

## Newsletter of the Great Ayton & District Conservative Club



### Notes from the chair ...

Ladies and Gentlemen - welcome to the latest edition of BluePrint, where our aim is to keep you informed on matters appertaining to our Club, its members and up and coming events.

Bar sales compared to the same period as last year have increased - for the first time in many years. However, our profit margin remains quite low due to increased costs. Whilst we do budget for the inevitable repairs which are demanded by an aged building such as ours, some costs arrive out of the blue. For example, recently we had to carry out repairs to our car park at a cost of £1,000. The important thing is that we are still making a small profit which is excellent news, and bucks the trend in other similar establishments.

We have employed a local architect to do a feasibility study to look at the best way of installing disabled and ladies' toilets. Membership is still slowly increasing after the initial influx of female members; we now have over 30 female members with more to be interviewed - and male membership has also increased.

The members' lunch was a success with both male and female members attending. The attendance numbers were down compared to previous years, but I'm sure this was the result of the original date having to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, and re-arranged at quite short notice.

Many thanks to Karen for providing such a sumptuous buffet, and Paul and Jodie who kept the bar going.

Paul now stocks a good selection of flavoured gins which are selling very well, as are our range of tea and coffees. The Saturday night draw at £1,000 was finally won and good luck to the member who was in the Club when their name came out. A new draw is underway which is currently standing at £360.00 (*stop press - and that too was won, on Saturday the 28th July! A new prize fund started off at £100 on the 4th August*)

Sunday night opening has had limited success - we could do with more people attending on a Sunday evening if this is to become a regular part of our opening hours.

Again, my thanks on your behalf go to Paul and Karen for all the hard work they put in for the benefit of the members and the Club. A special thanks to our bar staff Jodie and Jen for all the hard work they do, with a very special thanks to Jen who broke her toe whilst gardening at home, but carried on working at the Club and never missed a shift behind the bar. Thanks also to our latest recruit Lucy, who is working on a Sunday evening whilst on leave from university - and last but not least our lady cleaner Jane, who does an excellent job keeping our Club tidy.

Please continue to read the notice boards to keep up to date with what is happening in the Club.

*Barry James  
Chairman*

## Sunday Opening Hours

**The 6 month trial of extended opening hours (Sunday evenings until 10.30pm) expires on the 4th September**

To date, Sunday evening attendances have been pretty low, and it could be difficult for the Committee to justify the costs involved in these extra hours.

**If you would like to see the experiment continue, please show your support by paying us a visit on a few Sunday nights between now and September - thank you!**

## Sports Section

This April saw the retirement from the Sports Committee of Mr John Dale. John has served our Committee for many years as Treasurer and Secretary and is taking a well earned rest. We all thank him for his hard work and the strong position in which he has left the Committee.

With members' support we run the Friday night draws, but couldn't do them without Karen, Paul and Jodie's help - many thanks to them.

We continue to run old and new activities for you the members but we do struggle with numbers in most cases.

If there is any activity/event/outing you could suggest which you feel would be popular - please speak up .

Dave Pearson would like help with the garden of Marwood School next to the Club, which we have undertaken to keep tidy as a community project

A new snooker league has been started, the details of which are up in the snooker room. It's free to join and runs till the end of September .

In May, we had an evening with a snooker coach in the Club; it was very enlightening, but not much improvement has been seen on the tables as a result of his input!

The annual cricket outing had to be called off, due to lack of numbers wanting to attend.

The first golf outing of the year was held at Darlington and was won by Sid Blackmore. The second is on September the 21<sup>st</sup> at Harrogate

We have decided to withdraw entry fees for all in house completions to see if that has a bearing on numbers taking part .

A bus trip took us to Thirsk Races in July, an evening enjoyed by all that went, but even more so by the bookmakers for our donations to their pension pots!

Those who came into the Club to watch it "come one" (England world cup games) were treated to free drinks vouchers. They went down better than the results but not as fast as some diving players!

The annual Bowls match for the Mavis Trattles Trophy is on 12<sup>th</sup> August at Middlesbrough Conservative Club.

Plans are been made to enter a snooker team in the local league this Autumn - anyone interested please get in touch (ability unimportant)

A trip to Sunderland Dogs could be in the offing later in the year, so please watch the notice boards.

Thanks again to everyone that helps and all those who take part.

*Chris Thompson  
Secretary*



## FREE Members' Draw

The Free, Saturday night Members' Draw (into which all members are automatically entered) prize has finally been claimed - TWICE!

The jackpot of £1,000 was claimed in late Spring, so the new fund, which had been building up in the background, then took over. It too was won, at a figure of £390, on 28th July.

