

Discarding Ken Clarke, three-times loser

You are mistaken in saying that Tory MPs were 'extraordinarily reckless' in discarding the already twice-defeated Ken Clarke (Leader, 19 October 2005). He let the party down in at least three important ways-

1. He failed to work his passage and serve in the shadow cabinet. (If he had stood at the despatch box against Gordon Brown since 1997 he might have made a big difference to Tory prospects.)
2. He set a bad example by living high on the hog off the proceeds of flogging cigarettes to the world's poor.
3. He posed unconvincingly as a late convert to Euro-scepticism.

New Conservatism needs a new leader, not a familiar has-been.