

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF CLUBS

# Club Review

VOLUME 24 - Issue 8, 2011



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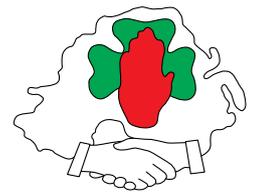
# DISCOVER THE STRENGTH OF FLAVOUR.



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# Minutes of the executive meeting

Held in the Donegal Celtic F.S.C.  
on Saturday 12th November 2011



The Chairman opened the meeting following which the Secretary was invited to read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were subsequently read and passed as a true record by Tom McMinn and seconded by Jim McCaul.

Correspondence was included under new business and included an invitation to meet the Minister, Nelson McCausland, to discuss areas of the new Legislation which may enjoy further consideration for amendment. The Secretary continued to convey the detail of draft correspondence to the Minister outlining the items referred to.

The Chairman provided those present with details of the meeting with the N.I. Sports Forum and the Golfing Union (Ulster Branch).

Details of proposed changes in employment and tribunal law was conveyed to members by the PRO which were of interest to Joe Patterson as he is engaged in this field on a daily basis. Joe confirmed his knowledge of these changes, continuing to say that it is important that, in regard to a club disciplining someone, that the club constitution/rulebook is referred to, to ensure compliance with the rules. Of course clubs are also reminded that they are required to comply with current employment legislation.

Philip Mallon confirmed that he had been contacted by a

club in his area about an issue which the Chairman confirmed was an internal matter for the club.

A long debate took place on satellite TV with an endorsement of the Sky Club Package. Phillip Mallon, who has experience in this area warned against signing up for foreign satellite, explaining that information coming out indicates that a number of foreign services may be switched off in the near future. It is reasonable to suppose that this may well be the case underlining the importance of the advice issued by the Federation.

A financial report was provided by the Secretary which was subsequently passed as a true record by Joe Patterson and seconded by Raymond Connor.

Details of the 2012 Federation dinner and dance are being finalised, however we can confirm that music will be provided by the ever popular Contrast who have provided excellent entertainment at our event on several occasions.

As there was no further business the meeting was concluded with the Chairman thanking Brian McCartney and the committee of Donegal Celtic Football and Social Club for hosting the meeting and for the hospitality which followed.

Bob McGlone  
Secretary  
N.I.F.C.



The N.I. Federation of Clubs executive committee with Donegal Celtic F.S.C. Secretary, Gerry O'Reilly.

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## A time for reflection



John Davidson,  
Chairman, NIFC



Bob McGlone  
Secretary, NIFC.

As we enter 2012 we are delighted that we have managed to secure more suitable legislation through the amendments submitted.

We are informed that the increase in the current level of late extensions, from 52 to 85, is likely to be implemented early in 2012, however this, and the extension of hours during which young people are permitted on club premises, from 9.00pm until 10.00pm, forms a small part of our overall submission. On a more positive note we have been informed that the Minister, Nelson McCausland M.L.A., has a mind to re-visit aspects of the Club Order which has formed the basis of an

invitation to meet the Minister in January 2012.

The anti-social behaviour issue continues to cause concern in regard to which we are pleased to play a role on a panel representing all sections of the trade to establish a voluntary code of practice. This will hopefully be sufficient to satisfy the Minister that it will not be necessary to introduce Legislation.

We are delighted that the VAT reclaim on gaming machine income has been resolved to the satisfaction of those who followed the Federation guidelines. In addition, the reclaim of VAT on snooker/pool income has also been satisfactorily resolved with clubs reclaiming VAT for the past four years and future income being exempt.

The exemption of VAT on door admission to cultural events is another revenue stream which is available to the club sector, the only exception being where a disco is used as opposed to live music.

We are naturally concerned that the economic climate is forcing many clubs to reduce expenditure with such things as downsizing, week-day closures and reduction in staff and working hours being on the agenda. This will of course have a knock-on effect in respect of clubs underpinning their sporting ethos.

This highlights the importance of the development of the association established with the N.I. Sports Forum, the Golfing Union of Ireland, GAA Ulster Branch the NCU and others, the representatives of which

form part of our delegation when meeting government agencies. Furthermore, the close association with these sporting bodies underlines the link between the social and sporting aspect of a registered club.

We would like to highlight the continuing success of the Federation helpline facility which has provided a major means of assisting club management committees on a daily basis.

We take this opportunity to thank the Federation executive committee for their commitment throughout the year. In addition, it is important to register our gratitude to all those companies which have supported us year on year to include their support of Club Review.

We acknowledge that as an organisation this support has helped in no small way to establish the N.I. Federation of Clubs in attaining the position it holds today.

Special thanks is extended to the following:- Media Marketing for the administrative facilities which are placed at our disposal; Federation solicitor Maura McKay of Shean, Dickson, Merrick; Federation accountant Lawrence Shearer of O'Hara Shearer.

Be assured the NIFC remain committed to working for the good of registered clubs throughout Northern Ireland.

In conclusion we wish you, your management committee and members a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

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# Retirement change comes into force

The ending of the default retirement age (DRA) means that since October 1 clubs have no longer been able to force employees to retire at 65.

