

RECEIVED 22 MAY 2019

22 May 2019

Licensing

Civic Offices, Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1AL

Dear Sir/Madam,

Premises licence with alcohol application ref 19/00449/LAPLA

I write to you to object to the granting of the above licence application that has been made by Croston Sports Club for various reasons.

Firstly, the sports club currently only has a Club Premises Certificate whose terms they have been breaching. For example, they are selling alcohol to non-members and have been since the club premises certificate was first issued. The club have been made aware that this is not allowed and even after they met with a local licencing enforcement officer they continue to serve non-members.

The club have also been holding events open to and advertised to the general public without requesting temporary events notices. They were advised this could not continue by the local licencing team and again they continued with these events.

My understanding is the in order to qualify as a club who can operate under a club premises certificate one of the criteria is that the membership process should take at least two days between application and acceptance. In the sports club you fill out a form and pay for your membership and then you have instant access to membership benefits, i.e. your drinks are less expensive immediately.

If an establishment cannot operate under the confines of their existing club premises certificate, then surely they should not be rewarded with a full premises licence?

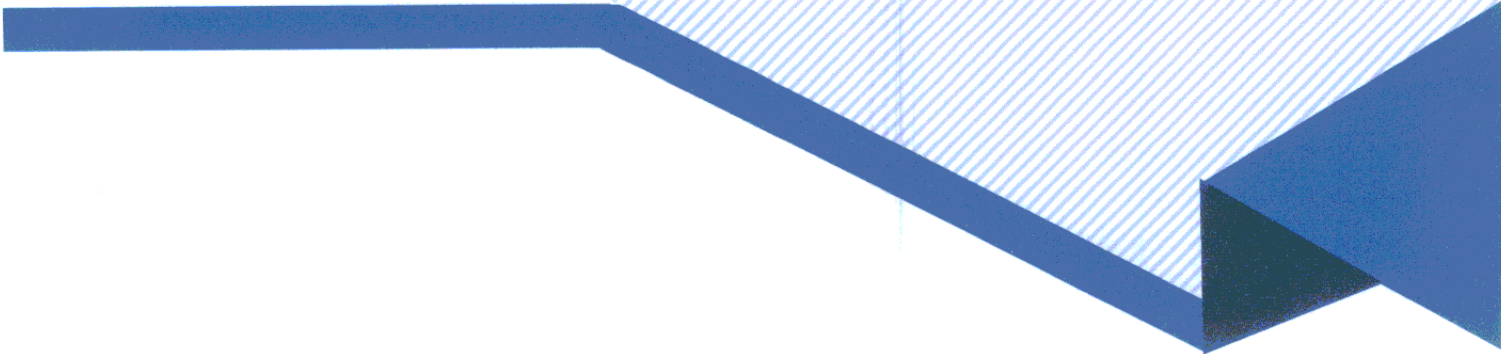
There are also further reasons for my objection to the issuing of a full premises licence to this venue.

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Croston Sports Club have been and continue to have problems with noise and unruly behavior of its patrons when leaving the establishment at the end of the night, in several cases this has happened long after the licenced hours. I am aware that one neighbor in particular has repeatedly raised concerns over the noise and behavior and the way the staff and committee talk about this neighbor is rather impolite. I know that two of the committee members have met with this neighbor on several occasions to try to find a resolution to the problems but that there has not as yet been an appropriate solution found. It is also my understanding that the club have been advise they must close the patio doors by 10pm at the latest, however, this still does not always happen. During the recent beer festival the noise on the Saturday night was quite loud even after 10pm so when I went outside I was surprised to see the patio doors had not been closed even by 1020pm. This may not seem like a big deal but if they should be shut by 10pm then that needs to happen every time not just when it pleases the club.

The club is licenced to midnight on a Thursday and half past midnight on a Saturday. I know that on many occasions they serve after the licenced hours on Thursdays and Saturdays. On Thursdays Croston Velo (local cycling club) are in and are regularly allowed to purchase alcohol after midnight (with one of the members being the vice chairman of the committee and he regularly buys alcohol after midnight on a Thursday), in some instances not leaving until after 1am. On Saturdays where the club cricket team are playing at home there a numerous times where drinks are served long after half past midnight, there have been some instances where this has gone on as late as 4 or 5 am.

