlist of clubs vying for prestigious awards at the Club Awards which will be presented on November 25 in Leicester.

Huge congratulations to all 22 clubs on the shortlist who are a real credit to clubland.

See pages 10-15 for a summary of each club's achievements over the past 12 months.

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

The course consists of three day sessions and covers all the key topics concerning running a club and is particularly suited to those taking up committee positions for the first time.

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

I hope you enjoy this month's issue.



Stephen Goulding

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CLUB JOURNAL

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Throckley & District Social Club honour Michael Cuss



Throckley & District Social Club held a ceremony on September 2 to present club stalward Michael Cuss with his 25-Year Long Service Award. Pictured, left to right: David Clough (Northumberland Branch Secretary), Michael Cuss (LSA Recipient), Ronnie Gibson (Club Chairman) and Harry Chandler (Division 10 Executive Member)

Rockvember beckons at Cwmaman Workmen's Club

Music fans are in for a treat next month as Cwmaman Workmen's Club in South Wales – the Top Club – prepares to host a massive night of live rock.

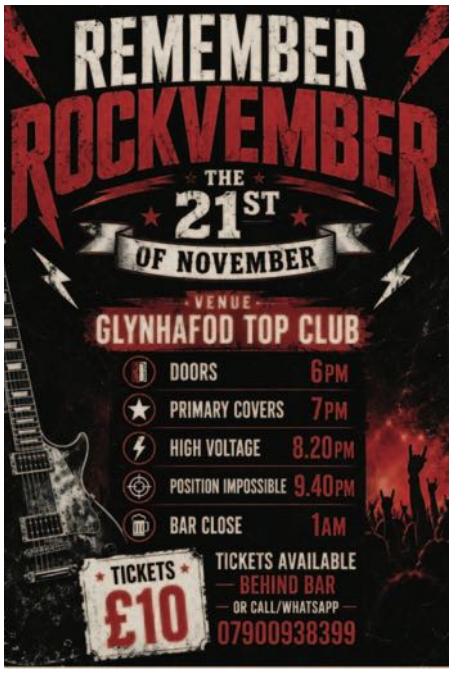
The venue has announced 'Remember Rockvember,' a high-energy event set to take place on Saturday, November 21.

Doors will open at 6pm for an evening packed with live performances from some of the best cover bands around.

The action kicks off at 7pm with Primary Covers, followed by High Voltage at 8.20pm. The night will reach its climax with Position Impossible taking to the stage at 9.40pm.

The bar will remain open until 1am, ensuring the party continues late into the night.

Tickets for the event are priced at just £10 and are available behind the bar or via WhatsApp message to 07900938399.



News in brief



Higham Ferrers WMC lines up top tribute acts during November and December

Higham Ferrers Working Men's Club in Northamptonshire has lined up two top tribute acts guaranteed to get their club members dancing and singing along this November and December.

First up, on Friday November 27, the club welcomes 'Almost Olly' – a tribute to pop sensation Olly Murs.

The evening promises a high-energy performance featuring two sets: one dedicated to Olly Murs hits and another packed with party songs, supported by DJ Rich.

Tickets for this open-to-all event are just £7.

Please note there is no reserved seating and no refunds on tickets.

Then, on Thursday, December 4, the club hosts 'KYLIE UK – The Ultimate Kylie Tribute Show.'

As seen on ITV's Starstruck, the act received high praise from Adam Lambert, who said: "Wow! Her voice is undeniably Kylie."

Fans can expect to hear a setlist packed with the Princess of Pop's biggest hits, likely including anthems such as 'Can't Get You Out of My Head', 'Spinning Around', 'Love at First Sight', 'I Should Be So Lucky', and 'The Loco-Motion'.

Doors open at 7pm with the live performance starting at 9pm. Tickets are £8 each, available from the club or the Town Hall.

The December event is particularly special, as all money raised will be in support of local charities Cando Care and Higham Gateway Club, in collaboration with the Town Mayor.

Both events are likely to be sellouts so booking tickets early is advised.



News in brief



Bright Steels Social Club members get ready for night of classic music with Abba Vinyl

Tribute act Abba Vinyl will be appearing at Bright Steels Social Club in York on Friday, October 9.

The duo will perform all the classic hits of the Swedish pop outfit, including 'Gimme, Gimme, Gimme', 'Mama Mia' and 'Dancing Queen'.

Tickets cost £10 and are available at the bar.



Gary Barlow tribute show taking place at Elton Fold WMC on Saturday, October 10

Excitement is building in the town as Elton Fold Workmen's Club prepares to host a top tribute act.

The club, located in Bury, has announced that Jon Fisher will be bringing his hit-filled show to the stage for the very first time.

Known for his uncanny vocal resemblance and striking likeness to the Take That frontman, Fisher has been a stalwart of the tribute scene for many years and is widely regarded as one of the best in the business.

Fans of the pop megastar are being urged to act fast, as organisers have confirmed that tickets for the upcoming event are "flying out." This will be a strictly ticket-only occasion.

Fisher will be performing all the key Take That songs, including 'Back For Good', 'Rule The World', 'Shine' and 'Relight My Fire'.

Tickets are available directly from the club and cost £7 for club members and £9 for non-members.

Rhoose Social Club event raises over £3k for charity



Over £3,000 was raised for the Parkinson's Disease charity by an event held at Rhoose Social Club

A fundraising event at Rhoose Social Club in South Wales has raised more than £3,000 to combat Parkinson's disease.

The Ladies Day fundraiser, held on July 18, was organised by cousins Taylor and Lauryn Holloway in memory of their grandfather, John Holloway, who died in January 2026 after living with the condition for many years.

A total of £3,015 was raised through an afternoon of music, entertainment, raffles, and bingo, with community members coming together to support the cause.

Organisers said: "It brought together friends, family, and community members all united for a fantastic cause.

"We as a family express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended, donated, and helped make the event such a resounding success and knowing how proud our grandad would be looking down."

They described Mr Holloway as "a special man who would light up any room he entered. His infectious laugh was a joy to hear, and he touched so many lives with his caring, funny, and loving spirit."

The family plans to hold a similar fundraising event next year.

Why not 'Wear It Pink' on Friday, October 23?

On Friday, October 23, club members are being urged to wear pink, raise money and help change the future of breast cancer.

Breast Cancer Now's 'Wear It Pink' day is one of the biggest fundraising events in the UK.

Taking place during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, thousands of people will wear pink in their communities, clubs or work places in order to raise money for life-saving science and life-changing support.

For fundraising ideas and downloadable resources, visit: breastcancernow.org

BREAST CANCER NOW

Sheerness East's Paula climbs the Infinity Bridge





Sheerness East Working Men's Club Manager Paula Smith raised £1,700 for charity by crossing the Infinity Bridge at Honister Slate Mine in Cumbria

Paula Smith, Manager of Sheerness East Working Men's Club in Sheppey, Kent, has once again pushed herself to the limit with her latest daring charity challenge – completing the terrifying Infinity Bridge at Honister Slate Mine in Cumbria.

Now in the seventh year of her charity challenges, Paula took on the 190-metre-long bridge on Friday, July 24, despite admitting that she really does not like heights.

The Infinity Bridge is suspended high above the spectacular landscape at Honister Slate Mine and Paula spent more than an hour and a half completing the challenge. However, the bridge itself was not the only daunting part of the experience.

Before even reaching the bridge, Paula faced a quarter-mile walk up the mine followed by a climb up the sheer face of the mountain.

Attached to two rope harnesses, she had to make her way upwards using small pieces of metal wire protruding from the rock as makeshift footholds.

With sheer drops on either side, it was certainly not for the faint-hearted.

Once at the top, the two harnesses were removed and Paula was attached to the wire with a single harness before beginning her journey across the Infinity Bridge.

"To say I was scared was an understatement," says Paula. She also confessed that she had expected the wire she had to cross to be thicker.

Despite her fears, Paula successfully completed the challenge.

Her latest fundraising effort raised £1,700, taking the total she has raised for charity over the past eight years to an incredible £32,000-plus.

This year's fundraising will support three charities particularly close to Paula's heart, with £800 going to The Royal Marsden Children's Hospital, £800 to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and £1,100 to Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance.

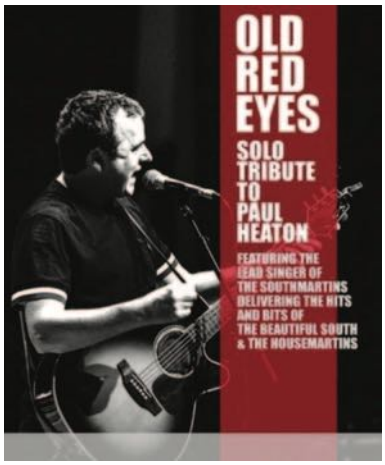
Paula expressed her thanks to the many groups and individuals who supported her latest challenge, including Swale Vehicle Enthusiasts Club, the Monday and Thursday sequence dance groups, Sheerness East Table Tennis group, Sheerness East Pigeons Flying Club and Sheerness East Whippets Football group, as well as the many generous customers who contributed.

With such an impressive fundraising record, it is perhaps no surprise that Paula is already being asked what she will be doing for her next challenge.

"I need to recover from this one first," she joked, although she has confirmed that there will definitely be another charity challenge next year.

Given that in the past she has completed a parachute jump and a wing walk on an aeroplane thousands of feet in the air, along with her latest wire walk, it will certainly take some imagination to top her previous efforts.

News in brief



Harrowgate Club to host tribute to Beautiful South and Housemartins singer Paul Heaton

The Harrowgate Club in Darlington will host Andy Johnson on Saturday, December 5.

The event will see Johnson perform songs from The Beautiful South, as well as material associated with The Housemartins.

Tickets are now on sale from behind the bar, priced at £8 in advance, with tickets costing £12 on the door.



Groby Club takes part in local Scarecrow Festival with flying saucer-themed entry

A flying saucer full of little green men landed in the car park of the Groby Ex-Servicemen's Social Club in Leicestershire in September.

The spaceship and its passengers – entitled 'To Infinity' – were not part of an alien invasion but the club's entry for the village's annual Scarecrow Festival which sees businesses, organisations and individuals creating their own scarecrows.

The creation won the runners-up prize in the Best School/Business/Community Group category.

Groby Club Secretary Nathan Clarke said: "It's always a pleasure to get involved in the annual Groby Scarecrow Festival as it's a really fun, community-orientated initiative which really catches the imagination of everyone in the village.

"We're delighted with our runners-up prize for our entry and will be aiming to go one better in the 2027 competition."

News in brief



Dave Double receives Certificate of Merit for 10 years of service to the Victory Club

The Victory Club in South Norwood, London recently presented Committee Member Dave Double with his Certificate of Merit after he completed 10 years of service to the club.

Presenting him with his award was Club Chair Sherilyn Miller (pictured, above).



Elton Fold WMC lines up top tribute acts as 'Meat Loaf' and 'Elvis' dates are announced

Elton Fold WMC, AKA 'The Klondike', in Bury has announced two ticket-only tribute shows for November and December.

Saturday, November 14 will see Matt Shaw performing as Meat Loaf.

Matt is currently touring theatres up and down the country with a repertoire which includes such classics as 'Two Out of Three Ain't Bad' and 'Bat Out of Hell'.

Then, on Saturday, December 19, Paul Thorpe will be presenting his Elvis Presley tribute show.

A real club favourite after making his debut there last year, Paul will be performing songs from throughout 'The King's' career.

Tickets for both events are available now and cost £6 for members and £8 for non-members.

Bumper turnout at Dransfields CIU Greyhound Racenight



Pictured, left to right: Trevor Roberts (Director of Operations, Dransfields), Chris Haley (Chairman, Dransfields), winning greyhound Constant Coco and handler, Kenneth D Green CMD ACM (Union General Secretary) and Nathan Clarke (NEC Member and Leicestershire Branch Secretary)

Sheffield's iconic Owlerton Stadium hosted the Dransfields CIU Racenight on Friday, September 18 with club members from across the country gathering to witness an evening of top-class greyhound racing.

There were 12 races in all, including the sponsored Dransfields CIU Race, which took place across a distance of 500 metres.

The race was won by Constant Coco, trained by Kelly Hodson.

The winners were presented with their trophy by Union General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM, Dransfields Chairman Chris Haley, Dransfields Director of Operations Trevor Roberts and Nathan Clarke (NEC Member and Leicestershire Branch Secretary).

There were a number of CIU clubs in attendance with Morley WMC bringing a coachload of members to enjoy the event.

Indeed, the club sponsored the 11th race of the night, the Barrie Durnell Memorial Race in memory of their much-beloved former President who passed away two years ago.

As the race was announced over the tannoy, the 50-plus-strong Morley WMC members in attendance raised a toast to Barrie in tribute to a true club stalwart who served the club for many decades.

The race was won by Not Pennys Boat, also trained by Kelly Hodson who enjoyed a number of victories throughout the night.

General Secretary Kenneth D Green CM ACM said:

"Thanks to all those who came along to Owlerton Stadium to enjoy a night of sporting action and Yorkshire hospitality, particularly the very sizeable contingent from Morley WMC who helped create a fantastic atmosphere.

"Many congratulations to Leicestershire Branch who won the CIU Sweepstake by correctly picking 'Trap 1' in the sponsored Dransfields CIU Race.

"Finally, many thanks to Preferred Supplier Dransfields for their continuing support of this annual event.

"We hope to see even more CIU members at the 2027 event, details of which will be announced in due course."

FOR SERVICE

Distinguished Service Award

Northumberland

Anthony Rice – West Moor Social Club

Long Service Award

Durham

Derek Anthony Theakston – Haughton Le Skerne WMC

Wessex

Susan Warne – NADSS Sports and Social Club
Douglas Herridge – NADSS Sports and Social Club
Robert Sloane – NADSS Sports and Social Club
Mark Francis – NADSS Sports and Social Club

Certificate of Merit

Northumberland

Peter Collpitts Jnr – Bedlington Social Club

Durham

Gayle Theakston – Haughton Le Skerne WMC
Joyce Laverick – Haughton Le Skerne WMC

SE Metropolitan

David Double – The Victory Club (South Norwood)

Branch Executive Award

Peter Scorer – Northumberland
Stephen Foster – Durham
Bill Symcox – Durham
Ian Wilson – Durham

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Secure your tickets for CIU raceday at Doncaster

The Dransfields CIU National Charity Raceday will take place at Doncaster on Saturday, November 28 so don't miss out on a great day of sporting action and traditional Yorkshire hospitality



The Dransfields CIU National Charity Raceday will take place at Doncaster Racecourse on Saturday, November 28

This year's Dransfields CIU National Charity Raceday will be staged on Saturday, November 28 at Doncaster Racecourse.

The Meeting sees the start of the jumps racing season at the Yorkshire track and will be much anticipated by casual racegoers and racing aficionados alike.

Doncaster Racecourse is a jewel in British racing's crown, renowned for hosting the world's oldest classic, the St Leger, every September.

With its imposing grandstands, expansive track and electric atmosphere, it offers an unforgettable experience, consistently delivering top-tier sport and excitement.

There will be a total of seven races – including the sponsored Dransfields CIU National Charity Race – taking place on November 28 with the first going off at 11.45am and the last race taking place at around 3.25pm.

Union members can buy a Grandstand Ticket for the special price of £15 which gives access to the Grandstand, pre-parade ring, parade ring, grandstand public bars and food court.

As a bonus, the event will help the Union raise funds for its Education Programme.

So all in all, it's an unmissable day so don't miss out – buy your tickets now and we will see you trackside at Doncaster on Saturday, November 28.

TO BOOK ONLINE

- Go to the dedicated website below
- Select Doncaster Racecourse
- Select The Fixture
- Click 'Book Now!'

For help booking over the phone, please call **01302 304200**

For more information, visit: **arenaracingcompany.co.uk/offers/ciu**



Doncaster Racecourse hosts the annual St Leger, the world's oldest Classic race

CIU CLUBS IN THE RUNNING FOR MAJOR TITLES AT THE CLUB AWARDS

Here are the 22 CIU clubs who are through as finalists in the 2026 Club Awards

Brookside Commercial Social Club, West Yorkshire

The club has continued its upward financial performance which initally saw it transform a £3,000 loss in 2023 into an excellent profit in 2024. This success is driven by strategic business initiatives, including the introduction of new drinks brands, a two-tier pricing structure to boost membership and a volunteer-led model that minimises overheads. The surplus has been reinvested directly into the club, with new furniture and a volunteer-refurbished beer garden with an outdoor TV enhancing the member experience. Furthermore, the club provides a warm, inclusive hub for all generations as well as hosting vital initiatives like 'Disco-bility' nights that offer a safe, social space for young adults with disabilities and respite for their carers.



Burnley Wood Club, Lancashire

Burnley Wood Club, founded in 1876 in Burnley, has just celebrated its 150th anniversary. Now a thriving Free House with members aged 18 to 88, it remains a community hub offering darts, dominoes, snooker, live music and a full weekly programme of events. Secretary Anthony Hodgkinson has served over 20 years and is ably supported by his committee and staff. The club survived council demolition plans in 2016 and the pandemic thanks to member loyalty and lockdown grants. Its anniversary featured live bands, discounted beer and members' draws. With intergenerational membership, competitive drinks prices and new housing nearby bringing fresh members, the club continues to evolve and looks set to flourish for many more years.



Chirton Social Club, Tyne and Wear

Chirton Social Club in North Shields is thriving thanks, in part, to new Secretary Emma Patterson and her bingo innovation, the 'Double Flyer', which rival venues are now copying. Players pay £1 to stamp their flyer for a jackpot won on double numbers, adding excitement to bingo five times weekly. The club offers crowd karaoke, live singers, six darts teams, pool, snooker, a lending library and jigsaw exchange, plus charity fundraising and community events. A family ethos runs through the committee, with three generations of the Patterson family involved. Despite challenges facing clubs, Chirton Social Club's welcoming atmosphere, varied activities and community commitment keep members of all ages coming back.



East Ham Working Mens Social Club, London

After being closed since 2019 due to a redevelopment project on the site, this historic club reopened in 2025 in a brand-new, purpose-built venue – complete with state-of-the-art audiovisual system – on the ground floor of a residential building. It has wasted no time in hitting the ground running and has enticed old members and new alike with a number of activities, including live entertainment, pool, darts and live sport.

