

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

# Review Club

VOLUME 24 - Issue 1, 2011

**92**  
calories

Same  
**4.5%**  
strength

**BRING IT  
TO LIGHT**

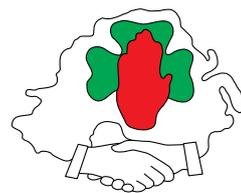


for the facts [drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)

©Wm. Magner Ltd. Magners is a registered trade mark

## Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in the H&W Welders F.S.C., Belfast  
on Saturday 11th December 2010



The Chairman opened the meeting following which the Secretary read the minutes of the November meeting held in Clonard Hibs, Belfast. The minutes were subsequently passed as a true record

We have been heavily engaged in lobbying members of the Legislative Assembly, however time will tell if the support offered transfers onto the floor of the Assembly.

Joe Patterson spoke on the complexities of employment law and redundancy, which highlights that it is the position which is made redundant and

not the person. Joe continued by covering redundancy awards, saying that if an employer has insufficient funds the Government will step in, but in turn they will pursue the case with the company. He confirmed that after age 41, redundancy payments are based on one and a half weeks pay prior to which it is one week. The Directgov website has a redundancy calculator which is very helpful for working out the figures.

The discussion on redundancy continued with John asking how a club would pay if they did not have the funds available.

Joe referred to his previous statement which outlined that the Government would step in following which they will take the matter up with the club. Retirement age of 65 is to be increased, however, under the 2006 age regulations you can apply to remain in your job at 65.

The Chairman provided an overview on the CORCA meeting in London in November 2010. He covered accounts issues and the number of accountants who have contacted the helplines enquiring about the VAT refund. The Federation is focusing on the ability of a club to make a retrospective claim where an initial claim was not made.

Raymond Connor asked if VAT refunds were being paid out. He was advised to ask his accountant to contact the VAT office in Belfast regarding refunds.

The Chairman provided an overview of the meeting of West Belfast Clubs, confirming

that Councillor Tim Attwood attended to represent the DSD Minister Alex Attwood M.L.A.

The Chairman continued to comment on the detail of the area meeting in West Belfast, applauding the way in which clubs in the west of the city responded to the meeting and the positive contribution made to the discussion which took place. It was obvious they were less than happy with respective politicians, going on to express disappointment that they appear to have not taken charge of matters now that they have the opportunity to do so. It would seem that nothing has changed in the minds of the policy-makers. In conclusion details of the amendments to the legislation prepared by Federation solicitor, Maura McKay were outlined.

At this point the meeting was closed with the Chairman thanking members for their attendance.

Bob McGlone,  
Secretary

## Club renewal notices

Make big savings with the Daily Mirror

Clubs needing to place a notice for the renewal of their entertainment license should be mindful that the association between the N.I.F.C. and the Daily Mirror has created an opportunity to make savings on the placing of notices in

the press. Moreover, it was the N.I. Federation of Clubs who opened this sector up to enable clubs to place the said notices in the Daily Mirror which continues to produce savings for the club sector.

Northern Ireland's best read local daily newspaper\*

**DAILY Mirror**

**SAVING YOUR CLUB MONEY!**  
Entertainment Renewals,  
Public & Legal Notice Advertising

Example 12cm x 1col

Entertainment Renewals Costs

**Daily Mirror £126 + VAT**

Reaching 224,000 readers everyday

The Daily Mirror is better value than News Letter, Irish News or Belfast Telegraph

Contact Kelly on: **028 9056 8110**

\*NI TGI 2010



# Proposed Licensing Legislation



John Davidson, Chairman,  
N.I. Federation of Clubs

## Time to put members in the picture

As members will be aware, the Federation has been actively engaged in the review of Northern Ireland's Licensing Legislation for some considerable time. Of course this has been ongoing prior to and since the Liquor Licensing Review initiated by David Hanson M.P. when Northern Ireland was under direct rule. If implemented that Review would have resulted in more balanced regulatory legislation for the registered clubs sector. However, when transferred to the Northern Ireland Assembly, matters were put on hold to be further reviewed.

Following the first consideration stage, what is being revealed causes concern as it appears that little or no consideration is being afforded to the submission made on behalf of registered clubs, to include the Northern Ireland Sports Forum the Golfing Union of Ireland, GAA (Ulster), Northern Cricket Union and of course the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs which represents the interests of all registered clubs in the province.

One of the main areas of concern relates to the time in which penalty points are accrued. It is proposed that these can be accrued over a three year period rather than twelve months. Moreover, it appears that the said points would be awarded by the PSNI and not a court. Other issues include a photographic and age ID scheme which as you can imagine, in regards to spectator sports, would be difficult to authenticate. It should be noted that while penalty points will be awarded across the licensed sector of the leisure industry they will only be awarded to registered clubs in respect of accounts matters.

We ask why two sets of legislation are required and where is the evidence to support adding to what is already regarded as draconian legislation? Under current legislation the licensed sector can avail of up to 365 late extensions whereas registered clubs are only afforded 52 with the DSD Minister, Alex Attwood MLA, proposing to increase this to 104. However, the DSD Committee is attempting to reduce this allocation to 85, even though the registered clubs sector is acknowledged as not contributing to the problems associated with anti-social behaviour.

Others matters included an extension of hours from 9.00pm to 11.00pm for under 18's in a sports club. This is particularly relevant for clubs engaged in sporting and leisure activities during the summer months which should be permitted to allow under 18's in their clubrooms in the company of a parent, guardian or team coach. Another submission was for the granting of a registered club common pass card.

I encourage club officials and/or members to contact their local MLA, or one of the following DSD committee members, to lend their support to our submissions.

### The Minister and Committee are as follows:

- Alex Attwood M.L.A. (SDLP) Minister - Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3XX - Tel: 028 9080 7809
- Simon Hamilton (DUP) Chairperson - 4 Bridge Street Link, Comber BT23 5YH - Tel: 028 9187 0900
- Caral Ni Chuilin (Sinn Fein) Deputy Chairperson - Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3XX - Tel: 028 9052 1471
- Fra McCann (Sinn Fein) - Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3XX - Tel: 028 9052 0359
- Mickey Brady (Sinn Fein) - Sinn Fein Centre, 1 Kilmorey Terrace, Newry BT35 8DW - Tel: 028 3026 1693
- John McCallister (UUP) - 19 Causeway Road, Newcastle, Co. Down BT33 0D 0DL - Tel: 028 4372 4400
- Jonathan Craig (DUP) - Old Town Hall, 29 Castle Street, Lisburn BT27 4DH - Tel: 028 9266 8378
- Sydney Anderson (DUP) - Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3XX - Tel: 028 90
- Alex Easton (DUP) - 7 Bridge Street, Donaghadee BT21 0AD - Tel: 028 9188 9620
- Anna Lo (Alliance) - Constituency Office, 88 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HE - Tel: 028 9052 1560
- Tom Gallagher (SDLP) - 39 Darling Street, Enniskillen BT74 7DP - Tel: 028 6634 2848
- Mary Bradley (SDLP) - 68 Racecourse Road, L/Derry BT48 8DS - Tel: 028 7135 5500

On behalf of John Davidson, Chairman, officers and executive committee of the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs and representatives of those sporting organisations with which we are associated.

## Federation Cheques for Charity Day

Harland & Wolff Welders Club provided the setting for the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs Cheques for Charity Day, held on 11th December 2010.

