

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

Club Review

VOLUME 22 - Issue 8, 2009

IT'S ALIVE INSIDE



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Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in the R.A.O.B. Headquarters, Belfast
on Saturday 14th November 2009

Upon opening the meeting the Chairman, John Davidson, invited the Secretary, Bob McGlone, to read the minutes of the October meeting which was held in the Royal Naval Association club.

The Secretary continued to read correspondence received following which the Chairman expanded on developments in respect of our search to secure amendments to the 1996 Clubs Order. Details of correspondence forwarded and received from the First Minister, respective M.L.A.'s, M.P.'s and Government departments was included in the discussion.

The problems relating to aspects of current clubs legislation are compounded by the P.S.N.I. rights of entry which it would appear are being used for unnecessary visits to club premises when sports events are being promoted. It would appear they view advertising of such events as illegal, although we are aware it is perfectly within the requirements of the 1996 Clubs Order for a private member club to advertise sports events. This was confirmed some years ago with appropriate wording approved by the then R.U.C. Policy Making division.

During a recent visit to a member club the above problem was highlighted when not only the local Inspector, but more worryingly the Commander, seemed unaware of that which we have confirmed as being perfectly within the law. Proposals of a presentation evening were

discussed with a remit to secure a suitable venue.

The consultation of Gambling Legislation was discussed with reference to Jon Sanders, formerly of Oasis/JHS who has been extremely helpful in explaining details contained in the consultation.

The Chairman went on to explain that certificates will also be required for lifts and fire alarms from independent engineers. Continuing on the matter of 'Fire Risk Assessments' was highlighted with details outlining what will be required when next applying for an entertainment license. In view of the already strict requirements in place the Chairman intends discussing this matter further with Belfast Building Control.

A brief discussion on unspent convictions and those out on license was provided with the difference being explained by the Treasurer, Davy Larmour.

It appears that some club legal representatives have been lax in applying for their clients entertainment license. Clubs are urged not to rely on being notified by their club solicitor but rather to keep an eye on matters themselves.

At this point the Treasurer presented a detailed financial report which was proposed and seconded by Brian McCartney and Jim McCaul as a true record.

An in-depth report on a visit



Robert Jamison, R.A.O.B., with members of the NIFC executive committee at their recent meeting in the R.A.O.B. headquarters, Belfast.

to a member club, referred to above, was provided. The Chairman stated that the incidents which took place at this club adequately highlighted the problems being created by aspects of the 1996 Clubs Order. It was suggested that we may have to go public on these issues to make the wider community aware of the imbalance in current legislation which sees private member clubs unfairly treated in that they cannot operate under the

same requirements as other business sectors.

Expanding on this issue it is intended to invite the representatives of clubs in certain areas to area meetings at which to explain the important issues now being focused on.

This concluded the meeting at which point the Chairman thanked the R.A.O.B. for hosting the meeting and for the hospitality which followed.

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The Chairman's view!

The future of clubs remains our priority



Mr John Davidson,
Chairman, NIFC.

As we reach the end of 2009 we remain focused on lobbying M.L.A.s and M.P.s, to secure

amendments to Legislation. It is therefore more important than ever that clubs play their part by also lobbying not only the Minister but elected representatives.

The following are the main points you should focus on in correspondence to the Minister. It should be made abundantly clear what is required to safeguard the future of sport and the attached private

member sports and social structure.

- a) An additional two late extensions giving a total of three per week.
- b) Abolition of children's certificates permitting children to on sports club premises in the company of their parents/guardians.
- c) P.S.N.I. rights of entry to be brought into line with guidelines pertaining to other business sectors.
- d) The current prescribed Accounts Regulations to be replaced with best practice under the all Ireland Accountancy body.
- e) Clubs to be permitted to advertise or place notices relating to any event without restriction.

The Minister has indicated that amendments to the Accounts Regulations may be forthcoming; it is however we enjoyed parity with other business sectors.

There is a perception that the policy makers may be ignoring the contribution private member clubs make to the sporting and social fabric of the province despite the Health Minister and the P.S.N.I. acknowledging that anti-social behaviour and health issues associated with alcohol are not attributable to the private member club sector.

Thank you to all those suppliers who have assisted us throughout 2009 as they have all played an important role in helping to maintain our range of services.

I also thank the Executive Committee members for their support throughout what has been a busy year. This is underpinned by our office facility at Media Marketing, assisting us in continuing to operate as a voluntary organisation.

Sadly this year we lost our dear Federation colleague Joe Elwood. I wish to pay respect to Joe and to all club delegates who have passed away in the past year.

In conclusion may you all have a merry Christmas and very happy, prosperous and peaceful 2010.

John Davidson
Chairman



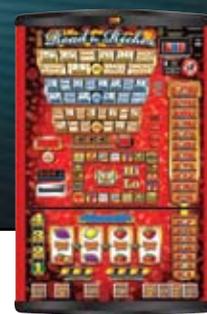
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Meeting brings clubs together

The area meeting at a County Down sports club was a resounding success in bringing club representatives together to address problems created by legislation.

The current outdated burden on our sector creates an avenue via which P.S.N.I. services are not used appropriately but rather afford the opportunity for an already stretched service to look for problems which, by comparison to the areas of anti-social behaviour through alcohol abuse, are minor.