The new club boasts impressive, modern facilities but also has plenty of memorabilia from across its history, including photos of the many West Ham players who used to be regular visitors to the club, including England's World Cup-winning captain Bobby Moore.



Groby Ex-Servicemen's Club, Leicestershire

The club is the vibrant heart of its Leicestershire village with a true family ethos that ensures all generations are welcome. While its identity is deeply rooted in honouring the past through its War Memorial, it thrives on a forward-looking energy, offering everything from live music, comedy and bingo to live sport and excellent food via its in-house catering operation.

Governed by a dedicated committee that views its role as being custodians of a community asset, the club is financially healthy and an essential home-from-home for its members.

The Grand Opening of the new outdoor terrace at the front of the club took place over the summer and this area has proved to be extremely popular with the members during the warmer months.



Hanslope Working Men's Club, Buckinghamshire

Hanslope Working Men's Club, known locally as 'The Club, Hanslope', has served its Buckinghamshire village since 1898 while adapting fully to the 21st century. Under its current committee, membership and revenue have tripled in eight years, with a recently refurbished lounge and bar. The club is community-focused, hosting defibrillator training, family events, kids' bingo and charity activities. It is a CAMRA Good Beer Guide regular, offering three cask ales and an annual beer festival. Live music, comedy – including British Comedian of the Year semi-finals – and Sky Sports draw members in.

Treasurer Millie Mitchell praises the CIU's Award in Club Management and the club's supportive Committee. Membership is capped at 850 with a waiting list, reflecting its enduring popularity.



Hereford Richmond Place Club, Herefordshire

The club serves as a crucial community hub, offering a vital, safe and welcoming space for a remarkably diverse range of local people and activities. Its role extends well beyond the traditional, hosting everything from christenings, weddings and wakes to acting as a weekly base for the OpenGate organisation, which supports people with learning disabilities and for conventions run by the Herefordshire Boardgamers.

Its community significance is further underlined by serving as headquarters for the Hereford Invitation Skittles League, alongside an eclectic entertainment programme spanning country music, blues, burlesque and wrestling shows, plus regular coach trips for members. Darts is another major draw, with regular teams and two charity open events held each year.



High Green Club, Sheffield

The High Green Club in Sheffield is a thriving, resilient cornerstone of its community, with over 1,000 members and a strong financial footing thanks to the dedicated, hands-on work of its committee.

By balancing essential clubland traditions such as bingo, dominoes and competitive snooker with modern attractions like live entertainment and popular, competitively priced drinks, the club provides a vital social lifeline for all generations.

This commitment is further reflected in shrewd financial management, proactive refurbishment of its facilities and strong support for private functions and charity fundraising, ensuring this much-loved institution remains a vibrant and essential hub for the local community.



Intake Social Club, Doncaster

Carl Bassindale took over as Secretary of Intake Social Club in Doncaster in 2021 with no experience of running a members' club. With guidance from the CIU, he helped rebuild the club under a new Committee, focusing on honesty, community and reinvestment. A major refurbishment split the venue into a games area and Concert Room, enabling more revenue-generating events to be held in the club. Live entertainment, snooker, darts and bingo have revived membership numbers. The club also supports a number of good causes throughout the year. In April, Carl – a former Premier League referee – ran the course of the Doncaster 10K race daily for a week before completing a swim, 50-mile cycle and final 10K run to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, a cause dear to the club's members.



Leicester Railwaymen's Club & Institute, Leicester

The Leicester Railwaymen's Club & Institute is a vibrant and inclusive hub that has successfully honoured its long legacy while dynamically evolving to serve its diverse, multi-cultural community.

With a strong membership of over 1,500, the club has driven engagement through popular, well-attended initiatives like themed parties and Reggae/Ska nights, as well as the successful introduction of the 'Find the Joker' game to increase footfall.

Its role as a cornerstone of the community is demonstrated by hosting a wide array of local groups – from Salsa and line dancing classes to the Haribol Walking Group – alongside a steadfast commitment to fundraising for major local charities like LOROS.



Lindley Liberal Club, Huddersfield

A community institution that balances its 139-year heritage with dynamic, forward-thinking management to create a thriving and financially robust hub for upwards of 2,000 members. Through a number of successful business initiatives – including highly popular raceday events, a significant investment in staff training and a modernised website and eco-conscious measures like solar panels – the club has dramatically increased revenue while futureproofing its operations.

This commercial acumen is perfectly complemented by a deep commitment to its community, evidenced by its support for over a dozen local groups from the 'Chimes' club for senior members to the RAFA and various charities, all driven by an exceptional and dedicated team of officers and volunteers.



Midland Band Social Club, Kettering

Midland Band Social Club in Kettering, founded in 1896, remains a thriving community hub with over 800 members.

It has built up a national reputation for its impressive range of cask ales across 13 handpulls, including its own 'Kettering Midland Band County Bitter' and has earned many plaudits from the Campaign For Real Ale (CAMRA).

Bar Manager Dave Bellamy has introduced live entertainment, bingo, karaoke, quiz nights and a popular Sunday carvery.

The club offers darts, pool, skittles and bowls, plus events like 'Kettstock', Oktoberfest and Christmas party nights.

A strong, diverse Committee and rising membership reflect its enduring success as a welcoming social hub for all ages.



Mildmay Social Club, London

Founded in 1888, the Mildmay Club & Institute in Newington Green is a remarkable Victorian landmark and one of Britain's oldest purpose-built clubs, boasting two sprung dance halls. The club is completing a £1.5 million refurbishment, supported in part by income from film and television productions including promotional work for Oasis and Taylor Swift. Its volunteer archive group is cataloguing and digitising historic documents, while research uncovered the story behind the film Dear Mr Morley, tracing a former Secretary through letters sent by members serving in the trenches during World War I. Membership has grown from fewer than 300 to a forecast of 4,000 by the end of 2026. The club also offers active snooker and darts, nightly social activities, pantomime and an extensive garden.



New Eltham Social Club, London

This club - which boasts first-class facilities, including a modern beer garden – blends its long-standing CIU traditions, dating back to 1892, with a dynamic and modern approach to become a thriving, award-winning hub for its 1,660 members.

The club's exceptional success is driven by a vibrant and frequent live entertainment programme that appeals to all ages, complemented by innovative, best-in-class social media and website presence that keeps the community engaged. This is all underpinned by a profound commitment to its community through significant charity fundraising, family-friendly events and dedicated, long-serving staff and committee who ensure the club remains a financially stable, welcoming, and indispensable part of life in New Eltham.



North Biddick Social Club, County Durham

The club, which fought its way back from devastating flood damage a few years ago, is a thriving and financially robust community hub which offers a home-from-home for its members.

The club's financial success is achieved through stringent stock control, negotiating the best supplier deals, and an ambitious rolling programme of maintaining the club's facilities.

The club's community spirit is evidenced by the club taking a hands-on role in sponsoring local football and rugby teams, founding a popular golf society, collaborating with a local amateur theatre group, and even providing a base for the Durham CIU Branch Secretary, solidifying the club's reputation as a welcoming, well-run, and indispensable local institution.



Northallerton & District Working Men's Club, Yorkshire

The club is steered by Secretary Jeff Lewis and a dedicated, female-majority committee that has driven impressive growth with over 100 new members this year. The club is committed to live entertainment with live bands, singers and tribute acts booked well in advance. There have been significant improvements to the club, including a refurbished bar and multi-channel Sky Sports system. The club has a strong community and CIU spirit, hosting visits from other clubs and running numerous charity nights in aid of such causes as the Friarage Hospital, Guide Dogs for the Blind, a local special needs school and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. The club has a talented bar management team, with the club a leading light in the local PubWatch scheme. It is also very strong on bar sports including snooker, pool and darts.



The Oatlands, Harrogate

Established in 1899, the club has achieved record membership of 1,200 and prestigious recognition, including being named CAMRA Club of the Year for an unprecedented third consecutive year. This success is driven by its leadership team, led by 2025 Secretary of the Year Lucy Hague and Bar Manager Arj Flora, who have implemented transformative initiatives like a dual pricing system, membership cards and targeted discount days to significantly boost revenue and footfall.

The club's vitality is further cemented by its role as a community hub, sponsoring local sports teams, hosting a diverse array of local groups, raising thousands for local charities, and serving as a venue for significant civic and fundraising events.



Rowley and Blackheath Labour Club, West Midlands

Rowley & Blackheath Labour Club, founded in 1926 in Rowley Regis, celebrated its centenary in May 2026 with the motto "Optimum Omnium Esse" – to be the best of the best.

Having faced bankruptcy around 20 years ago, the club is now positively thriving with over 700 members and consistent profits. It is the only club in its borough offering live entertainment two nights a week, 52 weeks a year.

Facilities and activities include a cribbage and dominoes league, pool and darts teams, nine bowls teams, and the highest bowling green above sea level in the country.

The club sponsors local youth football and the England International Fishing Team, and has raised over £15,000 for Alzheimer's and Macmillan.