An employee wishing to retire just needs to give the normal notice period outlined in their terms and conditions of employment. Clubs may choose to incorporate a voluntary retirement policy which requires employees who are choosing to retire to inform the secretary in writing. The period of notice can be well in advance, but in any event, in accordance with the notice period.

The secretary may then choose to arrange a meeting with the employee to discuss

arrangements for retirement, including the intended retirement date, possible flexible retirement options and succession and hand-over plans. The employee should decide their retirement date and the club should then confirm this in writing, together with any other relevant arrangements, for example, final salary/wages payments. Employees may be reminded to consider their pension provision and take independent financial advice before making any retirement decisions.

An employee's voluntary retirement is really a resignation like any other. There is no statutory procedure for a club to follow if the employee wants to retire. As

there is no longer a specific age at which an employee may choose to retire, the club should notify all staff of any retirement policy, and provide information on when employees will be able to draw their pension benefits. The crucial thing to remember is that an employee should never be put under pressure to reduce their hours or change their responsibilities in preparation for retirement. The club can, however, agree to such changes if it is the employee's choice.

Instead of only asking older employees if they have plans to retire (which may be discriminatory), clubs should consider asking all employees about their future aims and

aspirations, as a good way of raising the issue of retirement as part of a regular appraisal process.

**Compulsory retirement age**  
Clubs can still use a compulsory retirement age, provided that they can objectively justify it. The new way of referring to this system is employer-justified retirement ages" (EJRA). To justify a compulsory retirement age, the club must be able to show that the proposed retirement age is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim and, basically, that the employee is too old to do the job. This not only varies from person to person but it is also highly subjective and it should provide a field day for lawyers.



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Those clubs who continue to use, or adopt, a new compulsory retirement age will have to show that the age:

- corresponds to a real business need,
- is appropriate and necessary to achieve the objectives pursued, and
- is proportionate.

On top of this any dismissal based on a compulsory retirement age must be procedurally fair.

### Changing their mind

An employee who indicates that they are considering retiring can change their mind and continue in employment. The club cannot force the employee to retire in these circumstances unless the retirement would be objectively justified and the employer follows a fair procedure in the usual way.

However, if the employee changes their mind about retiring after giving clear notice of retirement, the club does not have to accept the employee's withdrawal of their resignation. Disputes are expected to arise surrounding whether the employee has changed their mind or not.

To avoid such issues clubs should be advised to confirm matters in writing once the employee has said they definitely want to retire. If the employee has given clear notice which the club has accepted, then the club can effectively insist the employee sticks to their retirement.

A compromise position for an employee who changes their mind may be some sort of flexible retirement option with reduced hours or altered duties. However there could be a risk of age discrimination.

## Paying PRS and PPL

Whenever you play a sound recording in public there are two separate licence fees that have to be paid. There is a copyright in the actual sound recording and a separate copyright in the musical and lyrical composition. One payment goes to PPL, who distribute to record companies and performers, the other goes to PRS who distribute to composers and publishers.

Any club playing recorded music needs a PPL licence. PPL works for 3,500 record companies and 40,000 performers and grants licences for all sound recordings such as CDs, tapes and records. It enables clubs to play sound recordings without having to obtain clearance for each track.

PRS ensures its 44,000 composer, song-writer and publisher members are paid royalties when their copyright music is performed or broadcast in public.



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# East Belfast club takes first delivery

On 14th April 2012 one hundred years will have passed since that fateful night when the R.M.S Titanic, which at the time was the largest man-made object ever moved, collided with the iceberg which was to claim her.

Since that time Belfast ceased to produce whiskey however on the 31st May 2011 at Belfast's Europa Hotel, well-wishers gathered to witness the world launch of Titanic Irish Whiskey, re-introducing the whiskey industry to Belfast.

The creation of the newly formed Belfast Distillery Company launched Titanic Irish Whiskey, the first whiskey brand to emanate from the city of Belfast since the closure of the last whiskey distillery in Belfast 75 years ago, marking the end of an era of Belfast as the most important whiskey-producing centre in Ireland. Indeed, it is not widely known that in the Titanic era, Belfast produced nearly half the total whiskey produced in Ireland.

The Titanic range features 5 & 10 Year old whiskeys. Receiving the first club delivery of the iconic brand, Federation Chairman and H&W Welders Treasurer, John Davidson, accompanied by club officials, wished Managing Director, Peter Lavery, their very best wishes for this exciting new initiative.

John Davidson expressed the wish for clubs to embrace this new development, particularly in view that it is the forerunner to re-establishing whiskey production in Belfast.