I know that staff at the club have been advised that it is OK to serve after hours if a committee member is present and takes responsibility and that they closed the doors and draw the blinds. There will be lots of evidence that drinks have been served after hours through the till reports and card transaction information. The till reports will also show the number of drinks and revenue generated from non-members, whom they should not be serving under the club premises certificate.

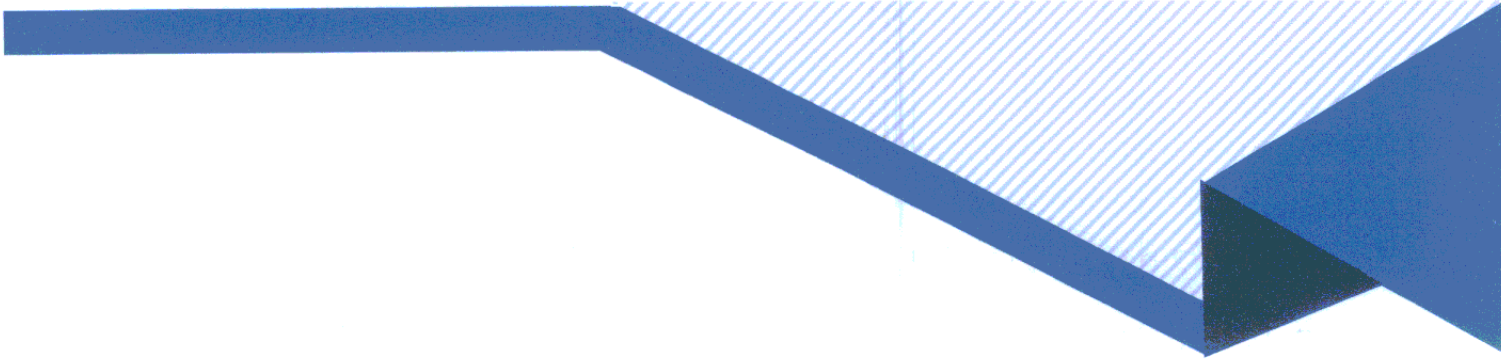
The club has also allowed irresponsible drinking games to be held on its site. There used to be a "12 brews of Christmas" event where the people doing the challenge had to drink 12 different pints in one night with many stipulations on how to drink and consequences for failing to stick to these rules etc. This eventually has been replaced with the cricket team annual beer pong. This is just another form of irresponsible drinking game.

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The club has allowed alcohol to be served to people under the age of 18 as well. Some members of the committee advised that it is OK as long as the drinks are bought by someone over the age of 18 and then given to the person underage. However, there was an 18th birthday party held earlier this year on a Saturday where the young man whose party it was did not turn 18 until the Sunday, yet he was served at the bar throughout most of the party.

In general there are also many occasions where children as young as 7 or 8 are present in the main bar area until closing time.

Another reason for my object is that during a recent beer festival (where a number of drinks were poured without being measured i.e. half pints being served in pint glasses with no half pint indicator on the glass) staff behind the beer fest bar were seen emptying cider bags directly into each others mouths behind the bar. There are images and videos showing this on social media. This behavior is against licencing law. As far as I am aware unless a person is not able drink without help due to reason of a disability there is no way you can pour a drink into someone's mouth.

I cannot see how the sports club can possibly be granted a premises licence to serve alcohol to even more people when they It seems that the club is happy to do as it pleases and ignore the current restrictions placed on it under their club premises certificate.

Having previously worked at the sports club I am fully aware of all of the goings on including the club covering up when one of the staff arranged for someone to come to the club to sell class A drugs to people in the premises at the time.

This licence should surely not be granted and I would imagine that the existing club premises certificate should be look at more closely as well and perhaps revoked due to flagrant disregard for its contents.

Yours sincerely

Mark Wilson

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE PROOF OF ITEMS SUCH AS THE
IMAGES MENTIONED PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME