

CLUB review

The Official Voice of the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs - Vol. 22 - Issue 4 2009

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Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Held in the East Belfast Constitutional Club, on Saturday 9th May 2009

Apologies were received on behalf of the Chairman, John Davidson, which was followed by Assistant Chairman Brian McCartney chairing the meeting.

The Secretary, Bob McGlone read the minutes of the April meeting which were subsequently passed by Raymond Connor and Tommy McMinn following which the Secretary continued by covering correspondence. This included a letter of invitation to a seminar on fire prevention etc.

As the Chairman, Treasurer and PRO were away on other Federation business on the day of the seminar the Secretary and Assistant Treasurer attended to represent the interests of the Federation. The Secretary's attendance was appropriate as this was an area in which he had particular expertise gained in his working career.

In essence the seminar is about assessing fire risks etc. Recently fire risk assessment companies have sprung up offering to carry out such assessments for a fee. As the requirements from councils become more transparent they will be highlighted in forthcoming issues of Club Review.

North West delegate, Gerry Gallagher expressed concern that private member clubs may still fall into the requirement of

having doormen in private member clubs registered. However the Treasurer, Davy Larmour, confirmed that doormen in private member clubs in mainland UK are not required to register and this remains the case in Northern Ireland. Further comment was made by the acting Chairman, Brian McCartney.

Respective emails were read out with comment where appropriate. This was followed by a discussion on the position of two clubs which have encountered some problems. This was discussed at some length with the understanding that the matter will be further discussed at the June meeting. Joe Patterson suggested that prior to correspondence being forwarded on the matter that Federation representatives should meet those presenting the problem.

At this point the Treasurer presented a financial report which was passed as a true record by Tommy McMinn and Gerry Gallagher. The Treasurer continued by presenting details of the CORCA meeting in Edinburgh.

I.D. cards were discussed and it was agreed that the initiative launched by the Portman Group some years ago has been stopped due to being ineffective. It is evident that this type of I.D. is all too easily copied which in turn renders it useless.

This concluded the meeting at which point the Chairman thanked Tommy McMinn of the East Belfast Constitutional Club for hosting the meeting and for the generous hospitality prior to and following the meeting.

Bob McGlone, Secretary

Minutes of the Executive Meeting

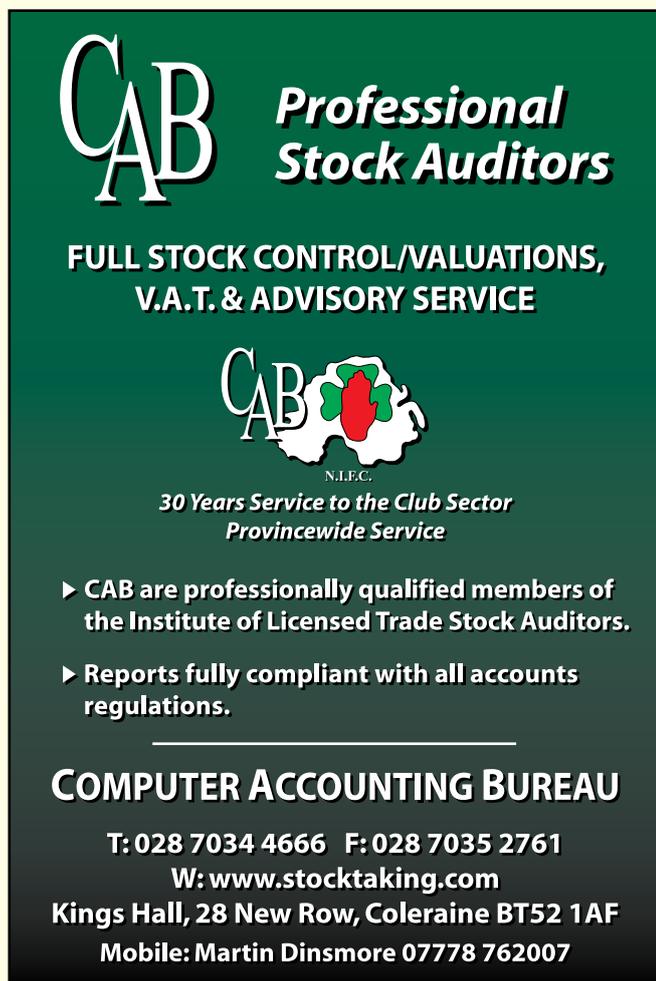
**Held in the Donegal Celtic F.S.C.,
on Saturday 13th June 2009**

The Chairman, John Davidson, opened the meeting and invited the Secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting which were passed without amendment, proposed and seconded by Gerry Gallagher and Raymond Connors.

Correspondence was read out and explanations were provided where necessary. This included information from CORCA on what may be a scam affecting clubs on the mainland but may well focus on Northern Ireland.

Correspondence relating to some clubs and PSNI visits was also read out with a discussion ensuing as to what action the Federation have taken. The Chairman went on to confirm that our discussion with the relevant inspector had been very positive and helpful. A dossier detailing the area of concern has been forwarded to all interested parties.

A detailed report was given on the seminar at Belfast's



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Fitzwilliam Hotel with input by all those representing the Federation. This provided the opportunity to put questions to those in the Minister's policy making office. Bob McGlone in particular, questioned the attitude of the relevant department to the private member club sector.

The matter of proof of ID was raised with the Federation expressing concern as to the viability of this, given that the Portman Group expended a substantial sum on launching such a scheme only to shelve it due to it being ineffective.

A letter received from the Minister, Margaret Ritchie MLA, was read out with the Chairman, John Davidson, referring to an opportune conversation with the Minister's advisors at the aforesaid seminar. An excellent debate took place on the details with input from the Treasurer, Davy Larmour, Assistant Chairman, Brian McCartney and executive committee members Gerry Gallagher and Joe Patterson.

