



Excellence in Pub & Bar Retailing Conference

ONE MOORGATE PLACE, LONDON EC2R 6EA ~ TUESDAY 19TH MAY 2026

Tickets are £345+VAT for operators, £395+VAT for suppliers.
20% discount for operators and suppliers who are Premium Club members.
Email: kai.kirkman@propelinfo.com to book places.

★ ★ ★ SPEAKER SCHEDULE ★ ★ ★

9.00am – 10.00am: Registration and coffee

10.00am – 10.30am: **Craig Rachel**, director at leading advisory firm **AlixPartners**, examines how consumer and structural trends are influencing the outlook for pub and bar prospects and deals, and discusses transactions and asset values in the market.

10.30am – 11.00am: **Mark Bentley**, business development director at **HDI**, talks about the areas where the pub sector is and has been performing strongly and where the opportunities are for the sector to drive growth.

11.00am – 11.20am: **Jamie Allsopp**, the founder of **Allsopp's Taverns** and former City fund manager, discusses why he opted for a career change during the pandemic, swapping hedge funds for reviving his family's old beer brand, Allsopp's Ale, and then launching a pub venture.

11.20am – 11.40am: **Bex Wilkins**, co-founder of **Makers of Hospitality**, talks about leaving her role as marketing director to start her own pub company with wife Sarah, launching an award-winning debut site, opening a second site, and looking at further growth opportunities.

11.40am – 12.00pm: **Dominic Jacobs**, founder and managing director of **Ardent Pub Group**, formerly JKS Pubs, discusses securing new investment, expanding in the capital, and how the new generation of pub operators coming through are standing out.

12.00pm – 1.00pm: Lunch

1.00pm – 1.25pm: **David McDowall**, chief executive of **Stonegate Group**, talks about the continued evolution of the UK's largest pub company, as it looks to become a "partnership-led pub portfolio".

1.25pm – 1.50pm **Kevin Charity**, founder of the **Coaching Inn Group**, talks to Propel's Mark Wingett about his life in the sector, growing Coaching Inn Group into a 36-strong group with more than 1,000 rooms, to this year being named hotel group of the year, how the business balances F&B and accommodation, and his take on the wider industry.

1.50pm – 2.15pm: **Anglian Country Inns managing director James Nye** discusses how the award-winning operator rises to the challenge of being a seasonal business, and how it looks to diversify its model including the opening of its first bakery.

2.15pm – 2.45pm: Coffee Break

2.45pm – 3.05pm: **Amber Taverns chairman James Baer** talks about how the wet-led community pub group is bucking the market, providing value and entertainment as a low-price point and its progress on becoming a nationwide operator.

3.05pm – 3.25pm: **Louise Maclean**, business development director at **Signature Pub Group**, discusses the growth strategy for the 24-strong, Edinburgh-based business, as it looks to further expand in Scotland and further afield.

3.25pm – 3.45pm: **Ian Dunstall**, director at **Upham Inns**, talks about the southern England premium pubs operator's evolution, the success of its Harpers Steakhouse concept in suburban locations, and the integration of the 14 ex-Oakman Group sites.

3.45pm – 4.15pm: Panel - prospering in the pub and bar trade - **Oisin Rogers**, co-founder of **The Devonshire**, **Richard Colclough**, co-founder of **Parogon Group**, **Susan Chappell**, divisional director at **Mitchells & Butlers**, and **Ted Kennedy**, chairman of **Coral Pub Company**, discuss building momentum and sales in a challenging market.

4.15pm – 4.45pm: **Sir Tim Martin**, founder of **JD Wetherspoon**, discusses the group's move into franchising and handing his brand over to other operators, its international expansion plans and maintaining its value-led proposition in a hostile cost environment.

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Terms and conditions: Places are secured on receipt of payment only, are non-refundable but are transferable to a colleague if you are unable to attend.