Ten local charities each received £500 with Chest Heart & Stroke Chief Executive, Andrew Dougal, speaking on behalf of recipients.

Andrew, a club man himself, spoke in glowing terms of the Federation, its members, and the important role they play in supporting the charity sector. It is of course important to recognise that these donations are made on behalf of our member clubs and are in addition to the tremendous

support registered clubs throughout Northern Ireland afford to charities of all kinds.

The Federation Chairman, John Davidson, said, "Despite the economic climate the N.I. Federation of Clubs is delighted to continue supporting charities in a tangible way. In particular, we feel our annual event provides funds for a number of smaller charities which are less able to secure funding in the same way as the national bodies.

All charities and good causes, locally and nationally, are to be applauded for the work they do and we include those special care schools who have attended our annual awards day".



The NI Federation of Clubs, Cheques for Charity Day, was once again a big success.

The Chairman extended thanks to the Management Committee of Harland & Wolff Welders Club for making their excellent

facilities available for the event and for the outstanding hospitality which followed the presentations.

**Northern Ireland's leading supplier and distributor of:**

- Club gaming machines
- Pool tables
- Digital juke boxes
- Quiz / Skill games
- Plasma / LCD TVs

**OASIS RETAIL SERVICES**  
4 Trench Road, Mallusk, Newtownabbey, County Antrim BT36 4TY  
Office Tel: 028 9084 5845  
Siobhan Magill, Sales Manager - Mobile: 0772 1537335  
Email: smagill@oasirs.com - Website: www.oasirs.com

# Don't miss the Galaxy Showband

at the King's Hall on 16th April

Our 2010 Dinner and Dance featured the legendary Miami Showband and was an outstanding success. It was therefore an easy decision to keep with the showband theme.

This year we are fortunate to have secured the services of the Galaxy Showband, renowned for their appearances at the annual showband show, 'Do You Come Here Often', held in Belfast's Waterfront Hall.

As in previous years, this major event in the club calendar will be held in the Member's Rooms, King's Hall, Belfast on Saturday 16th April 2011.

Letters will be forwarded to clubs shortly, however, news has spread quickly and we have already received calls enquiring about tickets.

This is an evening which will once again take us down memory lane, bringing back wonderful memories of The Plaza, Romano's, Boom Boom Rooms the Fiesta and many other venues located throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Clubs wishing to attend this major event in the club year are encouraged to make contact with the Federation via the helplines as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

## Gene Fitzpatrick makes a welcome return!

Gene has been a leading Irish Comedian for as long as can be remembered and his return this year is sure to repeat the successes of previous appearances. Indeed, we are fortunate to secure his services



The Galaxy Showband.

as he is in big demand on the after-dinner circuit. One thing is certain, no-one will

be offended but everyone will laugh.

## Federation AGM

### Make sure your club is represented

Members are reminded that the N.I. Federation of Clubs A.G.M. will take place on Saturday 26th March 2011 in the headquarters of the R.A.O.B., 17 Church Street, Belfast, BT1 1PG which is just off Lower North Street.

Thanks are expressed to the R.A.O.B. for once again making their club facilities available for the meeting, which this year is more important than ever due to the change in licensing legislation and the numerous

other issues affecting the registered clubs sector.

Registered clubs have been subjected to draconian legislation which sets them apart from the leisure industry and which has totally disregarded the enormous contribution clubs make to sport and community life in the province.

Although the first consideration stage of the legislation went through the Assembly on Tuesday 1st February 2011 the

important second consideration stage will take place shortly, so may yet achieve success.

Federation representatives together with representatives of the GAA (Ulster), the GUI (Ulster branch) and the N.I. Sports Forum will meet the First Minister on Monday 7th February at Stormont, a meeting we hope can produce a positive outcome and better understanding of what is required to assist

clubs to survive. It would be an understatement to say we are dismayed at the apparent opposition by particular members of the DSD Committee who seem to have deliberately ignored the positive contribution made to community life by the registered club sector.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that your club is represented at the AGM on 26th March 2011.

## N.I.F.C. HELPLINES

07889 800329

07889 800331

07889 681714

07889 800325

E-mail: [info@nifederationofclubs.com](mailto:info@nifederationofclubs.com)



## Tax reclaim benefits for clubs

Clubs could be in for another payout from the Government after the tax authorities conceded defeat on the question of VAT on automated lottery machines.

It is not, to what extent these machines may have been used in Northern Ireland, however the details are that following a VAT Tribunal decision Customs & Excise (HMRC) have accepted that automated lottery machines, known as Category B3A machines in the Gambling Act 2005, are exempt from VAT.

Information published by the Clubs Institute and Union highlights that a letter to Chris Haley, Director of CIU National Account supplier

Dransfields, who led the fight against the tax, from senior HMRC tax avoidance officer Glenda Bloxham stated, "We accept that the Reflex machines ... do grant the right to participate in a lottery. The takings therefore are exempt from VAT under the terms of VAT Act 1994, Schedule 9, Group 4, Item 2. HMRC will therefore not be pursuing the VAT issue further in respect of these machines."

This is the second piece of good news in successive months following the success in highlighting the potential reclaims of VAT on gaming machines in what became known as the Linnewebber case. CIU Union General Secretary, Mick McGlasham,

said, "This is even better news than last month as this affects virtually all our clubs and to many it could mean the difference between closing and staying open. The Union has always thought this tax was wrong and along with Dransfields we have fought hard to oppose it. If the result had gone the other way it would have been disastrous."

The N.I. Federation of Clubs will now investigate the potential for registered clubs in Northern Ireland to benefit from this latest reclaim news.

Naturally we are always looking at ways in which our member clubs can avoid being threatened by retrospective taxation on these machines and

it will be a huge relief to clubs to know that this threat has now been lifted.

Unfortunately HMRC have not changed their decision on Amusement Machine Licence Duty (AMLDD) and still insist that it is payable on the machines.

As reported in the minutes of the November Executive Committee meeting, we are pleased to learn of a number of clubs having received payouts from the Linnewebber case with a further payment having been received in respect of interest.

One of the first clubs to benefit received around £8,000 and has since received another £1,000 in back interest.

# P & F AMUSEMENTS

*Part of P&F Group*

**Northern Ireland's Premier Suppliers**



**All Coin Operated Amusement & Gaming Machines, Pool Tables, Snooker Tables, Digital Jukeboxes, Big Screen TVs, Plasmas, Background Music Systems, C.C.T.V., Door Entry Systems, Alarms, InfoCash Cash Machines.**



**SALES - SERVICE - RENT**

**SPECIAL TERMS FOR SOCIAL CLUBS**



Unit 9 : Graham Industrial Estate : Dargan Crescent : Belfast : BT3 9JP  
Tel (028) 9037 0314 (4 lines) : Fax (028) 9077 9408

Email: [info@pandfamusements.com](mailto:info@pandfamusements.com)  
[www.pandfamusements.com](http://www.pandfamusements.com)

# HM Revenue & Customs up the ante on Tax and VAT returns



Clubs and social societies have faced a new and more demanding HM Revenue & Customs penalty regime from the 1st April 2010. In this new scheme penalties are computed as a percentage of the additional tax that is due or under-declared which must be paid in addition to the tax due and interest.

These changes impact any returns since the above date and in particular VAT 100 returns (non online), P32 PAYE monthly returns and P35 PAYE End of Year returns.

These penalties concern both VAT and PAYE and NIC and relate to the inaccuracy of tax and returns, the failure to notify and wrong doing.