We continue to be amazed at the lack of knowledge by P.S.N.I. officers, including those at senior level, in regard to a clubs right to advertise. However the restrictive nature

of advertising is trivial and something the P.S.N.I. could well do without. Some years ago we submitted and received approval for the formatting of advertising copy, yet we continue to face problems. Surely this aspect of the Clubs Order could be eradicated. Until such times as the Minister gets around to addressing matters we feel that common sense should prevail. Recent cases relating to a Belfast club confirm this view.

In the case referred to it was determined that P.S.N.I. action was disproportionate and the subsequent case which ensued was a waste of public money and the courts time. Please do not be lulled into thinking we are anti P.S.N.I. as this could not be

further from the truth. We fully endorse them and recognise the growing difficulties they are faced with. We nevertheless feel that relieving the pressures placed upon them by outdated legislation, which is no longer fit for purpose, distracts them from more pressing and important issues.

The evidence coming out of

this meeting highlighted the financial and other problems the private member sports club sector is faced with in order to maintain its sporting ethos. It would seem evident that there seems to be an unwillingness to associate the important link between the sporting activity and the social club associated with it which financially underpins that sport.

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Federation call for amendment to Order

I am sure you are aware of the Federation's call for amendments to aspects of the 1996 Clubs Order and Accounts Regulations.

We acknowledge the Accounts Regulations and opening hours are being given consideration. However there are two other matters of fundamental importance to Clubs which we are hoping to have addressed.

The first issue relates to Police inspection rights as regards club premises, the second relates to the hours when young persons may be on club premises.

In relation to the first issue, a club faced two actions with neither being successful and the proceedings being dismissed.

One of the incidents, involving minors awaiting a lift home with a guardian, resulted in an absolute discharge being awarded. It was reported that the process had been a waste of tax-payers money.

The Federation do not suggest that the PSNI should not have rights of entry where a crime is suspected, but the perceived heavy handed nature of recent police inspections has created a distinct impression of oppression of the club sector for no apparent reason. This conduct is all the more surprising when we, as a Federation, are being assured by police at the highest level that anti social activity and other problems associated with excessive consumption of alcohol and underage drinking is **NOT** emanating from the club sector.

The recent PSNI activity and the unnecessary and intrusive nature of their conduct

we believe amply supports our request for a review of Article 42 of the Order which enables the PSNI to enter club premises.

Moving on to the second issue, the Federation wish to emphasise that sports clubs province-wide have been successful in encouraging members, their families and guests, to enjoy the benefits available in their respective clubs and to support sporting events hosted for their benefit and the wider community.

Surely the Minister knows that if we are to be successful in encouraging members and families out of their homes to enjoy sporting events in registered club premises, consideration must be given to relaxing the rule whereby children must vacate certain parts of the sports premises by 9.00pm.

The Federation hopes that the Minister gives consideration to changing the times during which a young person is permitted to be in a sports club when a sporting event is taking place, allowing them to be on club premises until one hour after the completion of an event. In particular GAA, rugby and soccer played under floodlights on winter evenings, not to mention summer events such as cricket, golf, sailing etc., all go well beyond 9.00pm.

The legislation in its present form has the potential to stifle sporting talent throughout the province and as a result be counter-productive, and we ask for an urgent review of the law relating to children in sports club premises and PSNI rights of inspection to proceed without delay.

In view of the concerns which the Federation continue to have, we are attempting to have a meeting as soon as possible prior to the committee stage of the bill, at which we wish

to have the representatives of major sporting organisations present.

A report on our progress will be in Club Review in 2010.

The law is changing

On 12th October, new measures were introduced to help prevent unsuitable people from undertaking paid or volunteer work with children or vulnerable adults. This is called the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS).

From July 2010 all new employees and volunteers who want to work with children or vulnerable

adults can register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). From November 2010, all new employees and volunteers **must** register before they start work. From then it will be illegal to employ people who are not ISA-registered.

Call 0300 123 1111 for more information or visit www.isa.gov.org.uk



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Miami Showband to appear at the King's Hall



The sensational Miami Showband.

Good news for showband fans, the Miami Showband are to appear at our annual dinner and dance on 17th April 2010.

Following protracted talks on the entertainment for 2010 we have been fortunate in securing

the famous Miami Showband for our big event of the year.

This is one band which will stir emotions and bring back wonderful memories of Romano's, the Boom Boom Rooms and the Fiesta. Let's

be honest, bands don't come much bigger than the Miami Showband and I for one will be looking forward to turning the clock back.

In 2005 the band was seen on stage in Dublin at what was lauded at the time as the greatest showband concert ever.

Speaking before a show at Belfast's Grand Opera House, the band's bassist and manager, Steve Travers, said that Belfast was always massive for the band. I can confirm that in my days of going to dances I would never have missed the Miami.

On stage, the tight suits and flares the band used to sport have given way to smart suits, but the magic remains.

Who's laughing now?

As in past years a comedian will open proceedings and next year will be no exception with the 'Big O' making a welcome return since his last appearance around ten years ago.

It is anticipated the demand for 2010 tickets will be high following notification to our members in early January, so please respond early as this is certain to be a tremendous night out.



49% exclusion clause could present problems

The area of club insurance regularly throws up anomalies which the lay person ie: club committee could be forgiven for overlooking, expecting their insurance broker/company to provide the expertise. However that may be the case in an ideal world but there are exclusion clauses in all insurance contracts and we have been alerted to some which has led us to look closely at these in the interest of our members.

Federation solicitor Maura McKay is examining the detail contained in a club policy and particularly that part related to cover for employment disputes.

There are usually some "exclusion" clauses in an insurance policy under which

the insurance company would not be liable for the losses resulting from the specified events. The exclusion clauses remove the insurance coverage for the specified events that the insurance company chooses not to insure. The relevant reasons might be that cover is available under another class of insurance, the risks are not suitable to be taken up, or some special conditions are required.

There are different types of exclusions for different types of insurance. An exclusion clause may apply generally in respect of the whole insurance policy, or only to specific sections of the policy. In certain circumstances it may be limited or removed by paying an additional premium.

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A touch of sparkle at Bollinger master class

Champagne is the drink that we most associate with the festive season. Indeed statistics show that December is when a quarter of the 105,000 bottles consumed in Northern Ireland each year are actually enjoyed.

Recently a group of Northern Ireland media and trade representatives got together for a special master class in one of the most famous of all champagnes.

Simon Leschallas from Bollinger and Sean Welsh from Mentzendorff led guests in sampling the full Bollinger Range, from the Special Cuvée to the prestigious RD, during a lunch hosted by distributors United Wine Merchants in Belfast recently.

Ciaran Meyler, Wine Manager, United Wine Merchants said, "Bollinger is a truly unique and outstanding champagne which United Wines is proud to distribute throughout Northern Ireland. I'm delighted Simon and Sean were able to lead our guests in sampling the range and sharing its many intricacies and nuances. Bollinger has proved a consistently popular choice amongst consumers seeking a well-established and high quality range of champagnes and we are confident it will continue to be a popular means of celebrating, this festive season and beyond."

Bollinger has been family owned since 1829 and affords a quintessential House style of Pinot Noir dominance and hand-crafted, rich character.



Simon Leschallas (Bollinger), Ciaran Meyler and Melanie Talbot (United Wines) and Sean Welsh (Mentzendorff).

The label maintains a spirit of independence and passion towards winemaking. For example, the choice to vinify wine under wood has become an exception in champagne and is an important element in Bollinger's identity and

style. Bollinger also owns 163 hectares of vines which provides 60% of the grapes needed and, though the grapes are of the highest quality, Bollinger insists on using juice from the first pressing only, called the 'Cuvée'.

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Magnificent Magners does it again... and again

The Magners success story continues to snowball and, with Christmas fast approaching, the brand is confidently predicting another fruitful festive season and a suitably sparkling New Year.

While some brands in the marketplace may be depending on the party season to give a last minute lift to end of year figures, Magners is in the happy position of being able to view festive season sales as the icing on the Christmas cake.

James Simpson Magners Marketing Manager and his team are already toasting another year of massive achievement for the brand that seems to know no boundaries. He says, 'Magners continues to go from strength to strength and we are thrilled at the latest research which illustrates its powerful position in the Northern Ireland marketplace. We know we have a great brand and some fabulous products in the Magners stable, with Light and Pear doing great things in Northern Ireland, and it's wonderful to see our confidence reflected in independent market analysis.'

The statistics from AC Nielsen for the On-Trade in August 2009 say it all, really...

- Magners is the No.1 packaged LAD brand
- Magners is also the fastest selling packaged lower alcohol drinks (LAD) brand, selling 73% faster than its nearest competitor.
- For the months of June, July and August 2009 Magners has consistently held 7.7% share of the LAD market.

- Magners has 74% share of the cider market, and 79% of the packaged cider market

While in terms of advertising statistics Magners has 24% Share Of Voice amongst LAD brands, and a stunning 92% Share Of Voice in cider brands (January - August 2009).

James Simpson says, 'Success with Magners means success for our customers - so we all have plenty to celebrate. This Christmas we'll be keeping Magners very much front of mind with a high profile, sales driving television campaign coupled with an extensive - and highly innovative - outdoor campaign. In particular look out for a head-turning advertising experience on Great Victoria Street in downtown Belfast! We're toasting a great year in 2009 but our ambitions for the brand don't end there and we are looking forward to building on these achievements in 2010 and beyond.'

'Already plans for the New Year are unfolding. No sooner will the Christmas POS be taken down than Magners will launch into a high profile start to 2010 with headline sponsorship of events such as the Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards and the ever popular Magners Light Style Awards to name a few.'



Laurent-Perrier marks 'Champagne season'



Pictured is John Cleary, Laurent Perrier, Andrea Cairns and Greg Elliot, Business Development Representative, Diageo.

With a quarter of all champagne estimated to be consumed in the month of December, leading label Laurent Perrier has made a timely arrival to the Northern Ireland marketplace in advance of the festive season.

Laurent-Perrier, which is the largest independently owned champagne house in the world, has cemented a recently agreed partnership with Diageo Northern Ireland by hosting a celebratory event in Belfast.

Commenting on the partnership, Colm McGarrigle, Wine and Wholesale Manager Diageo, said, "With both Laurent Perrier and Diageo consistently demonstrating innovation and consistent

standards of excellence we believe that our two companies make a great partnership.

"We are now on the cusp of Christmas and New Year a key time for celebration, gifting and mixing of special cocktails, and indeed, a perfect time for consumers to consider this gem of the champagne world. I've no doubt Northern Ireland will enjoy this unique and elegant champagne during the festive period and beyond.



Christmas cracking cocktails

with Diageo Reserve brands

This Christmas, enjoy the ultimate luxury experience and add a touch of glamour to the festivities with these seasonal cocktails from the makers of Tanqueray No. TEN gin, Ketel One vodka, Johnnie Walker Black Label Scotch whisky and Bushmills Irish whiskey. Whether you're spending Christmas in a ski lodge in Aspen, on a Caribbean beach or you're simply enjoying Christmas at home, these cocktails are the perfect addition to any celebration.

Made with the world's most luxurious spirits and designed especially for the Christmas season, these cocktails embody sweet and warming flavours that will make the perfect festive tipples to impress friends and family.

1. 'I'm dreaming of a White Christmas'.....with the perfect White Christmas Ketel One vodka Martini cocktail! Mixing Crème de Cacao White and Baileys why not indulge in this luxurious cocktail.
2. Spice up Christmas this year with a Christmas Spice Tanqueray London dry gin cocktail. Tickle your guest's tastes buds with ginger and cinnamon mixed together with orange juice and the fresh botanicals of Tanqueray gin.
3. If the sweet tastes of Christmas are not your first tippie of choice why not try a Classic Christmas Sour cocktail. Made with Johnnie Walker Black Label and

infused with lemons, limes and oranges, this alternative cocktail treat is ideal for any connoisseur over the festive break.

Enjoy Alcohol Sensibly.

Christmas Cocktail Ingredients & Method

White Christmas

30ml Ketel One vodka; 20 ml Crème de Cacao White; 10ml Baileys; 15ml fresh cream

*Shake and serve in a martini glass, garnished with a stick of white chocolate.



White Christmas.

Christmas Spice

40ml Tanqueray gin; fresh ginger; cinnamon powder; 20ml fresh orange juice; absinthe spray.



Christmas Spice.

*Muddle ginger and cinnamon together. Add Tanqueray gin and fresh orange juice together. Shake and strain over ice in a rocks glass and spray a little absinthe over for flavour. Garnish with fresh ginger.

Classic

Christmas Sour

50ml Johnnie Walker Black Label; 1 fresh lemon wedge; 1 fresh lime wedge; 1 fresh orange wedge; egg white; dash of bitters.

*Muddle the fruit wedges together. Shake with Johnnie Walker Black Label, egg white and bitters.

Strain over ice into a whiskey glass and garnish with a flamed orange zest.



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*Source: NITGI 2009 ABC Jan-Jun 09



Kick-off on search for the 2010 World Class Bartender of the Year

Reserve Brands, the luxury spirits portfolio from Diageo, is delighted to announce the beginning of the search for the 2010 World Class Bartender of the Year, with the Johnnie Walker, Bushmills Malts and the Classic Malts whisk(e)y heat taking place recently in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin.

Max La Rocca from Kerry secured his place in the Irish Final next June with his Bushmills 16year old "The Giant's Gate" winning cocktail.

Following the success of last year's inaugural competition, World Class is now ranked as the most prestigious

international bartending competition, with entrants from across the globe competing for the accolade 'World's Best Bartender'.

The elite judging panel for the Whiskey Heat included distinguished Food and Wine critic Tom Doorley, Proprietor of Pichet Nick Munier, Colum Egan, Master Distiller of the Old Bushmills Distillery and Gregor Cattanach, International Brand Ambassador of Diageo Scotch Whiskies.

This programme was developed by Diageo Reserve Brands to educate and inspire bartending talent to create exceptional

cocktails, service and experiences. The competition will have a new layered structure, whereby each category heat - Whisk(e)y, Vodka and Gin - will have two rounds.

During the first round the bartender will create a bespoke cocktail to sell and trial in their bar and to be judged at the category final. The three chosen finalist's



Peter O'Connor, Diageo, Gemma Bell, Smarts, Colum Egan, Master Distiller, Bushmills

cocktails will then compete in the second round of Nosing and Tasting and Speed & Accuracy Challenges in order to decipher the expertise of the bartenders.

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Saving on stocktakes is a false economy

says Martin Dinsmore, Institute of Licensed Trade Stocktakers



Do we really need to pay for that television in the corner, in fact while we're at it, do we really need to pay that licence?

What else can we do... oh yes, what about the stock takes.

Due to the current downturn in business many clubs have either increased their audit periods to the maximum of three months, or have taken a chance by using unqualified auditors. Some clubs may have even stopped any form of audit, but we'll not go there in this article. These changes obviously reduce monthly fees and may appear to provide a saving, but be careful.

If your club has a fire and you have maintained your

insurance, then hopefully the club will be restored. If however, you have a downturn in profits due to either poor costing, or worse still, your club is subjected to theft, and you do not have any form of regular auditing, then rectification, may be too late. Surely it is best to be proactive in such matters.

Recently we have been called back into a number of clubs who had taken one of the above actions. Unfortunately a cut in wages could result in a subsidy by "other means". In such cases the savings gained by having no stocktaking costs could prove to be a false economy. In a number of cases a significant increase in bar pilferage and stock theft has been revealed.

Stocktaker's are there to assist in monitoring your trade, they can advise on costs and profit margins; they (if qualified,) should be able to identify poor practices and highlight potential pilferage before it escalates.

Use their skills and wealth of knowledge in the trade to increase your sales and profits: don't "just leave it and see what happens".

