

Parwich RBL Club

1. The combined burden of VAT payments to HMRC and increasing staffing costs, due to Government imposed Living Wage increases, means that throughout this financial year, the club has had to dip into its reserves and resulted in a substantial loss of £20k last FY. Whilst this can support the club in the short term, clearly this will present a problem when reserves are depleted.
2. Financially, the challenge to reduce costs and increase revenue remained a committee focus. Sales increased 4.8% administrative costs increased by more than 24% and cost of sales by more than 27%. On top of this, VAT increases our tax burden by a further 6.5%. Careful management of purchase costs, is crucial.
3. Inevitably, this has led to some price increases, but 10% January 23 and a further 8% in November doesn't cover the increased costs.
4. In March we made the decision to remain closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, which is an increasingly common practise for pubs. The reduction in wages costs will help the club financially.
5. Carol and Alan have both worked tirelessly to keep the club an attractive and welcoming place to visit, and the reputation for providing great food at many of the events we've held, has all been down to them. And visitors seem to like the club too, as can be seen by the lovely comments in the visitors' book. So, thank you both.
6. As a CAMRA recognised club, we started to be sought out by CAMRA members keen to try us. Their feedback led to the Club being awarded once again the titles Ashbourne, Derbyshire and Midlands CAMRA club of the year 2023. This led to the club being nominated as National Club of the year, where we are in the top 4. Beer tourism is a thing and we are now benefiting from real ale enthusiasts making a special visit. This is a great result.
7. We held some great events including Live music, Burns night, discos, Karaoke, take-aways and even a 3 day beer festival, which we plan to become an annual event. We try to be creative but always welcome new and exciting ideas.
8. The Club has been popular for all age groups from fun kids activities to being a popular choice for the many clubs and societies in the village, seeking a comfortable and welcoming space to meet.

9. Once again Wakes Week was a great success for the village and was a great boost to the Club.
10. We have created a Friends of the Legion WhatsApp group, which has been very successful and has been a great help on a number of occasions, so thank you to all who've put their names to this list and welcome anybody else who would like to join us.
11. We continue to operate with too few committee members and we constantly appeal to members to lend a hand running the club.
12. A flick through our visitor's book will tell you, if you didn't already know, that we have a great club here. We are also extremely lucky to have both the Sycamore and the Legion in this village and visitors reflect this in the great comments they make. We have every reason to feel proud!
13. Lastly, we are what we are because of all our staff, customers, committee members and supporters.