A financial report was presented by the Treasurer, and copies were distributed to those present. The report was subsequently passed, proposed and seconded as a true record of our financial standing to date by Dessie Moore and Jim Wilson.

The Chairman, with the assistance of the PRO gave an update on Federation activities since our last meeting and pertinent letters and e-mails were read out, expounding on some of the communications received and given.

A letter had been forwarded to the Fire and Rescue authority requesting information which would be useful in carrying out a fire & safety inspection. Check-lists are available on the

Federation website, however with ever changing legislation all new updates will be provided, as and when they become available, on the Federation's website and in Club Review, at the earliest possible opportunity.

The only change that the Northern Ireland review panel accepted was the long overdue amendment to the Accounts Regulations, but to counter that it is proposed to introduce a penalty points system to be applied across the board. The Minister, Margaret Ritchie, has in her wisdom decided not to implement the original proposals, even though they had been revised at length and over a considerable period. It may be opportune to make respective MLA's aware that clubs have a membership of over 250,000 of the adult population.

A meeting of CORCA is scheduled for Wednesday 22nd July 2009 in London. On this occasion the Chairman, Treasurer and PRO will be joined by executive committee member, Dessie Moore.

Joe Patterson requested details of the benefit of membership of CORCA. This was covered by outlining the All Parliamentary Body at Westminster to which a number of Northern Ireland M.P.'s has signed up. The PRO also contributed to the discussion by outlining that the NI Federation of Clubs make a significant contribution to the organisation. This can of course provide a loud voice via lobbying in addressing numerous issues.

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed and thanks were extended to Brian McCartney and the Donegal Celtic committee for hosting the meeting and for the excellent hospitality provided prior to and following the meeting.

Bob McGlone, *Secretary*



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2009 N.I. Federation of Clubs Annual Dinner & Dance



We are delighted to complete our coverage of the InBev Ireland sponsored 2009 Dinner and Dance of the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs at the Members' Rooms, King's Hall, Belfast.

We wish to thank members for the many positive comments we have received following the evening.

At this stage the date for the 2010 Dinner and Dance has not been confirmed. Confirmation of the final date will be published in due course.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Pictures courtesy of 'The Party Press'.



(L-R) The NIFC's Tom McMinn and his wife Kathleen with Federation Chairman John Davidson and his wife Carol.



Davy Larmour (centre) with Hugh Stockman and Sam Ingram.



Siobhan Magill, Sales Manager, Oasis Retail Services and guest.



Sam Dinsmore (right) in the company of our trade guests.



Gerry McLarnon of G&T Vending and his wife Anne.



1. **Harold Beckinsale and his wife Janice in the company of the Federation's Jim Wilson.**
2. **Heather Elwood with the Federation Treasurer, Davy Larmour, getting into the spirit of things.**
3. **Mr & Mrs Martin Dinsmore, Computer Accounting Bureau.**
4. **Representatives from the R.A.O.B. H.Q. in Belfast.**
5. **Mr Tommy Brown and his brother John together with their wives are annual visitors to our main event of the year.**
6. **Members of Contrast during a brief break. Contrast have been popular visitors on a number of occasions.**
7. **Chris Asbury and his guest representing Dundela F.C.**



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- 8. **Michael Beckinsale, Media Marketing, with his wife Beverley.**
- 9. **NIFC executive committee member, Philip Mallon with his wife Pat.**
- 10. **Representatives from the Larne Boat Club.**
- 11. **(L-R) Representatives of the H&W Welders FSC with Mr & Mrs Lawrence Shearer.**
- 12. **Pat Quinn (centre) and Gerry Moore (left), P&F Amusements, with Federation Assistant Chairman, Brian McCartney.**
- 13. **Mr Hugh Lewis and his wife, Du Pont Club, L/Derry.**
- 14. **Castleton Bowling Club, Belfast.**



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Enjoy a Refreshing Start to Summer with Harp Ice Cold



Peter McIlwaine, Diageo Northern Ireland, Breige Clenaghan, Harp Ice Cold and Connor Phillips, Cool FM, celebrated a refreshing start to summer 2009 with a cool pint of Harp Ice Cold, after competing in the Harp Ice Cold "Pour your Own Pint" competition held in Belfast in June.

Guinness Announces First Ever Global Ad Campaign

Earlier this month (July), Guinness announced details of their first ever global advertising campaign entitled, 'To Arthur', which pays tribute to Arthur Guinness in this remarkable year in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the lease on St James' Gate Brewery. The advertisement, produced by world renowned agency Saatchi & Saatchi, centers on Arthur Guinness signing the lease on the St James' Gates Brewery in 1759.

'To Arthur' sees a toast "To Arthur" beginning inside a pub setting in Ireland and slowly morphing into something quite different as it travels around the world!

To continue the Guinness 250 celebrations, on 24th September 2009, millions of Guinness supporters, consumers and celebrities from around the world will raise a glass to Arthur and unite in a remarkable global celebration. The day itself has been named Arthur's Day in commemoration of Arthur Guinness signing the 9,000 year lease 250 years ago. The celebrations will take place in Dublin and around the world in cities including New York, Lagos, and Kuala Lumpur. Live music and entertainment will come from some of the world's biggest names in music including, The Black Eyed Peas, Soul II Soul and The Undertones, with further artists to be announced.

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Bushmills Celebrates 400 Years



Allison Offor, Diageo Northern Ireland, Gordon Donoghue, Director of the Old Bushmills Distillery, Sarah Miles, Global Brand Director Bushmills and Simon Earley, Bushmills Global Brand team.

In 2008 Bushmills celebrated the 400th anniversary of the original licence to distil whiskey in the Bushmills area.

To celebrate its anniversary year Bushmills:

- Released a very special and limited edition whiskey called Bushmills 1608. A unique blend of tradition and innovation,

the 1608 combines classic features of Bushmills whiskey, with a groundbreaking process of distillation using crystal malt to deliver exceptional smoothness.

- Announced a landmark agreement with the Bank of Ireland for the Old Bushmills Distillery to feature on all new banknotes. This agreement is truly iconic and a fitting tribute to Bushmills and its legacy. It is reflective of the importance of Bushmills to the fabric of Northern Ireland.
- Conducted a USA-wide search for the “Twin City of Bushmills in America”. After narrowing its search to three finalist cities, Bushmills asked Americans to choose the winner by voting online at Bushmills400years.com. More than 55,000 votes were cast and Louisville, Kentucky emerged the clear champion. In addition to the Twin City title, Louisville was also awarded a grant for the advancement of local culture and funding for a responsible drinking program.
- Signed a three year sponsorship agreement with the Irish Rugby team in 2007. Bushmills is now the official Spirit of the Irish Rugby Team, has the rights to use the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) logo on approved marketing and PR materials, and Keith Wood the former Irish Rugby captain is an official brand ambassador for BUSHMILLS.
- Announced that it is the official Spirit of the British and Irish Lions for the South Africa tour in 2009.
- The Old Bushmills Distillery was awarded the ‘Outstanding Contribution to Tourism’ award at the 2008 Northern Ireland Tourism Awards.

Investment in the Distillery

On acquisition of Old Bushmills Distillery for £200 million in August 2005, Diageo immediately doubled, and has since trebled, whiskey production at the distillery. £8.5 million has been invested to update infrastructure and distilling capacity at the distillery, which includes the installation of a new Mash Tun, the addition of a 10th potstill, the overhaul of IT infrastructures and the construction of a new warehouse to accommodate the increasing volume of maturing stock.

Today there are 120 people who directly work at the distillery in all areas through distilling, blending, maturation and bottling. The distillery visitors’ centre welcomes 120,000 visitors each year. Bushmills is very different from most other distilleries - in that everything involved in the whiskey making process takes place on the one site.

Diageo’s global vision for BUSHMILLS whiskey is to grow the brand from its current annual sales of 500,000 cases, to 1 million cases. 75% of BUSHMILLS whiskey is currently produced for the export market and its biggest markets are North America, Ireland, France and Great Britain.

What to look for in a good Irish Whiskey

At Bushmills, we think a good whiskey should be:

- Engaging: it is easy to enjoy, from the very first sip.
- Rich/full of flavour: there’s enough going on in the glass to keep you interested.
- Smooth, warming: it warms rather than bites or burns.
- Characterful: when you add water or a mixer it doesn’t lose its flavour.

Did you know? When you add water it opens up a good whiskey but kills a bad one. Try it out!

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Charity 'Reaches for the Stars'



UTV's Pamela Ballentine shows her daredevil side as she joins Lorraine McGoran, Marketing Manager, at Odyssey Arena to help launch Prince's Trust's freestyle abseil charity event, which takes place at the Arena on Saturday, 1st August.

Prince's Trust has reached out to daredevils across Northern Ireland in hosting a freestyle abseil at Odyssey Arena on Saturday 1st August as a fundraiser for the charity which provides annual practical and financial support to over 3,000 of the region's most disadvantaged young people.

As part of the freestyle abseil participants will descend a dizzy 23 meters from the roof inside the Odyssey Arena without their feet touching any surfaces, and experience the closest sensation to abseiling out of a helicopter. There will also be a lively atmosphere on the day with Prince's Trust young businesses exhibiting their work, and Sonic DJ academy providing entertainment.

Commenting on their partnership with Prince's Trust Northern Ireland, Lorraine McGoran, Marketing Manager, at Odyssey Arena said, "This is a brilliant event for Prince's Trust and we are pleased to offer our facilities and staff to help raise much needed funds for young people in Northern Ireland. We pride ourselves in providing a variety of events for all tastes and ages and this fundraising challenge provides the perfect occasion for fun-loving people with a sense of adventure to do something for a local charity."

Aodhán Connolly, Head of Commercial Development at Prince's Trust Northern Ireland, said, "We're delighted that Odyssey Arena is hosting our freestyle abseil as part of their ongoing support of the charity. We're pleased to have 'roped in' individuals and businesses from across Northern Ireland to take part in this abseil with a difference. Participants will not only be enjoying an exciting personal challenge but at the same time will be helping raise funds to connect local young people to Prince's Trust and sustain the support we can give them."



Bangor Ex-Services "Help Heroes"



(L-R) Denis Deacon, Secretary, Sarah Woodward and Neal Somerville, H4H, Alec Campbell, President and Dave Riley, Chairman at the cheque presentation.

Bangor Ex-Services Club held a weekend of events recently to raise funds for "Help for Heroes" - the charity formed to assist in the treatment and rehabilitation of wounded ex-servicemen. Events included a bingo evening, fancy dress dance with a charity auction, and a sponsored walk.

The sum donated to the charity was a magnificent £3,500 and thanks are extended to everyone who helped in the various activities held.

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Get Ready for an Ice-Cold Summer

The tagline “The World’s Biggest Fridge” on Coors Light’s latest advertising campaign makes reference to the brand’s successful positioning as the coldest and most refreshing beer straight from the Rocky Mountains.



The most recent campaign was hugely successful with coverage spread across Northern Ireland.

Coors Light is the fastest growing packaged lager in Northern Ireland and is now firmly established as one of the province’s favourite draught lagers, popular with men and women of all ages due to its crisp, light taste and 4.5% ABV.

It will be no surprise to customers that the Coors brewery, in

Golden, Colorado, in the Rocky Mountains sees temperatures as low as 30°C below zero. The brewing process itself uses a system of ice-cold techniques to create the unique light taste and during the process, frost can even be found forming on the pipes.

With Coors Light’s cold-activated bottle, the famous Rocky Mountains featured on the label turns from white to blue when the beer reaches its optimum drinking temperature of 4 degrees whilst the ground breaking ice-cold draught technology will guarantee customers receive that just-right serve every time, making Coors Light the perfect beer to enjoy over the warm, summer months ahead!

Charity ‘Reaches for the Stars’



Pictured are the guests who gave up their time to help launch the walk in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown.

Later this year, a group of young people from Carrickmore, all of them young but some of them younger, will embark on a challenging fundraising venture when they take on what amounts to 10 marathons in 10 days. On 10th July they will leave Cork City centre on foot, with ten days to complete their trek to Carrickmore. The trip is a repeat of one completed two decades ago and three of that group Sean Kerr, Dan Hughes and Kieran Hurson are among the eighteen that will undertake this year’s “long march”. The purpose of the endeavour is to raise funds for local cancer charities which include Marie Curie Cancer Care and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Each one of the group are well into their personal fitness regimes and despite the inclement weather hi viz jackets are much in evidence on the highways and byways of mid Tyrone. Fundraising started on 1st January and already in excess of £10,000 has been pledged. All expenses of the walk will be covered by sponsors, so every penny or cent collected will go to the nominated charities.

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Healy Gives Footie School Top Score



David helps Dylan Agnew (6) and Tori Laverty (15) from the Inner East Youth Project, get ready for the opening of the football summer school in July.

Top Northern Ireland striker David Healy called into the Flagship Centre, recently to check out their football summer school, give it his seal of approval and encourage girls and boys from 6-14 yrs, of all abilities, to sign up and take part.

Award Winners



Chief Executive of Drumbo Park Greyhound Stadium John McCollum(right) pictured with General Manager Neil Redmond and staff member Stacy Clark after they won Best Tourism and Best New Business at the Lisburn City Council Business Awards.

Photo John Harrison.

Coors Light Celebrates America's Birthday



Coors Light is looking forward to celebrating its American roots by hosting 50 Independence Day Parties across Northern Ireland on 4th July. Partygoers can look forward to the Coors Light celebrations which will include BBQs, drink promotions and live music. Ross Lauder and Olivia Jennings joined Aisling Duffy (centre) from Coors Light in the run up to the Independence Day Parties with an ice-cold, refreshing pint of Coors Light, to celebrate a very successful first year since the launch of Coors Light draught in Northern Ireland.

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Dame Mary Peters Casts Her Place In Olympic History



Dame Mary Peters 'leaves her mark'.

The National Lottery recently recognised the sporting achievements of Northern Ireland's Dame Mary Peters, by creating casts of her hand and footprints as part of a nationwide campaign.

Best known for her glittering athletics career, Dame Mary is the only Summer Olympic Gold medallist in Northern Ireland and had her casts taken at the Mary Peters Athletics Track just one week before she celebrates her 70th birthday.

"I'm delighted to be taking part in The National Lottery's iconic campaign, especially given the huge impact The National Lottery has made on sport at all levels throughout the UK," said Dame Mary.

"To have my hands and feet cast alongside some of the great British Olympians and Paralympians is a great honour, especially in the lead up to London 2012."

Dame Mary has already begun planning her birthday celebrations with the launch of a special 10km road race which will take place on the eve of her birthday, Sunday 05 July.

The series of commemorative works has been commissioned by The National Lottery to honour Olympic and Paralympic Games competitors from every corner of the UK, with the aim of exhibiting them in the build up to and during London 2012.

Approximately 80 of the UK's Olympic and Paralympic Gold medal winners since the last London Olympic Games in 1948 will be invited to participate in the campaign, representing 60 years of sporting success.

National Lottery funding will contribute almost £2.2 billion to the cost of the London Games, of which £750 million will come from sales of specially designated lottery games including Dream Number, certain Scratchcards and all interactive Instant Win Games at national-lottery.co.uk – giving lottery players the chance to 'Be Part of It'. The total raised for London 2012 from all designated lottery games is currently more than £400 million.

All the Good Causes money raised from sales of these designated games will go towards funding the provision of facilities and supporting infrastructure for the 2012 Games.

More than £3 billion has already been invested in sport from money raised by National Lottery players across the UK since 1994. Since lottery funding began, 437 Olympic and Paralympic medals have been won by British athletes.

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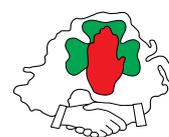
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Golf Tournament Continues Success

The annual golf tournament at Fortwilliam Golf Club in Belfast, hosted by the N.I. Cancer Fund for Children's Maysfield Support Group was once again an enormous success.



(L-R) Suzanne Phillips, McKeever Group with Eddie McCabe, Maysfield Support Group and Gillian Creevy, NICFC Chief Executive.

Speaking at the event the charity's Chief Executive, Gillian Creevy, highlighted the services provided by the charity and an important new development which will see the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children undertake to provide services previously provided by Click Sargent.

Gillian thanked the Maysfield Support Group and all those in attendance for their valuable and continued support, going on to underline the important role played by support groups throughout the province which enables the charity to maintain its extensive list of services to help children, parents and carers.



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"Its pink and bubbly the perfect accessory for a good night out" – Lisa, 24, Belfast.

West Coast Cooler's sales have grown by 15% over the past two years. It's the drink of choice for many Irish female consumers, with the number of repeat West Coast Cooler drinkers increasing by 10% in the past 12 months.

Did you know that 65% of females have not decided what they will drink when they approach the counter! Positioning West Coast Cooler on the top shelf of the fridge will allow your female customers to find what they are looking for. Girls often choose beers as they think there is no alternative. By having West Coast Cooler visible, you are helping them find their first choice. Now watch your sales bubble! Offer your female customers a refreshing alternative with West Coast Cooler Rosé. It's this season's new must have item - pink is the new black!

This season's latest fashion accessory can be found in outlets throughout the country in a glamorous 250ml bottle which will be served straight from the fridge and in a uniquely designed glass.

West Coast Cooler Rosé will be supported by significant investment in advertising and promotions, which will include television advertising. West Coast Cooler Rosé, a wine cooler that is sure to be forever the classic LBD (Little Black Dress) of your fridge!

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Guinness Unveils Three Remarkable Once-In-A Lifetime Experiences

In space, under the sea and live in studio with global superstars

In July, Guinness announced the launch of Guinness Experiences - an unforgettable trip into space aboard Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic Spaceship, a journey to the depths of the sea in the world's first Guinness deep sea bar; and an exclusive gig in an intimate studio setting with one of the biggest recording groups in the world, multi-platinum recording artist The Black Eyed Peas. The Guinness Experiences form part of the global Guinness 250 celebrations - marking 250 years since Arthur Guinness signed the 9,000 year lease on the St James's Gate brewery in Dublin.

Since 1759, Arthur Guinness and the Guinness brand have been behind some remarkable and hugely momentous achievements. To continue this legacy and as part of the 250 celebrations, Guinness is giving something back to their supporters around the world by offering the chance to win one of these three remarkable prizes. Launched on the 1st July, this is the first consumer promotion held in markets around the world for the Guinness brand and the lucky winners will be announced later in the year.

GUINNESS SPACE EXPERIENCE

The Guinness Space Experience will offer one lucky person the awe-inspiring opportunity to become one of the first early non-professional astronauts to venture into space with Sir Richard



Branson's Virgin Galactic, the world's first commercial spaceline, and truly experience the 'black stuff' firsthand. The partnership between Guinness and Virgin Galactic brings together two iconic global brands.

The winner and a friend will be treated to an unforgettable trip to New Mexico – Virgin Galactic's home at Spaceport America. Whilst there, the winner will be given full training to ensure they are mentally and physically prepared for the momentous flight that will race them through the Earth's atmosphere at almost 2500mph – three times the speed of sound. Sitting 68 miles above the Earth's surface, they will experience the amazing feeling of weightlessness; floating effortlessly around the cabin. The final jaw-dropping chapter to this astounding adventure will be the view of Earth from the blackness of space, stretching 1000 miles in all directions, before returning safely to the spaceport to receive official astronaut wings.

GUINNESS SEA EXPERIENCE

The Guinness Sea Experience will offer one winner and two friends a truly unique experience; venturing to the depths of the sea in

the first ever Guinness deep sea bar. The guests will be treated to an incredible four day trip to the Lofoten Islands in Norway, where they will board the exclusively designed deep sea bar and plunge into the black stuff. The winner and friends will be able to enjoy a Guinness in style, surrounded by a breathtaking seascape to depths of up to 70m below sea level.

GUINNESS STUDIO EXPERIENCE

The Guinness Studio Experience entitles one winner and two friends to an exclusive live performance by The Black Eyed Peas at an intimate recording studio as part of their forthcoming world tour. This is a private, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the winner and friends to experience the band's music, up close and personal. After the performance, the winner and friends will round off this great experience by spending some time hanging out with the band.

The Guinness Experiences global consumer promotion is open to adults all around the world and will run from 1st July through to Arthur's Day, 24th September. For your chance to win one of these remarkable prizes and for information on the Guinness 250 celebrations and Arthur's Day, please visit www.guinness.com

UWM Announces Distribution of International Beverage Brands

United Wine Merchants Ltd has announced an agreement with International Beverage which will see the local company distributing Kulov Vodka, Coldstream Gin, MacArthur's Blended Scotch Whisky and Old Pulteney Single Malt Scotch Whisky. The announcement underlines the Craigavon-based wholesalers' credentials as a leading distributor having been appointed by International Beverage following a company review of distribution of the brands throughout the island of Ireland.

Commenting, Martin McAuley, Managing Director of United Wine Merchants said, "Kulov, Coldstream and MacArthur's are already established brands in this marketplace having been distributed here for more than 30 years, and United Wine Merchants have the commitment and resource to build on the success and sales volumes of the brands not only with existing customers but with new accounts across all of Ireland."



In addition to brands that are already familiar in the marketplace, United Wine Merchants will also market and distribute a number of other brands within the growing International Beverage portfolio.

Nial Mackinlay, UK Sales Director at International Beverage added, "the independent retailers have been and are key to the continued success of these brands, and we are grateful to all of those who have continually supported the brands, and look very much forward to developing all of our brands and the new partnership with United Wines."

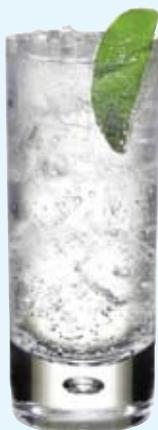
Fined for Selling Fake Gin

Premises in Northumberland have been fined after an inspection showed bottles of branded vodka and gin had been topped up with cheaper own brand alternatives.

The case was brought by the County Council's Trading Standards Department and followed a routine inspection when four samples were taken from branded bottles of vodka and gin.

Although there was no reason to believe they were not the genuine product, when the samples were analysed they were shown not to contain the branded spirits. It seems that bottles may have been topped back up with unbranded gin or vodka. Procedures have now been changed to avoid this happening again.

The case proves that temptation should be avoided in tempting to pass off cheap brands as the real thing as it is certain that at some point you are likely to be found out.



Sky TV Update

The Federation are aware that an agreement is in place between Sky Television, the ECB (England Cricket Board) and the RFU (Rugby Football Union).



This agreement affords a special rate for Sky Base and Sky Ultimate which costs £108 per month and £171 per month respectfully.

We know of at least one cricket club in Northern Ireland which is benefitting from this agreement and a discussion with Sky has been very helpful in confirming that if a cricket club or rugby club in Northern Ireland has an affiliation with either the ECB or the RFU then they can benefit from the agreement.

The Federation are now in contact with Sky Television in an attempt to negotiate a similar arrangement with Northern Ireland sports, social and recreational clubs as the vast majority of the province's clubs are registered as sports clubs, confirmed through the rates rebate afforded to them.