All clubs have a committee which is generally made up by members who have their clubs "best interests at heart", they are also (generally speaking) made up by members who may have limited experience in the bar trade. Again, I would emphasise the importance of using your regular stocktakers experience to the full, possibly giving consideration to inviting them to at least one Finance meeting. Publicans outside of "Club Land", regularly meet with their stocktakers (and they're in the trade!)

Martin Dinsmore, Representative of The Institute of Licensed Trade Stocktakers can be contacted for a list of all qualified institute members in Britain and Ireland. Tel: 07778 768 007

Fire insurance does not stop fires, but it is recognised as a necessary expenditure. So what else could a club do without?

Difficult decisions!

Lets reduce the wage bill!

Don't refurbish this year, just leave it and see what happens.



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In Memoriam

BRIAN LILLIE
1941 - 2009

It is with respect we place this memoriam to Brian Lillie, Chairman of Harland & Wolff Welders F.S.C.



Brian, who was born in Richill, spent the greater part of his life in East Belfast working in Belfast's shipyard. He was on the management committee of the Harland & Wolff FSC for almost forty years and was Chairman for twenty three of them.

The high regard in which he was held throughout the local community and beyond was underlined by those in attendance at his funeral service.

New Fire Risk Regulations

Not difficult to comply



Fires in the work place. Why take the risk?

Did you know that each year fires at work premises cost businesses millions of pounds – and in some cases even loss of life? Figures from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) show the annual cost of commercial fires in 2008 reached a staggering £865 million. That's up 15% on 2007 of which causes can often simply be poor procedures or just plain ignorance.

If appropriate fire precautions are in place the effects of a fire can be minimised if effective controls and procedures are put into action. A simple Fire Risk Assessment from Aviva Risk Management Solutions (ARMS) can help identify the controls you need.

Why get a Fire Risk Assessment?

Well, not only will this help reduce the risk of you having a fire, but all businesses in Northern Ireland will soon be required by law to have a fire risk assessment carried out by a competent person.

Research shows that not all businesses will meet requirements, with a surprising:

- 40% of premises inspected by the Fire and Rescue Service found to be unsatisfactory.
- 4,000 businesses may face enforcement action with fines of up to £300,000.

A Fire Risk Assessment helps you avoid breaking the law without breaking the bank.

How can Aviva Risk Management Solutions (ARMS) help you?

At ARMS we are aware that not all businesses, especially smaller ones, have the expertise or the time available to prepare a risk assessment. This is where Aviva can help. With qualified expertise based in Northern Ireland providing Fire Risk Assessment services to all businesses Aviva can provide:

- A visit to your premises and conduct a Fire Risk Assessment.
- A summary of the findings in a formal document.

- Advice about how any shortfalls can be put right.
- Access to our list of preferred suppliers - offering significant discounts on a variety of products and services.

Another major benefit of this service is that the documentation will show that a fire risk assessment has taken place, should the Fire and Rescue Service pay a visit.

So how much does it cost?

Working in tandem with the Federation's established Insurance broker, Rollins

Club Insurance, a competitive price has been structured, with introductory rates on all bookings until 31st March 2010 starting at just £350+VAT. The cost of the service understandably varies depending upon the size and complexity of the assessment.

Want to know more?

For further information please contact Rollins Club Insurance on 028 9087 3000

or

Michael Flowers from ARMS on 07711 597243 or email michael.flowers@aviva.co.uk

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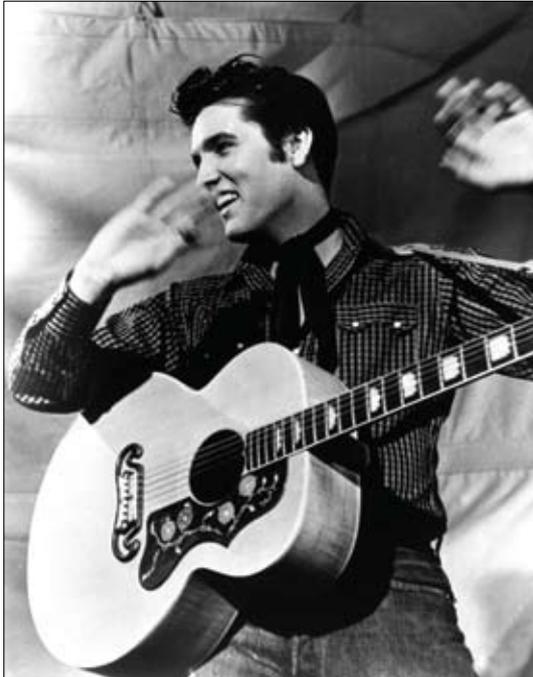
Calling all Northern Ireland Elvis fans

Elvis Presley has millions of fans around the world and fan clubs in every corner of every country.

January 8th 2010 marks what would have been his 75th birthday and a group of dedicated local Elvis fans have decided to celebrate this event by launching the Official Elvis Presley Fan Club of Northern Ireland.

A spokesperson for the fan club stated, "We feel that there are hundreds of Elvis fans scattered throughout Northern Ireland and we are trying to contact as many as possible to establish a local fan club where we can meet, talk, have discos, dances and live entertainment on a regular basis and at the same time raise money for various charities. You don't have to be a 'die-hard Elvis fan to enjoy these events; they are intended to be social evenings. If, like me, you are finding it difficult to locate a venue playing your kind of music then this type of event may suit you."

