

# Club Journal

May 2012

The magazine for all CIU members

75p

## BLACKPOOL VOTE GIVES COALITION THE MESSAGE

Delegates to Blackpool have sent a clear message to the Coalition Government that they need at long last to stop damaging and start supporting our clubs.

By an overwhelming majority delegates passed four motions calling on the Government to reverse some of the policies that have been so damaging to our clubs, including amending the indiscriminate smoking ban and stopping the active encouragement of binge drinking caused by supermarkets selling alcohol at rock bottom prices with no supervision.

"It was important that we received this backing because the Government takes more notice when something has been supported by a large number of people," said Union Vice-President John Tobin, who moved all four motions at Conference. "They always praise clubs for being at the heart of communities but they do nothing to help."

He continued: "We were asked why we brought this to the Conference when these were motions everyone agreed with. The NEC regularly puts forward demands and arguments on behalf of our clubs at the highest level but we are often told there is no support for our demands because there



Vice-President John Tobin addresses Conference.

has been nothing from the members that are represented – in other words if there are no votes at risk the priority of our case is set very low in the pecking order.

"If just the NEC speaks to the powers that be, there will generally be only a respectful acknowledgement of the validity of our case. The backing of those at Blackpool gives our demands much more weight and if all our 2,000-plus club committees lobbied their MPs ears would prick up and questions would be asked in the corridors of power.

"If committees got their members enthused enough to lobby their MPs there could be upward of two million letters to MPs or visits to their surgeries. Then there would

be some action!"

The four motions called on the Government to:

- show they value clubs by discounting business rates and cutting VAT;
- make the Revenue & Customs treat clubs with the same regard they give big business.
- allow separate smoking rooms
- stop encouraging binge drinking.

A full report of the Annual Meeting is on Pages 2-8.

Before the Annual Meeting President George Dawson told a special meeting that the case of former General Secretary Mick McGlasham was being heard by an employment tribunal and therefore it wasn't possible to discuss the matter because it was sub judice.

Stan Summers from Darlington Club in Durham, who had wanted to read out a statement about the case, moved a motion to replace Mr Dawson as Chairman but it did not receive the necessary majority.

After the result was announced around 140 delegates walked out. Some 50 of them later re-applied for their credentials in order to attend the Annual Meeting.

Letters – Page 13.

## Club's Valiant effort

Footballer Gareth Owen put aside his own problems to visit Pittshill Victory WMC in Stoke-on-Trent and present a cheque for £4,000 to a local hospice.

The biggest donation the club has ever made, the money for the Douglas Macmillan Hospice was collected by the members over a 12-month period with bar collections, scratch cards and straight donations culminating in a grand raffle.

North Staffs Branch Secretary Dan Capewell, who is also the Club Secretary, said: "The level of support that this organisation receives from the members reflects the respect that it is held in and the comfort that it has given to members and relatives of members."

He added that the club were particularly grateful to Gareth Owen for giving his services for free as his club, Port Vale – nicknamed the Valiants – are currently in administration and prior to that the players failed to get their wages and are still owed a month's pay.

Douglas Macmillan had no local connections but in 1911 founded Cancer Relief, famous for its Macmillan Nurses, after witnessing his father's death from cancer.



Gareth Owen and Committee member Mandy Roberts, who organised the bulk of the fundraising, hand over the cheque to Alan Johnson from the Hospice.

The death has been announced of former MP Gordon Bagier, who founded the All-Party Parliamentary Clubs Group. Obituary – Page 13

# 149TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 149th Annual Meeting of the Union took place in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, on Saturday, 14 April, with the President, **GEORGE DAWSON**, presiding. It began with delegates and the National Executive Committee standing in remembrance of those club men and women who had passed away in the past year. The Minutes of the 2011 Council Meeting were agreed, and this item was followed by a Civic Welcome by the Worshipful the Mayor of Blackpool, **COUN. JOAN GREENHALGH**. She said that it was her pleasure to welcome delegates to "a bright and breezy Blackpool" and to the beautiful Winter Gardens. She hoped that all would enjoy a meaningful and successful conference.

The Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, **GORDON WINN**, then presented the Committee's report. He began by pointing out that there were several clearly marked exits, and he asked



Union President George Dawson opens proceedings by showing delegates last May's issue of Club Journal and asking them to agree the minutes of the 2011 meeting. Below: The Mayor of Blackpool, Coun. Joan Greenhalgh, who is disabled, welcomes delegates to the town. With her are George Dawson, Vice-President John Tobin and her daughter the Mayoress Pat Dimuantes.



delegates to use them if the fire alarm sounded and to assemble outside the front entrance to the building. St John Ambulance personnel were in attendance, and if anyone felt unwell they would be available to treat them. He then gave the names of the members of the Committee. If there were any complaints, delegates should contact them to discuss the issue. In any voting, the tellers would not count the votes of people who were standing.

## President's Address

**THE PRESIDENT** said: "Ladies and gentlemen, the Union meets in its 150th year. A commemorative journal will be produced in the next few months. The year has been continuingly difficult for clubs financially, and the Union continues to make representations to Parliament about forthcoming legislation. We hope that the current Home Office legislation going through Parliament will be amended to exempt private members' clubs from the extra charges relating to late-night levy and early morning restriction orders, which, if not

exempt, will mean a considerable increase in the club's annual fee to the council when serving after midnight happens only a few times in the year. I hope clubs have taken up another opportunity to reclaim VAT on gaming machines, thanks to Linneweber2.

"Next year a new tax will be instituted called Machine Gaming Duty (MGD) at a rate of 20 per cent, and a club needs to register for this if they currently pay an AMLD either directly or through their supplier. The Union and others are currently in consultation with HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs) on the format of the registration forms and the information required. We are hoping that the registration form will be simple and consist of only a couple of pages. We all know that Government departments have a tendency to inflate forms to many pages – and the Gambling Commission are the worst, so we are hoping that they will have no input to the final document. The MGD should help clubs with their cash flow and the smaller ones with an increase in profits on gaming machines. We were successful in getting enshrined in the regulations the special status of the B3A machines after such a long hard battle.



Gordon Winn, Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee presents the Committee's report.

**HAYES  
WORKING MEN'S  
CLUB**

**CELEBRATE**

**THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE WITH US**

**FRIDAY 1ST JUNE - 'DRIFTWOOD' 8PM START**

**SATURDAY 2ND JUNE - PHIL COLLINS TRIBUTE & 'BUZZ'**  
8PM START - UPSTAIRS HALL 'DYLAN'

**SUNDAY 3RD JUNE - 3PM - 5PM THE BANANA BRAIN FUN CLUB**  
CHILDRENS ENTERTAINMENT & FACE  
PAINTING - 5PM - 9PM FAMILY DISCO

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# 149TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"The Union is still making representations regarding the provision of smoking rooms but unfortunately is not making much progress, and, with the recent comments by the Health Minister, I am afraid that parliamentary support is very small. But we must keep trying. Since the health lobby seems to have won the battle on tobacco, they will turn their attention to something else. We have already seen the first salvos on alcohol and that, I think, will be the next battle. There is much more to do with Parliament, and the Vice President will go into detail later about that.

"We talk a lot about our Union contracting. We know that clubs are closing on a weekly, if not a daily, basis. We must cast our net wider and try to get individual clubs to join us. More than 17,500 private member clubs are registered in England and Wales and only 2,000 of them are part of our organisation. The Executive will be looking at encouraging others to join us. We need to ask ourselves why these clubs are not part of the Union. Unfortunately, battles won by us and CORCA benefit all private members' clubs, so many say, 'We get the benefit even when we are not members.' When we get the benefits for our clubs, we must get the authorities to make them exclusive to us, which would encourage other clubs to join us. This is something we need to work on so that we can survive for another 150 years.

"Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. That is all I have to say at the moment. I am sure I will have a lot more to say in the near future."

## CMD presentation

THE PRESIDENT then presented the diploma to the 1st Prize Winner, Mr Richard Reynolds, of the Tyseley WMC in the West Midland Branch.

Dealing with the **Annual Report**, he said that he proposed to follow the precedent set by one of his predecessors, Terry Watson. Therefore, instead of going through the report page by page, he asked whether anybody had any questions to raise on the report, to which there was no response.

The motion to accept the Annual Report, moved by **HOWARD SHARPE** of the Thornhill Briggs WMC, West Yorkshire, and seconded by **RONNIE CAPLE**, of the Burnley & Pendle Branch, was agreed.

In presenting the Financial Statement for the year ended 30 September 2011, the Union's Accountant, **STEVE CONNELL**, said: "Last year's Financial Statements resulted in a total loss of £208,310 compared to a loss of £33,001 in 2010. In getting to these results it is extremely important to recognise that during 2010 we benefited from the net taxation refund of £298,445 gained in respect of the sale of our Langland centre

and that in 2011 our revenue account benefited from the inclusion of the pension scheme actuarial gain made of £436,000. These exceptional items, which are shown near the foot of page 58 of the Annual Report, could, if we do not examine the accounts in more detail, give the impression that our financial results have been reasonably acceptable under the current financial conditions.

"As in my previous year's report, I must emphasise the importance of noting the line on the revenue account termed 'operating loss'. It is quite some time since we achieved a gain in this area as opposed to a loss – 2005, to be precise. Our operating loss in 2011 was £829,923 compared to a loss of £759,042 in 2010, and that was even after a reduction of over 6 per cent to the operating expenses made in 2011. The damaging effects of this will have been seen by many of you at Branch level where the result of several years of losses have severely eroded the assets recorded individually within the Branches' financial statements that have been built up over many years. This, of course, was fully considered and addressed at last year's conference where it was agreed by you to implement various increases to the annual fees paid by clubs and both the Union's affiliation cards sold to club members. The full result of these actions won't be fully known until later in the year, but it is hoped that their combined effect will greatly improve the results for 2012.