On a bigger scale, Peter Lavery is committed to developing the association between Belfast and the Titanic and particularly

the area of East Belfast which surrounds the famous shipyard, an area which by and large passes tourists by, but which is

the true face of the shipbuilding era at it's peak in Belfast. Peter's club launch of Titanic Whiskey could not have been

more appropriate given the association between Harland & Wolff Welders F.S.C. and the

*continued on p8*



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*Pictured at the handover of the first cases of Titanic Whiskey to the club sector are - (l-r) club Chairman, Thomas Flynn; Peter Lavery; Treasurer, John Davidson and Secretary, George Heenan.*

shipbuilding industry. With members and extended family members with ties to the famous Belfast shipyard there is a host of stories waiting to be told. Yes, 2012 is going to be a big year with numerous events planned, not least of which is a wedding hosted in the East Belfast Club with guests dressed in Edwardian costume with photographs being taken on the very slipway from which the Titanic was launched. It's important for Belfast to take pride in its history

of shipbuilding and whiskey distilling and what better way to celebrate this than with the launch of a new whiskey brand from Belfast bearing the Titanic name. It is Peter Lavery's long-term objective to once again establish Belfast as the distilling capital of Ireland, adding that not only is the planned new distillery a return to the great whiskey producing days of Belfast 's past, but would in the future provide employment for the people of the city.

## Questions & Answers

**Q. Can you let us know what the statutory holiday allowance for employees should be and whether bank holidays should be taken as part of the allowance or on top?**

**A.** All employees, whether full-time or part-time, are legally entitled to 5.6 weeks' paid annual leave. Additional annual leave may be agreed as part of a contract. A week's leave should allow employees to be away from work for a week i.e. it should be the same amount of time as the working week. If an employee works a five-day week, they are entitled to twenty-eight days leave per annum. If an employee works a three-day week, the entitlement is 16.8 days leave per annum.

Employers can set the times that employees take their leave, for example for a Christmas shutdown. If an employment ends, the employee has a right to be paid for the leave time due and not taken.

There is no statutory entitlement to paid leave for public holidays. Any right to paid time off for such holidays depends on the terms of the contract. If the contract does not specify this, the right to paid leave may have built up through custom and practice. Paid public holidays can be counted as part of the statutory 5.6 weeks' holiday entitlement under the Working Time Regulations 1998.

There are normally eight Public Holidays per year, although this year there was a ninth coinciding with the Royal Wedding.

**Q. I have been asked to write to a member and ask him to attend the next committee meeting concerning his conduct in the club. The committee have asked me to include in the letter that he will be suspended until he has appeared before the committee. I would be grateful if you could advise me whether this is correct?**

**A.** No member can be suspended or expelled from the club without a disciplinary meeting having taken place. I confirm that it is in order for you to request the member in question to "withdraw from the facilities of membership" until such time as he appears before the committee. It is



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very important not to use the word "suspend" in this notice since suspension can only take place following the disciplinary hearing as one of the options which may be available in the event of the committee deciding the complaint regarding his conduct warrants either a reprimand, suspension (for a fixed period) or expulsion. The correct term is "withdraw".

**Q. Our Club is struggling financially at the moment, could you let us know if there are any grants available to us? We have been told that grants may be available?**

A. There are few, if any, public grants that are available to private clubs. Clubs commonly think that they may be entitled to National Lottery Funding, but unless the club serves a public interest or provides a benefit to the community then no lottery funding would be available.

As a private club it is extremely unlikely that any argument could be made for funding to be made available by way of a grant. This is primarily due to the fact that the club is not open to the public, it is not owned by the public and therefore public money is unlikely to be awarded to the club. I should point out that this would apply to all types of private member clubs, whichever flag they may fly or title they may have.

**Q. We have a problem with young guests to the club causing damage to our snooker room. Would it be permissible to restrict young guests to a specific part of the club?**

A. There is no reason why the committee cannot introduce a bye-law restricting members' guests to a specific area of the club. This would mean that you could keep the snooker room purely for paid up members and their adult guests only.

Alternatively you could attempt to discover who is causing the damage. If a member has signed in a guest who breaks the club's rules or causes damage then the member who signed the person in will be responsible for their behaviour and, possibly, liable for any damage that they have caused. The committee has the authority to refuse admission to specific guests if it is deemed desirable in the interests of the club to do so.

**Q. We have bingo held in the club once a week that is being run by two club members. A committee member has now stated that it is a requirement**

**for any such activity in the club to be managed by the committee and as such that committee members must run these sessions. Is this correct?**

A. Provided these members are promoting the activity of bingo on behalf of the committee then this will be sufficient to bring this game under the purview of the club's legitimate managed activity. Clearly it would be unacceptable for members of the club to hold bingo sessions inside the club without the authorisation of the committee but this does not mean actual committee members have to run such activities.

## N.I.F.C. HELPLINES

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## What does the Digital Switchover mean to you and your customers?



On October 24th 2012 all analogue television signals in Northern Ireland will stop transmitting, meaning that no longer will anyone be able to receive BBC1, BBC2, ITV, Channel 4 or Channel 5 without the use of one of the following systems: Satellite (Sky or Freesat) / Digital Aerial with Receiver (Freeview) / Phoneline (BT Vision) / Cable (Virgin Media).

TV is going digital. The existing analogue TV signal will be switched off and replaced with a new, stronger digital TV signal. It will mean that almost everyone will be able to receive

digital TV through an aerial (Freeview). Digital TV also uses less broadcast space which means that after switchover, there will be more room for new services such as wireless broadband, local TV and High Definition Television (HDTV). To keep your TV service, you will need to convert your TVs to digital before October 24th 2012.

Each television set in your home or work could receive a signal from a different source including: satellite, aerial, phone line or cable. Switchover affects any TV that receives its signal via an aerial - commercial or residential.



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## HMRC causing confusion!

We have recently heard of a club on the mainland being asked for £18,000 that the HMRC knew was not enforceable almost from day one. They harried and threatened the club for 18 months and only dropped the case when the club's representatives discovered what HMRC already knew.

The response of HMRC was to apologise for any inconvenience caused. They did not say they would review all cases, if any, of a similar nature where they had demanded and received money under similar circumstances, possibly from other clubs.

We have also heard of a club that was caught out for late payment due to the fact that

HMRC has not signed up to the bank fast-payment system for payments to be received by them on the same day they are paid. This means that even though extra days are allowed for electronic payment, the money has to leave your bank account earlier than when paying by cheque. The HMRC has apparently apologised for any inconvenience caused to the club in question! Are they however going to show the genuineness of their apology by signing up?

The HMRC statement said they only come down hard on the minority that deliberately flout the rules. The club concerned are not one of this so-called minority and pays PAYE/NHI

regularly but they did not know HMRC had not registered for fast payments. The payment landed two days late and the club subsequently received a letter telling them they would be charged interest on all future

late payments as a result of two days' lateness of one payment.

The lesson of this story is to make sure you get your payments in on time, be it cheque or electronic transfer.

## More VAT success

We have received news that there have been further successes with claiming back VAT on automated lottery machines from the Revenue & Customs (HMRC) in what have become known as Linneweber claims.

HMRC have until recently issued a blanket rejection of all "protective Linneweber claims" submitted in 2006 and 2007 where the claims were not quantified at the time the "protective claim" was submitted. HMRC's position appears to be shifting in that they have now confirmed repayment of previously non-quantified claims.

The arguments used are complicated and often protracted but in essence revolve around HMRC's

internal guidance detailing that non-quantified claims should only be rejected after an agreed timescale for production of the quantified claim has expired. When added to the fact HMRC failed to mention the lack of quantification and to reject it on that basis, together with evidence that HMRC have allowed certain VAT-registered persons to quantify their claim several years after the initial submission, it would seem that HMRC are taking a pragmatic approach and reconsidering (and repaying) such claims.

Dealing with HMRC is not straightforward and if the circumstances described above affect your club you might want to take further advice. If so, Federation accountant Lawrence Shearer, whose details are on the advertisement at the

bottom of this page, will be happy to help.



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# Winners discover 'There's Method in the Magners' hive party!

Hundreds of revellers swarmed to the ultimate one-off party at the Magners Hive recently when it popped up at Custom House Square in Belfast. The giant inflatable hive was the unique venue for the Magners pop-up party experience with everything from a recording booth for guests to burn their own CD, comedy by Sean Hegarty as well as live music.

The party got off to a great start with the Marty McCafferty Band and host and DJ Connor Phillips added to the fun and games with lots of prizes, including a top prize giveaway of a Magners Mega Cash prize of £1000. There was a touch of burlesque style from the Magners Hive showgirls as well as a fire and light spectacular. Add to that some incredible craic and Magners over ice and you had all the ingredients for one very cool evening that had the audience agreeing that 'There's Method in the Magners!'

Magners Hive £1,000 cash winner, Amy Cunningham, with Magners Hive DJ, Connor Phillips, James

Simpson, Magners Marketing Manager and the Magners Hive showgirls.



James Simpson, Magners Marketing Manager, with Magners Hive showgirls, Miss NI Finola Guinnane and Ciara McStravick.



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## A WKD Christmas Package

WKD has a comprehensive package of trade and consumer support to set tills ringing this Christmas. Owner, Beverage Brands, is backing WKD with TV, in-outlet and digital support to drive consumer demand, and a range of trade deals and free POS to support stockists over the festive season. WKD is gearing up to ensure outlets maximise returns at this key time of year.

Christmas is all about traditions and WKD is continuing with one of its very own this year by once again giving away highly sought-after 'Turkey Head' hats. This will be the fourth yuletide that the free seasonal headgear has been used for consumer promotions and this year's offering has a twist: 'Burnt Turkey Head' hats are set to be this season's must-have branded item. Over-cooked turkey is an all-too-familiar part of Christmas, and in hat form the burnt offerings will generate a real sense of festive fun, create great stand-out and help build the unique atmosphere that only the on-trade can deliver. Some 50,000 burnt-looking turkey hats will be causing a flap across the UK this Christmas.

WKD also has an innovative online festive promotion which will allow consumers to either win absolutely anything at all that they ask for, or win a WKD-style amusing interpretation of their request. 175,000 Facebook fans are being invited to request their ideal Christmas presents from WKD's regular festive spokesman, Noel. If selected, lucky consumers could win exactly what they originally asked for if Noel does the Christmas shopping himself, but if their prize is

purchased by his Nan instead, winners will receive amusing alternatives. For example, a consumer requesting an iPad or a BlackBerry could end up with just that, or an eye-patch or a punnet of blackberries if Noel's mischievous Nan does the Christmas shopping. The tongue-in-cheek activity is set to create real interest amongst WKD's large online following and generate a real talk-about factor.

As part of WKD's ten-month advertising support this year, extensive TV media will keep the brand top of mind for consumers before and over Christmas. For on-trade customers, a selection of case deals across the entire WKD range will encourage outlets to stock up and help them to maximise profits. Festive decoration kits which include banners and giant brussel sprout hanging mobiles will be available to selected customers, and Christmas-themed paper POS kits containing posters, bar trim and signs for seasonal opening times are available free to all callers to WKD's POS Hotline (0800 917 3450).

Simple-to-make recipe ideas for Christmas-themed WKD jugs, which will enable outlets to offer consumers WKD with a range of different mixers, are available in the free POS kits. Jugs are all about socialising and sharing with friends and, topped up with plenty of ice, WKD and mixers offer an alternative way to enjoy Northern Ireland's no.1 ready to drink brand around Christmas. The seasonal serving suggestions – Cheeky Chrimbo, Sour Scrooge, Russian Reindeer, Cherry Christmas and Winter

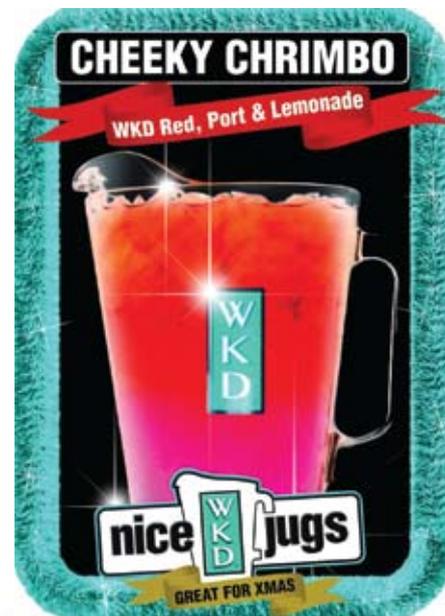


Wonderland – all feature either WKD Blue, Red, Iron Brew or Purple with a selection of different mixers and topped up with lots of ice.

Debs Carter, Marketing Director for Beverage Brands, said, "You only get one Christmas a year and consumers and trade alike both want to make the most of it. Christmas presents the opportunity for incremental sales by adding drinks with a festive twist to regular ranges and we're helping licensees by introducing seasonal serving suggestions for each of the WKD variants.

"With our 'Burnt Turkey Head' hats for consumers and fun POS like our giant sprout hanging mobiles, we're doing everything we can to help operators maximise returns this

Christmas by giving club-goers a festive atmosphere to remember. With a catalogue of successful support throughout 2011 and strong plans in place for the season ahead, WKD is ready to set tills ringing this December. It's going to be a WKD-ly profitable Christmas for our stockists," concluded Carter.



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

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## Christmas cheer from WKD

Witty festive posters from WKD, are available free from the Beverage Brands POS Hotline (0800 917 3450). The fun Christmas

posters will bring a smile to customers' faces and will help drive sales for stockists over the coming weeks.

The in-outlet posters form part of WKD's free Christmas POS kits which also contain shelf-trims, signs for seasonal opening times and other festive items, and are available while stocks last.



WKD is being backed with TV, in-outlet and digital support to drive consumer demand, and a range of trade deals for the festive season, as well as free POS.

Debs Carter, marketing director for Beverage Brands, said, "The amusing new posters will strike a chord with consumers and help generate a festive atmosphere and drive sales for stockists."

## Magners Specials adds spice to Celebrity Come Dancing

The first Northern Ireland Celebrity Come Dancing was held recently with some of the province's leading personalities from the world of media, fashion and business taking to the dance floor in aid of BBC Children in Need.

Helping to add to the experience was the Magners Specials team

who provided guests with the opportunity to sample the new Magners Specials range

of Spiced Apple and Honey, Spiced Apple and Rhubarb and Pear and Ginger.



*Pretty in Pink - stepping up to the challenge and stepping out on the dance floor Fiona Hurley and Peter Gilroy.*

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# New drinks company launches in Ireland

A new company has launched in Ireland this month to capitalise on the growing premium drinks market.

Phoenix Premium Drinks will offer a full range of world class beers including Japan's No 1 beer Asahi and the award winning Sam Adams range.

The company may be new, but the man behind the venture is an industry veteran. Niall McMullan brings over 20 years senior sales and marketing experience to the business, working for Diageo and more recently Molson Coors where he was responsible for setting

up the Northern Ireland operation.

"Having seen at first hand the demand for authentic quality brands that can expand the consumer repertoire, I felt the time was right for introducing a new style drinks business" said Niall McMullan.

He continued, "Northern Ireland is currently enjoying a cultural renaissance and with the MTV ema's putting us firmly in the international spotlight recently and the promise of a year's titanic celebrations ahead, Northern Ireland has much to celebrate. I'm excited about working with the trade here to maximise the opportunities these exciting times present."