"We want to build up a record of all Elvis fans in the Province. We have been in touch with The Official Elvis Presley Fan Club of Great Britain and the Official Irish



Fan Club in Dublin to help us in contacting their Northern Ireland members. We have also registered the fan club with Elvis Presley Enterprises at Graceland in Memphis, so be assured that this will be the only Official Elvis Presley Fan Club of Northern Ireland.

The launch of the Club will take place on Wednesday 6th January 2010, in the Harland and Wolff Welders Social Club, Belfast. However, future social meetings and events will be held in different venues across Northern Ireland as the organisers want this to be a Province-wide club.

Anyone interested in joining the Official Elvis Presley Fan Club of Northern Ireland or who would like further details, should contact Stuart or Janet Baxter at oepfnci.2010@ntlworld.com

Questions & Answers



Q. An applicant for membership is due to come up before the Committee, but unfortunately the applicant's proposer has since been suspended. Does this have any impact?

A. If the proposer was a member at the time of proposition there should not be a difficulty.

Q. We have heard of underhand tricks being used by suppliers to try to trap clubs into accepting equipment they do not want. Surely clubs are not foolish enough to fall for these scams?

A. I am afraid they do. Some of these suppliers are very clever and record telephone conversations without the

knowledge of the club. The club should always respond to requests for ordering goods in writing, and should not allow themselves to be misquoted by a secretive or misleading telephone conversation.

"Gems Hygiene" is an organisation involved in dubious practices with clubs on the mainland. If you ever fall foul of this company please let us know.

Q. Does the Freedom of Information Act apply to clubs?

A. The Freedom of Information Act only applies to public bodies rather than private businesses, but the Data Protection Act does apply to clubs.

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Get involved

help Marie Curie Cancer Care

Scrabo Tower Abseil March 27

Stepping off the top of a tower is madness, right? Not if you do it for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Our Scrabo Tower Abseil is back by popular demand, offering views across the Ards Peninsula, Belfast that extend as far as the Mournes. Challenge yourself, a friend or family member to step up to this spectacular event on March 27 in aid of the charity.

For information and to sign up, contact the events team on 028 9088 2069.

Ladies' Pamper Night Date TBC

Armagh Fundraising Group

is holding a Pre-Valentine's Day Ladies' Pamper Night for the second year running. Last year's event, at Armagh City Hotel, was very successful and highly enjoyable. A number of therapists will be on hand to make sure the ladies look and feel their best, with nail art, aromatherapy and mini-facials on offer.

For further details, contact Sandra Spence on 028 8772 3989.

Craigavon Concert - March 5

Craigavon Fundraising Group is holding a concert at the Civic Centre featuring popular group Stonewall. A great mix of music is promised, along with great craic from our MC on the night.

For more information, contact Phil on 028 9088 2066.

Blooming Display April 20, TBC

Famous flower arranger Yolanda Campbell will be putting on a stunning demonstration in Dromore, Co Down in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. The provisional date for the event is April 20.

For more information, please contact Phil on 028 9088 2066.

Hit the Shops

Marie Curie Cancer Care's shops across Northern Ireland depend greatly on the generosity of local communities to donate their unwanted items. Clothing, books, crockery, glassware, shoes, handbags and many other items are always welcome and much appreciated - why not bring what you can to your local Marie Curie Shop

and help support the charity? You can find your nearest shop online at www.mariecurie.org.uk/supportus/shopping

HOW TO CONTACT US

Fundraising office open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Lesley Wright

East and Belfast Hospice
T: 028 9088 2046
E: lesley.wright@mariecurie.org.uk

Phil Kane - South

T: 028 9088 2066
E: phil.kane@mariecurie.org.uk

Anne McRoberts - North

T: 028 9088 2065
E: anne.mcroberts@mariecurie.org.uk

Sheena Havlin - West

T: 028 8224 9888
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SCRABO ABSEIL Saturday 27th March 2010 Famous NI Landmark	WALK TEN Support our Nurses Friday 3rd September 2010 Stormont, Belfast	 ABSEIL TBC Saturday 2nd October 2010
BELFAST CITY MARATHON Run for your nominated local Charity Monday 3rd May 2010	CRAIGAVON CYCLE CHALLENGE Saturday 22nd May 2010 Lough Neagh Discovery Centre	
ZIPLINE Saturday 19th June 2010 River Lagan, Belfast	CLAY PIGEON SHOOT Saturday 12th June 2010 Newtownards	LADIES DRIVING CHALLENGE Drive Fabulous Vehicles all day TBC - October 2010
SLIEVE DONARD CHALLENGE Take on the highest mountain in NI Saturday 18th September 2010 Newcastle		A CHANCE TO DANCE A dance challenge 'Strictly' for anyone TBC - November 2010




Carling presents an evening of Northern Ireland's football legends

The Carling Premiership has offered football fans a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with legends and star players from their favourite teams with the recent launch of 'Carling Presents an Evening of Legends'.

'Carling Presents an Evening of Legends' ... is a series of free events, one for each of the twelve Carling Premiership clubs where fans will be able to ask the legends and star players of their team the questions they have always wanted answered.

Aisling Duffy, Carling Marketing Manager, said, "We created the Carling Presents evenings to help the fans get

closer to the legends and star players from their favourite teams in the Carling Premiership. Each of the clubs has such a great history of legendary players, so it was great bringing the legends back to their respective club, with the current stars.