"As the Union continues to decline in size and numbers, it is only to be expected that other areas of income will decline also,



Union President George Dawson presents a Club Management Diploma to Richard Reynolds from Tyseley WMC, the winner of the first prize in this year's exam.



Howard Sharpe from Thornhill Briggs WMC moves the motion to accept the Annual Report.

especially where commissions are concerned. Recently we have been working hard to improve our relationships with our National Account companies, some of which you may

have had the opportunity to meet at yesterday's trade show here in Blackpool. This is certainly one major area where mutual benefits can be explored to tap into the still powerful purchasing power that the Union collectively holds.

"In 2010 the Union gained hugely from the performance of our investments and has done so in previous years which has had the effect of masking the operating losses that I referred to earlier. Unfortunately, last year achieved poor results, and we will be looking closely at this area to see what feasible steps will need to be taken to reduce risk further. Through hard work undertaken at all levels, we have been able to achieve a reduction in our overall expenditure in excess of £200,000, or 6 per cent. This can be seen itemised in Note 5 to the Financial Statements on page 64 of the Annual Report.

"We continue to examine all areas of expenditure, no matter how small, to reduce costs still further, and with already planned reductions, in particular in the areas of →



Former Burnley & Pendle Branch Secretary Ronnie Caple seconds the motion.

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personnel costs and also those in respect of Executive Committee meetings, I would certainly be expecting to forecast a financially healthier position at the end of 2012.

"When I joined the CIU decades ago in 1970, numbers-wise we were at our peak at about 4,000 clubs, and I recall that there was an air of optimism that created a level of almost complacency about the Union's future. Due to many factors, including social change that has affected not just our clubs but the whole leisure industry in general, we are now half that size, and in recent years I have experienced through many expressing negativity a level of pessimism about the Union's future. In fact, if I had believed the sceptical forecasts expressed five to ten years ago and they had come to fruition, we probably would not be here today. Yet here we are today with a Union of clubs, yes, probably with more problems than ever, but still strong enough to meet them. In my opinion, the support and advice often given freely at all levels is the main reason for this, and that has and still does impress me most about the CIU.

"As your Union Accountant, I am delighted to report that we still have a balance sheet with book assets in excess of £6 million. That financially impresses even our auditors, and believe me when I say that they are hard to impress at the best of times. It must have something to do with where they come from: I understand optimism has been on a high in Newcastle recently, at least in respect of football!

"Looking back on previous reports I have made at conference, it would appear that I often conclude with reference to your continued support, and I see no reason to change that. I am convinced that, with the continued support of your clubs and your Branches, we will continue to impress even our more sceptical allies."

**KEITH BARROWCLIFFE**, of the Denton West End WM Social Club, Manchester, reminded delegates that Tom Balls, the former manager of the Saltburn Centre, had



*Steve Connell presents the Union's Financial Statement*

brought a case for constructive dismissal against the Union which the Union had fought and lost, both initially and on appeal. Why was it necessary for the Union solicitors to sign a confidential non-disclosure compromise agreement with the solicitor acting for Mr Balls whereby there was no way of finding out what amount of money had been paid by the Union? "I have had figures from our Accountant in respect of legal fees, which I am quite happy with, but you are on very dangerous ground when such agreements are signed because it puts a blanket over everything," he said, "so that people cannot get to know exactly what, I believe, they are entitled to know."

Mr Barrowcliffe concluded by saying that he was not happy with the situation. "I know that it happens a lot, but it does not seem right to me," he remarked. He realised that it was a difficult matter because the agreement had already been signed, but why was it necessary to sign it?

In reply, **THE PRESIDENT** said that over the two years that the case had taken the legal costs had been about £16,500. The amount of compensation originally, which was public knowledge, was £168,000. On appeal, it went down to £64,000. Whatever sum the gentleman in question had agreed to take was private to him. "We respect the right that he has as an employee regarding the compensation that he received," said Mr Dawson. "We have nothing to hide. We shall have nothing to hide at the employment tribunal in June. We will be publishing the costs. But when an individual requests that he wants it kept private to him, we must respect that."

The motion for acceptance of the Financial Statement, having been proposed by **JOHN LANE** (Acomb WMC, York City) and seconded by **SUSAN CARR**, of the Ashford Road Club, Swindon, in the Western Counties Branch, was agreed.

Delegates then turned their attention to

the Notices of Motion tabled by the National Executive.

In moving the motions, the Union's Vice-President, **JOHN TOBIN**, pointed out that they covered work that the Union proposed to do over the next couple of years. Much of what they contained had been in the news. The first motion read: "This Council calls upon the Government to acknowledge the value of working men's clubs to the 2,000 communities they serve by backing up its words of acknowledgement with deeds, namely, by introducing a mandatory 60 per cent discount on business rates with immediate effect; and by reducing the output rate of VAT for on-trade premises bar sales to 5 per cent."

He continued: "We are a proud organisation with a proud history. We go to no one for handouts. We have always been self-supporting and would never want to be anything else. What we are seeking through the motion is a redress of the disproportionate and unfair burdens put on our clubs and their members by recent Governments." The clubs were about providing a home from home for over two million people and their families, a place where they could escape from the pressures of life, employment or unemployment. They were about raising millions of pounds annually for local, national and international charities. They were one of the last organisations in the country as a school for live entertainment. They were about providing probably the largest and most wide-ranging games network of any private organisation in the country. They were employers of many thousands of people, many of whom were part time and worked as much as they were able rather than live on benefits. They were supporters of their communities, from accommodating groups like the "Buffs" to baby massage classes from local educational establishments. "We are about people, not profits," he added.

All of what he had said was readily acknowledged at all levels of the community and Government, but that acknowledgement seemed to be shown only by heaping unsustainable costs and regulations on clubs. →



*John Lane proposes accepting the report...*



*... and Susan Carr seconds it*

# CLUBS RAISE THE BAR FOR CHARITY



**BACKERS:** *Caerphilly Social Club* toasted their adopted jockey Hywel Davies at their fundraising night - (L-R): Treasurer Alun Chandler, Chairman Ian Carter and Bob Champion

Clubs across the country became jockey fan clubs for the day when 12 veteran riders lined up for the second John Smith's Aintree Legends Charity Race on Grand National Day.

Each of the jockeys was 'adopted' by a John Smith's-supplied club with a keen interest in horseracing - the aim of the initiative being to show their support by staging a race night in the run-up to the main event to raise funds for the Bob Champion Cancer Trust.

The race nights included a question and answer session with Bob Champion plus an auction of racing memorabilia provided by the charity with a percentage of



**CHARITABLE:** *Crofton WMC* in Wakefield welcomed both Bob Champion and Wakefield Branch Secretary and CIU National Executive member Gordon Winn (right) to their fundraising race night

the TOTE and the proceeds from the auction going to the charity.

With jockeys and Bob Champion attending the fundraising race nights, all



**WINNERS:** Clubs like *Caerphilly Social Club* benefit from a number of promotions and activities backed by John Smith's



**LEGEND:** Last year's Aintree Legends Charity Race celebrated the 30 year anniversary of Bob Champion's fairytale win on Aldaniti in 1981

the clubs benefited from local media coverage by being associated with the Legends Charity Race as well as a name check on the race card at the BBC-televised event.

In addition, the club that supported the winning rider and the club that raised the most money for the Bob Champion Cancer Trust will now be guests of HEINEKEN in the UK at the 53rd John Smith's Cup at York in July.

Karen Crowley, Senior Brand Manager at John Smith's said: "The first John Smith's Aintree Legends Race in 2011 raised more than £100,000 for the charity and this year was a great opener to the John Smith's Grand National Day card.

"The fact that each of the jockeys was 'adopted' by a John Smith's outlet added a bit of extra spice and deepened the engagement between John Smith's and the club

sector as a whole.

"We would like to thank our club partners for making the most of this initiative in the run-up to the race and for raising essential funds for this very worthy cause."

● *If you would like to find out more about the benefits your club could enjoy by trading with HEINEKEN in the UK or to arrange a meeting, please contact PETER USHER, Buying Group Director on 07831 840330 or email peter.usher@heineken.co.uk*



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The two specific requests of the motion were put forward to redress the balance. If clubs were not supported, they would go into oblivion; they would be extinct. "We have lost more than half of our clubs in the last three decades," he remarked, "and many today are living from hand to mouth."

The proposed reduction in the business rate would help clubs to build up reserves to be able to maintain premises and service to the community and members. If a club passed on the VAT reduction, it would help to balance prices with the off trade and would encourage people to join clubs and to drink in a safe, controlled and enjoyable environment. Many jobs would be saved, with a huge saving in benefit costs. The entertainment industry would have a reprieve. Many talented musicians, comedians and magicians who were vital to society were being lost to service or manufacturing industries because there were fewer venues and less money available in those venues to enable them to ply their trade.

Mr Tobin ended by saying: "We are not asking for handouts. We are asking that the balance be redressed by these two measures of support from the Government. If that happens, the jewel in the crown of modern society, the working men's club, will be given a reprieve."

## DEMAND WITH MENACES

He then spoke to the second motion: "This Council calls upon HMRC to dignify our clubs and their members with the same respect and regard they give to big business." He explained that the motion came about, firstly, through two deals brokered by HMRC with two businesses. It had been claimed that HMRC had written off billions of pounds for Vodafone, and that the company had been given time to pay the bill when allegedly it had enough in the bank to pay in one go. The second case concerned the bankers Goldman Sachs, who, along with other major banks, had tried to implement a scheme based on bonuses that was not accepted by HMRC. All the other banks had capitulated and paid up. Goldman Sachs had fought for years on a technicality and eventually lost. They had been let off millions of pounds in interest.