The main principles of the new penalty systems are:

1. Support for those who seek to comply but coming down hard on those who seek unfair advantage through non-compliance
2. Simple to understand and administer, efficient and effective
3. A deterrent but also offering positive encouragement if someone thinks they might not have paid the right amount of tax.

4. Recognising the seriousness of non-compliance
5. Providing a fair balance between power and safeguards for customers
6. Proportionate in response to the risk involved.

The difficulty for many clubs and societies is that errors and inaccuracies may only be discovered at the year end or when annual returns are made to 5th April 2011.

A number of questions arise:

#### Who will be affected?

Penalties will be chargeable on, any person who fails to take reasonable care or who deliberately fails to pay the correct amount of tax OR a person who deliberately causes an inaccuracy in another persons document which results in the failure to pay the correct amount of tax.

The person may be among others, an individual, officer of the organisation or a trustee.

#### When could a penalty be charged?

Two conditions must be satisfied

1. An inaccuracy in the document leading to an understated liability for tax or a false statement of loss or repayment
2. The inaccuracy must be due to carelessness or deliberate and concealed

**NOTE:** Failure to inform HMRC will be deemed as careless and if you do not take reasonable steps to inform them after discovery, this may include:

consulting an accountant, telephoning HMRC, discussion with HMRC or email/writing to HMRC.

#### How much?

Person can demonstrate reasonable care.....NIL  
 Careless inaccuracy, resulting in lost HMRC revenue ..... up to 30%  
 Inaccuracy which is deliberate ..... up to 70%  
 Inaccuracy is deliberate and concealed ..... up to 100%  
 Failure to send in return ..... up to 30%

#### What is reasonable care?

This depends on ability, position and experience of

the person making the return, together with the familiarity or complexity of the matter; it will also depend on whether or not you have taken advice.

Using your accountant to check returns is usually considered as reasonable care.

**NOTE:** In some circumstances HMRC may seek recovery from the person rather than the organisation.

**For further help, please contact Lowry Grant at:**  
**J.L. Grant & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants,**  
 lowry@jlgrant.com  
 or  
 028 9083 0801

**JLG**  
 J.L. GRANT & CO  
 CHARTERED CERTIFIED  
 ACCOUNTANTS

Giving you confidence for the future.

Your local accountants, offering a wide range of services including:

Clubs & Membership Organisations	Audit & Assurance
Accounts for all types of business	Tax Returns & Planning
Not for Profit Sector	Book-keeping
Forecasts & Budgetary Controls	Payroll Management
Financial Planning & Management	VAT Compliance

...client focussed  
 ...high quality service  
 ...proactive, innovative, responsive

Established in 1984, J.L. Grant & Co. has grown into one of the largest independent firms of Chartered Certified Accountants in Northern Ireland. We offer a wide range of services to small and medium sized businesses, having particular expertise in the voluntary sector.

A free initial consultation is offered at our premises on request

info@jlgrant.com

**Mallusk Office:**  
 Unit 1, Building 10  
 Central Park, Mallusk Road  
 Newtownabbey  
 BT26 4FS  
 T: 028 90830801  
 F: 028 90830802

**ACCAs**

**Ballyclare Office:**  
 56 Main Street  
 Ballyclare  
 Co. Antrim  
 BT39 9AA  
 T: 028 93322639  
 F: 028 93344662

## Is your club covered?

We have covered insurance issues on numerous occasions and in particular the legal expenses aspect of policies.

However, are you aware of what benefits are available to your club via this facility. It is surprising how many are unaware that this cover is included in club policies issued by our associated insurance broker, Rollins Club Insurance. Of course other policies can also include this cover, so if you obtain your club insurance from a broker other than Rollins please check that this cover is included in your policy.

Club officials should not be dismissive of this cover, thinking they can save a little on their premium. Employment issues

which go to tribunal can be very expensive and stressful. In the claim crazy society we now live in, we cannot emphasise enough the importance of this cover which will safeguard the financial future of your club.

With this cover in place you can rest a little easier. However, should a dispute arise it is essential that prior to taking any action you contact your insurance company, taking their advice and instructions on precisely what course of action to take.

If you take action prior to taking the insurance companies instructions they will most likely absolve themselves from liability.

**DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT!**

## Questions & Answers

**Q. Our Club runs a free membership draw every Saturday night for a prize of £10. To win, the member must be in the Club. If they are not, the draw gets carried over until the following Saturday whereby a further £10 is added. This has on occasion accumulated to hundreds of pounds. Is this legal?**

**A.** I can confirm that there is nothing wrong with a draw of this nature. As a Private Members' Club you are entitled to run free lotteries of this type as often as you wish. As this is a free draw it does not encounter the usual problem with snowball prizes in that they may break the 'equal chance' gaming rule. This 'equal chance' gaming rule is concerned with persons who may have contributed to the earlier games but may have no chance of winning the subsequent games. As, in this case, the whole membership list is used every time and no member has risked any money then this rule is not breached as all members have an equal chance of winning.

The fact that a member may not be present in the Club when the draw is called does not affect the fairness of the draw. The conditions of the draw make it clear that the person must be present to win a prize and if these



conditions are not fulfilled then they forfeit the prize and it is carried over to the next week.

**Q. The Committee would like to know if we can introduce the following as a bye-law or if it can only be introduced by way of an amendment of Rules through a vote at a Special or Annual General Meeting:**

**'Any committee person who resigns during their terms of office cannot stand for re-election or be co-opted back onto the committee for two years from their date of resignation.'**

**A.** Whilst I completely understand the intention of the bye-law I can confirm that it is not possible for a bye-law to be created by the Committee which, in effect, is contrary to a Rule of the Club or which seeks to amend or alter the Rule of a Club. I have no objection to the intention of the proposal but I must point out that it could only be authorised with the approval of Members in accordance with the Rule amendment procedure set out under the Rules.

**Q. We have a long-standing Trustee with health problems who hasn't renewed his membership for the last year and with whom we've had no contact for some time. We have written to him twice asking if he wishes to relinquish his post as Trustee but have had no reply. Please advise what steps we are now able to take?**

**A.** The only way in which to remove the Trustee is to either seek his resignation or remove him from office at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose in accordance with your rules. At the same meeting the members could elect a new Trustee.



*The Complete  
Insurance Package*  
**(028) 9087 3000**



APPROVED INSURANCE BROKERS

**Orr House, 27/29 Linenhall St, Belfast BT2 8AR**

Rollins Insurance Brokers is a trading name of T. Oscar and Company Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority Reference No: 116678

# 18,000 people in 14 countries witness the world's first nightlife exchange on the day the world swapped nights

On 27th November 2010, more than 18,000 people from six continents across 10 time zones witnessed the best of global nightlife come alive as part of The Smirnoff Nightlife Exchange Project. The one-of-a-kind experience was curated from consumer submissions who sent in over 33,000 suggestions as to what characteristics made their local nightlife culture unique.

Ireland partnered with Argentina for an event that featured delicious drinks including an Argentinean take on the signature Smirnoff Mule, the best food of Argentina, music from Argentina's top DJ Elio Riso and Argentinean inspired theatrical acts.

As part of this spectacle, a diverse line-up of talent took to the stage on the same night

at venues around the world, with DJ Elio Riso bringing the sound of Argentina to Dublin and performing to a rapturous crowd of close to two thousand people.

Meanwhile across the world in Argentina, guests were treated to the best of our home-grown talent from top Irish DJ David De Valera with performances from ceili dancers and a venue which recreated a local Irish pub.

The countries taking part - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, India, Ireland, Lebanon, Poland, South Africa, Thailand, USA and Venezuela - were given the chance to experience the best of nightlife from their exchange country at events that merged fashion, drinks, music, entertainment, food and more.

The Smirnoff Nightlife Exchange Project is about celebrating the outcome when the best of global nightlife cross-pollinates to create something extraordinary. Smirnoff will continue to offer fans exclusive content including videos and images of the experience at <http://www.facebook.com/SmirnoffIreland> - as well as updates for more unmissable experiences in 2011.



Claire Glancy and Ruth Gorman enjoyed a great night.

**DRINKAWARE.CO.UK**  
Please drink responsibly.

## Diageo leads in raising a glass

Journalists from the world of print and broadcast enjoyed the craic at the Diageo Christmas party which was held in the Apartment, Belfast.



(L-R) Joanne Steen, Carolyn Stewart, Gregg Elliott from Diageo, Pamela Ballantine and Joanna Malone.

Party goers were invited to get into the festive spirit and celebrate in

style with the world's leading drinks company.



# AVA LEISURE

**'AVA Leisure'** introduces you to the world of gaming

**Major supplier in Northern Ireland for:**

- Casino Club
- poker machines,
- Club fruit machines,
- Video games,
- Pool tables, CD/Video music systems,
- Large screen TV's



AVA, AVA House,  
14 Prince Regent Road, Belfast, BT5 6QR  
**T: 028 9079 0099**  
F: 028 9079 9899 • M: 07890 533029  
E: [adamstranaghan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adamstranaghan@yahoo.co.uk)



## Diageo World Class Bartender of the Year Competition 2011

# DIAGEO

Bartenders from across the island of Ireland converged in Dublin recently to compete in the first Irish heat of Diageo's 2011 World Class Bartender of the Year competition.

Developed by Diageo Reserve Brands, Diageo's luxury spirits portfolio, the aim of the competition is to educate and inspire bartending talent to create exceptional cocktails, service and experiences.

Today it is recognised as one of the most prestigious international bartending competitions in the world with entrants from all corners of the globe competing for the accolade of "World's Best Bartender".

Eleven establishments were selected to take part in the competition's Bushmills Malts, Johnnie Walker, and Classic Malts Whisk(e)y heat which marked the beginning of the search for the 2011 World Class Bartender of the Year and is one of three category heats taking place over the next seven months.

The event was judged by an elite panel including Johnnie Walker and Classic Malts Global Brand Ambassador, Gregor Cattanach, Bushmills Distilling Manager, Darryl McNally and Bushmills Global Ambassador, Keith Wood.

Raf Agapito from Bar With

No Name in Dublin fought off strong competition to secure his place in the Irish final, taking place in June 2011, with his winning Bushmills 10 Year Old Single Malt cocktail called 'The Grey Titan'.

Speaking at the event, Niamh Henry, Channel Planning Manager for On-Trade Spirits at Diageo Ireland, said, "We are delighted to again invite the cream of Ireland's bartenders to compete for the accolade of World's Best Bartender. Irish finalists have continued to rank in the top three at the global finals and despite the competition getting tougher and tougher each year we are continually surprised at the creativity and talent of the bartenders showcased through the competition.

"Recent years have witnessed the Whisky and Irish Whiskey categories growing at a phenomenal rate of 6.86% and 7%. At the forefront of this revival is the whisk(e)y cocktail and while it can be seen as a challenging spirit for many today, our Irish competitors showed just how easy it is to create some world class cocktails with a little flair and technique."

**Cocktail Name:** The Grey Titan using BUSHMILLS 10 Year Old Single Malt Irish Whiskey.



Raf Agapito from Dublin fought off strong competition to secure his place in the Irish final.

## Your safety is our priority



**Our expert helps you reduce risks**

Nothing is more important than the safety of your staff, customers and premises. Our experts are at hand to give advice to help you stay safe and comply with the law.

- Training off the shelf - the easy way to be safe.
- Confined Space Risk Assessments designed to avoid everyday hazards.
- Expert surveys - because you can't cut corners with safety.
- Advanced protection with Cellguard CO<sub>2</sub> monitor alarm.

**For advice 24/7 call:**

**08457 302 302**

[www.bocsureserve.co.uk](http://www.bocsureserve.co.uk)

**BOC**  
**Sureserve**  
Expertise you can trust

### Ingredients

- 50ml Bushmills 10 Year Old Single Malt Irish Whiskey
- 20ml peach infused fortified wine
- 2.5ml aromatic bitters
- 5ml Earl Grey syrup

### Method

- Stir all ingredients until chilled
- Strain into ice-filled old fashioned glass
- Garnish with a twist of Grapefruit zest

### Inspiration

With Bushmills 10 Year Old Single Malt Irish Whiskey being my favourite Irish Whiskey, I wanted to create a drink that would enhance the taste and add another level of complexity to its wonderful flavour profile.

# Tennent's PANI party the talk of the town

Northern Ireland's advertising and marketing professionals celebrated the festive season in the august company of Hugh Tennent, raising a glass or two of his Fabulous Brew to celebrate the holiday season.

The PANI annual drinks party, which was sponsored by Tennent's NI, is something of an institution for PANI which is one of the longest established marketing and communication associations in the UK, part of a network of publicity associations across the UK.

Nicola McCleery, Tennent's NI Head of Marketing said, "We were delighted to support PANI which provides year-round fantastic professional and social networking platforms for the Provinces marketing and advertising fraternity. It was a great, fun-filled night. Since our re-launch campaign Tennent's NI has certainly been the talk of the sector so it was a particular pleasure to see Tennent's literally on everyone's lips as well as our other leading brands, Magners and Budweiser!"



Tony Axon from Navigator Blue is pictured with Tennent's NI promotional team Christine Murphy (left) and Finola Guinnane enjoying the PANI annual drinks party at Victoria Square.

## New Guinness ad reveals that there's more life in the dark

The ad, entitled 'Dark Life', encapsulates the unique life and energy of the Guinness surge by featuring liquid swirls, representing a pint of Guinness as it settles, spreading over locations including Hong Kong, Columbia and New York.

Speaking about the new ad, Head of Marketing for

Guinness, Tanya Clarke said, "Guinness is an iconic Irish brand that is celebrated globally and at the heart of our new ad is the idea that there is more life in the dark. Daytime scenes from around the globe are transformed by the coming of a magical liquid which brings on the night. The captivating film connects with consumers across borders and cultures."

The ad was directed by the award winning French director, Frederic Planchon and was joint production between the Guinness

marketing and BBDO teams of both Ireland and Great Britain.

The new ad aired exclusively on television for the first time on New Year's Eve and is now



running across all channels. The ad aired in cinema in Northern Ireland from 14th January and will air in Great Britain from 2nd March.