Carling girl Ciara McStravick, Keith Gillespie, Jackie Fullerton and Aisling Duffy, at the launch of 'Carling Presents an Evening of Legends'.



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The events were free and fans had the chance to find out everything they ever wanted to know about their football heroes, get a picture taken with them and the Gibson Cup, as well as enjoy some ice-cold pints of Carling. The hype surrounding the events ensured the tickets were in high demand."

The events kicked off on Wednesday 18th November with Glentoran legends Jim Cleary and Billy Caskey joining current star players Keith Gillespie and Captain Paul Leeman. Next was Lisburn Distillery on Wednesday 25th November, Glenavon on Wednesday 2nd December and the last event before Christmas was Cliftonville on Wednesday 9th December. The other eight Carling Presents event dates will be announced soon but for all the information on what legends and players will be at

each event go to www.carlingpremiership.com

The BBC's Jackie Fullerton, a football legend in his own right, who is hosting all twelve Carling Presents events, said, "I am delighted to be involved in Carling Presents as it provides football fans with a fantastic opportunity to find out more about the legends and star players of their favourite teams in the Carling Premiership."

Geoff Wilson from The IFA added, "These events show Carling's dedication to helping football fans get closer to the team they support."

Tickets for these exclusive events are free but places are limited.

To apply for a ticket go to the Carling Premiership website www.carlingpremiership.com

Budweiser supports QUB F.C. for eighth year

Budweiser has announced it will sponsor Queens University Belfast Football Club for the eighth year running. The first team has been promoted to the IFA Championship League this season and hopes to have a successful year in the new league which is directly below the IFA Premier League.

The Budweiser sponsorship allows the team to purchase a new kit and training gear and provides support for functions throughout the season.

Budweiser spokesperson Jeff Tosh, Regional Director, On Trade NI for InBev Ireland Ltd said, "We are proud to be sponsoring Queen's University Football Club for the eighth year running especially with their promotion to the new IFA Championship League. This proves that there is real talent in the team and we look forward to supporting the team throughout the season."



Pictured is (L-R) Denis Clarke, Chairman of Queen's University Belfast Football Club, QUB F.C. players Peter Mallett and David Magee, Tony Hawkins, Account Manager for InBev Ireland Ltd.

Budweiser supports football from grass roots level through to the Barclay's Premier League sponsorship.



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All-Ireland Junior Club Camogie Final

St Anne's, Dunhill (Waterford) v Lavey (Derry)

St Anne's, Dunhill (Waterford) drew with Lavey (Derry) after extra time in the All-Ireland Junior Club Camogie Final on Sunday 6th December in Donaghmore Ashbourne, Co. Meath 1-11 to 1-11.

St Anne's Dunhill and Lavey must meet again to determine the destination of the All Ireland junior club title. After extra-time in a pulsating final in Donaghmore Ashbourne the scoreboard remained deadlocked 1-11 apiece.

St Anne's did all the running with the wind in the first half and courtesy of a kicked goal from Jenny Simpson led 1-6 to 0-2 at the changeover. It was Lavey's turn in the second 30

minutes with captain Mary O'Kane netting for the Derry champions. It was nip and tuck with St Anne's top scorer Karen Kelly shooting the equaliser on full time.

After the first period of extra time, wind assisted St Anne's moved 1-11 to 1-8 ahead, but three points from Lavey coming down the home straight ensured the teams will have to do it all over again.

Lavey (Derry) 1-11 (M O'Kane 1-3, A McPeake 0-5 (3f), P McCloy, C Cushnahan, D McShane 0-1 each); St Anne's, Dunhill (Waterford) 1-11 (K Kelly 0-6 (3f), J Simpson 1-2, N Rockett 0-3).



Mary O'Kane, Lavey, goes past Lorena Mooney, St Anne's Dunhill, on the way to scoring her side's first goal. Picture credit: Brian Lawless/Sportsfile.



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Funding available for GAA clubs



Ulster GAA is pleased to announce details of a new grant for sports equipment, available to GAA clubs within the six counties. Sport Northern Ireland has launched a new funding Programme - Awards for Sport. The Programme opened on Wednesday 11th November and will close on Wednesday 6th January 2010.

Awards for Sport is a small grants programme administered by Sport N.I. that aims to increase participation in sport and physical recreation, especially amongst under-represented groups and increase the number of athletes with improved sporting performance.

Open to governing bodies, sports clubs and community/

voluntary organisations, the potential awards range from £1,000 to £10,000.

Sport NI held a number of information evenings throughout November and December but if you missed them you can obtain full information, including guidance notes and an online application form by logging on to: <http://www.sportni.net/awardsforsport/>

Anyone wishing to receive support or advice from Ulster GAA can contact Maura or Sharon on 028 37517 180 or email maura.kelly.ulster@gaa.ie or sharon.haughey.ulster@gaa.ie

Carling NI football writers' awards

Sweet Sixteen for Portadown's McFall

After a year out of the top flight, Portadown are beginning to show why they were regarded as dark horses for the title this season.

In a month in which they defeated title favourites, Linfield, Ronnie McFall has been named the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Manager of the Month for November. It is the 16th time the veteran boss has landed the award, but it is his first personal honour since January 2005.

"I am delighted to receive this terrific award but I would be powerless without a fantastic backroom of staff and group of players," said McFall.