Mr Tobin then called attention to a series of events that had affected just one club. "If the experience of that club is common to others, it is just possible that many clubs and club members may have been subject to substantial abuse without even knowing it," he commented. The club had used a cleaning contractor. On a compliance visit, the club had been told that the contractor was an employee and was not self-employed. £18,000 had been demanded with menaces of penalties being invoked. "There followed 18 months of hell in disputing the claim costing thousands of pounds," he continued.



*Vice-President John Tobin successfully moved four motions on behalf of the National Executive.*

Eventually HMRC had said that the money was not due; they admitted they had known this from day one, but apologised for any inconvenience caused. "They were gracious enough to reimburse the costs, but how many clubs in the same circumstances would have even questioned the original ruling?" he asked.

As with all clubs, the club in question had been bullied into going online with its returns. HMRC provided staff to visit clubs and help them through the process. The problem was that the staff sent to train club secretaries were denied computer time before visiting the club and had had to learn on the hoof. This had left the secretary confused, the HMRC officer almost in tears with frustration, and a simple training session had become a nightmare that lasted two or three sessions instead of just a couple of hours. HMRC insisted that payments be made electronically and had given an extra three days to pay. However, because it had not bothered to sign up to the bank fast payment system, the club was now paying earlier than it did when paying by cheque. HMRC stated that the club could take the extra three days if it paid by CHAPS. The only drawback was that that cost £18 every time.

## WRITTEN OFF

An employee of the club had received a bill for over £1,300 from HMRC - one of the millions who had been caught up in the HMRC scandal about the issue of wrong tax codes. HMRC refused to apologise but apparently was forced to do so, stating that all bills under £300 would be written off but that bills of more than £300 would stand. The club secretary phoned HMRC on behalf of the employee, and while it was agreed that the money was payable, HMRC accepted that they had a duty of care to the employee, who was ignorant of the tax regulations, and wrote off the debt. "Another few million

phone calls and the lot would have been written off," joked Mr Tobin. The secretary of the club was constantly aware of the ever-increasing onerous penalty regime for even the most minor of infringements.

When the stated policy of the head of HMRC was that his organisation should support big business, it was sickening to note that his policy towards small businesses and individuals was that every penny counted and no quarter should be given. Not only did small businesses face interest and penalties for their errors, they also had to help shoulder the bill for the tens of millions of pounds that HMRC had thrown down the drain for aborted computer projects and self-confessed administrative errors. Surely a fair-minded Chancellor would see that the only fair way forward was to scrap the penalty regime entirely. When underpayments were established as a result of innocent error, a payment structure should be agreed that did not affect the viability of the club continuing to operate. When the error was deliberate, criminal action should be instigated against the perpetrator of the crime. It begged belief that individuals and small businesses should be treated in any way differently from big businesses as taxpayers.

Mr Tobin said that he had not given a complete list of abuses suffered by one club and its members. If they had happened to one club, it was safe to assume that many other clubs were in the same boat. A big question mark always hung over the question of employment status, and he urged any club that had been penalised over employment status or otherwise victimised to speak to its auditors to ensure that it had not been overcharged by HMRC. "HMRC must be charged with the same duty of care to our clubs and their members as big business," he remarked. "This must mean that it has a supporting as well as an enforcing role."

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Former National Executive member Keith Barrowcliffe argued that 300 people a day die from smoking and that clubs were better places since the ban.

Mr Tobin then dealt with the third motion: "That this Council calls upon the Government to heed calls by SOPAC and Freedom 2 Choose to allow separate smoking rooms in working men's clubs." He pointed out that over the years the Union had been supporters of the Save our Pubs and Clubs campaign and of Freedom 2 Choose and it was its firm intention to continue that support. However, it felt it right today to stand up as the Working Men's Club and Institute Union and to add its voice in its own right.

"I am not going to bore you all to death by going over the rights and wrongs of the smoking ban. It is a case of good intentions criminally badly implemented," said Mr Tobin. "It is a case of legislation meant to protect the health of the community being used to attack and stigmatise a whole section of the community that enjoys smoking in the full knowledge of the risks involved." So-called independent reports had been submitted to the Government to the effect that there was no evidence of overall financial damage being done to industry as a result of the smoking ban. "What a load of rubbish," he exclaimed. Less than two years into the ban, local authorities had been instructed to consider claims for reductions in business rates directly attributable to the ban. Bissett Kenning & Newiss represented about 700 clubs making a claim. Ninety-five per cent were successful and the average rebate was 10 per cent of rates to continue on a year-by-year basis. "There is your firm evidence of real and substantial damage caused by the smoking ban," said Mr Tobin.

About a 20 per cent increase in social drinking had been bandied about. Not much had been made of the number of closures within 12 months of the ban being implemented and attributed to the ban. "I cannot quote figures, but I have walked along many high streets and driven through many villages and seen for myself the devastation caused," he remarked. "I am

sure many of you have too."

All that the motion demanded was that smoking rooms should be allowed in clubs. Non-smoking staff would not be expected to work in such rooms. Indeed, there was technology to provide a smoking section in a room without any walls with the smoke not penetrating the non-smoking areas. For the time being that might be a bit ambitious to consider. "If our smoking members can literally be brought in out of the cold to enjoy a cigarette with a pint without giving offence to the majority of members who are not smokers, it is our duty to fight to give our clubs the right to provide that facility for their members," he said. "Of course, clubs that do not want this facility would in no way be obliged to provide it."

He concluded by saying: "In order to help to reverse the substantial financial losses still being suffered by clubs as a direct result of the smoking ban, and to give back to smokers the dignity and respect they deserve in our clubs, I have pleasure in moving the motion."

**KEITH BARROWCLIFFE** thought that the motion should be opposed for very good



Chris Wood from Yardley Wood Social Club joked that his speech would be short because he needed a cigarette.

reasons. Since smoking had been cleared from club premises, clubs were much better places to visit. People did not have the smell of smoke on their clothes. More important than that, however, was the fact that 300 people died every day of every week of every year from smoke-related illnesses.

He wondered whether the two organisations mentioned in the motion were a front for the tobacco industry, and all that it was concerned with was profit, and as much as possible. Nicotine was one of the most addictive drugs known to mankind; there was no question about that. "The tobacco barons are merchants of death," said Mr Barrowcliffe. After he was interrupted by shouts from delegates, he continued by saying: "I remind you, brothers and sisters, that all see through the same eyes, but all eyes do not see the same things." Within the audience there must be people who had had experience in their family of problems with smoking and death resulting from it.

There was no chance of turning back the clock. Whatever he said, there was no question of smoking booths coming back or anything like that. Further, it was intended ultimately to dispense with smoking in its entirety – not an easy job to do. "Before you vote on this matter, think very carefully about what you are being asked to vote for," said Mr Barrowcliffe, who added that the biggest factor affecting clubs was the sale of cheap alcohol in supermarkets all over the country.

**THE PRESIDENT** intervened to say that Mr Barrowcliffe was getting on to another subject, and so, in conclusion, he asked delegates not to support the motion because it was wrong in principle and was not in the best interests of the Union.

**CHRIS WOOD** of the Yardley Wood Social Club, West Midlands Branch, joked, "I won't take too long because I am dying to go outside for a cigarette!" He said that he was confused by the motions because he did not know the reason for them. The members of his club would certainly support every one of the motions, but he thought that that was something that the Executive could do without having to ask for the permission of delegates.

In response to what had been said, **MR TOBIN** remarked that delegates had shouted down Keith Barrowcliffe, but obviously there was some truth in what he had said. However, there were warnings on packets of cigarettes about smoking and health. What was being discussed was freedom of choice. If people wanted to smoke, they would smoke. "We should be allowed to have smoking rooms," he said, "and we should fight for smoking rooms so that we can bring back the members who enjoy their pint and a cigarette without upsetting anybody else. We would then kill two birds with one stone, which would satisfy everyone."

# 149TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

He then spoke to the motion which "calls upon the Government to cease forthwith from actively encouraging the binge drinking culture." He said that it might seem weird putting the motion before the Council when all that had been seen over the past few years was duty increases to stop binge drinking, talk of a minimum price and hundreds of thousands of pounds being spent on advertising the perils of alcohol. Recently the Government had looked at the possibility of introducing a unit charge, and that might eventually help the Union because it would increase prices in supermarkets. However, Asda and Tesco were still knocking out three or four cases of beer for about £20 and bottles of whisky or vodka for £12.

"Scratch beneath the surface and the truth is revealed," he continued. The effect of the public outcry by the Government and minority action groups, who were talking through their backsides, was to decimate an industry that provided a safe, enjoyable and controlled drinking environment. A decade ago 65 per cent of alcohol was consumed on trade, in places like clubs. Today 65 per cent of alcohol was consumed at home. Much of that consumption was taken just before people went out clubbing so that, having taken one drink at a club, the drinker was over the top. Who then got the blame? Not the supermarket, not the drinker; just the innocent pub or club at which the last drink was taken.

"Ask your local police officers, your local councillors or even your local MP and they will say 'off the record' that they know that supermarkets and cut-price drink outlets are the feeders of the binge drinking culture," Mr Tobin said. "On the street everyone knows this, but there is not the statistical proof so that the facts are ignored and no action is taken. Hiding behind the back of statistics in face of on-the-street evidence is an active encouragement of binge drinking by the Government."

The Government, backed by elements of the medical profession,



National Executive member Roger Oake seconds the motions.

were going down the route of minimum prices. The prices being bandied about would not have any impact other than to enhance the profits of the supermarkets. Other than to check the age of the person buying alcohol, supermarkets were unable to monitor or control any of the aims of the Licensing Act. Indeed, it was not unknown in supermarkets for fights to break out over alcohol deals between customers inside the stores. "On this basis alone, severe restrictions should be in place to ensure that the spirit as well as the letter of the Act can be upheld," continued Mr Tobin. "By not doing this, the Government is a major player in promoting binge drinking."