Niall McMullan pictured with Michelin Star chef, Michael Deanne.

Phoenix already has a number of account wins under it's belt including the award winning

Deanne's restaurant, the first outlet in Northern Ireland to offer Asahi on draught.

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# Donaghadee barman heads to Buenos Aires for World Draught Master 2011

Now in its fifteenth year, the Stella Artois World Draught Masters competition celebrates the skill and passion of bartenders around the world, testing their ability to perform the time-honoured 9-step pouring ritual with flair and finesse.

This year's global finals, held in beautiful Buenos Aires, Argentina, saw all-Ireland Winner Philip Messom from Donaghadee compete against 24 other national finalists. Competitors took to the stage to demonstrate not only their technical prowess, but also their passion for delivering a superior beer experience, as they presented Leuven's gold

standard lager in limited edition chalice glasses, designed by renowned Argentine sculptor, Juan Carlos Pallarols, to the panel of distinguished judges.

Nanda Nkumar Sethy, representing Dubai, was crowned Stella Artois World Draught Master 2011, having demonstrated great skill, passion and an eye for detail in each of the three rounds of the competition. After a tense semi-final round where all-Ireland finalist Philip Messom put up some strong competition, an enthusiastic audience of Stella Artois connoisseurs watched on as the finalists demonstrated bartending skill and passion. A tense pouring finale followed,



Donaghadee's very own, Philip Messom (centre), sizes up the competition at the final of the Stella Artois World Draught Masters in Buenos Aires.

before Nanda Nkumar Sethy was announced the winner and returned to the stage to claim his trophy. Sethy, originally from Orissa, India now begins a global journey as an ambassador for Stella Artois and his own quest to ensure every chalice of Stella Artois the world over is perfectly poured and precisely presented.

Philip Messom, all-Ireland Winner, and Global semi-finalist said, "The whole experience in Buenos Aires has been very exciting - from the training that I have been given and what I've learnt to the actual World Draught Master Global Final itself. To pit my abilities against fellow professionals from around the world was a humbling and amazing feeling - it was a night of a lifetime and I'm so proud of what I have achieved, as are all my friends and family. Receiving recognition from

such a prestigious and well-loved brand as Stella Artois made the whole journey worthwhile; I have made some new friends along the way and will continue to passionately pour with excellence to uphold the standards set within the competition."

James Watson, Stella Artois Western European Marketing Director said, "Stella Artois' World Draught Masters competition is integral to our ongoing quest to deliver superior beer experiences around the world ensuring that Stella Artois is served with the same care, consideration and craftsmanship that goes into brewing Leuven's gold standard lager. We were extremely proud of Philip Messom who reached the semi final of the competition and proved himself to be an exceptional barman, demonstrating poise, passion and perfection."

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## The Real Article wins WKD race



Kalann leads *The Real Article* in WKD Hurdle.

WKD proudly sponsored the feature race on the first day of this year's N. Ireland Festival of Racing. The WKD Hurdle offered €50,000 in prize-money at the early November meeting which attracted 5,000 spectators

to historic Down Royal and was viewed by some 2.5 million race fans on TV. *The Real Article*, ridden by Barry Geraghty and trained by Edward O'Grady, finished the prestigious race first to claim the winning purse.

## Lemon Velvet wins Tennent's Gold Cup



Paul McGurk (third left), Tennent's Marketing Manager, presents the 2011 Tennent's Gold Cup Trophy and £5,000 prize to winning owner, Adrian McPherson, and his partner, Lindsey Reid, after *Lemon Velvet* won the final of the competition at Drumbo Park Greyhound Stadium. Also included in the picture are John Connor, Racing Manager at Drumbo Park, and Tennent's girls, Emma Edgar (left) and Leeza Dixon.

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Tennent's Marketing Manager, Paul McGurk is pictured with Kathy Reilly, who won the Best Dressed competition at the Tennent's Gold Cup final. Kathy walked away with £250 worth of gift vouchers courtesy of Tennent's.

# Palace date for WKD darts

WKD's high-profile sponsorship association with the world of darts builds to a climax in December when the Ladbrokes World Darts Championship begins in London. WKD is the Professional Darts Corporation's (PDC) Official Drink for three key tournaments in 2011, the last of which takes place at Alexandra Palace from 15 December to 2 January.

Darts fans at Alexandra Palace will be able to enjoy WKD through sampling activity and an interactive game at the specially-constructed WKD bar which will give attendees a chance to win this season's most sought-after seasonal headgear: a WKD Turkey Head hat.

Two darts-themed jugs will be exclusively available at the Alexandra Palace tournament: **Cheeky Check-Out** WKD Blue, Port, lemonade and lots of ice.

**Tasty 180**  
WKD Purple, Blackcurrant Sourz, lemonade and lots of ice.

Darts associations have been maximised through innovative promotions and in-outlet activities. In the lead up to each tournament, sought-after tickets to sold-out key sessions have been offered as prizes via social networking sites. To leverage the darts partnership and bring the activity to life, WKD has also run darts-themed activities in selected on-trade outlets.