"Coming back to the Carling Premiership was always going to be difficult and we've taken our time to readjust but I think we are getting there and starting to do ourselves justice. The victory over Linfield stands out but the players have really stepped it up for us this season. After showing what they can do, hopefully we'll continue to improve throughout the season. I'm sure it will develop into one of the most exciting seasons in recent memory and I want to thank Carling for their continued support of the game."

Carling's Aisling Duffy said, "Ronnie McFall and Portadown are synonymous with success in the Irish League and I'm delighted that Ronnie has won his first Carling Manager of the Month award and his 16th NIFWA award in total. It's a magnificent achievement.

Carling is delighted to be at the heart of local football, supporting local talent, and bringing local people back to the game."

Coleraine's Patterson Named Player of the Month

Hot-shot striker Rory Patterson has been named the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Player of the Month for November.

Patterson shot to the top of the goal-scoring charts in his first season in Irish League football. His tally is at 18 after a sensational month in front of a goal in which he scored in all six games he played.

The Coleraine hitman's rich vein of form, which included a stunning four-goal haul in the Bannsidiers' 6-0 drubbing of Glentoran has also earned him the Carling NIFWA Goal of the Month award.

"I want to thank everyone who took the time to vote for me and particularly my teammates," said the former FC United of Manchester forward.

"It's the other guys on the team who create so many chances for me and in the end I just have the easy part of putting the ball into the net. November was a terrific month for both myself and the club but it is important we keep that going now. We have shown what we can do and hopefully this is just the start of more to come.

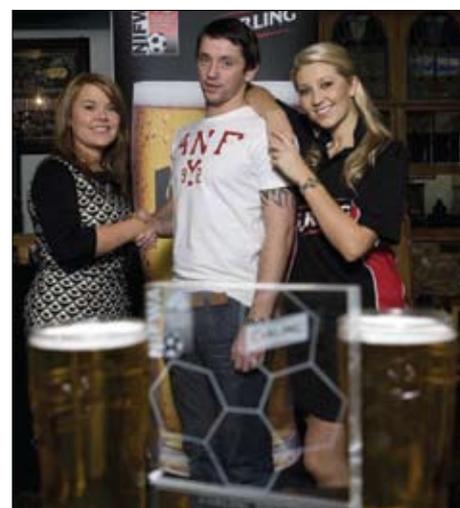
"I would also like to thank Carling for their continued support in the game here."

Carling's Aisling Duffy said, "We are delighted to help



Portadown manager Ronnie McFall receives the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Manager of the Month award for November from Carling's Aisling Duffy and Carling referee Catherine Milligan.

recognise and honour outstanding talent in the Carling Premiership on a monthly basis. Rory fully deserves his award for his magnificent goalscoring exploits with Coleraine."



Coleraine striker Rory Patterson receives the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Player of the Month award.

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1964

Grand slam escapes Emerson at his peak

Roy Emerson confirmed his status as the world's leading amateur when he won three of the four grand slam titles with only the French title eluding him in his most successful year.



Roy Emerson in full flow at Wimbledon 1964.

His game was centred around his strong serve and a fearsome forehand, his strength coming from the powerful wrists he was said to have developed milking cows on his father's farm in Queensland.

He was one of the fastest players around the court, a legacy of his talents as a schoolboy athlete, being capable of running 100 yards in 10.6 sec when only 14 years old.

Emerson defeated his countryman Fred Stolle in the finals of the Australian, Wimbledon and United States championships. The closest final was at Wimbledon, where Emerson won 6-4, 12-10, 4-6, 6-3.

He went on to win 39 major singles and doubles titles, more than any other man in tennis.

Doctor helps Venturi pass his physical

Ken venture appeared to have lost all hope of winning a major title prior to his late qualification for the US Open at Congressional in Washington. A dramatic slump in form left him in 94th place on the US Tour in 1963.



Ken Venturi watches his drive off the 14th tee en route to a 66 that gave him the first-round lead in the 1956 Masters.

An outstanding 66 on the morning of a hot and humid final day brought him back into contention. However many thought he would be unable to complete his afternoon round as he was dehydrated, having to be accompanied by a doctor over the last 18 holes.

He fought off both exhaustion and his rivals to win by four shots from Tommy Jacobs in a dramatic finish.

Tottenham's White killed by lightning on golf course

John White of Tottenham was tragically killed by lightning in July 1964 while sheltering under a tree on a golf course in Middlesex. It was a devastating blow to his young wife and his family and to the management and supporters of Tottenham.



John White.

The 26-year-old forward had been one of the key components of the outstanding side which won the double. With Danny Blanchflower retired White had been destined to feature as midfield general, a role he had filled with aplomb during earlier absences by Blanchflower.

Liverpool win title

Liverpool became League champions for the first time since 1947. Although they had started the season shakily, only taking nine points from the first nine games, a 2-1 defeat of their bitter rivals, and the champions, Everton seemed to inspire them.



Liverpool went on to accrue 47 points from 30 games, and they finished the season four points ahead of Manchester United. The purchase of Peter Thompson, Preston's left-winger, for £40,000 the previous August enabled Shankly to achieve his lifelong ambition.

Also this year..

Football - Rangers saw off everybody in Scotland when they completed a treble of League championship, Cup and League Cup.

Boxing - Terry Downes walked into a straight right from Willie Pastrano and went out of the world light heavyweight championship.

Cricket - Frank Worrell, the West Indian captain, was knighted.

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