

The Hill Club's Summer Thames Cruise: Celebrating a Decade of Connection, Recognition and Purpose

2 months ago



As the Cleaning & Support Services industry continues to evolve, one name stands out for its unwavering commitment to fostering unity, celebration, and social purpose across the sector: [The Hill Club](#).

This year marks a significant milestone for the organisation as it celebrates a remarkable 10 years of service to the industry. Founded in 2015 by a group of prominent figures from within the sector, The Hill Club was born out of a simple yet profound idea – to create a welcoming and dynamic platform where people connected by the common thread of “cleaning” could come together to build relationships, share ideas, and recognise excellence.

From that very first gathering almost a decade ago, which saw nearly 100 enthusiastic attendees come together, The Hill Club has grown exponentially, shaping the social and networking landscape of the industry. What began as a pioneering concept is now an established and essential fixture in the professional calendar – an inclusive hub of connection that has, to date, hosted more than 10,000 guests across a wide range of flagship events in London and beyond.

From Humble Beginnings to Industry Mainstay

The Hill Club has always done things a little differently. Rather than simply offering formal or transactional networking, its events are experiential, immersive, and energising celebrations of the people who make the cleaning and support services sector such a vibrant and vital part of the wider facilities management ecosystem.

Over the past decade, The Hill Club has built its name through its signature gatherings: from seasonal luncheons and themed networking evenings to charity-focused events that combine connection with community impact. None more so than its annual Summer Thames Cruise, which has become the most anticipated date in the cleaning industry's social calendar.

The Summer Thames Cruise – “The 10th Birthday Bash”

This year's Summer Thames Cruise – fondly referred to as “The 10th Birthday Bash” – is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet. Taking place on Thursday 3rd July 2025, the cruise sets sail at midday and promises an afternoon of relaxed but high-impact networking aboard a luxury vessel travelling along the River Thames, right through the heart of London.

With over 300 industry professionals expected to attend, including suppliers, service providers, contractors, clients and influencers from every corner of the cleaning and support services world, the cruise offers a golden opportunity for companies and individuals alike to connect, share insights and build lasting professional relationships—all against the iconic backdrop of the capital's skyline.

The Summer Thames Cruise isn't just a social highlight; it is a celebration of excellence. Each year, the cruise incorporates the Cleaning Industry Awards, which have grown into a much-respected recognition programme designed to shine a light on the outstanding individuals who work tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to keep our environments safe, hygienic and welcoming.



Honouring the Unsung Heroes

The Cleaning Industry Awards have earned a reputation for being the “people's awards” – authentic, grassroots and genuinely representative of the workforce they honour. From rising stars and sustainability champions to those who deliver outstanding customer service, the awards are a platform for recognising dedication, innovation and heart.

But the most eagerly awaited moments of the awards each year are the announcements of “Supervisor of

the Year” and “Cleaner of the Year” – nicknamed by many as the industry’s own Oscars. These awards celebrate the commitment, integrity and professionalism of individuals who are the true backbone of our sector.

For attendees, the awards ceremony is often the most emotional and inspiring part of the cruise. It’s a moment to celebrate the real stories – the people who go above and beyond, the teams who lift each other up, and the silent heroes who rarely get the spotlight they so richly deserve.

Beyond Networking: Making a Real Difference

What sets The Hill Club apart from many professional networking bodies is its embedded commitment to charity and social impact. The organisation has long believed that success should be shared, and that the industry’s collective power can be used to improve lives beyond the boardroom.

This year alone, The Hill Club has exceeded £50,000 in charitable contributions – a landmark achievement that reflects a decade of purposeful giving. Most recently, it hosted its most successful Charity Golf Open to date, with over 90 attendees – including 82 tournament players – taking part in a fantastic day of sport, camaraderie and fundraising.

The event raised valuable funds for four highly respected causes: Prostate Cancer UK, The Hygiene Bank, The Living Wage Foundation, and the charitable fund of the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners. These partnerships highlight the Club’s dedication not only to raising money, but also to championing issues such as health, dignity, and fair pay – key challenges that intersect with the cleaning sector on a daily basis.

A Word from the Chairman & Founder

Reflecting on the decade-long journey of The Hill Club and the significance of this year’s event, Founder and Chairman, Phil Smith, shared:

“When we launched The Hill Club back in 2015, our mission was to bring people together – to provide a space where those connected by the common thread of cleaning could meet as equals, share experiences and grow stronger together. Ten years on, it’s humbling to see how far we’ve come. The Summer Thames Cruise has become a true celebration of our industry’s people, and this year’s ‘10th Birthday Bash’ will be our biggest and most meaningful yet. If you’re part of this fantastic industry, there’s simply no better place to be.”

Why You Need to Be on Board

For anyone working in the Cleaning & Support Services industry – whether in operations, sales, business development, human resources, procurement, or executive leadership – The Summer Thames Cruise is unmissable.

Described by past attendees as “a perfect mix of fun and function,” “the best networking day of the year,” and “a heartfelt celebration of our people,” this is an event where relationships are formed, deals are initiated, and careers are inspired. It is, quite simply, the most enjoyable way to engage with the people who shape and drive the future of our industry.

And for organisations looking to increase brand visibility, associate with best-in-class industry initiatives, or simply support a well-loved and impactful event, there are limited sponsorship opportunities still available. With a guest list that includes hundreds of senior decision-makers, influencers, and thought leaders, this is a prime platform to put your name in front of the people who matter.

Looking Ahead with Purpose and Pride

As The Hill Club celebrates its 10th year, it stands as a testament to the power of community. It has shown that when you bring people together – not just to do business, but to share, support and celebrate – remarkable things can happen.

From its earliest beginnings, the Club has stayed true to its founding principles: connection, collaboration, and championing the human side of the cleaning industry. As it enters its second decade, The Hill Club is more relevant, more impactful, and more energised than ever.

So, on 3rd July, raise a glass, take in the view, and be part of a moment that marks not only a decade of progress, but the beginning of a bold and inspiring new chapter.

All aboard for The Hill Club's 10th Birthday Bash – see you on the river!

To book your place, explore sponsorship, or learn more about the event, visit:

<https://summerthamescruise2025.eventbrite.co.uk>