The one thing that was clear in the fight against binge drinking was the Government's apparent refusal to tackle binge drinkers, who probably fell into two groups – alcoholics and criminal thugs. The Government should section binge-drinking alcoholics who were a danger both to themselves and others and help them to escape from their addiction. They should treat the rest as the criminals that they were. "By the softly-softly approach that we see so often," he said, "the Government are actively encouraging the binge drinking culture."

## WISDOM

The relentless increase in duty on alcohol, the costs heaped on clubs by legislation and red tape, bad legislation and the shameless way that the Government allowed HMRC to treat clubs and their members were forcing the closure of many working men's clubs. For 150 years, working men's clubs had managed the consumption of alcohol by their members and had an undisputed track record of giving their members what they wanted in a controlled, safe and enjoyable environment. By their actions, the Government were removing that element of control and were encouraging the binge drinking culture.

Mr Tobin went on to say: "We sussed out the binge drinking culture when we were formed 150 years ago. With very few exceptions, we have been free of the binge drinking culture. We should offer the Government the benefit of our experience and wisdom born of surviving for all that time. More importantly, they should be begging for our input. We as a movement must demand that the Government act in accordance with their rhetoric and cease forthwith encouraging the binge drinking culture."

He assured delegates that, along with the President and the NEC, he would fight the Government for the remainder of the year and all of next year on everything that he had said to the Parliamentary Committee and other organisations. He thanked delegates for their attention and wished them a safe journey home.

Having been seconded by a member of the National Executive Committee, **ROGER OAKE**, National Executive member for Kent and South East Metropolitan, the motions were agreed. **THE PRESIDENT** declared the meeting closed and that next year's conference would be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013.

## No half measures.



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# "We've made you a million"

National Accounts supplier Envtec Services have now made a million for clubs.

In the last year that the Government-backed Carbon Trust energy efficiency funding scheme has been in place Envtec have replaced hundreds of old inefficient heating, cooling, lighting and hot water systems in clubs across the country; at this year's Beer & Trades Exhibition in Blackpool they announced that between them those 128 CIU clubs have saved more than £1m in energy bills – and the total is still rising.

Director Phil Towndrow says: "There has honestly never been a better time to improve your club; the funding scheme that is designed to help reduce the country's carbon emissions is the most fantastic way to install the very best in energy-efficient heating, cooling, lighting and hot water systems. There is no deposit needed and no capital outlay required.

"In many cases we have been able to cut fuel bills by as much as a third. However, we are not sure how long the current scheme will be available so I'd suggest you don't hang about and that you don't just take our word for it – we'll put you in touch with a club near you that has saved money."

Firs Club in Walsall are the latest to see their bill reduced by £10,000. Secretary Stephen Cowley said: "After reading about Shaftesbury Social Club in Club Journal we asked Envtec to visit our club. Although our boiler was not that old our energy bills had increased to a whopping £23,000 a year.

"Envtec's Lisa Keen explained in detail how much each item was costing us to run and what steps we could take to bring our heating and lighting overheads down. She even applied for the funding on our behalf – we now have a brand new warm air heating system that



Union Vice-President John Tobin meets Baly Sheil, Lisa Keen and James Coss on the Envtec stand.

warms each room individually in minutes, energy-efficient lighting that makes the club cleaner and brighter – and the cellar cooler is so efficient it doesn't need to be running all day every day like our last one.

"Based on our new bills we will be saving at least £10,000 a year. Our committee and our members are thrilled with both the savings and the comfort of the club."

- Envtec, whose advertisement appears over the page, ran a competition on their stand to win a bottle of whisky and the three winners were Des Flood of Bartley Green Social, Birmingham; Peter Seal of Chatteris WMC, Cambs; and Mick Walls from Broomhill Albion Club, Staffs.
- There was also a competition on the CIU Insurance Services stand, which was won by Steve Kiernan of Carlton Club, Wakefield.

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This year's Conference weekend in Blackpool again started on the Thursday evening with a 50p-off-a-pint promotion at the opening heat in this year's CIU National Quiz.

Heineken UK, the Union's recommended suppliers of beer, lager and cider gave 50p off John Smith's, Fosters and Strongbow at Stanley Road WMC where former champions Syd Rawcliffe, Grahame Ashworth, Steve Smith and John Hindle, the Sydney Street A team from Accrington, regained their title with a score of 58 and a half.

One of the rounds typically asked the teams to name ten Grand National winners since Jay Trump in 1965 with a Y in their name, which provoked a big bout of head scratching. One unsuccessful player on being told the answers said: "I should remember them, I've backed three of them," but last year's champions Sydney Street B were able to remember nine out of the ten, which helped them to be this year's runners-up. The answers are below.



Syd Rawcliffe, Grahame Ashworth, Steve Smith and John Hindle of the Sydney Street A team, are congratulated by Dransfields (left), Nicola Bissett from Bissett and Paul Davies (right) from the Co-op Bar.

**Dransfields**  
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**CIU NATIONAL QUIZ**

The quiz again offered a variety of prizes to be won by players at all levels including the audience. Gaming machine and quiz machine suppliers Dransfields are sponsoring the competition and have held same generous level as last year - the top prize for our regional heats is £160 with a £500 to go to the national final and there's even a £20 prize for coming second last.



Mike Crook from Peeks, who are promoting the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, wore his Union Jack waistcoat and is pictured meeting John Tobin, watched over by Her Majesty.

The runners-up won £80 and a trip to the National Final at Derby WMC from Stockport, who were also prizes of £40 for the top scorers from Blackpool who were also top scorers from outside the top ten.

- List Answers**
1. Comply or Die (2008)
  2. Monty's Pass (2003)
  3. Bobbyjo (1999)
  4. Lord Gyllene (1997)
  5. Royal Athlete (1995)
  6. Party Politics (1992)
  7. Rhyme 'N' Reason (1988)
  8. Hello Dandy (1984)
  9. Specify (1971)
  10. Gay Trip (1970)
- (Answers can be in any order)

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# ICHES BLACKPOOL WEEKEND



ve Smith and John Hindle, tulated by Trevor Beebe from Bissett Kenning & Newiss Bank.

Ray Cronie from Reddish WMC is presented with a bottle of vodka after winning a spot prize question on the slowest Grand National.

Union Vice-President John Tobin meets Alan Jackson (centre) and Kingsley Jones on the Dransfields stand.

The co-operative bank good with money

izes ing quiz are held prizes at the top prize in each of 100 top prize in the prize for the club and will be joined Derby by Reddish to won £60. There or Hampton Road A who were the top top three on the TV & Films round, and their B team who scored 9 out of 10 to win the sports round.

In addition there were bottles of spirits as spot prizes for the closest guess – from anyone in the room – to such cheeky questions

as “How many girlfriends has Ken Barlow had in Coronation Street?” (27 at the last count)

The second regional heat took place at Leatherhead & District Social Club in Surrey on Wednesday, May 2. Other regional heats have been arranged as follows:  
YORKSHIRE: Smawthorne Lane Club, Castleford; 8pm, Wednesday, May 30;  
MIDLANDS: Ansty WMC, Coventry; 1pm, Sunday, June 24  
WALES & WEST: Bettws Social, Newport; 8pm Monday, June 25  
NORTH EAST: Lemington Social, Newcastle; 8pm, Thursday, July 26.  
NATIONAL FINAL: Alvaston & Crewton Social, Derby; 1pm, Sunday, September 2.

Some of these heats may have space for late entries. For further information ring Chris Brewis on 0191 2650040 or email cj@powdene.com.

The 21st CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition was staged on the afternoon of Friday, April 13, but the date proved far from unlucky as delegates enjoyed sampling beers and lagers from Heineken UK and Dransfields and some excellent Theakstons ales from CAMRA, and took the chance to meet firms providing services for our clubs and their members, and staff from the Union's Head Office in London.



## Companies who attended the 21st CIU Beer & Trades Exhibition were:

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Envtec Services  
Dransfields  
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Peeks  
Campaign for Real Ale

CIU Insurance Services  
Racing UK  
The Co-operative Bank  
Bissett Kenning & Newiss  
Fred Butlin  
Swinburne & Jackson  
Solicitors

## SOARING ENERGY BILLS

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## TAKE EXTRA CARE IF CUTTING STAFF HOURS

### Facebook folly

The rapid growth of people using social networking sites has led many clubs to ask what committees can do about members using their phones or computers to make critical and offensive remarks about the club or individual committee members.

Some businesses have disciplined and even sacked employees for remarks made on Facebook or Twitter; Employment Tribunals have ruled some of them as fair dismissals as employers successfully claimed the remarks harmed their organisations.

A club's rule book is paramount in governing the relationship between a member and the club as it is in effect a contract between both parties. If a member has an issue with the club or the management of its affairs that member should pursue it through constitutional channels, as the rules provide, and not resort to posting questionable remarks on a networking site; the club's management should also deal with the issue within the strict context of the rules.

The standard misconduct rule in the Union's model club rules were obviously formulated before Facebook and Twitter became everyday features of life and the National Executive intends to consider whether the rule still fits the bill and to question whether there is any fundamental difference between postings on networking sites which are readily accessible or which leak into the public domain and, on the other hand, similar remarks bandied about by word of mouth.

Some of these remarks may be "mere tittle tattle" but others, particularly if malicious and/or unsubstantiated, can gain common currency and may, with little or no foundation, damage a club's reputation. In such a case it is understandable that club management would be inclined to react.

Club committees may wish to consider, as a first step, summoning the author or authors of the offending remarks to account for themselves before contemplating any formal disciplinary action.



MANY Committees are finding they need to change staff's Contracts of Employment, usually to reduce staff working hours.

The golden rule is that clubs cannot impose changes on existing staff's Contracts of Employment without agreement with the individual staff member (or their representative). Once agreed, the changes must be recorded in writing and signed by both parties within one month of the date it is to take effect. With the demise of the old CORCA Agreement many clubs will find that stewards and other staff still operate under these contractual Terms and Conditions of Employment. Once again these cannot be varied without the express agreement of the individual concerned. While the CORCA Agreement has now finished, its effects, in many cases, are still with us.