Debs Carter, Marketing Director for Beverage Brands, owner of WKD, said, "It's been great to expand our

involvement with the PDC and see WKD step up on the oche with a really comprehensive programme of sponsorship and

in-outlet support in 2011. The forthcoming tournament will bring 2011 to a close for darts fans in a truly WKD style."



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## Ulster GAA Writers' Association 24th Annual Banquet Award Winners

The 24th Ulster GAA Writers' Awards, held in Bundoran in November were dominated by Donegal.

Ulster Player of the Year went to Karl Lacey; Patrick McBrearty was awarded the Cormac McAnallen Award as Young Achiever of the Year while Donegal manager, Jim Magennis, won the Personality of the Year award, all in all a great night for Donegal.

The awards were introduced by the BBC's Austin O'Callaghan and guests were welcomed with an address by J.P. Graham, Chairman of the UGWAA.

Ulster GAA Council President, Aogan O'Farrell, complimented the Writers' Association for their contribution to Gaelic Games in Ulster.

The Ulster GAA President stated in all competitions 15,222 games took place in Ulster in 2011 and that almost all were played in a proper sporting manner. However, he urged those who let their passion turn to anger and rage, to think again and remember that there were boundaries that could not be crossed on the field and on the sidelines.

Karl Lacey felt hearing the final whistle in Clones in the Ulster final was the highlight of the year as he was swamped by players and supporters.

Donegal manager Jim Magennis said he was proud of the Donegal players who had shown that they wanted to wear the Donegal jersey.



Quinn Insurance Commercial Manager, Shane Wilson, presents Jim Magennis (Donegal) with the Personality of the Year Award. Also pictured is Michaela McCafferty.

"We got a lot of criticism during the year but people should understand that we are not Kerry or Cork," said Magennis, who said that an article in the Irish News before Christmas last year had Donegal in 19th place. "That was a good place to start and we've come a long way. We can now start to compete with these teams."

At the beginning of the evening, Donegal received another award as Michael Murphy was presented with his October Merit award, which had been held over because he was in Australia with the Irish team.

**The full list of award winners presented on the night were:**

**Young Achiever of the Year (Cormac McAnallen Award):**  
Patrick McBrearty, Kilcar (Donegal)

**Communications Award**  
Damien Harvey (Tyrone)

**Referee of the Year**  
Joe McQuillan (Cavan)

**Female Handball Award**  
Fiona Shannon (Antrim)

**Male Handball Award**  
Michael Finnegan (Cavan)

**Camogie Award**  
Jane Adams (Antrim)

**Ladies Football Award**  
Therese McNally (Monaghan)

**John McAviney Award for Services to Gaelic Games**  
Joe Canning (Armagh)

**Hurler of the Year**  
Neil McManus (Antrim)

**Footballer of the Year**  
Karl Lacey, Four Masters (Donegal)

**Personality of the Year**  
Jim Magennis, Donegal





Cavan Chairman, Tom Reilly, receiving the Male Handball award on behalf of Michael Finnegan, from UGAAWA member, Sean McMahon.



UGAAWA member, Gerry McLaughlin, presents Neil McManus (Antrim) with the Hurler of the Year Award.



UGAAWA member Louise Glass, presents Therese McNally (Monaghan) with the Ladies Football Award.



UGAAWA Vice-Chairman, Jerry Quinn, presents the Camogie Award to Jane Adams (Antrim).

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# NIFWA Carling Manager & Player of the Month Awards



## Young picks up manager award

Glentoran boss Scott Young has completed an excellent month of results for the club by collecting the Carling Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association Manager of the Month Award for October.

The Glens won all six of their games in October, booking themselves a place in the final of the County Antrim Shield and the quarter-finals of the League Cup.

Scott Young said, "I'd like to thank Carling and the Football Writers for this award, it means a lot to me. I'm the one who

collects the award, but I'm just a figurehead for the club. A lot of hard work went into our results in October, from the players, the coaches and the back-room staff. It's a credit to everybody at the club."

Carling's Jordana Grimes said, "The results speak for themselves, proving Scott's management of Glentoran is well-deserved of this month's award. Carling is delighted to be at the heart of local football, supporting local talent, and bringing local people back to the game."



Glentoran boss Scott Young receives the Carling N.I.F.W.A. Manager of the Month award for October from Carling referee Catherine Jennings.

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## Seventh heaven for Hamilton

Gary Hamilton has been rewarded for his excellent goal-scoring form, with the Carling N.I.F.W.A. Player of the Month Award for October.

Hamilton scored five goals in six games to claim his seventh Player of the Month award with only the great Glenn Ferguson having won as many awards as the Glentoran forward.