Sandhurst Social Club, Berkshire

Sandhurst Social Club blends its long-standing CIU traditions with innovative, member-focused initiatives to create a vibrant venue with a reasonably priced bar selling quality drinks.

Driven by a team of dedicated individuals, whose lifelong passion for the club ensures its pristine operation and welcoming atmosphere, and Administration Secretary Julie O'Neil, who leads a tireless entertainment team, the club puts on around 20 diverse monthly events.

This operational excellence, which includes a successful in-house catering brand (KUBUTI), significant facility refurbishments and highly successful charity fundraising events generating thousands for local causes, is matched by a community spirit that supports local schools, businesses and families.



Seaside Social & Labour Club, Port Talbot

Founded in 1965, the Seaside Social & Labour Club in Port Talbot is a CIU-affiliated club with more than 1,000 members and a significant role at the heart of its local community. The substantial Sandfields venue has a long-standing reputation for entertainment, with a packed programme of live acts and social events. Its facilities include three bars, a large upstairs Main Hall and stage, a public Sports Bar, Lounge, outdoor seating and a large car park, alongside darts, pool and snooker. The club has also hosted CIU meetings, with its size and capacity making it an ideal venue for major gatherings. Secretary Peter Freeman has been in the role for many years and is highly committed to the club, devoting considerable time to its smooth running. A well-run venue, the club continues to provide a welcoming hub for members and local people.



Sheerness East Working Mens Club, Sheppey, Kent

Sheerness East Working Men's Club on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, was founded in 1919 on land gifted to returning World War One servicemen.

Now with 1,800 members on its books, it is a thriving community hub hosting yoga, sequence dancing, senior exercise classes and groups for dementia sufferers. The club offers a large Function Hall, Lounge Bar and Garden, and runs ten darts teams, three pool teams and a youth football section.

It stages the annual Sheppey Classic Darts tournament and charity events for Great Ormond Street Hospital and also hosts the Sheppey Bikers Club events in the year, including the annual Christmas charity ride.

Named 2025 CIU Club of the Year (South), it remains a vital, family-orientated facility open seven days a week.



Stanhill Social Club, Oswaldtwistle

Stanhill Social Club in Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, established in 1918, underwent a transformation in the post-COVID era, with members and committee working together to improve the facilities.

The club modernised its Function Room, toilets, games room, lounge, bar and outdoor seating, with skilled members volunteering hundreds of hours.

This helped to boost private function bookings, including weddings and christenings, and sellout tribute nights and Sunday comedy events.

The club supports Derian House Children's Hospice, raising many thousands since 2008, and takes part in the village-wide Ossyfest.

With a free house bar, pool, snooker and darts teams, plus strong community ties, Stanhill Social Club continues to thrive as a welcoming hub for all ages.



Countdown to the Club Awards 2026

The Club Awards 2026, which take place on Wednesday, November 25 at the Athena venue in Leicester, are an opportunity to reward all the hard work and dedication of members' clubs

The club world is counting down to its biggest night of the year. On Wednesday, November 25, the Club Awards return to the Athena in Leicester for an evening that celebrates the very best of UK clubland.

For over three decades, these awards have been the only national honours dedicated entirely to the club sector, recognising the passion, dedication and community spirit that make clubs the true heart of local life.

From large, long-established institutions to small village clubs, every finalist has a story worth telling.

The evening itself is a full-scale celebration. Doors open at 6pm with a drinks reception and entertainment, followed by a gala dinner and the awards presentations, hosted this year by TV presenter Craig Doyle.



The Club Awards 2026 take place on November 25 in Leicester

The night also features 100 Club presentations for centenary clubs, recognition awards for community heroes and long-serving volunteers, and the announcement of the CAMRA Club of the Year finalists.

Post-dinner entertainment carries the celebrations through to 1am, with breakfast butties to round things off.

Call to action over proposed MGD increase

A hike in MGD could make clubs unviable, warns Dransfields Chairman in an exclusive interview with industry-leading Coinslot magazine. Haley warns that increased taxation could threaten the existence of the UK's 5,000 social clubs, with devastating consequences for communities



Gaming machines are a vital source of revenue for the vast majority of members' social clubs

An increase in Machine Games Duty (MGD) will leave many of the UK's social clubs struggling to pay their bills, triggering a damaging cycle of reduced investment and rising prices for members.

That is the stark warning from Chris Haley, Group Chairman of Dransfields, the largest British-owned supplier of gaming machines and entertainment products, who told Coinslot that the proposed tax hike threatens the very existence of many of the country's circa 5,000 social clubs.

Haley, a three-decade veteran of the sector, confirmed: "Clubs exist at the heart of their communities and are owned by the members for the benefit of the members.

"Many operate on wafer thin margins with low or no cash reserves. Unfortunately, it doesn't take much for a club to go into a downward spiral, members will vote with their feet and go elsewhere if prices rise or if the club curtails entertainment and investment in the fabric of the club."

He pointed out that massive uplifts in utility bills, staff costs, business rates, and bar stock have already forced an increasing number of clubs to open only at weekends, adding that "an increase in MGD will be hard for them to absorb."

Dransfields has been consulting with the sector's trade and representative bodies to highlight the potential tax hike.

The feedback, Haley noted, underscores the incredibly harsh trading environment clubs currently face.

"There's been a real sense of fear and trepidation," he said.

"There are not many options for clubs to make further cutbacks to compensate for an increase in tax and there is a real danger that some clubs will not be able to afford the rise and simply close."

Taking a broader perspective, he argued: "The effect that a club closure has on a local community can be devastating, especially amongst the older generation who tend to use clubs more, and rely on them for social interactions."

Haley is clear about what he believes is driving Prime Minister Andy Burnham's assault on the gaming sector.

"Personally, it feels like an anti-gambling agenda," he stated. "I recognise that the Government needs to raise revenue but if businesses are forced to close then revenue could actually reduce.

"It doesn't seem sensible or desirable to penalise social clubs that time and again punch above their weight in terms of what they provide



Chris Haley, Group Chairman of Dransfields, the Preferred Supplier of gaming and entertainment machines to the CIU

to their local community.

"To lose all those games of bingo that help ease loneliness, all the sports teams supported by their club, the funeral teas, the family parties, the community events, the charitable fund raising: the list goes on.

"In terms of authentic lived experience, I spoke to one of my club customers who said that their gaming machine income pays for the upkeep of their cricket pitch, bowling green and football pitch and these facilities are the bedrock of the local community and used by all generations."

Despite the current political agenda, members' clubs still hold a significant lobby within the House of Commons, stretching right to the top of Government.

"Fortunately, local MPs do tend to understand and have been very supportive of their local clubs over the years," Haley said. "MPs recognise the importance of clubs in their local community and are often members themselves.

"They use them to host surgeries and I dare say, like their constituents – have a pint or two to relax!

"Indeed, Andy Burnham based his Makerfield election campaign from Stubshaw Cross Community and Sports Centre. The club famously remained fully open to its local regulars throughout the political campaign. It continued hosting community events including a wedding, a funeral, a christening, and a birthday party, while serving as the operations base where high-profile MPs and Cabinet ministers gathered."

For Haley, this challenge is the latest in a long-term fight to protect a vital community asset. "I have fought on behalf of clubs over so many issues related to machines right back to the Budd Report.

"Throughout my time in the sector gaming machines have been recognised for being the most profitable four-square feet of a club."

Meanwhile, the CIU is also signalling the alarm about a potential rise in MGG.

General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM, the Union's General Secretary, said:

"An increase in MGD could well see clubs having to cease trading – after all MGD was introduced to be tax neutral.

"The fact is that in a lot of clubs gaming machine income represents the thin line between surplus and loss.

"Clubs provide a huge range of invaluable community services and the more that cease trading the greater the demand on local authorities to provide the missing recreational facilities – a cost that they would have to foot.

"The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Non-Profit Making Members' Clubs and affiliated MPs need to know that an increase in MGD will sound the death knell for some clubs."

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News in brief

Updated Constitution and Rules of the CIU available to download at www.ciu.org.uk

The full Union Constitution is available to download in Word and PDF formats at www.ciu.org.uk.

In addition, in order to assist Committee Members in the running of their club, and to ensure that they adhere to the Rules of the CIU, the Rules are also available to download.

Among other headings there are explanations and Rules concerning the following within this booklet:

- Conditions of Membership
- Annual Fee
- Gaming Machines
- Register of Members
- Club Management

National Executive Committee dates

The remaining NEC meetings at Head Office for 2026 will take place on:
October 14/15 and December 2/3.

CIU Conference 2027 dates

Friday, April 16 – CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition

Saturday, April 17 – The 163rd 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 in our archive which goes back to 2011.

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

Revised handbooks and contracts now available



The CIU has fully revised and updated its range of handbooks and contracts.

The following are now available from your local branch:

- Club Handbook 2026
- Club Secretary's Handbook 2026
- Contract of Employment 2026 –Temporary Bar / Cleaning Staff (Absence Cover)
- Contract of Employment 2026 –Temporary Bar/Cleaning Staff (Time Dependent)
- Contract of Employment 2026 – Bar & Cleaning Staff
- Contract of Employment 2026 – Bar Manager
- Contract of Employment 2026 – Club Secretary
- Contract of Employment 2026 – Club Steward

Prices remain unchanged at £5 per handbook and £3 per contract.