[www.acorninspections.com](http://www.acorninspections.com)

### • Electrical & Fire Safety Systems •

Tel: 028 9753 3075 Mobile: 07748 634430  
Email: lyle.dunn@btconnect.com

Call **LYLE DUNN** for a no obligation quotation

**O'HARA  
SHEARER**

Chartered Accountants  
and Registered Auditors

**A COMPLETE RANGE  
OF PROFESSIONAL  
ADVICE & SERVICES**

Providing an accountancy and  
audit service to private member clubs

- Audit & Accountancy • Business Advisory Service • Taxation & Self Assessment • Payroll & VAT • Book-keeping
- Registered Charities & Community Groups Advisory Service

**547 Falls Road, Belfast BT11 9AB**  
(opposite Kennedy Centre)

Tel: **028 9030 9550**  
Fax: **028 9060 1445**

## Carling chief gives red card to idea of another home international tournament

### Phelan urges fans to get behind their teams for Carling Nations Cup

Niall Phelan, Head of Ireland for Carling, sponsor of the forthcoming Carling Nations Cup in Dublin, has questioned recent speculation regarding a second international football tournament involving teams from the British Isles.

Following media reports last week about the possibility of a 'Home Internationals' tournament involving England in 2013, Phelan said that this idea represented 'nothing new', stating that such a tournament already exists in the shape of the Carling Nations Cup, which kicks off in February at the Aviva Stadium.

"There has been a lot of potentially confusing talk in the past week about the possibility of creating a 'new' home international football tournament in 2013 featuring the five teams from Ireland and Britain," said Phelan.

"What puzzles me is that this platform already exists," he added. "It's called the Carling Nations Cup and it kicks off in Dublin in just three weeks time when the Republic of Ireland play Wales and Northern Ireland take on Scotland.

"Unfortunately England were unable to participate this year but the door will always be wide open for them to take part in future tournaments. We hope that the Carling Nations Cup will become an established event in the international football calendar going forward and that England will be involved. In the meantime though, I think

it's time for everyone to forget about what may or may not happen in 2013, get behind their teams and give them all the support they can between now and May.

"Carling is a long established sponsor and supporter of football at all levels, and we are as passionate about the beautiful game as the fans are.

"The Carling Nations Cup has been set up with the full backing of all the participating football associations and it offers our international teams the chance to pick up some precious silverware ahead of the summer with competitive fixtures that will play a valuable role in helping managers develop their squads for the future.

"Hopefully, fans will have a chance not only to see their favourite players in action but also to check out the stars of tomorrow and I'm sure they will turn out in force in February and May to support their teams and really make this a football tournament to remember," he concluded.

The Carling Nations Cup will be played in a league format with six matches between the four neighbouring teams, the first two taking place at the Aviva Stadium on February 8th and 9th and the remaining four taking place on May 24th, 25th, 27th and 29th.

**Full fixture list:**  
Republic of Ireland v Wales  
Tuesday February 8th 2011  
Aviva Stadium KO 7.45pm



Head of Ireland for Carling Niall Phelan joins Northern Ireland manager Nigel Worthington and Republic of Ireland manager Giovanni Trapattoni at the Aviva stadium in Dublin in anticipation of the kick-off of the Carling Nations Cup in February.

Northern Ireland v Scotland  
Wednesday February 9th 2011  
Aviva Stadium KO 7.45pm

Rep. of Ireland v N. Ireland  
Tuesday May 24th 2011  
Aviva Stadium KO 7.45pm

Scotland v Wales  
Wednesday May 25th 2011  
Aviva Stadium KO 7.45pm

Wales v Northern Ireland  
Friday May 27th 2011  
Aviva Stadium KO 7.45pm

Republic of Ireland v Scotland  
Sunday May 29th 2011  
Aviva Stadium KO 6.30pm.

Tickets for all matches are now on sale at [www.ticketmaster.ie](http://www.ticketmaster.ie) and from all participating football associations.





# Cash on tap...



## What is it that keeps members in YOUR Club?

**The great company? The warm, friendly atmosphere? The tasty menu?  
The well-stocked bar? The best entertainment?**

Each of your members will have a different reason for enjoying a night at the club. But they do all need one thing in common. Cash. They won't be doing anything without it. Make sure they have easy access to their money and you will keep your members and their cash in your Club.

### **Give them another reason to stay!**

Find out how your club and members would benefit from an ATM Cash Machine.

Call us now or visit us online

**028 9037 0314**  
**[www.infocash.co.uk](http://www.infocash.co.uk)**

In association with P&F Amusements



As recommended by the  
NI Federation of Clubs

# Infocash

**ATM's that work for you**

## Magners Light reveals Northern Ireland's most stylish venues

Magners Light has revealed the finalists who've been shortlisted in the Most Stylish Bar, Club and Restaurant categories of this year's Magners Light Style Awards. The competition is now open for the public to have their say on which people and venues are the most stylish, ahead of the glittering Awards party on Thursday 10th February



The judging panel (l-r), Gemma Garrett, Nuala Meenehan, James Simpson, Darren Kidd Tracey Hall and Pete Snodden.

At the final the category winners will be revealed, where they'll be presented with a Magners Light Style Awards

trophy, as well as the much sought after 'Most Stylish' title.

## WKD advice for Valentine's Day

To save modern men from the pitfalls surrounding the most romantic day of the year, WKD has produced a set of informative Valentine's Day posters. Under the 'Valentine's Rules' theme, the snippets of advice from WKD Red will set minds to rest when dealing with matters of the heart, all in a suitably WKD way.

The posters offer humorous guidance such as 'Card? Check. Perfume? Check. Excuse

for being late? Check. '; 'Man should only go down on one knee to tie his shoelaces' and 'Any chocolates you buy her must be your favourites.' The witty posters include space for clubs to display prices and are available free from the POS Hotline (0800 917 3450).

Debs Carter, Marketing Director for Beverage Brands, owner of WKD, said, "This fun approach gives WKD the chance to make topical comment and generate a tactical sales opportunity. The poster kits are an amusing way to support Valentine's Day and grow sales for stockists."



WKD Red is currently increasing in both volume and value share terms in Northern Ireland.

"Valentine's Rules are great for engaging with our target audience in a tongue-in-cheek manner. The messages will strike a chord with consumers - guys will relate to the insights into male thinking and the posters will generate wry smiles amongst females who will recognise that the advice given is (unfortunately) all just a little too close to the truth for their liking," concludes Carter.

Classic

**CLUBS & PUBS LTD.**

Interior design concepts for:  
Clubs ★ Pubs ★ Hotels ★ Restaurants ★ Discos etc

Talk to us for the complete 'Professional Package'

★ Bespoke Joinery Work ★

WE ALSO UNDERTAKE TO COMPLETE ENTERTAINMENT CERTIFICATION



For a professional turnkey service call: **07990 500651**

31 Ballygowan Road, Comber, Co. Down. Tel/Fax: 028 9187 0855

## N.I.F.C. HELPLINES

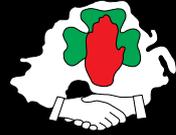
**07889 800329**

**07889 800331**

**07889 681714**

**07889 800325**

**E-mail: [info@nifederationofclubs.com](mailto:info@nifederationofclubs.com)**



## Nominate



At home, work or play... Friends of the Cancer Centre would like you to consider nominating 'Friends' as your designated charity.

Every year in Northern Ireland around 9000 people will learn they have cancer.

Friends of the Cancer Centre works alongside the medical staff at Northern Ireland's Regional Centre of Excellence, the Cancer Centre based at the Belfast City Hospital, to support those cancer patients and their families. 'Friends' enhances the quality of care on offer by raising funds to improve patient comforts, purchase medical equipment and cutting edge technology as well as funding important medical research into causes, diagnosis and treatment.

Friends of the Cancer Centre is a Northern Ireland charity working for local people. The

charity depends on the support of people like you.