In the absence of an up-to-date written Contract of Employment (see below) implied Terms & Conditions of Employment will apply. This means that it is what is actually being performed by the employee during the course of their employment that is the basis of their contract.

**Employment Law**  
**Andrew Dane**

Failure to obtain agreement with individual staff members to change Contracts of Employment can result in a successful claim being brought to the Employment Tribunal for Breach of Contract. This can attract an award of up to £25,000. **It is unsafe to think that if staff do not agree to any changes to their Contracts of Employment, that 90 days' notice can be given to impose the changes. If all avenues have been exhausted the club should seek legal advice.**

The safest, and only legally correct, way to obtain agreement to any changes is to meet, consult and be open with staff and let them have sight of any relevant documents - for instance, a set of accounts showing the club's worsened financial position.

If after being properly consulted and agreeing a variation, an employee unreasonably refuses to sign, date and return the contract, you should invite them to a meeting to discuss their concerns. If they still refuse write to them informing them that by performing the work they are bound by the terms and conditions described in the agreed variation. Retain a copy for your records.

- All staff must be issued with written details of their employment within two months of starting work.

Contracts of employment do not have to be in writing but under the 1996 Employment Rights Act (ERA), the most important part of the contract "the written statement of employment particulars" must be given to all new staff.

This applies to any staff member employed for longer than a period of two months. Existing staff are also entitled to request a similar written statement. New legal requirements are enacted regularly so it is advisable that a legal advisor reviews the text.

If the club does not provide the written statement the staff member may make a complaint to an employment tribunal within three months of the club failing to provide the statement.

**This is an extremely complex area in which it is highly recommended that specific professional legal advice and guidance should be obtained.**

*While every care has been taken in compiling these notes, the writer cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions; the notes are not intended to be a substitute for specific legal advice.*

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## Blackpool reaction

Dear Sir,

The three delegates from our club that attended this year's conference at Blackpool, including myself, would like to express our disgust with delegates from the Durham Branch who, when failing to receive the vote they obviously expected, took it upon themselves to stage a mass walk-out whilst heckling the chairman, members of the National Executive and the delegates from the rest of the Union who had voted against their motion.

It was obvious that they had no interest in the democratic process but expected to ride roughshod over the delegates who did not agree with their viewpoint. It seems that a number of them had forgotten previous years when they were happy to see the two-thirds majority rule used to stop women from having Pass Cards.

I can only hope that the CIU will now look to moving conference around the country so that all member clubs have an opportunity to attend without large travel costs, a factor that I am sure holds back smaller clubs. Is it not time also that when special meetings can be called by post, that all clubs have a chance to vote on the issue raised by post? It will be interesting to know what the National Executive think of that.

Finally, I hope that there is some way to discipline the delegates or their clubs, for their behaviour at Blackpool, which brings shame on all our clubs.

Bob Daybell  
Hayes WMC, Middlesex



Dear Sir,

For AGM read Almighty Great Mess, what a fiasco.

Three members from our club travelled to what we all believed to be the AGM of the largest social union in the world.

Whether Mick McGlasham is guilty of the charges made against him I do not know and I do not wish to discuss them not being privy to all the facts. However, Stan Summers should have been allowed to read his points one by one. The Chairman should have either replied or remarked "sub judice" and then moved on to the next point.

We were appalled at the behaviour both from the rostrum and from the floor. To hear Associates shouting and swearing at each other was wrong; disgraceful also was the chairman shouting "Shut up" over the microphone.

Why did it take nearly 20 minutes to count the votes for the removal of the chairman, were they using an abacus? Again this was inflammatory.

Rules have been ignored regarding the removal of the General Secretary and members should have been informed immediately of his dismissal and what further actions CIU would take.

Members own the Union and we shall eventually need to know the breakdown of legal fees, meeting costs and any compensation paid. What other tribunals are in the offing, is it true there are two more?

If we do not have truth and openness in our wonderful organisation the CIU will collapse and finish. What a tragedy that would be.

Brenda McMahon  
Brafield WMC, Northants.

Editor's note: Employment Tribunals for Maxine Murphy and Valda Edmunds will be held at the same time as that of Mick McGlasham.

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Editor:  
Ken Roberts

Editorial Office:  
Powdene Publicity, Unit 17,  
St Peter's Wharf,  
NEWCASTLE NE6 1TZ.  
Telephone: 0191 265 0040  
Fax: 0191 275 2609

News:  
Chris Brewis  
Email: cj@powdene.com  
Advertising:  
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## OBITUARIES

### GORDON BAGIER MP

Gordon Bagier, the former MP for Sunderland South, and the founder of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Non-Profitmaking Clubs, has died at the age of 87.

Gordon Thomas Alexander Bagier was born in Newcastle and during the Second World War served as a gunner on HMS Belfast often escorting the Arctic convoys. After the war he joined the railways becoming a signals inspector in Keighley and Yorkshire President of the National Union of Railwaymen. In 1964 he won Sunderland South from the Conservatives and held it until his retirement in 1987. As a minister in the Home Office he studied gaming clubs and alerted Home Secretary Roy Jenkins to a plan by eight American gangsters to take over the British clubs. He became a good friend of the Durham Branch Secretary Jack Johnson and when Jack became General Secretary in 1982 suggested that the CIU should have a voice in Parliament. Jack recalls that the pair met to set up the group at Renzo's Wine Bar and in 1983 the first meeting of the Group was held with Mr Bagier and Conservative MP Barry Porter as Joint Chairmen and Lord Brooks of Tremorfa as Secretary.

Over the years the Group went on to serve club members superbly making sure that the views of the CIU and other club groups like the British Legion and Royal Naval Association were heard in Parliament. Later as Chairman of the Transport Select Committee his casting vote meant the Channel Tunnel was built as a rail link only instead of the road link preferred by Margaret Thatcher.

"Gordon was a very nice man and a great character," said Jack Johnson. "He will be sorely missed." National Executive member Carol Goddard also remembers him as a very kind man, who put her at ease when she was starting out as the Union's Parliamentary liaison officer.

Mr Bagier is survived by his wife Violet, his two sons and two daughters.

### ARTHUR MORRIS

The Manchester Branch regrets to announce the death of Branch Executive member Arthur Morris.

Arthur was on the Committee of Rumworth Labour Club in Bolton for more than 15 years until the club closed. He then joined the Rumworth & Hilton Conservative Club. Arthur served as a valued member of the Branch Executive for 21 years. He will be sorely missed by all and condolences go to his family.

### TOM PULLEN

Castle Ward Club in Lincoln regret to announce the death of their Treasurer Tom Pullen following a long illness.

Tom, who was 62, had been a member for 36 years and was Treasurer from 1991 to 2012, Tom was extremely popular with the members and was a driving force in the club's ambitions to be the best. Condolences go to his wife Marion and all his family.



## Royston celebrates at last

Royston Royal British Legion Club in Hertfordshire celebrates its 75th anniversary this month – but it could have been celebrating it 18 years earlier. The club was eventually formed in 1937 but the first meeting to discuss its formation took place in 1919.

Several events are being held between May 5 and May 12, starting with a cabaret night and ending with an anniversary dinner. In between a race night will be held and the club will be attending the Royston May Fayre.

Regular weekly events include meetings of the RBL women's section, dancing classes, darts league matches and live music with less frequent quiz nights and meetings of The Royal Naval Association.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

ALTHOUGH the CIU has taken care to ensure that all advertisements are placed in good faith it accepts no liability for any advertisements in Club Journal. To place an advertisement in Club Journal contact Mike Lyon on (0191) 488 7142 or write to Club Journal, Unit 17, St Peter's Wharf, Newcastle NE6 1TZ. Fax: (0191) 275 2609. email: info@powdene.com

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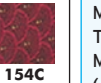
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Kevin Deakin, Monk Bretton WMC, South Yorkshire Branch  
Nigel Dickinson, Carlton & Smithies Ex-Service Club, South Yorkshire Branch  
Ian Waddell, Allanton Miners Welfare Sports & Social Club, Scottish Branch  
Robert Barr, Allanton Miners Welfare Sports & Social Club, Scottish Branch  
Peter Hakin, Hirst Industrial Club, Northumberland Branch  
Les Freeman, Ashington & Ellington Club, Northumberland Branch  
Ernest Marchbanks, Killingworth Township Soc. Club, Northumberland Branch  
Stephen Firth, Rowland Road (Hunslet) WMC, Leeds Branch  
Michael Donegan, Rowland Road (Hunslet) WMC, Leeds Branch  
Howard King, Winlaton New West End Club, Co. Durham  
John Ayre, Dubmire WMC & Institute Ltd, Co. Durham  
David Liddell, Tanfield Lea WMC, Co. Durham  
Kenneth Jenkinson, Hawthorn Rec & Soc Club, Doncaster Branch

## CLUB NOTICES

### Expulsions

Not now members of the following clubs. These should not be Admitted as Union associates.

Mr Moses Crittenden, West Byfleet Social Club, Surrey  
Mr Sean Hickey (0499) Cricklewood Trades Hall, North London  
Mr Robert McLardy (0717) Cricklewood Trades Hall, London.