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Planning continues for Blackpool 2027

The 163rd Annual Meeting of the CIU will take place on Saturday, April 17, 2027, while the 35th CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition will be staged on the day before, Friday, April 16, 2027

Planning is well underway for Conference Weekend 2027, with the CIU's key annual events returning to the Norbreck Castle Hotel in April.

The Norbreck will host the 163rd Annual Meeting and the 35th CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition, with delegates and club officials from across the country expected to attend.

The key event for CIU delegates will be the morning of Saturday, April 17, when the 2027 Annual Meeting – the 163rd edition – takes place in the hotel's Function Room.

During the meeting, delegates will consider the 2026 Annual Report and Financial Report, while a number of motions proposed by the NEC will be debated before being put to a vote.

The weekend gets underway on Friday, April 16, with the 35th CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition taking place in the Norcalympia Suite at the Norbreck Castle Hotel.

The exhibition is the UK's largest trade show for private members' social clubs, offering a wealth of products and services designed to help clubs save money, improve their operations and grow trade.

A wide range of key club suppliers from across the UK will be in attendance, including CIU Preferred Suppliers BOC, Dransfields, Greene King, Brown & Brown Insurance and Pure Purchasing.

At the complimentary bar, Greene King will showcase its leading brands, providing the perfect setting for club officials to meet suppliers, network with colleagues and discuss the latest products and services. available to clubs.



Club delegates from all over the country will gather in Blackpool in April 2027



Union President Ken Roberts CMD ACM will chair the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 17 at the Norbreck Castle Hotel



General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM delivered his address in 2026



CIU Legal Advisor Allyn Walton spoke at the 2026 AGM



The Norbreck Castle Hotel will host the 2027 AGM and trade show



Union Vice-President Bob Russell CMD officially opened the 2026 Beer & Trades Exhibition



Dransfields will be bringing a selection of top gaming machines



Bingo proved to be a popular activity during the trade show



Union Vice-President Bob Russell CMD with representatives of Gemini Parking Solutions



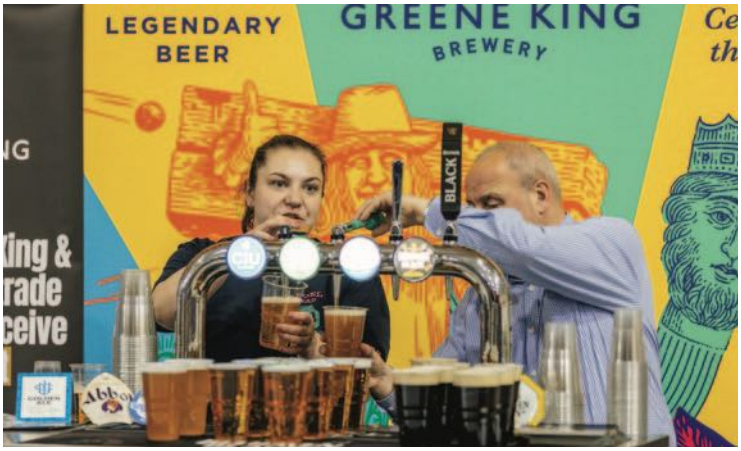
Union Vice-President Bob Russell CMD at the ACE Furniture stand



The Head Office stand will showcase the many services and products which the CIU offers to its clubs



Delegates had the chance to try gaming machines on the Dransfields stand



Preferred supplier Greene King will be running the bar at the 2027 event



A winner is presented with a prize at the 2026 trade show by the Officers of the CIU and Pure Purchasing Managing Director David King

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Why not boost your club's administration skills with the CIU's ACM?

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



The ACM course is taught by experienced club administrators across three day sessions

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

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

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

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

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

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

The lectures are carried out by highly experienced lecturers from within the CIU – including Union General Secretary Kenneth D Green CMD ACM and Union President Ken Roberts CMD ACM – who lead the day sessions and can draw from their knowledge of the club scene to illustrate the key points and explore real-life scenarios and problems which can crop up at members' clubs.

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

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

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



CIU

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Get involved with the CIU National Lottery

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

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

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



Q: How do I buy tickets?
A: It's a very simple process:

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

Q: What happens if I forget my password?
A: You can reset your password at any time by clicking in the reset password link on the screen.

Q: Is there a cap on the amount I can spend?
A: Yes – the maximum number of tickets you can buy is 20 tickets.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum amount that I have to keep on my account?
A: You only need credit in your account to buy tickets for the draws. Tickets are just £1 each.

Q: What happens to my personal data?
A: Praxis is ICO registered and has full GDPR statement in the T&C's & log-in/sign up process.

Q: I don't own a smartphone. Can I still play the CIU Raffle?
A: Yes. Please go online to **ciu.praxisplay.online** and sign up to create an online account and play the CIU Raffle.

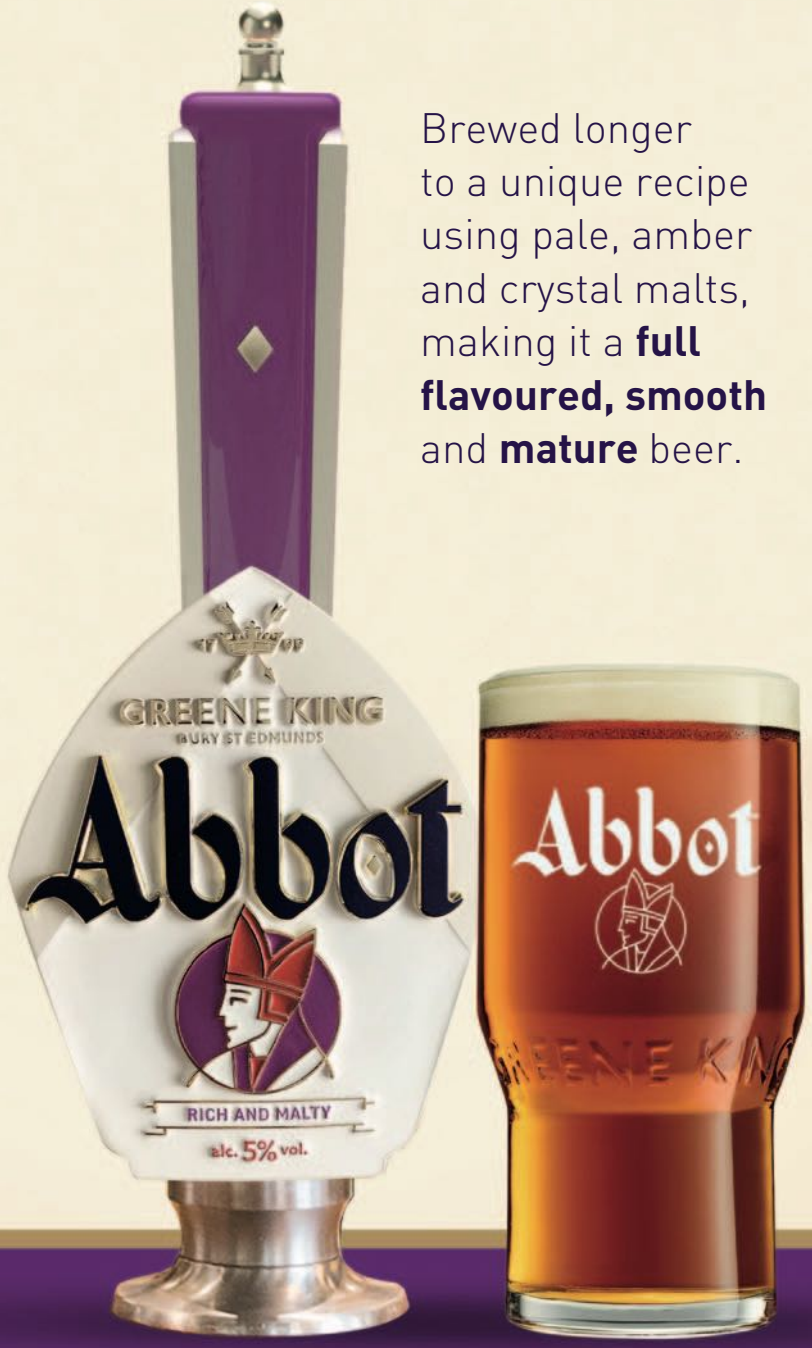
Q: How will I receive my winnings?
A: The Winners receive an email and text confirming their win, along with payment into the client's CIU draw app account. The user can then withdraw the funds via the app account to another bank account.

Q: I have a technical issue with the App. Who do I contact?
A: In-app users can create a support ticket to resolve a query or call the CIU Head Office on 0207 226 0221 for help with any problems they encounter when buying a ticket.

Abbot

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

Relax with an



CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN 2023

CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN 2023

Take advantage of some fantastic offers for CIU members

Snap up some of these fantastic, great-value offers available exclusively to CIU members at 16 horse racing venue and five greyhound stadia across the country – see details below of how to book your tickets



CIU members can enjoy a number of discounted racedays at horse racing and greyhound stadia across the country

The CIU is delighted to announce a fantastic set of new deals with Arena Racing Company (ARC), the UK's largest racecourse group.