Whether you take part as a club or as an individual we'd be glad to welcome you on board. Join in the existing fundraising programme (some activities listed below) which includes everything from sponsored walks to tea parties...or get creative with a project that's all your own.

- Belfast Marathon
- Sky Dives
- Sponsored Walks
- Dragon Boat Races
- Ladies Lunches
- Zip Line across the Lagan

We're happy to help with any idea you come up with but check out what's already happening at [www.friendsofthecancercentre.com](http://www.friendsofthecancercentre.com) or contact us at 028 9069 9393 [info@friendsofthecancercentre.com](mailto:info@friendsofthecancercentre.com)

## UCF go 'over the top'

Be amongst the first to abseil off 'The Obel Building' on 5th & 6th March 2011, at the same time as raising vital funds for two very worthy charities - the Ulster Cancer Foundation and Save the Children. Standing at 265ft the Obel is the tallest building in Ireland, as well as being one of the most impressive. This iconic challenge gives you the opportunity to take in



spectacular views of Belfast from the top of this 28 floor glass building.

To register simply visit [www.obelabseil.com](http://www.obelabseil.com) or call Sarah on 028 9068 0765.

# Music brings clubs to life...

...just make sure you're licensed first

If you want to add atmosphere to your club, there's nothing quite like music:

- 84% of customers would visit a club playing good music more often†
- 82% of customers say that good music encourages them to buy another drink and stay longer†

Don't forget that if you play music in your club, or even if you just show TV programmes, you may need a licence from *PRS for Music*\*.

We have a dedicated licence for members' clubs, designed to suit your needs. Nearly 90% of your licence fee goes to music creators, so they can keep on making music.

For more information, or to buy a Music Licence call us today on **0800 068 4828** quoting 'Club Review'



[www.prsformusic.com](http://www.prsformusic.com)

*PRS for Music* supports Northern Ireland's up and coming musical talent as well as more established artists such as Snow Patrol and Neil Hannon.

*PRS for Music* is proud of its long-standing relationship with the NIFC and would like to thank them for their continued support of music in Northern Ireland's clubs.

\* Music Works survey of 2,000 people, conducted in March 2009. Visit [www.musicworksforyou.com](http://www.musicworksforyou.com) for more details. † The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 requires you gain the permission of the copyright owner if you play music in public. Our Music Licence provides you with this permission for the rights administered by *PRS for Music*, for musical works controlled by *PRS for Music* in the UK. A separate sound recording licence may also be needed. Visit [www.ppluk.com](http://www.ppluk.com) for more details. A Music Licence gives you the right to play our copyright music. You also need a TV licence.

## UWM toasts 2010 support for Marie Curie



Melanie Talbot, United Wine Merchants, makes a special delivery of a £2,500 donation to Anne Hannon from Marie Curie Cancer Care. To mark its 25th year in business the Lurgan based drinks distributor appointed Marie Curie Cancer Care as its nominated charity and throughout 2010 staff raised funds through a series of initiatives including participating in the Belfast marathon and climbing Slieve Donard.

## MONTRA Club help local football team



Montra Club (Coleraine) Treasurer, Ivan Tennant and Club Secretary, Jim Lafferty presented Gerry McGill of the Heights Football Team with a cheque towards the purchase of team shirts. Also pictured are members and young supporters of the local Coleraine Heights FC.

Picture: D. Worboys, Coleraine.



## The Total Solution for the Licensed Trade

United Wine Merchants, Unit 5 Silverwood Business Park  
70 Silverwood Road, Craigavon, BT66 6LN  
Tel: 028 3831 6555 | Fax: 028 3831 6444  
sales@unitedwines.co.uk | www.unitedwines.co.uk

'Enjoy Alcohol Sensibly'  
**drinkaware.co.uk**  
for the facts

## CAB Professional Stock Auditors

FULL STOCK CONTROL/VALUATIONS,  
V.A.T. & ADVISORY SERVICE



30 Years Service to the Club Sector  
Provincewide Service

- ▶ CAB are professionally qualified members of the Institute of Licensed Trade Stock Auditors.
- ▶ Reports fully compliant with all accounts regulations.

## COMPUTER ACCOUNTING BUREAU

T: 028 7034 4666 F: 028 7035 2761

W: [www.stocktaking.com](http://www.stocktaking.com)

Kings Hall, 28 New Row, Coleraine BT52 1AF

Mobile: Martin Dinsmore 07778 762007

HAVE YOU TRIED

# Captain Morgan<sup>®</sup>

with

# Fanta<sup>®</sup>



Drink Responsibly. [drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)  
for the facts

<sup>®</sup>Fanta is a registered trade mark of The Coca-Cola Company.

# Welders finally lift Steel & Sons Cup

On Monday 3rd January, after 28 years of trying, the Welders finally brought the Steel & Sons Cup back to Dee Street.

The first goal of the match came in the 22nd minute when Ryan Harvey picked the ball up on the centre circle, avoided the Knockbrea challenges and slipped the ball past Knockbrea keeper Mateer. Not long after though, Knockbrea were back in the hunt when Chines equalized after a great pass from Garrett. The Welders came back once again and Harvey netted his second of the match after lobbing the advancing keeper.

The goal that sealed the Welders victory came in the 75th minute when Craig McMillen netted

after a mix up in the Knockbrea defence.

There were many anxious faces on the terracing as the Welders supporters waited for the final whistle, which referee Graham McIlwrath finally blew after 3 minutes of injury time.

It was an unforgettable day for everyone connected to the Welders and the joy on the faces of players and supporters alike was a joy to behold. The party moved on to Dee Street and



Welders players and staff celebrate their win in style.

Photos courtesy of www.sportpics.co.uk

the celebrations went on for some time. This was truly a history-making night that keeps

the Welders record of late, in winning at least one trophy per season, intact.

**Airtricity**  
energy made better

Call us today on  
**0845 603 4444**  
for a personalised  
business quote from  
your local Airtricity  
Sales Representative.

[www.airtricity.com](http://www.airtricity.com)

**GALGORM GROUP**  
SERVICE | QUALITY | VALUE  
Tel Sales on 028 2564 3211  
Valid while stocks last

Create the atmosphere with these Special Offers

**Buy 3 Get 1 Free on Glassware**

<b>Primeur</b>			
P67002	8 Flute Goblet	6	€13.30
P67003	11 Flute Goblet	6	€12.43
P67004	14 Flute Goblet	6	€13.50
P67005	20oz Burgundy	6	€13.02

**Imperial Plus**

P44789	8 Flute Goblet	24	€31.44
P44790	10oz Goblet	24	€30.16
P44809	10oz Goblet	24	€30.12
P44828	15oz Goblet	24	€42.96
P44819	5.2oz Flute	24	€29.04

**Imperial**

P44705/24	10oz White Wine	24	€21.84
P44703	10oz Red Wine	48	€45.12
P44272/24	10oz Water	24	€32.16
P44745	15oz Goblet	24	€34.08
P44704	7.5oz Flute	24	€24.96

**Riserva**

P67075	8 Flute Goblet	24	€40.32
P67077	10 Flute Goblet	24	€43.24
P67078	10 Flute Goblet	24	€46.08

**Hiballs**

P42016	10oz	48	€17.76
P42006	12oz	48	€21.00

**Red Napkins**  
2744810 40x50cm €22.50  
Pk 2000

**Red 10" Candles**  
151 Red (Box of 100) €14.99

**Buy 3 Get 1 Free on Nightlights**

104-90	4 Hour	50	€3.00
104-83	4 Hour	60	€3.30

**Rubber Table Mats**  
2836 7" €2.40 (25+)



IRISH WHISKEY



# ENJOY THE MATCH WITH A HOT BUSHMILLS™

*The spirit of IRISH Rugby.*



**GOLD MEDAL WINNER AT  
SAN FRANCISCO 2010**

**Drink Responsibly**  
**drinkaware.co.uk**  
for the facts

## Tonthepitch.com kicks off

Across Northern Ireland thousands of amateur footballers regularly turn out to indulge their passion for The Beautiful Game. Their teams vary in size from full strength to small-sided and their approach ranges from the near-professional to the distinctly disorganised, but the strength of their enthusiasm and their love of soccer are never in question.

