

# Club Journal

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The magazine for all CIU members

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Union President George Dawson CMD and Union General Secretary Ken Green CMD at the Houses of Parliament

## Union calls for clarity on Licensing Act interpretations

The CIU is urging the Home Office to give guidance to licensing authorities in the UK on how they deal with private members' clubs.

There has been a wave of complaints from Union clubs in some areas about the way they are dealt with by their local licensing authorities with interpretations of the Licensing Act seemingly varying from area to area, making it difficult for clubs to get definitive advice on any problems that may occur.

Speaking at the most recent All-Party Parliamentary Group for Non-Profit Making Members' Clubs at the Houses of Parliament in October, Ken Green CMD, the Union's General Secretary, said: "The Union has found that a lot of individual licensing authorities have different interpretations of the Licensing Act.

"As a result, the Union could be advising on one issue in one area but another licensing authority 30 miles away has a different view on it.

"For example, one issue which has come up is regarding guests. The Licensing Act states that guests can be allowed in social clubs and can purchase alcohol. Under the old Licensing Act, and therefore in the old

rules, it restricts guests to two or three and specifically prevents the sale of alcohol to guests.

"The Licensing Act changed but some licensing authorities haven't changed and their officers are threatening our members' clubs with prosecution if they hold weddings or wakes or other functions because guests will be there and may purchase alcohol.

"I'm at a loss at how a licensing authority can prosecute a club against an Act of Parliament."

George Dawson CMD, the Union President, added: "The licensing authorities should recognise that CIU clubs have a proud record of compliance with the licensing conditions and that we as a Union are totally committed to promoting responsible drinking and combating anti-social behaviour.

"If there is a knowledge gap on the part of licensing officers with regards to the differences between private members' clubs and pubs – as there seems to be judging by the reports we've had back from our clubs – the CIU would be very willing to help them understand the differences between the conditions set out for members' clubs in the Licensing Act and those intended for pubs."

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## Merthyr Tydfil WMC reign supreme

Merthyr Tydfil Labour Club (South Wales Branch) are the reigning CIU Team Snooker Champions after beating The Poplar Social Club (Manchester Branch) 4-2 in the Final held at Weoley Castle Working Men's Club. Pictured above: Union Vice-President John Tobin and Derbyshire Branch Secretary John Batchelor present the trophy to the winners.