These deals open the gates to some of the most famous tracks in the country, from historic Doncaster (home of the St Leger Festival) to the seaside spectacle of Brighton, the all-weather action of Wolverhampton and the premier jumps circuits at Lingfield Park and Fontwell Park.

Whether you love the Flat, the National Hunt, or a great day out with friends and club colleagues, ARC's 16 venues offer world-class sporting drama right on your doorstep.

As part of this exclusive tie-up, CIU members can unlock four great-value offers.

You have a choice of more than 500 racedays to enjoy! Highlights include a whole host of family fun days, live music events and stylish Ladies Days.

ARC Horse Racing venues
Bath
Brighton
Chepstow
Doncaster
Ffos Las
Fontwell Park
Great Yarmouth
Hereford
Lingfield Park
Newcastle
Royal Windsor
Sedgefield
Southwell
Uttoxeter
Wolverhampton
Worcester

ARC Greyhound Racing Venues
Central Park (Kent)
Newcastle
Nottingham
Sunderland
Perry Barr Stadium/Dunstall Park

*Exclusions apply. See Ts&Cs at website below for details.

Exclusive offers for members of CIU clubs

Offer 1 (Sunday - Friday fixtures): Grandstand Ticket – only £10!*

Offer 2 (Saturday fixtures): Grandstand Ticket - only £15!*

Offer 3(Select Fixtures): 25% off Restaurant Packages at Greyhound Racing!*

TO BOOK ONLINE
- Go to the dedicated website below
- Select Your Racecourse/Greyhound Track
- Select Your Fixture
- Click 'Book Now!'

For help booking over the phone, please call 01302 304200

For more information, visit the ARC website:
arenaracingcompany.co.uk/offers/ciu



Our flagship beer. An easy drinking, fresh, sessionable IPA. A satisfying **toffee / caramel note** with a **clean, dry** finish.

Everything you need, all in one place

CIU Preferred Supplier Greene King explains how its Free Trade Online Platform puts the tools, information and opportunities you need right at your fingertips

Running a successful club takes time, focus and a constant eye on the details.

From managing stock and controlling costs to keeping members happy and staying on top of administration, there's always something demanding your attention.

That's why Greene King & Belhaven Free Trade Online Platform has been designed to make life easier.

Bringing together ordering, savings, support and business tools in one convenient platform, it gives you everything you need to keep your operation running smoothly, whenever and wherever it suits you.



Greene King's Free Trade Online Platform is a one-stop destination for venues

Order with confidence

With access to a huge range of drinks, essentials and trusted brands, finding what you need is easier.

Browse the line that works for orders quickly and discover new opportunities across your range without having to pick up the phone.

Even better, you can see your prices instantly as you shop, helping you make purchase decisions every time.

No surprises, no uncertainty, just clear visibility that helps you stay in control of costs and margins.

Flexibility that fits around you

In hospitality, plans can change quickly.

A busy weekend, an unexpected event or a sudden increase in demand can all mean you need a little extra flexibility.

That's why selected Tuesday deliveries benefit from later ordering cut-off times, giving you more time to finalise your requirements and respond to changing circumstances.

For more information around later cut off times, please reach out to your Sales Development Manager

Online platform gives you support when you need it

Running a venue comes with enough challenges, so getting support should be simple.

The Support Hub provides quick access to helpful training, tools and assets whenever you need assistance.

Whether you're looking for answers to common questions or extra help with your account, support is always within easy reach.

Need to keep track of your paperwork? Online Platform also gives you instant access to invoices and statements, making it easier to stay organised and manage administration efficiently.

Coming soon: PubTube

Introducing PubTube, a hub of video content featuring practical guidance and industry insights to help operators get even more from their business.

More ways to save

Our Online Platform isn't just about convenience, it's packed with opportunities to help you unlock extra value.

The Value Hub Savings area brings together a range of offers and promotions designed to help you reduce costs and make your budget go further. Whether you're looking for everyday savings or seasonal opportunities, it's a great place to discover additional value.

You'll also find exclusive online-only promotions available through the platform, giving you access to deals that aren't available elsewhere.

Combined with all the fantastic offers featured in our Value for Venues magazine, there are more opportunities than ever to make every order work harder.

Looking for even bigger bargains? The Clearance section is packed with fantastic savings on selected products while stocks last. It's the ideal place to uncover great-value deals and maximise your purchasing power.

And don't forget the Coca-Cola Cashback Club, where eligible purchases can earn account credit, helping you unlock additional rewards and generate extra value from products you're already buying.

For further information about Greene King, go to: **www.valueforvenues.co.uk**

Want to host Bingo? Musi
race nights? Play classic cl

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FREE INSTALLATION

PRICES START FROM AS LITTLE AS **£10 PER WEEK**

SPOTLIGHT CAN PAY FOR ITSELF! with revenue from local advertising

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www.dransfields.com
enquiries@dransfields.com





DRANSFIELDS - THE NAME YOU CAN TRUST TO SUPPLY THE LATEST GAMING

ical Bingo? Hold quizzes, lub games? Host Karaoke?



The fun starts here!

- *Easy to use entertainment system*
- *Includes music, karaoke, bingo, BeBop Bingo, quizzes and race nights*
- *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*





Scan to find out more

Dransfields
LOCAL SERVICE, NATIONAL STRENGTH

MACHINESAND FANTASTIC INNOVATIVE, ENTERTAINMENT FOR YOUR VENUE









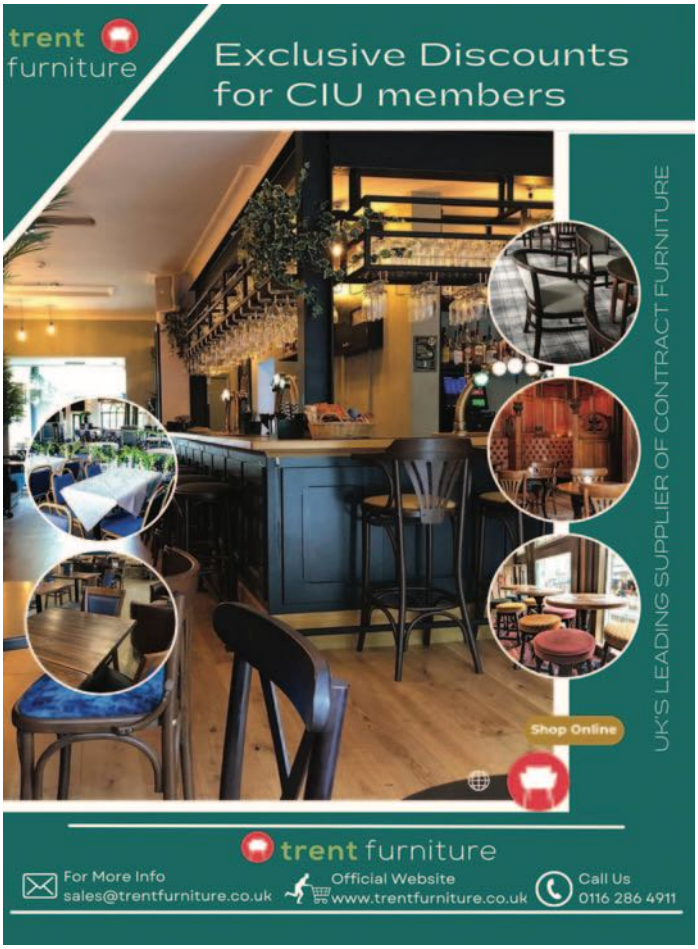
ADVERTISER INDEX

PREFERRED SUPPLIERS

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GENERAL SUPPLIERS

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Haywards Heath Social Club

Club Secretary

We are recruiting for a Club Secretary for a busy and vibrant Members' Social Club. The postholder is responsible for the day to day running of the club.
The role is approximately 30 hours per week, Monday to Friday. Additional hours may be available.
Hours flexible, subject to business requirements.

Starting salary approx. £24,000 for 30 hour week, around £15.40 per hour

Job Types: Permanent, Part-time

Benefits:
- Smart / Casual dress
- On-site parking

Key Responsibilities (but not limited to):
- Keyholding - coordinate response to alarm activation
- Greet and assist visitors, members, clients and suppliers in a professional and friendly manner.
- Answer and manage phone calls, emails, and other enquiries efficiently.
- Creating sales invoices, checking and paying purchase invoices,
- Oversee paying monies into bank, till reconciliation, collate and submit payroll data to agency.
- Perform membership administration, including processing new memberships, renewals, and updating member records.
- Ensure compliance with company policies and procedures.
- Ensuring all necessary licences, insurance and permits are in place.
- Handling and scheduling of booking requests as required.
- Health and Safety
- Liaising with stocktaker
- GDPR compliance.
- Recruitment and management of staff alongside the management committee and bar manager.
- Oversee creation of regular newsletter to members, some social media management, management of letting property.
- Keep open lines of communication with Committee and Bar Manager.
- One evening per month to attend committee meeting and take minutes.
- Line manager to Assistant Secretary and Bar Manager.
- Ensure staff training is kept up to date.