Member's will be updated as information becomes available.

Having to Cut Staff Numbers?

With the decline in the number of members attending our clubs, it is important that Committees sit back and examine the number of staff required to serve the members. It is wrong for clubs to have two or three employees hanging around just serving the odd member, when there are very few attending the club. Each committee will have to take the decision as to whether to make staff redundant, or just wait until people leave and not replace them.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) have produced a leaflet on proposed redundancies and although most of it relates to larger organisations than our clubs, the basic principle still applies. An employer must consult with the trade union or an employee representative if it is proposed to dismiss 20 or more employees at one place of work. This will almost certainly not affect our clubs; but the following information may prove useful.

The employer must disclose certain information in writing:

- the reasons for the proposed redundancies
- the numbers of employees affected
- the proposed method of selecting employees
- the method of carrying out dismissals taking into account any contractual agreed procedure
- how redundancy payments, other than the legal minimum, will be calculated. It is imagined most clubs will stick to the minimum as laid down by the Government for payment.

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MLA's Take Initiative on Expenses Principles

The recent bad press which has seen numerous Westminster M.P.s subjected to scrutiny has no doubt played a role in prompting action at our own Assembly. This is a positive step and one which I'm sure everyone will applaud.



At a meeting chaired by the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, William Hay MLA, the leaders of all of the political parties represented in the Northern Ireland Assembly agreed to a set of ten "guiding principles" which should underpin a recently announced review of the expenses available to Assembly Members.

The ten principles, set out below will require the Assembly's expenses system to continue to be based on the recovery of actual expenditure, not on an entitlement to allowances. They also include a commitment to openness and transparency and ensuring that any expenditure incurred by MLAs provides value for money. MLAs will also be expected to act within both the spirit and the letter of any rules set down.

The Speaker, William Hay, said, "We are reviewing the expenses arrangements for our Assembly Members. Although we have a completely different system than Westminster, I am aware that the recent negative publicity about how MPs claim expenses has dented public trust and confidence. I am pleased that the leaders of all the parties have enthusiastically agreed to recommend that these principles be used as the basis for our expenses system. I hope that the public will be encouraged that our local politicians are determined to ensure that the Assembly has an open, transparent and robust expenses system in which the public can have confidence."

The principles are:

1. MLAs have a duty to observe the seven Nolan principles of public life in all aspects of incurring expenditure and claiming expenses.
2. MLAs have a right to be properly supported in carrying out their Assembly duties.
3. Any expenses claimed must be in respect of expenditure that has been wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred in respect of a Member's Assembly duties.
4. The system for claiming expenses incurred by MLAs in performing their Assembly duties should be based on the

recovery of actual expenditure, not on an entitlement to allowances.

5. Openness and transparency about expenditure incurred by Members will predominate, subject only to data protection, security considerations and inordinate or disproportionate costs.
6. Resources provided to enable MLAs to undertake their Assembly duties must not, directly or indirectly, benefit party political funding or be used for party political activities.
7. Arrangements should be avoided which may give rise to an accusation that an MLA, or someone close to an MLA, is obtaining an element of profit from public funds; or that public money is being diverted for the benefit of a political organisation.
8. MLAs will seek to ensure that any expenditure incurred provides value for money for the tax-payer.
9. MLAs will take personal responsibility for ensuring that any claims made in their name for expenses incurred in respect of their Assembly duties are correct and proper.
10. For all expenses claims, MLAs must act within the spirit of the rules as well as within the letter of the rules. The Assembly Commission will publish the rules and detailed guidance on the system for claiming expenses, and Assembly officials will provide any further guidance that may be required by Members.

This agreement follows a recent decision by the Assembly Commission to further improve transparency by publishing additional information on Members' expenses. In September 2009, full details of every transaction made by an MLA (effective from April 2009) will be published on the Assembly's website.

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Focus Placed On Irresponsible Minority

“rather than penalise everyone”

The publicity surrounding the anti-social behaviour issue is ever increasing as is activity throughout the trade.

Added to this the Portman Group, in March 2009 urged the Government to concentrate on changing the behaviour of harmful drinkers rather than punish everyone by setting a minimum price for alcohol.

Responding to the Chief Medical Officer’s call for a minimum unit price for alcohol, David Poley, Portman Group Chief Executive,



said, “This would hit the pockets of hard-working families who are already struggling to make ends meet, and it would not deter binge drinkers or those addicted to alcohol. Rather than punishing everyone we should focus on the irresponsible

minority. Peer pressure and role modelling are far more influential than the price of alcohol. Sustained education and proper enforcement of the alcohol laws are the most powerful levers of social change.”

This view concurs with the Federation’s view, indeed the Chairman, John Davidson, outlined this very point some time ago. At a recent seminar in Belfast hosted by the P.S.N.I. the Federation representatives highlighted the need to encourage good practice through education in the same way that smoking has been successfully targeted.

Questions and Answers

Q. Can we advertise for new members?

A. There is no problem with a club advertising via local media or a mailshot to nearby households. The club must ensure any new applicants are interviewed and elected in line with the club’s constitution. Most individuals have no idea what a club is like. If they visit a number could apply for membership.

Q. We usually have a month’s stock of alcohol in the cellar. Is this advisable?

A. I would only keep a maximum of two weeks’ stock. Let the club’s money earn interest in the bank rather than help breweries with unnecessary stock levels. Re-ordering is very easy these days.

Change to Procedure

The Statutory Dispute Resolution Procedures were altered on April 6. The Government repealed the mandatory “1-2-3 step” procedure introduced four years ago. Employment Tribunals will instead study the procedure followed by both parties in an attempt to resolve difficulties in the workplace.

The Statutory Code of Practice has been revised and will form the basis of all disciplinary and grievance procedures and sets out all the principles of what employers and employees should do to achieve a reasonable standard of procedure. When available, full details will be provided.

