

Plan ahead for the World Cup

Suzanne Davies, director of **Clifton Davies Consultancy Limited**, says it's time to start planning your World Cup match screenings now

It's less than four months now until England kick off their 2014 World Cup adventure against Italy. The prime minister has overruled the Home Office and ordered a rethink to ensure that pubs can be open for England's World Cup fixture at 11pm on Saturday 14 June. Their remaining group matches against Uruguay and Costa Rica begin earlier in the evening at 8pm and 5pm respectively and all remaining matches are scheduled for a 9pm start, apart from the final itself, which will be at 8pm on Saturday 13 July.

However, that doesn't mean you shouldn't be thinking in terms of seeking additional hours for the post-match celebrations (or commiserations, as the case may be). That will also be particularly important if a public large screen is showing a match in your immediate area.

Indeed, if you want to feature all of the tournament's matches, you will need to bear in mind that other matches start at 11pm and even as late as 2am. Some of them may well have a particular appeal for your local community.

First of all, check your premises' licences to see what your permitted hours and conditions allow you to do or, more pertinently, what they prevent you from doing. You can then assess whether you want to apply for Temporary Event Notices (TENs) for later hours on particular nights or, for example, to enable you to sell alcohol in your pub garden or other external areas. If you need some TENs, my advice would be to submit them as soon as possible.

If you have any query about this, don't hesitate to get in touch – my contact details are below.

Also, bear in mind the very sensible advice that has recently been published by the BBPA with support from the Local Government Association and the Association of Chief Police Officers. You'll find it on the BBPA website at beerandpub.com

Key aspects of the advice include the following:

- Think about letting the police and/or your licensing officer know in advance about your planned World Cup screenings
- Ensure the DPS (or a duty manager) is on duty for the screenings
- Make sure you have sufficient staff numbers to cope with the anticipated number of customers and consider whether you need to use door supervisors (registered by the SIA) to help control the numbers of people
- Review access arrangements and consider whether to restrict the number of entrances (fire regulations permitting)
- Consider using tickets to control admission and plastic glassware to lessen the risk of injury
- If you do use glass, ensure that empties are collected regularly and any broken glass is quickly cleared away
- Consider making taxi numbers and late night public transport information readily available to customers
- Make sure any CCTV system is fully operational
- Monitor and control your smoking areas, particularly at half-time and after the end of the match
- Pass on concerns or reports of disorder to the police immediately and, in the event of trouble outside the premises, keep your customers inside
- Make sure there is no excessive consumption of alcohol or sales to under-18s.



The above is not the complete BBPA list, so I do recommend you have a look online. It would also be a good idea to review all of your risk assessments with the World Cup in mind and to record all decisions that you make, as that may well assist you at a later stage in the event that, despite your best efforts, some trouble-makers cause you problems. Come on, England! 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

Clifton Davies Consultancy Ltd



Clifton Davies Consultancy Limited is a consultancy business (not a law firm) which specialises in all licensing, gambling and regulatory issues affecting the pub and bar industry. David Clifton and Suzanne Davies are also consultants to Joelson Wilson LLP. The views expressed are given without any assumption of responsibility on their part. If you have any questions, do get in touch and they will be pleased to provide answers, either via this page or direct.

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Questions & Answers



Q: What's happening with the pubco statutory code? I read that it was being debated in parliament recently.

A: You're right. It was debated in parliament on 21 January. You can read what happened on our website at cliftondavies.com but, in brief, it is taking the government longer than expected to respond after receiving about 9,000 responses to its consultation process that was started in April last year. However, during the debate the government spokesperson said that it was committed to making "the right decision to ensure a fairer and more sustainable pubs industry" and is proceeding on the basis that a tied tenant should be no worse off than a free-of-tie tenant.

Q: I've read in my local newspaper that the police want the council to introduce an EMRO. Can they do that without us having a say?

A: The police have the power to suggest the introduction of an EMRO but it is for the licensing authority to decide whether or not to do so and they first have to advertise any proposal and consider any representations made about it before making their decision.

Q: My machine income is suffering because a new betting shop has just opened next to my bar and is offering four fixed odds betting machines with a maximum stake of £100 and a maximum prize of £500. Did I hear on the news that they are going to be banned?

A: There is certainly a growing groundswell of opinion that this type of machine should be banned, or at least that the level of maximum stake and prize should be reduced. The bookmakers have recognised this threat and are lobbying the government with new plans to limit the potential harm to players using FOBTs.