### Suspensions Expiring on Dates Mentioned

Mr Walter Wilson, Coronation Club, Tyneside (15th January 2013)  
Mr S Roberts, Kingsley Park (July 2012)  
Mr E Scott Kingsley Park (July 2012)  
Mrs Valerie Murphy West Worthing WMC, (July 2012)  
Mr Glynn Weeks - West Worthing WMC, Sussex (September 2012)  
Mr B Philby Plumstead Radical Club, South London (11th July 2012)

### Club Closed

Patricroft Working Men's Club (Manchester Branch)  
Neath Central Club (South Wales Branch)  
Bowbroom Working Men's Club (South Yorkshire Branch)  
Burslem Working Men's Club (North Staffs Branch)  
Wardley Legion Club (Durham Co. Branch)  
Netherton Sports and Social Club (Wakefield Branch)  
High Littleton RBL Club (Western Counties Branch)  
Weymouth RAOB Club (Western Counties Branch)  
Rushden Windmill Club (South East Mids. Branch)  
Farningham Village Club (Kent Branch)  
West Hendon & District Ex-Servicemen's Club (North West Met. Branch)

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# CLUB OUTINGS . . . CLUB OUTINGS

## WALES

### Bettws Social Club

Lambourne Way, Bettws, Newport, Gwent.  
A warm friendly welcome assured to all CIU affiliated members and guests.  
Less than 10 minutes from junction 26 of the M4. Coach parties welcome by prior appointment. Live entertainment every Saturday evening. Catering can be provided by arrangement. Tel: (01633) 858 780.

### CARDIFF WEST END SOCIAL CLUB

COWBRIDGE ROAD WEST, ELY, CARDIFF CF5 5BY.  
A very friendly welcome to CIU Associates and their families from CARDIFF'S PREMIER SOCIAL CLUB.  
10 minutes from M4.  
15 minutes to city centre.  
Millennium Stadium,  
Cardiff International Arena, St. David's Hall/Centre, Cardiff Bay.  
Live entertainment every Saturday Night with Bingo/Raffle/Tote/Disco  
FULL SKY SPORTS/RACING UK  
Hot and cold food available.  
COACH PARTIES MOST WELCOME.  
**Telephone: (029) 20594004**

### Llanharry WMC & Institution Ltd.

Elm Road, Llanharry, Pontyclun,  
Mid-Glamorgan CF72 9HR.  
Extends a warm welcome to all CIU associate members and guests. Coach parties welcome by arrangement. Entertainment every Saturday. Restaurant facilities available. 10 minutes from junction 34 M4 motorway.  
**Telephone (01443) 222 217  
Fax/Telephone (01443) 224 322**

### MORRISTON WMC

11 Slate Street, Swansea SA6 8AA.  
A friendly club which makes visitors welcome.  
Liberty Stadium 15 minutes, Ffos Las 45 minutes, Ospreys 15 minutes. 10 minutes from M4 Junction 45.  
Coach parties welcome with advance notice.  
**Ring (01792) 771580**

### Rogerstone and Bassaleg Social Club

1 Tregwilym Road, Rogerstone,  
Newport NP10 9DW.  
A warm friendly welcome assured to all CIU affiliates and guests, less than 10 minutes from junction 27 of the M4. Coach parties welcome by prior appointment, live entertainment every Saturday evening.  
**Telephone: (01633) 893 508.**

## WARWICKSHIRE & COVENTRY

### BEDWORTH EX-SERVICEMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB & INSTITUTE

Rye Piece, Bedworth, Nr. Nuneaton,  
Warwickshire. Tel: (024) 7631 3236  
Extends a warm welcome to all associates.  
Restaurant facilities Monday to Saturday - Bar snacks also available. 6 minutes from junction 3 of M6. Approx. 5 miles to Coventry City. Saturday/Sunday night entertainment, live music, bingo, bar and lounge. Contact Secretary for bookings.

### Willenhall Social Club

Robin Hood Road, Coventry  
CV3 3BB. Secretary:  
**(024) 7630 1222 or 7630 3278.**  
Welcome to all Associate Members.  
Entertainment every Saturday and Sunday night in concert room (seats 600). Bar, games room and luxury lounge facilities. Large car park. Hot and cold snacks available.  
10 minutes from City Centre.  
No Children Allowed.  
Coach parties apply to Secretary.

### HEN LANE SOCIAL CLUB

Beacon Road, Holbrooks, Coventry CV6 4DS.  
5 minutes from M6 Junction 3, 10 minutes' walk from Ricoh Arena, minibus from club on match days. Excellent function room and facilities. Hot and cold snacks available at all times. Prior notice required for coach parties and catering (menu sent on request).  
Please contact the Secretary.  
**Tel: (024) 7672 4830; Office: (024) 7672 4832.**

### UNICORN SOCIAL CLUB

Holbrook Lane, Coventry CV6 4DE. (5 mins from M6 J3).  
Just 15 minutes' walk from the Ricoh Arena, home of Coventry City Football Club. Excellent function room and facilities including games room and bar with large screen satellite TV. Modern air-conditioned facility with live music every Saturday evening and hot and cold food available. Prior notice required for coach parties, including official supporters' clubs.  
Please contact the Secretary at: unicorncoventry@yahoo.com or by telephone on (024)76 684741

## WEST COUNTRY

### The Cabbage Patch Club

**LAWRENCE WESTON SOCIAL CLUB**  
Lawrence Weston Road, Bristol BS11 0ST.  
Extends a warm West Country welcome to those travelling to holiday destinations.  
3 mins from Junction 18 M5. 10 minutes M4.  
Coach parties by arrangement.  
**Ring (0117) 982 9148**

### Poole Labour Club

22 Wimborne Road, Poole, Dorset  
Tel: (01202) 674 059 / 686 256  
Offers the 3 S's to all affiliated members, Sea, Sand and Speedway! Centre of Poole, 20 minutes from Bournemouth, 2 minutes from Poole Stadium for Speedway and Greyhound Racing. Good beer, warm welcome, open all day.  
Entertainment on Saturday nights, Tuesday Tea Dances, Darts, Skittles, Snooker, Pool and Dominoes games can be arranged. Certain restrictions apply to children.  
Contact Secretary for details.

### WESTON-SUPER-MARE WMC

Orchard Street, Weston-super-Mare.  
**Telephone: (01934) 418 202**

A warm welcome is extended to Associates and their families in Weston's premier club. Situated in the town centre and close to the sea front.

Live entertainment every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday afternoon.  
Bingo (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).  
Buffets arranged.

Large downstairs concert room seating 250. Coach parties welcome including a Saturday.

Please contact the Secretary giving prior notice of visit. Open all day.

### WEYMOUTH WMC

MITCHELL STREET, WEYMOUTH,  
(Harbour End of Town)  
Less than 5 minutes from the beach!  
We welcome all CIU affiliated members. Music Friday & Saturday evenings, with Bingo filers on these nights. Plus the usual club activities.  
Restaurant now open.  
Tel: (01305) 786 392 or (01305) 787254  
www.weymouthworkies.co.uk

### WIDCOMBE SOCIAL CLUB

Widcombe Hill, Bath BA2 6AA. Tel: (01225) 425076  
www.widcombesocialclub.co.uk  
Large friendly club, 5 mins walk from city centre. Darts, skittles, snooker, dance floor, lakeside terrace, entertainment. Food including our famous Sunday roasts. Associates warmly welcome. Child friendly. Coaches by appointment. Catering available. Easy access from M4. After a day at Bath Races or a fabulous shopping trip, come and relax at Bath's hidden gem.

### Wotton Hall Club Ltd.

138 Barnwood Road, Gloucester  
- We welcome all Associate Members -  
Bar, Lounge, Ballroom and Games Room. Dancing every Saturday. Restaurant facilities and basket meals available. 14 days' notice required.  
Telephone: Secretary (01452) 610 025  
9.00 am - 1.00 pm Monday - Friday

## WEST MIDLANDS & BIRMINGHAM

### Alvechurch SPORTS & SOCIAL Club

The Square, Alvechurch,  
Near Birmingham B48 7LD.  
A friendly welcome to all Associate Members.  
Weekend entertainment and comfortable surroundings, also food available. Close to M42 and M5 in a picturesque part of the countryside.  
Contact: A. Morrison, Secretary on (0121) 445 2121.  
Large parties please notify 14 days in advance.

### REMEMBRANCE CLUB LTD.

10 CHESTER ROAD, CASTLE BROMWICH,  
BIRMINGHAM B36 9DD  
Extends a warm welcome to all Associate Members.  
Live entertainment every Saturday and Sunday evening. Line Dancing Mondays. Ballroom Dancing Tuesdays. Large comfortable lounge. Games Room.  
Ample parking. Close to M6/M42 (nr. Spaghetti Junction). Coaches by arrangement.  
Contact the Secretary. (0121) 747 5256 / 747 2943

### Yardley Wood Social Club

118 School Road, Yardley Wood,  
Birmingham B14 4JR.  
Club Tel: (0121) 474 2026 Sec: (0121) 474 3725  
Visit our brand new website:  
http://www.yardleywoodsocialclub.com/  
Two large TV screens, 6 snooker tables, bingo and weekly entertainment, bowling green. Function rooms available for hire and catering. Large car park at rear of the club.  
Associate members welcome.

## YORKS (N & E) & NORTH EAST

### BEECHWOOD, EASTERSIDE & DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

Broadwell Road, Easterside,  
Middlesbrough TS4 3PP.  
(Opposite The James Cook University Hospital)  
Live music every night with bingo, totes and raffles. Large bar with 4 snooker and 2 pool tables, 2 dart boards and all Sky sports channels. Two smoking areas with heated Beach Huts. Coach parties welcome with prior notice to The Secretary. Tel: (01642) 318789. Check the website it's all on there,  
**www.beadsclub.co.uk**

### BLAKELAW & DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

6 Cragston Way, Newcastle NE5 3SW.  
Friendly club on northern edge of Newcastle. Handy for A1, Racecourse and St James' Park. Coach parties welcome.  
Food can also be arranged.  
Contact Secretary Alan Campbell on  
(07986) 706354 or blakelawsc@googlegmail.com

### CENTRAL WMC

7 Beaumont Street, Darlington  
Tel: (01325) 464054  
Situated near town centre, five minutes from A1(M). Associate members and coach parties are welcome as are football and racing followers.  
Please give prior notice.  
Live entertainment and catering by private arrangement. Room available for birthdays, engagement parties, wakes and weddings.