The new fund starts off at £100 - and the first draw for that figure will be on Saturday 4th August

**Don't forget**  
**- you must be in it**  
**(the Club, on the night) to win it!**

## 100 CLUB



There have been two 100 Club draws since the last edition of BluePrint.

The draw made on the 31st March produced the following winners:

1 <sup>st</sup> PRIZE	No. 58	C Thompson	£250
2 <sup>nd</sup> PRIZE	No. 13	H Woolf	£ 50
3 <sup>rd</sup> PRIZE	No. 4	K Storr	£ 33

On the 30th June, the winners were:

1 <sup>st</sup> PRIZE	No. 51	R Thrower	£250
2 <sup>nd</sup> PRIZE	No. 33	G Cross	£ 50
3 <sup>rd</sup> PRIZE	No. 5	P Tichmarsh	£ 33

The next draw will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September

*Please ensure that your subscription is up-to-date before the draw is made!*

**There are still numbers available if you would like to join the 100 Club - simply ask any Committee Member.**

## Finance Matters

I am pleased to report that up to the end of June, we have made a profit of £1,763.

The most pleasing aspect is that our bar takings have increased from £56,838 last year to £64,461 this year. Over the past few years, our bar takings have been falling in line with other clubs and public houses, so these results are a definite move in the right direction.

Our total membership has increased by 29 up to 555 (as at 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018) and this includes 34 lady members

We continue to monitor & control our costs, but certain expenses we cannot avoid, with repairs and renewals expenditure increasing from £2,528 to £4,124 in the first six months of the year (including an unexpected £1,000 in the car park).

We are in the process of increasing our investment with the Association of Conservative Clubs Ltd to take advantage of the 2% p.a. gross interest they offer.

*John Chilton  
Treasurer*

## President's Pitch

### Data Protection or GDPR

The Club, as well as every other organisation large or small, are considering data protection. Regarding you, our members, the only information we hold is your name, date of birth, address, email address, and telephone number/s. This information was taken when you joined the Club or subsequently paid your subscriptions. The General Committee will be updating the information at the renewal of subscriptions in December and January, and at the same time seeking your consent on the information we hold. You may view our Privacy Notice which we have added to the "Contacts" page on the Club web site.

### Ladies

I am sure, like me, most of us are delighted with the smooth way in which our lady members have integrated. I can personally only see one downside which is their apparent ability to count the quantity of drinks consumed. Angela has commented on several occasions that I am drinking far more now than I was before she joined the Club!

### Chairman

I am pleased to inform you that Barry James has taken the reins again as Chairman of the Club. Barry contributed brilliantly in 2017 - in many ways a difficult year due to the divisions regarding the way forward for the club. Barry - I am grateful to you for accepting this role again - thank you.

*Ernie Taylor  
President*

## Bar Report

What a year - we've had the Beast from the East, the sun from the South and even a shortage of CO<sub>2</sub>

I'm please to say that none of these events has affected the Club, with our bar sales continuing to show, month by month, increases on the same periods in 2017.

Paul, Karen, Jen, Jody and Lucy are to be congratulated, and thanked, for the service they give. There is no doubt that the friendly, efficient way they treat members is a major factor in our increased turnover.

**Above all, we thank YOU – the members - for using the Club and partaking of what we offer.**

Paul has introduced a number of new drinks behind the Bar, to give members a wider choice and an opportunity to sample some more unusual (but very popular in other licensed premises), beverages. Amongst the new stocks available are:

- A premium red wine - Cloud Factory
- Edinburgh and Plymouth Gins (both premium quality)
- A variety of flavoured gins, ranging from Elderflower, through Blood Orange to Rhubarb & Ginger - to name just a few!
- Fever-Tree, a premium tonic to accompany the gins
- Farmers Blonde - which started off as a guest beer only, but has been so popular that we have kept it on the Bar, with no immediate plans to replace it.
- Last but not least - tea and a range of coffees are now on sale, and have been well received, despite the recent temperatures. For those not drinking alcohol for whatever reason, they offer something different to J<sub>2</sub>O !