Northern Ireland international Hamilton said, "I'd like to thank the Football Writers for this award, it's always nice to



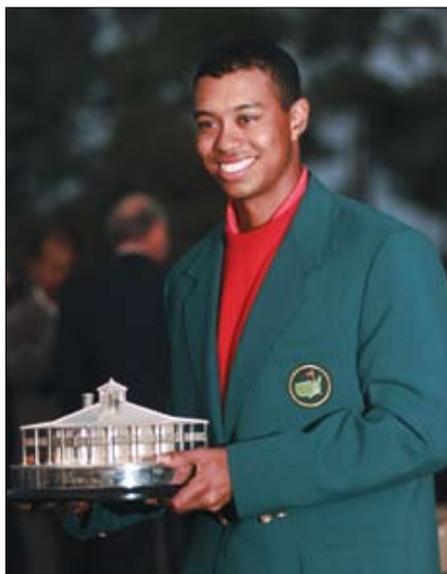
Gary Hamilton receives the Player of the Month award from Chairman of the Carling N.I.F.W.A., Mark McIntosh, and Carling referee, Catherine Jennings.

get some credit after a good month, but I couldn't have done it without the rest of the players. As a centre-forward, I'm the one who gets the goals and the one who gets the headlines but other Glentoran players had months just as good as mine.

# 1997

## Tiger breaks all the records

When Tiger Woods won the Masters in 1997 he re-wrote the record books. At 21 years old he was not only the youngest winner of the tournament, but his winning margin of 12 strokes was also a new benchmark. Over the four days, Woods simply blew the field away with an emphatic performance. Come Sunday evening, he sat proudly at the top of the leaderboard with a total score of just 270, an incredible 18 under par - another record low.



*A young Woods enjoys his moment of triumph.*

Woods also became the first black player to win a major, a victory that golfing legend Gary Player said would open up the historically elitist sport to ethnic minorities. 'Tiger Woods has the opportunity to do something for the human race that no other golfer before him has,' said the three-time Masters champion. 'Imagine the black people in Africa - four hundred million watching Tiger Woods win the Masters. There has never been a world-champion golfer who is a black golfer.'

Although his victory was a landslide in the end, Woods' early challenge started slowly. However, by the time the second day drew to a close, he was already in front and by the third, his lead was up to nine shots. Colin Montgomerie, who was in second place at the time, had simply no chance of catching the youngster, who had turned professional just eight months previously.

## O'Sullivan's fastest 147s

Snooker players and enthusiasts alike agree that Ronnie O'Sullivan is one of the most naturally gifted players the sport has ever seen. Reputed to have made a century break at the tender age of just 10, his prodigious talent has never been in doubt. Sometimes in his career, O'Sullivan has been accused of being temperamental



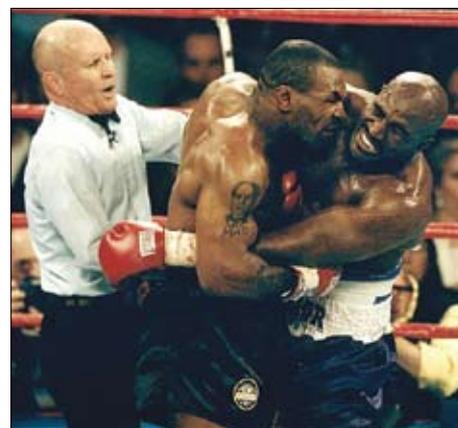
*O'Sullivan, deep in thought.*

and even reckless, but he is often sublime. A perfectionist, with the ability to take shots with both his left and right hand, even frequently alternating between the two within the same frame, he has made the maximum break of 147 on no fewer than six occasions on live television. Indeed, five of his six maximum breaks make up the list of the five fastest on record. His fastest came against Mick Price in the World Championship on 21 April 1997, when the aptly named 'Rocket' Ronnie completed the clearance in a staggering five minutes and 20 seconds.

But there is much more to his game than just speed, as is evidenced by the multitude of titles he has collected in his career. Few people would bet against him continuing to add to his list of honours, nor beating his own record time for a maximum 147 clearance.

## Tyson fancies a nibble!

This eagerly awaited rematch turned out to be one of the most controversial moments in sporting history. Evander Holyfield had beaten Mike Tyson a year before and made history by becoming - after Muhammad Ali - only the second fighter to win the world heavyweight championship three times, with an eleventh-round knockout.



*Tyson v Holyfield, a savage encounter.*

After having a fan parachute into the ring during his third title bout with Riddick Bowe, Holyfield was used to bizarre events in the ring. But what followed against Iron Mike was unheard of in boxing history. Tyson was desperate to get his boxing career - and his life for that matter - back on track. Still bearing a grudge for a perceived butt in their first fight, Tyson was enraged when the two clashed heads in a clinch during the third round and reacted by biting a lump out of Holyfield's ear before spitting it on to the canvas. The champion reacted by screaming and flicking his right glove as if swatting a fly from his right ear. Referee Mills Lane deducted two points and told the fighters to continue. In the next clinch Tyson repeated the barbarity and was disqualified. Cue mayhem. Once calm was restored, a piece of Holyfield's ear was found lying in the ring, and it had to be surgically re-attached and repaired in the hours after the rematch. Unsurprisingly, Tyson was banned.

## Also this year..

- Motor Racing** - Jacques Villeneuve wins th F1 World Championship.
- Boxing** - Prince Naseem retained his IBF and WBO featherweight titles by demolishing Sunderland's Billy Hardy in May.
- Cricket** - England great, Denis Compton, died at the age of 78.



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