### King Street Social Club

Phoenix House, 27 King Street,  
North Shields NE30 1BZ.  
Telephone: (0191) 2900473.  
Situated on the main road from North Shields to the coast. Main bingo sessions are Tuesday and Friday evenings and Sunday morning.  
Top class live entertainment every weekend supported by resident band "Soul Machine".  
Coach parties welcome with prior notification to the Secretary David Farrell. Telephone (0191) 2900474.

### Middlesbrough RAOB Club (The Buffs)

51 Wilton Street, Southfield Road, Town Centre  
A19-A66 2 minutes. Redcar races, 10 minutes. Middlesbrough FC 5 minutes. Games Room, TV Lounge and Lounge. Live entertainment Saturday and Sunday. Disco Wednesday and Friday. 50/50 Dancing Tuesday and Thursday. A warm welcome to all affiliated members including coach parties with prior notice to the Secretary. Telephone: (01642) 860 511.

### New York Club & Institute Limited

22-26 Blossom Street, York YO24 1AJ.  
Tel: (01904) 612 244 newyorkclub@btconnect.com  
Secretary: Frank A. Healy BA HND CMD  
300 yards from station on way to racecourse. Warm and friendly welcome to all Associate Members and guests. A great place to call into before or after your visit to York. Beer garden and 42" screen with Sky TV. Parties and buffet-style catering by prior arrangement.

## North Biddick Social Club

Bonemill Lane, Fatfield, Washington NE38 8AN.  
Excellent riverside location. Five minutes from A1(M) with excellent car/coach parking facilities. Games room with 2 snooker tables and 2 pool tables. Restaurant facilities and buffets catered for. Why not call on your way to see football games or cricket games in the area? Coaches welcome by prior arrangement with Secretary Michael Normile on  
**(0191) 416 0148**  
Why not visit our website at  
**www.northbiddickclub.co.uk**

## OSBORNE WMC

Osborne Road, Chester-le-Street,  
County Durham DH3 3DS.  
200 yards from the station and short walk to the Riverside Cricket Ground. Evening car and coach parking facilities. Live entertainment every Saturday night. A great place to call in after your day at the races. Bingo Mondays and Fridays.  
Just give us a ring on (0191) 388 8679.

### POPPLETON ROAD WMC

132 Poppleton Road, York YO26 4UP  
(01904) 793398  
A warm friendly welcome assured to all CIU affiliates and guests. Wide selection of beers available, ideal for the races and close to the city centre. Bingo and raffle Fridays. live entertainment and bingo, Saturdays and Sundays.

### ST CLEMENTS WMC

Count de Burgh Terrace,  
South Bank, York YO23 1HH.  
Small friendly club. Five minutes from York Racecourse. Artists every Saturday night. Regular and guest real ales. Coach parties and catering by arrangement.  
Telephone: (01904) 629973

### SPITAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Jubilee Centre, Highcliffe, Spittal,  
Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 2JL.  
A warm welcome to all. Five minutes from the A1, 30 minutes from Kelso Races, cabaret every Saturday evening. A spectacular evening once every month.  
Bingo Friday, Sunday and Monday nights.  
Coach parties welcome.  
Ring Treasurer Carol Lynn in advance on (01289) 305 597.

### City of York Tramways Employees'

- Club and Institute -  
1 Mill Street (off Piccadilly), York YO1 1PY.  
5 minutes from town centre  
Entertainments Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Prize games. Concert room (seating 275). Games Room, Bar and live Sky Sports TV. Visiting Associates are welcome. Parties by arrangement.  
**Telephone: (01904) 623 953.**

# CROSSWORD SOLUTION

**Congratulations to the five winners of our £10 Prize Crossword for March:**

Mary Sharp of Kettering Rifle Band Club; Peter Lamborne of Poole Labour Club; Linda Tankard of Smithywood Road WMC; Phil Johnson of Saffron Lane WMC, Leicester; and Maurice Burton of Hopetown & Whessoe WMC, Darlington.



# PRIZE CROSSWORD

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

## ACROSS

- 1 Salmonella pronouncement - in part to keep food from chef. (5)
- 4 See moon as unidentified person. (7)
- 8 Aim tiara design at drink. (3,5)
- 9 Rake is broken by German leader. (6)
- 10 Cupboard drop-off is in the W Indies. (4)
- 12 Permit to search in hallowed ground. (5)
- 13 Nervous because of the borders? (4)
- 14 Lettered people are irate 'til sorted out. (8)
- 17 Over there Friday, on derelict site. (6)
- 19 Boss' hound is the best. (3,3)
- 21 Grip on, do - somehow

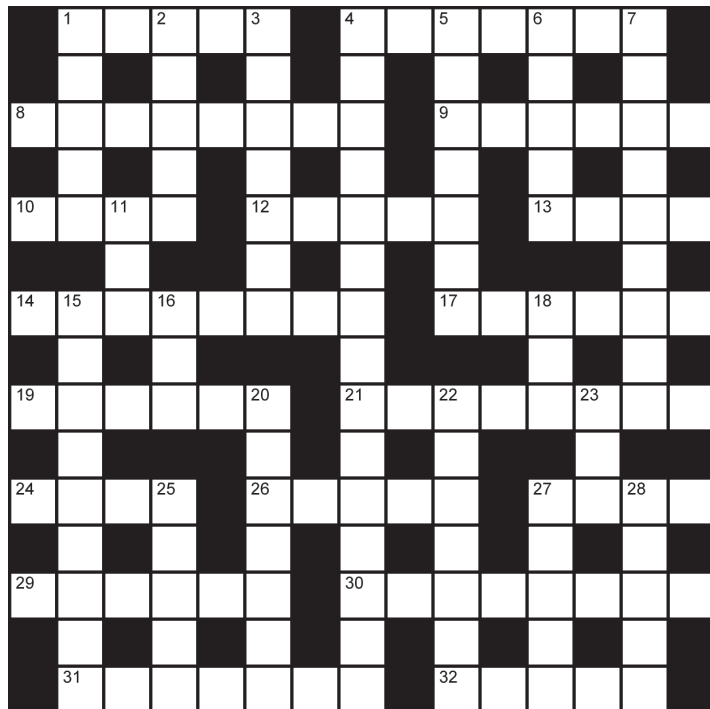
- it's sagging. (8)
- 24 Old bit of tragedy. (4)
- 26 Glory of Sudoku that's non-u somehow. (5)
- 27 Entrance, walking-style, by the sound of it. (4)
- 29 Not just a run if taken the wrong way. (6)
- 30 Moose to run amok - it's huge. (8)
- 31 Frame the vehicle with Cassis in hospital. (7)
- 32 Attempt two ways before way in found. (5)

## DOWN

- 1 For the last time, GOODBYE! (5)
- 2 Dance - to a dubious degree. (5)
- 3 Ivan ran into heaven. (7)
- 4 Mildness lands me in trouble with petty quality. (5-10)
- 5 Force to put on scales in order to clear path. (4,3)
- 6 Rust has poem about old eleven. (5)

- 7 Constant novice who's not deciduous? (9)
- 11 Chomped a piece. (3)
- 15 Origin can be sorted with no carbon. (9)
- 16 A purpose at last! (3)
- 18 Pin up tuck, mate. (3)
- 20 Ask trog to be amenable to being low-level speedsters. (2-5)
- 22 Horse, on scramble, is not at all at sea. (7)
- 23 She says she once had one... (3)
- 25 Wee drink on the start of play. (5)
- 27 Mug, at loggerheads with range. (5)
- 28 No word of a lie, trustily it's not. (5)

Send your entry to Crossword, Powdene Publicity, Unit 17, St Peter's Wharf, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 1TZ, to reach us by May 31st.



Name.....  
 Address.....  
 Club.....

# GARDENING



## THIS MONTH'S GARDENING TIPS

May is a very busy time for vegetable gardeners. Provided the soil is not too wet or cold sow runner beans and dwarf French beans, peas for late summer eating, carrots, beetroot, summer cabbage and caulis and salad crops.

Plant out tomatoes once young plants are large enough. Remove lower set of leaves and bury the plant deeply up to the top few leaves so that roots develop all along the buried stem. Keep earthing up potatoes as they grow to encourage more tuber growth and protect tops from any late frost, and to maximise every inch of space in the vegetable garden try intercropping. This is a method of planting where quick growing crops are grown between slower or taller crops.

Peas and beans absorb nitrogen from the air and release it back into the soil where it encourages leaf growth so grow lettuce and other leafy crops like spinach

between rows of beans or peas. They also help keep the weeds down. Other intercropping mixes include beetroot rows in amongst cabbages and spring onions alongside potatoes.

From mid-May it should be safe to plant out chrysanthemums. Pinch out the growing tips to give a well-branched, stronger plant which will provide abundant garden colour at the end of summer and well into autumn. It is time also to plant up hanging baskets and containers - again pinching out the tips of leggy plants. Tie in climbing and rambling roses so that their stems are almost horizontal. This will encourage side shoots and produce more flowers.

Other jobs to do this month: sow sweetcorn in pots and keep in a greenhouse or indoors for planting out in June. If the soil is warm courgettes, marrows and cucumbers can be sown in situ. If conditions are not ideal, start them off indoors.



ROYAL ASCOT

TUESDAY 19TH JUNE TO SATURDAY 23RD JUNE 2012

## THE GREATEST RACE MEETING IN THE WORLD

CIU Racing Club Discount  
 Grandstand Admission on Tuesday and Wednesday £43 (normally £60).  
 Silver Ring Admission on Tuesday and Wednesday £16 (normally £20).

To book, complete and send the CIU Racing Club Booking Form to Jean Garrett by 25th May 2012.