In January the players who put their heart and soul into the game were united with the launch of a new sporting and social web site totally dedicated to amateur and small sided soccer in Northern Ireland. Tonthepitch.com, created by Tennent's Lager, giving every single team and every single player across the province their own 'instant' web pages – all free of charge – and providing a much-needed central hub of information. The site also launched the all-new Tennent's Sixes Tournament.

The exclusive football forum Tonthepitch.com has been specially created by Tennent's Lager, building on its long-standing football credentials.

Tennent's Marketing Manager in Northern Ireland, Aisling Duffy, says, "We wanted to put our mark on football here in Northern Ireland and make a meaningful contribution to the playing experience. While we recognise and love the wit and occasional wisdom of the footie fans who dissect the weekend's soccer news over a pint or two, this time our focus was firmly on those who are actively involved in playing the game. That was our starting point and, when we asked players what they'd like to see, our research

highlighted a lack of focus and resource for amateur soccer, coupled with a need to build the 5- and 6-a-side game beyond Belfast where it is most organised and popular. The answer was to bring together local experts to create this all-new and entirely innovative hub exclusively for those whose passion is for the amateur and small-sided game. It's fun, certainly, but we're as serious about making this a great resource as we are serious about making great Lager."

The new web resource caters for every level and ability and will not only provide a speedy, Monday morning results service for all amateur football, but will also be a major 'shop window' for amateur clubs and their players and for the highly competitive 5- and 6-a-side fraternity. The site will make it easier than ever before to set up a game, find somewhere to play, scout new players or even start up a team from scratch.

Heat 2 – Sun Feb 27th  
Valley Leisure Centre,  
Newtownabbey

Heat 3 – Sun Mar 13th  
Ballymena Showgrounds

Heat 4 – Sun Mar 27th  
Grosvenor Road, Belfast

Heat 5 – Sun Apr 10th  
Mid Ulster Sports Arena,  
Cookstown

Heat 6 – Sun May 1st  
Magee Campus, Derry



Aisling Duffy, (centre) Tennent's Marketing Manager is pictured with Michael Dougherty, and Paul Harbinson (Capt) both from the Harland and Wolff Welders FC, at the launch of a new sporting and social web site created by Tennent's Lager. Helping to kick start the new site are promotional team Ciara McStravick (left) and Jenny Curran.

Heat 7 – Sun May 15th  
Craigavon Leisure Centre

The ambition is, over the course of this season, to get every amateur footballer and team in Northern Ireland signed up as part of the new Tonthepitch community - the great and the not-so-great, the serious, the social and even the slightly shambolic!

The four top 6-a-side teams will meet for the Grand Final on Saturday May 28th at Stormont PlayBall where there will be more than bragging rights up for grabs. Everyone who plays in the inaugural Tennent's Sixes will bag a Tennent's T-shirt and vouchers for pints. Regional heat winners will earn £250 with the overall winners netting the prestigious new Tennent's Sixes trophy, £500 and a branded strip - not to mention instant fame with the winning team photo to be featured on a mega billboard in their home town!

Aisling Duffy says, "We are delighted to be announcing something so exciting and different for a sector of local football where playing for the simple love of the game is the reality. We may have got things up and running, but we recognise that this is a game of two sides and the success of the site ultimately depends on the active involvement of our local footie players. We see this as their site and we're looking forward to getting the feedback that will allow us, over time, to add new features and enhance its value and relevance still further."



# UGAAWA Merit Award Winner

It is Crossmaglen Rangers on the double as two of their players make history with back-to-back Quinn Insurance/ Ulster GAA Writers' Monthly Merit awards.

The wintry weather prevented the November honour being presented last month so it was a double presentation this time with Cross players Tony Kernan and Jamie Clarke stepping up to receive their awards at a reception in Quinn's Corner.

Kernan (24) was the man who put the spark into the Rangers' bid to unseat Ulster and All-Ireland titleholders St Gall's (Belfast) in early November and then hit three very useful points, one from a '45', in the Down champions' narrow win over Burren in the provincial semi-final.

"That win over St Gall's was massive for us. A huge victory as we had not even been favourites to win out in Armagh last year. To win the county title and then beat the All-Ireland champions was quite a boost for us. Winning this award is, certainly, quite a personal boost for me," stresses Kernan who

has now collected four Ulster championship medals.

That's one medal more than Jamie Clarke (21) has to his credit. "I was only a child when Tony was winning his first medal," jokes Jamie.

Clarke really jumped to attention during the Ulster final hitting a goal and two points and setting up another goal for Oisín McConville against Glenties. He also contributed to other Crossmaglen scores in that decider.

"Of course, getting this award adds greatly to winning the Ulster Championship and a good boost to me going into the All-Ireland quarter-final," says the December winner.

It's the first time in the 24 years history of the Monthly Merit awards that players from the same club have won back-to-back honours. Tony Kernan also keeps a family tradition going as his brothers Stephen and Paul plus dad Joe have been winners in the past. Now 16 awards have gone to the Crossmaglen club.



Quinn Insurance Private Lines Manager, Colum Courtney (left), and UGAAWA Chairman, JP Graham (right), present the November and December Monthly Merit Awards to Crossmaglen players, Tony Kernan and Jamie Clarke.

Picture courtesy of Peader McMahon

## Higher Education championships launched

The 2011 Ulster Bank Higher Education GAA Championships were officially launched recently by GAA President Christy Cooney at Croke Park.

The draws for the Higher Education GAA championships took place last December in UCD which hosts this year's Ulster Bank Sigerson Cup in what is the 100th anniversary of the competition. This year's Ulster Bank Fitzgibbon Cup will see hosts Waterford IT attempting to navigate their way out of a group containing UCD and Limerick IT to make it to the quarter-final stages. Speaking at the event the GAA President said, "The Ulster Bank Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cups are amongst the most keenly contested competitions in the GAA calendar and boast a proud history to rival any of our competitions. In recent years, the numbers of established County players participating



(L-R) Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Criostóir Ó Cuana, Liam Rushe, Paul Galvin and Ray O'Brien, at the launch in Croke Park.

Picture credit: David Maher / SPORTSFILE

with the various Colleges has grown exponentially and of course the competition also remains as a vital breeding ground for the stars of the future. The dedication and commitment of players participating in the various competitions should also be acknowledged and it is heartening to note that the competitions continue to grow from strength to strength."

### THE TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Access Control CCTV Systems Intruder Alarms Hi-D TV + P.A. Systems

Fire Systems - Repairs - Upgrades - Leasing

Inc. - Abbacus CCTV & Alarms

'Special rates to Federation of Clubs members'

Tel: - 90-50-00-50  
Mob:- 07788 901796

Unit A2.04, Portview Trade Centre, 310 Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 1HE

## Take it as red Garrett wins monthly award

Cliftonville star, Stephen Garrett, achieved a double of 'firsts' in December en route to landing the prestigious Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Player of the Month award. The Reds ace recorded his first victory over former club Linfield, a feat he failed to achieve during a spell with Newry City after leaving Windsor Park.