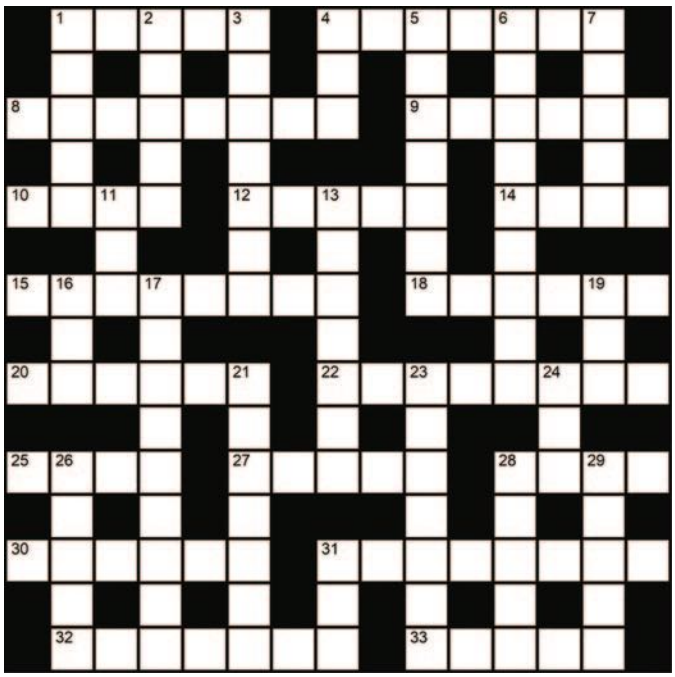
Requirements:
- Previous experience in hospitality / customer service role is desirable.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong organisational skills and attention to detail.
- Comfortable using computer systems and basic office software.
- Professional and approachable demeanour.
- Confident and comfortable in handling cash, and reconciliation.

Please send you CV to
Club Secretary Chris Packham by email to enquiries@hhusc.co.uk

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

ACROSS
1 Got a piranha to strip the shy nocturnal one (5)
4 Retire? Good bet perhaps? (2,2,3)
8 Supported red nosed cavorting (8)
9 Reports of cheeses in the wind? (6)
10 Stringy toy to take for a spin? (2-2)
12 Cry, right there in the fight (5)
14 Criminal group of hooligan good-for-nothings (4)
15 Ol' Frank's sad lookers? (4,4)
18 Craftily re-routing the net away from severity (6)
20 Hats we wound around like a bandage (6)
22 Spanish nobles to see about a big piano first (8)
25 Balsam to reform the lout? (4)
27 Zip back from pizzeria repurposed in African republic (5)
28 Stream added to call? (4)
30 Hearty sort of courtyard? (6)
31 Speaking of consonants, how come a pelvis is so fluid? (8)
32 Setup, on reflection, is the way one gets fitter (5,2)
33 Generalise without the slang? How creepy! (5)

DOWN
1 Puritan gone from the dance (5)
2 Snap hot object in a snap (5)
3 Bore, say, could be growing willowherb (7)
4 A spur to gallivant with? (3)
5 Chart-like, it's a blur at odds with itself (7)
6 Began to edge out and become occupied (2,7)
7 Thirteen, according to Baker? (5)
11 Address for a sheepish female, say? (3)
13 Spear Age is as strange as can be (7)
16 Base moo? (3)
17 Protuberance with a nexus in riot chaos (9)
19 Purpose in frivolous endeavour? (3)
21 Poor old Sneezy, married to proteins (7)
23 Bloomer to grow from a mean one (7)
24 Scratch out a living with alarm sound (3)
26 Group spotted in ad hoc tete-a-tete (5)
28 Smokers' wild rose? (5)
29 Creep rewriting the paper (5)
31 Investment can go up or down, right or left (3)



Name _____

Club _____

Address _____

_____

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

Gary Nichols of Cynon Valley



Pulling power

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Take your club's entertainment to new heights with two fantastic entertainment systems

DART SHARK - jawsome entertainment with something for everyone. A traditional board is linked to exciting, interactive games using the latest technology for fun with friends.

SPOTLIGHT - the all-in-one system that offers show-stopping fun, games, music, bingo, quizzes and advertising facility so Spotlight can even pay for itself!



- ***Interactive state-of-the-art entertainment systems***
- ***NEW games added regularly***
- ***FREE installation***
- ***Extends dwell times***



Dransfields is the UK's No.1 supplier of fantastic innovative, entertainment systems and the latest in gaming machine technology for over 80 years

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DRANSFIELDS 80 YEARS

Scan to find out more

Rugby League World Cup kicks off in October

The 2026 Rugby League World Cup promises high-stakes drama, featuring a streamlined format across the men's, women's, and wheelchair tournaments. UK fans can catch every single match live on Premier Sports as England compete against the world's best Down Under

The 2026 Rugby League World Cup, which kicks off in October, promises a revitalised, streamlined format designed for maximum spectacle and relentless intensity.

Hosted across world-class venues in Australia and Papua New Guinea, RLWC 2026 encompasses the men's, women's, and wheelchair tournaments.

For supporters in the UK, all the action will be broadcast live exclusively on Premier Sports, ensuring complete wall-to-wall coverage of the global centerpiece.

Unlike previous iterations that expanded the group stages, the 2026 men's tournament has been re-engineered into an ultra-competitive 10-team contest. Split into two pools, the draw leaves zero room for slow starters.



RLWC 2026 is being hosted by Australia and Papua New Guinea

Pool A: England, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, France

Pool B: Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji, Cook Islands

With only the top teams advancing to the knockout phases, every fixture carries elimination-level weight.

Meanwhile, the Women's World Cup runs alongside the men's tournament, featuring an expanded field where traditional powers meet rapidly emerging European and Pacific nations.

Shaun Wane's England enters RLWC 2026 with a clear mission to lay to rest the heartbreak of their 2022 semi-final exit on home soil.

Positioned in Pool A, England face a stern test from the outset. Their opener against Tonga in Perth represents one of the most physical pool fixtures of the entire tournament.

Following their clash with Tonga, England face a tricky encounter with rivals France, before travelling to Port Moresby – one of the most hostile and passionate environments in world sport – to face Papua New Guinea.

In the women's draw, England's women arrive in Australia targeting a historic final appearance.

Handed a high-octane Pool A tussle alongside world champions Australia, Samoa, and home-nations rivals Wales, their group campaign will be very tough.

Wales' presence in 2026 is spearheaded by their Women's squad, who secured their place through a historic European qualification campaign.

Drawn into Pool A alongside Australia, England, and Samoa, the Dragons face an extraordinary test of their abilities.

Their pool schedule features two massive cross-hemisphere derbies – opening against England before closing their group against the formidable Australian Jillaroos, the pre-tournament favourites who will be eager for glory on their home turf.

Key RLWC fixtures in the Men's competition
(live on Premier Sports)

Thursday, October 15, 10.05am
Australia v New Zealand

Saturday, October 17, 10.05am
England v Tonga

Saturday, October 24, 7.35am
England v France

Friday, October 30, 9.05am
England v Papua New Guinea

Friday, November 6, 9.05am
Semi-Final 1

Saturday, November 7, 9.05am
Semi-Final 2

Sunday, November 15, 8.35am
The Final

For more information, visit: premiersports.com

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

The cold nights may be drawing in but there are some red-hot sporting encounters coming up in October, including ties in the UEFA Nations League, UEFA Champions League and Premier League



Saturday, October 3, 5pm, Sky Sports
Super League: Grand Final
Old Trafford hosts the showpiece climax to the Super League season. In the 2025 final, Hull Kingston Rovers defeated Wigan 24–6 to claim their first Super League title, and in doing so, became the fifth winners of a Grand Final and achieved their first ever treble. The winning team will collect the Grand Final rings and the fabled trophy.



Tuesday, October 6, 7.45pm, ITV
International Football: England v Czech Republic
England will be aiming to make home advantage count in this Nations League encounter. The last time these two sides met was in the 2021 European Championship, where England won 1-0. England will want to prove that they can deliver a performance over the full 90 minutes following their disappointing loss against Spain in September.



Wednesday, October 21, 7.45pm – TNT Sport
UEFA Champions League: League Phase – Bayern Munich v Arsenal
A potentially classic encounter in the League Phase of this season's UEFA Champions League as the English champions take on the reigning Bundesliga champions in Munich. There will be plenty of international talent on display, not least the current England captain Harry Kane in his Bayern colours.