Photography: Simon Procter Millinery: Stephen Jones Attire: Antonio Berardi

# CIU RACING CLUB



THE CIU Racing Club uses the bulk buying power of more than 2,000 clubs to obtain special discounts from racecourses. You can make a booking by filling in the form at the foot of this page. To obtain the discount we send all the forms to the racecourse together as one block booking and they will send you the tickets at your club a few days before the meeting. Tickets are sent to the club as otherwise anyone could buy them. We need to receive your booking three weeks before the meeting otherwise we cannot guarantee you will receive the discount because late bookings do not save the courses any work.

To register your club as a member of the CIU Racing Club ring **Jean Garrett** on (0191) 2650040. As well as receiving regular updates and the full list of offers you will receive a free copy of Club Journal. Remember that even if a meeting is not listed here you can obtain a party discount direct from the course. Satellite racing channel RACING UK is offering all CIU clubs a 30 per cent discount. For further information ring 0870 351 8834. **A selection of offers are printed here. The full list has been sent to registered Racing Club members and can be also found on the CIU website.** (All offers Tattersalls unless stated otherwise)

## Race Discounts

HAYDOCK: .....	Saturday, 2nd June .....	£11 (normally £20)
BEVERLEY:.....	Saturday 2nd June .....	£10 (normally £13)
CARLISLE:.....	Bank Holiday Monday, ..... 4th June.....	£10 (normally £15)
LEICESTER:.....	Bank Holiday Monday, ..... 4th Jun.....	£9 (normally £16)
<b>REDCAR: ZETLAND GOLD CUP DAY:</b>		
.....	Bank Holiday Monday ..... 4th June	£11 (normally £15)
LEICESTER:.....	Bank Holiday Tuesday, ..... 5th Jun.....	£9 (normally £16)
HAYDOCK: .....	Thursday, 14th June (eve).....	£7.50 (normally £13)
YORK: .....	Saturday, 16th June.....	£14 (normally £18)
<b>ROYAL ASCOT:..... Tuesday, June 19th &amp; Wednesday, June 20th</b>		
.....	Grandstand.....	£43 (normally £60)
.....	Silver Ring.....	£16 (normally £20)
HAYDOCK: .....	Saturday, 23rd June (eve) .....	£11 (normally £20)
THIRSK:.....	Monday, 25th June (eve).....	£12 (normally £15)
NEWBURY:.....	Tuesday 26th June (eve) .....	£12 (normally £16)
<b>CARLISLE: BELL &amp; CUMBERLAND PLATE DAY:</b>		
.....	Wednesday, 27th June .....	£10 (normally £15)
HAYDOCK: .....	Saturday, 7th July .....	£12 (normally £22)
MARKET RASEN:.....	Sunday, 8th July.....	£14 (normally £16)
NEWBURY:.....	Saturday 14th July.....	£16 (normally £20)
ASCOT: .....	Saturday, 21st July.....	£20 (normally £26)
RIPON:.....	Saturday, 21st July.....	£12 (normally £15)
ASCOT: .....	Sunday, 22nd July.....	£12 (normally £18)
REDCAR: .....	Sunday 22nd July.....	£11 (normally £15)
ASCOT: .....	Saturday, 28th July .....	£12 (normally £18)
CARLISLE:.....	Sunday, 29th July .....	£10 (normally £15)
THIRSK:.....	Saturday, 4th August.....	£12 (normally £15)
MARKET RASEN:.....	Sunday, 5th August.....	£14 (normally £16)
NEWBURY:.....	Sunday 5th August.....	£12 (normally £16)
HAYDOCK: .....	Friday, 10th August (eve) .....	£11 (normally £20)
ASCOT: .....	Saturday, 11th August.....	£12 (normally £18)
HAYDOCK: .....	Saturday, 11th August.....	£12 (normally £22)
REDCAR: .....	Saturday 11th August .....	£11 (normally £15)

## SALTBURN RACING BREAKS

### THREE-DAY RACING BREAKS - £175

Wednesday, June 20th - Saturday, June 23rd.  
Racing at Ripon and Redcar.

Monday, August 27th - Thursday, August 30th  
Racing at Ripon and Catterick (Wednesday Evening)

## BUY YOUR OWN COPY. . . and pay less

Here's your chance to have your own personal copy of *Club Journal* for less than you'd pay for it at the club.

Fill in this form to obtain a year's supply of *Club Journal* for £7.50. This means that not only will we send you your copy post-free to your home if you wish, but two of the 12 editions will be yours for FREE.

Please send me a year's supply of *Club Journal*. I enclose a cheque for £7.50 made payable to the Club & Institute Union.

Name: .....

Home Address: .....

..... Postcode:.....

Please send your order to *Club Journal*,  
Unit 17, St Peter's Wharf, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 1TZ.

## NORTHERN RACING - A DAY OUT FOR £10

Northern Racing, who operate as Plate Day, Fighting Fifth and Bath, Brighton, Chepstow, Ffos Ladies Day at Newcastle; Las, Fontwell, Great Yarmouth, Midlands Grand National and Hereford, Newcastle, Ladies Night at Uttoxeter; Sedgefield and Uttoxeter Welsh National Day at Racecourses, are again offering Chepstow; the Eastern Festival their £10 across-the-board Yarmouth, August Festival at Brighton and the Ladies Day offer applies to all meetings fixtures at Fontwell and Ffos with certain exemptions such Las.

Fixtures for which the offer applies include:

Sun, Jun 3: Uttoxeter	Bath Tues, Jun 19 (eve):	Yarmouth Tues, Jul 17:
Mon, Jun 4 (BH): Chepstow	Brighton Thur, June 21 (eve):	Ffos Las, Thur, Jul 18:
Tues, Jun 5 (BH): Ffos Las, Yarmouth	Fontwell FREE RACENIGHT	Uttoxeter Thur, Jul 19:
Wed, Jun 6: Fontwell	Mon, Jun 25 (eve): Chepstow	Brighton Thur, Jul 19 (eve):
Thur, June 7 (eve): Uttoxeter	Tues, Jun 26: Brighton	Bath Tues, Jul 24:
Fri, Jun 8 (eve): Bath	Wed, Jun 27 (eve): Bath	Yarmouth Tues, Jul 24 (eve):
Sat, Jun 9 (eve): Newcastle	Thur, Jun 28: Yarmouth	Ffos Las Thur, Jul 26:
Tues, Jun 12 (eve): Brighton	Mon, Jul 2 (eve): Ffos Las	Bath, Uttoxeter Mon, Jul 30:
Wed, Jun 13: Yarmouth	Tues, Jul 3: Brighton	Yarmouth Mon, Jul 30 (eve):
Thur, Jun 14: Yarmouth	Wed, Jul 4 (eve): Chepstow	Uttoxeter Thur, Aug 2 (eve):
Thur, Jun 14 (eve): Hereford	Thur, Jul 5: Yarmouth	Ffos Las Tues, Aug 7:
Fri, Jun 15 (eve): Chepstow	Tues, Jul 10 (eve): Uttoxeter	Bath Wed, Aug 8:
Sat, Jun 16:	Wed, Jul 11:	Newcastle

## CIU Racing Club Booking Form

Number of tickets required (minimum 6) \_\_\_\_\_ Price per ticket £ \_\_\_\_\_

Racecourse \_\_\_\_\_ Date of meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed for £ \_\_\_\_\_

(Made payable to racecourse involved).

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this booking form plus cheque  
(made payable to the appropriate racecourse) at least three weeks prior to meeting to:  
Jean Garrett, Club Journal, Unit 17, St. Peter's Wharf,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 1TZ.

## SPORTS SHORTS

Our National Team Darts final will be between Rodbourne Cheney Club from Swindon and York Crescent Club.

In the semi-finals on April 21 Rodbourne Cheney beat Mid Rhondda WMC 4-2 at Cwmbran WM Band Club and the Crescent Club beat Bannockburn Miners Club 4-1 at White House Unique Club in Northumberland. National Executive representatives were Geoff Whewell and Sid Hicks.

• The National Team snooker final will be held on June 2 at Acomb WMC in York between Buffs Social Club from Stockton-on-Tees and Greasbrough WMC from Rotherham.

## Ending 20 years of hurt



Pictured (back row, left to right) are: Pete Bateup, Allan Parker, Geoff Roe, Gareth Tennant and Geoff's wife Jackie Roe. Front: Pete's son Ryan Bateup, Rhys Ward, Bob Wagstaff and Pat Tomkins.

It's only taken 20 years but the Rushden Town Band pool team from Northamptonshire has finally won something.

The team was founded in 1992 at the Old Band Club in the town. It initially started as an all-woman team but after a year or two more men became involved and now there is only one woman left, Jackie Roe, one of the original players.

Over the years the team continued to play in competitions every year but never won anything. Their best placing was second – the only time they finished in the top half of any league – until the winter league of 2011/2012 when they won 12 out of their 14 matches in Division 4 of the East Northants League and finished top by a clear six points. Now finally a winners' trophy stands proudly in the club's display cabinet.

"This does show anyone starting out with any game in any club activities that perseverance does work in the end," said Club Secretary Ray Dickens. "It did with us and all we now hope is that we can continue with our upward trend."



Branch Secretary John Baker (right) presented the trophy to Michael Wayman, captain of the winning Chatteris B Team.

## Fens men spot on

Chatteris WMC from Cambridgeshire have dominated the North East Metropolitan Branch's three domino competitions winning the singles and the team competitions.

Afe Edgley won the singles final at nearby March United Services Club while the final of the team competition at Chatteris saw the home club's B team overcome their A team.

The Pairs Final at Colchester Belle Vue Social Club was won by John Tabor and Roy Shaw from Ponders End WMC in Enfield. The three competitions took place in March and April and were all very well attended.



Afe Edgley (left) receives the singles trophy from Branch Executive member John Tabor and Branch Games Secretary Sean Belton.

Below: John Tabor and Roy Shaw receive the pairs trophy from 2011 winner John Pells and Sean Belton.



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