Employment Tribunals will consider whether a failure to follow procedure is unreasonable taking into account the size of the business and will have discretion to adjust awards up or down by up to 25% in relation to both employer or employee.

Welsh Charge

A South Wales club has been fined £450 with £450 costs for allowing drinking outside and failing to stop a customer smoking in the foyer. The court heard council officers entered the club and purchased drinks which were consumed both on the premises or on occasion outside. They also saw people drinking outside the property and smoking in the foyer. At no time during their visit were they asked if they were members or bona fide guests of members.

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Ballycanal Chief Wins Inaugural Tennent's Gold Cup



L-R Ryan Rossborough, Assistant Racing Manager Drumbo Park, Francis Murray, Trainer, Pat McCartan, Owner, Paul Rollins, Regional Account Manager, Inbev Ireland Ltd. Christina McCartan, John McCollum, Chief Executive, Drumbo Park and finally not forgetting the imperious "Ballycanal Chief".

Ballycanal Chief, the PJ syndicate owned dog from Moira and trained by Francis Murray romped home to become the first winner of the Tennent's Gold Cup at a packed Drumbo Park Greyhound Stadium on Saturday 13 June 2009. John McCollum; Chief Executive, commented, "We are delighted with the support we have received for this prestigious event from InBev Ireland. The Tennent's Gold Cup now has a worthy champion and the winning syndicate walk off with a cheque for £10,000 and a trophy as a result of winning this thrilling race in a time of 28.41 seconds."

Paul Rollins; Regional Account Manager of InBev Ireland Ltd was delighted to be associated with such a prestigious event and commented, "Drumbo Park is now firmly established as Northern Ireland's New Night Out and we look forward to working with them in the future- tonight's Tennent's Gold Cup was an exciting climax to the event held over the past number of weeks and a worthy winner was crowned champion tonight."

Harp Football Writers Awards 2009



Harp Football Writers Manager of the Year, Alan McDonald, receiving his award from Terry Loughins, Diageo.

Specsavers 2 for 1 Derby at Down Royal



Specsavers Chairman for N. Ireland, Stuart Douglas, presents the trophy to winning jockey, Colm O'Donoghue, who rode Changing the Guard to victory at the Specsavers 2 for 1 Derby at Down Royal racecourse on 20th June. The newly rebranded Specsavers 2 for 1 Derby is the richest flat race in Northern Ireland with a prize fund of €70,000. Stuart was also joined by speccy twins Angeline and Jennifer McKenna.

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Lion Heart Ferris Scoops Top Award

The annual Ulster Rugby Awards Ceremony was held recently in Belfast, sponsored this year by Magners, Ulster Rugby's official drinks partner.

Over 320 guests gathered to celebrate achievements and development of rugby at all levels with the ceremony, bringing together the cream of the crop in Ulster. The awards recognised the role that school, youth, club and professional players, as well as their teams and clubs, play in the development of the game in the province.

Ulster's latest Lion, Stephen Ferris, who is touring South Africa as part of Ian McGeechan's squad, scooped the top accolade of Magners Personality of the Year. The Award marked his achievements for Ulster and Ireland this season, one which saw him cement



Pictured with the Magners Personality of the Year and Magners Rugby Writer's Award winner Stephen Ferris following the Ulster Rugby Awards held in Belfast recently is, Harry Beckinsale and Thomas McMinn from the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs, Gavan Morris, Magners Marketing Manager and Chris Brennan from Diageo. *Picture John Dickson, www.dicksondigital.com*

his reputation as one of European rugby's hottest talents, and the huge role he played in Ireland's Grand Slam and Triple Crown success.

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Dorrington B Faulkner Memorial Award for Services to Rugby in Ulster is presented to Armagh stalwart William Davidson by Tom Andrews, President of Perennial RFC, during the Ulster Rugby Awards. *Picture John Dickson, www.dicksondigital.com*

AWARD WINNERS IN FULL:

Magners League Rugby Writers' Award
Stephen Ferris

Calor Gas Ulster Youth Player of the Year
Stephen Irvine (Banbridge)

Northern Bank Ulster Schools Player of the Year
Niall Annett (MCB)

Phoenix Academy Player of the Year
Willie Faloon (Ballynahinch)

Kukri Club of the Year
Ballynahinch RFC

Dorrington B Faulkner Award for Services to Rugby
William Davidson (Armagh RFC)

Bank of Ireland Ulster Player of the Year
Rory Best

Ken Goodall Award for the Club Player of the Year
Chris Stevenson (Ballynahinch)

Ulster Branch Award for Special Merit
City of Derry RFC

Vodafone Young Ulster Player of the Year
Darren Cave

Magners Ulster Rugby Personality of the Year
Stephen Ferris



Bank of Ireland Ulster Player of the Year Award is presented to Ulster skipper, Rory Best by Ian Sheppard, Head of Bank of Ireland Corporate and Property Division.



The Merit Award is presented to City of Derry President Alan McClure by John Boyd, Ulster Branch President.



Kukri Club of the Year Award is presented to Ballynahinch President Alan Simms by Terry Jackson Director and General Manager of Kukri Sports Ireland.



Northern Bank Ulster Schools Player of the Year Award is presented to Methodist College skipper Niall Annett by Gerry Mallon, Chief Executive of the Northern Bank.



City of Derry Award in Memory of Ken Goodall for Club Player of Year is presented to Ballynahinch player Chris Stevenson by City of Derry President Alan McClure.



Vodafone Young Player of the Year Award is presented to Ulster centre, Darren Cave by Pauline Quigley, Head of Vodafone Northern Ireland.



Phoenix Academy Player of the year Award is presented to Ballynahinch flanker Willie Faloon by Alastair Pollock, Retail Operations Director of Phoenix Gas.



Calor Gas Ulster Youth Player of the Year Award is presented to Banbridge player Stephen Irvine by Mark McClements, Sales Manager of Calor Gas.