Garrett didn't manage to get on the scoresheet against the Blues but that didn't take the shine off the success, which was followed by a derby day victory over Crusaders.

"There weren't too many games played because of the snow but

thankfully our new pitch turned out to be an advantage last month," said Garrett. "We didn't start too well against Glentoran but played really well in the next two to beat Linfield and Crusaders. Beating the Blues was particularly sweet for me as I've never managed to do it since leaving them and now I've won my first Player of the Month award. I hope this isn't the last of our awards this season and I would like to thank Carling and the Football Writers for the honour."

Carling's Jordana Grimes said, "Stephen played a vital role for Cliftonville during the month of December when the snow hit our games hard. He fully



Stephen Garrett receives his Carling N.I. Football Writers' Association Player of the Month award for December by Carling girl Catherine Milligan.

deserves this honour and I'm sure more will follow. Carling is delighted to be at the heart of

local football, supporting local talent, and bringing local people back to the game."

## Patt on the back for Carling's top boss



Eddie Patterson collects his Carling N.I. Football Writers' Association Manager of the Month award from Carling girl Catherine Milligan.

Eddie Patterson knew December could make or break his side's chances of mounting a serious title challenge. Massive tests against the top three lay in wait, but the Reds stood up to the plate to prove they have what it takes, despite a shaky start to the month, earning Patterson the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers Association Manager of the Month accolade.

With most matches called off due to the weather conditions, the Solitude men beat the snow and big freeze thanks to their 3G pitch. Glentoran, in early December, adapted better to the conditions to seal a win at the north Belfast venue but instead of crumbling, Patterson's troops hit back in stunning fashion, defeating champions Linfield and bitter neighbours Crusaders.

Patterson, who celebrated his sixth award as top boss dedicated the honour to his

backroom staff and players.

Patterson said, "I'd like to thank the Football Writers and Carling for their continued support but this award goes to my assistant Tommy Breslin and coach Paul Trainor. The players have been vital and their attitude and commitment has been outstanding after a tough start to the month. Thankfully we earned two massive victories against teams around us and it has given everyone a lift to push on for the remainder of the season."

Carling's Jordana Grimes said, "December was a tough month in terms of the weather but Cliftonville battled hard against all the elements and enjoyed a number of fantastic wins. This was ultimately down to great leadership from boss Eddie Patterson so I'm thrilled the Reds manager has picked up yet another Carling award."

# 1996

## Eric's double twist in United's Tale

*Eric Cantona scores FA Cup winning goal against Ian Rush's Liverpool.*



By any standards, Eric Cantona had the most remarkable of seasons for Manchester United. In October of 1995 he graced his return after a nine-month suspension for attacking a Crystal Palace supporter with a penalty against Liverpool that earned United an important draw. Important goals in important matches became the hallmark of Cantona's extraordinary year.

With Cantona as their inspiration, Manchester United overhauled Newcastle's daunting 12-point lead to win the championship and then beat Liverpool 1-0 in the FA Cup final to capture their second Double. And who scored the winning goal in the final? Cantona, of course. It was no surprise that Cantona was voted Player of The Year.

Amazingly, the team that made history by making Manchester United the only club ever to win the Double twice, was in transition. Mark Hughes had gone to Chelsea; Paul Ince to Inter and Andrei Kanchelskis was off to Everton. Alex Ferguson gambled on his young players blending in with his mercurial French genius.

It paid off. Phil and Gary Neville, David Beckham, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes were all successfully absorbed into the senior squad as the League championship went to Old Trafford for the third time in four years. With such an impressive array of silverware, it seemed that Ferguson was building a dynasty as dominant as Liverpool had in the 1970s and 1980s.

But did Newcastle throw the title away? Kevin Keegan's side held a 12-point lead in January that was constructed around their impregnable home record. They only lost one match at St James's Park, but that was to Manchester United. And who scored the winner? Cantona.

It was Newcastle's poor away form that did for them, only seven away victories, and the signing of Faustino Asprilla. After the Colombian's arrival in February, Newcastle were nine points ahead with a game in hand. They eventually trailed by four points.

## The Shark is beached again

After three days' of the US Masters Greg Norman led by six strokes and was on the brink of winning one of the few tournaments to have eluded him. Then everything started to go wrong.



*A despairing Norman knows it's all over.*

A deathly hush descended over Augusta National as the crowds witnessed one of the most spectacular collapses ever seen. Norman's game totally fell apart. As he trudged from one disastrous hole to the next he was a broken man. When, on the final green, Nick Faldo sunk a birdie putt to win by five strokes there was hardly any celebration. Faldo was clearly moved by the suffering that Norman had just been through. The two men embraced, both close to tears and Faldo said to Norman, "I don't know what to say. I just want to give you a hug. I feel horrible about what happened."

It was an unbelievable end to a roller-coaster week for Norman. The day before the tournament started, Norman was wracked by back pains and could hardly swing a club. But after treatment from a therapist he promptly equalled the course record with a first-round 63. Rounds of 69 and 71 put him so far ahead that even Faldo thought the result was beyond doubt. However, as many commentators pointed out, Norman had been the leader at the start of the final day of a major seven times before. On six of those occasions he had blown it.

Norman's drive from the first tee disappeared into the trees and he dropped a shot. He had another bogey on the fourth, then Faldo sunk a 20ft putt on the eighth to halve Norman's original lead to three strokes. Going round Amen Corner was a journey to hell. Norman dropped another shot on the ninth hole, missed from eight feet on the 10th and three feet on the 11th. Faldo was now level. When Norman's ball splashed into the lake at the 12th Faldo led by two strokes. At the 15th, Norman missed an eagle by a whisker and slumped to the ground in despair. When another ball disappeared into the water at the 16th, all hope sunk with it.

"I screwed up," said Norman. "I let this one get away but I'll win here, I will. If I don't, I might as well put my clubs away for good."

## Also this year...

**Football** - Bob Paisley, the former Liverpool manager, died in February, aged 77. His Liverpool teams won 20 trophies in less than a decade.

**Pool** - Minnesota Fats died, aged 82..

**Rugby League** - Wigan were finally beaten in the Challenge Cup after 43 matches and nine years.

**Cricket** - Harold "Dickie" Bird, the legendary umpire, retired after officiating in the Test match between England and India at Lord's.



# RBS 6 NATIONS 2011 FIXTURES

## ITALY V IRELAND

SAT 5TH FEB, KICK-OFF 14.30

## IRELAND V FRANCE

SUN 13TH FEB, KICK-OFF 15.00

## SCOTLAND V IRELAND

SUN 27TH FEB, KICK-OFF 15.00

## WALES V IRELAND

SAT 12TH MAR, KICK-OFF 17.00

## IRELAND V ENGLAND

SAT 19TH MAR, KICK-OFF 17.00

**GREAT WEEKENDS WITH IRELAND'S NUMBER 1 BEER\***

\*SOURCE : ACNIELSEN MAT BEER VOLUME SALES TOTAL IOI MARKET, AUGUST 2010.



PROUD PARTNER OF IRISH RUGBY



**GUINNESS.COM/RUGBY**

**Drink Responsibly. [drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)**

for the facts