

Newsletter of the Great Ayton & District Conservative Club

Coronavirus - how it affects the Club and its members

As most of you will now be aware, the Club's Officers and Committees had already taken the difficult decision to close the Club at the end of business on Sunday 22nd March - initially until, and including, Thursday 30th April. The decision was taken following Governmental & Medical advice over the past few days, allied to updates from The Association of Conservative Clubs. We believe that total closure is the only option to protect, as far as is possible, the Steward, Stewardess, bar staff and you, the members. One member of our bar staff, Jen, has already gone into self-isolation.

Events then overtook us on Friday 20th March when the Government told all bars, pubs, clubs, restaurants (amongst others) to close with immediate effect. This we have done, so the Club is now (as at 0900 Saturday 21st March) closed.

This action has meant that many regular events/competitions will be disrupted - listed below are the main things affected:-

- **Saturday Night Draw** - Stopped with immediate effect (17th March) - it will recommence "when safe" and the prize fund will restart at £230
- **VE Day Dance – 9th May** - cancelled
- **Mike Myers Charity Quiz Night – 3rd May** - cancelled
- **100 Club - due to be drawn 31st March** - postponed until the end of June, when TWO draws will be made
- **Bonus Ball** - Winner of 21st March draw will be held at the Bar for eventual claiming by winner. The 28th March sheet will have its entries carried over to the first draw once the Club re-opens.
- **League Snooker and Darts Matches** - Cancelled until further notice
- **Proposed 2nd Barn Dance at Low Farm in August** - postponed until 2021
- **Lottery Syndicate** - the numbers will continue to be put on every Saturday night, using funds from the winnings pot. All such payments will be recorded, together with payments due from those who pay in cash - but can't for the moment. A reconciliation will take place once the Club re-opens.

The Committee & Officers, Secretary, Treasurer & Steward are in touch with each other via email and telephone, and will continue to monitor the situation. Rest assured, once the Government and Medical experts deem it safe to do so, we will re-open the Club at the earliest opportunity.

In the meantime, I think we ought to consider what we as a body can do to help members who may be self - isolating, or have health or mobility issues.

If anyone knows of members who require assistance - please get in touch via the Club's website - where there are links to a number of email addresses on the contact page.

Whilst some Committee Members are already self-isolating and couldn't therefore visit anyone in need, I'm sure we can find volunteers amongst those of us who are less at risk to do so.

Please - stay as safe as you can under the current circumstances.