Deputy First Minister Welcomes GAA Dignitaries



Pictured during a courtesy visit by the President of the GAA to Stormont recently are, Tom Daly, Ulster Council President, Christy Cooney, President GAA, making his first visit to Stormont, Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, Nicky Brennan, Former President and Paraic Duffy, Director General GAA.

GAA 'Rivals Campaign'



A selection of Gaelic Games biggest stars from rival counties including Dublin, Kerry, and Cork clashed in George's Quay recently at the launch of Ulster Bank's GAA 'Rivals Campaign' where the talented seven announced a host of promotional activities taking place throughout the country to support the GAA on its 125 year anniversary. Pictured at the launch are, (l-r) John Gardiner, Cork, Joe Bergin, Galway, Bryan Cullen, Dublin, Kevin McGuckin, Derry, Darren O'Sullivan, Kerry, Finian Hanley, Galway and Sean Og O hAilpin, Cork, with Sarah Dempsey, head of Sponsorship and Corporate Responsibility, Ulster Bank, and radio presenter, Eoin McDevitt.

UGAAWA Merit Awards



Ryan Carson pictured being presented with the Quinn Insurance/UGAAWA Merit Award for May, for his performance against Down in the Ulster Senior Championship, by Declan Reilly, Quinn Group Commercial Sales Manager. Also in the picture is Sean McMahon, UGAAWA and Deirdre Donnelly, Press Officer Fermanagh County Board.

When championship time arrives there is always a surplus of talent to choose our Monthly Merit Award winner from as counties and clubs rev up for the big occasion. May 2009 was no exception with football and hurling on the menu but when we sat down to debate the issue the name of Ryan Carson figured prominently.

The Newtownbutler clubman re-appeared on the county scene earlier this season after an absence of around five years and made his senior championship debut against Down at Brewster Park, last month.

"That was the first time I played full-forward since my under-21 days," recalled Ryan (26)."

It was quite a return for the towering 6'2", 14 stone attacker as he lofted over six points - five frees - against favourites Down, as Fermanagh knocked the Mourne men out of the Ulster race. Not only that but his general play had the Down defence in trouble. For that performance, Ryan won our Quinn Insurance/UGAAWA Merit Award for May.

"I'm really chuffed and I can't believe I have won the award," enthused Ryan when told of his selection for the honour. "I never thought that I would be in the running for anything like that."

His award includes a Quinn Insurance sponsored sports voucher, an engraved Belleek China vase, specially designed silver cufflinks from Omeath jeweller Gareth Mallon and training gear from O'Neill's International Sports. He will also receive two tickets and overnight accommodation for our annual banquet, on November 20.

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Kenny Dalglish Abandons Liverpool

Kenny Dalglish astounded everybody when he suddenly quit as the manager of Liverpool on February 22. In Dalglish's six year reign Liverpool had won three League titles and two FA Cups, and in his first season had become the third club this century to win the Double.



Kenny Dalglish.

The resignation seemed inexplicable - Liverpool were top of the table and still in the FA Cup, having drawn 4-4 with Everton two days previously. Dalglish cited the enormous pressure he put himself under to be successful as the reason. But as Howard Wilkinson said, "If he has resigned because of the pressures, the rest of us have no chance."

For once the smooth Liverpool tradition of continuity was broken. Ronnie Moran was made care-taker manager, and the search for a successor was on. One by one candidates ruled themselves out, including the Rangers manager Graeme Souness who said, "I would never contemplate leaving Ibrox." However, on April 16, Souness did move to Anfield.

But in the championship the damage had been done, Liverpool lost the title to an Arsenal side that had only lost one League match all season. And, curiously, Dalglish shrugged off the self-imposed pressure and accepted the manager's job at Blackburn before the end of the year.

England Hit Rock Bottom

England crash-landed on their winter tour of Australia. Graham Gooch's team were thrashed 3-0 in the Ashes series, failed to qualify for the finals of the three-team World Series Cup and were embarrassingly beaten in a one-day series in New Zealand.

They won only one first-class match and it was the sour manner in which they took defeat that made them one of the most unpopular teams to leave England. Phil Tufnell turned his back on his captain when Gooch attempted to congratulate him after the spinner had taken his first Test wicket, and Eddie Hemmings and Alec Stewart were fined for a petulant exhibition after an appeal had been turned down.

David Gower and John Morris were also on the receiving end of the wrath of the tour management when they took a joyride



England Captain, Graham Gooch.

in a Tigermoth which buzzed the ground during a match against Queensland. Their high jinks cost the pair a £1,000 fine.

Bobby Simpson, the Australian manager, had a suggestion to repair the game in England. He said, "If I could recommend one change in the way English cricket is run it would be to have a four-day championship." English cricket thought otherwise.

Hard Road to Record

Wigan, inspired by their captain Ellery Hanley and Andy Gregory, won a record fourth successive Challenge Cup with a 13-8 victory against St Helens at Wembley on April 27. It was their 20th consecutive Cup match victory.



Wigan's 'Mr Magic', Ellery Hanley.

They also retained the League title by winning 11 of 12 matches in 34 days at the end of the season, which prompted their coach John Monie to suggest, "The side has been held together by needles and sticking plaster."

Also this year...

Athletics - Ben Johnson made a comeback after his two-year ban for testing positive for steroids at the Olympics. Johnson clocked 10.46 sec in his lucrative return race against Carl Lewis, which was won by Dennis Mitchell.

Boxing - At 42, George Foreman failed to regain the world heavyweight crown from Evander Holyfield on April 19, losing on points. Foreman said, "I proved that 40 is no death sentence."

Football - Chelsea were fined a record £105,000 on January 11 by the Football League for making illegal payments to players.

Cricket - Durham signed Ian Botham and Dean Jones to help them in their inaugural first-class season in 1992.

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