*Rod Thrower  
Bar Sub-Committee*

## Hatched, Matched and Despatched

**Sadly, since issue 21 of BluePrint in March, we have lost the following two members:**

**Mr Jim Doyle** on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
*Aged 79 years, Jim had been a member since 1996.*

**Mr Andrew Saunders** on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
*Aged 50 years, David had been a member since 1990*

**Since the last issue of BluePrint, twenty five new members have been welcomed to the Club:**

Mr	Graeme Moir	13/03/2018
Mrs	Rosemary Morley	23/03/2018
Mrs	Carole Myers	23/03/2018
Mrs	Joyce Williams	23/03/2018
Mr	Lewis John Pearce	30/03/2018
Mr	Daniel Harrison	04/04/2018
Mr	Derrick Montgomery	04/04/2018
Mrs	Susan Jane Blakeburn	10/04/2018
Mrs	Carole Osborne	10/04/2018
Miss	Kathleen Wentworth	17/04/2018
Mr	Oliver Wentworth	17/04/2018
Mrs	Heather Moorhouse	03/05/2018
Mrs	Thelma Barbara Aspery	09/05/2018
Mrs	Linda Sample	09/05/2018
Mrs	Joan Yurkwich	09/05/2018
Mr	Peter Yurkwich	09/05/2018
Mrs	Susan Mason	11/05/2018
Mr	Brian Kish	14/06/2018
Mr	Kenneth Walton	14/06/2018
Mr	John Harrison	20/06/2018
Mr	Anthony Edward Montgomery	20/06/2018
Mr	John Doyle	17/07/2018
Mrs	Judith Curtis	20/07/2018
Mrs	Patricia Heron	20/07/2018
Mrs	Barbara Hodgson	20/07/2018

**We hope they will make the most of their membership and enjoy the facilities we provide.**

The Club's membership now (at 30<sup>th</sup> July) stands at a total of 555 (including 34 Lady Members and 11 Country Members), broken down as follows:

<b>Honorary Members</b>	11
<b>Life Members</b>	38
<b>Honorary &amp; Life Members</b>	4
<b>Senior Members</b>	201
<b>Full Members</b>	301

Thanks are due to Phil Quigley for a superb job in maintaining the Club's Membership Database and supplying the above figures.

## A Lady's Perspective

It is now over 6 months since the Club voted to welcome ladies - and not just as guests, but as full members.

A very momentous decision and perhaps not an easy one for some.

Well, from my point of view, although I had always been quite happy with the Club being men only, I must admit it does now feel it was the right move at the right time (100 years since we won the vote!)

So how am I finding things?

The Club is a great place to visit; comfortable, clean surroundings, nice décor, friendly and relaxing atmosphere, with excellent service from the welcoming staff. The ambience is lovely, no loud music, no screaming kids and no mouthy youths.

I am finding now that I am visiting several times each week for a variety of reasons -

- ◆ We enjoy a regular weekly night out with a group of close friends: So much nicer than our previous rendezvous, with the bonus of making new friends too
- ◆ We often pop in just the two of us, or with friends, after lunch, for cheaper drinks, coffee, or often in my case hot chocolate, (highly recommended)
- ◆ Also now, when I'm acting as a taxi service, it is so much nicer to pop up, say hello to everyone and perhaps have a quick drink, than sitting in the car park twiddling my thumbs while the "just pulled" pint is consumed; an experience repeated countless times in the past
- ◆ I also really enjoyed watching the England matches during the recent World Cup. It was much better than sitting in front of the TV at home - although I was amazed how some seem to think they know better than the players and coach - the additional commentary was fascinating!

I am looking forward to becoming even more involved as time passes, signing up for trips and events, bowls at Middlesbrough soon and more in the future I am sure.

I understand there have been a good number of ladies joining and more every week and I can definitely recommend it to those still just thinking about it.

Thank you gentlemen for making us so welcome.



### They're off again ...

### ... in search of a place in the Premier League

The following Middlesbrough games are already designated as live coverage matches on SKY

➔	Friday	24th August	West Brom	Home	7.45 pm
➔	Friday	31st August	Leeds	Away	7.45 pm
➔	Tuesday	2nd October	Ipswich	Away	7.45 pm

These games will all be showing in the Club

- why not drop in and enjoy a drink or two whilst you're watching?

More of Middlesbrough's games

will be televised as the season progresses

- keep an eye on the noticeboards for updates as and when we get them.



## Laughter - the Best medicine

- Q. How does a man show he's planning for the future?  
A. He orders two pints instead of one.
- Q. Why are all dumb blonde jokes one-liners?  
A. So men can understand them

An English teacher wrote these words on the whiteboard:  
"woman without her man is nothing". The teacher then asked the students to punctuate the words correctly.  
The men wrote: "Woman, without her man, is nothing."  
The women wrote: "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

Holding an event?  
Need a bar?  
... we can help!

Great Ayton Conservative Club  
**OUTSIDE BAR SERVICE**  
For quality ales, quality staff & quality service

For further details and an application form,  
please contact Paul on: 01642 722701  
or via email: paulryan68@icloud.com  
or go to: [www.greataytonconservativeclub.co.uk](http://www.greataytonconservativeclub.co.uk)