Friday, October 2, 9am, Sky Sports F1 HD
Formula 1: Gulf Air Bahrain GP - Practice

Saturday, October 3, 12pm, Sky Sports Football
League 2 Football: Chesterfield v Tranmere Rovers

Saturday, October 3, 3pm, Sky Sports+
League 2 Football: Accrington Stanley v Cheltenham Town

Saturday, October 3, 3.05pm, TNT Sport
Rugby Union: PREM – Bristol Bears v Northampton Saints

Saturday, October 3, 5pm, Sky Sports
Rugby League: Betfred Super League - Grand Final

Saturday, October 3, 5pm, ITV
International Football: UEFA Nations League Group Stage – Croatia v England

Saturday, October 3, 7.45pm, TNT Sport
Rugby Union: PREM – Newcastle Red Bulls v Leicester Tigers

Sunday, October 4, 8am, Sky Sports F1 HD
Formula 1: Gulf Air Bahrain GP - Race

Sunday, October 4, 7.45pm, BBC/S4C
International Football: UEFA Nations League Group Stage – Wales v Denmark

Tuesday, October 6, 7.45pm, ITV
International Football: UEFA Nations League Group Stage – England v Czech Republic

Friday, October 9, 7.30pm, Sky Sports Football
Championship Football: West Ham United v Queens Park Rangers

Saturday, October 10, 12.30pm, TNT Sport
Premier League: Arsenal v Leeds United

Saturday, October 10, 12.30pm, Sky Sports+
League 1 Football: Plymouth Argyle v AFC Wimbledon

Saturday, October 10, 4.30pm, Sky Sports Main Event HD
Premier League: Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur

Sunday, October 11, 11.30am, Sky Sports Main Event
Championship Football: Southampton v Portsmouth

Sunday, October 11, 1pm, Sky Sports Football HD
Premier League: Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest

Sunday, October 11, 1pm, Sky Sports Football HD
Premier League: Hull City v Everton

Sunday, October 11, 3pm, TNT Sport
Rugby Union: PREM – Sale Sharks v Harlequins

Sunday, October 11, 3.30pm, Sky Sports Football
Premier League: Liverpool v Manchester City



UEFA Champions League – LASK v Liverpool, Wednesday, October 14, 5.45pm, TNT Sport

Sunday, October 11, 1pm, Sky Sports F1
Formula 1: Singapore GP - Race

Monday, October 12, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event HD
Premier League: Coventry City v Newcastle United

Tuesday, October 13, 8pm, TNT Sport
UEFA Champions League – League Phase: Arsenal v Lille

Wednesday, October 14, 5.45pm, TNT Sport
UEFA Champions League – League Phase: LASK v Liverpool

Wednesday, October 14, 8pm, TNT Sport
UEFA Champions League – League Phase: Aston Villa v Fenerbahce

Wednesday, October 14, 8pm, TNT Sport
UEFA Champions League – League Phase: Manchester City v PSG

Thursday, October 15, 5.45pm, TNT Sport
UEFA Europa League – League Phase: Torreense v Sunderland

Friday, October 16, 7.30pm, Sky Sports Main Event
Championship Football: Burnley v Wolverhampton Wanderers

Saturday, October 17, 11.30am, Sky Sports Football
Championship Football: Watford v Charlton Athletic

Saturday, October 17, 12.30pm, Sky Sports+
League 2 Football: Fleetwood Town v Rotherham United

Saturday, October 17, 11.30am, Sky Sports+
Championship Football: Middlesbrough v Cardiff City

Saturday, October 17, 1pm, ITV
Horse Racing: QIPCO British Champions Day at Ascot

Saturday, October 17, 4.30pm, Sky Sports Main Event HD
Premier League: Newcastle United v Aston Villa

Sunday, October 18, 1pm, Sky Sports Football HD
Premier League: Bournemouth v Sunderland

Sunday, October 18, 1pm, Sky Sports Football HD
Premier League: Brighton and Hove Albion v Crystal Palace

Sunday, October 18, 1pm, Sky Sports Football HD
Premier League: Leeds United v Manchester United

Sunday, October 18, 3.30pm, Sky Sports Main Event HD
Premier League: Nottingham Forest v Arsenal

Monday, October 19, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event HD
Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur v Coventry City

Tuesday, October 20, 8pm, TNT Sport
UEFA Champions League – League Phase: Manchester City v AEK Athens

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YOUR CLUB CAR PARK MAY BE HOLDING UNTAPPED POTENTIAL



- Effortless member permits managed digitally
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- Generate incremental revenue from visitors
- Sub-let spaces for extra revenue during club quiet times
- EV charging

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richard@geminiparkingsolutions.com

WWW.GEMINIPARKINGSOLUTIONS.COM



Horse Racing: Cheltenham Showcase – Saturday, October 24, 1pm,ITV

Wednesday, October 21, 5.45pm, TNT Sport
UEFA Champions League – League Phase: Como v Manchester United

Wednesday, October 21, 8pm, TNT Sport
UEFA Champions League – League Phase: Bayern Munich v Arsenal

Thursday, October 22, 5.45pm, TNT Sport
UEFA Europa League – League Phase: Lech Poznan v Sunderland

Friday, October 23, 7.30pm, Sky Sports Main Event
Championship Football: Bolton Wanderers v Middlesbrough

Friday, October 23, 7pm, Sky Sports Main Event HD
Premier League: Ipswich Town v Nottingham Forest

Friday, October 23, 7.45pm, TNT Sport
Rugby Union: PREM – Newcastle Red Bulls v Sale Sharks

Saturday, October 24, 11.30am, Sky Sports Main Event
Championship Football: Charlton Athletic v Norwich City

Saturday, October 24, 12.30pm, Sky Sports+
Championship Football:
Portsmouth v Millwall

Saturday, October 24, 12.30pm, TNT Sport
Premier League: Aston Villa v Manchester City

Saturday, October 24, 1pm, ITV
Horse Racing: Cheltenham Showcase Meeting

Saturday, October 24, 4.30pm, Sky Sports Main Event HD
Premier League: Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur

Sunday, October 25, 1pm, Sky Sports Football HD
Premier League: Crystal Palace v Newcastle United

Sunday, October 25, 1pm, Sky Sports Football HD
Premier League: Hull City v Brentford

Sunday, October 25, 1pm, Sky Sports Main Event HD
Premier League Football:
Manchester United v Bournemouth

Sunday, October 25, 3.30pm, Sky Sports Main Event HD
Premier League: Sunderland v Leeds United

Sunday, October 25, 8.00pm, Sky Sports F1 HD
Formula 1: USA Grand Prix

Friday, October 30, 7.30pm, Sky Sports Football
Championship Football: Sheffield United v Wrexham

Saturday, October 31, 11.30am, Sky Sports Football
Championship Football: Stoke City v Preston North End

Saturday, October 31, 12.30pm, TNT Sport
Premier League: Chelsea v Manchester United

Saturday, October 31, 4.30pm, Sky Sports Main Event HD
Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace

Saturday, October 31, 5.30pm, TNT Sport
Rugby Union: PREM – Northampton Saints v Gloucester

Saturday, October 31, 8pm, Sky Sports Premier League
Premier League: Aston Villa v Fulham

Working for the good of our clubs

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 attend events such as the annual Beer & Trades Exhibition and Charity Raceday

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 & Regulations, 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 particularly 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/Clubjournal.co.uk

Club Journal is the Union's official online 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. There is also an associated website at: *clubjournal.co.uk* to ensure that club members are kept up to date with all the latest news.

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 by the team at Head Office. Head Office also deals with clubs' affiliation to the Union. For further information, contact the Union's Head of Rules and Affiliations Vera Palazova.













Events - CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition

Staged during Conference Weekend in April, the CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition provides a fantastic opportunity for club delegates to attend a free trade show which is specifically targeted at the needs of CIU clubs. The show provides a great day out for club men and women, as the many exhibitors – including several of the CIU's Preferred Suppliers – showcase their services and products to attendees and demonstrate how they can help increase revenues and save money on running costs at their clubs.

The CIU Racing Club

The CIU Racing Club enables clubs to take advantage of special discounted tickets for club outings to a variety of Arena Racing Company (ARC) racecourses across the country. There are a number of fixtures throughout the year for which CIU members can obtain their discounted ticket packages, as well as exciting 'one-off' offers and packages, including racedays at some of the country's top racing venues including Bath, Chepstow, Doncaster and Newcastle.

CIU National Lottery Draw

The CIU National Lottery Draw, which launched at the end of 2023, gives Union members the opportunity to win significant cash prizes by purchasing tickets online via their computers or smartphones. The funds raised by the CIU National Lottery Draw help to fund the vital work undertaken by the CIU in support of its member clubs across the country. Already many Union members have won cash prizes of £2,500. To take part, go to the website: ciu.praxisplay.online/signin

CIU Official Website

The CIU's official website (*www.ciu.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 legislation concerning members' clubs, as well as links to the Union's various Preferred Suppliers. It also has a regularly updated database of all the clubs affiliated to the CIU.

Events - Dransfields CIU National Charity Raceday

Dransfields CIU National Charity Raceday is an annual event, now held at Doncaster Racecourse in November. This is one of the highlights of the CIU calendar and gives Union members the chance to enjoy a fantastic day out and raise money for the CIU's Education Programme. The CIU also runs an annual Greyhound Racing Night each September in Sheffield at the iconic Owlerton Stadium. See this issue for details of the 2026 events.

PRS for Music Tariff

The CIU has negotiated a special discount for its clubs with the Performing Right Society (PRS for Music) which collects and distributes licence fees for the use of music on behalf of songwriters, composers and performers. The PRS for Music 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 negotiated annually and placed in *Club Journal*. It can also be downloaded from the CIU website: *www.ciu.org.uk*







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Your dedicated CIU Contacts:

Seb Ridene, Business Development Manager Committee Contact and Relationship Manager	Phone: 07867 377 810 Email: sebastien.ridene@bbrown.com
New Enquiries Contact for all new quotes & enquiries	Phone: 01458 270 410 Email: CIU@bbrown.com
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